

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 1636 South Fifth East

UTM: Zone: 1 2; Easting 426010
Northing 4509380

Name of Structure: Woodruff, Asahel Hart, House

T. R. S.

Present Owner: Iva F. Palmer, c/o Anthony L. Scarborough

Owner Address: 569 Browning Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah

Year Built (Tax Record):

Effective Age: 1907

Tax #:

Legal Description

Kind of Building: Building; Ownership: private; Status: occupied; Accessible: yes, restricted

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Salt Lake City South

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

Beg. at 97.4 ft north from SE cor of Lot 1, Blk 13, 5-Acre Plat A Big Field Survey: N 94 ft, W 125 ft, S 94 ft, E 125 ft to beginning

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Asahel Hart Woodruff

Construction Date: 1907

Demolition Date:

Original Use: Private residence

Present Use: Private residence

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

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography:

Date of Slides:

Slide No.:

Date of Photographs:

Photo No.:

1925-1930; February 1980

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

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

Christiansen, Emma Rose Woodruff. Interview. Salt Lake City, Utah, 16, February 1980.

Deseret News. Obituary notices of Asahel Hart Woodruff, 3, 4, and 5 July 1939, pp. 9, 9, and 11 respectively.

Jensen, Andrew, comp. Church Chronology: A Record of Important Events. Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1914.

Kirkham, Francis W. and Harold Lundstrom, eds. Tales of a Triumphant People. Salt Lake City: Stevens and Wallis Press, 1947.

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Building Materials:

Building Type/Style:

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Asahel Woodruff house at 1636 Fifth East is an excellent example of a Classical Box, one of the variations of a classical-colonial revival occurring approximately 1890-1910.¹ It is a two-and-a-half-story house built with three shades of brick on a red sandstone foundation. The hipped roof has a gentle slope and is punctuated by a shed dormer in the center of the house. Likewise a shed dormer exists on the north facade, and both dormers have rectangular shingles on the sides and front. The dormer window on the front or east facade has two rows of eight lights. Broad closed eaves overhang the dormers as well as the second story and the one-story porch. A wide frieze with dentils along the top and molding along the bottom appears below the eaves of the roof and below the porch roof.

Four openings break the second story of the front facade: two windows on the north half and a window and a door on the south half. A balustrade originally surrounded the porch roof.² The first story of the front has two openings of unequal size. On the south two double-hung sash windows flank a large single-pane window with a transom window above. Square wooden pilasters with carved capitals separate the side lights from the central lights, and a wide molding separates the main window from the transom. The north opening

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

The Asahel Hart Woodruff house, built in 1907, is significant in its relation to the other Woodruff houses in its neighborhood as they demonstrate the process of assimilation of Mormons within American life. Asahel Hart Woodruff was a son of Wilford Woodruff and represents the rising generation at the time of intense conflict between the LDS church and the Federal Government. His successful business career, while certainly not spectacular, nevertheless paralleled that of many of his generation; they achieved business success in a free-enterprise environment in contrast with the cooperative setting sponsored by the church in the period of time preceding accommodation.

Asahel Woodruff began his career in business early. Though he helped farm the family's holdings in the Big Field, in 1886 when he was only twenty-two, he wrote his father the details of a lease agreement for the land.¹ One account does not state when he supposedly began operations.² By 1892 a grocery store did exist on this property and for part of the time, he apparently lived in the same building as the store, but he apparently did not operate it.³

During these years when the grocery store existed at the corner of Fifth East and Eleventh South, Asahel worked for ZCMI. The Utah Gazeteer for 1888 indicates that he worked for ZCMI, and by 1898 he had become a department manager. Most of these years until he retired in 1930, he managed the wholesale dry goods department.⁴ In the interim he became involved in banking and at the time of his death was on the board of directors of Zion's Savings Bank and Trust and of Deseret Federal Savings and Loan.⁵

Description, Asahel Woodruff house, continued

contains the front door with transom and a side and corner lights. The door has a large oval opening with beveled glass set in a panel of carved leaves and scrolls. The transom, corner and side lights contain stained glass with lead tracing.

The front porch matches the asymmetry of the first-story openings. A pair of tapered, unfluted columns cut the porch into two unequal parts so that these columns, the columns on the corners of the porch, and the frieze of the porch roof frame the two unequal openings in the facade.

The columns of the front porch carry on the classical revival elements of the house. There are ten columns on the porch, one each next to the house wall on each end of the porch, three at each outside corner of the porch and the pair near the center of the porch. All are tapered and unfluted with scroll capitals similar to the Ionic. The columns rest upon Attic bases which in turn stand upon tall pedestals. A balustrade with turned spindles stands at the same height as the pedestals.

