

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. BV-04-72

Sign. Site 13

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 120 East 1st South

UTM: 12/356725/4237050

Name of Structure:

T. R. S.

Present Owner: Ruth E. Willden

Less than one Acre

Owner Address: Beaver, Utah 84713

Year Built (Tax Record):  
Legal Description

Effective Age:  
Kind of Building:

Tax #: B-44

Plat A. Blk. 14 Northwest Quarter of Lot 3

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Willden, Feargus O'Connor, Construction Date: c. 1884 Demolition Date:  
House

Original Use: Residence Present Use: Residence

Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:

- |   |                                |   |   |                                     |  |   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input checked="" 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 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-Resource |
| <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: Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 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 type="checkbox"/> Plat Records/Map             | <input type="checkbox"/> City Directories           | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah State Historical Society  | <input type="checkbox"/> BYU Library                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tax Card & Photo  | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Encyclopedias | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Interviews | <input type="checkbox"/> USU Library                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permit              | <input type="checkbox"/> Obituary Index             | <input type="checkbox"/> LDS Church Archives            | <input type="checkbox"/> SLC Library                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Permit                 | <input type="checkbox"/> County & City Histories    | <input type="checkbox"/> LDS Genealogical Society       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other fieldwork |

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

1933 photo on tax records  
Miss Ruth Willden, interviewed 10/2/78 in Beaver, by Linda Bonar.

Architect/Builder: James Boyter did most while Fergus O. Willden finished it.

Building Materials: Brick

Building Type/Style: Hall & Parlor/ Victorian Eclectic

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:  
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Feargus Willden House is a two-story brick structure which was built in 1884. It is a hall and parlor plan house with eclectic trim. The steeply pitched gable roof has a boxed cornice with a frieze. Decorative elements on the house are provided by domers, door and window openings, a porch, and corbelled chimney caps.

The body of this house is rectangular with a symmetrical three-bay facade. Three gabled second-story domers are aligned over the first floor openings and repeat the window-door-window pattern of the main level. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung, and have wide lintels as does the first floor door. There is an interior end chimney and a central chimney on the roof ridge. The rear elevation also has three domers which are however, unevenly spaced. The gable end of the house is pierced by a small central second-story window, and a one-over-one centered first floor window. Both have straight lintels and projecting sills.

An early c. 1900 shed addition to the rear of the house is built of brick and has a cornice that matches the main house. A window matching the gable-end window pierces the side of the addition. A board portico covers the first story door and creates a balcony for the second story. The porch has square posts on brick bases which support an entablature and the jigsaw cut

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

For most of the 19th century, agricultural prosperity in the United States was measured architecturally in a two story, two room wide, one room deep farmhouse. Often called an "I" house, this two-story dwelling--built in any number of materials and with a wide array of stylistic trims--was a central feature on middle-to-upper-class farmsteads in Mormon Utah but with an important difference. The house here was more commonly 1 1/2 stories high and characterized by the presence of wall--domers on the principal elevation. This domered house often had a hall and parlor plan and Gothic Revival ornamentation. The form was found in sizeably numbers in Beaver and later examples like the Feargus Willden house, built in 1884, were decorated with elements of the Victorian architectural styles then coming into vogue. The Feargus Willden house is a well preserved example of the ubiquitous 1 1/2 story domered hall and parlor house in Beaver and is significant because it is perhaps the most typical form of larger dwelling built by local residents during the town's major period of growth during the 1870-1900 period.

The home was built for Feargus O'Connor Willden who was a convert to the L.D.S. Church from England. The Willden family, including Feargus, were the first pioneers to settle at "Willden Fort," which later came to be called Cove Fort, a site some 30 miles north of Beaver which is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. Feargus helped to build the stone fort there, but later moved into Beaver to live. Here he made his living by farming and bookkeeping. He married Annie Maria Thorpe who was reportedly a foster daughter of the founder and prophet of the Mormon Church, Joseph Smith. The Willdens had ten children and their house has remained in the same family.

Feargus O'Connor Willden House  
Continuation Sheet of section 4

blustrade of the balcony. This porch appears to have been added in the 1910-1920 period. Neither of these alterations affect the historic integrity at the home.