

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 49 East 500 North N/A not for publication

city or town Farmington N/A vicinity

state Utah code UT county Davis code 011 zip code 84025

### 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] 9/25/97  
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:)

[Signature] 10/30/97  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall

Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House  
Name of Property

Farmington, Davis 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>0</u>        | buildings  |
| _____        | _____           | sites      |
| _____        | _____           | structures |
| _____        | _____           | objects    |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</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**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup>

CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD, BRICK, CONCRETE

STUCCO

roof ASPHALT

other STONE

\_\_\_\_\_

**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

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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 7 Page 1

Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House, Farmington, Davis County, UT

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## **Narrative Description**

The John W., Janet (Nettie), and May Rich Taylor House is a two-story brick foursquare built c.1901 attached on the north side to a single story adobe house c. 1878. The foursquare (main) house faces south on a residential street in the center of Farmington and dominates the street scene. The lot has a sloping fully landscaped yard with lawn and thirteen mature trees which appear to date from the historic period.

The c.1878 single story rectangular block adobe house has a stone foundation and hand made brick covering the floor of the cellar. The walls are adobe covered with stucco. Most of the windows are historic double hung, wood sash, single light windows with wood lintels and sills. There are the remains of two chimneys in the attic that no longer extend through the low pitched hip roof. The kitchen is in this portion of the house and has a pine and fir hutch built into the west wall and tongue and groove cupboards on the east wall. A historic wood frame, drop sided one-car garage with a shed roof was added to the east side, probably in the 1920s. Another wood frame and drop sided addition was built on the west side, probably also in the 1920s. It projects west from the brick portion of the house far enough for a door to be in the south wall of this addition. There is a band of fixed wood windows with three lights divided by vertical muntins in the east elevation.

The two-story foursquare is constructed of red brick with white mortar and a concrete-faced stone foundation. The full width front porch has a hip roof supported by four massive square brick piers. Side lights with diamond shaped muntins and a leaded glass transom surround the main entrance door. A historic photo shows that the second floor large fixed pane windows with leaded glass transoms were replaced with pairs of one-over-one double hung windows in the original openings. All of the windows on the first floor have large fixed panes separated from their transoms by wooden dentil patterned trim, and the second floor windows are one-over-one double hung windows. However, a large chimney on the west elevation, and two large chimneys on the east elevation, impact the displacement and size of the windows which vary on these side elevations. The lintels and sills are concrete.

The interior of the main house is quite ornate in relation to its simple exterior. It retains much of its elaborate original woodwork, including two sets of pocket doors in the large first floor drawing room to the west. Some interior woodwork was originally grained to look like oak but has been painted. Five panel wood doors with transoms are used throughout the house. There are five fireplaces, one in each of the three rooms on the first floor and in the two bedrooms on the east side of the second floor. The mantles throughout are oak and have original ceramic tile and ornate, cast metal fire box fronts. The dining room mantle stands eight-and-a-half feet tall with large carvings of lion heads and serpents.

The plan of this house is somewhat unusual for a foursquare. Instead of having four roughly equal-sized square rooms on the first floor, the western side has one long room (the drawing room) extending the full depth of the house. The central hall appears to the rear of the house, between the drawing room and the dining room. The kitchen is located in the c.1878 adobe house.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House, Farmington, Davis County, UT

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During the 1940s the house was subdivided into apartments.<sup>1</sup> All but one apartment in the adobe house was removed in the 1970s to return the house to primarily single family use. In the early 1990s an apartment was added in the basement of the main house. There are currently two apartments (one in the basement of the main house and one in part of the adobe house).

The major exterior changes since original construction include removal of a hipped dormer on the south facade<sup>2</sup> and the addition of ventilation gablets on the roof. These changes do not greatly impact the integrity of the house which retains its historic integrity and remains basically as it was when the house was built in 1901.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

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<sup>1</sup> Telephone interview with the current owner, Karla Uffens, in May, 1997.

<sup>2</sup> There was a fire on the roof during the ownership of A.C. Christensen (1925-36). The dormer may have been removed during the roof repair.

Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House  
Name of Property

Farmington, Davis 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.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

c. 1901

### Significant Dates

c. 1901

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Brickwork: Edward Cottrell and

William Levedall

Carpenter: Joseph Christensen (?)

