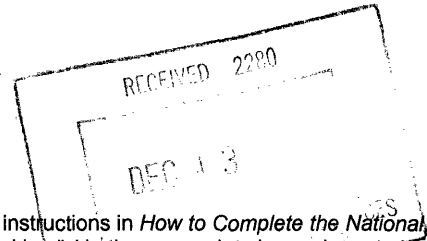


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1734



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration 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 Parry Lodge

other name/site number Parry Lodge Motel & Restaurant

2. Location

street & town 89 East Center Street

not for publication

city or town Kanab

vicinity

state Utah code UT county Kane code 025 zip code 84741

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 12/9/02  
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 the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Date of Action 2/14/03  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Parry Lodge  
Name of Property

Kanab, Kane County, Utah  
City, County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

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

- public-local
- private
- public-State
- public-Federal

- district
- building(s)
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
1	0	objects
11	3	Total

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

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

Historic and Architectural Resources of Kanab, Utah

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Motel

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COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

---

DOMESTIC: Single-family Dwelling

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**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Motel

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COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

---

DOMESTIC: Single-family Dwelling

---

RECREATION: Theater

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**7. Description**

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

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

---

Victorian Eclectic, Bungalow

---

MODERN MOVEMENT

---



---

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

---

walls WOOD, BRICK, CONCRETE BLOCK

---

roof ASPHALT SHINGLE , BUILT-UP

---

other WOOD

---

**Narrative Description**

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Parry Lodge  
Name of Property

Kanab, Kane County, Utah  
City, County and State

**8. Description**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes 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" in all the boxes 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

COMMERCE

OTHER: Tourism

**Period of Significance**

1930-1952

**Significant Dates**

1930, 1931

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Parry Lodge  
Name of Property

Kanab, Kane County, Utah  
City, County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.47 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/2 3/6/4/3/0/0 4/1/0/1/1/2/0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the Southeast corner of Lot 1, Block 22, Plat "A" of the Official Survey of Kanab Townsite & run th North 528.0 ft to the Northeast corner of Lot 4, Block 22; th West 264.0 ft; th South 264.0 ft; th West 70.0 ft; th South 175.5 ft; th East 70.0 ft; th Souith 62.5 ft; th Southeasterly to a point 38.0 ft East of the Southwest corner of said Lot 1; th East 226.0 ft to the point of beginning.

Property Tax No. K-22-1

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those currently associated with the property and that were associated with the property during the period of significance.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Korral Broschinsky  
organization prepared for the Kanab Heritage Council date November 21, 2002  
street & number P.O. Box 58766 telephone (801) 581-1497  
city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84158

**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 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/title Steve M. & Judy H. Heaton  
street & number 493 North 500 West telephone (435) 673-0411  
city or town St. George state UT zip code 84720

**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.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

### **Narrative Description**

The Parry Lodge, located at 89 E. Center Street in Kanab, is a motel-restaurant complex of ten buildings, of which eight are contributing historic resources. The majority of construction and modifications occurred in 1930-1931 when the property was converted from residential use to a motel and restaurant. The main building, where the office and restaurant are currently located, is an 1892 frame house that was expanded and modified between 1930 and the 1980s. The motel includes thirty-four units housed in six historic one-story frame buildings on the property. Fifty-six additional units are in a one-story L-shaped building (built in 1972) and a two-story building (built in 1978). The property also includes a historic barn (circa 1900), a frame bungalow (built circa 1919), three outbuildings, a pool area, and a freestanding historic marquee. The property totals 3.47 acres in size, has mature landscaping and a large asphalt parking lot.

### **Contributing Buildings**

The main building faces south. The original 1½-story house is flanked by one-story additions to the east and west. The original house was built in 1892. It is frame, covered in drop-novelty siding with a simple gable roof, with ridge parallel to the street and covered in wood shingles (circa 1980s). The foundation is sandstone, but later encapsulated in concrete (circa 1931). The façade is classically symmetrical with a 1½-story L-shaped wing to the rear (probably built within a few years of the original construction). There is a gothic gable above the front door. The two dormers were probably original, but may have been enlarged in the 1930s. The full-width porch with square columns and balcony is original, however the balustrade was modified from square posts to a cross pattern when the porch was extended to the west (circa 1950s). The windows are multi-pane double-hung windows. The front entrance has a Federal-style surround. The original spindle gable ornament is intact at the east end. Other ornamentation includes the faux shutters to the front windows added in the 1930s. The house is a Victorian Gothic Revival house given a Colonial Revival update. The interior of the house has been modified. Probably an original hall-parlor, the front portion is completely open and serves as the motel lobby. Large openings lead to the east and west into the additions. The front desk is in the center of the house with office and restrooms to the rear. The staircase (circa 1930s) is west of the desk. Upstairs the ½ story is used for office space and an overflow dining area.

