NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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STATE

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 S. South 100 East	305. 100 East	NOT FOR PUBLICATIO	DN
CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL DI	STRICT
Wellsville	VICINITY OF	01	
state Utah	соре 049	county Cache	code 005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESE	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
$X_BUILDING(S)$	<u>X</u> private	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	APRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X-YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Blair J. and De	bby I Goates	
STREET & NUMBER 30 South 100 E	ast	
CITY, TOWN Wellsville	VICINITY OF	state Utah
5 LOCATION OF LEC	GAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	Cache County Courthous	e
STREET & NUMBER	179 North Main	
CITY, TOWN	Logan	state Utah
6 REPRESENTATION	N IN EXISTING SURV	/EYS
τΐτle None		
DATE	F	EDERALSTATECOUNTYLOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS		

CITY, TOWN



CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK O	NE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	ORIGINAL S	SITE
GOOD	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

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. 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 proporations 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," <u>Utah Historical Quarterly</u> 43:3 (Summer 1975), 215.

²Ibid.

³Richard V. Francaviglia, "The Passing Mormon Village," Landscape, 22 (Spring 1978), 41.



PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTOHIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DAT	es 1869	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT	

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 if 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 Revivial 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 barefooted suntanned youth herding cows in the Box Elder hills was destined to become one of Utahs 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 Septmeber 16, 1872. She was quite wealthy in her own right from her fathers 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.

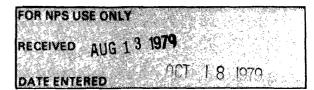
Mr. Howell spenta few years after graduation as a schoolteacher, and established an enviable record in this regard. In 1878 Martha Howell deeded the stone home to Joseph Howell. He married Bishop William Maughan's daughter Mary (born August 12, 1856) and the couple lived for seven years with Martha Howell 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 BIBLIOGR	ADHICAL REFT	RENCES		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Fife, Austin E.	"Stone Homes of No	orthern Iltah ar	d Southern	Idaho", Utah Historical
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Ricks, Joel E., ' News Publishing (The History of a V	/ally", Cache V	Alley Conte	nnial Commission, Deseret
10 GEOGRAPHICAL I	DATA			
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UTM REFERENCES	4,6,0,9,7,8,0	в		1.1.1.1
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GL L		н		
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCR Beg at a pt 38 ft Sout		t Corner of Lo	t A Block	
wellsville city Svy; t	th running South, 5	53 ft: th East.	202 ft; th	North, 53 ft; th
west, 202 it to the PO)B. Count 0.25 Acr COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	res m/1.		
LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTES FOR FROFERI	TES OVERLAFFING	STATE ON COOM	IT BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	······································	CODE
11 FORM PREPARED	ВХ			
Greg McPherson			Marcl	n 28, 1979
ORGANIZATION		<u></u>	DATE	1 20, 1975
STREET & NUMBER			TELEPH	ONE
247 North 400 East				
CITY OR TOWN			STATE	
Logan			Utah	
12 STATE HISTORIC	PRESERVATIO	N OFFICER (CERTIFICA	ATION
THE EVAL	UATED SIGNIFICANCE OF	THIS PROPERTY WI	THIN THE STATE	E IS:
NATIONAL	STAT	E	LOCAL -	<u>Å</u>
As the designated State Historic P	reservation Officer for the N	lational Historic Prese	ervation Act of 19	166 (Public Law 89-665), I
	reactivation officer for the r			
hereby nominate this property for	inclusion in the National F		iat it has been e	valuated according to the
hereby nominate this property for criteria and procedures set forth by	inclusion in the National F		at it has been e	valuated according to the
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GPO 921-803

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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 ownerhsip of the stone home until 1905.

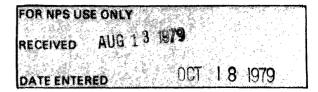
From 1886-1892 Mr. Howell served as member of the Territorial Legislature. He also served one term, from 1896-1900, in the Utah Senate. "Throughout all these activities he was the same commanding figure, wise in council, cool-headed keen and conservative in judgement, just and charitable, winning the 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]909 he and David Eccles of Logan formed the Promontory-Curlew Land Co.. The feasablility 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 Joseph Howell, an active Mormon, was nominated U.S. Congressional canstandard. idate 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 stron anti-gentile sentiment, caused in part by the aformentioned events, Mr. Howell defeated the Democratic canidate 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 "While in Congress he may not of been the alert to promote Western interests. frequently prominent upon the floor, but he was most active in committee workshaping 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.

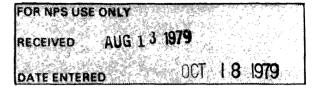
in 1915 Herman and Julia Theurer bought the stone home. Mr. Theurer opened a general merchandise store called the Golden Rule next to the home. The Theurer's took exceptionally good care of the home, making many improvements on both the structure and the grounds. They lived in the house for forty-one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