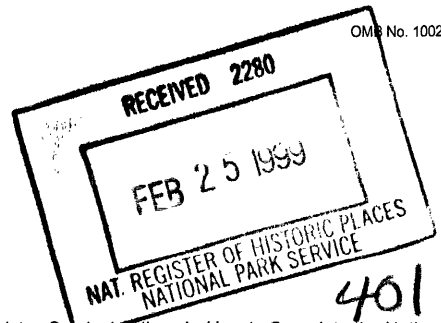


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 Fenn/Bullock, House

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

### 2. Location

street & number 388 West 100 North N/A not for publication

city or town Vernal N/A vicinity

state Utah code UT county Uintah code 047 zip code 84078

### 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.)

Wilson S. McA 2/12/99  
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 of the Keeper Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 3/25/99

Fenn/Bullock, House  
Name of Property

Vernal, Uintah 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	Non-contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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: single dwelling

**7. Description**

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

LATE VICTORIAN: Victorian Eclectic

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls WOOD: drop siding  
roof ASPHALT: shingle  
other Walls: WOOD: shingle

**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

Fenn/Bullock, House  
Name of Property

Vernal, Uintah 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.)

**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**

Unknown, possibly Richard & Lorenzo Fenn  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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:

Uintah County Public Library

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

Fenn/Bullock, House  
Name of Property

Vernal, Uintah 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 6/2/4/2/0/0 4/4/7/9/3/2/0 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 the southwest corner of lot 3, Block 5, Plat "C"; thence north 139 feet; thence east 104 feet; thence south 134 feet; thence west 104 feet to the beginning.

Property Tax No. 05-023-0036

     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 Cory Jensen/Utah SHPO Staff  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date January 29, 1999  
street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone 801/533-3559  
city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84101

**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 Vivian L. Gamble  
street & number 388 West 100 North telephone 435/789-0075  
city or town Vernal state UT zip code 84078

**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 Continuation Sheet

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Fenn/Bullock, House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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## Narrative Description

The Fenn/Bullock House, built c.1901, is a one and one-half story, wood-frame and drop siding building on stone foundation. Very little has been altered on the building's exterior. The house is a good representation of Victorian-era housing, combining several different Victorian design elements in an eclectic format. The Fenn/Bullock house is a rather large house for the Uintah Basin area, and the side-passage plan is one of only two of this type recorded in the city of Vernal. The house is located in a neighborhood a few blocks from the city center, and is the largest house in the immediate area, being surrounded by smaller bungalows and cottages dating from the 1910s-40s.

The Fenn/Bullock house, with its combination of an asymmetrical facade, various projecting bays, and decorative wood trim and embellishment, is similar to Victorian Eclectic houses commonly found in the more populated areas of the state during that era.<sup>1</sup> The main stylistic influences appear to be the Eastlake and Queen Anne styles. The exterior surface of the house is clad in 1" x 8" drop siding, with vertical tongue-and-groove siding at the water table on all facades but the north. Wood quoins are located on all corners of the building. Other decorative wooden elements include a spindled porch frieze, decoratively sawn and chamfered porch columns, lathe-turned balusters, brackets on either side of the upper-story windows, and a dentil molding on the front bay window.

The front (south) facade steps forward in a series of projections, beginning with a hipped-roof, octagonal bay window. The bay has three one-over-one, double-hung wooden sashes, and is faced with recessed wooden panels below the windows. This bay is attached to the front of a larger gabled bay which projects out approximately four feet from the main facade. The larger bay features a triangular pediment broken by a coupled window. This window is flanked on either side by decorative brackets. Wood lattice work is applied at the corners of the pediment. The main facade from which the bays project has similar lattice work in the corners of its pediment and also features octagonally cut shingles in the upper portion of the gable. A one-over-one, double-hung sash is situated to the right of the projecting gabled bay at the upper story, and is also flanked by decorative brackets.

The recessed front entrance to the house is accessed through an Eastlake-inspired, covered porch that wraps around from the south facade to the east facade. The porch is of poured concrete construction and is covered with a hipped porch roof supported by three columns and two engaged columns. The columns are not lathe-turned, but are chamfered and sawn to give the appearance of a Victorian-style, turned column, and are probably a locally manufactured remedy to an expensive embellishment. Located between the columns below the roof is a spindled frieze with decorative wood inserts on either side of the columns, and a lathe-turned, spindled balustrade at the base.

