

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. BV-04-10-2-2

Sign. Site #116

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 817 E. 200 North UTM: 12/357750/4237600
 Name of Structure: Frazer, David I., House T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Lee Investment Inc. Less than one acre
 Owner Address: Beaver, Utah 84713

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: 417
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

W 130 ft. of Lots 2 and 3, Blk 10, Plat D, Beaver City Survey.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Frazer, David I., House Construction Date: 1880 Demolition Date:

Original Use: Residence Present Use: Residence

Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:

- Excellent Site Unaltered Significant Not of the National Landmark District
- Good Ruins Minor Alterations Contributory Historic Period National Register Multi-Resource
- Deteriorated Major Alterations Not Contributory State Register Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: Slide No.: Date of Photographs: Photo No.:

Views: Front Side Rear Other Views: Front Side Rear Other

Research Sources:

- Abstract of Title Sanborn Maps Newspapers U of U Library
- Plat Records/Map City Directories Utah State Historical Society BYU Library
- Tax Card & Photo Biographical Encyclopedias Personal Interviews USU Library
- Building Permit Obituary Index LDS Church Archives SLC Library
- Sewer Permit County & City Histories LDS Genealogical Society Other Fieldwork

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

1933 photo on tax records, County Tax Assessor's Office.
 Miss Mable Frazer, interviewed November 1977 in Salt Lake City by L. L. Bonar.
 Elsie Hales, Annabell Hales and Ruby McMullin, interviewed 8/22/80 in Beaver by L. L. Bonar.

Researcher: Linda L. Bonar

OCT 4 8 1980 Date: 7/23/80

Architect/Builder: Thomas Frazer and David Ingles Frazer

Building Materials: Pink rock (tuff) and black rock (basalt)

Building Type/Style:

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

This stone home was built in several sections by Thomas Frazer and his son, David Ingles Frazer. The first portion was the west section and it originally consisted of a one story, gabled house with a rectangular cabin plan. There was a stone lean-to on the rear of the cabin, and the entire west facade was built of basalt rubble stone. Thomas Frazer, the Scots stonemason, helped his son David with this part of the house. At a later date, David tore the roof off of the rectangular cabin and added an upstairs portion with a Mansard roof. He built this upper section with pink rock, some of which is rubble rock and some of which has been cut and squared. A door was added upstairs while a window on the ground floor was closed up with stone. The ends of the old sheathing planks covering the lean-to are still visible in this west wall and they lend further credulance to the idea of an original one story structure. This west portion now has cornice-line dormer windows (one on the front and one on the rear), a Mansard roof and a Jerkin head on the gable end. The wooden cornice is broad and painted white and there is a porch with Greek Revival style, round columns on the front facade. The ground floor of this front facade has unfortunately been covered with incompatible, board and batten siding.

The east section of the house was the second part to be constructed and it was built by David Ingles circa 1900. It consists entirely of pink rock with excellent masonry (See continuation sheet)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

The David Ingles Frazer house is significant as an example of excellent stonework by a craftsman and his son, and for the residence's association with David I. Frazer, founder and editor for twelve years of the city's current newspaper, The Beaver Press. Within the context of Beaver's importance as a location of exceptional stone buildings in Utah, the Frazer house, with its several historical additions, illustrates elements of workmanship of exceptional quality and the evolution of that workmanship. Built by Thomas Frazer, important Scots stonemason in Beaver, and his son David, the residence exhibits some of the most elaborate stone cutting in Beaver (i.e. a tapered pilaster with rusticated stonecarving). A contrast in textures also highlights the building, with smooth pink rock work, rusticated quoins, and cross hatched tooling on individual blocks uniting to create an interesting image of craftsmanship. David Ingles Frazer, who owned, helped build, and lived in the house, started Beaver's first permanent newspaper, The Weekly Press, in 1904, and worked as its editor until 1916. He also served as Beaver's mayor from 1910-1911, and 1916-1920. The Beaver Press, founded by Frazer, continues to serve the community as its only local newspaper.

David Ingles Frazer was the son of Thomas Frazer, the Scots stonemason who revitalized Beaver's building industry. The elder Frazer immigrated to Utah as a convert to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1861. He lived in Lehi, Utah with his wife, Annie Ironsides Frazer, for eight years where their first son, David Ingels, was born. Thomas was requested to move to Beaver in 1869 to initiate an aggressive building campaign. All of Frazer's six sons learned about masonry; thus, David helped his father in the trade, and eventually worked on his own residence.

The David Frazer house was originally constructed in about 1880 as a simple one story rectangular cabin with a gable roof. The stone work was done by

David I. Frazer House Continuation Sheet for Item #4

work. The front facade has both a Jerkinhead gable facing the street and a bay window as well. Though the Jerkinhead is quite tall, this section is only one story in height. The bay window is rectangular in plan and displays some of the most elaborate stone cutting in all of Beaver. There are tapered pilasters at the base with rusticated stonecarving. The windows themselves rest upon a slab of brown granite and all the columns along side the windows have smooth-carved, curving brackets. There is a broad wooden cornice on the bay window and all the stonework in it is polished smooth. The entire front facade of this second section has very smooth pink rock work, excepting the rusticated quoin stones, which provide a very nice contrast in textures. The east facade of this section is not polished smooth like the front facade, but instead has lovely cross hatched tooling on the individual blocks. There are large pink rock lintles over all the windows and doors and the piercing pattern, from left to right, is a window-door-window-door pattern.

The third section of the house is a small, almost tower-like, addition on the east facade. It too, is built of pink rock but its function is unclear.

The last section is a modern frame addition on the rear of the house and it has no historic value.

The workmanship displayed in this pink rock house is of exceptional quality, obviously because it was built by a stonemason and his son for the son's own residence. The design of the house, however, is somewhat awkward, due to the numerous additions and the conversion of the original home from a rectangular cabin to a 1 1/2 story Mansard roof with Jerkinhead gables.

David I. Frazer House Continuation Sheet for Item #5

Thomas Frazer. In 1886 David married Mary Woolfenden, and in 1887 they began their family with the birth of a daughter, Mabel Pearl. Therefore, it is assumed that at about this time the original portion of the house was altered and enlarged to accommodate a growing family. David added a second story to the rectangular cabin, with a mansard roof, and constructed the upper story with pink rock. In about 1900 David Frazer constructed a second portion to the house, which exhibits excellent stone work (described above) - illustrating the evolution of such work from father to son. A third pink rock addition was made, probably by David himself prior to 1920, when he moved from Beaver.

The workmanship exhibited by David Ingels Frazer did not occupy his labor exclusively. In 1904 David Frazer & Sons purchased the plant of the Beaver Utonian and began The Weekly Press -- what was to become Beaver's only permanent newspaper, The Beaver Press. From 1873 to 1904, eight separate newspapers had been printed in Beaver, but none were able to sustain permanence. The Weekly Press under Frazer's guidance as editor and publisher was labeled the "official county paper." As the only newspaper in Beaver, its influence was felt in all sectors of society. Frazer, largely in his capacity as the town newspaperman, was elected mayor of Beaver in 1910, served as a councilman in 1912-1914, and was again elected mayor from 1916 to 1919. In 1920 he and his family moved from Beaver, relocating in Lehi, Utah. Thus, for some forty years the house was associated with the David I. Frazer family, and the workmanship continues to be a testimony to the craftsmanship of the entire Frazer family.