West of the house is a 1931 addition used as the coffee shop. The addition is frame with drop siding. The façade features two large windows flanking a half-glass door (not currently used). The roof was originally a simple gable, but was modified to a flat roof when the veranda was extended (circa 1950s). The “coffee shop” sign on the roof was added at the same time. The interior of the coffee shop is slightly lower than the lobby area. There is a large kitchen to the rear. At the west end of the addition are sliding glass doors that open to a concrete patio, probably built when the pool was installed (circa 1960). The east addition was originally a small one-story dining room extension (also circa 1930s), set back from the house. It had a simple gable roof, large multi-pane windows and door at the west end. Around 1980, the dining room was enlarged to be flush with the house. The new addition features several bays of large windows with plastic “multi-pane” mullions. On the interior, the dining room is open with a half-height wall down the center, which may include part of the exterior wall of the first addition. There are exterior doors in the addition to the east and north. Directly behind the

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

house are three outbuildings, a 12' x 12' walk-in cooler (date unknown), a frame building used for storage and utilities (circa 1930s), and a brick building (circa 1900), which may have been a granary for the original house. The kidney-shaped pool is west of the patio and coffee shop. A hot tub-gazebo (circa 1980s) is located northwest inside the fenced pool area.

Six of the motel buildings are from the historic period. Because Parry Lodge has been associated with the movie-making industry in Kanab, the buildings are referred to as Movie I, Movie II, Movie III and the Cottages. Each room unit in the historic buildings has a nameplate with the name of a movie star who stayed in the room. All of the historic buildings are one-story frame structures with simple gable roofs and concrete foundations. The buildings are very similar in style with a bungalow feel and colonial revival shutters. The rooms are typical for the period and each unit includes a bedroom and bathroom. Slight variations in windows and siding indicate the buildings were probably not built all at the same time.

The Cottages are located just north of the pool and include three double-unit buildings situated around a landscaped courtyard. The Cottages are covered in narrow clapboard siding and have a bungalow feel. They were probably built in 1931. The Movie I building is to the west and was built in the early 1930s. It is a long building set perpendicular to Center Street. The motel office was located for a time at the south end of this building, currently a gift shop. The building consists of nine units, plus a mother-in-law unit projecting at the northwest corner. A porch extends the width of the building. Movie II is located to the north and west of Movie I. This building is very similar with eleven units, and was probably also built in the early 1930s. Movie III was built at the northeast end of the property. It consists of eight slightly larger units. Though the style of this building is similar to the Cottages (narrow clapboard and no porch), it appears to have been built later, probably between 1938 and 1944. The windows have been modified with some aluminum replacements, but other than that the building is in good historic condition. All of the buildings have had some interior renovation (circa 1980s), but retain historic integrity.

A large historic barn is located in the center of the property. It is currently surrounded by asphalt parking lots and driveway. The barn was built circa 1900. It is an Intermountain-style barn with a gable roof, side wings and a gable-end opening. The barn faces east and is covered in vertical planks with a metal roof. The barn was one of the first in the area to have a cable apparatus for unloading hay while driving the team through the barn. It was converted for use as a theater in the late 1970s. The barn has historic associations with the 1892 house and the circa 1919 bungalow at the northeast corner of the property.

### Non-contributing buildings

The majority of units are found in two non-contributing structures. The Kanab Building is an L-shaped motel court structure at the northwest corner of the property. It is similar in style to the Movie buildings, but with large plate glass windows. The pre-fabricated Kanab Building has 24 units large enough for two queen beds and was built in 1972. The Hamblin Building is a two-story rectangular building housing 32 units just north of the east addition to the house. The building is frame on a concrete foundation and has a flat roof with mansard trim. The units are accessed from the interior by doors arranged along a central corridor. The Hamblin building was constructed in 1978. There is also a frame bungalow on a sandstone foundation located on the site. It is

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

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covered in drop siding with a full-width porch at the east end and retains its integrity. The roof is hipped and covered in asphalt shingles. The exterior has not been altered. On the interior the home has about 1,400 square feet of space with a partial basement. The home is a rental unit on the motel property, but not currently associated with the operations of the motel and is considered a non-contributing building.

