

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000454

Date Listed: 1/24/90

Planing Mill of Brigham City  
Property Name

Box Elder  
County

Utah  
State

Brigham City MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

1/24/90  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

**Architectural Classification:** The architectural classification is listed as other: Classical Revival/Vernacular. The term Classical Revival should be omitted because it is not relevant.

This information was confirmed with Roger Roper of the Utah State Historical Society by telephone.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

JAN 03 1990

NMPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

(Rev. 8/86)

Utah Word Processor Format (02731)

(Approved 10/87)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brigham City Co-op Planing Mill

other names/site number Merrell's Planing Mill

2. Location

street & number 547 East Forest Street NA not for publication

city, town Brigham City NA vicinity

state Utah code UT Box Elder code 003 zip code 84302

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Mormon Architecture in Utah, 1847-1936;  
Historic Resources of Brigham City

No. of contributing resources  
previously listed in the  
National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

May J. En Signature of certifying official Date 12-21-89  
UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Andrus Signature of the Keeper Date 1/24/90

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/manufacturing  
facility

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/manufacturing  
facility

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

other: Classical Revival/  
Vernacular Industrial

Materials  
(enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone - quartzite  
walls adobe, stone, wood, metal  
roof metal (corrugated)  
other concrete block

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Constructed c. 1876,<sup>1</sup> the Planing Mill is a rectangular 2-1/2-story stone and adobe building with a gable roof and stone foundation. One-story frame additions have been built on the side and rear elevations, but the original form and overall appearance of the building are still clearly evident.

The original mill is 2-1/2 stories high, measuring approximately 44 feet wide by 50 feet long. It is the dominant structure in a residential neighborhood and sits on the corner of Forest and 600 East streets. The first level is built of quartzite stone, and the second level is built of large adobe bricks laid in common bond. The building's overall appearance is symmetrical. Windows of equal size are evenly spaced around most of the building and are noteworthy for their massive wood lintels and original frames even though the sashes have been removed. Double doorways on the first and second floors are centered at both the front and back facades. The gabled roof once had wood shingles but now is covered with corrugated metal roofing (probably post-1940s).

One of the major alterations to the mill building is the cinderblock infill comprising approximately half of the east wall. In 1947, a narrow, two-story frame addition which dated back to 1917 was torn off this side, and the resulting hole left by this demolition was filled with cinderblock.<sup>2</sup> The remainder of this wall still has important features, such as two second-story windows and a waterwheel arch built at ground level.

A number of additions have been made to the west side and rear (north) of the building. A large 40 by 63 foot one-story frame addition was built on the west side of the building c. 1947 to provide more working space and an office.<sup>3</sup> This addition has horizontal wood siding on the exterior walls and a shed roof that slopes toward the west. Though the "footprint" of this addition is actually larger than that of the original mill, its one-story height and frame construction clearly set it apart as a subordinate addition. The construction of this addition did not result in any major alterations to the west side of the original building.

Unseen from the streets are the additions and outbuildings along the back of the building. There is a small 3/4 story concrete lean-to which is attached to the west half of this side. This 1947 lean-to was used as a boiler room.<sup>4</sup> A few feet away from this concrete addition are two frame sheds with corrugated metal roofs. Each of these sheds is 1-1/2 stories high and has an open side for stacking lumber. One is attached to the mill and dates back to at least 1900.<sup>5</sup> The other is free-standing. Its date of construction is unknown, though, judging from its appearance in comparison with the c.1900 shed, it was almost certainly constructed during the historic period (pre-1931). It is counted as a contributing building on the property.

The inside of the Planing Mill has had even fewer changes than the outside. There are original structural beams, unpartitioned open areas, and floorboards with

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square nails on the second level. A concrete floor on the first level and a new wooden staircase have been the only obvious alterations. Much of the original woodworking machinery, including a mortise machine, a drum sander, a molder, the huge leather belts and pulleys, is still operable.<sup>6</sup>

Notes:

