

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Smith, Francis "Frank" & Eunice, House

other name/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & town 1847 North 3000 West  not for publication

city or town Vernal  vicinity

state Utah code UT county Uintah code 047 zip code 84078

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Walter M. ... 2/06/2001  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Elson H. Beall 3/29/01  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House  
Name of Property

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah  
City, County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4		buildings
_____		sites
_____		structures
_____		objects
4	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Prairie School (vernacular)

OTHER: Foursquare variant

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

foundation      STONE

walls              BRICK

\_\_\_\_\_

roof                ASPHALT shingle

other

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Francis "Frank" & Eunice House  
Name of Property

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah  
City, County and State

**8. Description**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1913-1933

**Significant Dates**

1913

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Francis "Frank" Smith (builder/designer)

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House  
Name of Property

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah  
City, County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.87 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/2 6/1/9/8/2/0 4/4/8/1/0/4/0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

BEGINNING 705 FEET SOUTH OF THE CENTER OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, SALT LAKE MERIDIAN; THENCE SOUTH 315 FEET; THENCE WEST 390 FEET; THENCE NORTH 315 FEET; THENCE EAST 390 FEET TO BEGINNING.

Property Tax No. 04:038:0001

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those that were historically and continue to be associated with the property.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorris Burton, Darlene Burns, and Utah SHPO Staff

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 19 January, 2001

street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone 801/533-3559

city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84101

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

name/title Errol G. & Darlene R. Burns

street & number 1847 North 3000 West telephone 435/789-7683

city or town Vernal state UT zip code 84078

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Francis "Frank" & Eunice House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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## Narrative Description

The Francis "Frank" and Eunice Smith House, constructed 1913-1914, is a two-story, hipped-roof foursquare-variant house, built of brick and resting on a stone foundation. Very little has been altered on the building's exterior. The house is one of only two, two-story foursquare-type houses in the area and is the only one with Prairie School stylistic influence. Located approximately five miles Northwest of Vernal, the house is on a street with several other residences, but retains a rural setting and atmosphere, fronting on several hundred acres of farm and pastureland.

The unique exterior of the Smith house appears almost to be a marriage of a two-story foursquare with a one-story bungalow, although according to available sources and field inspection it was constructed all at one time. The foursquare portion is in the center of the structure and is surrounded on three sides by the single-story, hipped-roof portion. The wide eaves are treated the same on all sections of the house, with grooved wood planking and large, stylized dentils on the wide cornice. The exterior structure consists of eighteen-inch-thick brick walls, with the interior walls being nine inches thick.

The main entrance to the house is accessed through the covered porch that extends across the entire front (east façade) of the house. The porch is of poured concrete and is covered with a roof supported by four brick columns. The original oak front door has a hand carved garland. A brick box bay projects from the left side of the façade into the porch area. This has double-hung windows on the sides with multi-divided lights over a single-light configuration and a large, single-pane window on the front. Another smaller window is located to the right of the facade, under the porch roof. There is also a one-over-one, double-hung window on the second story of the foursquare portion on this elevation.

The north elevation continues the wrap-around hipped roofline of the porch over a single-story bungalow-influenced section. A single brick, rectangular chimney is centrally located on the roof. This portion of the house contains part of the front room and a bedroom. To the north of this has been added a garage of cinderblock construction that appears to date from the 1930s or 1940s. The shed roof with stepped side parapet on the north wall slopes down to the rear. A tall brick chimney is located at the rear of the garage and rests against the eave of the house. The garage extends beyond the rear of the house and has a rear doorway.

The single-story portion of the building again wraps around to the rear (west) elevation and contains a bedroom, bath, and washroom. A hipped-roof dormer projects from the roof of this segment. Two windows are located on this elevation; both are double-hung and have aluminum storm windows and concrete lintels and sills. It appears that the hipped roof was an early alteration on this portion from possibly a flat roof or a slightly pitched roof over what is now the kitchen area. Within the attic in this portion is located a window with a concrete sill located partially below floor level, in what was once an exterior section of the wall. The window allowed light into the stairwell of the foursquare section of the house. The opening, which was boarded over now serves as a cupboard in the stairwell.