### Site

The Parry Lodge complex is located on a 3.47-acre parcel on Kanab's Center Street. It comprises the east half of the block. Mature trees are found at the south end of the property around the historic building. Smaller trees are located near the buildings at the north end. There is a landscaped lawn area between the cottages. Flowerbeds are located at the front of the office-lobby. The majority of the property has been paved with asphalt for parking. The historic freestanding marquee is located at the southeast corner of the property. The Parry Lodge is in the exact center of Kanab's commercial district along Center Street (Highway 89). The motel complex is a contributing resource in Kanab.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

The Parry Lodge, built in 1930 on an existing 1892 dwelling, is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of tourism and the movie industry in Kanab, Utah in the early twentieth century. The motel and restaurant complex was developed by Chauncey, Gronway, and Whit Parry. The Parry brothers were fervent promoters of Kanab to tourists and the movie industry, and no history of the community has been written that does not credit the Parry brothers with the relative prosperity the town enjoyed through the 1920s and 1930s. The Parry Lodge is a complex of converted existing historic and newer buildings modeled on the auto-court motel concept of the 1920s. The motel has a prominent location on Kanab and Utah's historic commercial corridor, Highway 89. The Parry Lodge is eligible for the National Register under the *Historic and Architectural Resources of Kanab, Utah* Multiple Property Listing. The Associated Historic Context is "'Little Hollywood,' the Expansion of Tourism and Other Industries, 1922-1950." The Parry Lodge is a contributing historic resource in the city of Kanab, Utah.

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### History of the Parry Lodge

Within a few months of entering the Salt Lake Valley, Brigham Young, leader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon Church) had sent groups of settlers to explore southern Utah. The Mormons had three reasons for settling southern Utah: 1) to set up a series of settlement outposts on route to California and Arizona; 2) to find areas suitable for grazing and agriculture; and 3) to perform missionary work among Utah's Native American tribes. Due to confrontations with the native Paiutes, several attempts to settle the Kanab area in the 1860s failed. In the spring of 1869, an abandoned fort was reoccupied. Brigham Young visited the fort in April 1870 and established an LDS ward. In September of 1870, the townsite of Kanab was surveyed. Each family received at least one lot on which to build a house, barn and outbuildings. Lots 1 & 2 of Block 22, where the Parry Lodge is now located, were first deeded to Jacob Hamblin, then Mandana Johnson in 1886. Mandana Rebecca Merrill Johnson (1838-1921) and her husband Nephi Johnson (1833-1919) were early settlers of Kanab.

In December 1891, the Johnson's third son, Justin Merrill Johnson (1862-1955), was married to Emma Jane Fuller (1872-1938). The following year, Mandana Johnson deeded Lot 1 to the couple. A 1½-story frame house was built at the south end of the property in 1892. Justin and Emma Johnson had five daughters. Justin Johnson's first job (at the age of fourteen) was as a mail carrier between Kanab and Panguitch. He later made his living raising cattle and sheep, and farming. Johnson probably built the large barn behind his property. It was later used by the Findlay family who lived in the bungalow at the northeast corner of the block. Gideon Wilson Findlay (1886-1949) and his wife, Mandana (Dana) Farnsworth (1885-1967), a niece of the Johnsons, were married in September 1911. They were living on the corner of Block 22 by the 1920 census. The bungalow was probably built around 1919. Gideon and Dana raised six daughters in the home. Gideon was a farmer for most of his life.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

During this period, Kanab was transforming from an agricultural outpost to a burgeoning township. By 1884 Kanab was incorporated and had been designated the county seat of Kane County. The population grew from 409 in 1890 to 710 in 1900. The economy of Kanab was based on farming and ranching, primarily ranching because water was a scarce commodity. The inhabitants of the town could not raise enough food to meet their needs, and the arrival of freight wagons and stages with staples from communities to the north was an almost daily occurrence. Two hotels were operating during this period: the Highway Hotel, converted from a general mercantile building (demolished), and the Cole Hotel run by Eleanor McAllister (originally the William D. Johnson House, listed on the National Register in 2000). Many of the private homes also tended to the needs of frequent visitors to Kanab.

