

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **AUG 17** 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Gardner Mill

and/or common West Jordan Mill

2. Location

street & number 1050 West 7800 South _____ not for publication

city, town West Jordan _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Salt Lake code 035

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Nancy Long

street & number 1050 West 7800 South

city, town West Jordan _____ vicinity of _____ state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salt Lake City and County Building

street & number State Street and Fourth South

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1980 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Basically a rectangular plan on a rubble stone foundation, the Gardner Mill has a broad gable roof and five-opening symmetrical facade. Despite its size, the mill's proportions are exaggerated in such a way that it remains house-like in its 2 1/2 story height. The east gable, once a principal facade, is also pierced symmetrically around a central door. Decoration is minimal. The main doors have transoms yet the cornice and other openings are plain. The original lumber siding and 6-over-6 light sash windows are still present.

During the middle years of the nineteenth Century, the architectural character of the Salt Lake Valley was largely determined by Federal and Greek Revival stylistic concerns for formal balance and outward symmetry. Commercial and industrial buildings shared this rather restrained architectural vocabulary with their domestic counterparts. A factory differed from a home, at least from a design standpoint, primarily in scale. The Gardner Mill in West Jordan preserves the essence of the early industrial vernacular in Utah.

The Gardner Mill duplicates through enlarged dimensions many of the early homes in Salt Lake City. The mill is actually an oversized frame house which has been equipped with the tools of the flour grinding business.

The mill itself, completed in 1877, remains intact and includes subsequent additions to the back and sides. The additions, while many in number, do not detract from the historical character of the mill. On the west, a two-story frame section has been added which, though it has sheet-metal siding, reflects in roof shade and facade composition the original structure. A shed porch runs across the front of this west section and also covers about one-third of the older building. A two-story plank-walled silo stands on the east, connected to the mill by a second-story passage. Sheet-metal siding also now covers these eastern appendages. A large round cement silo stands to the north rear of the mill. Dates of the additions are unknown, however it appears that the eastern addition is within the historic period (see enclosed historic photograph).

The interior of the mill retains most of the chutes and wheels used in the mill operation although ^{most of} the machinery is gone. Belts ran through four stories to drive the wheels operated by water power.

About 20 yards to the west of the building, the Gardner mill race which brought water from the Jordan River to the mill is still seen. It now connects to the West Jordan canal which carries water to the operations of Kennecott Copper Corporation. Another 20 yards to the west of the canal is a square-based stone monument erected to Archibald Gardner incorporating four of the original stone wheels from the mill on each of the four sides. A pyramidal cap bears plaques with the names of Gardner's wives and family members. One large, principal plaque on the front carries the inscription: "1847 GARDNER 1947"

"Builders of the West"

Some restoration work has been done on the mill and a country furniture store currently occupies the interior where the woodwork has been cleaned and left exposed. The owners wish to carry out further restoration work and house a restaurant which will incorporate in its decor the chutes, wheels, and other elements of the historic mill.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) mill builders
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1877

Builder/Architect

Archibald Gardner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The West Jordan Mill is significant for its association with Archibald Gardner, a pioneer builder of canals and over 30 mills. Gardner was a dominant figure in the Salt Lake Valley as an early settler, aiding in the development of the new communities of Mill Creek, West Jordan, Big and Little Cottonwood, Spanish Fork, Pleasant Grove, American Fork, and others through building saw mills, flour mills, canals, roads, and dams--all necessary in establishing productive settlements. His influence extended beyond Utah to Wyoming where he also built five mills. Prominent in politics as well, Gardner served as a delegate to various conventions, including the drafting of the Utah constitution, and he served in the State Legislature for two terms. He was also a Mormon ecclesiastical leader in West Jordan for 32 years. The West Jordan Mill, which is also significant as one of Utah's oldest few remaining flour mills,* stands as a record of an industry essential to the pioneer agrarian economy and of a time when gristmills were found in almost every Mormon community. Mills were so important to new settlements that the machinery used in the first mill built in Utah was brought with the first company of pioneers. Other mills soon followed, and in about 1848 Gardner built the third flour mill in Utah which was located at Mill Creek, in southeast Salt Lake Valley. Another mill site to the west of Mill Creek, in present day West Jordan, was chosen by Gardner and there he moved and in 1853 built his second Utah flour mill. This mill was replaced in 1877 by the more "modern" structure which exists today. The West Jordan Mill is also an example of early industrial vernacular architecture in Utah which simulated on an over-sized scale the formal Federal style used for domestic architecture. The mill duplicated early homes in style, actually being an oversized frame house which had been equipped with the machinery and chutes of the flour industry (much of which still exists). Six other flour mills in Utah are currently listed, or nominated for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, including: Isaac Chase Mill, Salt Lake County; Joseph Wall Gristmill, Sevier County; E. T. Benson Mill, Tooele County; Huntington Roller Mill, Emery County; Bicknell Gristmill, Wayne County; and the Burch-Taylor Mill (nominee), Weber County. The West Jordan Mill, although comparable in design to the latter four, represents the only example of the style in the southern part of the Salt Lake Valley and the only documented example of an existing mill built by Gardner in the state of Utah.