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House, Farmington, Davis County, UT

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

Built in 1901, the John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich Taylor House is significant architecturally as the only extant example of a foursquare house type in Farmington. A c.1878 single story adobe structure was expanded on its south side in 1901 by the addition of a two-story foursquare house type with Neoclassical stylistic elements. This early twentieth century architectural type was a rejection of the complex, asymmetrical compositions of the Victorian era. It looks back to the Classical geometric, symmetrically balanced structures of the early Mormon settlers. The foursquare was a popular house type in Utah from 1900 to 1920.<sup>3</sup>

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## HISTORY:

Davis County was used as common pasture land by the Mormon pioneers soon after their arrival in Salt Lake City in 1847. One of the originally assigned herders, Hector C. Haight, settled permanently in Farmington and is considered its founding father. Additional settlers arrived in Farmington and settled in a haphazard pattern on individual farm tracts, rather than in the planned manner of other Mormon villages. In 1853 Brigham Young, the President of the LDS church, requested that all Mormon communities wall themselves in as a protective measure against Indian troubles. Farmington was surveyed, blocks laid out and the walls for the fort begun,<sup>4</sup> but never completed and by the 1860s all walls were leveled (no portion of the walls remain).

In 1900, Janet Maria Woolley Taylor (Nettie) purchased the property that included a single-story adobe house<sup>5</sup> with her husband, John Whittaker Taylor.<sup>6</sup> Because the first and second wives (May Leona Rich and Nellie Eva Todd) lived nearby and John wanted to avoid jealousy among his wives, he stated that he was "fixing over a small house"<sup>7</sup> rather than building an entirely new house for his third wife. He wanted it to be, however, "the finest house in Farmington."<sup>8</sup> This desire to avoid an ostentatious exterior and still provide a fine interior may explain the restrained simple exterior and the contrasting ornate interior of the house.

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<sup>3</sup> Thomas Carter and Peter Goss. Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940. Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Graduate School of Architecture and Utah State Historical Society, 1991, p. 49.

<sup>4</sup> The walls were to be of mud ten feet high, four feet thick at the bottom and two and a half feet thick at the top.

<sup>5</sup> Leonis Hambin Kennard built the original single story adobe house in 1878.

<sup>6</sup> His name does not appear on the title.

<sup>7</sup> Samuel Woolley Taylor. Family Kingdom. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1951. p. 160.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House, Farmington, Davis County, UT

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John was born in Provo, Utah in 1858 as a son of the third president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), John Taylor, and his fifth wife, Sophia Whittaker. He was active in the LDS church, serving as an apostle from 1884 to 1905, eventually resigning over a disagreement on the ending of polygamy. He pursued a variety of business interests ranging from land speculation deals in Canada and the Utah desert, gold mines in Mexico, irrigation projects, and the development and marketing of a rungless ladder. City directories list him variously as merchant, book-keeper, stock raiser, real estate agent, apostle and capitalist.

Nettie was born in Grantsville, Utah in 1870 to Samuel Wickersham Woolley and his second wife, Rachael Cahoon. Nettie became John's third wife on October 10, 1890, in a carriage moving around Liberty Park in Salt Lake City, four days after the LDS church announced its decision to end polygamy in the Woodruff Manifesto.<sup>9</sup> They had eight children: Joseph, Raymond W., Paul W., Samuel W., Rachel (Sherwood), Ruth (Williams), Lillian (Hoover) and Dell (King). John married three additional wives during the time Nettie owned the house in Farmington; Eliza Roxie Welling and Rhoda Welling in 1901, and Ellen Georgina Sandberg in 1909. John was known as "The Champion of Plural Marriage" and even though the LDS church abandoned the concept in 1890, he continued to marry and practice the principle. He had six wives and thirty-six children by the time of his death in 1916.

John hired an architect for the plans of the house but he personally built the stone foundation of the house in 1901. A full basement was excavated to provide space for a family industry where the whole family could fulfill John Taylor's dream of "a family all working together, manufacturing, producing, consuming."<sup>10</sup> Nettie was left to oversee the rest of the building to completion. She hired Edward A. Cottrell and William Levedall to do the brick work and Joseph Christensen from South Farmington as the carpenter.<sup>11</sup> She arranged to have the front dormer added, to the chagrin of John.<sup>12</sup> Nettie finished the house and lived in it with her children.

The house was mortgaged to provide funds for one of John Taylor's business deals to irrigate the Utah desert, the Buckhorn project. The deal was not successful and the mortgage on the house was "lifted" by May Leona Rich, John's first wife, in 1909, as she took title of the house.<sup>13</sup> Nettie then moved to Provo with her children. She eventually bought and ran a boarding house until her children were grown. After the children left she divided the boarding house into apartments and moved into one of them. She was active in the LDS Relief Society and served as vice captain of Camp 46 of the

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<sup>9</sup> Jorgensen, Victor W. and B. Carmon Hardy. "The Taylor-Cowley Affair and the Watershed of Mormon History." Utah Historical Quarterly Vol 48, No. 1 (Winter 1980):11.