The south façade features the full elevation of the foursquare portion. Apparent on this elevation is a brick stringcourse, demarcating the two stories of the foursquare and continuing around the periphery of the entire house. Two double-hung, one-over-one windows punctuate the wall of the foursquare portion; these are

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Francis "Frank" & Eunice House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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vertically aligned, one on each story. Also found on this elevation is the side screen porch that was enclosed with wood siding in 1936 (see floor plan).

The interior of the house retains a majority of the original woodwork that Frank fashioned. In the living room there is an oak, fir, and tile fireplace surround and mantel and also a built-in oak china closet. There is oak and fir trim throughout the house, including a flat archway supported by two large oak columns, dividing the living room from the parlor. Curio/book shelves with glazed doors are built in on each side at the base of the arch and support the columns. Each of the three bedrooms has the original, large, walk-in closets; these are all trimmed in oak and fir, inside and out. The windows in all of the rooms are also oak and fir trimmed.

Only a few non-historic modifications have been made to the house. Alterations that have occurred in the interior include carpeting, the addition of a bathroom in the washroom area (c.1930s; before this an outhouse was used), a bathroom addition on the second floor (c.1978), and a kitchen addition (c.1955) and remodel (1980s). The upstairs bedrooms have also been partially remodeled. In the unfinished part of the attic there is some tongue-and-groove hardwood flooring remaining. The exterior of the house retains its original appearance except for the historic-era enclosure of the back porch and possible change of roof pitch over the kitchen.

Contributing outbuildings on the property include an aboveground cellar directly west of the house, with walls of wood-frame, drop-siding construction and wood shingle roof. There are two outbuildings farther west of the house. One is a large garage/workshop of cinder-block construction. The smaller one is a chicken coop of wood-frame construction, which, although deteriorating, is still contributing. All of these buildings appear to date from the 1920s through the 1940s.

Several mature deciduous and coniferous trees surround the house and yard, which is located in a rural, agricultural setting, surrounded by pastureland. The combination of the house with the outbuildings and landscape portrays the property as it would have appeared historically. All of the outbuildings are in fair to good condition and along with the house provide a material contribution to the history of the area.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

The Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House, constructed in 1913, is significant under criterion C for its unique architecture and the craftsmanship of the builder and original owner, Frank Smith. The Smith House is architecturally significant as a good representation of Frank Smith's carpentry and woodworking skills, particularly in the carved wood details and extant wood finish work in the interior. Smith was a local builder and woodworker who assisted in the construction of a large number of buildings in Vernal, Utah, and surrounding communities. His works include more than thirty residences as well as several various civic and religious buildings. The house is one of only two, two-story foursquare-type residences in the area and one of the larger houses in the settled area surrounding the city of Vernal. The foursquare house type is not as common in Utah as in other areas, especially in rural areas such as Vernal, and the Smith House is a unique variation of the type. There are a few alterations that date from the historic period, but only minor alterations on the interior and the majority of the original interior wood detailing and hardware has been retained. The house and yard retain their historical feeling and are significant historic resources to the area.

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## Community History

The city of Vernal is located in the Ashley Valley, named in honor of William H. Ashley, an early trapper who entered the area in 1825. Located in the rugged and barren Uintah Basin in the northeast corner of the state, and surrounded by various mountain ranges, the Ashley Valley was one of the last areas in Utah to be settled. Brigham Young, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon Church), who directed the settlement of the Utah Territory, feared that the proposed Pony Express route through the Ashley Valley would bring settlers who were hostile to the LDS faith, so he sent a scouting party to survey the area in 1861. The report from the party was that "The area was one vast contiguity of waste, and measurably valueless, excepting for nomadic purposes, hunting grounds for Indians, and to hold the world together."<sup>1</sup> This report discouraged Young's attempt to settle the area for the time being. But he was not the only one discouraged by the findings of the report, for the area was also rejected as a possible Pony Express route.