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<sup>1</sup>According to data gathered from reconnaissance surveys conducted throughout the state. Larger, "High-style" Victorian houses were not as commonly built in the more rural settlements.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Fenn/Bullock, House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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The east and west facades of the house are dominated by the gables of a rear cross wing and are similar in design. Both gables feature triangular pediments broken only by centrally placed, coupled windows flanked by decorative brackets. At the center of the wing is a brick chimney. Another chimney on the west facade was shortened at an unknown time. Also the bedroom window in the west facade was recently enlarged and replaced with a french door. At the rear of the house is surface bulkhead door that provides access to the cellar below the northwest bedroom.

The interior has undergone some alteration but the current owners are restoring it to the original configuration. A partition wall, which enclosed the rear third of the parlor, was added at an unknown time and has recently been removed to reopen the space. Two doorways had also been enclosed on the main level; one, which provided access from the entry hall to the kitchen at the northeast corner of the house, was enclosed to add a bathroom. The other provided access from the former dining room (now a bedroom) at the northwest corner to the kitchen. The bathroom addition has recently been removed, and the enclosed kitchen/bedroom doorway has been reopened. The kitchen area has been updated with modern cabinets and appliances, but other than these items, little else has been altered on the interior. Most of the original woodwork, including moldings, doors, and the stairway balustrade still remain. The owners are currently doing restoration work on the interior, including painting and plastering of damaged walls.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Fenn/Bullock, House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

The Fenn/Bullock House, built c.1901, is significant under criterion C as an important, distinguishable architectural type in the city of Vernal, Utah. The house is side passage in plan, a type that is rare in Vernal, with only two other examples remaining. The side passage represented a progression from the vernacular Classical and the cross-wing house types as traditional building forms became increasingly influenced by popular types in the late 1800s.<sup>2</sup> The Fenn/Bullock House stands out as probably the best and largest extant example of a "high-style" Victorian residence in the city. Most of the Vernal's early buildings date from the turn of the century when the population became more established and began to increase in size, but this house is unique in Vernal. Although there are modest examples of Victorian architecture in the city, the size of this house, coupled with the side-passage plan, is quite uncommon. The intact historical integrity and the architectural attributes of the house allow it to be easily recognized and associated with the turn-of-the-century development of Vernal.

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The city of Vernal is located in the Ashley Valley, named in honor of William H. Ashley, an early trapper who entered the area in 1825. Located in the northeast corner of the state, and surrounded by various mountain ranges, the Ashley Valley was one of the last areas in the state to be settled. Brigham Young, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon or LDS church), who directed the settlement of the Utah Territory, feared that the proposed Pony Express route through the Ashley Valley would bring settlers who were hostile to the LDS faith, so he sent a scouting party to survey the area in 1861. The report from the party was that "The area was one vast contiguity of waste, and measurably valueless, excepting for nomadic purposes, hunting grounds for Indians, and to hold the world together."<sup>3</sup> This report discouraged Young's attempt to settle the area for the time being. But he was not the only one discouraged by the findings of the report, for the area was also rejected as a possible Pony Express route. Also in 1861, President Abraham Lincoln established the Uintah Indian Reservation south and west of Vernal, and placed Captain Pardon Dodds in charge as the agent. After his release in 1873, Dodds settled in the area northwest of present-day Vernal to raise cattle. What followed was typical frontier settlement, with trappers, prospectors, and drifters moving to and through the area.

Families began to move to the valley in 1878. Because of Indian/Anglo skirmishes in nearby Colorado, a fort was constructed in what became known as Ashley Center. After the fort was disassembled many settlers remained and a post office was requested, but because there was already a town named Ashley, the post office was assigned the name Vernal. Growth in Vernal was slow and somewhat uncoordinated. Settlement did not follow the typical pattern of development of most Mormon settlements in the state,

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<sup>2</sup>Thomas Carter, "Traditional Design in an Industrial Age: Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Victorian Utah," Journal of American Folklore, Vol. 104, (Winter 1991, 433-437).

<sup>3</sup>Deseret News (September 25, 1861).

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Fenn/Bullock, House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

where the town was laid out in grid fashion according to Joseph Smith's "Plat of the City of Zion."<sup>4</sup> Later though, in 1884, the LDS church assisted in the organization of Vernal into a town, but actual incorporation did not occur until 1897. At this time the community began to slowly increase in population, as more businesses were established and houses constructed. The community was largely self-sufficient because of a lack of railroad access. And even when the Uintah Railway Company (a narrow gauge line mainly used for hauling gilsonite from the mines to the D&RGW railroad spur in Dragon, approximately forty miles to the southeast) was introduced in 1904, it was hardly sufficient to allow for much social or economic change in the area.