Archibald Gardner, born in Scotland in 1814, emigrated to Canada with his family as a boy. At age 17 he undertook to build his first mill. He completed a second mill in Canada before becoming a convert to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), for which he was persecuted by friends and neighbors. Taking his tools with him, Gardner and his family went to join the Mormon community in their journey west. The pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in October of 1847 and settled near streams to plant, irrigate, and power the mills essential to community life. Charles Crismon

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abbott, Delila Gardner. Life of Archibald Gardner, Pioneer of 1847. Draper: Review and Preview Publications, 1939.

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property c. 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Midvale

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	2	4	2	9	6	0	4	4	9	5	5	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

see continuation sheet

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 Henry O. Whiteside, Historian/Cheryl Hartman, Researcher

organization Utah State Historical Society date 1980/1982

street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City state Utah 84101

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 Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date 8-3-82

For NPS use only

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

Pete Groves
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/29/82

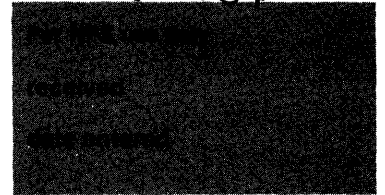
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

Page 2

was immediately asked by the church High Council, which allocated and regulated economic rights, to build a gristmill on City Creek. Machinery had been brought with the first company of pioneers, and the mill began to operate as soon as November.

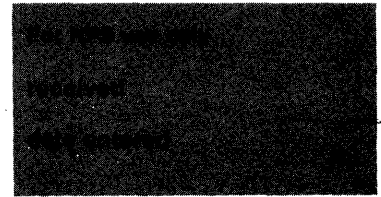
Gardner was involved in building a saw mill at Warm Springs which turned out the first saw-cut board in Utah. But the mill, powered by warm water, was unsuccessful and Gardner moved it to Mill Creek. There, he also built the third flour mill in Utah, two miles below one built by John Neff. Then in 1849-50 Gardner moved to an area almost uninhabited in West Jordan, at the south end of the Salt Lake Valley, to establish a sawmill. At a cost of \$5000 he built a two-and-a-half mile long mill race from the Jordan River to power it. Adjacent to the sawmill he erected in 1853 a flour mill also powered by water. Early settlement centered around the West Jordan Mill.² Other industries and businesses sprang up including a woolen mill, tannery, and blacksmith shop. The growing population increased demand and led to the decision by Gardner in 1877 to replace the old mill with "a better and more modern one."³

The new flour mill, built on a stone foundation, duplicated early homes in style. It was actually an oversized frame house which had been equipped with the machinery and chutes of the flour industry. This was common at a time when commercial and industrial buildings shared with their domestic counterparts the restrained architectural vocabulary of Federal and Greek Revival styles with their formal balance and symmetry. Thus, in the early industrial vernacular, a factory differed from a home primarily in scale.

Gardner built over 30 mills in his lifetime, including flour mills, sawmills, shingle mills, planing mills, and woolen mills. Brigham Young, LDS church president, once stated that Archibald Gardner and Daniel H. Wells were "doing more to furnish employment than any other two men in the State of Deseret."⁴ These two made roads and built bridges into the canyons surrounding Salt Lake Valley making building materials available to the early settlers.⁵ Gardner was also very much involved in building irrigation canals and dams throughout the area, and his capable dispatch of construction projects made him prosperous and a man of affairs. When in 1863 the first silver mining district in Utah was organized by General Connor, Gardner was himself a shareholder and the recorder. When the railroads came to Utah, Gardner contracted to supply ties. As befit a man of his stature in the Mormon community, he took a number of wives, the eleventh and last in 1870, and fathered forty-eight children. Gardner was also active politically. He served as a delegate to various conventions, including the Territorial Convention when a constitution was drafted to organize a provisional state government and apply for statehood. He also served two terms in the state legislature. Also an ecclesiastical leader, Gardner served as Bishop of the West Jordan Ward for 32 years, and was Patriarch of the Jordan Stake.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet 2

