

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Utah	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Deseret Telegraph and Post Office

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Route 15

CITY OR TOWN:
Rockville

STATE Utah	CODE 49	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 053
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>vacant</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Glen W. Steed

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Rockville

STATE: Utah	CODE 49
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Tabernacle Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. George

STATE: Utah	CODE 49
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Utah Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1940** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Utah Heritage Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:
603 E. South Temple

CITY OR TOWN:
Salt Lake City

STATE: Utah	CODE 49
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Utah**
COUNTY: **Washington**
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1864, Edward Huber built a rectangular rock house of red sandstone in Rockville, Utah. It was one of the community's finest early homes. It still stands today. Although vacant, it is generally solid. The gabled roof has been maintained to preserve the home.

To the west a small frame clapboard office, about 19' by 12' with a shed-type roof, was built during the mid-1870's. It served as both a telegraph office and post office for a number of years. The building still stands, though it is in need of repairs. The current owner, Mr. Glen Steed, has put a sheet metal shed over the structure to protect it. Preservation plans include restoration and renovation of both the rock house and the office. A frame shed has also been added to the rear of the rock house.

SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

The Deseret News (December 20, 1871) records that the telegraph office was first opened in mid-December, 1871, in "Brother Charles N. Smith's Parlor. Messrs. Scipio Kenner and Gerana Bebee. Operators. The citizens of course are much pleased." Smith's home seems to have been a sawed-log structure.

A few years later a telegraph office was built and attached to the west end of the old rock house that Edward Huber (or Hubert) had built in 1864. Both structures are included in the site designation. The little building was used as a Telegraph and Post Office for several decades. In 1903 the Deseret Telegraph Company had discontinued its services in southern Utah.

Most of the company had been sold to Western Union earlier. At its height, the church owned Deseret Telegraph Company, served all of Utah, and interlocked with Mormon settlements in Arizona, Nevada, and Idaho. Its more than 1,000 miles of lines were built primarily to serve as a communications medium for the Mormon people. Only where it served "gentiles" did it "turn a profit." This little office and rock house at Rockville recall this distinctive part of western and Mormon history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

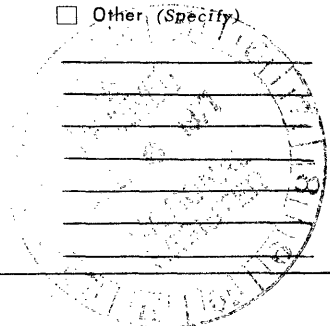
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Built 1870's**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Communication in early Utah was a difficult and time-consuming task. With the completion of the Transcontinental Telegraph line in Salt Lake City, October 23, 1861, the Mormons had instantaneous contact with the outside world. They desired next to put the miracle to use in Utah.

Almost immediately plans were made to build a telegraph line from Logan in the north to St. George in the south. However, the shortages of material occasioned by the Civil War forced postponement of the line. Later it was built with "war surplus" purchased from the federal government.

During the winter of 1865-1866 plans for its construction were revived. Cash tithing was accumulated to purchase wire and insulators for the 500 miles of line. A telegraphers' school, taught by John C. Clawes, was opened in Salt Lake City to train operators. Each area serviced by the line was asked to send an operator to the school. In many instances young men and women were "called" to this assignment. Their salaries, later, came from donations collected for that purpose.

To finance construction, the Deseret Telegraph Company was organized March 21, 1867 with a stock issue of \$100,000. In addition, each valley was expected to provide labor organized and directed by the L.D.S. Church Priesthood. Poles were cut, hauled and set, so that by the time Horace D. Haight's ox teams arrived in October 1866 with supplies, the lines were ready for them. By January 10, 1867, the St. George office was open. When completed, the system was appraised at about \$500,000.

Soon after ^{this} branch telegraph lines were opened. One of these led from Toquerville in southern Utah, southeast to Rockville and then south and east to Windsor Castle (Pipe Springs) by December 1871. This was Arizona's first telegraph office. The line continued north to Kanab and on to Long Valley. The Rockville Station became an important link in the telegraph extension to the east--Pipe Springs and Kanab--where the Navajo Indian raiders were first intercepted when raiding the Mormon communities.

Although one reference suggests that Erastus Snow, in St. George, received a "telegram" from Rockville as early as November 22, 1868, it is believed that the "express" actually came from Toquerville, on the main southern line, that someone rode from Rockville to Toquerville to send the telegram.

