

**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 8 1983  
date entered

**1. Name**

historic Rumel, Eliza Gray, House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 358 South 500 East not for publication

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Salt Lake code 035

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 N/A	<input 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 Jean W. Poulsen

street & number 1962 Imperial Street

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of state Utah

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salt Lake City and County Building

street & number 400 South State Street

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Salt Lake City Central/  
Southern Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Salt Lake City Planning Department

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	by 1930, specific dates not known	

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

The Rumel House is two stories high, constructed of brick covered with stucco, and was built in 1887. It is a temple-form vernacular house type with a side passageway plan. As originally built the house consisted of one long rectangular block with a gable roof, and was oriented gable end to the street. A small one story brick addition was made to the rear by 1898, and a bay window and a narrow one story addition to the south side were added by 1958.

In its most common form, the Greek Revival temple-form house was found with its gable end facing the street with the main entrance pushed to one side.<sup>1</sup> This arrangement allowed there to be one large room, usually the parlor, in the front of the house, flanked by a small side passageway containing a staircase. Common in New England and along the westward moving New England frontier of the upper Midwest, the temple-form house appeared in Utah from the days of first settlement by the members of The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints. Because wood was not abundant in Utah, what was predominantly a frame type in the East often appeared as an adobe or brick house covered with stucco, giving it the smooth, light finish characteristic of Greek Revival designs. Classical elements, in most cases, were limited to occasional accents along the cornice or at the main entrance, but it was quite common to eliminate decorative elements altogether, and to finish the roof edge with a smooth cornice.

The Rumel house, a late rendering of the adaptation of the Greek Revival temple-form in Utah, is a good example of the archetypal, gable facade, side passageway house type. Its side passageway plan is easily read in the balanced arrangement of openings of the facade with the entrance to one side flanked by a bay window. There are three window openings on the second story. The bay window may not be original, and it is likely that in its place there originally existed two windows which were aligned with those on the second story. The stucco sheathing over the brick walls may have been original, or it may have been added at a later date to protect the brick. Decorative elements do not exist, the cornice having been reduced to a simple band, and the window and door openings simply cut into the wall without accent. The second story windows are the two over two light, double hung sash type, typical of the period in which the house was built.

Major alterations have been made to the house, but the basic form is intact and easily identifiable. Alterations include the addition of shutters to the second story windows, the bay window, the narrow one room addition on the south side which is set back from the facade and therefore unobtrusive, and the brick addition to the rear of the house which was enlarged from one story to two stories by 1958. The house was divided into apartments by 1930 indicating that alterations to the interior have been made. Despite these alterations the integrity of the original house has been preserved.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects: The Colonial and Neoclassical Styles, (Garden City, New York: Anchor Press, Doubleday, 1976), p. 450.

## 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1886 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rumel House, built in about 1886 for the second wife of John H. Rumel, builder, type manufacturer, plasterer and Mormon church leader, is significant as one of only nine documented Utah examples of the Greek Revival inspired temple-form vernacular house type.<sup>1</sup> The temple-form house originated in the Greek Revival period of American building,<sup>2</sup> and typically had its short end to the street and a pedimented gable facade in imitation of monumental classical buildings.<sup>3</sup> In its most common form the house had symmetrical fenestration with a door placed to the side of center, and an opening leading to a side passage containing the staircase.<sup>4</sup> Popularized by such books as Asher Benjamin's Builder's Companion and Minard Lafever's Modern Builder's Guide,<sup>5</sup> it became one of the traditional house forms in New England and in the upper Midwest.<sup>6</sup> The temple-form house migrated to Utah with the members of The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.<sup>7</sup> The temple-form house type is important because it is one of several early house types in the state, and because it is a type traceable to a New England cultural hearth, it documents the important New England heritage of the early Mormon movement.<sup>8</sup> It is one of seven basic house types that were found in Utah during the early years of settlement. These types are all traditional and include: the square cabin; the rectangular cabin; the hall and parlor house; the central passageway house; the pair-house; the double pen house; and the temple-form house.<sup>9</sup> The house was popular in Salt Lake City, a fact supported by early Sanborn-Paris Insurance maps, early photographs, and a surprisingly accurate "bird's eye view" rendering of the city in 1870.<sup>10</sup> The basic temple-form type, exemplified by the Rumel House, was easily expanded by adding one or two wings to the sides of the house. The most commonly encountered variant is referred to as a "modified" temple-form house, and is characterized by the placement of the principle entrance in the side wing.<sup>11</sup> Another variant of the house type has the door centered on the gable facade, does not have a side passage, and may or may not have side wings.<sup>12</sup> The Rumel House is a good example of the basic form from which these other variants were generated.

The Eliza Gray Rumel House was built ca. 1886 for Eliza Gray Rumel, second wife of John H. Rumel. John, who had married Eliza's sister, Abba, in 1847, married Eliza, in 1852 in keeping with the LDS Church doctrine of plural marriage, which was in effect from the 1840s until 1890. All three, John, Abba and Eliza were pioneers to Utah within the first two years of Mormon settlement in Utah, which began in 1847.