Item number 8

Page 3

In 1880 the West Jordan Mill was sold to Jonas Erickson. It was later converted to a roller mill and apparently sold or leased to Frederick A. Cooper. Cooper, once miller for Gardner, is listed as proprietor of the mill in the early 1890's. In 1894 the West Jordan Manufacturing and Mercantile Co. was incorporated to buy and operate the mill and its surrounding cluster of enterprises which had at various times included a tannery, blacksmith shop, broom factory, mattress factory, woolen mill, saw mill, and general store. Gardner held no stock in the new company, nor did Cooper, although he may have been retained to operate the mill. The mill continued to operate and expand its plant until 1949. In 1967 the West Jordan Milling Co. was disincorporated and the building was used for grain storage until 1975. The current owners are restoring the building and it is being used as a country furniture store. Plans for converting it to a restaurant and further restoring it are underway. Existing machinery, wheels, and chutes will be preserved and incorporated in the decor.

Of the numerous flour mills which once existed in the United States, most of the small ones are gone and the big ones have become centralized and even larger. According to Willard Sandberg, in 1920 there were over 10,000 flour mills in the United States and now there are less than 250.⁶

Notes

¹Leonard J. Arrington, Great Basin Kingdom (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1958), p. 47. Most other sources, including Gardner's diary, list Gardner's mill as the second, Neff's being the first, and no mention is made of that supposedly built by Charles Crismon.

²Steve Sorensen, "Historic Site Report of Proposed West Jordan Water Treatment Plant," Utah State Historical Society Library.

³Delila Gardner Abbott, Life of Archibald Gardner, Pioneer of 1847 (Draper: Review and Preview Publications, 1939), p. 106.

⁴Clara B. Richards, Treasured Memories and West Jordan History, 1847-1966 (publisher not listed), pp. 27-28.

⁵Daughters of Utah Pioneers, History of Salt Lake County, Utah 1847-1900: Tales of a Triumphant People (Salt Lake City: Stevens and Wallis Press, 1947), p. 149.

⁶Willard Sandberg interview by Elizabeth Hanson, Huntington, Utah, May, 1978. (Huntington Roller Mill Nomination, National Register.)

*In a letter to the owner dated March 9, 1982, City Manager Al Tolman of West Jordan City indicated that the Archibald Gardner flour mill is West Jordan's only major historic building left, and the mill site was included as part of a historic district on a 1980 city master plan map of West Jordan.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 3

Item number 9

Page 2

Arrington, Leonard J. Great Basin Kingdom. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1958.

Daughters of Utah Pioneers. History of Salt Lake County, Utah 1847-1900: Tales of a Triumphant People. Salt Lake City: Stevens and Wallis Press, 1947.

Richards, Clara B. Treasured Memories and West Jordan History, 1847-1966, nd., n.p.

Carter, Kate B. Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Heart Throbs of the West. Salt Lake City, 1941.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 4

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Beginning at a point on the West side of a lane, said point being North 275.89 feet and East 1558.60 feet from the Southwest corner of Section 26, Township 2 South, Range 1 West, Salt Lake Base and Meridian, and running thence North 86° 34' 25" East along an existing fence line 209.36 feet; thence South 9° 40' 50" East 115.84 feet; thence South 51° 05' 09" West 169.12 feet; thence South 17° 58' 06" East 160.08 feet to the North right of way line of 7800 South Street; south 64° 32' West 8.14 feet; thence South 74° 41' West 165.00 feet; thence south 74° 44' West 297.0 feet; thence leaving said right of way and running thence North 0° 18' West 96.0 feet to the north bank of a canal; thence North 86° 45' East 200.0 feet thence North 0° 18' West 121.8 feet; thence North 68° 42' East 78.8 feet; thence North 12° 15' East 145.5 feet; thence North 2° 36' East 85.72 feet to the point of beginning.