

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1586



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Woodruff Stake House

other name/site number Woodruff Stake Tithing House

2. Location

street & town 50 South Main not for publication

city or town Woodruff vicinity

state Utah code UT county Rich code 033 zip code 84086

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

W. M. [Signature] 11/9/2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature] 12/28/00
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Woodruff Stake House
Name of Property

Woodruff, Rich County, Utah
City, County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Tithing Office and Granaries of the Mormon Church

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

- RELIGION: religious facility
- EDUCATION: school
- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- OTHER: tithing office

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE VICTORIAN
- OTHER: Victorian Eclectic
- OTHER: cross wing

- foundation STONE
- walls BRICK
- roof ASPHALT shingle
- other WOOD drop siding

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Woodruff Stake House
Name of Property

Woodruff, Rich County, Utah
City, County and State

8. Description

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION _____

SOCIAL HISTORY _____

Period of Significance

1901-1949 _____

Significant Dates

1901 _____

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

unknown _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Woodruf Stake House
Name of Property

Woodruff, Rich County, Utah
City, County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acres

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/2 4/8/6/5/0/0 4/5/9/6/6/2/0
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

COM AT THE NW COR OF LOT 7, BL 3, WOODRUFF CITY SURVEY, RN TH S 4 RDS 2 FT, TH E 4 RDS, THE N 4 RDS 2 FT, TH W 4 RDS TO PL OF BEG

Property Tax No. 9-16-03-05

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those that were historically and are currently associated with the property.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger Roper, Utah SHPO

organization _____ date November 3, 2000

street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone 801/533-3500

city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name/title Jef Jensen

street & number 1483 22nd Street telephone _____

city or town Ogden state UT zip code 84401

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Woodruff Stake House, Woodruff, Rich County, UT

Narrative Description

The Woodruff Stake House, constructed in 1900-1901, is a late example of the temple-form type that was typically constructed in Utah during the 1850s-1870s. The symmetrically composed brick building faces west and features a two-story central section with its gable end facing the street, characteristic of the temple form type, and flanking one-story wings on either side.¹ Despite a few relatively minor alterations to both the exterior and interior, the building retains a significant amount of its historic integrity.

True to the classical origins of the temple form type, the building features a symmetrical façade. Windows are centered in the central gabled section, and the flanking wings contain a mirrored door/window arrangement, though both doors were enclosed in the 1950s after the building was converted to residential use. Other changes likely made at that time include the removal of Victorian-style porches in front of both one-story sections (see historic photo) and the replacement of the original paired double-hung window on the first-story façade with a c.1950s window (though the overall size of the opening has not changed). The open porch on the rear was probably constructed or expanded in the 1950s, given its flat roof and open-rafter construction; its turned columns may have been recycled from the front porches. The foundation of the building is randomly laid fieldstone, and the walls are constructed of locally manufactured brick. Though the Victorian porches are now gone, vestiges of that stylistic influence include the segmental arches over the windows and the lathe-turned porch columns and single engaged column at the southwest corner that may have supported a sign for the building.²

The interior contains three main rooms on the ground floor—corresponding to the three sections visible from the exterior—and a room upstairs in the central two-story section. There is also a small “attic” room above the north wing, though inexplicably there is not a matching room above the south wing. The upstairs is accessed by an unusual, enclosed frame stairway attached to the back of the building. This stairway, which is almost certainly original, includes a coal room on the north end of the ground floor under the stairs, accessed only from the exterior. The north wing on the main floor was divided into two rooms in the 1950s or ‘60s to accommodate a bathroom after the building was converted into a home. Built-in propane heaters were installed in the corners of the rooms at about that same time. The ceiling height and woodwork have been retained on the interior. Those are the only alterations of note to the interior.

¹ Thomas Carter and Peter Goss, *Utah's Historic Architecture*, 33-35.

