

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 27 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 20 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jesse N. Smith Home

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

45 West 100 South

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Parowan

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Utah

VICINITY OF

CODE
49

COUNTY

Iron

CODE

021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jesse N. Smith Family Association; Joseph Smith Jarvis, President

STREET & NUMBER

123 East 1st Street

CITY, TOWN

Mesa

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona 85201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Iron County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cedar City

STATE

Utah 84720

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

7.3.

- A. Style and significance: During the period from June, 1856, to March, 1858, Jesse N. Smith constructed a two-story home facing the town square in Parowan. He quarried the rock, baked the adobes and hewed the timber himself. The original building consisted of four rooms, two upstairs and two downstairs and a rock basement. As originally constructed, it was an "I" house, i.e., it had a one-room deep rectangular plan, two stories high. In 1865, Smith built a lean-to addition on the rear of the house consisting of four rooms, two upstairs and two downstairs. The front facade of the house was also plastered at that time. In 1879, Smith sold the house to a William Bentley for \$2,700. For several years the building was unoccupied, but in 1962 the Jesse N. Smith Family Association purchased the building and began to raise money for its restoration. This restoration took place between 1967 and 1969 and cost \$12,000. The roof was repaired and the adobe walls, which became badly eroded due to the defective roof, were repaired and replastered. The front wall on the main story had lost its original plaster, but because of protection from the long front porch the wall had not eroded and was left with its adobe bricks exposed.

In profile, the building is a modified saltbox. Though the lean-to was added later, its roof has the same pitch as the original gabled roof.

The front facade of the house is symmetrically arranged with a centered door and two large flanking windows on the lower floor and three double-hung sash 6 over 6 paned windows on the upper floor. The windows have wooden lintels and sills and are trimless. The cornice is moulded and skirted and returns slightly along the gable-ends. Two gable-end chimneys complete the Federal style facade. The large porch which extends along the entire length of the home is supported by decorative lathe-turned posts. The porch entablature is simple and the porch soffit is boxed. The porch is believed to have been added later, as was the front door with its glass pane and the small window to the right of the door. The windows on the lower floor are fixed with transoms above. These, too, were doubtlessly modified after initial construction.

The interior features the same room arrangement as the original plan. The staircase is centralized and in the lean-to. There are six fireplaces in the home.

Despite the few alterations that have been made to the building, its general form and simple detailing continue to reflect its 1856-58 construction and styling. It is typical of old Colonial American houses and is thought to be the oldest home in Southern Utah.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1856-1858 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder Jesse N. Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jesse N. Smith home derives its significance from two factors. It is an excellent and well preserved example of an early Mormon Pioneer home built of stuccoed adobe. Secondly, it was the home of one of Southern Utah and Northern Arizona's most prominent pioneers, Jesse N. Smith. According to family records, Jesse N. Smith, born December 2, 1834, in Stockholm, St. Lawrence County, New York, was the youngest cousin of the Mormon founder Joseph Smith. As a boy Jesse lived in Kirtland, Ohio, and in 1839 his family moved to Missouri. Intending to settle at Far West, word of Governor Boggs's Extermination Order caused a change of plans and eventually the family made their way to Illinois. At the age of thirteen Jesse traveled to Utah with the Parley P. Pratt Company, reaching the Great Salt Lake Valley on September 25, 1847.

Four years after his arrival in Utah, Jesse N. Smith was called to help with the establishment of the Iron Mission. Making his home in Parowan, he soon became one of the leaders in church and political affairs in Southern Utah. In 1855, at the age of 21, he served as a Representative to the Territorial Legislature and three years later was elected Mayor of Parowan.

It was during this period that work on his Parowan home began. In his journal Smith notes that in the spring of 1856 he made adobes to build a house. The June 28, 1856, journal entry offers some insight into the hazards of house-building. "While quarrying rock for my house, I fell and rolled down the face of a steep cliff, some thirty feet, wrenching one of my ankles so severely that I could not work for several days." The events of the Utah War in 1857 delayed completion of the home until March 1858 when, the Smith diary notes, the family moved into the new home. In 1860 Jesse was called to serve a mission to Denmark. He proved a successful missionary and in May 1862 he assumed responsibility as President of the Scandinavian Mission and served in that position for more than two years before returning to Utah in 1864. Four years later in 1868 he was again called to return to Scandinavia where once more he presided over the Scandinavian Mission until 1870. Although Jesse N. Smith had provided his family with a modest but comfortable home, the five years he was away from his family serving missions for the Church were undoubtedly a difficult time for his two wives and their children. One of his daughters, recalling the Christmas of 1862 in their Parowan home, wrote: "All of us children hung up our stockings. We jumped up early in the morning to see what Santa had brought, but there was not a thing in them. Mother wept bitterly. She went to her box and got out a little apple and cut it in tiny pieces and this was our Christmas."¹

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Oliver R. Smith, Editor, The Journals of Jesse N. Smith, Jesse N. Smith Family Association, Salt Lake City, 1970.
 Charles S. Peterson, Take Up Your Mission, The University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1973.
The Kinsman, Quarterly Journal of the Jesse N. Smith Association.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM OK/AM

UTM REFERENCES

A	12	339180	4189440	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Powell, Preservation Historian/Allen D. Roberts, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

603 East South Temple

TELEPHONE

301-323-5755

CITY OR TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah 84102

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Melvin T. Smith

TITLE

Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

Feb 10, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/20/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

JUN 20 1975

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

Nine months before Jesse Smith returned home from his first Scandinavian mission his second wife Margaret died leaving two children to be raised by his first wife Emma. Jesse married a total of five wives and fathered 44 children. The Smiths remained in Parowan until 1878 when Jesse was called to help lead the Mormon colonization efforts in Arizona. Apparently this call came in response to a controversy which developed between the Smith brothers, Silas S. and Jesse N., and William H. Dame in something of a power struggle for the position of ecclesiastical leader in Iron County. Jesse N. Smith was nominated as Stake President in a meeting presided over by Brigham Young but was not sustained by a majority of Saints because of objections to Smith's arbitrary and tyrannical nature. In the end Dame was successful in becoming Stake President and the Smith brothers left for other areas--Silas to the San Juan Mission and ultimately the San Luis Valley of Colorado and Jesse to the Little Colorado Region of Arizona. Here he did become the spiritual leader of the Snowflake area serving as President of the East Arizona Stake from 1879 to 1887 and President of the Snowflake Stake from 1887 to his death in 1906. In addition to his church responsibilities, Smith was President of the Arizona Cooperative Mercantile Association. He was active in railroad construction and a leading figure in water development on the Little Colorado River. His 1 1/2 story brick home in Snowflake, Arizona, was listed on the National Register in 1972.

In the Forward to the 1970 edition of The Journal of Jesse Nathaniel Smith, Charles Peterson outlines the significant role of Smith in Utah and Mormon history:

Of all the Latter-day Saint causes of Smith's time none were more important than those of the gathering to Zion and the extension of the physical bounds of the Kingdom. Like many Mormons, Jesse N. Smith devoted his life to these causes, but, more than most of his contemporaries, he played roles which cut across the full fabric of the Mormon experience. He was in the truest sense of a church leader--one who may be classified accurately as a field commander. Directing the preaching and convert migration of a proselyting mission abroad and directing the water development and homebuilding of long-term colonizing missions in the West, he at once shared the attitudes and experiences of the church's top hierarchs, yet worked, aspired, and sacrificed with rank-and-file pioneers in opening new frontiers.