

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

Street Address: 1075 North 100 East, Pleasant Grove, Utah County, Utah UTM: 12 437250 4469445

Name of Structure: Peter Axel Johnson House (Granite House) T. R. S.

Present Owner: Mark Williams

Owner Address: 1035 North 100 East, Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: Legal Description Kind of Building:

Commencing 10.73 chains South and 21.36 chains West of the Northeast corner of Section 20 Township 5 South Range 2 East, Salt Lake Base and Meridian; thence West 300.38 feet, South 38 degrees East 150 feet, North 89 degrees 36 minutes West 90 feet, South 179.67 feet, East 205.38 feet, East 185 feet, North 319.67 feet to point of beginning. 2.60 acres total.

Original Owner: Peter Axel Johnson Construction Date: c. 1876 Demolition Date:

Original Use: Dwelling Present Use: Dwelling

Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:

- Building Condition: [] Excellent [] Site [] Unaltered [x] Significant [] Not of the [] National Landmark [] District [x] Good [] Ruins [x] Minor Alterations [] Contributory Historic Period [] National Register [] Multi-Resour [] Deteriorated [] Major Alterations [] Not Contributory [] State Register [] Thematic

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

Research Sources:

- [x] Abstract of Title [x] Sanborn Maps [x] Newspapers [] U of U Library [x] Plat Records/Map [x] City Directories [x] Utah State Historical Society [] BYU Library [x] Tax Card & Photo [x] Biographical Encyclopedias [x] Personal Interviews [] USU Library [] Building Permit [x] Obituary Index [] LDS Church Archives [] SLC Library [] Sewer Permit [x] County & City Histories [] LDS Genealogical Society [] Other

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

Utah County Records
U.S. Census Records, 1880 and 1900.
Salt Lake Tribune, June 17, 1936, p. 21
Williams, E.M. and Avera, Interviews, June 1983, Pleasant Grove, Utah

Restored
OCT 22 1984

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Building Materials: Stone/Plaster

Building Type/Style: Pair House/Greek Revival

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

The Peter Axel Johnson house is a 1-1/2 story stone dwelling. The original house (the shaded portion of the attached floorplan) was constructed c. 1876 and has the three-room plan which falls into TYPE II of the pair house classification system. The house was constructed of the local "soft rock", a soft, porous tufa that was used in the construction of many houses and buildings in Pleasant Grove during the late nineteenth century. There are paired stove chimneys on the ridge and the five-bay facade is characteristically asymmetrical. A rear 1-1/2 story ell extension was added to the original house, probably by Johnson during the late 19th century. This section has a hipped roof which extends several feet higher than the original roof line and is visible from the front of the house. When the Williams family purchased the home in 1925, the upstairs rooms were not finished. At this time a staircase was inserted in the south front room. A later frame addition stands now at the rear of the house. The original windows on the main floor of the house were replaced in recent years by aluminum frame windows but the openings themselves have not been altered. In the 1950s the exterior of the house was plastered. Most of the soft rock houses in the town have been plastered because the rock is too soft to stand up well in the weather. While this work has obscured the original stone exterior, the importance of the rare pair house form makes this house a significant contribution to Utah's architectural landscape. There are several outbuildings located on the property, none of which contribute to the significance of the house, therefore, they are not included in the nomination.