Also in 1861, President Abraham Lincoln established the Uintah Indian Reservation south and west of Vernal, and placed Captain Pardon Dodds in charge as the agent. After his release in 1873, Dodds settled in the area northwest of present-day Vernal to raise cattle. What followed was typical frontier settlement, with trappers, prospectors, and drifters moving to and through the area. Families began to move to the valley in 1878. Because of Indian/Anglo skirmishes in nearby Colorado, a fort was constructed in what became known as Ashley Center. Later, after the threat disappeared and the fort was disassembled, many settlers remained and a post office was requested; but because there was already a town named Ashley, the post office was assigned the name Vernal.

Growth in Vernal was slow and somewhat uncoordinated. Settlement did not follow the typical pattern of development of most Mormon colonies in the state, where a town was to be laid out in grid fashion according

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<sup>1</sup> *Deseret News* (September 25, 1861).

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

to Joseph Smith's "Plat of the City of Zion."<sup>2</sup> Later though, in 1884, the LDS church assisted in the organization of Vernal into a town, but actual incorporation did not occur until 1897. At this time the community and outlying areas began to slowly increase in population as more businesses were established and houses constructed. The community was largely self-sufficient because of a lack of railroad access. And even when the Uintah Railway Company<sup>3</sup> was introduced in 1904, it was hardly sufficient to allow for much social or economic change in the area.

### Architecture

The early twentieth century was a time of transition in Utah's residential architecture. Homes built in the late nineteenth century were primarily based on classical or picturesque Victorian house forms and decorated with Victorian Eclectic details. A residential building boom between the depression of the 1890s and World War I was the impetus for a shift toward more quickly and easily constructed house types. The bungalow, for example, became ubiquitous in Utah between 1905 and 1920. Somewhat based on the bungalow, the foursquare became concurrently popular as well. This is the house type on which the Smith house is based. Two-story foursquares represent a rejection of the eclectic irregularity of the Victorian styles, while providing more interior space than one-story bungalows.<sup>4</sup> This type of house is commonly found in metropolitan areas of the state. However, in smaller communities and less-urban areas it is found much less frequently. The foursquares located in smaller towns like Vernal seem quite monumental, compared to the humbler dwellings, and were commonly the residence of a wealthy or prominent citizen.

Only two examples of the foursquare have been identified in Vernal, one of them being the Smith House.<sup>5</sup> Statewide, foursquares are quite uncommon as well. They constitute only 1.1 percent of the "eligible" residential buildings surveyed throughout the state. Sixty-eight percent of the foursquares are in Salt Lake City. The remainder are scattered throughout the state, with only one community having more than ten examples (Ogden has thirty-nine).<sup>6</sup> Two-story foursquares in other communities were almost always built for upper middle-class families and were among the upper tier of residences in terms of size and quality. Though

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<sup>2</sup>Throughout Utah, settlement patterns were based on the "Plat of the City of Zion" that was outlined by the Mormon prophet and leader Joseph Smith. The plan, though never fully implemented, served as a model for Mormon settlements across the west under the direction of Brigham Young. The plats were one mile square, the blocks were roughly ten acres each and forty rods square, and the lots were laid off alternately within the squares. The towns were set out in a grid pattern with the public buildings and a church located in the center of town, surrounded by residences, with the outlying areas being used as farmland. Mormon settlements became characterized by in-town family farmsteads and outlying farm fields. Out-migration became inevitable as populations grew, but much of the old pattern originating in the Plat of the City of Zion has persisted to the present in most Utah towns.

<sup>3</sup> A narrow gauge line used primarily for hauling Gilsonite from the mines to the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad spur in Dragon, approximately forty miles to the southeast.