² Most LDS Church buildings used for bishop's offices or tithing offices did not carry signs, though some from the early 1900s did feature small identifying stone plaques on the façade. Examples include tithing offices/bishop's storehouses in Spring City, Fountain Green, Ephraim, Manti, Richmond, and Sandy. See thematic National Register nomination of Mormon Church Tithing Offices and Granaries (1985).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 2

Woodruff Stake House, Woodruff, Rich County, UT

The stake house is located on Main Street (State Route 16) in Woodruff, a block north of where the LDS meetinghouse was located. Both in scale and setback from the street, the building is more typical of residential buildings in the community, as opposed to institutional buildings.

Also located on the property (at the northeast corner) is a frame single-hole outhouse constructed by the WPA in the 1930s. It has a shed roof, drop siding with 1x4 corner boards on the exterior, and distinctive WPA features on the interior, such as a concrete base and riser set diagonally in a rear corner, metal vent pipe, and a rectangular wooden lid and latch to hold it in an upright position.³ Though it is possible this outhouse was moved in later, it is more likely that the structure was built to serve the needs of this building. It is considered a contributing building on the property. Non-contributing features include the flagstone, freestanding outdoor fireplace behind the building and the flagstone planter box that replaced the porch in front of the north wing.

³ U.S. Treasury Department, Public Health Service, "The Sanitary Privy: Supplement No. 108 to the Public Health Reports (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1933). This 45-page report provides detailed instructions for the construction of privies, including drawings, specifications, and so forth. Copy available at Utah State Historical Society Library. A number of other examples of outhouses of this type have been noted in rural towns throughout Utah.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Woodruff Stake House, Woodruff, Rich County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

Completed in 1901, the Woodruff Stake House⁴ is locally significant as the only remaining historic building in Woodruff that represents the Mormon Church and its strong influence in the community. The church's principal building, the chapel or meetinghouse, was demolished in the mid-1980s. The stake house served as offices for the local ward (congregation) as well as the regional stake, which is comprised of several wards. The bishop of the Woodruff Ward occupied the north wing of the building from 1901 until 1949, and the president of the Woodruff Stake had his offices in the south wing throughout that same period.⁵ The building also served as the ward "tithing office," the place where church members settled their voluntary contributions of one-tenth of their annual "increase," and as a meeting place for the women's Relief Society. The community used the building for non-church purposes as well, including meetings for organizations such as the local livestock association and for school purposes when space was needed. It is the only remaining civic-use building in Woodruff. The building is one of twenty-seven tithing offices remaining in Utah, as documented in the 1985 National Register of Historic Places thematic resource nomination of *Tithing Offices and Granaries of the Mormon Church*.

History

Woodruff is a small, livestock-based town in extreme northeastern Utah near the borders of both Idaho and Wyoming. Though the town is actually much closer, geographically, to the Wyoming hub-town of Evanston than to any Utah city of substantial size, its history is deeply embedded in Mormon-settled Utah. The town was settled in 1865 as part of the Mormon Church's systematic plan to establish settlements throughout the Utah region after relocating here from the Midwest in 1847. The town's name is derived from one of the prominent early settlers in the region, Wilford Woodruff, who later served as president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon or LDS Church) from 1889 until his death in 1898.

The decision to construct the stake house was made by leaders of the LDS Woodruff Stake (a stake is comprised of several wards or congregations) on March 10, 1900, and work commenced on March 17. Church headquarters contributed \$400 toward the cost of the building, and the balance was covered by the Woodruff Ward and wards from other towns in the stake. A local history of the town notes that the building contained "a clerk's office, a High Council Chamber [apparently the center

⁴ This is the name the building has been known by locally throughout its history, though in current LDS Church terminology "stake house" refers to a meetinghouse that houses not only ward (congregation) functions, but also the offices of the stake presidency (a stake is comprised of several wards).

⁵ Interview with Emerson Cox, Woodruff, Utah, September 18, 2000. Mr. Cox was the last bishop to occupy the building.