The house has three chimneys, one on the south side near the front, one along the north side in the back and a third in the rear. The chimney on the south near the front causes a slight extension in the facade, but the other chimneys do not break the plane of the facade. If the house had special chimney pots originally, it does not have them now.

On the inside, some beautiful original fabric remains. In the entry hall, the wood staircase has turned balusters and square posts at the bottom, on the landing and at the top of the stairs. The stained glass window part way up the stairs and the double-hung sash window on the landing sit deep in the wall with wide wooden frames and molding. The door under the staircase which once lead into the pantry appears to be original; the door into what was once the parlor has been altered, but the same wide molding has been used around it. Anthony Scarborough, who is purchasing the house, indicated that he had the understanding that the original pecan sliding doors are still within the walls and were not torn out when the alterations were made.³

The front rooms on the south on each floor still retain wooden mantels and overmantels with mirrors, brick hearths and surrounds, and cast iron fireplace shields. These rooms originally were Mrs. Woodruff's bedroom upstairs and the parlor downstairs. One other stained glass window exists in the dining room, the room behind the parlor. It is a long, thin window set fairly high on the south wall.

¹City of Oakland, Planning Dept., Rehab Right: How to Rehabilitate Your Oakland House Without Sacrificing Architectural Assets (Oakland, 1978), pp. 17-18.

²Interview with Emma Rose Woodruff Christiansen by James F. Cartwright, Salt Lake City, Utah, 16 February 1980. Mrs. Christiansen, who grew up in the house, informed me of the floor plan.

³Interview with Anthony Scarborough by James F. Cartwright, Salt Lake City, Utah, 8 February 1980.

Significance, Asahel Woodruff house, continued

Asahel Woodruff's house is significant for local history as well. He became involved in the Farmers' Ward of the LDS church, which was created to serve those families who lived in the Big Field instead of in Salt Lake City. As the city spread south into the Big Field, further ecclesiastical units became necessary. When church authorities created Waterloo Ward in 1905, Asahel Woodruff was called as its first bishop.⁶ Under his direction, the ward built a brick chapel and cultural hall which was dedicated 13 October 1907.⁷ After he was released as bishop, Asahel Woodruff served as a counselor in the stake presidency and later as a patriarch for the stake. In both of these ecclesiastical callings he exerted considerable influence on the lives of Latter-day Saints living in the Waterloo area.

Emma Rose Woodruff Christiansen indicated that on the same night that the newly finished Waterloo Ward chapel was dedicated, a special dedication service was held for Bishop Asahel Woodruff's newly completed house.⁸

¹Asahel Hart Woodruff to Wilford Woodruff, 3 January 1886, in the Asahel Hart Woodruff Papers, LDS Church Historical Dept., Salt Lake City, Utah.

²Francis W. Kirkham and Harold Lundstrom, eds., Tales of a Triumphant People (Salt Lake City: Stevens & Wallis Press, 1947), p. 166.

³Lorenzo Stenhouse, Utah Gazeteer and Directory, 1888, Pt. 1.

⁴Stenhouse & Co., Utah Gazeteer, 1892-93; R. L. Polk & Co., Salt Lake City Directory, 1893-97.

⁵Obituary notices for Asahel Hart Woodruff, Deseret News, 3, 4, and 5 July 1939, pp. 9, 9, and 11 respectively.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Andrew Jensen, comp., Church Chronology: A Record of Important Events (Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1914), Supplement to Church Chronology, 1906-1913, p. 15.

⁸Interview with Emma Rose Woodruff Christiansen by James F. Cartwright, Salt Lake City, Utah, 16 February 1980.

Bibliographical References, Asahel Hart Woodruff house, continued

Oakland, City of, Planning Dept. Rehab Right: How to Rehabilitate Your Oakland House Without Sacrificing Architectural Assets. Oakland: n.p., 1978.

Polk, R. L. & Co. Salt Lake City Directory, 1893-1952.

Scarborough, Anthony. Interview. Salt Lake City, Utah, 8 February 1980.

Stenhouse and Co. Utah Gazeteer, 1892-93.

Stenhouse, Lorenzo. Utah Gazeteer and Directory, 1888, Pt. 1.

Woodruff, Asahel Hart to Wilford Woodruff, 3 January 1886, Asahel Hart Woodruff Papers, LDS Church Historical Dept., Salt Lake City, Utah.