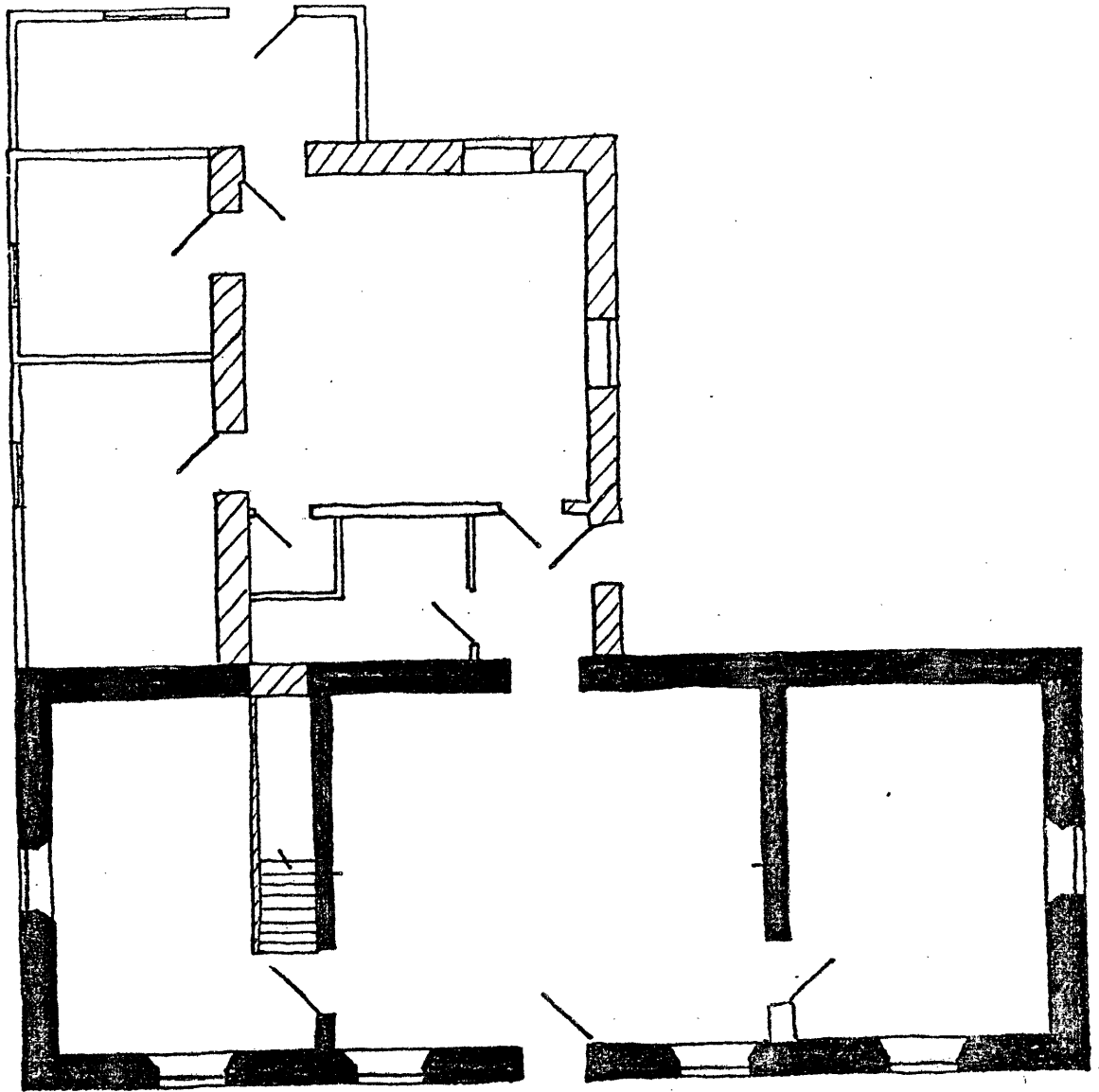
Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: c.1876

The Peter Axel Johnson house, constructed c. 1876, is one of 56 examples of the Scandinavian "pair house" type that have been recored in Utah. Graphically documenting the migration of thousands of Scandinavian converts to Mormon Utah during the second half of the 19th century, the pair house form makes a significant contribution to the architectural history of the state. The Johnson house is to be included in the thematic nomination, "Scandinavian-American Pair Houses", listed on the National Register in 1983*.

Peter Axel Johnson was born in Alminge, Sweden, on February 20, 1843. A convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Johnson emigrated to Utah in 1871. He worked several years in Salt Lake City before moving to the town of Pleasant Grove in 1873, building this stone house shortly after he purchased the building lot in 1876. He and his wife Caroline, also a native of Sweden, raised eight children while living in this house. Johnson farmed and helped construct the railroads that ran to the mines in American Fork Canyon and various canyons in the Salt Lake Valley. He died in 1936. Earlier, in 1925, he sold the house to John T. Williams. The house today remains in the Williams family.

*The original nomination contained 16 buildings out of a total of 48 that had been documented at the time. Since 1983, 8 new examples of the house form have been identified. Four pair houses have been listed on the National Register separately or a part of historic districts.



PETER AXEL JOHNSON HOUSE
PLEASANT GROVE, UTAH COUNTY, UTAH