

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 7 1979
DATE ENTERED	SEP 26 1979

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

NELSON WHEELER WHIPPLE HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

564 West 400 North

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

02

STATE

Utah

CODE  
049

COUNTY  
Salt Lake

CODE  
035

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Scott and Kathy Bailey

STREET & NUMBER

7200 South 150 West

CITY, TOWN

Midvale

STATE

Utah 84047

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Salt Lake County

STREET & NUMBER

450 South State Street

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"In September (of 1854) I commenced to build a house 28 x 35 and 2 stories high of adobies it contained 12 rooms in all 2 front rooms 12 1/2 x 14 1/2 with a hall 6 ft. wide between them which led to a back kitchen 16 x 9, and a small buttry, 1 bedroom below in the north East corner 9 ft square. Above was 1 room 15 x 20, 1 room 14 1/2 x 12 1/2, 1 room 9 ft. square 1 room 10 ft. x 9, a grainery 9 x 10, it took 8 cords of rock for the foundation and about 25,000 adobies about 7000 ft. of lumber and 10,000 shingles and cost me about 2000 dollars." (From Nelson Wheeler Whipple's Journal.)

The Whipple House is in a deteriorated condition, and a recent fire destroyed part of the back stair case. The house is comparatively unaltered, however, and with the exception of a one-bay entrance porch that was added about forty years ago, looks much as it must have done in Whipple's day. Windows are completely missing and the spaces boarded up. The federal style doorway is intact and of handsome proportions. The house is two storied, with inside end chimneys. The adobies appear to be in excellent condition. The neighborhood, close to the railroad tracks, is run down but has a large number of interesting pioneer and Victorian houses. The house has been purchased for restoration.

# 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 checked="" 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 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Nelson Wheeler Whipple

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Wheeler House is that it is one of a mere handful of early pioneer adobies of this distinction and quality to be found in the Salt Lake City area. It is also the only one in Utah whose construction was carefully documented, step by step, and is therefore especially valuable as a "textbook" of early Utah building practices. Its other additional value to history derives from its associations with its builder and resident Nelson Wheeler Whipple, a man whose accounts of the early settlement experience were chosen for serialization by a Church publication (Improvement Era) during the 1930s.

Nelson Wheeler Whipple was born in Sanford, Broom County, New York, in 1818. Following his conversion to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1844, Whipple and his first wife made their way to Nauvoo, Illinois, to take up residence. In the unsettled conditions of Nauvoo, Whipple was assigned as one of the bodyguards to the Council of the Twelve . . . joining them in their flight across the frozen Mississippi on February 9, 1846.

After returning and removing his wife and sister from Nauvoo, Whipple made his way to Garden Grove, Iowa, and for over two years managed to make a living for himself in that temporary settlement. By 1850 he had earned enough to finance the passage of his family to Utah.

In his long career in Utah Whipple was a policeman, gunsmith, carpenter and cabinet maker, and even, for a period, superintendent of the Municipal Bath House. His importance in Utah history centers principally on his activities in the lumber business. His shingle mill supplied the shingles for the Tabernacle on Temple Square, and for many other public and ecclesiastical structures. He was paid \$12 per thousand for the tabernacle shingles, but he had to part with \$6 of that to pay for their transportation from his mill in Cottonwood Canyon into Temple Square. Whipple was a polygamist with three wives and seventeen children.

What secures Whipple's place in Utah history are his excellent journals and biographical reminiscences. While there are many Utah diaries covering the early settlement experience, the Whipple materials are unusually perceptive and richly detailed. They are an interesting source of information and insight into many early Utah construction practices. Whipple reported the operation of Brigham Young's Public Works Program and many other facets of community building in Salt Lake City. His writings are very readable and maintain their narrative quality throughout.

"I found very few of my old acquaintances in the city, and those I did find seemed as cold as cucumbers and I did not trouble them much. In a short time I could not get the lot I was on so I inquired what course I should take to obtain one. I was informed that Heber C. Kimball wanted some of us to come every Saturday and he gave the lots to each one as it seemed him good, and they paying one dollar and a half could have their lots. My lot was located where my house now stands. I did as I was told and a lot was set off to me in the

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nelson Wheeler Whipple. "Journal" MSs at Utah State Historical Society and Church Library/Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Salt Lake City North, Utah

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,2 4,2,4 0,7,0 4,5 1,1 5,2,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Com at SE cor Lot 4 Blk 118 Plat A SLC Surv N 7.5 rds, W 85 ft, S 7.5 rds E 85 ft.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John S. H. Smith, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

DATE

September 1978

STREET & NUMBER

307 West 200 South

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:

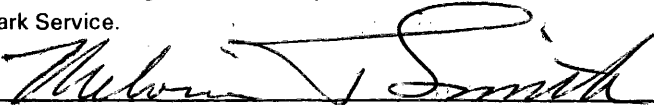
NATIONAL

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE July 27, 1979

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9/26/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: W. Ray Luce

DATE 9/24/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

nineteenth ward, lot four on block seventy four in the new survey in the north west sixth of the city. I was directed by Brother Bullock where to find it and on my way there I found Father Alger who told me where the lot was and I went and saw it and found it half covered with water. I saw by this I was not going to be able to do anything with the lot that fall, if ever I did. When I was returning back to my wagon I found Peter Nebeker, who recognized me, although I did not know him. He enquired what I was going to do. I told him that it was a hard question. He offered me work all winter and to build me a house, etc. This I considered more like a friend than any I had met within the city. I took him up at his offer and went and removed my wagon over near his house and camped upon the very ground where my house now stands although I did not think of building there for several years after that."

The very attractive home that Whipple eventually constructed for himself stands on a street with a fair proportion of other homes of style and character. The neighborhood is located sufficiently close to the proposed Capitol Hill Historic District to partake of some of the potential for rejuvenation and renovation.

The feasibility of restoration has been established by the architect for the Utah Heritage Foundation, who chose to make this one of the properties funnelled through their revolving purchase fund. The new owners are anxious to undertake a serious restoration based on the singular value of the Whipple House.