

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type: _____

Site No. _____

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 90 E. Main
Midway, Wasatch County, Utah

UTM: 12 460200 4484470

Name of Structure: Bonner, George, Jr., House

T. 3 S R. 4 E S.35

Present Owner: Oneta Casper
90 E. Main

Owner Address: Midway, Utah 84049

Year Built (Tax Record):
Legal Description

Effective Age:
Kind of Building:

Tax #:

Beginning at the NE corner of Block 3 Midway Survey, thence S 164 feet, W 198 feet,
N 164 feet, E 198 feet to beginning.
0.75 acres

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: George Bonner, Jr.

Construction Date: 1877

Demolition Date:

Original Use: Residential

Present Use: Residential

Building Condition:

Integrity:

Preliminary Evaluation:

Final Register Status:

- Excellent
- Good
- Deteriorated

- Site
- Ruins

- Unaltered
- Minor Alterations
- Major Alterations

- Significant
- Contributory
- Not Contributory

- Not of the
Historic Period

- National Landmark
- National Register
- State Register
- District
- Multi-Resou
- Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1985-86

Slide No.:

Date of Photographs: 1985-86 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

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

Bonner, Lois Thacker. Interviewed by Tom Carter and Roger Roper, May 1985, Midway, Utah.

Mortimer, William James, comp. and ed. How Beautiful Upon the Mountains. Heber City, Utah: Wasatch County Chapter of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1963.

Architect/Builder: John Watkins

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: cross-wing/Gothic Revival

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The George Bonner, Jr., House, built in 1877, is a 1 1/2 story brick example of the cross-wing house type. The house has a basic L-plan with a forward projecting gable intersected at a right angle by a side wing. There is a central entrance hall containing the staircase, and there is an original rear kitchen ell. Open porches were originally found to both sides of the rear wing. The porch on the west was replaced sometime in the late nineteenth century by brick shed that served as the kitchen. The porch on the east was closed in as an extra bedroom in the 1960s.

The house is a good example of the Gothic Revival style. Decorative scroll-cut bargeboards are found along the raking cornices of each gable and on a small dormer contained on the north front of the side wing. Decorative bracketed bay windows are found on the north and east gables. The bay windows originally had fancy balconies that now have been removed. Pedimented wooden heads are found over each opening and there is a classical front porch. This porch is not original, having replaced in the early twentieth century an earlier one in the Gothic Revival style. The house is brick, painted red, with cut sandstone quoins now painted white. The house remains in good

(See Continuation Sheet)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

Built in 1877, the George Bonner, Jr., House is one of seven houses contained in the ARCHITECTURE OF JOHN WATKINS THEMATIC RESOURCE NOMINATION, having been designed and built by John Watkins, an accomplished early Utah builder. John Watkins' work effectively illustrates the dynamic role the professional builder played in shaping Utah's early architectural landscape. While it has been customary for historians to explain Utah architecture from the time of first settlement in 1847 up to about 1890 as the simple extension of eastern folk styles or the replication of popular pattern-book designs, John Watkins' houses suggest a more generous appraisal. Slave to neither tradition nor pattern-book, Watkins found useful ideas in both, ideas that formed the basis of essentially new if nevertheless familiar designs. From two-room cottages to elaborate Gothic Revival houses to houses intended for multi-family polygamous living, Watkins drew upon his broad building experience to create not copies of other houses, but new ones designed to meet his client's functional, aesthetic, and symbolic needs.

John Watkins was born in Midsone, Kent, Kingland in 1834. He received training in the building trade in his native England before joining the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and emigrating to Utah in 1855. Watkins' skills were welcomed in the nascent Mormon towns of, first, Provo, and then Midway. In Provo, Watkins helped build the original LDS Tabernacle (1856) and the Opera House (1859), and after moving to Midway in the upper Provo River Valley in 1862, Watkins' familiarity with picturesque design produced 5 of the best and most significant examples of the Gothic Revival architectural style in the state of Utah.

George Bonner, Jr., had this house built in 1877 at the same time that his brother William was having a house built across the street to the east. Both

George Bonner, Jr., House
Description continued:

historic condition and although much of the fancy decorative woodwork has been removed, the house remains a fine Utah example of picturesque ideals.

Also located on the property is a modern concrete block garage. Since it was not constructed during the historic period it does not contribute to the significance of the house.

