

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRRS use only

received NOV 17 1980

date entered NOV 25 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Muir, David, House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 295 North 300 West St.  not for publicationcity, town Beaver  vicinity of congressional district 02

state Utah code 049 county Beaver code 001

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name John Stratton and Linda Bonar

street &amp; number Box 1062

city, town Beaver  vicinity of state Utah 84713

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Beaver County Courthouse

street &amp; number 105 East Center Street

city, town Beaver state Utah

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  nodate  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The David Muir House is a small, hall and parlor plan residence one story in height. There are four windows and a central door placed with bilateral symmetry across the front facade and an end-wall chimney at each gable end. The house is constructed of local black rock (basalt) and displays meticulous craftsmanship in its stonework. All the stone blocks on the front facade are well squared and the mortar joints are beaded in high relief. These mortar joints are raised approximately 1/2 inch and are of a uniform width, approximately 3/4 inch. Only the front facade displays cut stone and beaded mortar joints, the other three facades consisting of stuccoed rubble rock.

Also on the front of the house is a very unusual stone cross gable (unique in Beaver) that terminates in a gable at the top. The top is covered with brown granite coping and the coping rolls into scrolls that form brackets for a granite sphere.

The woodwork on the house includes a vernacular interpretation of an Eastlake style porch, the only such example still extant in Beaver. The eaves are trimmed with a plain, yet substantial, Greek Revival style cornice that form boxed returns on the gable ends.

Circa 1885 a one room lean-to was added on to the rear of the original two room house. It is built of a local pink rock (tuff) that comes from a quarry in the Beaver River Canyon. The pink rock quarry was commercially exploited beginning c. 1881, and because it was so much easier to work than the black basalt, the tuff soon became the exclusive building rock. Also at this same time, a pink rock granary with a basement was built towards the rear of the property. It is two rooms and its rock is well cut and well laid.

The second addition to the house was constructed c. 1895 and is situated on the rear, giving the home a rectangular plan with four rooms. The walls of this section consist of 2 x 4's infilled with roughly cut pink rock. Horizontal siding was then hung over the exterior while the interior was finished with lath and plaster.

# 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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** ca. 1873 **Builder/Architect** David Muir

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The David Muir house is a black rock, one story hall and parlor house built by the stone mason David Muir. Muir was a Scottish convert to the Mormon church, and worked frequently with Thomas Frazer, the stone mason responsible for most of the black rock homes in Beaver. Frazer's workbooks frequently refer to Muir's assistance. The stone cross gable with its granite trim is unique among all the stone houses in Beaver.

David Muir was born in Scotland and immigrated to Utah as a convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He lived first in Cedar City, Utah, before settling permanently (c. 1857) in Beaver. Muir was a stonemason and built his own home, from his own designs. This is the only extant building in Beaver that he built in its entirety and his style of construction is easily distinguished by two characteristics: 1) high-relief mortar joints, and 2) very nicely cut basalt blocks. Also unique to his home are a stone tower and a vernacular, Eastlake style porch (see description facing page).

Although this is probably the only building completely designed and built by David Muir in Beaver, Muir frequently worked for a contractor named Thomas Frazer. Frazer was a fellow Scots convert to the L.D.S. religion and both men learned their masonry skills in Scotland before immigrating to the new world. Frazer built most of the black rock buildings in Beaver and his extant workbooks (mostly from the 1880s) mention David Muir as his trusted and frequently employed assistant.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

The Thomas Frazer Journals, unpublished journals in possession of Miss Elsie Hales, Beaver, UT  
Monuments to Courage, published by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1949, Beaver, UT  
 Oral interviews with Mrs. Lucille Strong, and Mrs. Kate Bezanson.

# 10. Geographical Data

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acres of nominated property less than one  
 Quadrangle name Beaver, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A	1 2	3 5 6 0 0 0	4 2 3 7 7 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Lot 4, Blk 41, Plat A, Beaver City Survey.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda L. Bonar

organization Utah State Historical Society date May 1979

street & number 307 West 200 South telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City, state Utah

# 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 Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date October 24, 1980

For HCPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Bruce M. Douglas</u>	date <u>11/25/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Paula Souer Ped</u>	date <u>11/24/80</u>
Chief of Registration	