Utah State Historical Society

Property Type: Site No.

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

1 IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 125 West 400 North
Lindon, Utah County

UTM: 12 439100 4466030
Orem Quad/1:24000
T. 5S R. 2E S. 33

Name of Structure: Harper, Alfred William, House

Present Owner: Lynn R. Jolley

Owner Address: 125 West 400 North, Lindon, UT 84062

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax#: D-1277-D
Legal Description Kind of Building:

Com. N 1315.40 ft. & W 830.66 Ft Fr E 1/4 Corn Sec 33.
T5S, R2E, SLM; S 87 41'40" E 141 Ft.; S 1.30.5' W 137 Ft.; N 87.41' W 141 ft.;
N1.30'30" E 137 ft. to Beg. Area .44 of an Acre.

2 STATUS/USE

Original Owner: Alfred William Harper Construction Date: 1877 & 1889 Demolition Date:

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-Resou
☐ Deteriorated		☐ Major Alterations	☐ Not Contributory		☐ State Register	☒ Thematic

3 DOCUMENTATION

Photography: Date of Slides: 1986 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1970/1986 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.):

Leuze, Cloween & Walker, Barbara, Lindon Our Town (Lindon 1983), pp. 71. 279, 281.
Deseret News, May 6, 9, 1907, pp. 3; Nov. 20, 1963, p. D-4.
Interview, Lynn and Sherry Jolley, May 26, 1986, by Beth Olsen.
Daily Herald, undetermined edition, copy in file of Pleasant Grove Historical Committee.
Missionary Diary of Alfred William Harper, BYU Library.
Interview with Ruby Harper West, granddaughter of Alfred William Harper, 17 June 1986, by Beth Olsen.
Harper family histories, unpublished, in possession of Ruby West.

Street Address: Site No:

4 ARCHITECTURE

Architect/Builder: Unknown/Unknown

Building Materials: Soft-rock

Building Type/Style: Cross-wing/vernacular

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Alfred William Harper House is a two-story, soft-rock vernacular house built in two sections, 1877 and 1889. Alterations to the exterior of the house are relatively minor and do not significantly affect its historical integrity.

The first section was built in 1877 as a two-story hall-parlor house with a symmetrical three-bay facade facing east. A two-story cross-wing section was added on the west in 1889, reorienting the facade to the north and also creating a secondary cross-wing facade facing west. The corner lot probably influenced this dual facade appearance. The porches along the north and west facades are not original, though early twentieth century photographs of the house show porches on the house. There is an enclosed frame porch attached to the south wall of the original section, which is now the rear. The soft-rock exterior walls were covered with stucco, probably in the 1930s or '40s when many of the other soft-rock houses in Pleasant Grove were stuccoed. The stucco was removed in 1972 and the joints were re-mortared. It is not known whether raised mortar joints were an original treatment on the house, though

(See continuation sheet)

5 HISTORY

Statement of Historical Significance: Construction Date: 1877 & 1889

Built in two sections, 1877 and 1889, the Alfred William Harper House is one of the 13 buildings included in the Pleasant Grove Soft-rock Buildings Thematic Resource nomination. Soft-rock buildings are signficant 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.

Alfred William Harper, an English convert to the LDS Church, immigrated to Utah in 1868 at age 15 with his parents. He married Melissa Walker on September 18, 1875. In 1877 the Harpers purchased over five acres of land in the outlying area south of Pleasant Grove, known as the "basin area" below Lindon Hill. (This area was incorporated into Lindon City in 1924.) There they began constructing this house that same year. The family lived in a tent

that technique is historically accurate for at least some of the soft-rock houses in the area. Also located on the property are an original underground water cistern and a frame outbuilding.

The overall appearance of the house has changed very little since 1889, though there have been alterations made to both the interior and exterior. Exterior alterations include the replacement of most of the windows with modern windows of a similar appearance, the removal of wooden headings over the windows, and the addition of the porches, as previously mentioned. The interior has been completely renovated. Wood trim was replaced, walls were replastered, defective joists were replaced, and new wiring, plumbing and heating systems were installed. Some windows and doors are filled in on the interior, but they remain visible on the exterior. All of this work has been done since 1978.

