

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

MAR 28 1984

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Sharp, John C., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Off Utah Highway #36 _____ not for publication

city, town Vernon _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Utah code 049 county Tooele code 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input 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	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Leo and Virginia A. Ault

street & number 357 Loader Drive

city, town Pleasant Grove _____ vicinity of _____ state Utah 84062

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tooele County Courthouse

street & number 47 South Main

city, town Tooele _____ state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah State Register Files has this property been determined eligible? yes nodate 1973 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City _____ state Utah

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 John C. Sharp House is a two-story, brick, Italianate house with a side passage plan. It has a truncated hip roof and a raised sandstone foundation with squared and dressed quoins. A sandstone plaque bearing the date of construction, "1888," is set into the wall of the front bay window. Typical of the most common expression of the Italianate Style in Utah, the Sharp house has a box-like, slightly irregular rectangular form with a low pitch truncated hip roof and overhanging eaves, a side passage plan, pairs of wooden brackets supporting the eaves, long, narrow windows with articulated hood-shaped headers, and a projecting bays.

The house is a long rectangular mass with three projecting bays, one on the facade, and one on both the north and south sides of the house. The square bay on the facade is centered under two second story windows and balances with the small porch adjacent to it. There is a second story door centered over that porch. Both the porch and bay have truncated hip roofs and cast iron balustrades atop their roofs. The bay on the north side is rectangular and the walls of the first floor were covered by a later one story addition (c. 1971). The addition covers a pair of double hung windows on the north side, and a door on the west side of the bay. Porch piers on the inside of the new addition are evidence that there was a porch along the north side of the building from the edge of the bay almost to the west edge of the building. There is a second story door above the first story door which opened onto the top of the porch. A tent roof three part bay projects from the south side of the building, having a chimney through its central section and windows on the two side panels.

All of the windows of the main body of the house are the long, narrow double hung sash type, and are topped by distinctive hood-shaped headers. Access to the interior is through double wooden paneled doors over which there is a large transom and a panel of jigsaw cut ornament. There is a one story brick rear extension with a truncated hip roof that was probably part of the original construction, judging from the lines of juncture. It has a door and window on the south side, and a porch spanning that section. The newer brick addition was attached to the north side of that extension and wraps around the north side of the house.

The plan of the interior of the building is easily read on the facade. The double doors open into a hall containing a staircase on the left side. As was common in houses of the late nineteenth century, the hall is flanked by a parlor behind which is a second parlor or library. The hall ends at the entrance to the dining room, a large room adjacent to the second parlor. A door from the second parlor joins the main block to the rear extension which is a kitchen. It is likely that kitchen related activities were originally done in the brick summer kitchen off the southeast corner of the house. The present day kitchen was probably added shortly after the original construction.

The integrity of the interior of the house has been maintained. All of the original moldings and Victorian Eclectic trim, the original lathe turned balustrades, a pair of sliding doors between the second parlor and dining room, and the original mantelpieces of ceramic tile, marble veneer and

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imitation marble are intact. The ceilings have not been lowered, a common alteration in these days of energy conservation. The trim, except for the balustrade, has been painted.

The only major alteration of the exterior of the building is the addition of the one story brick extension on the north side. When that addition was made, however, it was built over the existing structure, but did not penetrate it. The original door and windows are still intact. The building, therefore, could be restored to its original integrity if the addition were removed.

Outbuildings that are to be included in the nomination are a c. 1888 barn, located southwest of the house, and a c. 1888 brick milk house located to the immediate southeast of the house. The barn is log with frame sheathing, and has a shed extension on the east side. The milk house is a square brick building with a pyramid roof, a door on the north side, and windows on both the south and east sides. Another door on the west side was bricked in at an unknown date. Its foundation stones and brick match the building materials of the house. It has a cellar beneath it. These two buildings, though somewhat weathered and deteriorated, have received no significant alterations and maintain their original integrity. An underground root cellar located directly behind the house was built at an unknown date, but judging from its materials - railroad ties for the front wall and a railroad rail for the ridge beam - it is doubtful that it was contemporary with the house and other outbuildings, and therefore does not contribute to the significance of the property.

