

PH0663948

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY **DATA SHEET**  
RECEIVED FEB 27 1978  
DATE ENTERED JUN 13 1978

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

VALASCO FARR HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

William Fife House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

700 Canyon Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ogden

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

01

STATE

Utah

VICINITY OF

CODE

049

COUNTY

Weber

CODE

057

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Gene Taylor West

STREET & NUMBER

133 "M" Street

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

84103

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Weber County

STREET & NUMBER

24th Street and Washington Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Ogden

STATE

Utah

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE

October 1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house was built on a portion of the property deeded to Ogden's first Mayor, Lorin Farr, by Ulysses S. Grant. The house is a Queen Anne Brick Cottage built in 1887. The architect was William Wilson Fife, a brother-in-law of the original owner, Valasco Farr. W. W. Fife was a well known architect in Weber County being responsible for many buildings in that area. His accomplishments include, City Hall, Ogden; Ogden High School, North Ogden; the Fifth Ward Institute and Theatre; the John Cortez Block, Ogden; Lincoln Hotel, Ogden; residences of Lorin Farr and Joseph Stanford, Ogden, and many other stores, office buildings, banks, churches and residences to which reference can be made.

W. W. Fife served his apprenticeship under his father, William Nicole Fife, Weber County's first professional architect. He soon became a partner and when he was fifteen, he was made a clerk. Two years later, he took over the drafting department and shortly afterward his father retired, leaving his business entirely to his son. W. W. Fife played a large part in the architecture which can still be seen in Ogden today.

The house is a one story cottage, which was once the heart of a three acre farm, producing fruit and vegetables. Gene Taylor, who is restoring the 90 year old house, says the structure is sound and the house does not need alot of remodeling. Mr. Taylor has only remodeled the interior as far as improving the heating and plumbing systems, restoring the wood to its original finish, adding authentic patterned wall paper and new floor coverings. On the exterior, he has repaired three porches and installed new windows and new white shutters. Mr. West says his goal is to restore the house as closely as possible to its original condition. He has also stripped the outside of fake veneer to reveal lovely old red brick in need of only cleaning and repairing in a few places. The windows have retained their original colored glass insets and the house has its original turned posts and cornice trim.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Book of the Pioneer 1847, 1897.  
 Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah - Utah State Historical Society.  
 Sun Stone  
 History of Utah, Vol. IV, by Orson F. Whitney, Salt Lake City, Utah.  
 George Q. Cannon and Sons Company, Published October 1904.  
 Ogden Standard Examiner, July 16, 1977, p. 10B.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Ogden, Utah QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 2	4 1 9 4 4 0	4 5 6 5 4 3 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

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	Gene Taylor West, Lois Harris, Researcher and Wilson G. Martin, Preservation Plnr.
ORGANIZATION	Utah State Historical Society
DATE	January 27, 1978
STREET & NUMBER	603 East South Temple
TELEPHONE	533-5755
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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Michael D. Gallivan*  
 TITLE Michael D. Gallivan, Executive Director & State Historic Preservation Officer DATE February 8, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE 6/13/78
ATTEST: <i>Washburn Cole</i>	DATE 6-5-78
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	

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re-elected for another term. He was also involved in the expanding railroad system in Utah. He superintended the building of 200 miles of the Central Pacific Railroad and also helped in the building of the Utah Northern Railroad to Brigham City.

He lived with his third wife, Olive Ann Jones on a farm outside Ogden. There the family raised corn, wheat, beans, potatoes and other vegetables. Olive Ann Jones, Valasco's mother, was born in June 1829 in Wallingford, Connecticut. She moved with her family to Utah in 1850. She lived in Bountiful, Utah until she married Lorin Farr in February 1852. Olive Ann was known as a good student and was often called a "walking spelling book", since her family claimed she could spell any word. She was also known as an excellent seamstress and cook. She often helped her husband's other wives with their households and children. She died in Ogden on September 19, 1914. Lorin Farr died on January 13, 1909 in Ogden.

Valasco Farr was the second child of Lorin Farr's third polygamous marriage to Olive Ann Jones. He was born in Ogden on August 29, 1855. He had many happy memories of his childhood, growing up on his father's farm and helping at the family molasses factory. At various times in his life he was engaged in farming, fruit growing and the ice business. On February 24, 1881 he married Diana Davis Fife in Salt Lake City.

Diana Davis Fife was born October 7, 1859 in Ogden, Utah. She was the daughter of Dana Davis Fife and William Nicole Fife, an early Utah pioneer. William Nicole Fife was a noted architect, responsible for many buildings in Salt Lake City and Ogden. William N. Fife was also the first professional architect in Weber County. His eldest son, (Diana's brother), William Wilson Fife (1857-1897) was perhaps Utah's first native born architect of significance. He designed Ogden's City Hall, the Scowcroft Block, the Utah Loan and Trust Company Building in Ogden, to mention just a few. William Wilson Fife, designed the home of his sister and brother-in-law, the Valasco Farr home in 1887.

Diana Davis Fife Farr and Valasco Farr had seven children. Diana Farr was active in the L.D.S. Church affairs. She died at the age of 44 of stomach cancer at her home in Ogden on May 18, 1904. Valasco Farr was a member of the High Priests Quorum of the L.D.S. Stake. He died at the age of 82, on December 12, 1937 in Ogden.

Valasco Farr continued to live in the house after his wife's death. When he died in 1937, the house passed into the hands of his son, Melvin Farr. Today, the house is owned by Mrs. William E. McHenry. Mrs. McHenry's brother, Gene Taylor West, has done much restoration work on the house and has researched the history of the house.

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Salt Lake Tribune, December 13, 1937, p.9, December 14, 1937, p. 8.

Deseret News, December 14, 1937, p. 18.

L.D.S. Biographical Encyclopedia, Vol. I, p. 749.

Lorin Farr Pioneer, T. Earl Pardoe, 1953, BYU Press, Provo, Utah.

Deseret News, January 13, 1909, p.7; January 16, 1909, p.3; January 18, 1909, p.3.