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Woodruff Stake House, Woodruff, Rich County, UT

room on the main floor], a Bishops Office and also a room upstairs for a prayer circle.”⁶ The “clerk” referred to was the stake clerk, who kept track of stake affairs under the direction of the stake president. In February 1901, a local correspondent to the statewide *Deseret Evening News* noted that “[W]e have a fine Stake house office, with five rooms nearly completed. It was built by contributions from each settlement, and is a credit to the people of this Stake.”⁷ The fifth room referred to in this article is probably the small, windowless room adjoining the upstairs prayer room. This small room may have been used to store sacred clothing used for the prayer circles, an activity now reserved only for temples, the most sacred of Mormon structures. It was more common in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries for remote communities to perform some of the lesser temple functions, such as prayer circles, in non-temple facilities.⁸

Though the building was usually referred to locally as the “stake house,” it was sometimes called the stake tithing office as well.⁹ Tithing offices or bishop’s storehouses, as they were also known, were built in most Mormon settlements as a place to accept contributions from ward members. Through the nineteenth century those contributions were usually “in-kind” farm commodities such as eggs, hay, livestock, and so forth. Tithing yards of the period included granaries, barns, and corrals to accommodate these contributions.

In Woodruff the tithing lot and granary were established in 1891 and “located west of and adjoined to John M. Baxter’s home.”¹⁰ (These tithing lot structures are no longer standing.) Baxter was the bishop at the time and later served for 38 years as stake president. Though most tithing lots were usually separate facilities, it was not uncommon for them to be located on the bishop’s property. Even after the task of settling tithing accounts shifted to the new stake house, the tithing lot remained in its former location; there never was a granary, barn, or other such facility on the stake house property. The stake house was constructed during a period in which tithing throughout the church was undergoing a transition from in-kind contributions to cash payments, so there was less of a need for the traditional tithing lot structures. Eventually in-kind contributions ceased altogether.

The Woodruff Stake House is unusual in that it was both constructed and used by both the ward and stake. Most tithing offices were simply ward structures. While there are probably other examples of this dual use, it was not the norm. The building is also unusual in that it continued with its original use until 1949. By mid-century, most other wards and stakes had long since moved their offices into

⁶ *The First 100 Years in Woodruff*, 11.

⁷ *Deseret Evening News*, February 14, 1901, 7.

⁸ The now-demolished tithing office in American Fork also accommodated prayer circles on its upper floor. The two-story tithing office in Lewiston may also have housed such activities.

⁹ The most notable reference to this is in the journal of Tye Tingey, who was the stake clerk at the time. A copy of “The Histories of Thomas Josiah Tingey and Annie Cox” is in the possession of Emerson Cox.

¹⁰ “Journal of Savannah Western Clarke Putnam,” 18. Copy in possession of Emerson Cox.

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Woodruff Stake House, Woodruff, Rich County, UT

newer or remodeled meetinghouses and either sold their tithing offices or allowed them to be used by auxiliary organizations.¹¹

The building's temple-form design is much more representative of 1870s Utah architecture than it is of early 20th-century buildings.¹² Shortly after the completion of this building, the LDS Church apparently came out with standard plans for such buildings. Tithing offices constructed in a number of Utah communities after 1900 represent some of those standard plans.¹³ By 1910, however, the construction of tithing offices appears to have been terminally suspended. The new concept was to consolidate all activities under one roof. The new church buildings that emerged in the 1920s were much larger than the earlier meetinghouses because they not only included a chapel but also a bishop's office, classrooms, women's Relief Society meeting room, and amusement/recreation halls.

The church's women's organization, the Relief Society, also used the building for its meetings. This is somewhat unusual given that most ward Relief Societies preferred having their own building.¹⁴ The nineteenth-century pattern of separate buildings for the various ward groups and functions changed in the early twentieth century, and by the 1920s new meetinghouses included those various functions under one roof.