(continued on preceding page)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Leonard Arrington, Great Basin Kingdom, (Cambridge-Harvard University Press, 1958)
 Kate B. Carter, ed., Communication of Early Utah (Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1936), -
 H. Lorenzo Ried, Dixie of the Desert, (Zion National Park, Utah: Zion Natural History Association, 1964), p. 160ff (picture),
 Andrew Karl Larson, I Was Called to Dixie, (Salt Lake City: The Deseret News Press, 1961), pp. 522-529.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	37°	9'	39"	113°	2'	34"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .11

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Melvin T. Smith

ORGANIZATION: Utah Historical Society DATE: June 10, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 603 E. South Temple

CITY OR TOWN: Salt Lake City STATE: Utah CODE: 49

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Milton L. Weilenmann

Title Utah State Liaison Officer

Date June 10, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

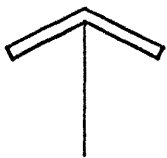
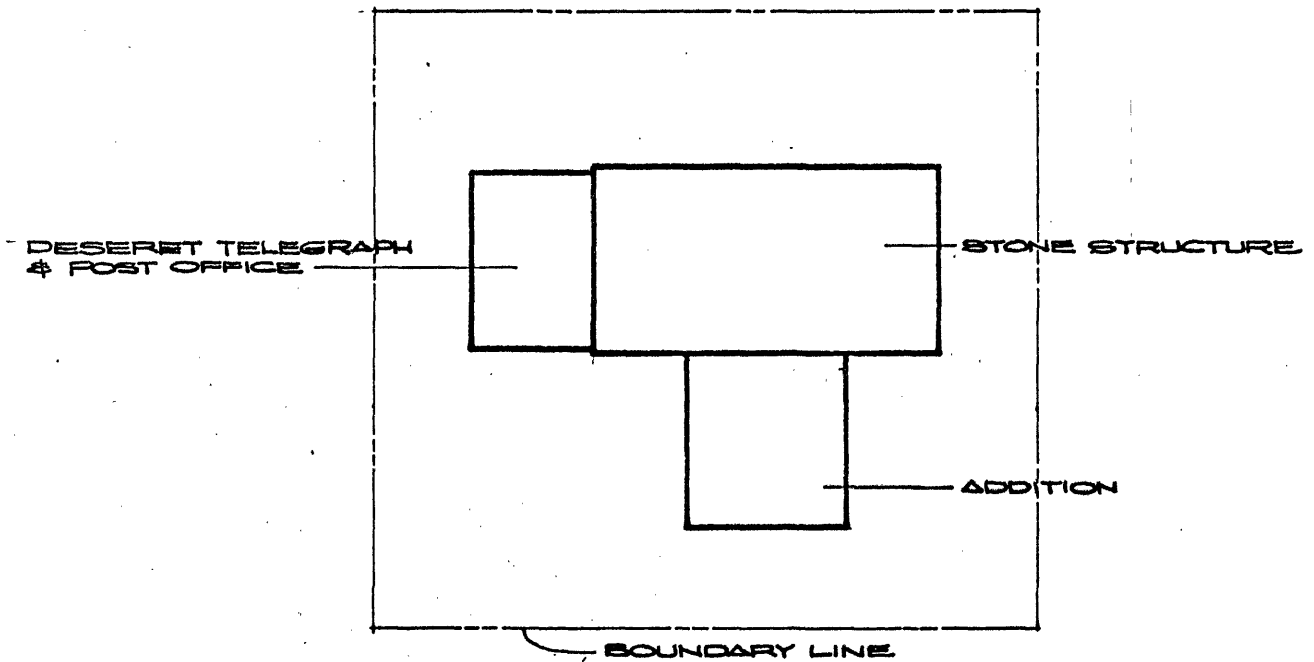
Date FEB 23 1972

ATTEST:
William M. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 FEB 11 1972

