

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. 49-UT-25-A-061-012

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 550 East 500 North Pleasant Grove, Utah County

UTM: 12 438170 4468760 Orem Quad/1:2400

Name of Structure: Young, William Friend House

T. 5S R. 2E S. 21

Present Owner: Alan N. Clark

Owner Address: 550 East 500 North, Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062

Year Built (Tax Record): Legal Description

Effective Age: Kind of Building:

Tax #: D-337

1/2 of Lots 7 and 8. Blk 61, Plat A. Pleasant Grove City Survey. 1.25 acres

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: William Friend Young

Construction Date: 1885-86

Demolition Date:

Original Use: Residence

Present Use: Residence

Building Condition:

Integrity:

Preliminary Evaluation:

Final Register Status:

- Checkboxes for Building Condition (Excellent, Good, Deteriorated), Integrity (Site, Ruins, Unaltered, Minor Alterations, Major Alterations), Preliminary Evaluation (Significant, Not Contributory, Not of the Historic Period), and Final Register Status (National Landmark, National Register, State Register, District, Multi-Resource, Thematic).

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1986 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1925, 1986 Photo No.:

Views: Front Side Rear Other

Views: Front Side Rear Other

Research Sources:

- Checkboxes for 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.

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

Pleasant Grove Review, May 11, 1972; February 26, 1937. Deseret News, October 31, 1921. 1880, 1900 Federal Census of Pleasant Grove. Personal interviews with Marjorie Was, September 10, 17, 1986. Personal interviews with Gale Clark, September 8, 16, 1986. Young family records, available in NR file. History of William Christian Williamson.

Architect/Builder: NA/William Friend Young

Building Materials: soft-rock

Building Type/Style: hall-parlor/vemacular

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

Built in 1885-86, the William F. Young House is a one-story hall-parlor house with a gable roof and soft-rock exterior walls. During the early twentieth century, additions were made to the rear, the house was stuccoed, and other minor alterations were made. The building was renovated in 1986, exposing the soft-rock walls once again and restoring a substantial degree of the building's original integrity.

The Young House is a typical hall-parlor house with a central transomed door flanked by a pair of windows on the facade and two rooms of unequal size on the interior. The house sits on a fieldstone foundation and has plain wooden lintels. There is an unfinished attic that is accessible only from an exterior upper entrance on the east or left side of the house. About 1910, a 19' X 12' brick addition with a stone foundation was added to the back of the house at the southwest corner. It consisted of a kitchen and a pantry. The pantry was converted into a bathroom in 1943. Soon after the brick addition was built, the soft-rock portion of the house was stuccoed and scored to resemble smooth-cut stone, giving the house a more refined appearance. This

(See continuation sheet)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1885-86

Built in 1885-86, the William Friend Young House is one of the 13 buildings included in the Pleasant Grove Soft-rock Buildings Thematic Resource nomination. Soft-rock buildings are significant because they help document the distinctive regional diversity found in nineteenth-century building stones in Utah. They also represent a distinct phase of the building construction industry in the Pleasant Grove area. Mormon community building in the Great Basin West rested upon the dual principles of order and permanence, and the grid-iron town plan and the use of stone as an early building material have become important symbols of Mormon settlement values. A great variety of local stones were used throughout the state, and the soft and easily worked tufa stone, popular in Pleasant Grove between about 1865 to 1900, remains one of the most distinctive. About 130 soft-rock buildings were known to have once stood in Pleasant Grove, yet there are only 13 well preserved examples today. Most of the earlier buildings in the community, constructed during the 1850s and '60s, were made of adobe, which was easily made and worked. As fired brick became more available and fashionable during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it replaced soft-rock as the dominant local building material. The remaining soft-rock buildings are important examples of a local architectural tradition and contribute to an understanding of the regional diversity of Utah's early architectural history.

William Friend Young was born May 4, 1860, in Warren, Ohio, and immigrated to Pleasant Grove in 1871 with his parents. There he met Christina Williamson. Christina had emigrated from Hjorring, Denmark, with her parents, William Christian and Christena Hellensen Williamson. Christina, born March 22, 1862, crossed the plains at age three and was raised in Pleasant Grove. William Young and Christina were married December 27, 1879, and in June 1880 moved to

(See continuation sheet)

William F. Young  
History continued:

Spanish Fork. In 1884 they moved back to Pleasant Grove, where they intended to establish a permanent home.

