

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. BV-04-B-20-1-1

Sign. Site #107

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 635 North 400 West

UTM: 12/355825/4238225

Name of Structure:

T. R. S.

Present Owner: Albert J. and Paul A. Smith
Lenore Joseph
Owner Address: Beaver, Utah 84713

LESS THAN ONE ACRE

Year Built (Tax Record): c. 1873 Effective Age:
Legal Description Kind of Building: residence

Tax #: B-339

All of lots 1 and 2, Block 20, Plat B, Beaver City

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Thomas Jones Construction Date: c. 1873 Demolition Date:

Original Use: Residence Present Use: vacant

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

- Building Condition: Excellent, Good, Deteriorated; Integrity: Unaltered, Minor Alterations, Major Alterations; Preliminary Evaluation: Significant, Not Contributory; Final Register Status: National Landmark, National Register, State Register, District, Multi-Resource, Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: Slide No.: Date of Photographs: Photo No.:
Views: Front, Side, Rear, Other

Research Sources:

- 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.):

Warranty Deed Record Book 2, p. 35.
Mr. Alton Swindlehurst, interviewed 7/10/80 in Beaver by L. L. Bonar.

Architect/Builder: Thomas Frazer

Building Materials: Black rock (basalt), green granite and brown granite

Building Type/Style: Vernacular hall and parlor

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The original portion of this black rock, hall and parlor house consisted of two rooms with the window-door-window piercing on the front facade displaying bilateral symmetry. The stonework on the front facade consists of excellent masonry, with well-squared stone blocks. These blocks are not only of the common basalt rock, but also of the local green granite and brown granite, the latter two being rarely used as building materials in Beaver. All 3 types of stone are nicely worked and the chisle marks are still evident today. The mortar joints in the front facade are straight and square, being recessed and stained white. These mortar joints, in conjunction with the squared stone blocks give the house a formal appearance.

The south facade of the house also displays the same type of masonry and in addition, one can see where the stone lean-to has been joined to the original portion of the house. The lean-to also has the above described masonry style on the south side and was probably built within ten years of the first part of the house. The rear and north facades of the house and lean-to are constructed of black rubble rock and there has been a frame addition, with board and batten siding, added (north facade) which is also probably of a historic date.

There is a cubical out-building on the property that is probably of a historic date. It is built of a mud concrete substance with a high proportion of concrete. It has a hipped roof and a basement and it was probably used for a granary at one time.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

The home is significant for several reasons. It was built by Thomas Frazer, who was a Scots stonemason who was responsible for building several structures around town. It was one of Frazer's earlier residences, as is evidenced by the hall and parlor plan and the use of the green and brown granites. When Frazer first arrived in Beaver, some of his earliest work utilized a variety of local stone, but he soon came to prefer the black basalt as a building material and used it consistently until the pink rock quarry (tuff) was opened in the early 1880s.

Though no information is available on the original owner of the house under discussion, Mr. Joseph Swindlehurst purchased the home in 1898, four years after he married Mary Ann Swindlehurst. The couple raised six children there and Mary Ann lived in the home for 60 years until 3 years before her death in 1961.

The house has further significance because it is unaltered and, despite its deteriorating condition, retains all of its historic architectural integrity.

635 North 400 West  
Beaver, Utah

Sometime during the 1960s, after the house was abandoned, it was apparently used for grain storage. One of the former residents reports that the grain got wet and bowed out the stone walls, thus initiating the structural damage that is now visible in two places. It is possible to see the interior rock construction, which proves very interesting. The squared rocks on the front facade average from 8 to 10 inches in thickness, while the rubble rock is used behind it as infill to complete the 18 inch wall. The rubble infill was put together with an adobe mortar and is very fragile today. Also visible is a wooden over one of the windows. The lintel consists of three 4 x 6 which have been nailed together so that only the front one shows.