

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 555 Deer Valley Road UTM: 12 458560 4499320
 Park City, Summit County, Utah
 Name of Structure: House at 555 Deer Valley Road T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Ennis Gibbs
 Owner Address: 5 Walker Court, Park City, Utah 84060

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: PC 750-3
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:
 Beginning South 449.55 feet and East 376.24 feet from East ¼ Section 16 T6S R4E,
 road point being also on Northerly right-of-way line proposed Deer Valley entrance road;
 thence along road right-of-way North 85 degrees 2 minutes 26 seconds West 10.69 feet
 to point on 1048.40 feet radius curve to line, radius point which bears South
 4 degrees 57 minutes 34 seconds West 1048.4 feet; thence Northwesterly along arc
 (See continuation sheet)

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Unknown Construction Date: c. 1895 Demolition Date:
 Original Use: Residence Present Use:
 Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:
 Excellent Site Unaltered Significant Not of the National Landmark District
 Good Ruins Minor Alterations Contributory Historic Period National Register Multi-Resource
 Deteriorated Major Alterations Not Contributory State Register Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1983 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1983 Photo No.:
 Views: Front Side Rear Other Views: Front Side Rear Other

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 Census Records

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

Cowin, Norma. Telephone interview, March 6, 1984, Salt Lake City, Utah.
 Dennis, Gladys. Telephone interview, January 25, 1984, Park City, Utah.
 Kummer, Bea. Interview, February 10, 1984, Park City, Utah.
 1910 Census Records. Summit County, Park City Precinct.

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Building Materials: Wood

Building Type/Style: Pyramid House

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

This house is a one story frame pyramid house. Unlike a majority of Park City's pyramid houses which have truncated hip or clipped gable roofs, this house has a true pyramid roof. It is an archetypal example of the pyramid house, one of the simplest, most clearly stated examples of the pyramid house type in Park City. Its square plan, pyramid roof, and symmetrical facade with a hip roof porch spanning the width of it are the principle elements of the type. There is a second door on the west side of the building over which a simple porch was added. There is a rear shed extension attached to the north side which projects past the west side of the building. In Park City houses the projection of a rear shed extension was often made to provide space for a wood or coal shed. In-period rear extensions are part of Park City's architectural vocabulary. Although in many cases an extension represents a major alteration of the original house, it usually contributes to the significance of a house because it documents the most common and acceptable method of expansion of the small Park City house. The windows on the south and east sides of the house are the one over one double hung sash type. A square window was added to the west side of the building. It is an unobtrusive change. The building is in good condition and maintains its original integrity.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: c. 1895

Built c. 1895, this house at 555 Deer Valley Road is architecturally significant as one of 69 extant pyramid houses in Park City, 28 of which are included in this nomination. Of the 28 being nominated, 11 are true pyramid houses and 17 are variants of the basic type. This house is one of the true pyramid houses. The pyramid house is one of the three most common house types built during the early period of Park City's mining boom era, and significantly contributes to the character of the residential area. It appeared early on, but continued to be built with variations longer than the other two types.

This house was built by at least 1907, as indicated by the Sanborn Insurance Maps which first covered this area that year, but, judging from its appearance, it was probably built about 1895. Due to incomplete property records, the exact date of construction and the name of the original owner of this house are unknown.

The first property transaction identified with this house was in 1912 when Rachel B. Urban sold this and four other houses in a group sale to Edwin B. McIntosh. Nothing is known of McIntosh. "Mother" Urban was the principal madame of Park City's red light district, which was concentrated on Heber Avenue, the lower portion of Deer Valley Road. That 1912 transaction referred to these houses as those "known as the Red Light [district]," and included the houses at 321, 339, 345, 555, and 777 Heber Avenue. The conclusion that this was one of Park City's houses of ill repute is countered by the following facts: house numbers in this area have not remained consistent through the years; this house is located a ways east of the documented red light district; census records support the claims of long-time residents of the
(See continuation sheet)

555 Deer Valley Road
History continued:

town that these houses along Deer Valley Road were the homes of miners and laborers, not houses of ill-repute;¹ this house may have simply been investment or rental property owned by Rachel and George Urban (her husband), who owned various other properties throughout the town, which they apparently used for investment or rental purposes. Nevertheless, the title abstract reference to this house as one of the the red light district houses supports at least an assumption to that effect.

The 1910 census records, the first to identify the addresses of the houses surveyed, list George A. Hanks, a miner, and his family as renters of this house.² Other owners of the house include Christian Pederson (unknown-1936), and Alma Pederson (1936-c.1970).³

¹Telephone interview with Norma Cowin, March 6, 1984, Salt Lake City, Gladys Dennis, January 25, 1984, Park City, Utah, and Bea Kummer, February 10, 1984, Park City, Utah.

²The address given in the 1910 census, 555 Deer Valley Road, is the same as that shown for this house on the 1907 Sanborn Insurance Map, so it can be reasonably assumed that they are the same house.

³Telephone interview with Norma Cowin (daughter of Alma Pederson), March 6, 1984, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Legal Description continued:

radius curve 93.45 feet; thence leaving right-of-way North 6degrees 56 minutes East 134.78 feet along fence line to fence corner; thence South 73 degrees 35 minutes East 106.86 feet to fence corner South 7 degrees 46 minutes West 109.43 feet along fence line to beginning.

.29 acres.