

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. BV-04-164

Sign. Site #29

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 85 West 1st North

UTM: 12/356425/4237350

Name of Structure:

T. R. S.

Present Owner: Pershing C. Erickson

Less than one acre

Owner Address: Beaver, Utah 84713

Year Built (Tax Record):  
Legal Description

Effective Age:  
Kind of Building:

Tax #: B-109

Plat A Blk 28 Northeast Quarter of Lot 3

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Murdock, Almira Lott, House Construction Date: c. 1890 Demolition Date:

Original Use: residence

Present Use:

Building Condition:

Integrity:

Preliminary Evaluation:

Final Register Status:

- Excellent
- Good
- Deteriorated
- Site
- Ruins
- Unaltered
- Minor Alterations
- Major Alterations
- Significant
- Contributory
- Not Contributory
- Not of the Historic Period
- National Landmark
- National Register
- State Register
- District
- Multi-Resource
- Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

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

Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Research Sources:

- Abstract of Title
- Plat Records/Map
- Tax Card & Photo
- Building Permit
- Sewer Permit
- Sanborn Maps
- City Directories
- Biographical Encyclopedias
- Obituary Index
- County & City Histories
- Newspapers
- Utah State Historical Society
- Personal Interviews
- LDS Church Archives
- LDS Genealogical Society
- U of U Library
- BYU Library
- USU Library
- SLC Library
- Other Fieldwork

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

Mrs. Pershing Erickson, interviewed in June 1979, in Beaver, by L. L. Bonar.

OCT 18 1983

Researcher: L. L. Bonar

Date: 9/22/78

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Building Materials: Brick

Building Type/Style:

**Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:**

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

A brick structure, two stories with a double-ell plan. Each of the four gable ends has a Jerkin head. The front facade has an upstairs porch with two dormers, one of which is a door. The existing porch is not original. There is a large, rectangular bay window on the north facade with double brackets on its cornice. The house remains in fine original condition.

Photos:

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

The Almira Lott Murdock House, built in about 1890, is significant as one of three houses built by John Riggs Murdock for each of his three wives. This house, together with the John Riggs and Mae Bain Murdock House, 94 W. Center, and the John Riggs and Mary Ellen Wolfenden Murdock House, 90 W. 1st N., best document and illustrate the physical logistics and adaptations of the institution of polygamy in Beaver. Murdock, as central organizer and LDS stake president in Beaver, functioned as the most powerful official on the local level, and as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, practiced polygamy, marrying three wives and constructing a residence for each one.

John Riggs Murdock moved to Beaver in the spring of 1865 at the call of Mormon Church officials to help unite the small community of Beaver. Murdock was a polygamist who had three wives. Almira Lott was his first wife, marrying in 1849 in Salt Lake City. In 1863 Muirdock married both Mary Ellen Wolfenden and May Bain. Although Almira Lott was his first wife, her permanent home was not constructed until about 1890. The Almira Lott house displays some of the influence of newer architectural styles, such as a cruciform plan and Jerkin head gables. After the 1882 anti-polygamy Edmunds Act, Murdock chose to live permanently with Mary Ellen; thus, probably accounting for his building of the 1890 home for his first wife Almira.