1. Pett, James. History of James Pett p. 11.  
 In a March 11, 1981 Box Elder Journal newspaper article, "Planing Mill Survives After Century of Use", Sarah Yates offers three theories about when the planing mill was built and by whom: (1) that the planing mill was built by and for the Brigham City Cooperative; (2) that a mill built in 1863 by Martin L. Engign and Jarvis Johnson may be the present Planing Mill; or (3) that stonemason R. D. Sprague who bought the property in 1872 may have built a one-story stone building which later became the first story of the planing mill. The Museum-Gallery has recently found overwhelming evidence, including James Pett's life history and a quoted statement from an 1877 Co-op summary of buildings constructed in 1876-77, that supports theory #1 listed above.
2. Krogh, Kevin LeRoy. Merrell Planing Mill National Register Nomination Form (draft), May 17, 1984, p. 4 (available, National Register files, Utah SHPO). The c. 1941 Sanborn Map shows this frame addition on the building.
3. There is a discrepancy about the exact year that the addition was constructed. James Miller in Merrell's Planing Mill or Cabinet Shop stated the date as 1947. Paul Merrell, current (1988) owner of the building, said the year was 1948. Box Elder County Assessment Roll for taxes, Book A, for the year 1953 showed a \$1020 dollar jump on the value of the building from the previous year.  
 Miller, James. Merrell's Planing Mill or Cabinet Shop. Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah. p. 1.  
 Merrell, Paul, Personal Communication, owner of Merrell's Planing Mill, September 16, 1988.  
Box Elder County Assessment Roll, Book A, page 120, line 1. Utah State Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah.
4. Merrell, Paul, Personal Communication, owner of Merrell's Planing Mill, September 16, 1988.
5. Sanborn Map Company, Map of Brigham City, Box Elder Co., Aug. 1900, p. 1.
6. Merrell, Paul, Tour of Planing Mill with owner, September 16, 1988.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:      nationally   x   statewide      locally

Applicable National Register Criteria   x   A      B      C      D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)   x   A      B      C      D      E      F      G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>Industry</u>	<u>1876 - 1892</u>	<u>1876, 1892</u>
<u>Social History</u>	<u>1892 - 1931</u>	
<u>Religion</u>		

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Pett, James - architect/  
Brigham City Co-op - builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed in 1876, the Brigham City Co-op Planing Mill is significant primarily for its association with the Mormon Church-sponsored Brigham City Mercantile and Manufacturing Association (the Co-op). The Co-op was a highly successful socio-economic system that dominated the local economy during most of its years of operation, 1864-1895. It was also a model for Mormon cooperatives established throughout the Utah Territory in the 1860s-80s. Most of the other co-ops failed quickly, and none approached the level of success attained in Brigham City. The Planing Mill is one of only five remaining buildings associated with the Brigham City Co-op; only four of the five are eligible for National Register designation. The Planing Mill is also significant for its association with the period of private economic growth that followed the demise of the Co-op system. From 1892 until 1931 the mill was owned and operated by one of its former workers, John F. Merrell. Many of the businesses that were part of Brigham City's early twentieth-century development were former Co-op industries.

The Brigham City Co-op was an outgrowth of the communitarian ideals that had been part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) philosophy from its beginning.<sup>1</sup> In Kirtland, Ohio, on February 9, 1831, while the church was still in its first year, Church President Joseph Smith instituted the law of consecration requiring the people to turn over to the church any surplus property or possessions for the support of the poor.<sup>2</sup> The United Order, an economic cooperative system, operated for a time in Kirtland and then was discontinued.<sup>3</sup>

After the Mormons migrated to Utah from Nauvoo, Illinois, in the 1840s and 50s, church leaders encouraged the settlers in Utah communities to again implement the cooperative system. Part of the reason was to encourage patronage of Mormon enterprises rather than non-Mormon ventures, which were seen as a threat and

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intrusion in the Mormon settled region. Over 200 cooperatives were established and in operation in Mormon communities between 1868 and 1884 as part of the churchwide effort referred to by historians as the Cooperative Movement. Cooperatives were formed within the local Mormon wards (congregations) for community welfare purposes rather than mere profit. Their methods of operation ranged from businesslike joint-stock corporations to more communal arrangements where members shared everything.<sup>4</sup> The Brigham City Co-op was an example of the joint-stock approach.

