

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only  
received JUN 11 1984  
date entered JUL 13 1984

**1. Name**

historic Butler, William F., House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 168 South 300 West not for publication

city, town St. George vicinity of congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Washington code 053

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Oquirrh Associates

street & number 350 South 400 East

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of state Utah

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Recorder's Office

Washington County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town St. George state Utah

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

According to information provided by decedents of early occupants, and according to physical evidence suggested by the building itself, the Butler Home appears to have been built in two or three stages all before 1890. The one-room portion with its broadside facing east seems to have been built first. A short time later, a matching but slightly taller addition with two rooms was added to the south making a "T" plan. Later, a third adobe section was built at the northwest corner of the "T".

It is believed that by the late 1880s the Butler House took on the finished appearance it retained until its recent rehabilitation. Before this later work, the house contained the aforementioned four rooms in a "T" plan with two rooms in the top of the "T," one room in the "trunk" of the "T" and the last added room along the west side of the trunk.

The exposed adobe block walls of the superstructure are built upon a foundation of cut red sandstone. The window and door bays are tall and flat-arched. The windows are of the 6/6 operable sash type common to 19th century Utah buildings. Unlike many of its Greek Revival-influenced peers, the Butler House has a steeply pitched roof similar to that of the granary. The three original gables have 12/12 pitches and feature flat-trimmed wood cornices, fascias and small cornice returns.

The four rooms inside the Butler House are simply finished with lath and plaster walls and ceilings, wood floors, simply moulded casings and baseboards, and fairly plain raised panel doors.

In 1983 the new owners of the Butler House rehabilitated the house and granary and added a bedroom suite along the northwest corner of the house, the part of the building least visible from the two streets nearby. The addition is of frame construction with horizontal novelty-drop exterior siding.

The roof has a hip of low profile so as not to compete with the dominant original gables. Windows in the addition are of 6/6 operable sash type similar to those in the original structure.

The original last porch was taken down and rebuilt to match its original appearance. A new porch with compatible detailing was built along the south and west walls of the house to give needed shade from the severe south sun. During rehabilitation, badly damaged exposed adobes were replaced with matching blocks. New cedar shingles were applied to the roof, the doors and windows were repaired or rebuilt and all exterior trim was repaired and repainted. Exterior stone was tuckpointed with matching mortar.

Interior spaces were also rehabilitated. Walls, floors and wood trim were repaired or rebuilt and refinished. New cabinets were installed in the kitchen and new plumbing and electrical systems were installed in a visually inconspicuous manner.

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Also on the site is a two-level stone and frame building originally used as a food cellar (basement) and granary (upper floor). This structure has a split-level entry on the east side which faces the house. The superstructure of the rectangular building consists of cut stone basement walls of black basalt, walls of adobe block with horizontal wood siding along the upper part of the broadside walls. The roof is gabled and has a single flat-trimmed wood cornice and cedar shingles. The building has one small flat-arched window in each of the north and south basement walls, plus a larger 6/6 window in the upper west wall.

The building retains much of its original appearance, form, openings, its exposed stone, adobe and wood siding. Recently some exterior adobes have been repaired or replaced with matching blocks. A new dormer has been added along the south wall, done in the "Dixie dormer" style indigenous to buildings of that period. Also, a new wooden stairway has been built to give safer access to the upper east entry.

Inside, the two rooms (one on each level) retain their original size and shape. They are currently being used as sleeping rooms.

Situated on a large corner lot, in an old residential area, the house and granary are set back from the street in their original arrangement and still convey an accurate sense of what the site may have looked like nearly 100 years ago. This house-granary juxtaposition, once common in St. George, and throughout the "Mormon Corridor" is becoming increasingly rare as most granaries and many houses have been razed or substantially altered.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** c. 1868; c. 1886      **Builder/Architect** probably William F. Butler

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Built c. 1865, with a c. 1886 addition, the William F. Butler House is architecturally significant as one of only a few remaining examples of exposed adobe dwellings in the early Mormon settlement of St. George, Utah. Because adobe was readily available, quickly and easily made, and inexpensive, it was the most ubiquitous building material in southern Utah before the turn of the century. Many adobe buildings have been destroyed, and most of the exteriors of the remaining ones have been covered with stucco plaster, brick, wood, aluminum siding or some other sheathing. Never covered over, the exterior walls of the Butler House show the size, color, texture and coursing of its original sun-dried, earthen bricks. The roof, trim and windows of the house are also intact. In addition, this house is historically significant as the only identified house associated with William F. Butler, a farmer and pioneer colonizer, who was one of the initial settlers of St. George, as well as Palmyra and Spanish Fork, Utah and other Mormon towns in Arizona. The arrangement of house and granary on a large in-town lot with the farming land outside of town is typical of the agrarian Mormon settlement pattern.

The William Franklin Butler House is said to have been built by its namesake and first owner sometime between 1862, when Butler became the first occupant of the property, and 1886, when it was sold to the next owner, Henry G. Bryner. Based on an analysis of the building's materials, type of construction and architectural design, it is estimated that the first two adobe rooms of the dwelling were built in the mid-to-late 1860s while the next two adobe rooms and probably the roof as it presently appears, were built in the mid-to-late 1880s. According to Bryner family tradition, Henry Bryner added the north rooms as well as the two-level cellar-granary after purchasing the property in 1886.

