

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 8 1979
DATE ENTERED	9 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

ALMA STAKER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
81 East 300 South

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Pleasant

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

01

STATE

Utah

CODE
049

COUNTY

Sanpete

CODE

039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Carole J. Burton

STREET & NUMBER

71 East 300 South

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Pleasant

VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Sanpete County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Manti

STATE

Utah

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Alma Staker House is a vernacular adobe structure located on the south side of Mt. Pleasant--one block east of Main Street. The house occupies the southeast corner of block 59 and faces south. The Staker lot originally contained a barn and several outbuildings as well as the house. Some time ago the barn was removed and the lot divided to make room for a c.1940s house which stands just to the west. One surviving outbuilding--the granary--can be found behind the old house on the north. This granary is a gabled rectangular building of "false corner-timbering" construction.¹

The Alma Staker house is a type commonly referred to in architectural literature as a "temple-form" or "up-right and wing" house plan.² This temple-form house type finds its origins in the Greek Revival period of American building³ and is typified by the massing of a central unit flanked by smaller wings on either one or both sides. The center unit is gabled and one room wide and two rooms deep. The side projecting wings are usually identical in size and always remain subordinate in height to the center block.

This Greek-Revival house plan is well represented by the Alma Staker house in Mt. Pleasant (see plan drawing). The center unit is essentially two square rooms flanked by smaller square rooms to each side. The two center rooms are 1-1/2 stories in height; the side wings are only one story. The main door is placed in the center section while secondary openings are found on each wing. The house is symmetrical both in massing and piercing--with second level openings mirroring those found below. The gables are all pitched at a shallow angle and feature the pedimented returns of the Greek Revival Style. A moulded cornice with a plain wide frieze circles the entire structure and can also be found on the front porches of each side wing. The porches are supported by milled posts.

The external woodwork is quite plain in appearance. The heads and sills of the windows are simply squared lumber. The windows on the lower central facade are, however, capped with adobe. Transoms are present on the three lower front doors. The windows are "two-over-two" light double sash type which could be a later modification.

The Alma Staker house is constructed of adobes, unsheathed save for the fronts of the two side wings. The adobes are large (measuring about 6 x 12") and are laid up in a common band pattern on all walls except the center facade. This facade is the focal point of the house and received special treatment--with the utilization of a very decorative banding technique. The adobe of the first story of the house is of better quality than that used on the upper story. The foundation has recently been capped with cement to retard weathering. Beyond this, the adobe walls are in very good condition.

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Alteration of the Alma Staker house has been minimal. Tarpaper shingles have replaced the old wooden roof and an adobe garage was once added to the northeast corner of the house. This garage has been now entirely removed except for one adobe wall which protrudes slightly from the rear wall of the east wing. Several of the porch posts are missing. An upstairs rear door was also added during the 1945-1946 period when the upper rooms served as an apartment.

¹Fred Kniffen and Henry Glassie, "Building in Wood in the Eastern United States," Geographical Review, 56:1 (1966) pp. 44-54.

²See, Henry Glassie, Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), pp. 129-133; and Pierce F. Lewis, "Common House, Cultural Spoor," Landscape, 19:2 (January 1975) pp. 14-17.

³See, Talbot Hamblin, Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York: Dover, 1965), p. 266.

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 c. 1870-1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Alma Staker

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alma Staker house is significant on the basis of its architectural style and plan. The Alma Staker house is one of the two best extant examples of the Greek Revival-inspired "temple form" vernacular house type in Utah. Early photographs and documents indicate that the "temple form" plan was quite popular in Salt Lake City and other early settlements, yet few of these structures have survived into the 1970s.¹ While other "temple form" houses can be found in Utah and parts of Idaho,² the Alma Staker house is the most complete rendering of the house form. The early building date and use of unsheathed adobe make the house additionally important as an example of early vernacular building in Utah.

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, American architects self-consciously rejected older English-derived styles and in democratic enthusiasm embraced the classical ideals of Greece. The early 1800s witnessed the growth of the Greek Revival architectural period in American building. While the classic style was used primarily for public buildings, domestic architecture in New England was dramatically influenced by classical motifs. A favorite house developed in the Northeast "with a pedimented end toward the street."³ This house is often called a "temple form" house, because of its similarity to Greek monumental architecture.⁴ The Greek Revival called for a "monumental type of house with a two-story central body fronted with a pedimented portico and flanked by one-story wings."⁵

This "temple form" house is seen in New England areas usually as a magnificent dwelling fronted by colossal columns. Its popularity, however, carried it into upstate New York in the 1830s where the house was geared down to a modest gable-facade-type house. The type was initially considered a "town house," but after its widespread acceptance came to be a common farm dwelling all along the northern frontier. Full-blown, the house has a central unit flanked by two side wings. Variants of the temple form house can be found with only one or even no side wings. While the early temple form houses had the main door on the central unit, a modified version of the house which moved the door on to the side wing became increasingly popular during the mid-19th century in the northern Midwest.⁶

