

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received OCT 5 1982

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Mitton, Samuel Crowthers, House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 242 East Main Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Wellsville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district \_\_\_\_\_

state Utah code 049 county Cache code 05

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Preston and Viline Murray

street & number 242 W. Main Street

city, town Wellsville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cache County Courthouse

street & number 179 West Main

city, town Logan \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  no

date Summer 1980 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Samuel C. Mitton house in Wellsville, built c. 1865, is a large, two-story, frame example of the two-room deep "double-pile", central hall vernacular house type in Utah. This double-pile house, growing out of the Georgian stylistic influence on traditional building forms during the late eighteenth century,<sup>1</sup> is one of the basic vernacular housing types found in Utah during the 1850-80 period. The largest and most prestigious of the early Utah house types, the central-hall "double-pile" house is encountered only infrequently in comparison to the ubiquitous smaller, one-room deep variety, and as such, is a significant form in and of itself.

The Mitton house plan is basically two rooms wide and two rooms deep, with a central passageway containing the staircase inserted into the middle (see floorplan drawing). The house originally was divided into two rooms on the east side only, with the west side being left open and functioning as the best room or parlor. A hipped roof rear extension seems to have been an early--perhaps c. 1880--addition to the house. The house itself has a distinctive hipped roof, a symmetrical five-bay facade, and decorative features include scroll-cut trim along the eaves and frieze, architrave window trim, and a transom and side lights bordering the unusual three-paneled front door. The eclecticism of the design is further enhanced by the paired brackets on the ornamental frieze.

The Mitton house is constructed of 2" x 4" balloon framing and covered with clapboard siding. The studs are circular sawn, spaced about 2 feet apart, and nailed into the upper and lower plate beams. The gaps between the studs were infilled with adobe bricks. The siding also displays the marks of the circular saw blade and is attached with cut, square nails.

Exterior alterations to the Mitton house include the removal of the two brick chimneys which were placed internally on the ridge at the break of the hip, the removal of a small, balconied porch over the front door, the closing of the second story door on the facade, and the placing of shutters on all the windows. Also, several years ago the present owner intended to plaster the house. For this purpose the clapboards were removed, turned over, and then replaced flush against the framing studs. The work never was completed, and the reversed siding only appears on the first story of the east end. Interior alterations include the removal of the room partition in the east section and reversing the staircase. These alterations do not detract from the architectural and historical integrity of the Mitton house. (The greater part of the alterations were made in the 1950s.)

<sup>1</sup>Henry Glassie, Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), pp. 49-54. Glassie states that, "The classic floor plan of the Georgian type consisted of two rooms on each side of a broad central hall."

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

**Specific dates** ca. 1865 **Builder/Architect** Samuel C. Mitton

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

The Samuel C. Mitton house, built c. 1865, is historically important as an example of the "central-hall, double-pile" vernacular house type in Utah. A product of the influence of the Georgian architectural style in eighteenth century America, the double-pile type became a distinctive feature on the westward moving northern frontier and is found in Utah as one of a limited number of house forms popular during the 1850-80 period.<sup>1</sup> The double-pile house, in its two-story, central-hall configuration, was the largest and most prestigious house type in early Utah and is not encountered in great numbers.<sup>2</sup> The builder and owner of the home, Samuel Crowthers Mitton, was an early English convert to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who emigrated to the Mormon settlements in Illinois in the late 1840s. Following the expulsion of the Saints from Illinois and the trek to Utah, Mitton lived north of Salt Lake City until moving with the first group of settlers to the site of Wellsville, in Cache Valley, in 1859. For several years the people in Wellsville lived in a fort composed of log cabins, but in the mid-1860s the conditions were such that new, permanent homes could be built. Samuel Mitton was a cabinetmaker and carpenter by trade and, in addition to his own frame house, worked on or helped build many of the early houses in Wellsville. The lumber for the Mitton house was milled at nearby Millville, and the house is one of the earliest completely wooden structures remaining in Utah.

Samuel Crowthers Mitton was born at Halifax, York, England in 1836. His parents, William and Hannah Crowthers Mitton, converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the 1840s and about 1847 moved their family to the Mormon settlement at Nauvoo, Illinois. William Mitton died in Nauvoo in 1849. Samuel Mitton, along with his mother, joined the Mormon western migration in the early 1850s and initially settled in Farmington, Utah, a town just north of Salt Lake City. In 1859, Mitton moved to Cache Valley and was among the first settlers of this important northern extension of Mormon occupation in the Great Basin territory. On December 25, 1861, he married Mary Ann Bailey, also an original settler of Wellsville. Mitton was a carpenter and cabinetmaker whose skills are amply evident on the five frame houses he erected in the town during the mid-1860s. The Mittons occupied the house until 1902. The present owners have owned the house since the 1930s.

<sup>1</sup>See, Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 55:4 (December 1965), pp. 558-559; and Leon S. Pitman, "Folk Housing in the Mormon Culture Region," dissertation, Louisiana State University, 1973, pp. 167-169.

<sup>2</sup>The Howell-Theurer house in Wellsville, built of stone and listed on the National Register in 1980, is another local example of the central-hall, double-pile type. See, Austin E. Fife, "The Stone Houses of Northern Utah," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 40:1 (Winter 1972), p. 17.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Linbald, Victor E., A History of Samuel Bailey Mitton,  
"Old Homes and Buildings of the Utah Pioneers," Pamphlet, Feb. 1979, 225-26.  
Cache County Records

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Wellsville, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	2	4	2	8	2	0	4	6	0	9	8	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The west 3/4 of Lot 6, Block 13, Plat A, Wellsville City Survey.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McCormick/Historian, and Thomas Carter/Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date November 1980

street & number 300 Rio Grande

telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City

state Utah

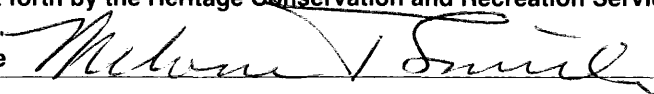
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

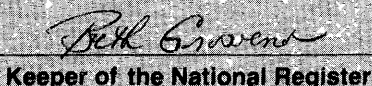


title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8-20-82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

  
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/19/82

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

SAMUEL CROWTHERS MITTON HOUSE FLOORPLAN