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 checked="" 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 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 1888 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Completed in 1888, the Sharp House, home of John C. Sharp, a prominent church leader and rancher in the Vernon area for many years, is both historically and architecturally significant. It is historically significant for its association with Sharp who, as bishop of the Vernon Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for twenty-five years, was instrumental in the religious and civic affairs of the community during that time. Additionally this large, elaborate brick house is the only house remaining in the community which represents the financial success of many of the early ranchers and farmers, most of whom left the area as soon as they could afford to. Also located on the property are a c. 1888 timber frame barn and a c. 1888 brick milk house, which further document the significance of the Sharp House and property as a well-preserved example of a successful nineteenth century farmstead in the Vernon area. Architecturally the Sharp House is significant as one of few extant examples in Utah of a common house type, the Italianate box with a side passage plan. There are eleven documented extant examples of this type in the state.¹ Nine of the eleven houses are in Salt Lake City. The Sharp House is one of only two examples that is located in a rural area. There was great variation in the local expression of the style, ranging from vernacular to high style forms. Utah's Italianate, following a national trend for such houses, is found in three distinct forms: the large cross-wing house; the two story box; and the one story cottage. A great majority of Utah's Italianate houses were the two story box type with a side passage, built as affordable middle class houses. The attenuated verticality of the box form and the low pitched hip roof with overhanging eaves provided the basic form to which additional elements of the style could be added if funds were available. The characteristic elements of the style include: rectangular massing and side hall plan; a low hip roof with overhanging eaves; a wide cornice with decorative brackets; projecting bays; long, narrow windows; and other elements of classical ornamentation. All of these elements were incorporated in the Sharp House. The Sharp House is distinctive, however, in that its box form has been expanded to include a square bay on the north side and a three part, tent roofed bay on the south side, effectively documenting the flexibility of the form of one of Utah's standardized house types. Of the eleven extant examples of the two story Italianate box in Utah, five have been listed in the National Register, and one has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register.² Other examples of the Italianate style listed in the National Register include: the Charles R. Savage House, 80 D Street (cross-wing type), and the Howe C. Wallace House, 474 Second Avenue (cottage type), in the Avenues Historic District, Salt Lake City; the Lewis S. Hills House, 126 South 200 West, Salt Lake City (cross-wing type); and the David McDonald House, 4659 Highland Drive, Salt Lake City (cross-wing type).

John C. Sharp was born on the Kaw River, Kansas, May 28, 1850 to Joseph and Jeannette Sharp, who were en route to Salt Lake City, where they arrived on

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ault, Virginia A., Telephone conversation, July 12, 1983, Pleasant Grove, Utah.
 Mercor, Mildred Allred, ed., History of Tooele County, Salt Lake City: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1961.
 Tullidge, Edward W., Tullidge's Histories, Vol. II, Salt Lake City: Edward W. Tullidge, 1889

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 3 acres

Quadrangle name Vernon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning 10.27 chains N of SW corner of SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 29, Township 8 South, Range 5 West; thence E 9.10 chains, N. 4.47 chains, W 5.73 chains, N 3.57 chains, W 2 chains, N 50° W 1.69 chains, W 1.35 chains, N 4.28 chains, N 70° 30' W 10.29 chains, S 4° 32' W 8.7 chains, S 59° 3' E 11.12 chains, (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 Roger V. Roper/Historian and Debbie Randall/Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date March 1984

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature A. Kent Powell

title A. Kent Powell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date May 1984

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Beth Grovona</u>	date <u>7/13/84</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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August 28 that same year. His father was a well-known freighter across the plains and the owner of a large amount of livestock. John, after attending public schools in Salt Lake City, married Sarah Bethula Palmer on February 12, 1872. Soon after he moved to Vernon, Tooele County, about 60 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, where he engaged in ranching and farming in addition to serving as the first postmaster for several years. He remained in Vernon for twenty-eight years, ranching and farming, but during that time purchased interest in several major business firms in Salt Lake City.

In 1875 John Sharp was chosen to preside over the Vernon Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church), and in 1877 when the branch had grown and was organized into a ward, he was chosen as its bishop, a position he held until 1900. As bishop, he directed the religious affairs of the predominantly LDS community and was instrumental in completing the substantial brick chapel in 1892. He also served as Sunday School President in the ward for fifteen years.

Sarah Bethula Palmer Sharp was born in Pennsylvania, January 30, 1851 and came to Salt Lake City with her parents in 1861. In addition to her numerous activities in the LDS church, "Sula" sang in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and played the organ at the Salt Lake Theatre.