Total number of contributing buildings: 1

while the first five rooms of the house were being built. The west wing of six rooms and two porches was added in 1888-89 after Harper returned from a three-year mission for the LDS church in New Zealand. Alfred did virtually all of the construction work himself, from hauling the stone by team and wagon to the masonry and carpentry work.

Although most of the rock used on the house was the locally quarried soft-rock, Alfred did obtain some "pot-rock" from Midway in exchange for wagon loads of fruit.[1] Midway is located approximately 20 miles east over the mountains from Pleasant Grove. The pot-rock found there is very similar to the soft-rock of Pleasant Grove, though it appears to be less porous.

Alfred's hobby was raising flowers, both inside and outside. He had a hot bed and a nursery and enjoyed giving flowers away. The yard surrounding this house was landscaped with lawn, trees, and flowers, and with vines given to him by Maori LDS church members in New Zealand.

The completed two-story house totaled 3,400 square feet plus an unfinished attic and was one of the largest of that era in Pleasant Grove. Ruby Harper West, a granddaughter, recalls that the large step-down parlor was furnished in Victorian furniture, an organ and piano, and was used only on Sundays and special occasions. A sunny south upstairs room was the sick room. When any family member was sick they received special care there, and in the summer this room was used for drying fruit. This house was reportedly the first in the south part of Pleasant Grove to be wired for electricity after electric power lines were installed in the area in 1900.

(See continuation sheet)

Alfred William Harper House
History continued:

Alfred Harper was noted as active and energetic both in public and private enterprise. For 30 years he operated his fruit orchards consisting mostly of apples. His orchard acreage was quite extensive. In the winter he worked for George A. Lowe Implement Company in Pleasant Grove, and eventually became the manager. Alfred was choir-leader and leader of the Pleasant Grove Silver Band in 1890. He was active in politics as precinct leader for the Republicans. Although he had only six weeks of formal education in England, he studied two to three hours each night all his life, and had an extensive library in his home.

Alfred's wives preceded him in death. Mary Melissa died March 10, 1900, bearing their ninth child. He married Mary M. Hay on June 10, 1903. She died October 15, 1904, after giving birth to their child. Alfred W. Harper died May 3, 1907, at age 54. He left orphan children to be raised by his daughter Annie Wright along with her own family. She and her husband owned the house until 1919 when they moved to Ogden. Alfred's sons, Alfred and Perry William, ran the farm. Perry and his wife moved into the downstairs west wing.

In 1919 the house was sold to David B. Thorne, a native of Pleasant Grove. He occupied it until his death in 1963. Thorne made no structural changes to the house during those 42 years, but he did stucco the exterior (date unknown). He installed a large buried gas tank behind the house to facilitate refueling of farm equipment. He was a dairyman and sugar beet grower. As a civic-minded individual he served three terms on the Lindon town board, president of Federal Land Board of Pleasant Grove, and president of Orem-Lindon Lions Club. He organized the Salt Lake Federated Milk Board and was a promoter of the Deer Creek project and Lindon City Park. Among Thorne's religious duties were Lindon Ward Bishop, 1928-1934, and patriarch of the Pleasant Grove Stake of the LDS church, 1937-1963. David B. Thorne married Mary Eva Keetch on March 6, 1896. They raised four children. He served a Southern States Mission shortly after they bought the house. She remained at home and did janitorial work to support the family. The house proved too large for the Thornes in later years and was divided. The youngest son, Jesse K. Thorne, and his bride, Leda Hansen, lived in the west part.

In 1953, H.V. and Margaret Holdaway purchased the home. The installation of a furnace was the major change they made in the house. The house was previously heated with five coal-burning stoves. The Holdaways raised five children and were active in civic and church affairs. The home was purchased by Thomas R. and Jacqueline Spencer in 1971. Renovation was begun on the then 95-year-old structure by removing the exterior stucco. Some inside repairs were begun.

Lynn R. and Sherry Taylor Jolley purchased the home in 1978 and continued with the restoration work. Floor joists were repaired and replaced, plumbing and electric wiring completely redone, a new furnace installed, cabinets and window sashes custom built to resemble the old. Old plaster was removed and lath plastered over again. Doors moldings and casings from other old homes have replaced deteriorated woodwork. The Jolleys are the current owners of the house.