<sup>10</sup> Samuel Woolley Taylor, p. 241.

<sup>11</sup> Hess, Margaret S. My Farmington (Salt Lake City: Moench Letter Service, 1976).

<sup>12</sup> The family history refers to a "cupola" that was added by Nettie. A photograph c. 1923 shows a front dormer. It can be assumed that the "cupola" is really a dormer.

<sup>13</sup> Samuel Woolley Taylor, p. 236.

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Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House, Farmington, Davis County, UT

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Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Flower raising and reading were her hobbies. Nettie died in Provo in 1956.

May Leona Young Rich was born in 1865 in St. John, Utah to Agnes Eola Young and John Taylor Rich. She married John Whittaker Taylor in 1882 as his first wife and had six children. She bought the house at 49 East 500 North in 1909 and lived in it until she moved to Salt Lake City in 1920. At the time of the 1910 census in Farmington, May and John W. Taylor were living together with four of their children; May, Rhea, Avon and John R. While she was living there the house was known for its immaculate condition and its fireplaces, silver service, rugs and furniture.<sup>14</sup> She sold the house to A.C. Christensen in 1925.

A.C. Christensen was leasing the nearby Lagoon Amusement Park at the time he owned the house. At one point during his ownership of the house a fireworks display at Lagoon caused sparks that caught on the wind and started a fire on the roof, which may have been the point at which the front-facing dormer was removed. In 1936 May repurchased the house from Christensen and owned it again until 1946. She died at 101 in Los Angeles in 1966.

## ARCHITECTURE:

The foursquare or box house type was one of the most popular house types of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The simple cube-shape of the foursquare can be seen as a reaction to the asymmetrical massing and visual complexity of the Victorian styles that were popular in Utah beginning in 1880. The rectangular facade, centrally placed door and regularly spaced windows of the foursquare refer back to the Classical style houses of the early pioneer period from 1847 to 1890. They share with the foursquare symmetrical balance and Classical decorative features.

Mail order house catalogs can be used as an index to the popularity of house types and styles in the early twentieth century. Foursquares began to appear in 1900 and reached their peak in popularity around World War I. One appeared on the front cover of the Sears 1908 Book of Modern Homes and accounted for 25% of the house plans sold by Sears that year.<sup>15</sup> The foursquare was a popular house type in Utah from 1900 to 1920.

The Taylor house is a very early example of the foursquare type in Utah and the only extant one in Farmington.<sup>16</sup> It exhibits the basic characteristics of the two-story type with its cube shape, wide one-

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<sup>14</sup>Hess, Margaret S. p. .

<sup>15</sup> Robert Schweitzer and Michael W.R. Davis. America's Favorite Houses: Mail-Order Catalogues as a Guide to Popular Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Houses. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1970. p.

<sup>16</sup> A reconnaissance level survey of Farmington in 1991 reveals no other examples of the two-story foursquare house type in Farmington.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House, Farmington, Davis County, UT

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story front porch, and low hip roof. The characteristic centrally placed hipped dormer in the roof has been removed but was part of the original structure. Relatively simple Classical decorative features can be seen in the dentil molding between the large windows and transoms, the side lights around the main entry, and the clear leaded glass windows above the door. Classical elements also include the geometric composition, symmetrical facade and the balance in massing and detail.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 7 Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House, Farmington, Davis County, UT

## Bibliography

- Abstract of title, Davis County Recorders Office, Farmington, Utah. Lots 1,2,3,6, Block 26, Plat A, Books 1-0 431, 1-2 187, 2-E 462, 475 465, 511, 81, 57 962.
- 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.
- Davis County Building Permits, Davis County Building, Farmington, Utah.
- Hess, Margaret Steed. My Farmington. Salt Lake City, UT: Moench Letter Service, 1976, 22, 254, 382.
- Jorgensen, Victor W. and B. Carmon Hardy. "The Taylor-Cowley Affair and the Watershed of Mormon History." Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. 48, No. 1 (Winter 1980): 4-36.
- Mayfield, Marvel. Interview held April 6, 1978, at her home in Farmington by Karla Uffens..
- Massey, James C. and Shirley Maxwell. "The All American Family House, " Old House Journal (Nov/Dec 1995): 29-33.
- "May Rich Taylor." Salt Lake Tribune (August 17, 1966): C4.
- Moon, Emma Taylor. The Ancestors and Descendants of John Whittaker Taylor. Farmington, UT: n.d. Copy in possession of David and Karla Uffens.
- "Nettie Taylor, LDS Apostle Widow, Dies." Salt Lake Tribune (January 10, 1956):8.
- Polk, R. L. Salt Lake City Directory. Salt Lake City, UT: R.L. Polk & Co., 1885-5, 1888-9, 1892-5, 1898-1915.
- Schweitzer, Robert and Davis, Michael W.R. America's Favorite Houses: Mail-Order Catalogues as a Guide to Popular Early 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Houses. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1970.
- Taylor, Samuel Woolley. Family Kingdom. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1951.
- U.S. Thirteenth Census of Population. 1910.
- Van Wagoner, Richard S. and Steven C. Walker. A Book of Mormons. Salt Lake City, UT: Signature Books, 1982, 361-365.

Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House  
Name of Property

Farmington, Davis County, Utah  
City, County, and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 4/2/4/5/3/0 4/5/3/7/6/8/0 B 1 11111 111111  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 11111 111111 D 1 11111 111111

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at a point 10 rods west from the southeast corner of Block 26, Plat "A", Farmington Townsite survey; and running thence North 143.81 feet; thence West 115.405 feet; thence south 56 deg. 39'42" west 36.056 feet; thence south 125 feet; thence east 145 feet to the point of beginning.

Property Tax No. 07:020:0026

   See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those that were historically and continue to be associated with the building.

   See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Karla Uffens, owner; Beatrice Lufkin, USHPO intern  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date May, 1997  
street & number 49 East 500 North telephone (801) 451-5733  
city or town Farmington state UT zip code 84025

**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 David and Karla Uffens  
street & number 49 East 500 North telephone (801) 451-5733  
city or town Farmington state UT zip code 84025

**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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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Section No. PHOTOS Page 8 Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie) and May Rich, House, Farmington, Davis County, UT

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**Common Label Information:**

1. Taylor, John W., Janet (Nettie), and May Rich, House
2. Farmington, Davis County, Utah
3. Photographer: Karla Uffens
4. Date: March 1997
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

**Photo No. 1:**

6. South elevation of building. Camera facing north.

**Photo No. 2:**

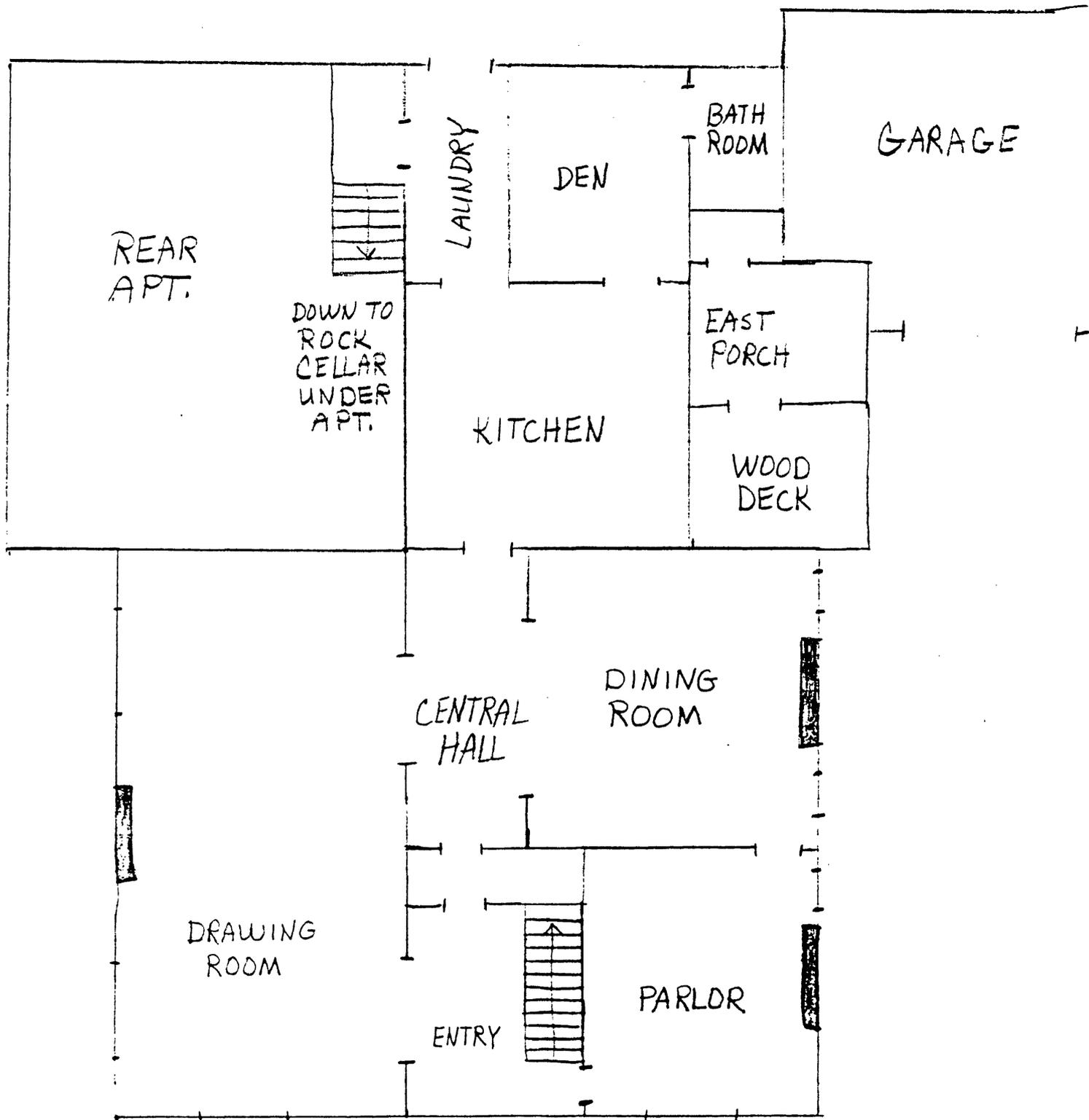
6. South and east elevations of building. Camera facing northwest.

