

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. \_\_\_\_\_

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 110 E. Main  
Midway, Wasatch County, Utah

UTM: 12 460260 448460  
Heber City Quad  
T. 3 S R. 4 E S. 35

Name of Structure: Bonner, William, House

Present Owner: Lois Bonner  
P.O. Box 5

Owner Address: Midway, Utah 84049

Year Built (Tax Record):  
Legal Description

Effective Age:  
Kind of Building:

Tax #: OMI-0001-0-002-034

Lots 3, 6 & 7 Block 2 Midway Survey.  
3.60 acres

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: William Bonner

Construction Date: 1877

Demolition Date:

Original Use: Residential

Present Use: Residential

Building Condition:

Integrity:

Preliminary Evaluation:

Final Register Status:

- |  |                                |   |   |                                     |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> Site  | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant | <input type="checkbox"/> Not of the | <input type="checkbox"/> National Landmark | <input type="checkbox"/> District    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor Alterations | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributory           | Historic Period                     | <input type="checkbox"/> National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Resou |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated    |                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Major Alterations            | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Contributory       |                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> State Register    | <input type="checkbox"/> Thematic    |

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1985-86 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1985-86 Photo No.:  
Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Research Sources:

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstract of Title  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers                               | <input type="checkbox"/> U of U Library |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plat Records / Map | <input type="checkbox"/> City Directories                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utah State Historical Society | <input type="checkbox"/> BYU Library    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tax Card & Photo   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biographical Encyclopedias | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Interviews           | <input type="checkbox"/> USU Library    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permit               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Obituary Index             | <input type="checkbox"/> LDS Church Archives                      | <input type="checkbox"/> SLC Library    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Permit                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County & City Histories    | <input type="checkbox"/> LDS Genealogical Society                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other          |

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

Bonner, Lois Thacker. Interviewed by Tom Carter and Roger Roper, May 1985, Midway, Utah  
Mortimer, William James, comp. and ed. How Beautiful Upon the Mountains. Heber City, Utah: Wasatch County Chapter of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1963.

Architect/Builder: John Watkins

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: cross-wing/Gothic Revival

## Description of physical appearance &amp; significant architectural features:

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

The William Bonner House, built in 1877, is a 1 1/2 story brick example of the cross-wing house type. The house has a basic L-plan with a forward projecting gable intersected at a right angle by a side wing. There is a central entrance hall containing the staircase, and there is an original rear kitchen ell. Open porches were originally found to both sides of the rear wing. A brick shed was added to the east rear sometime in the late nineteenth century.

The house is a good example of the Gothic Revival style. Decorative scroll-cut bargeboards are found along the raking cornices of each gable and on a small dormer contained on the north front of the side wing. Decorative round arch paired windows are found on the principal gable elevations at both the ground and upper levels. The front and side porches have classical posts, although these are early twentieth century replacements of much fancier Gothic elements. The house is brick, painted dark red, with cut sandstone quoins now painted white. The house remains in good historic condition and although much of the fancy decorative woodwork has been removed, the house continues to be a fine Utah example of picturesque ideals.

Also included in this nomination are two outbuildings located on the William Bonner property (see attached site plan). The first is a large  
(See Continuation Sheet)

## Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

Constructed in 1877, the William Bonner House is one of seven houses contained in the ARCHITECTURE OF JOHN WATKINS THEMATIC RESOURCE NOMINATION, having been designed and built by John Watkins, an accomplished early Utah builder. John Watkins' work effectively illustrates the dynamic role the professional builder played in shaping Utah's early architectural landscape. While it has been customary for historians to explain Utah architecture from the time of first settlement in 1847 up to about 1890 as the simple extension of eastern folk styles or the replication of popular pattern-book designs, John Watkins' houses suggest a more generous appraisal. Slave to neither tradition nor pattern-book, Watkins found useful ideas in both, ideas that formed the basis of essentially new if nevertheless familiar designs. From two-room cottages to elaborate Gothic Revival houses to houses intended for multi-family polygamous living, Watkins drew upon his broad building experience to create not copies of other houses, but new ones designed to meet his client's functional, aesthetic, and symbolic needs. This house is significant not only as a fine Utah example of the Gothic Revival style, but also because it demonstrates Watkins' ability to deftly manipulate basic picturesque design concepts. Drawing upon the basic form the popular stylebook house, the cross-wing, Watkins was able to create a rich variety of basic housing designs, each in its own way new and exciting. Also included in this nomination are two outbuildings, a large English-type box frame barn and a stone granary. These buildings were constructed in 1877 and effectively document the range of support structures found on early Midway city lots.