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were familiar with the "temple form" house in upstate New York, they knew it at Kirtland, Ohio, and built numerous examples at Nauvoo. The Vinson Knight House and the Aaron Johnson houses at Nauvoo are all examples of this house-type which do not have side wing extensions. Brigham Young's stepped gable facade Nauvoo house has the internal floor plan associated with the temple form house even if it lacks external Greek Revival treatment.⁷

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see attached

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Mount Pleasant, Utah

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,2 4,6,10,7,0 4,3,7,6,8,8,0

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Begin SE corner of lot 4 block 59 plat A. North 6-1/2 rods 10-1/5 ft/ south 6-1/2 rods, east 6 rods 10-1/2 ft; to beginning

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

Tom Carter, Perservation Intern/John S. H. Smith, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

DATE

October 24, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

307 West 200 South, Suite 1000

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 X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [Signature]

TITLE J. Phillip Keene, III, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 15, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bill Lebowich
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE July 9, 1979

ATTEST: W. Ray Luce
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE July 6, 1979

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The Mormon exodus to the Great Basin brought this familiar house plan--now deeply imbedded in the folk building tradition--to Utah. The modified temple plan, with the front door on the side wing, is the variant of the house plan which is found most readily in Utah.⁸ Gable-facade houses consisting of only the center unit are also encountered in parts of Utah and Idaho,⁹ but the full blown temple plan with side wings is quite rare within the state's borders. One house at Willard conforms to the plan but lacks the central gable door.¹⁰ The Jacob Houtz House in Springville and the Alma Staker House in Mt. Pleasant are the only two fully realized temple form houses which have been located in the state. As one of the main vernacular house types imported to Utah, these houses are significant as rare but important segments of the historic landscape. In Sanpete County, an area rich in vernacular building, the Alma Staker house is singular in its form and construction.

The Alma Staker house speaks historically in a number of ways. It illustrates dramatically the syncretism of established eastern tradition (the house form) with novel western environment (the use of adobe construction). It at once demonstrates continuity and change, two essential elements of Mormon settlement in Utah. The house also helps to document the range of variation within the Mormon building tradition. This house, taken along with the many central unit and central unit and wing variants also found in the area, helps paint a picture of the rich diversity found in Utah's early architectural heritage.

The Staker family was originally from Canada. Nathan Staker, Alma's father, was born in 1801 on a farm near Cataquera, Ontario Province. Nathan studied as a youth to be a Methodist minister and in the early 1830s was converted to Mormonism. Nathan joined the gathering at Kirtland with his wife Jane Richmond. In 1837 their fourth child, Alma, was born.

In March of 1838 the family removed to Jackson County Missouri. On the journey to Missouri Nathan found work at Springfield Missouri and the family remained there until moving to Pike County in Illinois--just south of Nauvoo.

1846 found the Stakers at Pigeon Grove, Iowa. Nathan's wife Jane Richmond died of smallpox. In 1852 as the family was preparing to move west. Nathan took his family to Pleasant Grove in 1853. Nathan Staker remarried here to Eliza Cusworth Burton in 1857.

Alma Staker found a bride in the previous year, marrying Elizabeth Young in 1856 at Mt. Pleasant. Alma received the patent deed to the lot where the house now stands in 1870 but possibly could have been living on the lot much earlier. The 1853 attempt to settle Mt. Pleasant was thwarted by Indian hostilities and the first permanent settlement did not occur until 1859. The

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fort was built that year and activity centered around its protective walls until the late 1860s when a "Co-op" store was organized (1867) and the city incorporated (1868). While dating the Staker house cannot be precise, it seems that the dwelling was probably completed in the early 1870s.

Staker was a sawyer, carpenter, and farmer and was a United Order member and a high priest in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In 1907, the Staker family sold the house to Charles Augusta Jones for \$500. Charles married Augusta O. Madsen in 1895 and Carole J. Burton, the present owner, is their daughter.

¹Utah State Historical Society collections.

²Leon S. Pitman, "Nineteenth Century Folk Housing in the Mormo Culture Region," diss. Louisiana State University, 1973, pp. 169-170.

³Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America (London: Oxford University Press, 1944) p. 259.

⁴Henry Glassie, Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968) pp. 132-133.

⁵Hamlin, p. 266.

⁶Glassie, p. 132.

⁷Nauvoo information based on Tom Carter's soon to be published work on the folk architecture of this city.

⁸See, Pitman, pp. 169-179.

⁹Temple houses lacking side wings can be found throughout the Sanpete Valley of Central Utah and an excellent stone exaple of this type can be viewed at Franklin, Idaho.

¹⁰Pitman, p. 183.

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Sanpete County Records.