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

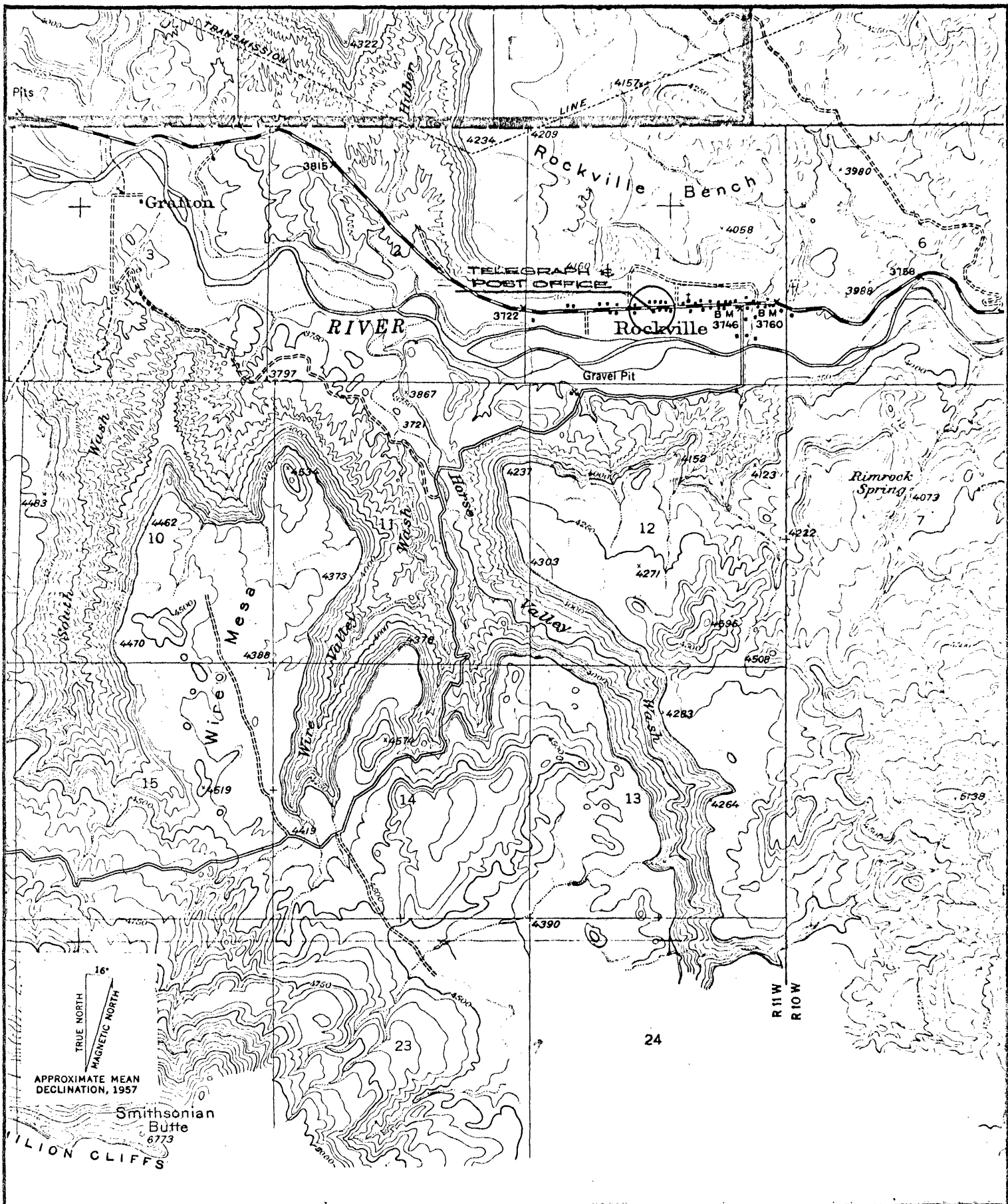
STATE ROUTE 15



DESERT TELEGRAPH & POST OFFICE
STATE ROUTE 15
ROCKVILLE, UTAH

LATITUDE : 37° - 9' - 39"
LONGITUDE : 113° - 2' - 34"

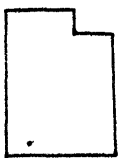
DATE : MAY 1971
SCALE : 1" = 20'



16°
 TRUE NORTH
 MAGNETIC NORTH
 APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1957

Smithsonian Butte
 6773

MILION CLIFFS



DESERET TELEGRAPH & POST OFFICE

STATE ROUTE 15
 ROCKVILLE, UTAH

LATITUDE : 37° - 9' - 39"
 LONGITUDE : 113° - 2' - 34"

DATE : MAY 1971
 SCALE : 1" = 1/2 MILE