John Watkins was born in Maidstone, Kent, England in 1834. He received training in the building trade in his native England before joining the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and emigrating to Utah in 1855. His initial

William Bonner House  
Description continued:

English-type barn built at approximately the same time as the house. It has a three-bay rectangular plan and a gable roof with decorative Gothic cupola. The barn is of box-frame construction, and its heavy sawn timbers are mortised in place throughout. There is a long shed attachment to the south end of the barn, but this addition does not detract from the integrity of the structure. The other eligible outbuilding is a small gable-roofed granary built of the local volcanic stone, again dating about 1877. The granary has a rectangular plan and a door in the narrow end. Shed roof lean-to stand to either side; the one on the west is frame with drop siding, and the one on the east is volcanic stone. These additions were made about 1900 and are not considered significant alternations. Two other buildings, both garages, stand close by. These buildings are out of the historic period and are not included in this nomination.

Total number of contributing buildings: 3

Total number of non-contributing buildings: 2

William Bonner House  
History continued:

Midway. In Provo, Watkins helped build the original LDS Tabernacle (1856) and the Opera House (1859), and after moving to Midway in the upper Provo River Valley in 1862, Watkins' familiarity with picturesque design produced 5 of the best and most significant examples of the Gothic Revival architectural style in the state of Utah.

This house was built in 1877 for William Bonner at the same time that his brother George's house was being built on the corner lot across the street to the west. Both William and George were married in January 1878, and these houses were reportedly built and completely furnished in time for their weddings.<sup>1</sup> Their father, George Bonner, Sr., lived across the street at 103 E. Main, and had purchased the property upon which his sons' houses were built in 1874. All three houses were designed and built by the Bonners' neighbor, John Watkins, whose own house at 5 E. Main exhibits some of the same Gothic Revival features that are found on the Bonner houses. Also at this time two important outbuildings were erected on the William Bonner property, a large frame barn and a stone granary. The barn is a three-bay English type of heavy box-frame construction and is one of only two examples of this once-common barn type remaining in the state. The granary is built of the local volcanic stone and is the typical gable-entry type found in Midway. During the second half of the nineteenth century, most Midway town lots contained a barn and granary as well as a house. The demise of the town as a farming community and recent recreational developments have led to the gradual demolition of most of the early barns. Many stone granaries remain in town (now used simply as storage buildings), but the fact that both the barn and granary remain intact on the William Bonner property make these outbuildings particularly significant and worthy of nomination to the National Register.

William Bonner was born December 19, 1854, in Langrig, Scotland, to George and Margaret Edmundston Bonner. After converting to Mormonism in their native

