

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name STEELE, JOHN, HOUSE

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 263 North Toquerville Boulevard N/A not for publication
city, town Toquerville N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Washington code 053 zip code 84774

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register -0-

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Mafer _____ February 25, 1988
Signature of certifying official Date
Utah State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

**Entered in the
National Register**

- entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ___ removed from the National Register.
- ___ other, (explain:) _____

Delores Byrum _____ 4-7-88

Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

other: double-cell

foundation stone
walls stucco over adobe
wood
roof wood
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The John Steele House, built c. 1862, is a one-story, double-parlor vernacular house with a gable roof and stuccoed adobe exterior walls. Minor alterations have been made over the years, but overall the house maintains a high degree of its original integrity on both the interior and exterior.

The house has a roughly symmetrical facade composed of three windows and two doors. A full-width front porch that shows up in a c.1900 photograph is no longer there; it is unknown whether or not that porch was original. The original six-over-six double-hung windows are intact, as are the original front doors. There is an early adobe lean-to addition on the left third of the rear and a frame lean-to addition (c. 1930s?) on the right two-thirds. The exterior adobe walls were probably stuccoed in the early twentieth century.

The interior of the original house is virtually unaltered. It consists of three rooms with both front and rear doors opening into the center and southern rooms. There is a large fireplace in the center room, which served as the kitchen. The one-room adobe addition on the rear has had a bathroom built in it in recent years. The ceiling height, door openings, and woodwork on the interior are all intact.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ___ A X B X C ___ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>Architecture</u>	<u>c.1862-1903</u>	<u>c.1862</u>
<u>Politics</u>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Steele, John

Architect/Builder

Steele, John (probably)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed c. 1862, this house is historically significant for its association with John Steele, a prominent figure in local government affairs in Toquerville and in Iron and Kane (later Washington) counties. Steele, a colonizer sent by Mormon church officials to help settle this region of southern Utah, served as Iron County judge and recorder and as Parowan town marshall and mayor during the 1850s. After moving to the new settlement of Toquerville in 1861, he filled a variety of positions in the county and town governments, including justice of the peace, postmaster, county surveyor, county assessor and collector. This house, the only one known to be associated with John Steele, served as his home for over 40 years. The Steele House is also architecturally significant as a variant of the double-parlor house, an extremely rare three-room house type. Unlike other double-parlor houses identified in Utah, this house has two doors on the facade, giving it the appearance of a double-cell house on the exterior.

John Steele was born in Ireland in 1821 and, after joining the Mormon church, came to the U.S. in 1845 to "gather with the Saints" at Nauvoo, Illinois. He was accompanied by his wife, Catherine Campbell Steele (1816-1891), whom he had married in 1840. After being forced to leave Nauvoo, the Mormons began settling in Utah in 1847, and the Steeles were among the first groups of pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley.

John was called by church officials in 1850 to help establish an iron industry in southwestern Utah. In 1851, he was chosen to serve as town marshall of Parowan, the mother colony of the "Iron Mission," and in 1853 he was selected as mayor. He also filled church and county government positions, serving as a counselor in the

X See continuation sheet

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Section number 8 Page 2 John Steele House, Washington County, Utah

Iron Stake presidency of the church, and as judge and recorder of Iron County. In 1855 he was again called by church leaders to help establish a fort at Las Vegas, Nevada, for the purpose of protecting California travelers from the Indians. He was there for about two years before returning to Parowan.

In 1861, with approval from Brigham Young, John Steele left Parowan due to "grasshoppers and other causes" and settled in Toquerville, approximately 55 miles to the southwest.¹ He moved his family there in the spring of 1862,² apparently after completing this adobe house. In Toquerville, Steele also served in a variety of local government positions, including postmaster for 15 years, justice of the peace (1869-1890s), county surveyor (1873), and county assessor and collector (1874-75). His church service included a mission among the Navajo and Moqui Indians in 1862-63 and a proselyting mission to England in 1877-78.

John Steele was a boot and shoe maker by trade, but he also engaged in a number of other activities. He is listed in the census records as a farmer in 1870 and as a doctor and surveyor in 1880. His medical skills were based on his knowledge of herbs and his many years of experience assisting the sick and wounded.³ He carried on his boot and shoemaking business in a one-room cabin south of his house (now demolished). John was also experienced at making and laying adobe brick, having helped construct the first fort in Salt Lake City and his own house and others there during the first years of settlement. It is likely that he constructed this adobe house in Toquerville as well.

Catherine and John Steele lived in this house until their deaths in 1891 and 1903, respectively. The census records from 1870 to 1900 show their son, John Alma Steele, living with them. Alma, born in 1853, was listed variously as a farm worker, wood man, miner, and day laborer. In 1880, the Steeles shared their home with Samuel Carson, a teamster, his wife, Frances, and Joshua Bowyer, a farm hand. This was during the boom days of Silver Reef, a nearby mining town. Toquerville was one of the towns nearest Silver Reef, which was an important market for agricultural products from Toquerville.

