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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

MAR 1 1994

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Morrill, John and Ella, House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 95 North Main Street N/A not for publication  
city or town Junction N/A vicinity  
state Utah code UT county Piute code 031 zip code 84740

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
  
Walter M. A. 2/22/94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
   See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  
   See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

for  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall 4/7/94  
Entered in the  
National Register

Morrill, John and Ella, House  
Name of Property

Junction, Piute County, Utah  
City, County, and State

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

#### Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

#### Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

#### Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

#### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

#### Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic (Victorian Gothic)

Other: vernacular cross-wing

#### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Shingle

other \_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Morrill, John and Ella, House  
Name of Property

Junction, Piute County, Utah  
City, County, and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1895

### Significant Dates

1895

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

John Morrill / builder

## Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Section No. 7 Page 1

Morrill, John and Ella, House, Junction, Piute County, UT

**Narrative Description**

The John and Ella Morrill House is located at the northeast corner of the central block of Junction, Utah, facing Main Street (U.S. Highway 89). The community of Junction is situated in the south-central portion of the state about fifty miles south of Richfield. Piute County is sparsely populated with just a few ranching and agriculture communities and the remains of several mining operations, most dating from before the turn-of-the-century. While some fallow farmland and agricultural outbuildings are immediately adjacent, the site of the Morrill House has some residential type landscaping (grass, trees and shrubs). The Piute County Courthouse (National Register, 1971) occupies the large, completely landscaped southeast corner of the block. The property as described in Section 10 contains only one other building, a small, frame storage garage southwest of the house dating from the 1930s or '40s. It is considered a non-contributing building.

Built in 1895 on a foundation of native stone, the Morrill House is a substantial one-and-one-half story, brick building. The reddish-brown bricks are laid in common bond, with every sixth course being comprised entirely of headers. This Victorian Gothic style house, with some slight Victorian Eclectic characteristics, is actually a cross-wing type house with a substantial, full-height rear extension containing kitchen and pantry with bedrooms above. The cross-wing house type was popular in Utah in many forms from about 1880 to 1930.<sup>1</sup> The Victorian Gothic style was much less common, particularly on residential structures, and was used from about 1880 to 1910.<sup>2</sup> The main east entry, adjacent to the projecting 'octagonal' bay, opens onto a substantial porch with a balcony above. This porch roof and balcony railing were recently rebuilt and some of the decorative bargeboards evident in a historic photo were previously lost. The scroll-cut bargeboards on the roof and dormer eaves are almost completely intact around the entire house. Original two-over-two double hung windows remain throughout the building. The porch on the northeast corner has lost its railing, the southwest porch also appears to have partially enclosed (see discussion in Section 8) and a small window introduced to a bathroom that was added (but since removed) on the second level (see Photo No. 2). Otherwise, the exterior of the house is substantially as it was when constructed.

The interior of the house is currently being restored, repairing several insensitive alterations, particularly dropped ceilings which impacted every door and transom casing. From the front porch, a paneled wood door with polychromatic, Victorian-era glazing, leads to a long entry hall containing the stairs to the second level. The original paneled wood doors remain in most openings, many with a transom containing a long oval-shaped light. The baseboards are simply beaded in some secondary spaces

X See continuation sheet

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Carter and Peter Goss. Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940, 1988, pp.37-43.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp.120-121.

Morrill, John and Ella, House  
Name of Property

Junction, Piute County, Utah  
City, County, and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property less than 1 acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 3/9/3/2/5/0 4/2/3/2/7/3/0  
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / /

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The northeast corner of Block 2, Plat B, Junction Townsite Survey. Dimensions of the lot are approximately 75 feet (north/south) by 120 feet (east/west).

     See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary describes the current parcel of land that contains the historic Morrill House and the c.1930 outbuilding.

     See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles M. Shepherd/Architectural Historian and Kurt Wall/Preservation Intern  
organization Utah State Historic Preservation Office date September 1993  
street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801)533-3500  
city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84101-1182

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets
- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A Sketch map for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Property Owner

name Karen Kaufman  
street & number 4149 Mammoth Avenue telephone (818)783-6958  
city or town Sherman Oaks state CA zip code 91423

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Morrill, John and Ella, House, Junction, Piute County, UT

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but fairly robust in the main level, 'public' rooms. Door and window casings in these areas are also heavily profiled. The historic space configuration remains as indicated on the attached floor plans, but many surfaces and historic interior decorative features have been badly damaged over the years. Current work has also revealed that the main interior walls are constructed of adobe. Other changes made to the house after its initial construction include opening the doorway between the parlor and the main level bedroom and the removal of the historic fireplaces in the southeast rooms. The dividing wall and closets in the second level west bedrooms appear to be slightly later additions. Current restoration work is progressively repairing these problems. This work is aided by excellent historic descriptions of the rooms and their functions.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

