

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. BV-05-388

Sign. Site #71

Structure/Site Information Form

1 IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 325 No. 200 West UTM: 12/356100/4237800
 Name of Structure: District #3 School House (Beaver MRA) T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Ernest A. and Leonora T. Muir Less than one acre
 Owner Address: Beaver, Utah
 Year Built (Tax Record): ca. 1870s Effective Age: Tax #: B-226
 Legal Description: Southeast Quarter of Plat A Block 55 Lot 1
 Kind of Building:

2 STATUS/USE

Original Owner: Beaver School District #3 Construction Date: ca. 1870s Demolition Date:
 Original Use: school house Present Use: residence
 Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:
 Excellent Site Unaltered Significant Not of the National Landmark District
 Good Ruins Minor Alterations Contributory Historic Period National Register Multi-Resource
 Deteriorated Major Alterations Not Contributory State Register Thematic

3 DOCUMENTATION

Photography: Date of Slides: Slide No.: Date of Photographs: Photo No.:
 Views: Front Side Rear Other Views: Front Side Rear Other
 Research Sources:
 Abstract of Title Sanborn Maps Newspapers U of U Library
 Plat Records/Map City Directories Utah State Historical Society BYU Library
 Tax Card & Photo Biographical Encyclopedias Personal Interviews USU Library
 Building Permit Obituary Index LDS Church Archives SLC Library
 Sewer Permit County & City Histories LDS Genealogical Society Other Fieldwork

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):
 Miss Elsie Hales, interviewed August of 1977 by L. L. Bonar.
Thomas Frazer Journals, ed. Linda L. Bonar, Marriot Library, University of Utah
 Special Collections.
 Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Monuments to Courage: A History of Beaver County, 2d edition,
 Beaver, Utah: DUP, 1974.

Architect/Builder: Thomas Frazer

Building Materials: black rock

Building Type/Style: vernacular

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

This 1½ story building originally served as the school house for Beaver's #3 school district. It was built by Thomas Frazer, the local Scots vernacular architect, and it displays 3 of the 6 characteristics commonly used in Frazer's work: ashlar stonework on the front facade, square-pointed mortar joints that were dyed white, and a Greek Revival Style cornice. On the front facade there is a central door and 4 large windows, all of which are arranged with bilateral symmetry. There are wooden lintels above all these piercings and there is one extant chimney on the north end. The gable ends consist of coursed rubble stone and the building is much broader than most of Frazer's structures, probably reflecting its original use as a school house and not a residence. Also, the roof is not as steeply pitched, apparently another result of its school house design. When the school was converted to a house in the 1890s, a frame extension was built on the rear. There have been other additions including a non-historic 1950s cinderblock shed which projects to the rear. While the school house has seen several remodelings, it retains much of its historic integrity.

Photos

Statement of Historical Significance:**Construction Date:**

The District #3 Schoolhouse is significant as a variation in the work of Thomas Frazer and as the only remaining District School from Beaver's early educational history. In 1869 Beaver was divided into four districts, with schools envisioned for each district. District No. 1 stood without a school, while District No. 2 erected a frame building, District No. 3 possessed a rock structure, and District No. 4 utilized a brick school which later formed a part of a residence. This black rock schoolhouse, built by Thomas Frazer, served as the school for District No. 3. It remains as the only separate vestige of this early period of Beaver's educational history. In 1881 the school districts consolidated, and in 1909 the rock schoolhouse was given to John Muir in partial payment for land to erect a new structure. The Third District schoolhouse building continues to be owned by the Muir family.

It was built by Thomas Frazer and it employs three of the six characteristics that he commonly used in his work. The fact that the building was to be used as a schoolhouse influenced its design, with broader than normal gable ends and a shallower pitch to the roof.

Frazer recorded some interesting facts about the school house in his workbooks. He recorded the measurements of the building, the cost of the workmanship, the cost of materials, and even an estimate for ashlar stone work and beaded mortar joints ("hammer dressed and square pointed"). He wrote:

Measurement 33 x 23 from bottom of foundation to square of walls 14 feet, 6 inches	
180 perches including gables.....	\$180.00
If front be hammer dressed and square pointed	
it will cost \$21 more.....	21.00
For tending.....	130.00
200 bu lime at 60¢ a bushel.....	120.00
Rock quarrying and hauling at \$1 a perch.....	180.00
500 bricks for chimney tops.....	8.00
-for laying up.....	5.00

continued

District #3 School House (Beaver MRA) Continuation Sheet for Item 5

Plastering and tending.....	60.00
Lime.....	24.00
Hauling sand.....	45.00
	<u>\$773.00*</u>

This sum is only a partial amount of the total cost for it obviously does not mention such items as floors, windows, doors, etc. Nonetheless, it is a useful indicator of what the cost of most elements of the school house were.

*Excerpt taken from Thomas Frazer Journals, ed. Linda L. Bonar, University of Utah Library (Marriot), Special Collections, p. 107.