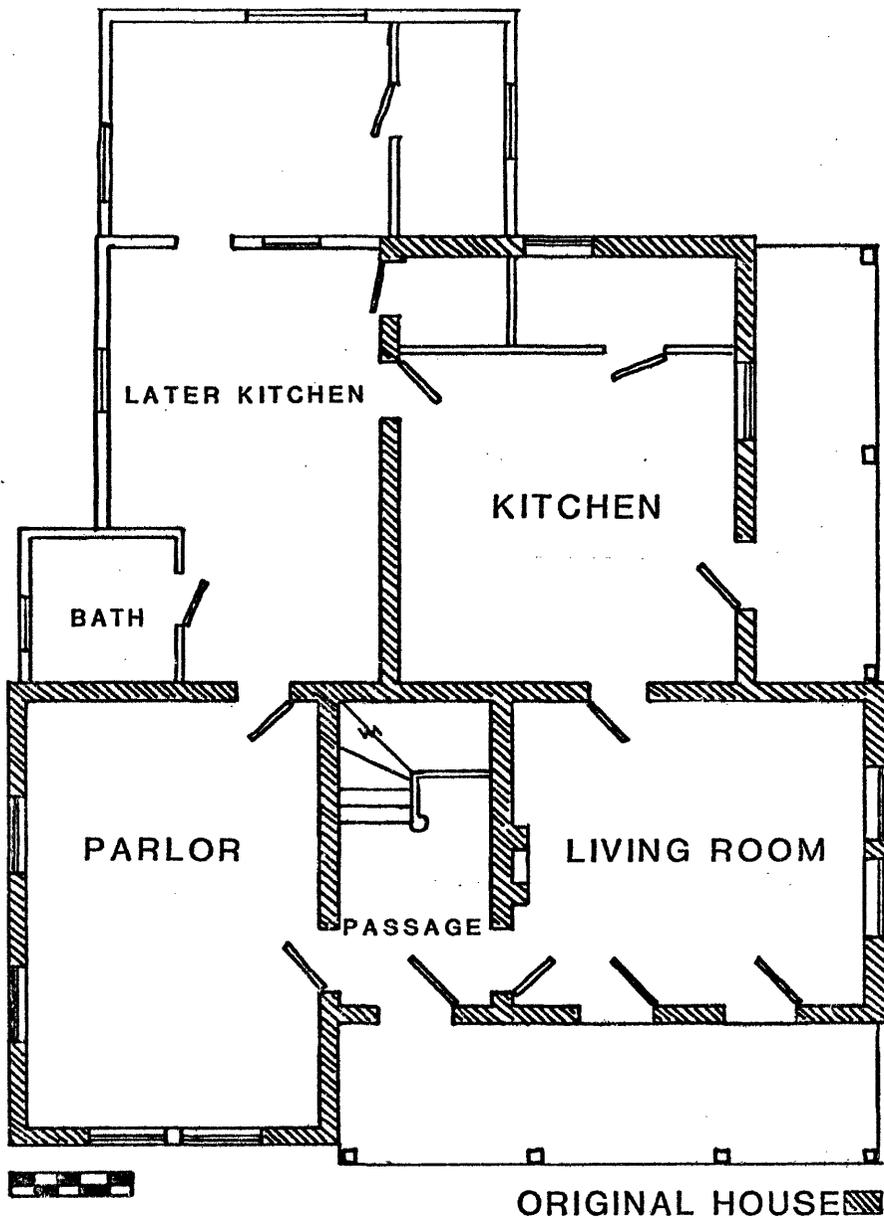
William Bonner House  
History continued:

land, the Bonners came to the U.S. in 1858 to join the Latter-day Saints in Utah. They settled near Midway in 1861. William worked for a time in the mines at Park City and later contracted with the mines to provide them with timber. Around 1874, he and his brother, George, established a mercantile business in one room of their father's house. The business grew and in 1879 they constructed a store on the corner to the west of their father's house. The brothers are also credited with operating the first grist mill in Midway.<sup>2</sup> George eventually took over operation of the mercantile business, and William became involved in the livestock industry, raising purebred horses and cattle. William's wife, Sarah Eliza Bronson, was born in Provo, Utah, on July 4, 1858, and moved to the Midway area with her family in 1862. She and William had ten children, eight of whom grew to adulthood, and all of whom were born in this house. William died in 1925, and in 1934 Sarah transferred ownership of the house and property to their youngest son, Floyd, though she continued to live in the house until her death in 1946. The house is currently owned by Floyd's widow, Lois Thacker Bonner.

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<sup>1</sup>Interview with Lois Thacker Bonner, May 1985, Midway, Utah.

<sup>2</sup>Mortimer, How Beautiful Upon the Mountains, pp. 703-706.



**GROUND FLOOR PLAN**

William Bonner House  
 Midway, Wasatch County, Utah  
 1986