

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. BV-04-400

Sign. Site # 75

Structure/Site Information Form

1 IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 395 N. 300 West UTM: 12/355950/4237800
 Name of Structure: T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Paul and Debra Thomas Less than one Acre
 Owner Address: Beaver, Utah 84713
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: B-233
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

2 STATUS/USE

Original Owner: Smith, Ellen, House Construction Date: c.1894 Demolition Date:
 Original Use: residence Present Use: single-family
 Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:
 Excellent Site Unaltered Significant Not of the National Landmark District
 Good Ruins Minor Alterations Contributory Historic Period National Register Multi-Resource
 Deteriorated Major Alterations Not Contributory State Register Thematic

3 DOCUMENTATION

Photography: Date of Slides: Slide No.: Date of Photographs: Photo No.:
 Views: Front Side Rear Other Views: Front Side Rear Other

Research Sources:
 Abstract of Title Sanborn Maps Newspapers U of U Library
 Plat Records/Map City Directories Utah State Historical Society BYU Library
 Tax Card & Photo Biographical Encyclopedias Personal Interviews USU Library
 Building Permit Obituary Index LDS Church Archives SLC Library
 Sewer Permit County & City Histories LDS Genealogical Society Other (field research)

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):
 Mr. Paul Thomas, interviewed 9/22/79 in Beaver by L. L. Bonar
 Mr. W. Don Smith, interviewed in Beaver on 10/30/79 by L. L. Bonar
 Mrs. Grace Isabelle Baker, interviewed in Beaver on 3/ 16/ 82 by Kent Powell.

Researcher:

OCT 18 1983

Date:

Architect/Builder: unknown

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: hall & parlor/ Victorian Eclectic

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

This brick home has a design which was inspired by the French Second Empire style. It is one and one half stories tall with a Mansard roof. The front facade displays four windows and a central door on the ground floor all of which are arranged with bilateral symmetry. Upstairs in the Mansard roof there is a central door with a cornice-line domer window on either side on the front facade while dormers appear elsewhere on all the other facades. The home rests upon a black rock foundation and has a rectangular bay window on its south facade. It also has several decorative features, including a cornice, wooden molding around the windows, shinglework on the sides of the dormers and decorative brickwork above the doors and windows. There is also a non-historic frame addition on the rear. This addition does not significantly detract from the integrity of the dwelling.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

Constructed in 1894 for Ellen Smith, the polygamous wife of Duckworth Grimshaw, this house is important as an example of the persisting popularity of the symmetrical hall and parlor vernacular house type in Beaver. The ubiquitous hall and parlor house - found in Beaver as a small 1 story cottage and a larger 1 1/2 story house - was the most prevalent dwelling type here during the town's major period of growth, c. 1870-1900. Earlier examples are found with Greek Revival and Gothic Revival stylistic features while later examples like the Ellen Smith house exhibit the influence of the eclectic Victorian years. Combining a Second Empire roof, an Italianate side window bay, and Victorian drapping arched window heads, the Smith house is a fine indication of the persistence of a popular house plan through several stylistic periods and effectively documents the diversity of Beaver's domestic architectve during the late 19th century.

The residence was built for Mrs. Ellen Smith in about 1894. She was born in Cedar City, Utah in 1855, and in 1875 married William Smith, who died in March 1882. In 1887 she became the second wife of Duckworth Grimshaw, who was eventually convicted of cohabitation. William J. and David A. Smith, Ellen's sons, purchased the brick needed for construction in Panguitch, having raised the money by herding sheep. The boys then hauled the brick to Beaver by wagon where the brick laying was done by Ellen's brothers, the Muirs. The plastering work was done by William Burt, who was active in the construction industry in Beaver.

Ellen Smith died in 1930 and the house was then occupied by George W. Smith and Thomas D. Grimshaw. In 1961 it was deeded to Grace Isabelle Smith Williams.