## HISTORY

In July 1896, at a time when Vernal's population and building were gaining a foothold, Lorenzo R. Fenn purchased the land on which the Fenn/Bullock house is located from A. J. Johnston for \$150. Whether this was Lorenzo Richard Fenn, second child of Richard Ephraim and Sarah Grace Lewis Fenn<sup>5</sup>, or another Lorenzo Fenn, is not known. Lorenzo Richard Fenn was born in Provo, Utah, on April 4, 1884, so he would have been twelve when he purchased the land. More than likely, it was another Lorenzo R. Fenn, possibly a relative, from whom Richard purchased the property in 1904. Richard Fenn and his family moved to the Uinta Basin in 1894, and the house was constructed c.1901 (the date provided in the tax file). Apparently, the father and son were both carpenters, and possibly built the house. Lorenzo is listed as a "single man" when he sold the property to Richard.

Richard was born in Provo on May 26, 1860, to William and Sarah Yarnell Fenn. After attending Provo city schools he became a carpenter. Among the projects on which he assisted were the Salt Lake LDS Temple, preparing it for dedication ceremonies in 1893, the Utah LDS Stake Tabernacle in Provo, and a school building in Vernal. In 1881 Richard married Sarah Lewis in Salt Lake City. His obituary states that he moved to Roosevelt, a community approximately 20 miles southwest of Vernal, in 1904.<sup>6</sup> His history at this point is somewhat perplexing. Apparently, Sarah did not go to Vernal to live with Richard for the five children that Sarah had were listed as being born in Provo (including Lorenzo), Salt Lake City, and

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<sup>4</sup>Throughout Utah, settlement patterns were based on the "Plat of the City of Zion" that was outlined by the Mormon prophet and leader Joseph Smith. The plan, though not fully implemented, served as a model for Mormon settlements across the west under the direction of Brigham Young. The plats were one mile square, the blocks were ten acres each and forty rods square, and the lots were laid off alternately within the squares. The towns were set out in a grid pattern with the public buildings and a church located in the center of town, surrounded by residences, with the outlying areas being used as farmland. Mormon settlements became characterized by in-town family farmsteads and outlying farm fields. Out-migration became inevitable as populations grew, but much of the old pattern originating in the Plat of the City of Zion has persisted to the present in most Utah towns.

<sup>5</sup>This name is provided in family history records. Richard's obituary lists her name as Sarah Jane Jones Lewis.

<sup>6</sup>There are several conflicting dates and information concerning the Fenns. Besides the fact that there were probably two Lorenzo R. Fenns, Lorenzo Richard Fenn's obituary states that the family moved to the Uinta Basin (where Vernal is located) in 1894, while Richard's states that he moved to Roosevelt (also in the Uinta Basin) in 1904, the same year that he purchased the house in Vernal. It is possible that the family moved somewhere in the Uinta Basin in 1894 before moving to Roosevelt in 1904. Some marriage and birth dates are also confusing.



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Alma, Wyoming. Sarah passed away in October 1892, in Salt Lake City, three weeks after her last child was born.

A family record lists another wife of Richard, Josephine Smith Hill, as living in Vernal where all of her eight children were born. According to the record she was married to Richard on the same day as Sarah, July 7, 1881, but this is obviously incorrect since she was born in 1879, and would have been only two years old when married, (their official marriage date is not known). Apparently according to various items in the local newspaper, Richard was often in trouble for fighting, delinquent taxes, etc., and Josephine divorced him in 1914. She moved to Mackay, Idaho, after marrying John Thompson. Richard continued his carpentry work in Vernal and the surrounding area where various newspaper accounts show him residing in Vernal until 1918, when he moved to Cedar View, Utah. Richard then married again in 1921, to a Mrs. Maxfield in Salt Lake City. He sold the house in 1909, to John K. Bullock.

