

**Structure/Site Information Form**

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 1622 South Fifth East, Salt Lake City UTM: Zone 12; Easting 426010;  
 Utah /Code: 049 /County: Salt Lake/ Code: 035 Northing 4509420  
 Name of Structure: Woodruff Villa T. R. S.  
 Present Owner: W. Bruce Woodruff  
 Owner Address: 3788 Arnett Circle  
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84109  
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: 1891 Tax #:  
 Legal Description: Kind of Building: Building; private ownership; status: occupied  
 Acreage: Less than one acre Accessible: yes; restricted  
 Quadrangle: Salt Lake City South  
 Quadrangle scale: 1:24000  
 Beg. at 11.6 rds N fro SE cor Lot 1, Blk 13, 5-Acre Plat A, Big Field Survey: N 71.8 ft,  
 W 10.5 rds, N 119.6 ft, W 58.25 ft, S 191.4 ft, E 231.5 ft to beginning

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Wilford Woodruff Construction Date: 1891 Demolition Date:  
 Original Use: Private residence Present Use: Private 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.:  
 December 19, 1980  
 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

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

Anderson, Helen Woodruff. Interview. Salt Lake City, Utah, 11 February 1980.  
Deseret News. Obituary notices for Wilford Woodruff, 2, 3 and 8 September 1898, pp. 1 and 4, 1, and 1 and 4 respectively.  
 "Five-Acre, Plat A, Big Field Survey, Salt Lake City." Unpublished map dated 15 April 1857. Utah State Historical Society, Map 536.  
 Polk, R. L. & Co. Salt Lake City Directory, 1893-1952.  
 Salt Lake County Recorder's Office. Abstracts of Titles; Plat Maps. Salt Lake City-County Building, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Building Materials:

Building Type/Style:

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:  
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Woodruff Villa is a two-and-a-half-story, brick Victorian house with elements of Eastlake and Queen Anne. The house has five dormers and a large gable. The gable, over the south half of the front or east facade, has two parallel windows of a single light each. The gable has rectangular, fish scale, and hexagonal shingles. A large, curved wooden bracket extends out from the walls of the house to the outer corners of the projecting gable. A dormer on the south facade also contains two parallel windows, but these contain two vertical rows of three panes. This dormer has rectangular shingles, as do the one medium- and two small-sized dormers on the north side. Finally a small eyelid dormer exists on the front facade over the north half of the house but near the center.

The house has two brick chimneys, one in the rear and one on the south side near the front. Each chimney has two circular chimney pots with three horizontal louvers near the top.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

The Woodruff Villa, built in 1891, gains significance as the residence of Wilford Woodruff, who was president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the time of the house's construction. The house stands as an important symbol. For several years preceding 1890, the federal government had struggled against the LDS church over sovereignty. With the confiscation of church property under the Edmunds-Tucker Act and the Supreme Court decision upholding that confiscation, the LDS church began accommodation. President Wilford Woodruff issued the Manifesto in September 1890 and the church accepted it the next month in General Conference, thereby abandoning the practice of polygamy and acknowledging the sovereignty of the Federal Government. At this time many Mormon polygamists commenced living with only one of their wives. Assimilation had begun.

The Woodruff Villa, therefore, appears a symbol of this assimilation. Wilford Woodruff built it for Emma Smith Woodruff and lived there with her and her children for the duration of his life. The Woodruff Villa symbolizes the permanence and establishment which accompanied accommodation and the security to express wealth which followed the end of living "underground."

The Woodruff Villa also has important historical significance to the Waterloo area of Salt Lake City, and to the state of Utah. Wilford Woodruff built it in 1891-92 on land that had formed part of his farm since 1857 at the latest. About this time (1891), much of the Woodruff farm was being sold for housing development. Sarah Delight Stocking Woodruff and Emma Smith Woodruff, two of the wives of Wilford Woodruff, each received part of the farm

## Description, Woodruff Villa, continued

The front facade under the projecting gable is a two-story polygonal bay. In the center section on the second story are two double-hung sash windows. The two side sections each contain one double-hung sash window. These three windows rest on stone sills. The walls are capped with a plain wood frieze and cornice. On the main floor, the two side sections each contain one double-hung sash window; the center section contains one large window with a stained glass transom window. These window openings rest upon sills similar to those on the second story, but these are capped with a heavy lintel of the same construction.

This two-story bay parallels another two-story polygonal bay on the south facade of the house. The second story of this smaller bay is a balcony with a spindled frieze atop four tapered round columns and two pilasters. The polygonal shape continues into the frieze and cornice of the house and into the hipped roof. On the first story, the bay contains three double-hung sash windows, each resting on a sill and capped with a lintel as in the bay on the front facade. Above the lintels is a frieze and cornice similar to that between the second story and the roof. The balustrade on the balcony, made of fish scale and hexagonal shingles, slopes outward at the bottom to meet the cornice over the first floor windows.

The front porch unites various features from other parts of the house. The triangular tympanum recalls the gable over the front bay. A sunburst on it carries over to a partial sunburst on the north end of the porch roof and reflects the upside-down sunburst pattern in the large brackets on each side of the main gable. Immediately below the porch roof is an unadorned frieze and cornice matching that between the second story and the roof. A spindled frieze on the porch, except below the tympanum, parallels the frieze of the balcony on the south facade, as do the turned tapered columns standing on long square bases.

Finally on the second story above the front porch, a stone has "Woodruff Villa 1891" inscribed on it. The letters now appear to be gold leafed; it is possible that originally the letters were only carved, as an old picture in the Utah State Historical Society photographic collection does not show the letters clearly.

The foundation of the house is stone.

On the inside, the house has been extensively altered. In some areas, the original fabric may have been covered as is evident with the post at the bottom of the staircase. In most cases, however, the fabric has been ripped out.

Significance, Woodruff Villa, continued

for herself and her children, and in 1892 both families sold part of their holdings to be developed. In 1893, the street car ran along Fourth East through Waterloo to the vicinity of Twenty-first South.<sup>2</sup> Thus the Woodruff Villa was built during the time that Waterloo was changing from an agricultural area to a suburban area. Nevertheless, the development primarily occurred along Fourth East and along smaller streets such as Denver Avenue; the Emma Smith Woodruff family retained the east two-and-a-half acres of both Lots 1 and 20, the property along Fifth East, thereby maintaining a semi-rural environment for their houses.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Five-Acre, Plat A, Big Field Survey, Salt Lake City," unpublished map dated 15 April 1857, Utah State Historical Society, Map 536.

<sup>2</sup>Abstracts of Titles, Salt Lake County Recorder's Office; R. L. Polk and Co., Salt Lake City Directory, 1893, p. 59.

<sup>3</sup>In addition to the farmhouse and the Woodruff Villa, Winifred Blanche Woodruff Daynes lived north of the farmhouse on Woodruff family property in a house which may still be standing but has been altered, and Asahel Hart Woodruff lived on the corner of Fifth East and Eleventh (now Seventeenth) South in a house demolished about 1930.