

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Sign. Site #121

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: E. of Beaver of NT 153 UTM: 12/359075/4237575
 Name of Structure: T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Fred B. and Dixie Harris Less than one acre
 Owner Address: Beaver vicinity, Utah
 Year Built (Tax Record): 1910 Effective Age: Tax #: 414 County
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Beginning at a point approximately 700 ft. from the Southeast corner of Sec. 14, T 29 S., R 7 W., Salt Lake City Meridian, then running North 150 ft., West 150 ft., South 150 Ft., then East 150 Ft. to beginning.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Robinson, William, House Construction Date: 1910 Demolition Date:
 Original Use: residence Present Use: residence
 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: Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 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 Fieldwork

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

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harris, interviewed 8/26/80 in Beaver by L. L. Bonar.
 1933 photo on tax card, County Assessor's Office, Beaver, Utah.
 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Robinson, interviewed 8/29/80 in Beaver by Linda L. Bonar.
 Zoe Palmer, interviewed by telephone 8/29/80 by L. L. Bonar.

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Building Materials: Pink Rock (tuff)

Building Type/Style:

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The home begins with a three foot tall, black rock foundation. This rock is squared and joined with beaded mortar joints. The home has a rectangular plan and all of it, excepting two small frame additions on the east side, was originally built in 1910. The gables are infilled with decorative shingles in a scallop pattern and the broad, wooden cornice not only extends across these gables, but all the way around the house.

The masonry on the front facade is quite unusual for Beaver. The pink rock displays a tooling pattern that is not encountered elsewhere in town. The tooling is very fine and was done somehow with an axe into which teeth were filed. Such a modified axe was commonly used to "chop" the pink rock blocks from the quarry, but it is unusual to find the same tool used to refine the stone. It makes a very pleasant pattern, but a very unique one. The stone, as it was set in courses on the front facade, probably was done by different masons. The rock work on the east side of the front is much more neatly done, with even, straight courses, while those on the west half are often curved and irregular. The edges of the blocks on the corners of the house are all tooled to a smooth perfection.

The home is quite large and the rock is only tooled on the front facade. On the remainder of the house, the rock work is flat, but not squared. The interior has been extensively remodeled.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

The home is significant because of its historic date, its stone construction materials, its unimpaired architectural integrity and its unique masonry. It was built for William Robinson, who was born in Parowan, Utah in 1869. At a young age, Will moved to Beaver and lived with and worked for the John Riggs Murdock family.

When he married, and acquired a family, he earned his living as a farmer and kept some milk cows as well. He later moved his family out of town to live in this pink rock house so that his children could be near Murdock Academy. Will was reportedly the farm manager for the Academy and in that capacity was responsible for overseeing the Academy's experimental farms and vegetable gardens. He worked part-time for the Telluride electrical plant, and also sold "stubs" to the plant, which they used with electric poles. Then stubs were juniper posts, which acted as a foundation for the fir tree logs that actually carried the wires.

An interesting story, related by more than two sources, is that the William Robinson house was built with the labor of prisoners. Mr. Robinson served as Beaver County's Sheriff and it is quite possible that the prisoners worked on his house as part of their "chain gang" labor.