

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Taos County, Red River
Red River Multiple Resource Area

1. Name: Young, Brigham J., House (Red River ^{MRA} ~~Multiple Resource Area~~)
2. Location: north side of Main Street between Golden Treasure Trail and Jay Hawk Trail
4. Owner: All-Seasons, Inc.
P.O. Box 877
Red River, New Mexico 87558
7. Description: The Brigham J. Young House is a one-story, rectangular brick structure with a front gabled roof and segmental arched openings. The interior is divided into five rooms by walls composed of a single thickness of stretcher-coursed brick between timber framing. Brick fireplaces are angled in the corners of the rooms. They have segmental arched openings and square projecting flues set at an angle in the corners. Stylistically, the use of segmental arches in this house reflects the Italianate Style.

The house measures 25 feet fronting on Main Street by 36 feet deep. Wooden porch overhangs at the front and rear project about five feet and are supported by logs. These are not original porches. Both sides of the house have three segmental arched windows with the original double-hung wooden sashes containing 2/2 lights. There are two doors at the rear and three doors at the front of the building. Two of the front doors lead into the southeast corner room which is larger than the southwest corner room. The remainder of the house is divided down the center by a brick wall, with a large rectangular room on the east side and two smaller rooms on the west side. The large rectangular room has two corner fireplaces at two ends. The two chimneys on the roof serve six corner fireplaces.

The gabled roof is covered with corrugated metal. In front of the southwest corner of the house is a metal historical plaque set in a cemented rock base. The building is in fair condition and is unoccupied.

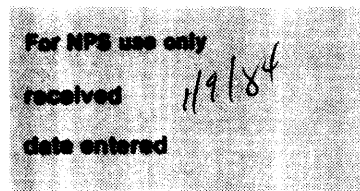
Near the rear end of the east wall of the house is a small metal incinerator. It is not attached to the building and is a non-contributing structure.

8. Significance: The Brigham J. Young House is significant both architecturally and historically. It is significant architecturally as a rare example of an historic brick structure in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and as the only brick building known to have been erected in the mining town of Red River. It is also architecturally significant for its brick corner fireplaces which show the influence of Spanish architectural traditions in New Mexico in an Anglo-American structure. It is significant historically by association with Brigham J. Young, a pioneer figure of Red River.

The house is said to have been erected about 1898, several years after "Red River City" was platted. It was built for Brigham Jesse Young who came to Red River in 1894 to establish a sawmill to provide lumber for the new town.

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Taos County, Red River

Red River Multiple Resource Area

Young, Brigham J., House (Red River Multiple Resource Area)

Brigham Jesse Young, called B.J., was born in Virginia in 1864. He was a relative of Mormon leader Brigham Young. He moved with his parents to Utah, where he married his wife, Sarah. From there the couple moved to Colorado, and then to New Mexico. Between 1883 and 1908, they had 14 children whom they raised in this house. The eldest son, John, became a State Senator of New Mexico.

B. J. Young was a lawyer, a justice of the peace, and a notary public. He was a real estate promotor in the new town, and operated the sawmill on Sawmill Mountain in order to provide lumber for building construction. He and his sons operated a general merchandise store in Red River, and he served as an early postmaster in the town. In addition, he raised cattle. In 1896, he established the Last Chance Gold Mine in the mountains near Red River. Young was considered by his contemporaries to be one of the leading citizens of Red River.

B. J. Young's wife, Sarah Elizabeth Wilson, was also regarded as an important settler of Red River. She had the only piano in the valley. It had been shipped to Trinidad, Colorado, and from there her sons brought it to Red River by wagon. It is said that in the evenings the children of the village would gather in the large rectangular room of the brick house to sing. They were often joined by miners with their fiddles and banjos.

The brick used in construction of the house was fired in kilns on Orin Mallette's Willow Placer Mining Claim at the western end of the valley. It is laid in Common American Bond with six stretchers to every header. It is pinkish orange in color, and soft in consistency. Around the base of the building, and here and there in the walls, some of the bricks in the Young House have been eroded by weathering.

As far as is known, this house was the only brick structure erected during the early years of Red River. Early panoramic photographs of the town, taken from the surrounding mountain sides, fail to show any other brick structures. However, Orin Mallette's brick was used for chimney construction in many buildings. Brick was historically rarely used in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains since timber and rock were readily available as building materials.

Of special architectural significance in the B. J. Young House are the brick corner fireplaces. They show the influence of the Spanish fogón, or fireplace, which usually occupied the corners of adobe rooms in New Mexico. Unlike the angular brick fireplaces of the Young House, the Spanish adobe fireplaces were rounded with parabola-shaped openings. But like the brick fireplace of the Young House, they were surmounted by a square projecting flue set into the corner.

10. Geographical Data: The nominated property consists of lots 16 and 17 in Block 27 of the Red River Townsite.

Quadrangle name: Red River

Quadrangle scale: 7.5 minute

UTM References:

Zone 13 Easting 464270 Northing 4062160