

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 13 1979
DATE ENTERED OCT 18 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Howell-Theurer House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 30 South 100 East *30 S. 100 East*
CITY, TOWN Wellsville
STATE Utah
VICINITY OF
COUNTY Cache
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 01
CODE 049
CODE 005

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 |
| | <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 Blair J. and Debby I Goates
STREET & NUMBER 30 South 100 East
CITY, TOWN Wellsville
STATE Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cache County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER 179 North Main
CITY, TOWN Logan
STATE Utah

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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 Howell-Theurer house was built in 1869. It is a two-story double depth I-form house with a five-opening facade, a vernacular type common in the pioneer period of Utah history.¹ Built of uncoursed Cache Valley grey sandstone, the house is ornamented by cream-colored rusticated stone quoins at the corners, and a simple dentilled frieze with spindled brackets along the front cornice. Containing 1200 square feet on two floors, the plan of the house includes two large front parlors separated from the central hall by interior stone walls on the first floor and four bedrooms on the second floor.

The plain front facade originally had no first floor porch. Above the entrance is a second floor door whose function has never been documented.² It may have been used for hauling furniture or for airing rugs and bedding. The door and window mouldings are very plain, with very shallow sills and lintels. The walls of the first floor are 22 inches thick while those of the second floor are 11 inches thick with the second floor joists resting on the "sills" created by the reduced wall thickness.

An 8 by 18 foot screened porch was added to the rear of the house in the 1920s. A plain front porch has been added, with a shallow gabled roof. The very shallow pitched gable roof and the proportions of the front porch do not match the lines of the front facade.

The home faces west on to the town square where the school and the Wellsville Tabernacle (National Register site) are located. This proximity of the early homes to the civic, religious and business center is characteristic of the Mormon village, with wide streets lined with irrigation ditches and large blocks divided into four lots with the large brick or stone farmhouses facing the street corners.³

¹Peter L. Goss, "The Architectural History of Utah," Utah Historical Quarterly 43:3 (Summer 1975), 215.

²Ibid.

³Richard V. Francaviglia, "The Passing Mormon Village," Landscape, 22 (Spring 1978),

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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1869

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Howell-Theurer home, built in 1869, is historically significant for a number of reasons. It was the home of Joseph Howell, an early settler of Cache Valley, who later became a very successful businessman and politician. He served seven consecutive terms as the Utah representative to the U.S. Congress.

The structure itself is a two story, five opening I-form house. Made from locally quarried stone, and ornamented in a restrained style. It is a good example of the vernacular house type, influenced by the Federal and Greek Revival styles, built during the Mormon pioneer period of Utah's history.

Joseph Howell was born on February 17, 1857 in Honeyville to William Morgan and Martha Howell. Mrs. Howell was first married to a Mr. Howell in Wales. He died of cholera in the W.S. before moving out west. Mrs. Howell met William Morgan on her trip to the Utah Territory. He was the captain of their company. They were married after they arrived in Salt Lake by Brigham Young in 1855. Mr. Morgan began farming near Brigham City, and Joseph helped with the various tasks associated with the farm. "Reared amidst the most humble surroundings, his parents, friends, and neighbors never realized that the bare-footed suntanned youth herding cows in the Box Elder hills was destined to become one of Utah's most capable and successful businessmen, an empire builder, and a representative of his fellow citizens in the largest and most distinguished peoples forum in the world-the United States Congress.²"

There were difficulties in the marriage and Martha Howell and Mr. Morgan separated. In 1863, when Joseph was six years old his mother moved the family to Wellsville. It is not known exactly when the family moved into the stone house at 30 South 100 East, but Martha Howell was given the Townsite Deed for the property on September 16, 1872. She was quite wealthy in her own right from her father's coal mining success, and was referred to as the elegant "Widow Howell". Joseph Howell spent a portion of his childhood in this large home. After finishing public school he attended the University of Utah and the University of Deseret.

Mr. Howell spent a few years after graduation as a schoolteacher, and established an enviable record in this regard. In 1878 Martha Howell deeded the stone home to Joseph Howell. He married Bishop William Maughan's daughter Mary (born August 12, 1856) and the couple lived for seven years with Martha Howell in the stone home. Joseph Howell became the manager of the Wellsville Mercantile Co-op. His powers and capabilities were recognized by Bishop William H. Maughan, who chose him as his counselor. In 1883, at the age of twenty five he was elected mayor of Wellsville. His wage was \$50.00 a year.