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Morrill, John and Ella, House, Junction, Piute County, UT

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The John and Ella Morrill House is an architecturally significant one and one-half story, Victorian Gothic style house in the small, south-central Utah community of Junction, in Piute County. Built in 1895 by an early and fairly prominent citizen, the Morrill House links modern Junction and Piute County to its nineteenth century past. It is significant in Junction as a unique example of the Victorian Gothic style. It is prominently located on Main Street (U.S. Highway 89) immediately north of the Piute County Courthouse (National Register, 1971).

The Morrill House was constructed in 1895 by John D. and Ella Morrill and replaced an earlier adobe residence on the site. The Morrills had arrived in Junction on April 11, 1879, one of a number of emigrants sent by leaders of the Mormon church (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) to further develop and colonize southern Utah. Even before the house was fully completed, businessmen, travellers, and church leaders and officials had stayed at the large and spacious structure, though it was never formally operated as a hotel. Morrill's daughter, Hattie P. Morrill Ipson, remembers that her parents' house was well-known for its hospitality and for her mother's good cooking. The 'octagonal' bedroom on the second level was furnished and maintained for visitors. John Morrill's wife, Ella, used the home as the base for a well-regarded local medical practice, although she was not a licensed physician.<sup>3</sup>

Born in Garden Grove, Iowa on February 21, 1848, John Morrill moved to Utah in 1852 with his parents, Laban Morrill and Permelia Handmore Drury, living first in Springville. The Morrill family then relocated to Cedar City in Iron County, where young John first attended and later taught school. On May 18, 1874, John Morrill married Esther Ellis (or Ella) LeBaron, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. Ella was born on November 27, 1853 in Council Bluffs, Iowa, to David and Ester Johnson LeBaron, Mormon converts relocating to Utah. John and Ella apparently spent the first years of their marriage in Salt Lake and Utah counties, moving in 1879 to Junction (then known as City Creek) in Piute County in the still sparsely populated south-central portion of the state, where they would spend the rest of their lives.<sup>4</sup> Ella gave birth to a total of twelve children as well as caring and raising several orphans or children of immediate relatives.

Though his father had been a blacksmith, Morrill became a farmer, stock raiser, carpenter, and merchant. While he had arrived in Piute County after the establishment of the nearby Ohio Mining District in 1868, other subsequent mining developments such as Kimberly in 1891, and the completion of the branch line of the

X See continuation sheet

<sup>3</sup>Hattie P. Morrill Ipson, "My Dear Old Home," handwritten manuscript, pp. 1, 3, 4, 3A, n.d.

<sup>4</sup>Salt Lake Tribune, August 20, 1939, 8B; Deseret News, August 19, 1939, 16.

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Morrill, John and Ella, House, Junction, Piute County, UT

Denver & Rio Grande railroad to nearby Marysville in 1900 likely boosted both local and personal economies. In addition, Morrill's general store, L.D. Morrill & Son, became Junction's first post office. Morrill was Junction's first postmaster, a position he held for thirty years. When the store was demolished, the northwest porch of the Morrill House was enclosed and the post office relocated to this space. In 1903, directories indicate Morrill was also in partnership with Joseph P. Werner in a carpentry business, though one year earlier he had submitted a successful bid to build the county's first courthouse as part of the firm of Young, Allen, & Morrill. The courthouse was built on land south of this house that Morrill donated to the county on May 5, 1902. Morrill retired as postmaster sometime after 1912-1913 and in 1912, became manager of the Equitable Co-operative Company, a position he still held 1915.<sup>5</sup>

Morrill's influence extended beyond his business and commercial interests to local religious and political matters. For approximately fifteen years Morrill was a bishop's counselor in the Kingston LDS Ward (i.e., congregation). When this ward was later subdivided, he was appointed bishop of the new Junction Ward, a position he held for almost twenty years. Morrill served at least one term as Piute County Treasurer (1892-93) and also had long tenures as the county clerk and recorder, positions to which he was appointed. Later, he was also elected county clerk. Electricity was brought to town on June 26, 1930. Morrill, at this time serving as the county clerk (and at the age of 82, perhaps the oldest Junction resident) was chosen to press the button 'lighting up' Junction on July 4, 1930.<sup>6</sup> John Morrill died in Junction in 1939 at the age of 91; Ella had predeceased him in 1932.