The earliest and most successful Mormon cooperative was in Brigham City. Lorenzo Snow, one of the founders of the town and a member of the church's governing Council of Twelve Apostles, established the Brigham City Co-op in 1864 with the formation of a co-op mercantile store.<sup>5</sup> The Co-op went on to form 19 different departments encompassing commerce, industry, agriculture, horticulture, and construction. These departments employed most of the available workers in Brigham City for three decades. Though the Co-op operated until 1895, its first 15 years were its most successful. The demise of the Co-op was brought on by natural disasters, changing attitudes about the role of the Mormon Church in business, legal and financial attacks against the Co-op, and changing hierarchy within the church. One by one, all of Brigham City's cooperative departments were either abandoned or taken over by private interests. The Co-op ceased operation in 1895.

Only five Co-op buildings remain standing. They include the Flour Mill (1856), Woolen Mill (1869-70), Planing Mill (c.1876), Relief Society Granary (c.1877), and Mercantile Store (1891). The Woolen Mill has been extensively altered by later additions, though it still functions as a woolen mill. The 1856 Flour Mill predated the Co-op by eight years, but it functioned as a Co-op industry during the 1860s and '70s.

The Planing Mill is significant as an industry of the first and most successful of Utah's nineteenth-century cooperative ventures. By the time the mill was built in 1876, the Brigham City Mercantile and Manufacturing Association was at its peak. It was already operating a number of successful departments which provided the supplies and goods necessary for life within the pioneer community. The planing mill's significance to the Cooperative lay in its production of cabinetry and furniture, and through enhancement of the organization's already flourishing construction enterprises.<sup>6</sup> The Mill also produced square nails for use in construction activities during the Co-op period.<sup>7</sup>

The Planing Mill's secondary significance is as a private business, continuing its original function as a planing mill until 1983. John Finley Merrell, who worked at the planing mill when it was part of the Co-op, bought it on November 30, 1892.<sup>8</sup> For many years Merrell ran the business in partnership with his sons and sons-in-law, each in charge of a different department.<sup>9</sup> In 1905, the company name was changed from John F. Merrell & Co., to Merrell's Lumber Company.<sup>10</sup> After John F. was killed in an automobile accident in 1931, his sons continued the

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business. It was subsequently taken over by his grandson John D. Merrell and then his great grandson Paul Merrell who ran the business until 1983 when the planing mill stopped full-time operation, 107 years after it was built for the Co-op and 91 years after it was purchased by John F. Merrell.<sup>11</sup>

Though this building was owned and used by the Mormon Church, its significance is based on its historical importance, as documented above, rather than mere religious association. Therefore, it meets Criteria Consideration "A", as outlined in the National Register guidelines, which specifies the conditions under which religious properties may be designated.

Notes

1. Williams, Clyde J., compiler, The Teaching of Lorenzo Snow. (Salt Lake City, Utah: Bookcraft, 1981), pp. 166-67.
2. Smith, Joseph, Doctrine & Covenants of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, containing revelations given to Joseph Smith, the Prophet. (Salt Lake City, Utah: LDS Church, 1981), Section 42, verses 30-32.
3. Ibid. Section 104.
4. Leonard J. Arrington, Great Basin Kingdom: An Economic History of the Latter-day Saints, 1830-1900 (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), pp. 293, 330.
5. Roberts, B. H., A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Century I, Vol. V. (Salt Lake City, Utah: Church Deseret News Press, 1930), p. 217.
6. Riddle, Mark, Lorenzo Snow and the Brigham City Cooperative. Unpublished MS Thesis, (Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1975), pp. 12, 13.
7. Yates, Sarah, "Planing Mill Survives After Century of Use" Box Elder Journal, March 11, 1981, p. 10.
8. Abstract records. Box Elder County Courthouse.
9. Merrell Lumber Co. advertisement, The Box Elder Journal, Feb. 28, 1921, p. 8.
10. Abstract records. Box Elder County Courthouse.
11. Merrell, Paul, Personal Communication, April 3, 1987.