2. History of Utah Since Statehood, Vol. IV, 22,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fife, Austin E., "Stone Homes of Northern Utah and Southern Idaho", Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. 40 (Winter 1970).
 Landsborn, John, "A History of the Development of Dary Farming in Utah and Southern Idaho ",
 History Masters Thesis, 1978 Press Club of Salt Lake, "Men of Affairs in the State of Utah", 1914
 Ricks, Joel E., "The History of a Vally", Cache VALley Centennial Commission, Deseret News Publishing Co., Logan Utah 1956.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.25 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Wellsville, Utah

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 2 | 4, 2, 2 | 5, 1, 0 | 4, 6 | 0, 9 | 7, 8, 0

B | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

NORTHING

C | | | | |

D | | | | |

E | | | | |

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beg at a pt 38 ft South of the North West Corner of Lot 4, Block 14, Plat "A" Wellsville City Svy; th running South, 53 ft; th East, 202 ft; th North, 53 ft; th West, 202 ft to the POB. Count 0.25 Acres m/1.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Greg McPherson

March 28, 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

247 North 400 East

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Logan

STATE

Utah

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

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/13/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10-18-79

ATTEST:

W. Ray Price
for CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

Oct 16, 1979

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The winter of 1885 was extremely severe. The task of fetching water from the outdoor well was durdensome for Mary Howell, who had four children at the time (She was to have ten total, five sons and five daughters). The family moved that winter to a wood frame house built by John Stoaddard, that had piped in water. The Howell's retained ownership of the stone home until 1905.

From 1886-1892 Mr. Howell served as member of the Territorial Legislature. He also served one term, from 1896-1900, in the Utah Senate. "Throughout all these activities he was the same commanding figure, wise in council, cool-headed keen and conservative in judgement, just and charitable, winning the respect and esteem of both friends and opponents alike."³

The Howell family moved to Logan where, Mr. Howell became a business tycoon. He became a senior member of the Howell-Carbon Co., and the founder of the Howell Clothing Store. In 1909 he and David Eccles of Logan formed the Promontory-Curlew Land Co.. The feasibility of dry farming had just been discovered and several Cache Valley farmers were having great success. Eccles and Howell bought a half million acres in Box Elder, Cassia, and Oneida counties in Utah and Idaho. They offered grazing land, irrigated sites, and dry farm land for sale. By 1916 half of the land had already been sold to home seekers. It turned out to be a very profitable investment for both men. The new city formed as a result of this population influx was named Howell, Utah, in honor of Joseph Howell.

In the 1870's and 1880's there was a great deal of controversy in Utah concerning the question of polygamy and the separation of church and state. As the gentiles emerged as a significant body they demanded that polygamy be outlawed, that the church must give up political activity through the Peoples Party, and that the church must cease directing the cooperative economic life for its community and open the doors to free competition. In 1890 the church terminated polygamy, and in 1891 disbanded the People Party. 1892 was the election year. To encourage the Saints to vote Republican, church leaders themselves took up the Republican standard. Joseph Howell, an active Mormon, was nominated U.S. Congressional candidate at the Republican State Convention in Ogden. He was selected over the non-Mormon incumbent George Sutherland, who many considered to be Utah's greatest statesman and jurist. Riding on this strong anti-gentile sentiment, caused in part by the aforementioned events, Mr. Howell defeated the Democratic candidate William King by 6000 votes. This was the beginning of a fourteen year stint (1903-1917) as U.S. Congressman for Mr. Howell. He served seven successive terms, ever on the alert to promote Western interests. "While in Congress he may not of been frequently prominent upon the floor, but he was most active in committee work-shaping the policies of government. He had been instrumental in securing pensions

3. History of Utah Since Statehood, Vol IV, 22.

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for Indian War Veterans.⁴ Mr. Howell was also the senior Republican member of the Committee on Mines and Mining, and a member of the Committee of Agriculture.

Mr. Howell's deep interest in the intellectual progress of the state was evidenced by his service as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Utah and the Board of Trustees of Brigham Young University.

Mr. Howell returned to Logan after his distinguished career as a public servant. He died suddenly at home due to a brain hemorrhage on July 18, 1918, at the age of sixty-one.

in 1915 Herman and Julia Theurer bought the stone home. Mr. Theurer opened a general merchandise store called the Golden Rule next to the home. The Theurer's took exceptionally good care of the home, making many improvements on both the structure and the grounds. They lived in the house for forty-one years.

in summary, the life of Joseph Howell is the story of a self made man rising to prominence. He was a man of great energy and intellect. He achieved fame and recognition for his deeds from a state and national audience. His funeral drew "distinguished visitors from Salt Lake, Ogden, and elsewhere...and filled the tabernacle with a congregation of conference size."⁵ regardless of the accolades, Mr. Howell did not forget his humble beginnings. He was receptive to ideas from any man. It was this combination of sensitive understanding and sophisticated intellect that made Mr. Howell such an accomplished public servant and successful businessman. It is this spirit that is exemplified by the Howell-Theurer house in Wellsville.

4. The Journal, July 22, 1918, p. 6.

5. The Journal, July 22, 1918, p. 6.

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Deseret Evening News, July 19, 1918.

Interviews:

- Mrs. Stanford G. Smith, March 10, 1979.
- Mrs. Julia Theurer, February 26, 1979.
- Mr. Austin H. Fife, February 24, 1979.