Kanab has been described as the “most inaccessible place in the United States.”<sup>1</sup> Telegraph lines reached Kanab in 1871, and the telephone in the 1890s; however, the nearest railroad stop was 132 miles to the north at Marysville (reached by the Denver & Rio Grande in 1900). On June 29, 1909, two automobiles stopped in Kanab as part of a promotional tour from Salt Lake City to the Grand Canyon, a remarkable feat considering the condition of existing roads and the fact gasoline was not readily available south of Provo, 250 miles north. The trip was under the direction of Kanab resident E.D. Woolley, who spent the next decade campaigning tirelessly to build automobile roads to Kanab and the scenic wonders in the vicinity. In the 1910s and 1920s, a growing number of Kanab residents began promoting the community’s amenities and its proximity to the recently established national parks: Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion’s.

In 1917, the Parry brothers started a tour bus company to take tourists to the national parks and other scenic venues in the area, many of which did not have roads at the time. The Parry brothers were born in Salt Lake City to Gronway and Laura Althea Gardner Parry. Gronway Robert Parry was born on February 22, 1886, Chauncey Gardner Parry was born on January 31, 1896, and Caleb Whitney Parry was born on March 13, 1904. The family also included five sisters. While studying at the University of Utah, Chauncey spent a summer on a survey team in southern Utah. The young man was impressed with the scenery and in 1917 started a transportation company with his brother, Gronway. Working with William W. Wylie, the brothers set up tent camps in Zion’s and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. They used touring cars and open-air buses to transport tourists. At one point business was so good they enlisted their thirteen-year-old brother Whit to drive a bus. After a brief hiatus during World War I, the company was re-established in 1920, one year after Zion’s was designated as a national park. For the next two decades the Parry brothers would be involved in several efforts to improve the roads to the canyons and other scenic wonders, including a road carved through the hills to the Coral Pink Sand Dunes near Kanab.<sup>2</sup>

In the second decade of the twentieth century, the population of Kanab saw its largest increase from 733 to 1,102, much of the increase directly tied to the increase in tourist related industries. Roads were improved dramatically and the road that would eventually become part of Highway 89 (the main north-south thoroughfare in the state of Utah at the time) was paved by 1921. Most of Kanab’s Center Street was on Highway 89 and the

<sup>1</sup> Elsa Chamberlain Carroll, ed., *History of Kane County*, Kane County Daughters of Utah Pioneers, (Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah Printing Company, 1960), 36.

<sup>2</sup> J. W. Thomas, “Chauncey Gardner Parry – Modern Pioneer,” 2.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

street became the city's commercial district. In 1922, a new era for Kanab began when a Hollywood film crew stayed in town during the filming of *Deadwood Coach*, a western starring Tom Mix and his Wonder Horse. Because the Parry brothers were in the business of taking tourists by bus to the national parks, they had the necessary resources to transport the film people and their equipment. Kanab's association with the movie industry resulted in the town's nickname, "Little Hollywood."

The Parry brothers, under the name Hiway Tourist Park & Co., purchased a home at 86 South 200 West in Kanab in 1925, which they renovated and named the Parry Cafeteria. During the height of the tourist season, busloads of visitors would stop there for a good meal and rest stop between visits to Zion's and the Grand Canyon. By the mid-1920s, the Union Pacific Railroad was interested in establishing its own tourism franchise in the area. Somewhat reluctantly, the Parrys sold the transportation company and cafeteria facility to the railroad in 1927. Chauncey was retained by the Union Pacific as superintendent of the transportation company and subsequently designated as a special agent for the promotion of movies in Utah.<sup>3</sup>

In 1928, the Parrys bought the Justin and Mandana Johnson house at the corner of Center Street and 100 East, a more prominent location than the cafeteria property. Within three years, they had remodeled and expanded the frame house, and built several cottage-type motel units. The local newspaper described the project as an "up-to-date hotel with a large dining room [and] several modern two roomed cabins equipped with good beds and running water."<sup>4</sup> The Parry Lodge opened in June 1931. At the time there were a few other hotels in Kanab. The Highway Hotel was still in business, but would remain so only for a short time. The Kanab Hotel and Cafe was an urban-type hotel built in 1929 as a commercial block on Center Street. The Hotel Alice, run by Alice B. Robinson in the 1920s and 1930s, was in her home at the south end of town, on the highway. The Kanab Auto Court, a group of cabins on Highway 89, was also built at the same time.<sup>5</sup> The Parry Lodge, with its rows of cottages, is architecturally significant as the first modern motel court in the city.