John Bullock was a prominent citizen of Vernal and probably the most famous owner of the house (the house is locally known as the Bullock House). He was born in Provo on June 9, 1861, to Kimball and Martha Bullock, and moved to the Ashley Valley in 1879 to ranch before settling in Vernal in 1895. John married Adelaide "Addie" Burton in 1900. After moving to Vernal he continued to maintain a farm. In 1907 he became the treasurer for the Vernal Milling and Light Company flour mill. Perhaps John's biggest accomplishment in Vernal, however, was his assistance in the organization of the Uintah State Bank in 1910. This was the second major bank in Vernal and was established as a result of prejudicial business practices of the officers of the first bank in the city, the Bank of Vernal.<sup>7</sup> John was on the original board of directors and was the first treasurer of the bank. He was also active in civic affairs and belonged to many fraternal organizations, including the A. F. and M. of Provo, and the Vernal Lodge I.O.O.F. He also had the distinction of being the oldest living member of the Storey Lodge. At the time he purchased this house John was serving as mayor of Vernal; a position he held from 1908-09. It was during his term that electric lights were installed in the city. John and Addie had two children, but Addie passed away on February 19, 1923. Apparently, John remarried, for his obituary lists two stepchildren, but his second wife's name is not provided. He continued to live in the house until August 1929, when he deeded the property to Isabrand and Mary Merkley Sander.

Little information is provided for the Sanders or other subsequent occupants. Isabrand managed the Vernal Drug and Golden Rule Store. It appears from the title that he and Mary owned the house from 1929-38 when they sold it to Herbert M. and Pearl Snyder. Again, little information is provided for the Snyders. According to an article in "Historic Sites and Homes of Uintah County"<sup>8</sup> Herb was a Uintah County Sheriff for many years, and Pearl was a music teacher at Central School. In 1943, the property was sold to Harvey and Auleen Hullinger. Harvey was a principal in the Uintah School District. He was

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<sup>7</sup>Doris Karren Burton, A History of Uintah County: Scratching the Surface, (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1996, 155-157).

<sup>8</sup>No compiler or date provided.

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also a bishop for the LaPoint LDS Ward, and served four missions for the LDS church. The house remained in the Hullinger family's ownership until 1970. The current owner, Vivian Gamble, ran an interior decorating business in the house, and then divided the building into a triplex. Currently, she is restoring the interior to its original plan for use as a single-family residence, and reversing many changes that have occurred over the years. Some of these changes include removing later walls that replaced doorways (see floor plan) and divided rooms, and stripping later coats of paint.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Vernal was settled much later and in a less organized manner than most of Utah's communities. Because of the later settlement date, the early architecture of the town reflects both vernacular and the then-current Victorian styles. Victorian forms were popular in Utah 1885-1915, and the style of the Fenn/Bullock house represents the changes that were occurring in Utah at the turn of the century. The side-passage house type with Victorian Eclectic styling is important in symbolizing the end of Utah's isolation in the late nineteenth century; although in communities such as Vernal the isolation would linger. Pattern-book styles and standardized building components were more available and easily adapted for use with local materials. The popular Picturesque and Victorian styles, as published in the pattern books, influenced and transformed the local traditional building forms so that the architecture obtained a regional and even national homogeneity.<sup>9</sup> The quality of design and workmanship were also affected by technological developments during the Victorian era.<sup>10</sup> The former isolation of Utah was no longer an obstacle to building well. Although there is not a lack of Victorian Eclectic-style buildings in the state, it is an important building style in Vernal because it was the first major style used at the time of the city's establishment and early population influx during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century. In terms of numbers, after the 83 bungalows identified in the city, the Victorian Eclectic is the most common style for historic buildings, with 42 being recorded.<sup>11</sup>

The most common floor plans for Victorian-era houses in Utah were the cross-wing, the central-block-with-projecting-bays and the side-passage, all of which were very popular in the larger settlement areas. The side-passage plan consists of a rectangular block with the narrow, gable end facing the street and containing the main entrance. Like the central-block-type house, the side passage also contains projecting bay windows and wings, although it is slightly more symmetrical in design.<sup>12</sup> The side-passage type

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<sup>9</sup>Carter, "Traditional Building Practices in an Industrial Age," (Op. cit., 425-428).

<sup>10</sup> Thomas Carter and Peter Goss, Utah's Historic Architecture 1847-1940: A Guide, (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1988, 110-111).

<sup>11</sup>Statistical information is based on a 1986 reconnaissance survey. Although no recent surveys have been conducted, the numbers have most likely decreased, thus making this type and style even more rare.

<sup>12</sup>Carter and Goss, op.cit., 44.