Historian Edward Tullidge, writing in 1888, made the following observations on Vernon while visiting the town. "The place contains only one hundred people. They have done but little in making pleasant homes, but are wealthy in cattle, horses and sheep, there being 40,000 of the latter owned in the place, John C. Sharp...is making a striking contrast with his surroundings in the way of a fine homestead, on which is nearing completion a brick residence in elegance and solidity of construction next to none in the county. Doubtless the beneficial effect of his example will be seen in the future in his ward."³ Construction of the house began in 1883, but was not completed until 1888, the date on the stone plaque set in the facade.⁴ It is not known where in Vernon the Sharps lived before this house was built. The house, which is located at the southern edge of town, originally faced the road into town, but that road has since been re-routed approximately one hundred yards behind the house to the east. The small brick building located at the rear of the house was built at about the same time as the house and served as the mail room for John Sharp, who was postmaster for several years.⁵ Beneath this building is a cellar in which the milk was stored.⁶

Tullidge's assumption that the Sharp House would set an example for other houses in Vernon proved to be overly optimistic. No other houses of either the scale or quality of Sharp's were constructed, primarily because most of the ranchers and farmers, as they became wealthy, moved to other cities instead of building new, larger homes in Vernon, and left the task of establishing a sense of permanence and community structure to those who remained, primarily the settlers of Scandinavian origin.⁷ John Sharp was one of the few, if not the only one, of the wealthy ranchers who remained, and his construction of this fine, large home illustrates his commitment to making the town his permanent home.

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In 1900, however, the Sharps too moved from their ranch in Vernon to Salt Lake City after having relocated most of their sheep herds to ranches in Idaho. John's business investments in Salt Lake City had apparently grown to the point where he felt it necessary to live in the city and manage them, or perhaps his return to the city was a form of semi-retirement for him after almost three decades of ranch life. From 1900 until his death in 1921, John Sharp lived at 26 E Street (demolished) in Salt Lake City, during which time he continued to be active in business and church affairs. At the time of his death he was serving as director of Deseret National Bank, Beneficial Life Insurance Company, Intermountain Casket Company, and Standard Furniture Company. He also served for twelve years as a member of the Board of Trustees of Utah Agricultural College and for many years as president of the State Board of Sheep Commissioners.

After her husband's death, Sarah Sharp moved from their E Street house into the Hillcrest Apartments in Salt Lake City where she died in 1935.

Notes

¹Following is a list of the 11 documented extant examples of the Italianate Box house in Utah and the status of each house with regard to listing in the National Register.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. William Morrow House | 390 Quince St., SLC
Capitol Hill Hist. Dis., 1982 |
| 2. Jonathan C. & Eliza K.
Royle House | 635 East 100 South, SLC
National Register, 1983 |
| 3. Frederick A. E. Meyer
House | 929 East 200 South, SLC
National Register, 1983 |
| 4. Albert H. Kelly House | 418 South 200 West, SLC
National Register, 1983 |
| 5. Charles R. Snelgrove
House | 744 South West Temple, SLC
determined eligible for
listing in the National
Register, 1983 |
| 6. George Q. & Elizabeth
Hoaglund Cannon House | 1402 South 1000 West, SLC
probably eligible but not
yet nominated to the NR |
| 7. 1502 South 1000 West | altered and not eligible for
nomination to the NR |
| 8. 1134 West Indiana St. | altered and not eligible for
nomination to the NR |
| 9. Joseph E. Smith Hse. | 615 First Avenue
Avenues Historic District,
1980 |
| 10. John C. Sharp Hse. | Vernon, UT
nominated to NR, March 1984 |
| 11. John T. Rich Hse. | 275 W. Clark, Grantsville, UT
Listed on National Register 1984. |

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² The following Italianate boxes are currently listed in the National Register: William Morrow House, Johnathan C. and Eliza K. Royle House, Joseph E. Smith House, Frederick A. E. Meyer House, Albert H. Kelly House. The Charles R. Snelgrove House was determined eligible for listing in the National Register.

³ Edward W. Tullidge, Tullidge's Histories, (Salt Lake City: Edward W. Tullidge, 1889), p. 81.

⁴ Telephone interview with Virginia A. Ault, July 12, 1983, Pleasant Grove, Utah.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Mildred Allred Mercer, ed., History of Tooele County, (Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1961), p.352.

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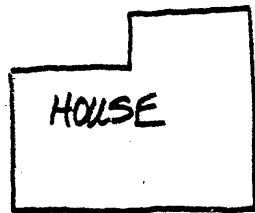
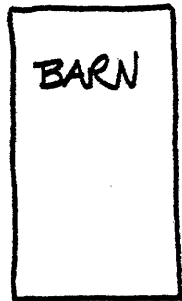
S 1.90 chains to beginning.

