

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Sign. Site # 125

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 340 S. Main Street UTM: 12/356425/4236550  
 Name of Structure: T. R. S.  
 Present Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Peter Trajo  
 Owner Address: c/o Henry L. & Ruby Veylupek  
 2584 Catherine Road  
 Altadena, California 91001  
 Year Built (Tax Record): 1877 and Effective Age:  
 Legal Description c. 1885 Kind of Building: Residence Tax #: B-861-C  
 Less than one Acre

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Willden, Elliot, House Construction Date: c. 1885 Demolition Date:  
 Original Use: Residence 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

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:  
 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 Field Work

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Trajo, interviewed 7/14/80  
 1933 photo on tax card in County Tax Assessor's Office  
The Mountain Meadows Massacre, Juanita Brooks, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.

Beg 1.510.59 ft. N & 593, 6 ft. W from Re-re-established SE Cor  
 Sec 21, T29S, R7W; th N 87 50' W 272.26 ft; N 33 06' E 107 ft;  
 N 71 E 50 ft; N 89 28' E 157.9 ft; S 132 ft to Beg. 0.66 ac.

OCT 18 1983

Researcher: L. L. Bonar

Date: 7/3/80

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
 Building Materials: (tuff)  
 pink rock & black rock (basalt)  
 Building Type/Style: Central passageway/ Greek Revival

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

The original portion of this house is now located towards the rear of the building and consists of black rock, both squared (on s. facade) and rubble stone (remaining 3 facades). The front facade (south) is pierced with a door-window-door pattern which does not display any bilateral symmetry. There are wooden lintels above the doors and windows while the floor plan consists of a one story, rectangular cabin.

Circa 1885, a full two story central hall house was built on to the original stone cabin. It is constructed of pink rock and is one of the few central hall houses in all of Beaver. This section of the home rests upon a 1-1/2 foot tall, brown granite foundation a somewhat unusual building material that comes from a quarry about 3 miles south of town. The front facade of this pink rock section is pierced with a window-door-window pattern (with bilateral symmetry) on both the first and second floors. At one time, the second story door led out to an upstairs porch that was about 10 feet wide. Unfortunately, the porch is no longer extant. There are wooden lintels above the doors and windows, and all the windows retain their original six-over-six panes of glass. The plan of the house - with the original rectangular cabin and the later central hall house - now consists of a T-plan.

## Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

The Elliot Willden house, constructed in several stages between c.1870 and 1885, is significant because its central passageway represents one of the typical house forms found in Beaver during its architectural development during the late 19th century. The two-story central passageway house, sometimes called an I house, was a ubiquitous symbol of individual achievement and prosperity in the United States during this period and achieved a similar status in Utah. The Willden house is a classic example of the form and contributes to the understanding of the range of domestic architecture found in Beaver. The house began as a small black rock dwelling, c.1870, and was expanded to its present size in 1885. The house is principally associated with Elliot Willden, a man who achieved a degree of notoriety before he arrived in Beaver.

Elliot Willden was one of two men in Beaver to participate in the Mountain Meadows Massacre, a tragic event that took place about 70 miles from Beaver in 1858. A wagon train - known as the Fancher Party - passed through Utah on its way to California. The members of the party were hostile to the Mormons in Utah and the hostilities were reciprocated. At an isolated spot in southern Utah, the Mormons decided to ambush the wagon train and some 120 immigrants were decoyed and slaughtered. To this day, the Massacre remains one of the biggest blights in Mormon history.

Twenty years after the event, John D. Lee was tried, and convicted in Beaver for his part in the Massacre. He was executed and was a scapegoat for a slaughter committed by many. One of the many was Elliot Willden who was the original owner of this home. Mr. Willden knew that the Federal marshals were looking for him in connection with the Massacre but for 20 years he managed to elude them by hiding in the hills east of town whenever they came to Beaver. After the death of John D. Lee, Willden and the other living participants in the Massacre were given an unofficial amnesty. (For a history of the Massacre, see Juanita Brooks' the Mountain Meadow Massacre.)