9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet 9-2)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):   x   See continuation sheet  
   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:  
  x   State Historic preservation office  
   Other State agency  
   Federal agency  
   Local government  
   University  
  x   Other  
Specify repository:  
   Brigham City Museum/Gallery

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property    0.45 acre

UTM References

A	<u>  1/2  </u>	<u>  4/1/6/0/6/0  </u>	<u>  4/5/9/5/7/5/0  </u>	B	<u>  /  </u>	<u>  / / / / /  </u>	<u>  / / / / /  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>  /  </u>	<u>  / / / / /  </u>	<u>  / / / / /  </u>	D	<u>  /  </u>	<u>  / / / / /  </u>	<u>  / / / / /  </u>

   See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Tax#: 03-102-0083

Beginning at a point 268 feet East of the Southwest corner of Lot 1, Block 81, Plat B of Brigham City Townsite Survey; thence North 60 feet, West 4 feet, North 138 feet, East 66 feet, South 66 feet, East 49.5 feet, South 132 feet to Forest Street, thence West 113 feet to the point of beginning.

   See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

These are the present and historic boundaries of the site.

   See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title   Kathy Bradford, Research Specialist; Larry Douglass, Director    
organization   Brigham City Museum-Gallery   date   December 1989    
street & number   24 North 300 West/P.O.Box 583   telephone   (801) 723-6769    
city or town   Brigham City   state   Utah   zip code   84302

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Major Bibliographical References

Abstract Records. Box Elder County Courthouse. Brigham City, Utah.

Box Elder Journal Brigham City, Utah (Multiple listings).

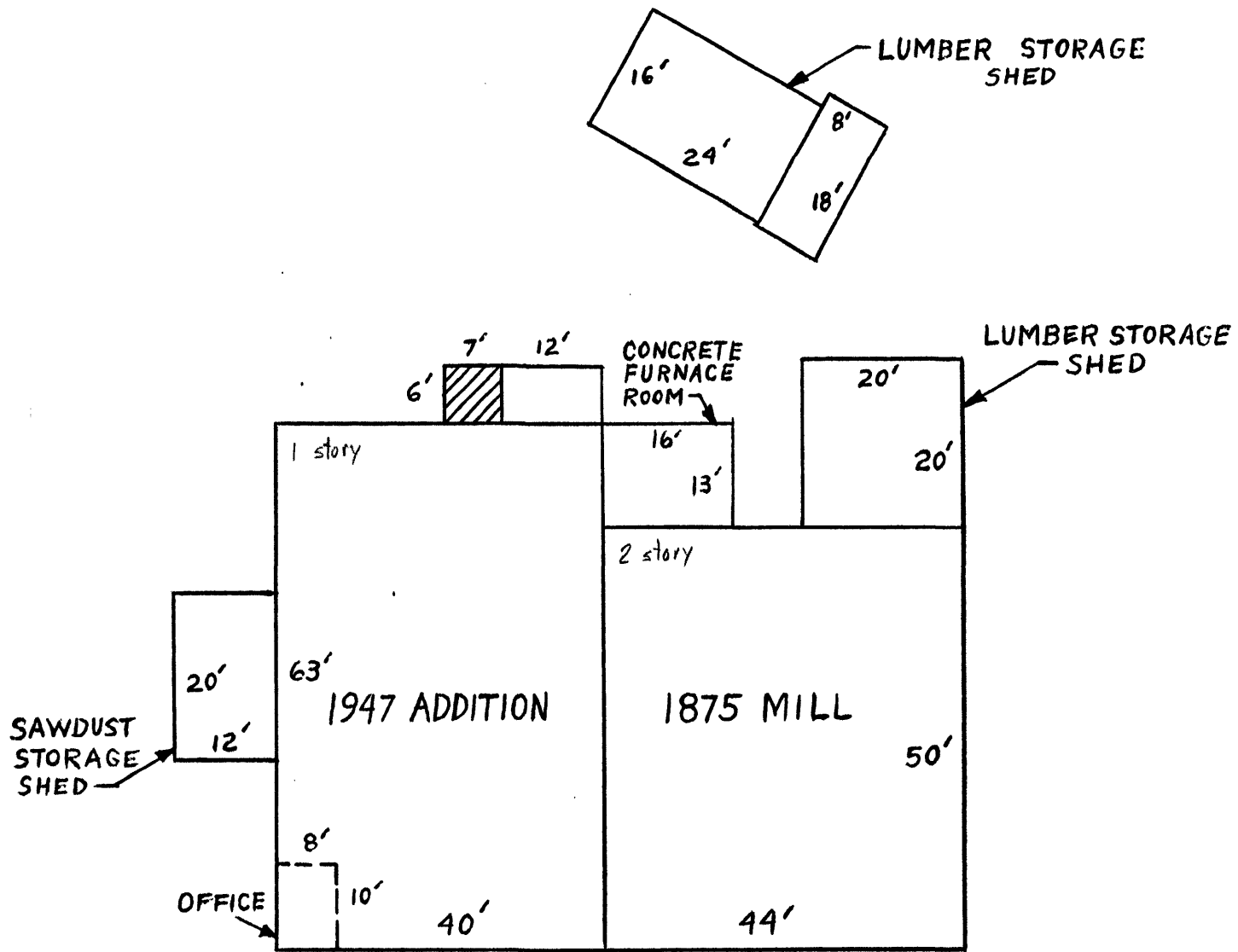
Doctrine & Covenants of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, containing revelations given to Joseph Smith, the Prophet. Published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Salt Lake City, 1981.