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Fenn/Bullock, House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

originated with the Greek Revival temple-front house in the mid-nineteenth century.<sup>13</sup> This type situated the gable end of the building toward the street as the main facade, with the entryway located to one side of the facade. Often, a cross wing would be added at the rear to make the house larger, with the main entrance opening to a passage that contained a stairway to the upper floor. When the Mormons migrated to Utah, the idea of the side-passage type came with them and was implemented in residential design, most commonly the Italianate and various Victorian styles.<sup>14</sup>

The progression from the temple-front side passage to the greater asymmetry of the Victorian version can be seen in the recessed front entry beneath a covered porch that usually wraps around from the front. The plan was further altered by receiving projections to many, if not all, of the facades, usually in the form of octagonal or box bays that allow for greater illumination of the interior. Add to these revisions steeply pitched gables and wood ornamentation, and the Victorian side passage little resembles its progenitor. While the more common cross-wing and central-block plans are found in ten houses each in Vernal, the side passage is found in only two buildings, including the Fenn/Bullock House, making this house even more unique in the community.

Unlike Vernal, most of the typical early Mormon settlements were established in an organized manner with the idea of permanence consciously wrought in the architectural fabric of the buildings. Because of their isolation, early settlers in Utah used indigenous materials in building construction. Stone was a common early building material. And, although brick was used where good quality, fire-grade clay was available, for practical purposes, unfired adobe bricks were more common in most areas of the territory because of the ease of manufacturing them. But, even if these materials in themselves lent an aura of permanence to the architecture, they were commonly disguised with a layer of stucco that was oftentimes scribed to appear as ashlar masonry, thus reinforcing the idea of permanence. The austere, Classical forms of architecture that were built during this period applied these permanent materials in such a way as to express artificiality and man's control over nature.<sup>15</sup>

The Victorian-era designers sought to change this tenet by expressing man's relationship with, rather than control over, nature. They did this by using more-organic and less-rigid forms in housing design. Although brick was used, wood, because of its versatility, seemed to be the material of choice to accomplish this concept. From the 1870s on, buildings designed in the more expressive Victorian styles were becoming

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<sup>13</sup>William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects: The Colonial and Neoclassical Styles, (Garden City, New York: Anchor Press, Doubleday, 1976), 450.

<sup>14</sup>Based on data from reconnaissance surveys conducted in communities throughout the state.

<sup>15</sup>Thomas Carter, "Cultural Veneer: Decorative Plastering in Utah's Sanpete Valley," Utah Historical Quarterly, vol. 49 no.1, (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1975, 68-77).

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Fenn/Bullock, House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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increasingly popular because of improvements in wood machining technology<sup>16</sup> and also because of the introduction of the railroad to Utah which made available manufactured materials.

Of the earlier examples of building materials used in Vernal, wood siding, in its various forms, is by far the most common with 90 recorded examples (followed by stucco, 53, and brick, 41). Vernal's location near the Uintah Mountains with their vast stands of coniferous trees meant that a large supply of wood was available for construction. Although the town was established during the Victorian era, not all of Vernal's early architecture is strictly Victorian in style. In fact, most buildings are quite vernacular and follow more in the pattern of frontier settlements that implemented wood construction for the sake of expediency. The Fenn/Bullock House is unique, particularly in its remote setting, in that it represents the epitome of the Victorian architectural concepts, being probably the best extant example of a high-Victorian-style residence in Vernal that implements wood as the primary fabric to express the ideals of Victorian architecture.

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<sup>16</sup>Herbert Gottfried, "The Machine and the Cottage: Building, Technology, and the Single-Family House, 1870-1910," Industrial Archeology, vol. 21, no. 2, Society for Industrial Archaeology, 1996, 47-68). Advances in woodworking machinery during this era made available mass-produced building components and intricately detailed embellishments that heretofore had been difficult and costly to obtain.

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Fenn/Bullock House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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Fenn/Bullock House, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

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**Common Label Information:**

1. Fenn/Bullock House
2. Vernal, Uintah County, Utah
3. Photographer: Cory Jensen
4. Date: December 1998
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

**Photo No. 1:**

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

**Photo No. 2:**

6. North & east elevations of building. Camera facing southwest.

**Photo No. 3:**

6. South & west elevations of building. Camera facing northeast.

**Photo No. 4:**

6. North elevation of building. Camera facing southeast.

The Richard and Josephine Fenn Home 388 West 100 North c.1996