Total number of contributing buildings: 1

Total number of non-contributing buildings: 1

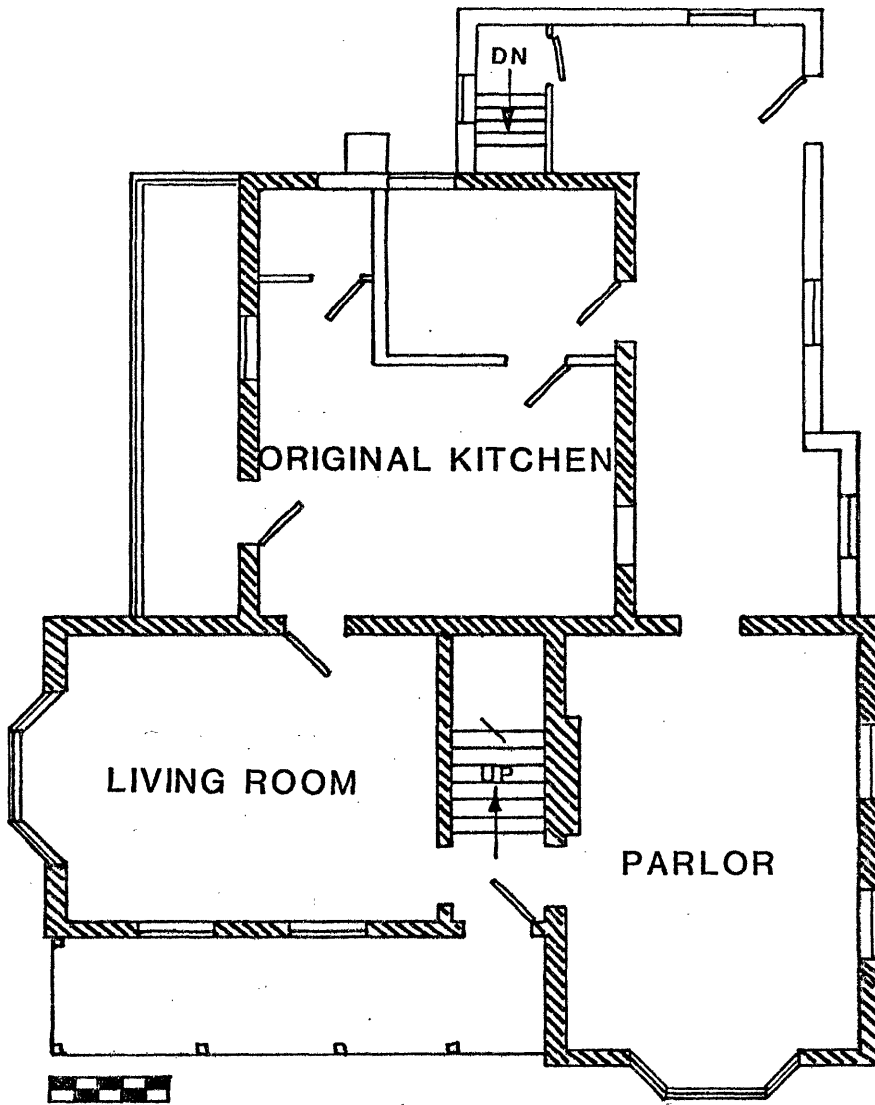
George Bonner, Jr., House
History continued:

George Jr. and William were married in January 1878, and their houses were reportedly built and completely furnished in time for their weddings.¹ Their father, George Bonner, Sr., who had purchased the property upon which his sons' houses were built, lived across the street at 103 E. Main. The intersection at 100 East and Main Street in Midway became known locally as "Bonners' Corners" because the Bonners owned all four corner lots, three of which had houses on them and the other was occupied by the Bonner Mercantile. All three houses--those of George Sr., George Jr., and William--were designed and built by their neighbor, John Watkins, whose own house at 5 E. Main exhibits some of the same Gothic Revival features that are found on the Bonner houses.

George Bonner, Jr., was born August 4, 1850, in Glasgow, Scotland, to George Bonner Sr. and Margaret Edmundston Bonner. The family converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon Church) in the early 1850s and came to the U.S. soon after to join the Saints in Utah. After spending a few years in Pennsylvania, where George Sr. worked in the coal mines, the family arrived in Utah in 1861 and settled near Midway. As a young man George obtained a contract to provide timber for the Ontario Mine in Park City, which proved to be a successful venture. In 1874, he and his brother William opened a small store in one room of their father's house. That business prospered to the point that they built a separate store building on the corner lot west of their father's house in 1879. The brothers ran the store together for a number of years, then George took over complete operation. George and William were also involved in the livestock business, and they are credited with operating the first grist mill in Midway.² On January 4, 1878, George married Phebie Annette Alexander. Phebie was born in East Mill Creek in 1857 and had moved to Midway with her parents around 1871. George and Phebie had six children, five of whom lived to adulthood. They lived in this house until their deaths in 1913 and 1944, respectively.

¹Interview with Lois Thacker Bonner, May 1985, Midway, Utah.

²How Beautiful Upon the Mountains, p. 703-706.



George Bonner, Jr., House
Midway, Wasatch County, Utah
1986