<sup>4</sup>Thomas Carter and Peter Goss, *Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940: A Guide*, (Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 1988), 49.

<sup>5</sup>The other known example is located at 226 West Main Street.

<sup>6</sup>Utah Historic Computer System (UHCS) data; the database contains more than 85,000 records.



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Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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foursquares nationally were viewed as a common and ubiquitous house type,<sup>7</sup> they were a more prestigious type of residence in Utah, especially outside the urban neighborhoods of Salt Lake City.

The combination of the two-story foursquare with the odd addition to three sides in bungalow form makes for a unique residence in the Vernal area. Although upon first appearance the foursquare seems to have once been a separate structure with later bungalow porch and additions, inspection proves that it was probably constructed as it appears now. Similar wood planking encloses the wide eaves on both the one and two-story segments and the cornices of both have similar stylized dentil trim. The foundation appears consistent around the entire structure, as does the brick stringcourse. The inside features oak and fir details including a built-in china closet, fireplace, a front door with carved flowers, and other wood trim. The house is still in excellent condition. The woodwork was all constructed and finished by Frank Smith with the help of his wife, Eunice, and is a fine representation of Frank Smith's craftsmanship in home building and finishing in Vernal and the Uintah Basin region.

### History of Frank Smith

Francis "Frank" Harper Smith, son of Job Taylor Smith, was born in Farmington, Utah, on May 6, 1868. Frank worked at various odd jobs in his youth, including delivering ice and meat products, working on a farm, and learning basket making from his father. Frank studied at the University of Utah and then went to work for Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institution (ZCMI). Frank gave half of his wages from this job to his mother for construction of a new four-bedroom brick house on the site of their old one.

Frank married Eunice Elizabeth Fuller, his childhood sweetheart, in 1888. Eunice was born on April 8, 1872, to Reuben and Annie Preece Fuller, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Eunice had studied music much of her early life and trained on piano under a local professor, J. Marvin Chamberlain. Although she never became a professional musician, her musical training served her family and community throughout her life. The couple lived with Frank's mother for a short time until Frank constructed another house next to his mother's on the same property. Not long after this, his mother died and Frank quit his job. He "made a few trades and purchases"<sup>8</sup> and in 1890, with two young children, moved to Georgetown, Idaho, where he worked as an itinerant farmer, raising and harvesting potatoes, grain, and hay. The family lived in a small two-room house that had a partial sod roof; Frank later added on to this house.

Frank was put in charge of drawing plans for and building a new Mormon meetinghouse in the area. He designed it after one that he had worked on in Salt Lake City. The bishop of the ward (ecclesiastical unit) was pleased with Frank's work, and when the bishop was transferred to Montpelier, Idaho, he engaged Frank to oversee the moving and attachment of a large room to the meetinghouse there.

Frank's brother, Wilford, had moved to Ashley Valley, and he urged Frank to join him there. Frank, finding farming not to be as successful as he had hoped, sold the ranch in Idaho for \$900.00 in 1895, and the family

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<sup>7</sup>See James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "The All-American Family House: A Look at the Foursquare," *Old House Journal* 23, No. 6, (November/December, 1995), pp.28-33.

<sup>8</sup> Francis "Frank" Harper Smith, unpublished autobiographical manuscript, 1948, p.5.

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Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

decided to move to Ashley Valley, in northeastern Utah. The Smiths had four children by this time and traveled to Ashley with three wagons. They traveled over the old Carter Military Road (National Register pending) built by the soldiers at Fort Thornburg, over Taylor Mountain, and into the Ashley Valley. They purchased the current property, which at the time had a small, vine-covered home, into which they moved. They lived in this house until they built the subject house; the original house later burned down.