**Photo No. 3:**

6. East elevation of building. Camera facing west.

**Photo No. 4:**

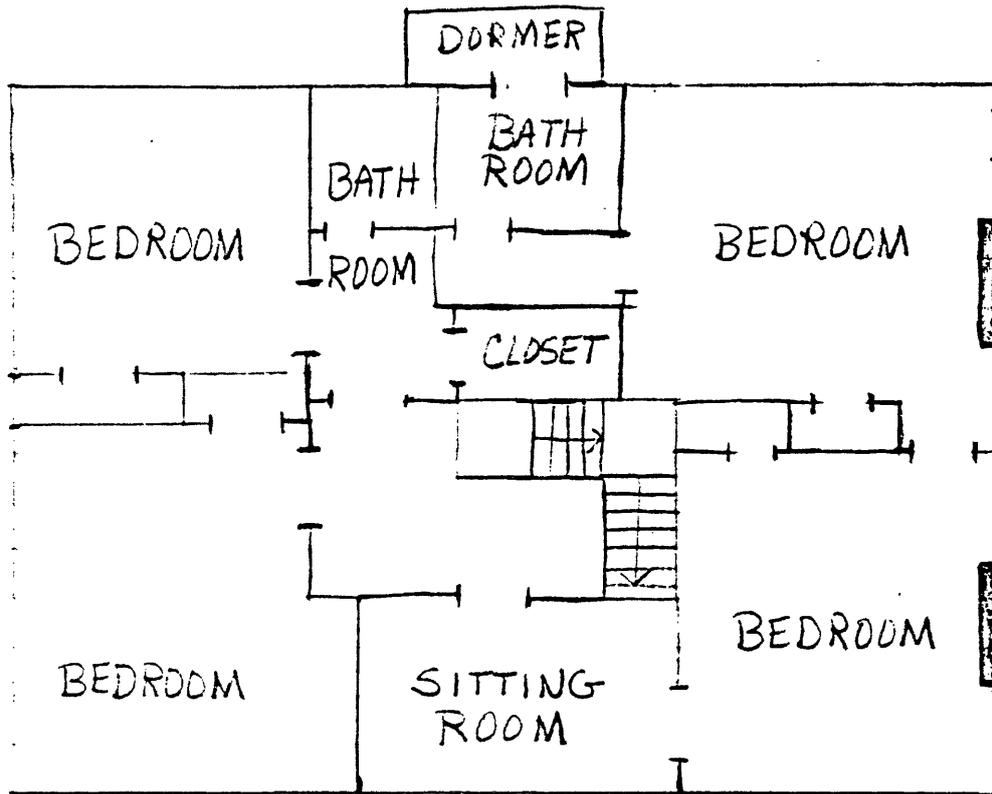
6. West elevation of building. Camera facing east.



MAIN FLOOR PLAN

↑  
North

FRONT SECTION - C. 1900  
 REAR SECTION - C. 1878



↑  
NORTH

SECOND FLOOR  
OF  
BRICK ADDITION