

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received JUN 11 1982
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Curry, Lewis, House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 189 South Vernal Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Vernal _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Uintah code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name H. Wallace and Nancy T. Goddard

street & number 189 South Vernal Avenue

city, town Vernal _____ vicinity of _____ state Utah 84078

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Uintah County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Building

city, town Vernal _____ state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Curry house is a large two-story brick structure. In plan it is in the form of two long, narrow rectangles joined on the long sides but offset to make projecting facades at the front and rear of the house. Because of its formal arrangement, such houses are often simply described as "T-plan" houses. The front porch was enclosed with brick in the 1920's, and projects slightly forward from the body of the house. This enclosed porch is the only significant alteration of the home and does not detract from its historical integrity. The multiple hip roof has recently been re-covered with wood shingles. Largely devoid of ornament, the Curry house is a straight forward example of a house type which became extremely popular throughout Utah during the early twentieth century. The plain double-hung windows have rough-faced stone sills and lintels, and the projecting bay on the facade is rectangular in plan. The house is almost entirely unaltered from the earliest known photograph which was published in Wealth of the Uintah Basin in 1914.

From the porch oval glass doors enter both the "hall" (as the main parlor was called) and the dining room. An oak mantel and decorative fretwork were removed from the hall about the time central heating was added but have recently been restored to their original place. French doors separate the hall from the library with its large, one-story window bay.

A summer kitchen remains in the rear yard, with a brick root cellar underneath. A Mr. Cook was the main carpenter on the home in 1910. David Manwaring was the brick mason and used locally fired clay brick. Pine for the structure came from the mountains north of Vernal. The decorative oak staircase was ordered from Chicago, and was trimmed two feet in width by the carpenter while the Currys were away in the east.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1910 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Curry house, built in 1910, is locally significant because of its association with Lewis Curry, one of the founders and most influential citizens of Vernal, Utah. Vernal is the county seat of Uintah county, considered almost the last frontier in Utah. Located in eastern Utah (bordering Colorado), this county contains the Uintah-Ouray Indian Reservation, which was established in 1861 and expanded in 1881. It was not until 1905 that the reservation was opened-up for white settlement, but Lewis Curry had migrated to the area in 1887. The city of Vernal became the county seat in 1893, and Lewis and Sally Curry's broad business involvement, civic service, and cultural role made a substantial contribution to the developing town. The Curry house remains the only one standing from Vernal's early decades of settlement which retains a degree of architectural integrity.

Uintah County is part of the Uinta Basin of eastern Utah. Created in 1880, the county has been associated with the early nineteenth century fur trade, Indian reservations, and recent energy development with the oil industry. In 1861 the region was set apart as an Indian reservation by President Abraham Lincoln; thus, lands were closed for settlement, with their only use by whites being for stock raising. The Ouray Reservation, adjacent to the Uinta Reservation, was established in 1881.

Settlers had arrived in the Vernal area as early as 1878, but it was not until 1888, when some lands were segregated from the reservation, that Vernal Precinct was created. Vernal continued to grow and in 1893 became the seat of county government. After 1905, when lands in the reservation were opened to white settlement, the character of the county changed with further development of the region's agriculture and mining industry (the mining of Gilsonite). Within this network, Vernal became the main commercial and governmental center.

About 1880 Oran Curry responded to a government notice and moved from Harrodsburg, Kentucky to set up a trading post on the Ouray Indian Reservation. Oran's brother, Lewis, had been a banker with the First National Bank in Harrodsburg, but in 1887 he decided to move to Ouray to become Oran's partner.

By 1909 discontent with the lending policies of the Bank of Vernal led several prominent Vernal businessmen to form a new bank, and Lewis Curry was invited to operate the bank. Their invitation, together with Curry's later community involvement in Vernal, was significant. In a small pioneer town like Vernal,

9. Major Bibliographical References

"A Brief History of Uintah State Bank," Uintah County Library, pp. 1-7.

Builders of Uintah, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, p. 321.

Curry, David H., phone interview, October, 1979.

See continuation sheet 2

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.6 acres

Quadrangle name Vernal

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	2	6	2	4	8	8	0	4	4	7	7	8	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beg. at SW cor Lot 3 Blk 15 Plat A, Vernal City Survey, th N 107.25'; E 214.5'; S 107.25'; W 214.5' to beg. Being a pt of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec 23, T 4 S, R 21 E of S,L,M.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title H. Wallace Goddard

organization N/A

date September 1981

street & number 189 S. Vernal Avenue

telephone (801) 789-4030

city or town Vernal

state Utah 84078

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

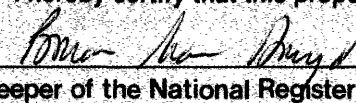


title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 25, 1982

For NPS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

date 7-26-82

Attest: 
Chief of Registration

date 7-13-82

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

Page 2

it was not surprising that the bank organizers were Mormon ecclesiastical leaders as well as community and business leaders. Mr. Curry was a Presbyterian who valued his privacy, yet he was on the first board of education in Uintah County, appointed by the county commission. He was a charter member and later president of the Vernal Commercial Club. Lewis Curry was also involved in a mill, a theatre, a furniture store and the trading post at Ouray. Responding to his prominence in the community, a large brick home was constructed for the Curry family in 1910.

In his role as Uintah County chairman of the War Finance Committee, he hosted and stumped with both Heber J. Grant, a Mormon apostle and soon after president of the church, and Governor Simon Bamberger. He was elected to the Utah State House of Representatives by a large majority. He would also have served as Utah Grand Master of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks had his health not failed in 1922.