By the 1930s, tourism had become so important to Kanab's economy that the *Kane County Standard* newspaper began featuring prominent front-page banners that read "Kane County, Heart of the Scenic South" and "Kanab, Home of the Tourist and Gateway to the Grand Canyon, Route 89."<sup>6</sup> The Parry Lodge did a brisk business during the tourist season, but the Parry brothers also used the motel to woo filmmakers to the area. Chauncey Parry took photographs of the scenery of Kane County and prepared a portfolio for his contacts in Hollywood. He promoted not only the scenery of the area, but the amenities provided by the Parry Lodge, which included catering, transportation, animals, local residents for extras, and craftsmen for set construction, in addition to lodging. For the most part, Chauncey was in charge of public relations and promotion. Gronway Parry handled transportation issues. He also recruited, trained and managed local residents for extras. Whit Parry managed the motel and restaurant, creating a "top-notch establishment fit to lodge movie stars."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Thomas, 4.

<sup>4</sup> *Kane County Standard*, March 27, 1931.

<sup>5</sup> By the 1960s all of these hotels, with the exception of the Parry Lodge, were either demolished or no longer operating as hotels.

<sup>6</sup> *Kane County Standard*, May 9, 1930, the first issue of many to feature the banners.

<sup>7</sup> Terri Draper, "Little Hollywood." Photocopy available at the Utah State Historical Society.

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Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

Chauncey Parry died in Cedar City on March 10, 1943, from injuries sustain in an automobile accident. His obituary stated "he has been directly responsible for bringing 35 moving picture companies from Hollywood to make films in this area."<sup>8</sup> With each film company leaving thousands and sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars in the community, the effect on Kanab's economy was dramatic. Often a movie company would pack the Parry Lodge to capacity and other hotels and restaurants in the city would benefit from the overflow. In one case, according to the local newspaper, "Every evening a large crowd of employees gather at the cabins at the west entrance to the Parry lodge grounds, where a large pay roll is distributed. Business houses, hotels and auto camps are all doing thriving businesses. The company [the Columbia Film Company] is certainly spending a great deal of money here in making the films for their production."<sup>9</sup> Among the movies filmed on location in Kanab were *Drums Along the Mohawk*, *Stagecoach*, *Billy the Kid*, *My Friend Flicka*, *Buffalo Bill*, *Pony Express* and *In Old Oklahoma* (the first outdoor talkie).

Each spring when a film crew arrived at the Parry Lodge, the residents of Kanab were somewhat star-struck. Rosalie Hatch, who grew up across the street from the motel, remembers sneaking out at night to peer through the rose bushes at the movie stars relaxing in the shady arbor around a fountain lit with colored lights.<sup>10</sup> (The garden-fountain area was later replaced by a kidney-shaped swimming pool.) One waitress tells a story about serving Clark Gable: she brushed up against his arm and reportedly wouldn't wash her arm for a week.<sup>11</sup> The residents of Kanab have many tales to tell about who was polite (Fred MacMurray), who was bossy (Barbara Stanwyck), who was a "cowboy's cowboy" (John Wayne) and who was a "drugstore cowboy" (Charlton Heston).<sup>12</sup> Jeff Miller, who worked as a teenage switchboard operator at Parry Lodge, remembers receiving a ten-dollar tip for taking some ice to a party. Later he walked around the room: "Movie stars had been there. I went around and touched things. I didn't wash my hand for days. I was sure I had stardust on my hands. It was a dream world, a highlight of my youth."<sup>13</sup> In turn, the stars were often profuse in their praise of the Parry Lodge. After staying at the lodge during the filming of 1948's *Green Grass of Wyoming*, Charles Coburn wrote "Fine food, fine beds, fine service, and I've had a damn fine time."<sup>14</sup>

After Chauncey's death in 1943, Whit Parry took over the whole operation. He subsequently bought out his brother Gronway's interest in the company as well. Gronway Parry remained at his home in Cedar City and died there on May 2, 1969. Whit Parry expanded the Parry Lodge property to a full half block when he bought the bungalow from Dana Findlay in 1944. Whit Parry was known as a perfectionist. The waitress uniforms and shoes "were white, with a handkerchief placed neatly in the breast pocket and a crisp white apron. No nail polish, no jewelry, and every hair in place was a must."<sup>15</sup> Whit was also very fussy about the food. During the winter off-season, he would travel the world searching for recipes to use in the motel's restaurant. The Parry

<sup>8</sup> *Kane County Standard*, March 12, 1943.