A 1992 reconnaissance level survey of historic resources in Junction confirms the local significance of the Morrill House. While there are over twenty-five houses that are potentially eligible for the National Register (out of a total of approximately one hundred buildings plus numerous outbuildings), only the John and Ella Morrill House exhibits the Victorian Gothic style. Other than the Morrill House, the only other substantial masonry house is the small, one-story Victorian Eclectic style house at 91 North 100 West. This house was reportedly begun by a son-in-law of the Morrills, but completed after his untimely death, which may account for its rather odd configuration. The Morrill House is one of the few one-and-one-half story houses in Junction and is easily the most substantial historic residence. The tall, brick and stone, Victorian Eclectic style Piute County Courthouse, completed in 1903, is the dominating building in this small community.

X See continuation sheet

<sup>5</sup>Deseret News, *ibid*; Salt Lake Tribune, *ibid*; Ipson, *ibid*; *The Utah Directory 1883-84* (Salt Lake City: J.C. Graham and Company, 1883), 265; *Utah State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1903-1904*, Volume 2 (Salt Lake City: R.L. Polk and Company, 1903), 157-158; *Utah State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1912-1913*, Volume IV (R.L. Polk and Company, 1912), 9.

<sup>6</sup>*Salt Lake Tribune*, *ibid*; *Deseret news*, *ibid*; *Utah Gazetteer, 1892-93* (Salt Lake City: Stonehouse and Company, Publisher, 1892), 87; Ipson, 8A; *Salt Lake Tribune*, April 31, 1966, C5; *Utah State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1914-1915*, Volume V (Salt Lake City: R.L. Polk and Company, 1914), 91.

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Morrill, John and Ella, House, Junction, Piute County, UT

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The majority of potentially eligible houses in Junction are simply detailed frame houses, reflecting the availability of milled lumber in the area, especially after the completion of the Marysvale branch line. Many of the houses in the community have been substantially modified (e.g., covered with aluminum siding or windows altered). The Morrill House presents a rather robust residential example of the Victorian Gothic style. The pointed gable dormers (which allude to the traditional Gothic style pointed arched windows) and the decorative scroll-cut bargeboards which encircle the house and adorn the porches, are characteristic of the Victorian Gothic style which was popular in Utah from about 1880 to 1910.<sup>7</sup>

Steeply pitched dormers, occasionally on 'octagonal' bays, are a feature of several turn-of-the-century houses in the community of Panguitch (61 miles to the south). The Morrill House is similar to the Victorian Gothic, cross-wing Topham(?) House built in 1888 at 15 South 400 West in Parowan, Iron County, about 75 miles to the southwest. Morrill's involvement in the construction of these houses or the transfer of design elements is unknown, but likely given the similarities.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

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<sup>7</sup>Thomas Carter and Peter Goss, Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940, pp.150-51.

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Morrill, John and Ella, House, Junction, Piute County, UT

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**Bibliography**

Carter, Thomas and Peter Goss. Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940. Salt Lake City, UT: University of Utah Graduate School of Architecture and Utah State Historical Society, 1991.

Ipson, Hattie P. Morrill. "My Dear Old Home." (Twenty six page, hand-written history of the John and Ella Morrill house and family. Hattie, a daughter of John and Ella, was born September 4, 1883 in Junction.) Copy in USHPO National Register files, n.d.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

**Photo Labels**

Photo No. 1

1. Morrill, John and Ella, House
2. Junction, Piute County, Utah
3. Photographer: Charles M. Shepherd
4. Date: February 5, 1992
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.
6. South and east (primary) elevations. Camera facing west-northwest.

Photo No. 2

1. Morrill, John and Ella, House
2. Junction, Piute County, Utah
3. Photographer: Charles M. Shepherd
4. Date: February 5, 1992
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.
6. South elevation. Camera facing north-northeast.

Photo No. 3

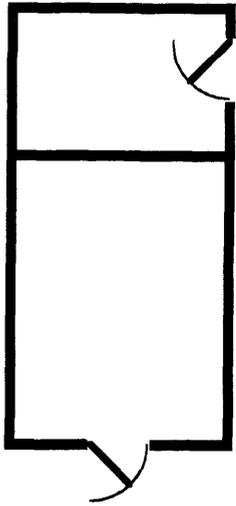
1. Morrill, John and Ella, House
2. Junction, Piute County, Utah
3. Photographer: Charles M. Shepherd
4. Date: February 5, 1992
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.
6. North and west (rear) elevations. Camera facing southeast.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

