

Researcher: Linda L. Bonar
Date: 9/6/79

Site No. BV-04-316
SIGN. SITE # 55

Utah State Historical Society
Historic Preservation Research Office
Structure/Site Information Form

LESS THAN ONE ACRE

1
IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 55 East 200 North Southwest Quarter of Plat A Bl⁴⁵ Lot 1
Name of Structure: _____ T. R. S.
Present Owner: Ronella Griffiths UTM: 12/356575/4237650
Owner Address: Beaver, UT 84713 Tax #: B-187

2
AGE/CONDITION/USE

Original Owner: (Louis W. Harris) House Construction Date: 1905 Demolition Date: _____
Original Use: residence
Present Use: _____ Occupants: _____
 Single-Family Park Vacant
 Multi-Family Industrial Religious
 Public Agricultural Other
 Commercial
Building Condition: _____ Integrity: _____
 Excellent Site Unaltered
 Good Ruins Minor Alterations
 Deteriorated Major Alterations

3
STATUS

Preliminary Evaluation: _____ Final Register Status: _____
 Significant National Landmark District
 Contributory National Register Multi-Resource
 Not Contributory State Register Thematic
 Intrusion

4
DOCUMENTATION

Photography: _____
Date of Slides: _____ Date of Photographs: _____
Views: Front Side Rear Other Views: Front Side Rear Other
Research Sources: _____
 Abstract of Title City Directories LDS Church Archives
 Plat Records Biographical Encyclopedias LDS Genealogical Society
 Plat Map Obituary Index U of U Library
 Tax Card & Photo County & City Histories BYU Library
 Building Permit Personal Interviews USU Library
 Sewer Permit Newspapers SLC Library
 Sanborn Maps Utah State Historical Society Library Other fieldwork

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):
Mrs. Ronella Griffiths, interviewed 9/12/79 in Beaver by L.L. Bonar
Mr. Warren Bohn, interviewed 9/12/79 in Beaver, UT by L.L. Bonar
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Harris, interviewed June, 1979 in Beaver by L.L. Bonar

Architect/Builder: Louis W. Harris

Building Materials: pink stone (tuff) Building Type/Style:

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

This home, originally built by Louis W. Harris for himself and his family, was once one of the most elaborate homes in Beaver. Louis Harris was a stonemason and he used four types of stone in his home. The main body of the house is comprised of pink rock (tuff), while the foundation consists of cut black rock (basalt). Red sandstone and green granite are used as decorative elements in the porch stairs, banisters, fence gate posts, etc. The front facade of the house is one of the gable ends and the home runs long on the lot. There are two stories and a gambrel roof that overhangs a large, sheltered front porch, giving the home somewhat of a bungalow character. The wood work is very elaborate, with fancy shingle work covering all gables and quantities of molding surrounding windows and doors. On each broad side of the house, there are large bay windows that continue on up to the roof to form dormer windows. These two windows are large enough that they actually give the home a cruciform plan. The dormer windows also have gambrel roofs and, again, display elaborate wood trim and shingles. On the interior, there is a lot of wooden trim around the doors and windows and the home is quite brightly lit, due to a large number of big windows. The most unusual feature on the interior is a large, free standing stairway that runs counter to the main axis of the house. These stairs are decorated with jig saw and lathe-turned woodwork.

Statement of Historical Significance:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Americans | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Socio-Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/Settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | |

The home is significant for several reasons. It was built by Louis W. Harris for himself and his family as their "dream home", Mr. Harris was a builder and he learned his masonry skills from his father who was a stone mason in England before he immigrated to Utah as a convert to the LDS Church. The Harris family did beautiful stonework and this house is no exception. The pink rock blocks are finely tooled around the edges, then rusticated in the center of the block. The blocks are perfectly squared and layed nicely in even courses. The fact that four types of stone are used in this house is indicative of the tender-love-and-care that went into its construction. The only other home in Beaver that displays four kinds of stone is the Thomas Frazer House, which was built by the Scots mason for himself.

The Harris family also built the Number 2 Telluside Electric plant, located mid-way up the Beaver River Canyon. The pink stone in this building is, again, very nicely worked though it is in a different style than the Harris home.

The home is further significant to a historic district because of its unique style and mansion characteristics. It was later owned by a judge (Mr. Knox) and a doctor who used the several upstairs bedrooms as a hospital. The home is also interesting because of its historic date and handstone design.