Merrell, Pual, Personal Communication, April 3, 1987.

Riddle, Mark, Lorenzo Snow and the Brigham City Cooperative. Unpublished MS Thesis, (Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1975).

Roberts, B. H. A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Century I, Vol. V. (Salt Lake City, Utah: Church Deseret News Press, 1930).

# PLANING MILL of the BRIGHAM CITY CO-OP

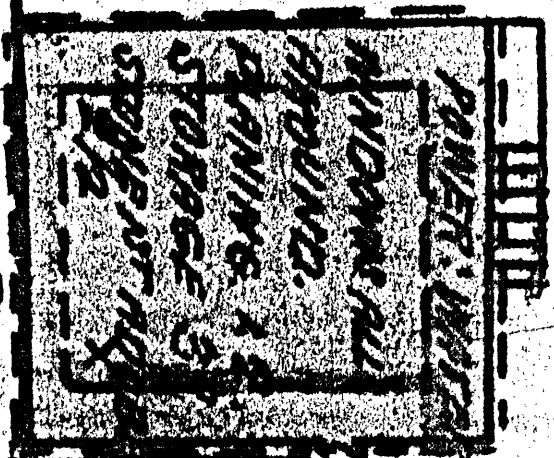


SCALE: 1" = 20'

DRAWN BY: LARRY DOUGLASS DATE: 12-14-88

REVISED VERSION OF BOX ELDER COUNTY ASSESSOR'S MAP

JOE EXPOS.



BRIGHAM CITY  
PLANNING MILL.



VACANT.

EVANS EMS.

1A

48

Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Limited  
Brigham City, Box Elder Co., Utah  
March 1884 p. 1

Originals Available at University of Utah Special Collections  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Planing Mill of the B.C.M. & M.A.

APR 27 1984

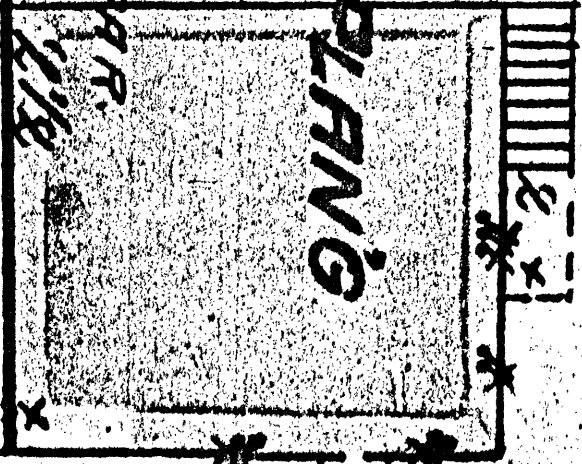
# BRIGHAM CITY PLANNING

## MILL.

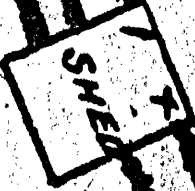
(WATER POWER.)

NO WATCHMAN. NO FIRE APPAR.