# John & Ella Morrill House

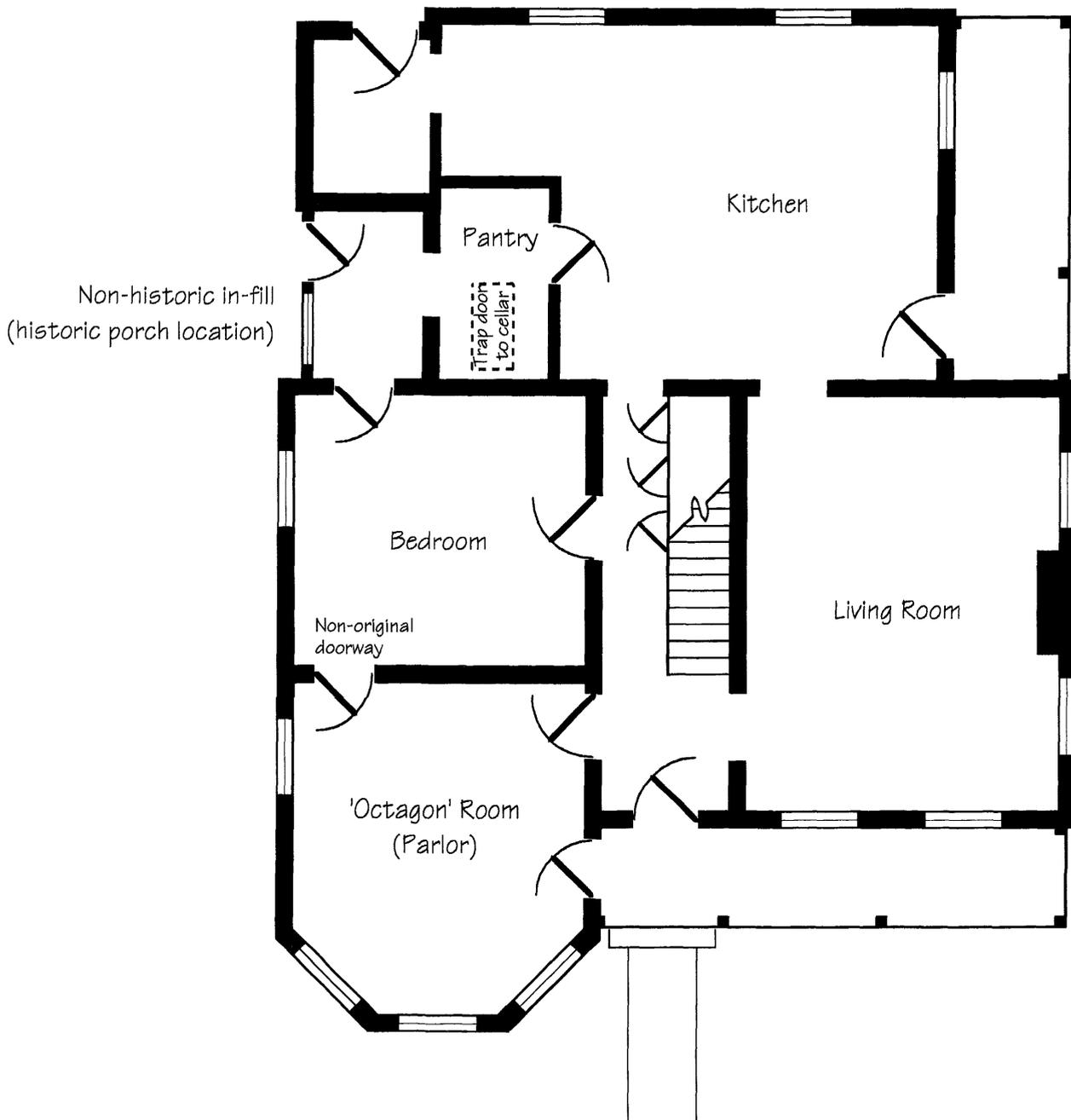
95 North Main, Junction, Piute County, Utah

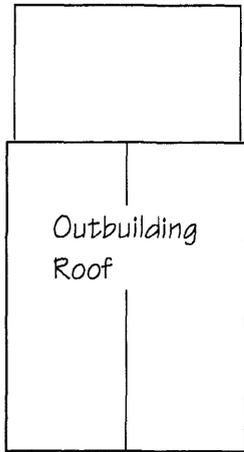
## Schematic Floor Plan — Main Level



Non-historic  
outbuilding

Approximate Scale





# John & Ella Morrill House

95 North Main, Junction, Piute County, Utah

## Schematic Floor Plan — Second Level

Approximate Scale

