

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. 49-UT-25 A-025A-006

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 625 East 200 South UTM: 12 438340 4467930
 Pleasant Grove, Utah County Orem Quad/1:24000
 Name of Structure: Adams, John Alma House T. 5 S R. 2 E S. 28
 Present Owner: Ray and Sandy Harmer Fugal
 Owner Address: 625 East 200 South
 Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: D-167-G
 Legal Description Kind of Building:

Com. at pb in S blk line which pt is 422 ft N 89° 28' W along blk line from SE cor. Blk 25 plat A, PGCS; N 110 ft E paralleled to S blk line 75 ft, S 110 ft, along blk line N 89° 28' W 75 ft to beg. Acreage: less than one acre

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: John Alma Adams Construction Date: 1877 Demolition Date:
 1889
 Original Use: Residence Present Use: Residence
 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: 1986 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1930, 1987 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

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

Obituaries, John Alma Adams:
 Salt Lake Telegram, 8-6-1935, p. 6.
 Deseret News, 8-6-1935, p. 15.
 Pleasant Grove Review, 8-9-1935, p. 1.
 Journal, William H. Adams, pp. 165, 171, 176, 182, 185, Daughters of Utah Pioneers.
 Writings of John Lewis Adams about his father's house, unpublished, Pleasant Grove Library.
 Photograph, John Alma Adams and house circa 1930, Utah County Assessor's Office.
 Obituary, William H. Adams:
 Deseret News, 10-11-1989, p. 2.

Researcher: Beth Olsen

Date: 1986

Architect/Builder: NA/John Alma Adams, William Henry Adams, Olaf Monson

Building Materials: Soft-rock

Building Type/Style: hall parlor/vernacular

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

Built in two sections, 1877 and 1889, the John Alma Adams House is a one-story hall-parlor house with a gable roof and soft-rock exterior walls. The only alterations of note are the addition of a porch on the front (c.1939) and the addition of an enclosed frame porch at the northwest corner (c.1970). These do not significantly affect the original integrity of the house.

The Adams House appears to be a typical hall-parlor house with a later lean-to addition on the rear, but the opposite building arrangement is true. The two-room section on the back was actually constructed first in 1877. The two-room hall-parlor house on the front was added in 1889.¹ The point at which the two sections join is hardly discernible. The primary facade of the finished house faces south and is symmetrically arranged with a transomed door flanked by two windows. There are two other exterior doors, one on the east and one in the rear portion of the west wall. The westernmost window on the north or back appears to have originally been a door also. Soft-rock was used to fill in the lower portion of that doorway, indicating that it was probably done early on, perhaps when the front section of the house was built. The

(See continuation sheet)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1877 & 1889

Built in two sections in 1877 and 1889, the John Alma Adams House is one of 13 buildings included in the Pleasant Grove Soft-rock Buildings Thematic Resource nomination. Soft-rock buildings are significant because they help document the distinctive regional diversity found in nineteenth-century building stones in Utah. They also represent a distinct phase of the building construction industry in the Pleasant Grove area. Mormon community building in the Great Basin West rested upon the dual principles of order and permanence, and the grid-iron town plan and the use of stone as an early building material have become important symbols of Mormon settlement values. A great variety of local stones were used throughout the state, and the soft and easily worked tufa stone, popular in Pleasant Grove between about 1865 to 1900, remains one of the most distinctive. About 130 soft-rock buildings were known to have once stood in Pleasant Grove, yet there are only 13 well preserved examples today. Most of the earlier buildings, constructed during the 1850s and '60s, were made of adobe, which was easily made and worked. As fired brick became more available and fashionable during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it replaced soft-rock as the dominant local building material. The remaining soft-rock buildings are important examples of a local architectural tradition and contribute to an understanding of the regional diversity of Utah's early architectural history.

Family records provide a clear history of the John Alma Adams House. Following is a description of the original 1877 section of the house as told by John Adams to his daughter.

John A. Adams and Mary Alice Frampton were married July 29, 1877 by Bishop Brown in the old Frampton home. They

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John Alma Adams House
Description continued:

house sits on a field stone foundation, and it has wood lintels and sills.

The interior is well preserved for the most part, though the kitchen area has been somewhat altered. There a new floor has been installed, the ceiling lowered, cabinets added, and a bathroom installed. Throughout the house the original woodwork and interior walls are intact.

At the rear of the home is a well preserved soft-rock granary with an attached frame buggy shed. The granary was constructed at the same time that the front section of the house was built. There is a root cellar underneath the granary, accessible by an enclosed, shed-roofed stairway attached to the south side of the building. The granary contributes to the significance of the property because it is constructed of soft-rock and was built at the same time as the house. It is the only soft-rock outbuilding associated with a well-preserved soft-rock house in the Pleasant Grove area.

Total number of contributing buildings: 2

John Alma Adams House
History continued:

lived with his parents, William H. and Martha Jennings Adams, for five months while John cleared the land and built the first part of the home. They moved into their new home in December 1877, a soft rock, slope roof home, which later became the back rooms of the Adams' home. There were no carpets--only a rough board floor, one coat of plaster, one window, and two doors. The soft-rock he hewed with his own hands and he built the house himself. He made adobes for the partition walls with clay from the clayhill, and the sand he hauled from Lindon."¹

Lindon, located about one mile south, was considered part of Pleasant Grove at that time. All materials were within 1 1/2 miles from the home site.

The second section of the house was built 12 years later. John L. Adams, a son, recorded that "In June 1889, when a two-year-old daughter died, the services were held in the front yard...with the small casket resting in the unfinished front doorway of the two forward rooms...under construction at the time."² These two rooms and the soft-rock granary to the rear of the house were laid up by John, his father William Henry Adams, and Olaf Monson, all stonemasons.

John Alma Adams was brought to the new settlement of Pleasant Grove in the fall of 1850 when he ws just two months old. His father was one of the three men who first staked out claims in Pleasant Grove. The family spent their first winter in their wagon box. Another residence of the family was within the fort wall (demolished). John farmed with his father until purchasing five acres of his own that would surround his new house. It was here that he resided until his death in August 1935. At that time he had lived in Pleasant

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John Alma Adams House
History continued:

Grove longer than any other person, and had grown up with the community. John and Mary raised seven children in this small soft-rock house.

From 1935 to 1967 the house was owned and occupied by a son, John L. Adams. The first change in the original structure probably took place during these years. An 8' X 10' porch was added over the front door. The house has had a number of short-term owners since 1969 when Orville Longfellow sold the home after parcelling out small building lots from the farm land. In 1983 Ray and Sandy Fugal, the current owners, purchased the then 106-year-old house. They have made few exterior changes to the house, and today it looks much the same as it did upon its completion in 1889.

¹Pleasant Grove Review, August 9, 1935, p. 1.

²Writings of John Lewis Adams about his father's house, unpublished, Pleasant Grove Library. John L. Adams carefully examined the construction and condition of the house during the years that he lived there.