

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 421 Park Park City, Summit County, Utah UTM: 12 458080 4499070
 Name of Structure: Reese Williams House / Park City Hospital T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Robert J. Lewis
 Owner Address: c/o Roy W. Reynolds P.O. Box 1720, Park City, Utah 84060
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: PC 54
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:
 Lots 5 & 6, Block 4, Park City Survey.
 Less than one acre.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Reese Williams Construction Date: 1898 Demolition Date:
 Original Use: Residence Present Use:
 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: 1983 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1983 Photo No.:
 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 Census Records

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

Green, John C. Telephone interview, April 18, 1984, Park City, Utah.
 1900 Census Records. Summit County, Park City Precinct, p. 156-A.
Park Record. February 3, 1900, p. 3.
 December 3, 1898, p. 3. Reese Williams obituary.

Architect/Builder: Ellsworth J. Beggs

Building Materials: Wood

Building Type/Style: Two Story Box (variant of the Pyramid House)

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

This house is a frame two story box house, a variant of the pyramid house, with a truncated hip roof. It has dormers projecting on the east and south sides, and there is a large stone and frame root cellar attached to the southwest corner of the building. Characteristic of the typical pyramid house, the arrangement of openings on the facade is symmetrical. A door is centered between two broad single pane with transom windows, and there are two one over one double hung sash windows centered above the first floor windows. A hip roof porch supported on lathe turned columns spans the facade. A small gable projects from the center of the porch roof. The fish scale shingles on the pediment of that gable match those on the dormers. There is a double hung sash window in each of the dormer sections. The only alteration of the exterior of the building is the addition of a small frame shed to the east side of the root cellar. It is unobtrusive, and is not even visible from the road. The house has a hall and parlor plan that is two rooms deep. There are two rooms of unequal size across the front of the house on the first floor. The same configuration originally existed at the back of the house, but the original room partition was moved to one side so that a bathroom could be added. The building is in excellent condition and maintains its original integrity.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1898

Built in 1898, the Reese Williams House/Park City Hospital at 421 Park is architecturally significant as one of four extant two story box houses in Park City, three of which are well preserved and included in this nomination. The two story box is closely tied with the pyramid house, one of three major house types in Park City. Like the pyramid house, it has a square or nearly square form, a pyramid or truncated hip roof, and a porch spanning the facade. It varies in size from the pyramid house, being a full two stories, as compared with the one or one and one half stories of the pyramid house. The two story box was not common in Park city, but judging from the range of extant buildings in Park City, it seems to have been the preferred design choice for a sizeable Park City house. All of the extant examples of this house are located on prominent sites along Park Avenue, the most prestigious street in Park City, further documenting the significance of this house type as one chosen by those who were seeking more than a utilitarian dwelling. This house is also historically significant as the first hospital in Park City. It served the community from 1900 until at least 1904, when the large Miners' Hospital was constructed.

This house was built in 1898 for Reese Williams by Ellsworth J. Beggs, a local carpenter.¹ Williams died, however, just three days after the house was completed, and his widow and children lived here for only year after his death. Born in Wales in 1851, Reese Williams came to Park City in 1878 to work in the mines. At the time of his death, he was employed at the Silver King Mine, where, judging from the large scale of this house, he apparently held an important, well-paying position.

The large size and central location of this house proved to be an attraction for two Salt Lake City doctors who were interested in opening up a hospital in Park City. On February 3, 1900, the Park Record reported that "T.H. Monahan (See continuation sheet)

421 Park
History continued:

and E.H. Howard have been in the Park this week making arrangements for the hospital. They have leased the residence of Mrs. Reese Williams to which an addition will be built in a short time. The new hospital will be thoroughly equipped with the newest appliances, and will be ready to receive patients in ten days."² By February 17, 1900, the operating room and one additional room were ready to receive patients, and electric lights were being installed in the upper rooms.³ The promised addition to the house was apparently never built, although the hospital apparently was successful. The 1900 census records list the following occupants of the Park City Hospital: Edwin Howard, manager of the hospital, Thomas Monahan, surgeon, and eight "inmates," six of whom were miners. The construction of the large Miners' Hospital in the town in 1904 probably rendered this hospital unnecessary. It ceased functioning as a hospital by at least 1910, as indicated by the census records of that year.

This house was probably rented out for residential use by the Williams family for a number of years after the hospital closed its doors. In 1925, Della Macke, a relative of the Williams,⁴ sold the house to Henry Thomas. The house remained in the Thomas family for many years.

¹Summit County Records, Liens Book "B" page 5. The house was completed on November 30, 1898.

²Park Record, February 3, 1900, p. 3.

³Ibid.

⁴Interview with John C. Green, Jr., April 18, 1984, Park City, Utah. "Jack" Green lived in this house with the Thomases and as owner of the house from 1925 until 1978.