The house and outbuildings are located on an approximately three acre section of the irregularly shaped, 17 acre piece of property described above, constituting the eastern-most projection of that property. This three acre parcel is the only property intended for inclusion in this nomination.

JOHN C. SHARP HOUSE
SITE PLAN

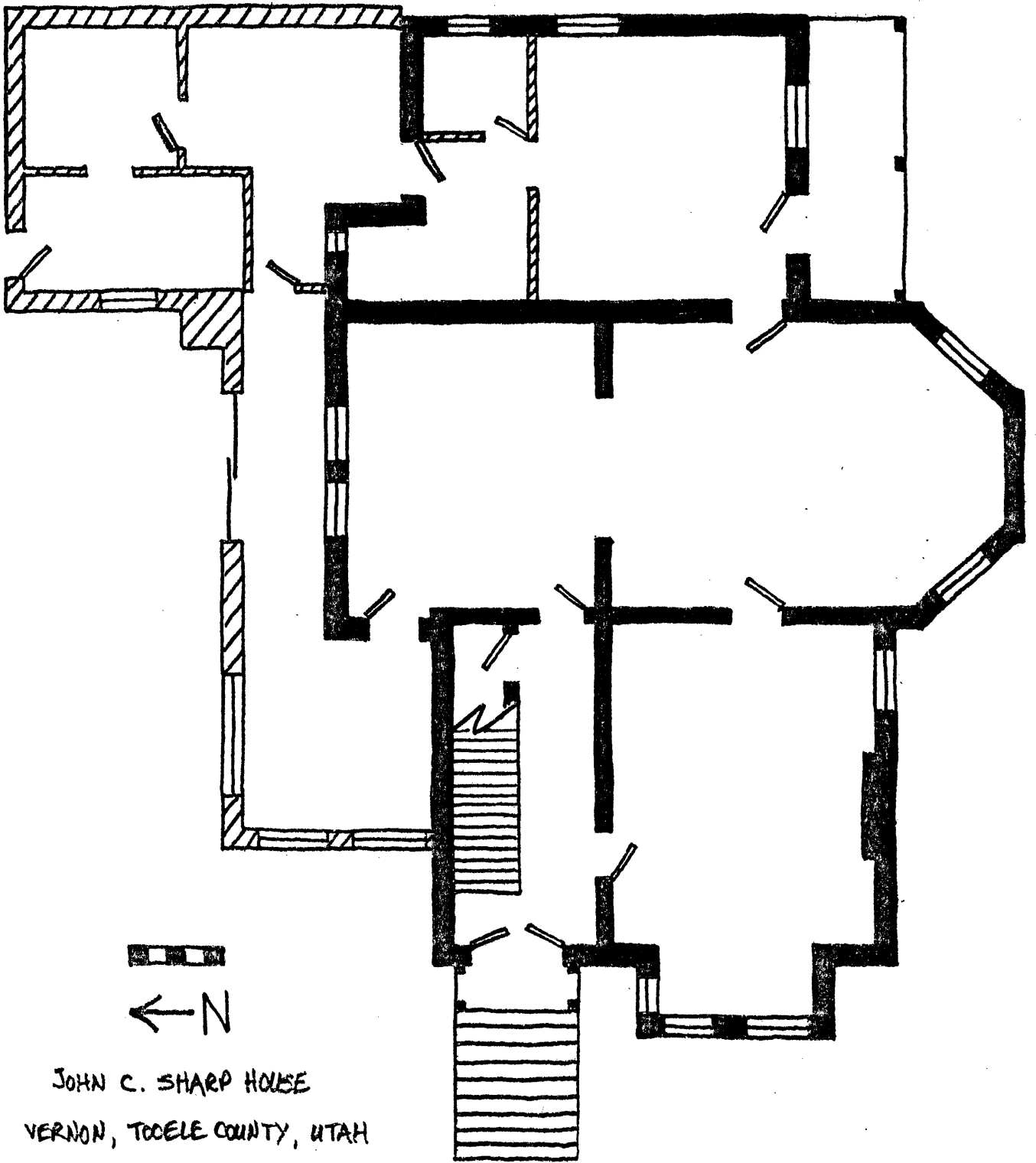


No Scale



DRIVEWAY





JOHN C. SHARP HOUSE
VERNON, TOOELE COUNTY, UTAH