As a builder, type manufacturer, plasterer, and church leader, John Rumel had a long and important career in pioneer Utah. In 1851, two years after his arrival to Utah, he began working for the church as foreman of the plasterers, and continued for some seventeen years in the church's public works system, a program designed to perform much needed public improvements while also

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Plat Records, SLC City/County Bldg., SLC, UT.  
 Sanborn-Paris Ins. Maps, Univ. of Utah Library, SLC, UT.  
 Polk City Directories, Utah State Historical Society Library, SLC, UT.  
 Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1944.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Salt Lake City North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	2	4	2	6	0	2	0	4	5	1	2	4	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Commencing 10 rods North of the corner of Lot 1 Block 37 Plat B Salt Lake City Survey; North 36 feet; West 90 feet; North 5 1/4 feet; West 75 feet; South 2 1/2 rods; East 10 rods to beginning.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deborah R. Temme/Architectural Historian & Roger V. Roper/Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date March 1983

street & number 300 Rio Grande

telephone 801-533-6017

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 Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5-23-83

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Melvin T. Smith</u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>7/7/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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providing jobs for the thousands of emigrants who came to Utah as converts to Mormonism. In 1854 John began the manufacture of type which was used by the church-owned Deseret News. He served for a time as a councilor in the 11th Ward Bishopric and was called to serve on the high council of the Salt Lake Stake in 1860.

In 1886 John was arraigned on charges of unlawful cohabitation, as were many other Mormon men with plural wives at that time as the federal government began strictly enforcing that law. John, who had apparently been living with both wives at his home at 213 East 100 South, pleaded guilty to the charge, but, after promising to obey the law in the future, was given a suspended sentence.<sup>13</sup> Presumably in compliance with that promise, he had this house at 358 South 500 East constructed for his second wife, Eliza, and her family. She lived in this house until her death on May 16, 1910. Born in Salem, Massachusetts on November 4, 1824, she came to Utah in 1849 and married John Rumel in 1852. The marriage resulted in seven children. John lived with his first wife, Abba, after the court decision and died at her home (1814 South 500 East) in 1894.

The house has remained in the Rumel family up to the present, but has been used as rental property since the early 1950s. A daughter, Eliza Ann Rumel Lyon and her husband, Joseph, lived there from 1905 until about 1918, after which it was first rented then sold to her cousin, Ralf Rumel Woolley. A prominent hydraulic engineer and educator, Ralf served as Salt Lake City planning and zoning engineer, president of the Utah Society of Professional Engineers, and as president of the Utah Academy of Science, Arts and Letters. Mr. Woolley lived in this house until his death in 1948. Current owner of the house, Jean Woolley Poulsen, daughter of Ralf Woolley, has rented out the two apartments in the house for almost thirty years.

Notes

<sup>1</sup>Following is a list of the eight documented Utah examples of the Greek Revival inspired temple-form house type;

1. Jacob Houtz House, 980 North Main Street, Springville, listed in the National Register 1978.
2. Millard F. Malin House, 233 South 400 East, Salt Lake City, to be nominated to the National Register, 1983.
3. Elizabeth Gray Rumel House, 358 South 500 East, Salt Lake City, to be nominated to the National Register, 1983.
4. Jeremiah Beattie House, 655 East 200 South, Salt Lake City, to be nominated to the National Register, 1983.
5. 71 West 200 North, Logan, eligible for nomination to the National Register.

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6. E. J. Brooks House, 56 South 600 East, Salt Lake City, eligible for nomination to the National Register.
7. Corner 400 South and 100 East, Springville, eligible for nomination to the National Register.
8. McKean House, Bountiful, altered, not eligible for nomination.
9. House in Hoytsville, address unknown, altered, not eligible for nomination.

<sup>2</sup>Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America, (London: Oxford University Press, 1944), p. 268.

<sup>3</sup>Hamlin, p. 266.

<sup>4</sup>William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects: The Colonial and Neoclassical Styles, (Garden City, New York: Anchor Press, Doubleday, 1976), p. 450.

<sup>5</sup>Pierson, p. 448.

<sup>6</sup>Henry Glassie, Pattern in the Material Folk Culture in the Eastern United States, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), p. 133; Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 55:4 (December 1965), pp. 549-577.

<sup>7</sup>Tom Carter, "Folk Design in Utah Architecture: 1849-90," in Utah Folk Art: A Catalog of Material Culture, ed. Hal Cannon, (Provo: BYU Press, 1980), p. 44.

<sup>8</sup>Tom Carter, "Folk Design in Utah Architecture: 1849-1890," p. 44; Henry Glassie, Pattern, pp. 129-133; Leon S. Pitman, "A Survey of Nineteenth Century Folk Housing in the Mormon Cultural Region," dissertation, Louisiana State University, 1973, pp. 169-184.

<sup>9</sup>These types, except for the parstuga, are identified in Henry Glassie, Pattern, and Leon S. Pitman, "A Survey of Nineteenth Century Folk Housing in the Mormon Cultural Region," dissertation, Louisiana State University, 1973. A Scandinavian form, the parstuga or pair house, is the subject of a National Register nomination, "The Scandinavian-American House in Utah," listed in 1982.

<sup>10</sup>USHS Collections; Bird's Eye View of Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, 1870, (Chicago: Augustus Koch, Chicago Lithography Company, 1870).

<sup>11</sup>Glassie, p. 132.

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<sup>12</sup>Current research in the state has identified three major types of the temple-form house, each having several subtypes. These are: Type I identified by a gable facade, a side passage, and a door on the main gable, with or without one or two side wings; Type II identified by a gable facade, a two cell plan, a door centered on the main gable, with or without one or two side wings; Type III identified by a gable facade, a two cell plan, and one or two wings with the door on the wing. Some Type III houses were created by remodeling an existent structure. Fifty examples of these houses have been identified across the state: 9 of Type I; 13 of Type II; and 28 of Type III. The Rume1 House is a Type I house.

<sup>13</sup>"Journal History" 1886, November 30, p. 5.