William F. Butler, a farmer by occupation, was representative of many Mormon pioneers who, upon coming to Utah, were "called" by church leaders to move from place to place colonizing and expanding the boundaries of "Zion" in the "Mormon Corridor."

Born in Spencer, Indiana, February 1, 1824, William F. Butler became a convert to Mormonism and moved west with his growing family of five, arriving in what is now Utah in 1852. He was immediately called to be in the vanguard party of settlers who established Palmyra, a short-lived town near Utah Lake which was temporarily abandoned in 1855. Like most of his neighbors, Butler moved over to nearby Spanish Fork where he expanded his family by five children and served as a city councilman.

At the Mormon "General Conference" in October 1861, the Butler family was one of 309 families asked by church president Brigham Young to join "a company of missionaries for the south." Anticipating the outbreak of a national civil

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Title abstracts, Washington County Recorders Office.  
 Journal History, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.  
 "This Old House," Ms. by Helen Bradshaw Shurtliff, St. George, Utah.  
 I Was Called to Dixie, Andrew Karl Larsen, Immortal Pioneers, Albert E. Miller.  
 Under Dixie Sun, Washington County Chapter, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately .75 acre

Quadrangle name St. George, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

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2	6	9	9	2	0
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4	1	0	9	4	8	0
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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The East ½ of Lot 1 Block 8, Plat "A," St. George City Survey, according to the Official Plat thereof, on file in the office of the County Recorder of Washington County, State of Utah. Together with all improvements appurtenances thereunto belonging but being subject to Easements, rights of way and restrictions of record and those enforceable in law and equity.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allen D. Roberts, Preservation Consultant

organization Wallace N. Cooper II, Archit. & Assoc. date March 20, 1984

street & number 202 West 300 North telephone (801) 355-5915

city or town Salt Lake City state Utah

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature A. Kent Powell

title A. Kent Powell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date May 25, 1984

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Gussner

date 7/13/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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war, Young expected that the territory's supply of cotton from the southern states might be cut off thereby creating a critical shortage of the important materials. To minimize the impact of this eventuality, Young sent the "company of missionaries" to grow cotton in an arid, sparsely-settled area of southern Utah aptly named Dixie. Here Butler and his fellow colonizers established the city of St. George, named for the settlement's leader, Mormon Apostle, George A. Smith.

A census taken in the summer of 1862 shows William F. Butler to have been among the city's very first settlers. In January 1862, he was among those who contributed money toward the building of St. George's first public building, a stone school, social hall and meeting house. Of such early donors it was said "not many of these subscribers had a roof over his own head as yet." Apparently somewhat better off than some of his peers, Butler was one of those listed in an 1864 "survey of breadstuffs on hand" to have a surplus of food and cotton, enough to offer some for trade.

The earliest known townsite map of St. George shows that "William F. Buttler" (sic) owned a residential parcel at the northwest corner of 200 South and 300 West streets. This property he obtained by drawing a lot out of a hat as was customary in Mormon communities of the period. On February 15, 1875, after a federal land patent gave legal ownership to the inhabitants of St. George, an abstract was signed and recorded giving Lot 1 on Block 8 Plat A to William F. Butler. It is on this property that the present house is located.

Butler and his burgeoning family of two wives and many children continued to participate in the development of St. George until the mid-1880s when the family responded to another "call," this time to the seemingly more inhospitable territory of Arizona. On June 7, 1886, Butler sold his holdings to Henry Gotfreid (Gotfrey) Bryner and moved on to help settle Hubbard, Arizona before dying in Pima June 5, 1909.

Henry G. Bryner, the property's second owner, was born in Edwieken, Switzerland on July 17, 1853. Along with the families of his father and grandfather, he came to Utah as a Mormon convert, settling in St. George and marrying the year after buying the old Butler House. Although he reportedly expanded the house and built the present stone granary, Bryner was shortly thereafter asked to help establish Price, Utah. He moved there and raised seven children all born between 1889 and 1901.

For reasons unknown, he did not sell his home in St. George until April 27, 1897, when it was purchased by Arthur Hartley Woodbury, a St. George born farmer and son of first generation pioneer John Stillman Woodbury. Arthur and his growing family occupied the house until 1904 when it was sold to William Bertie Bradshaw, also a native son and farmer. In 1918, Bradshaw traded the home and lot for a house owned by Ephraim Jarvis Webb in nearby Hurricane, Utah. The fifth large family to occupy the diminutive adobe dwelling, the Webbs, sold the house to George Hackford in 1945. He in turn sold it in 1952 to Joe F. and Annie Hall who occupied the place until January 1967 when it was purchased by Ivor Clove. A few months later it was turned over to Mr. Clove's

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daughter, Mary Rondo and her husband Joseph. On August 18, 1981, the present owners, Lovinia, Stephen and Randall Harmsen bought the old Butler property and began preparing for a rehabilitation project which was recently completed.