<sup>9</sup> *Kane County Standard*, June 9, 1939.

<sup>10</sup> Rosalie Hatch, interview conducted by author, July 5, 2002, Kanab, Utah.

<sup>11</sup> Quoted in Bradley, 233.

<sup>12</sup> "Parry Lodge and Its Technicolor Dreamcoat," *Utah Holiday Magazine*, September 1985: 57-66. Also "Parry Lodge: A Landmark Than and Now," *Southern Utah News*, August 6, 1981.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, 58.

<sup>14</sup> *History of Kane County*, 1960, 180.

<sup>15</sup> Danell Wudarski, "Whit Parry," available at the Utah State Historical Society.

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Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

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Lodge was an “elegant dining place,” the most expensive restaurant in town. Whit’s sisters also worked at the lodge. Kay Parry Plant made the salads, dressings, and hors d’oeuvres for special parties, while Mary Parry Page acted as hostess and decorated the lodge with fresh flowers.<sup>16</sup>

Whit could also be very accommodating for his special guests. He knocked-out walls for Frank Sinatra because the star wanted a larger room during his stay while filming *Sergeant’s Three* with his Rat Pack. With its fleet of mobile kitchens, Parry Lodge could cater hot meals for several hundred crewmembers and extras on location in the desert near Kanab. Under Whit Parry’s management, the Parry Lodge was voted “one of the 10 best roadside inns in the United States” in 1956.<sup>17</sup> The lodge was also featured in several national publications, including two *Saturday Evening Post* articles (in 1945 and 1949), and *Life* magazine (1968). After a short retirement in California, Caleb Whitney Parry died on June 23, 1967. The local paper ran a large headline that read “C.W. Parry, Movie Booster, Kanab Businessman, Dies.”

In the 1960s, the Parry Lodge suffered more than just the loss of Whit Parry. Interest in westerns was dwindling and so was the movie industry in Kanab. Though several Technicolor westerns and a number of television shows, such as *Gunsmoke*, were shot near Kanab in the 1950s and 1960s, the film industry was not the income generator it had been previously. However, the community still benefited from its proximity to the national parks and other recreational areas. By 1965, there were twelve motels in Kanab and three in nearby Fredonia, Arizona. Bernell Lewis, Kanab mayor and friend of Whit, bought the Parry Lodge in 1966. Lewis tried to maintain “the standards so that people couldn’t tell Whit wasn’t still running the lodge.”<sup>18</sup> Lewis’ sons, Jerry and Pat, renovated the motel rooms and changed the front landscaping. When they decided to go into another business, Lewis sold the Parry Lodge to Golden Circle Tours on January 7, 1971. The lodge expanded under its new ownership with the Kanab and Hamblin buildings constructed in 1972 and 1978 respectively.<sup>19</sup> Norman Cram, president of Golden Circle Tours, said that the lodge was interested in catering to people and tours wishing “to stay in the area for a few days while they visit the nearby national parks.”<sup>20</sup> In November 1978, Golden Circle tours sold the property to Ken Broadhead and his partners, Steven and Brent Heaton. Steven and Judy Heaton are the current owners.

Today the Parry Lodge continues to serve Kanab’s many visitors. Despite some modernization, the Parry Lodge retains an atmosphere of a bygone era. Though the lodge’s star-studded glory days are long gone, the signed autographs in the lobby are one reminder. Other reminders include the nameplates above the historic rooms with the names of the stars that stayed there. If the room is available, a patron can request to sleep where

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Frank Jensen, “Kanab – Southern Utah’s Cow-Town Tourist Stop,” *Desert Magazine*, September 1960.

<sup>18</sup> “Landmark.”

<sup>19</sup> In 1973 the old barn was converted to a live theater, “The Old Barn Playhouse.” Currently the theater is used only sporadically.

<sup>20</sup> Quoted in Bradley, 322.