The three-room, double-parlor configuration of the Steele house is very unusual in Utah, where single-cell, temple-form, and two-room hall-parlor houses are the predominant nineteenth-century vernacular house types. The distinguishing characteristic of the double-parlor house is that it is essentially a hall-parlor house with an extra "parlor" added to one end.⁴ Hall-parlor houses have a symmetrical, usually three-bay, facade with a center door that opens into the larger of the two rooms on the interior. On double-parlor houses, the symmetry of the facade is thrown off by the introduction of an another window for the additional room. The Steele House is a variant of that form because it also has an additional door on the facade, giving it five bays instead of the expected four. This gives it the exterior appearance of a double-cell house (two rooms of equal size), belying the three-room arrangement on the interior.

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The double-parlor house is similar to the Scandinavian-American pair-house, another three-room vernacular house, but it is more rare. There are over 60 pair-houses that have been identified in various locations throughout the state,⁴ while only a handful of double-parlor houses are known to exist.⁵ Though the floor plans of pair-houses and double-cell houses are sometimes similar, their facades are different. Pair-houses usually have a 5-bay, symmetrical facade with a center door, while double-parlor houses generally have an asymmetrical facade with four bays.

The Steele House is one of the oldest of the approximately 100 buildings in the Toquerville. It was constructed within the first four years of settlement when many of the houses were being built of log. There are approximately a dozen houses in the community that date from the first decade or two of settlement, but few of them are as old and as well preserved as the Steele House.

¹"Extracts from the Journal of John Steele," Utah Historical Quarterly, 6:1 (January 1933) p. 28.

²Ibid.

³Under Dixie Sun (St. George, Utah: Washington County Chapter of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1950) p. 262. Also Wesley P. Larsen, "A History of Toquerville," (unpublished, 1985) p. 123. Available at Utah State Historical Society Library.

⁴Thomas Robert Carter, "Building Zion: Folk Architecture in the Mormon Settlements of Utah's Sanpete Valley, 1849-1890," (Ph.D. dissertation, Indiana University, 1984) pp. 183-185.

⁵The only other examples of the double-parlor type that have been clearly documented are the George Bradley House, Moroni, and the William Luke House, Manti.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Carter, Thomas Robert. "Building Zion: Folk Architecture in the Mormon Settlements of Utah's Sanpete Valley, 1849-1890." Ph.D. dissertation, Indiana University, 1984.

Esshom, Frank. Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah. Salt Lake City: Western Epics, Inc., 1966. Reprint of the original 1913 publication.

X See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

X State Historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property: less than one

UTM References

A 1/2 2/9/7/3/8/0 4/1/2/5/4/8/0 B / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / / / D / / / / / / / / / / / /

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The South 1/2 of Lot 6 Block 15 Plat A of the Toquerville Townsite Survey.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the legal description of the property historically associated with this building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger Roper/Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date February 1988

street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-7039

city or town Salt Lake City state Utah zip code 84101

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Utah Word Processor Format (02741)
Approved 10/87

OMB No. 1024-0018

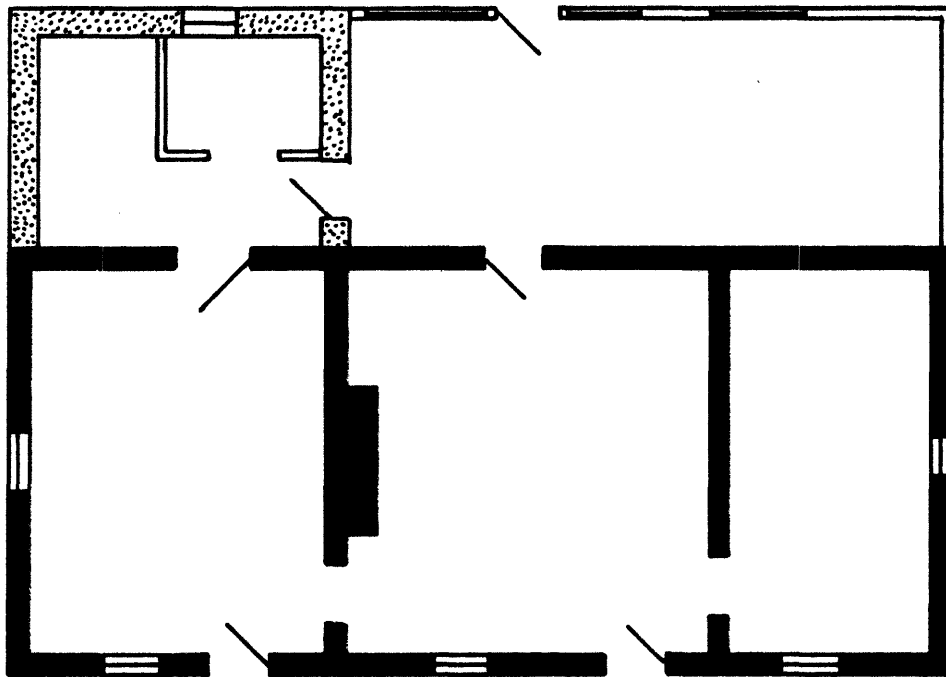
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BIBLIOGRAPHY continued:

Larsen, Wesley P. "A History of Toquerville." Unpublished, 1985. Available at Utah State Historical Society Library.
Steele, John. "Journals." Available at Utah State Historical Society Library.
Under Dixie Sun: A History of Washington County. St. George, Utah: Washington County Chapter of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1950.



John Steele House
Toquerville, Utah

-  c. 1862
-  probably 1860s or '70s
-  post-1930s