

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: near Hoytsville, Summit County, Utah UTM: 12 466390 4526060
 Name of Structure: ANNIE BIRCH HOUSE T. 2N R. 5E S. 20
 Present Owner: Gerald T. and Hilda C. Hansen
 Owner Address: 1351 East 4925 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84117
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: NS-459C
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Beginning 5.28 chains North from Southwest corner Section 21, Township 2 North Range 5 East, South 85 degrees 46 minutes West, 1309.96 feet to center road, then North 9 degrees 36 minutes East 386.85 feet along center road, North 85 degrees 46 minutes East 1277.67 feet to section line, then South along section line 404.19 feet to beginning, less 1/2 of road.
 (See Continuation Page)

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Richard Birch Construction Date: c. 1875 Demolition Date:
 Original Use: dwelling Present Use: vacant
 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

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 5/84 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 5/84 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 Census Records

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

Carter, Thomas. "Building Zion: Folk Housing in the Mormon Settlements of Utah's Sanpete Valley." Ph.D. Dissertation, Indiana University, 1984.
 Esshom, Frank. Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah. Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1966.
 Peterson, Marie Ross, ed. Echoes of Yesterday: Summit County Centennial History. Summit County: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1947.
 Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rees, Hoytsville, Utah, March 3, 1981, by Tom Carter.

listed
OCT 22 1984

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: Pair house/vernacular

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

This is a long, one-story brick structure that has the distinctive three-room-wide floor plan of the Type II pair house. The tripartite internal plan is mirrored in the piercing of the principal facade; the two smaller outside rooms each have a single window and the larger center room contains the front door and two flanking windows. There is a lean-to extension on the southwest rear wall that is original. The remains of a stone foundation suggest that the lean-to was to have been extended across the entire length of the rear. It was, however, never completed. The house was designed in the Greek Revival style, and there is a relatively plain entablature and cornice returns. Finely cut and shaped limestone was used to provide a contrasting color for the decorative trim. There are stone quoins, pedimented window heads with pronounced keystones, and a water table. Coursed rubble stone was used in the foundation that is partially exposed because the house was built slightly back into the hillside. The house retains its original historical integrity although it has been vacant for a number of years and is in a deteriorated state. Two outbuildings - one log and one frame - are located on the property behind the house, but neither contribute to the significance of the house, and therefore are not included in the nomination.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: c. 1875

The Annie Birch house is significant as one of 56 documented examples of the distinctive "pair-house" type in Utah. The pair-house is characterized by a three-room-wide floor plan and is traditionally a Scandinavian form. Carried to Utah by Mormon converts from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, the pair house is normally associated with Scandinavian immigrants; though in a number of cases, as with the Annie Birch House, it was employed by Anglo-American settlers as well. Richard Birch, born in England, built this fine brick house for his third polygamous wife, Annie Birch, in c.1875. Birch may have become acquainted with the house type in Salt Lake City before he had moved to Hoytsville, or he may have hired local Scandinavian carpenters to do the work. In any case, the pair house remains an important early Utah architectural resource, and its cross cultural identity is crucial in understanding the full extent of the ethnic diversity found in nineteenth century Utah communities. The Birch house is to be included in the thematic nomination, "Scandinavian-American Pair Houses," listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

Annie Birch was born in 1850 in West Bromwich, Staffordshire, England. Her parents, James and Mary Ann Birch, joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Mormons, in 1849, and the family emigrated to Utah in 1856. Living first in Salt Lake City and then for a short time in nearby Millcreek, James Birch moved his family in the mid-1860s to Hoytsville in Summit County where his brother, Richard, lived. In 1865, at the age of 15, Annie Birch married Richard Birch and became his third wife. Richard was primarily a farmer, and in 1870 he maintained two separate households; his first wife, Ellen, lived in the main house while the second and third wives occupied an adjacent dwelling. By 1880 Birch had constructed a new brick house to the west, across the river, for Annie and her four children. She continued to live in this house until her death in 1919.

Legal Description (Continued)

The house is located approximately in the center of the 12 acre parcel described above, but only the property immediately surrounding the house is intended for inclusion in this nomination. The house measures approximately 45' x 25' so a parcel 50' x 100' would easily suffice. Therefore, the acreage of the nominated property is less than one acre.