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Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

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Walter Brennan, Gregory Pack, Maureen O'Hara, Tim Conway, or Julie Newmar slept, although the original furnishings are no longer there. The food and the service are still excellent. The Parry Lodge, which has never changed names with changes in ownership, is the best and most fitting tribute to the Parry brothers and their contribution to Kanab's tourism and movie-making industries.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 1

Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

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Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

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*United States Census, Kanab Precinct, 1900-1930.*

*Utah State Gazetteers, 1921-1931.*

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 1

Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

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### Common Label Information:

1. Parry Lodge
2. Kanab, Kane County, Utah
3. Photographer: Korral Broschinsky
4. Date: July 2002
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

### Photo No. 1:

6. South elevations of office and restaurant. Camera facing northwest.

### Photo No. 2:

6. South elevation of office (former Johnson house). Camera facing north.

### Photo No. 3:

6. Marquee detail. Camera facing east.

### Photo No. 4:

6. South elevation of office and dining room. Camera facing northwest.

### Photo No. 5:

6. South elevation of office, coffee shop and patio. Camera facing northeast.

### Photo No. 6:

6. East and south elevations of two cottages. Camera facing northwest.

### Photo No. 7:

6. South and east elevations of gift shop (former motel office) and Movie I row of cottages. Camera facing northwest.

### Photo No. 8:

6. South elevation of Movie III row of cottages. Camera facing northwest.

### Photo No. 9:

6. North and east elevations of Hamblin building. Camera facing southwest.

### Photo No. 10:

6. East elevation of Kanab building. Camera facing northwest.

### Photo No. 11:

6. East and north elevations of barn. Camera facing southwest.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 2

Parry Lodge, Kanab, Kane County, UT

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**Photo No. 12:**

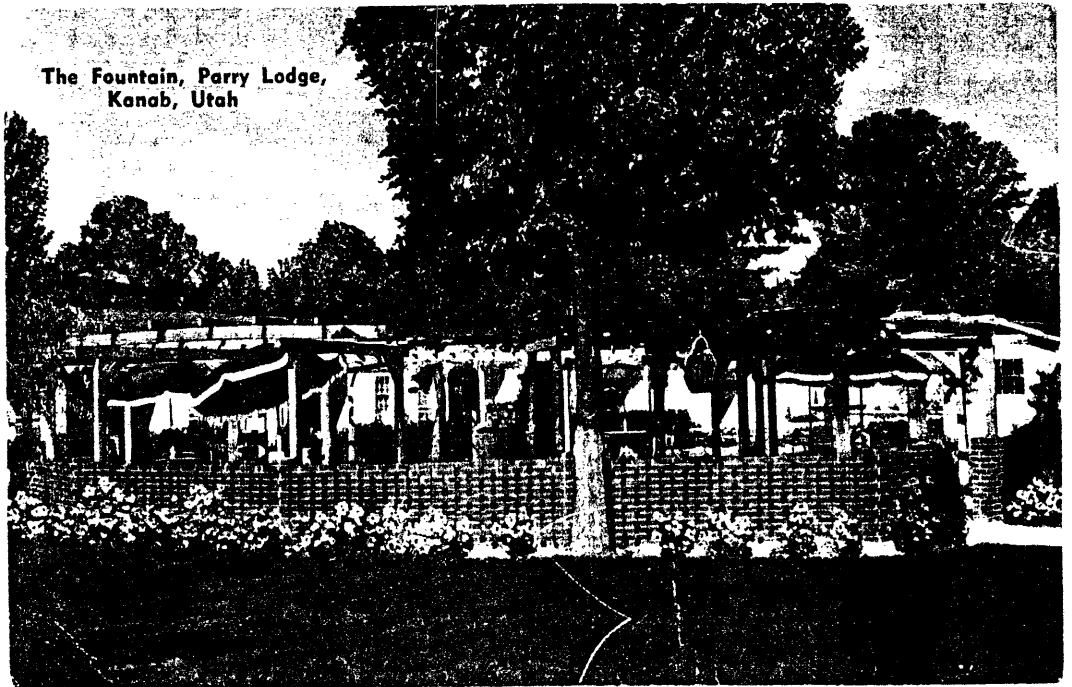
6. East and north elevations of Findlay house. Camera facing northwest.