After his passing, a large delegation from the Ute tribe came to visit. The group filled the living room, library, stairway and were standing on the sofa and chairs paying silent homage to the man who had lived and worked among them for many years.

Each year the Currys travelled to Chicago to attend the theatre; Lewis was a moving force in Vernal's opera house and opera company. His love of poetry was shared by Heber J. Grant, who frequently visited and exchanged many volumes of poetry. The Currys also collected Indian artifacts.

After Lewis Curry's death, his brother Matt married his widow. Matt followed his brother as state representative until his death in 1939. Sallie Curry then lived alone in the home for almost 23 years after Matt died. She was known for her spunk and for her grandmothering of neighbor children, as she oversaw the neighborhood from her rocker in the second-story bedroom. When she died in 1962 the home passed to her only son, David H. Curry, who lived there with his wife Enid. When the burden of maintaining the large home became troublesome to David, then in his eighties, he sold the house to H. Wallace and Nancy Goddard in 1979.

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Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

Page 2

Curry, David H., Jr., interview, April 25, 1981

DeVed, Rhoda, interview, October 1979

Haws, Irvin A., interview, July 23, 1981

Kotchran, Robert and Deborah, interview, June 3, 1981

Manwaring, Ashel, interview by H. Wallace Goddard, November 23, 1979

Steele, Sally Curry, correspondence with H. Wallace Goddard, dated January 22, 1980 and
March 26, 1981

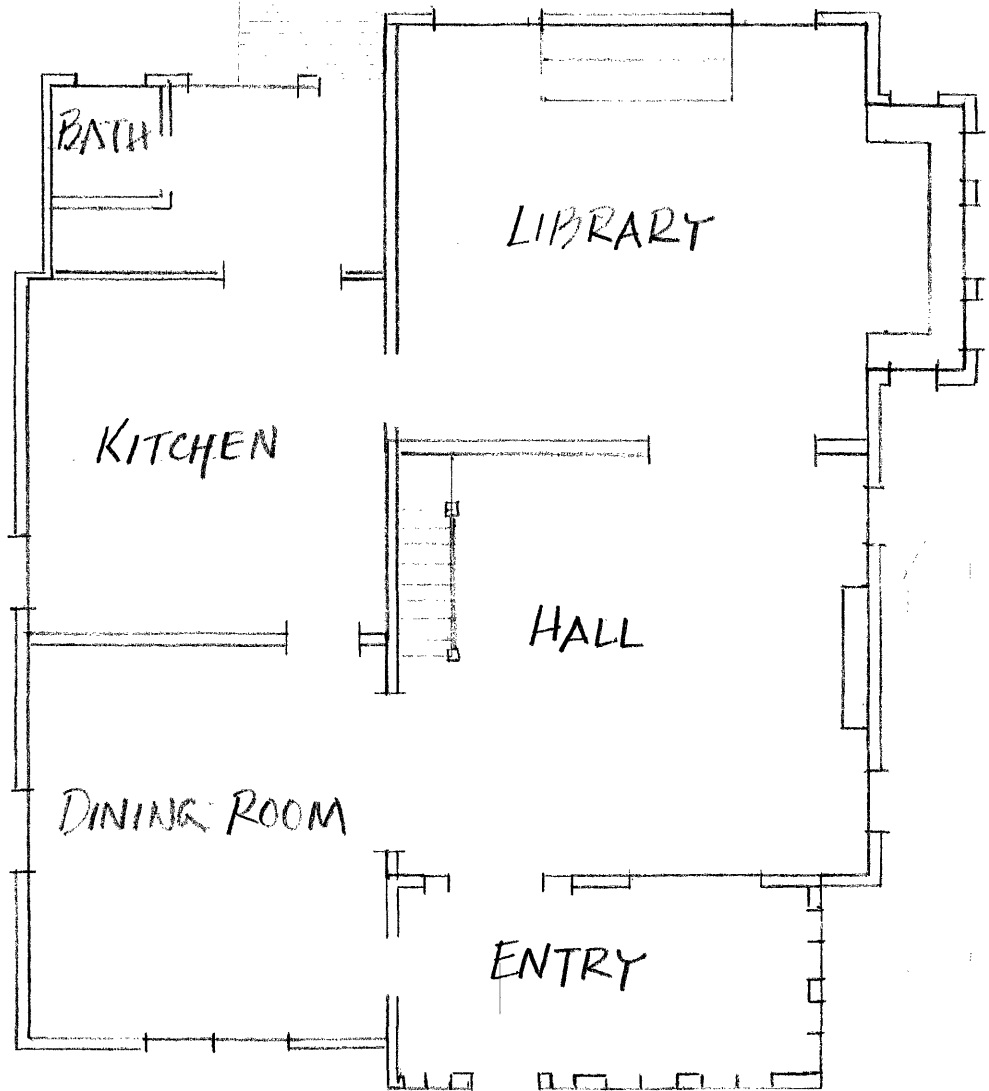
Uintah County Recorder, County Courthouse

Vernal Express, August 5, 19, 1910; October 28, 1910; December 9, 1910; July 28, 1917;
March 1, 29, 1918; April 5, 12, 1918; July 19, 1918; October 6, 1918;
April 21, 1922; December 21, 1939

"Wealth of the Uintah Basin," 1914, in possession of Helen Banks, p. 28

SUMMER KITCHEN

Curry House
Vernal, Uintah County, Utah
Floor Plan



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