

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. BV-04-224

Sign. Site #38

Structure/Site Information Form

1 IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 195 E. 1st No. UTM: 12/356725/4237500  
 Name of Structure: Nowers, Wilson G., House T. R. S.  
 Present Owner: H. David and Donna A. Hahn Less than one acre  
 Owner Address: Beaver, Utah 84713  
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: B-141  
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Southeast Quarter of Plat A Block 35 Lot 1

2 STATUS/USE

Original Owner: Nowers, Wilson, G. Construction Date: 1883 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

3 DOCUMENTATION

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.):

1933 photo on tax records  
 Mrs. Howard Walbeck, interviewed 9/14/79 in Beaver by L. L. Bonar.  
 Mrs. Verta Heffner, interviewed 9/14/79 in Beaver by L. L. Bonar.  
 Mr. Emil Nowers, interviewed 9/15/79 in Beaver by L. L. Bonar.  
 Sketches from Life and Labors of Wilson Gates Nowers by Reinhard Maeser, Beaver City, Utah 1914.

Researcher: L. L. Bonar

Date: 1979

Architect/Builder: Wilson Gates Nowers

Building Materials: Brick and Siding

Building Type/Style:

**Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:**

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

The home is a one-and-a-half story hall and parlor house, built of Beaver's local brick. It has a steeply pitched roof and a center gable on the front facade. It has many unusual architectural features for a home in Beaver. Firstly, it has a central chimney, located in the center of the ridge line. Secondly, on the front facade, it has one off-set front door and two small French-type doors (very unusual). Both doors have radiating brick voussoirs over them. Upstairs in the center gable is a double window. These piercings on the front facade are not symmetrical, but they are balanced. The front porch, with its Greek Revival pillars and floor boards, are also original and this too is somewhat unusual. The home rests on a black rock foundation and there is a modest Greek Revival style cornice around the eaves. Two additions have been put on the rear of the house, the first of brick and the second of frame construction. The frame addition also has a bay window. Both additions are only one story tall and they give the house an "L" plan. The lot is nicely landscaped, with large shade trees, many shrubs and a white picket fence. Also on the property is a large pink rock garage, with poor quality masonry that was built in 1943.

Architecturally, the home is significant because of its historic date and its unaltered architectural integrity. It also displays several features that are unusual in Beaver today: a central chimney, a type of French door, an original porch, a staircase on the interior rear wall and an asymmetrical but balanced front facade.

**Statement of Historical Significance:****Construction Date:**

The home was built for Wilson Gates Nowers and it was probably constructed by Mr. Nowers and his sons. He was born in 1828 at Dover in Kent, England. As a young man, he was apprenticed as a coach maker for seven years. He was converted to the LDS Church (Mormon) and sailed for America and Utah at the age of 23. Two years after arriving in Utah Wilson Nowers was sent by the LDS Church authorities to help settle the town of Parowan. He arrived in 1853 and married Sarah Anderson three years later. In 1856 Mr. Nowers was selected as one of about a dozen men who were to pioneer a new town in the Beaver River Valley. He had acquired a surveyors skills at some unspecified point in his life and he helped Col. Dame do the original survey of Beaver City. Once the town was established, Mr. Nowers was elected County Recorder and served six terms of office in this position. He also served as an early school trustee and as a board member of the Beaver Co-operative Mercantile Institution.

His home was built in 1883 and it is probable that Mr. Nowers and his sons did the construction work. The home has a very unusual plan and type for Beaver and it is also probable that Mr. Nowers' English origins influenced the design.