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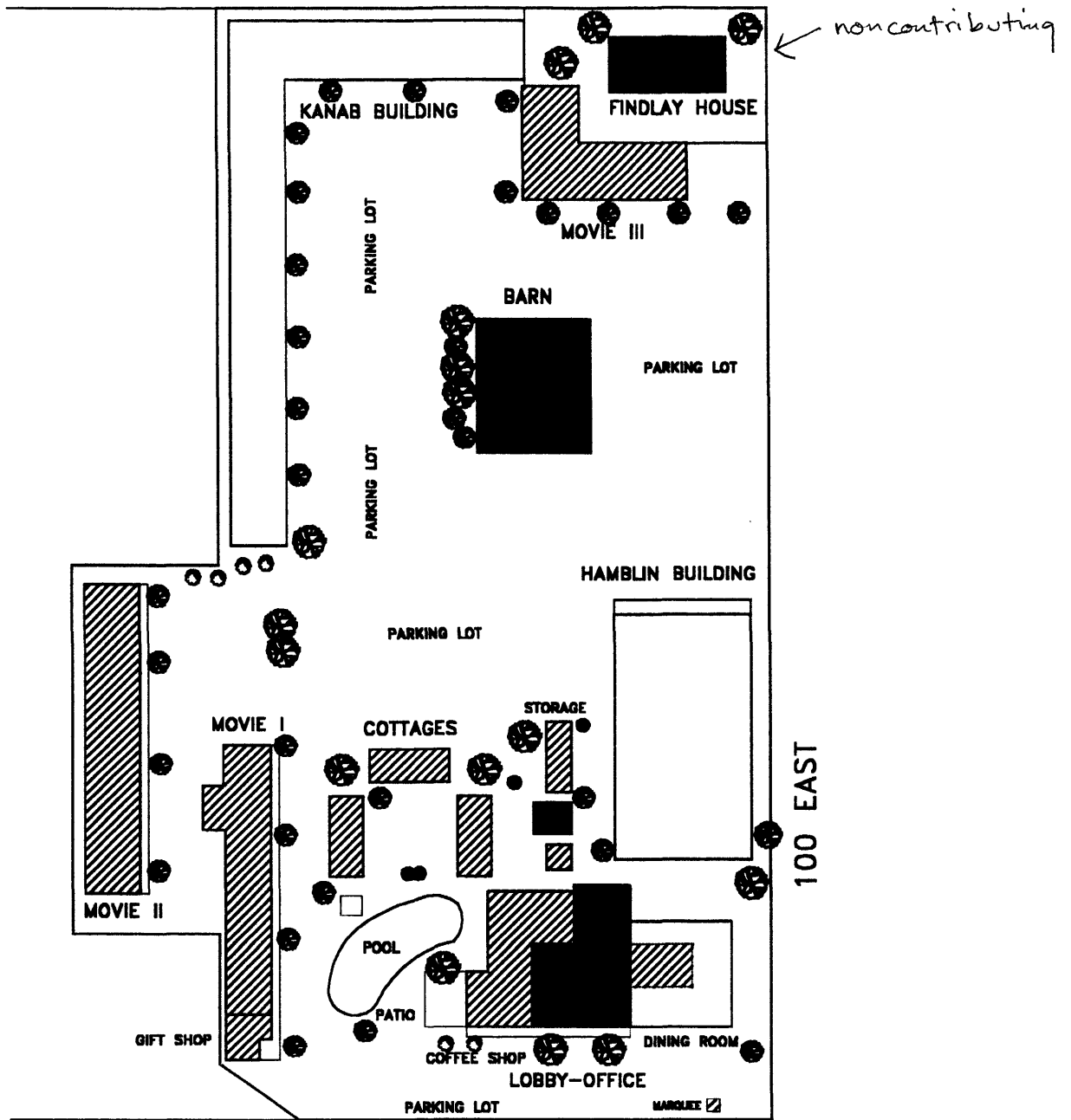
Parry's Lodge,  
Kanab, Utah



The Fountain, Parry Lodge,  
Kanab, Utah



c. 1940s Postcards



SITE PLAN  
2002  
NOT TO SCALE



CONSTRUCTION PHASES:  
 ■ circa 1890s - circa 1920  
 ▨ 1930 - circa 1950s  
 □ circa 1970s

PARRY LODGE  
89 EAST CENTER STREET  
KANAB, KANE CO., UTAH