Soon after their arrival, William obtained an acre of land<sup>1</sup> and prepared temporary living quarters by excavating an underground room, rocking up the walls, and covering it with a low roof of willows and sod.<sup>2</sup> This was not an unfamiliar type of housing to Christina. Her father had provided a similar dugout home south of the Pleasant Grove cemetery when she was a child in 1866.

By 1886, William Friend Young had built a two-room, soft-rock house about five feet north of the dugout. William, a stone and brick mason by trade, laid the fieldstone foundation and 24-inch-thick soft-rock house walls. He probably also built the brick addition on the rear c. 1910. Soon after that, he reportedly stuccoed the soft-rock portion of the house because he did not like the contrast between the new brick section and the original soft-rock house.<sup>3</sup>

Between 1887 and 1901 six more children were born to William and Christina. They were all born in this house according to Marjorie Wax, a granddaughter. The household was enlarged when Young's bachelor brother, Peter, who had lost a leg in a logging accident, moved in.

William Friend Young followed the stone mason trade all of his life, specializing in walls, wells, cisterns, and cesspools. He died of a heart attack October 27, 1921, after working all day laying a wall. Christina, who had become an arthritic invalid, was cared for at home by her son, J. Vern, and his wife, Angeline, who had been living in the house since their marriage in 1918. After Christina's death in 1937, Vern assumed ownership of the house.

Vern and Angeline shared the house with his sister and her four children, who, abandoned by her husband, moved in with them in 1941. The frame addition over the dugout at the rear was built at that time to accommodate them. Vern worked for the Union Pacific Railroad from the time he was 15 until his retirement in 1964. He died in 1972. Angeline survives him and is currently living in Provo with their daughter, Marjorie Wax, who was born and raised in the house with three sisters.

After 1979, when Angeline moved to Provo with her daughter, the house was rented and then stood vacant about five years before being purchased in 1985 by Alan N. and Marian Gale Garner Clark, the current owners.

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#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>The title to the property on which the house was built was held by a brother-in-law and cousin of Christina until 1890 when William gained a warranty deed for the property.

<sup>2</sup>Interview with Marjorie Young Wax by Beth Olsen, September 9, 17, 1986, Provo, Utah. Mrs. Wax grew up in the house as the daughter of Vern Young, the son of the original owner.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

William F Young House  
Description continued:

was a popular technique used on soft-rock buildings in Pleasant Grove at that time.<sup>1</sup> The stuccoed walls were covered by asbestos siding in 1952. A shed-roof frame addition was built on the southeast corner of the house in 1941. It is currently in poor condition. Both the brick and frame additions do not significantly detract from the historic appearance of the house because they are located at the rear of the house and they are relatively small in scale.

A significant interior feature of the house is the 13' X 12'-7" cellar that served as the Young family's original 1884 dugout home. It is located five feet south of the soft-rock portion of the house beneath the 1941 addition on the southeast corner. It consists of a single room with fieldstone walls and a dirt floor. The original pitched roof was removed to accommodate the 1941 addition.

The house was substantially renovated in 1985-86. Both the siding and the stucco were removed from the exterior walls, and the deteriorated mortar joints were repointed. The original front door was replaced and mirror-finish storm windows were added on the outside, leaving the original double-hung windows intact. Most of the woodwork on both the exterior and interior has been retained. Custom-milled baseboard and door casings have replaced some ruined woodwork. The position of the door between the soft-rock and brick addition was changed in 1981, but the integrity of the woodwork has been maintained. A cupboard and hutch that were built into the brick addition remain.

There are several outbuildings on the property, though none of them contribute to the significance of the property. They include a privy and barn, thought to have been built by William F. Young, the original owner, during the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. An addition of railroad ties was built on the barn at an unknown date. Other outbuildings include a tie shed (date unknown), a frame chicken coop (1935), and a frame garage-shop (1935). These are all in fair condition.

Total number of contributing buildings: 1  
Total number of non-contributing buildings: 5

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<sup>1</sup>The ashlar-like appearance of plastered and scored walls was sometimes enhanced by applying flecks of black paint to the surface, giving the appearance of granite. This technique is visible in several historic photographs of Pleasant Grove houses (see the Alma Christiansen Collection, BYU Library). It was also recorded in field observations of the Benjamin Hawley House (55 East Center) by Roger Roper, February 1982. The exterior walls of the Hawley House were painted during its 1984 rehabilitation.