The Woodruff Stake House served other non-church purposes as well. It served briefly as a home for Savannah and Marie Putnam after their home burned to the ground on March 2, 1917.¹⁵ The first- and second-story rooms accommodated school children for a year when the town's school was

¹¹ Frequently the buildings were turned over to either the Relief Society or local Daughters of Utah Pioneers camps, which used them for meetings and as relic halls. Some tithing offices were sold and converted into homes or other uses. One example is the Fairview Tithing Office, which was sold in 1932 to Henry Rasmussen, who converted it into a home.

¹² Carter and Goss, 33-35.

¹³ The thematic National Register nomination of Mormon Church Tithing Offices and Granaries describes the various types and styles of buildings used, including some of the standard plans developed at church headquarters. Examples of the post-1900 buildings include those at Richmond, Sandy, Fountain Green, Spring City, Ephraim, Manti, and Panguitch.

¹⁴ Many of these Relief Society Halls remain standing, though they have not been used for Relief Society purposes, or even been owned by the church, for several decades. According to the Utah State Historic Preservation Office records, 30 Relief Society buildings (meeting halls, granaries, and other facilities) are currently extant in Utah.

¹⁵ Joy Cox Wymore, "History of the Woodruff Stake House" (unpublished manuscript, summer 2000).

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Woodruff Stake House, Woodruff, Rich County, UT

overcrowded in the late 1920s.¹⁶ It also served as a meeting place for the Woodruff Livestock Association and very likely was used for town meetings as well, since there was not a town hall. Besides the stake house, there are no other civic or public buildings remaining in Woodruff from the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.

In 1949, with the completion of major additions to the LDS meetinghouse, the ward and stake moved out of the stake house and decided to sell the building in order to help pay for some of the cost of the new facility. According to county records, Woodruff Ward sold the building in February 1950 to Osro and Fuchsia Cornia, who owned it for three years. They sold the house to Al and LaVerl Miller in January 1953. The Millers, who are generally credited with converting the stake house into a residence, owned it until 1971. Subsequent owners include Frank and Helen Shelby (1971-75), Ralph and Sally Eastman (1975-95), and the current owners Jef T. and Gayle Jensen. The house is currently vacant and for sale.

¹⁶ Interview with Emerson Cox by Roger Roper, September 18, 2000. Mr. Cox, who was one of the students, was about 16 at the time. He recalls that the teachers had a hard time trying to control the students in this small building.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Woodruff Stake House, Woodruff, Rich County, UT

Bibliography

The First 100 Years in Woodruff. Springville, Utah: Art City Publishing Company, 1972.

"Journal of Savannah Western Clarke Putnam." Salt Lake City: (publisher unknown), 1934. Copy in possession of Emerson Cox, Woodruff, Utah.

Carter, Thomas and Peter Goss. *Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940.* Salt Lake City, UT: University of Utah Graduate School of Architecture and Utah State Historical Society, 1991.

Cox, Emerson. Interviews by Joy Cox Wymore (daughter), May 8 and July 2, 2000. Copies of transcriptions available in Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

----- Interview by Roger Roper, September 18, 2000.

Deseret Evening News. 1901.

Rees, Dee, compiler. "The Histories of Thomas Josiah Tingey and Annie Cox." Farmington, Utah: Dee Rees publisher, 1995. Copy in possession of Emerson Cox.

U.S. Treasury Department, Public Health Service. "The Sanitary Privy: Supplement No. 108 to the Public Health Reports. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1933.

Wymore, Joy Cox. "History of the Woodruff Stake House." Unpublished manuscript. Copy available in Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

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Section No. PHOTOS Page 1

Woodruff Stake House, Woodruff, Rich County, UT

Common Label Information:

1. Woodruff Stake House
2. Woodruff, Rich County, Utah
3. Photographer: Roger Roper
4. Date: September 2000
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1:

6. West elevation of building. Camera facing east.

Photo No. 2:

6. Southwest elevation of building. Camera facing northeast.

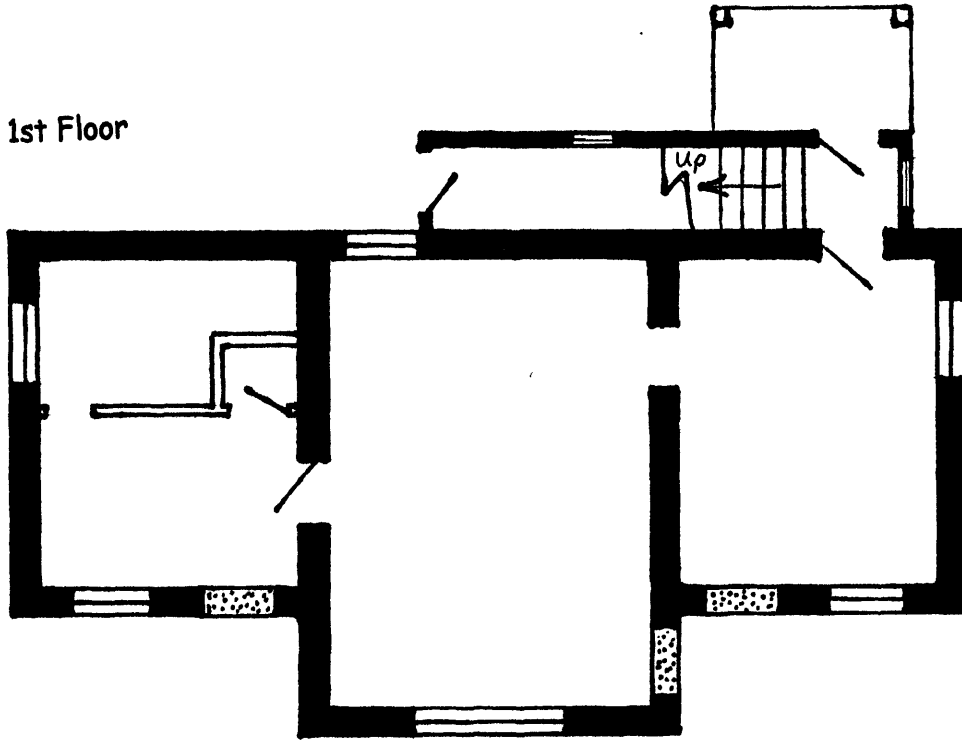
Photo No. 3:

6. Northeast elevation of building. Camera facing southwest.
-

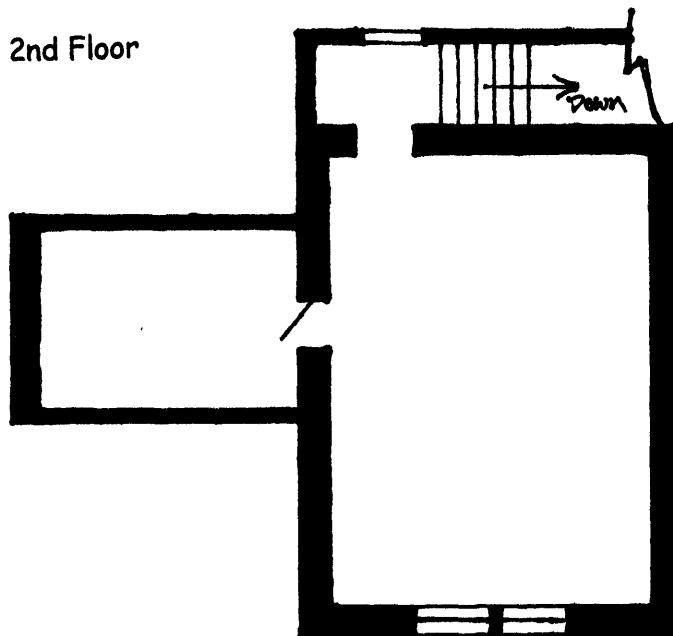
Woodruff Stake House
Woodruff, Rich County, Utah
September 2000



1st Floor



2nd Floor



■ 1900-1901

□ c. 1950s

▣ Doorways filled in c. 1950s