Frank went to work in Ashley Valley as a carpenter and contractor. It is through the many buildings he either constructed or on which he assisted in the construction during his approximately forty years here that his significance to the community and region becomes apparent.<sup>9</sup> He helped build several public and religious buildings including the Congregational church building and LDS First Ward chapel in Vernal under contractor Will Cook. He did contract work for a chapel and hospital at nearby Whiterocks. Frank constructed the rectory for the Episcopal Church in nearby Randlett, as well as the placing of a 900-pound bell and additions to the church building. He also did considerable remodeling and building in Randlett on government schools. He was overseer in charge of the eight-room brick school in Maeser, and foreman for Howard McKean in building another LDS chapel in Vernal. Frank also worked on the tower of the Mormon tabernacle (recently remodeled into a Mormon temple) in Vernal and spent one winter with builder Mike Cook building stairs and doing all of the work on the pulpit in the same building. He did other woodworking in the east end of the building and finished the west entry hallway. He was contractor for the Uintah County brick jail, school buildings in Tridell and Maeser, along with a church building in Maeser, and a schoolhouse addition in Roosevelt (approximately 50 miles to the southwest).<sup>10</sup>

In addition to the many public and religious buildings on which Frank worked, he also constructed, remodeled, or built additions to approximately thirty-five other homes in the Vernal area. And in 1913, Frank began construction of his new home where his family of fourteen resided for nearly twenty years, until Eunice's death on March 6, 1933. Following her death, he did not want to live in the home because of the memories, so he sold it to his son, Marvin, and daughter-in-law, Blanche Seeley. Frank then moved to Salt Lake City, where he continued in the building and contracting trade, and married Verna Young Mitchell on May 15, 1944.<sup>11</sup> They moved back to Vernal in their later years where Frank passed away on March 4, 1960.

### History of Other Owners

Marvin and Blanche met during their freshman year at high school. Blanche later received a degree in teaching from the University of Utah and she worked for the Uintah School District, teaching at Fort Duchesne and later at Maeser School. The couple was married on May 19, 1934; they then purchased the farm and this house where they raised four daughters. Unfortunately, farming did not provide the family with a large income and they had a difficult time making the monthly payments. To make matters worse, Blanche had to quit teaching, since married women were not allowed to teach in the Uintah School District at the time. To enhance their income, the Smiths took in several boarders.

<sup>9</sup> According to Doris Burton, a Vernal and Uintah County Historian, William Cook was possibly the only other builder who rivaled Frank Smith in numbers of attributed construction projects during this era.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p.9.

<sup>11</sup> Little is known of Frank's construction activities after he moved from Vernal.

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Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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The Smiths eventually went \$11,000 in debt on the farm, so Marvin went to work for the Uintah County Road department. He was employed with them for four years and then he went to work for the State of Utah as road supervisor. Unfortunately, on March 4, 1960, Marvin, who had suffered heart problems for years, went to Salt Lake City for heart surgery; he died that evening following the procedure. Blanch continued to reside in the house and teach school at nearby Maeser until she retired. She continued living in the family home until she passed away in October 1999, at the age of 90.

Errol and Darlene Burns purchased the home in June 2000. Interestingly, Darlene has an historical connection to the house; one of Frank Smith's other tasks in the community was to build caskets. He and Eunice assembled the caskets in the living room for prominent people of the area. The last casket built by Frank was in 1932 for Sylvanus Collett, grandfather of Darlene Burns.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 1

Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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### Common Label Information:

1. Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House
2. Vernal, Uintah County, Utah
3. Photographer: J. Cory Jensen
4. Date: December 2000
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

### Photo No. 1:

6. South and east elevations of building. Camera facing northwest.

### Photo No. 2:

6. East elevation of building. Camera facing west.

### Photo No. 3:

6. South & west elevations of building. Camera facing northeast.

### Photo No. 4:

6. North and east elevations of building. Camera facing southwest.

### Photo No. 5:

6. North and west elevations of building. Camera facing southeast.
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Francis "Frank" & Eunice Smith House  
Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

