

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. BV-04-C-22-2

Sign. Site #115

Structure/Site Information Form

1 IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 415 ~~East~~ 400 North

UTM: 12/357150/4237900

Name of Structure:

T. R. S.

Present Owner: Mrs. Betty Oakden

LESS THAN ONE ACRE

Owner Address: Beaver, Utah 84713

Year Built (Tax Record): 1895

Effective Age: 1909

Tax #: B-396

Legal Description

Kind of Building:

Com. at SW cor lot 2, blk 22, plat C, Beaver City Survey; thence E 148 ft; N 12 rods; W 148 ft; S 12 rods to beginning.

2 STATUS/USE

Original Owner: James E. (Robinson) <sup>Nov 1895</sup> Construction Date: c. 1895 Demolition Date:

Original Use: Residence

Present Use: Residence

Building Condition:

Integrity:

Preliminary Evaluation:

Final Register Status:

- |   |                                |   |   |                                     |  |   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Site  | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant | <input type="checkbox"/> Not of the | <input type="checkbox"/> National Landmark | <input type="checkbox"/> District       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Alterations            | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributory           | Historic Period                     | <input type="checkbox"/> National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Resource |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated         |                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major Alterations | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Contributory       |                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> State Register    | <input type="checkbox"/> Thematic       |

3 DOCUMENTATION

Photography: Date of Slides: Slide No.: Date of Photographs: Photo No.:

Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Research Sources:

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstract of Title | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps               | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers                     | <input type="checkbox"/> U of U Library             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plat Records/Map             | <input type="checkbox"/> City Directories           | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah State Historical Society  | <input type="checkbox"/> BYU Library                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tax Card & Photo  | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Encyclopedias | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Interviews | <input type="checkbox"/> USU Library                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permit              | <input type="checkbox"/> Obituary Index             | <input type="checkbox"/> LDS Church Archives            | <input type="checkbox"/> SLC Library                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Permit                 | <input type="checkbox"/> County & City Histories    | <input type="checkbox"/> LDS Genealogical Society       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other fieldwork |

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

1933 photo on tax card, County Tax Assessor's Office.  
 Mrs. Betty Oakden, interviewed 8/11/80 in Beaver by L.L. Bonar.  
 Mrs. Roma Hollingshead, interviewed 8/12/80 in Beaver by L.L. Bonar.

Architect/Builder: James E. Robinson

Building Materials: pink rock (tuff)

Building Type/Style: vernacular H-plan

## Description of physical appearance &amp; significant architectural features:

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

This home is quite unusual in Beaver because of its nearly perfect "H" plan. It is a one story structure, though it is quite tall, and is built entirely of pink rock (tuff). The stonework is of excellent quality, each block being carefully tooled with various patterns (herringbone, stippled, patterns running with the grain in the rock, etc.). The mortar joints are regular - about one inch in thickness - and smooth. The stonework is finished on three sides of the house, only the rear section (north facade) being left in a rough cut state.

The home is definitely oriented to the south with the front entry in the center of the "H". Each of the two side wings does have an exterior door however. These two side wings have their gable ends to the street, with double windows in each of the gable ends.

The home has a Greek Revival style cornice with partial boxed returns and rests upon a black, rubble rock foundation. There are several alterations, including white paint on the stonework, shutters and flagstone planters. Nonetheless, the home retains enough of its architectural integrity to be considered architecturally significant.

## Statement of Historical Significance:

## Construction Date:

The home is significant for several reasons. Its nearly "H" plan makes it almost unique in Beaver, the only other house with a modified H-plan being the John Ashworth House (Structure/Site form BV-04-52-1).

It was built by James E. Robinson for himself and his family. James was not a professional mason, his own home apparently being the extent of his stoneworking career. However, he learned his lessons well and did impeccable work. It is quite possible that he learned something about masonry from his father, John Robinson, who had done some brickwork in his native country of England before immigrating to Utah.

That the home was built by a layman is given further credence by its unusual floor plan. The home originally consisted of two sections, one wing of the future "H" and the center portion. The kitchen and dining room were located in the center section while three bedrooms were the original function of the first wing. These two sections were built at the same time, c. 1895. About 20 years later, another wing was added to the east (of pink rock) which gave the home its nearly "H" plan.

James was born in Beaver and made his living as a farmer, a miner and a road builder/engineer. He worked in both the Rob Roy and the Sheeprock mines in the Tushar mountains as well as in the Croft Mine six miles north of Minersville in the Mineral Mountain Range. The home is a lovely example of what could be achieved in pink rock by a non-professional, vernacular builder who took the time necessary to build with the highest standards of workmanship.