STONE 1ST FLOOR



TURBINE WHEEL



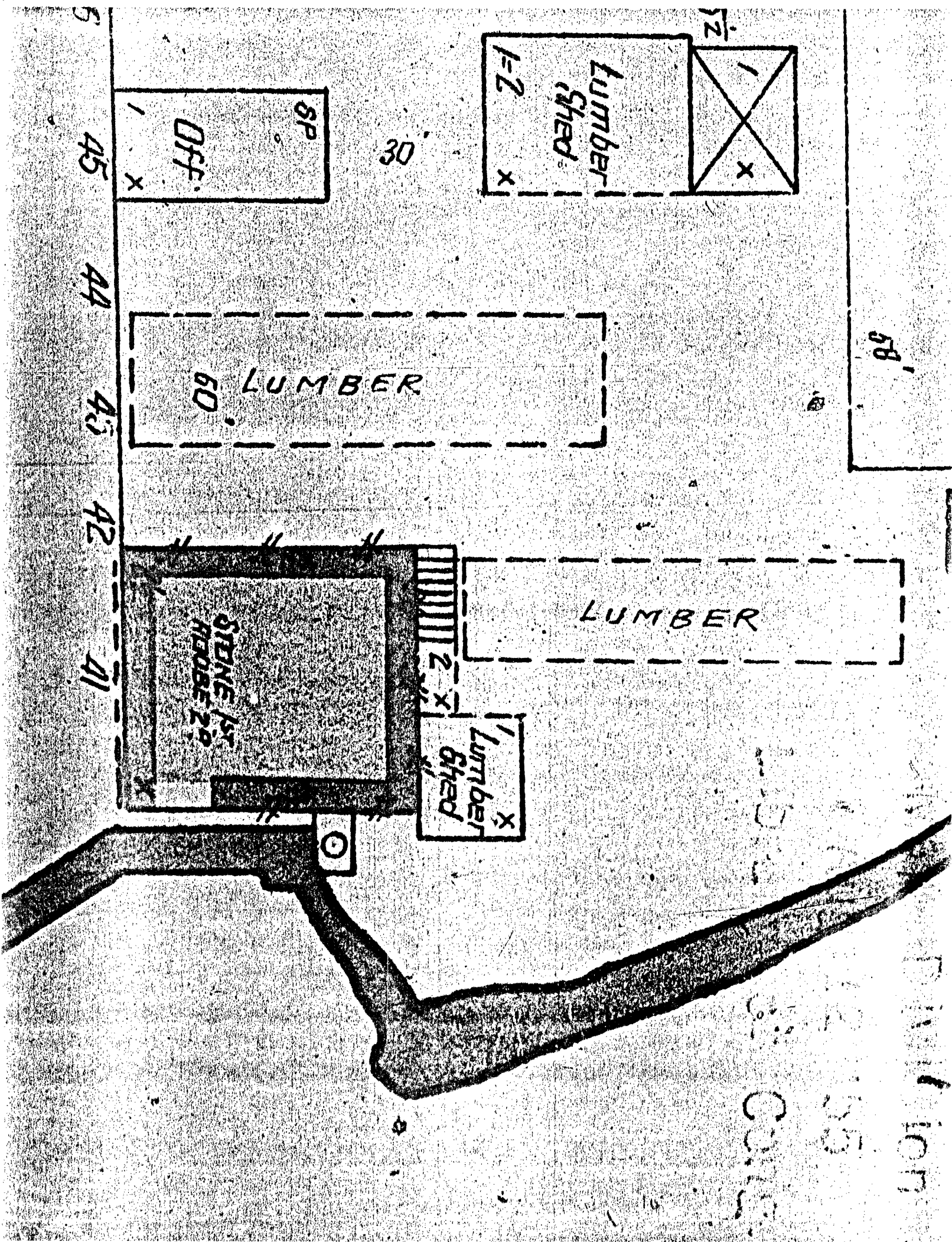
FLUME

66

Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Limited  
Brigham City, Box Elder Co., Utah  
Nov. 1890 p. 1

Originals Available at University of Utah Special Collections  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Planing Mill of the B.C.M. & M.A.





Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Limited  
Brigham City, Box Elder Co., Utah  
Aug. 1900 p. 1  
Originals Available at University of Utah Special Collections  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Planing Mill of the B.C.M. & M.A.

1900