

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. _____

SIGN. SITE # 127

Structure/Site Information Form

1 IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 355 South 200 West

UTM: 12/356200/4236675

Name of Structure:

T. R. S.

Present Owner: Peggy Stapley Blackner
Brent Stapley

LESS THAN ONE ACRE

Owner Address: Beaver, Utah 84713

Year Built (Tax Record): 1885 and
Legal Description c. 1872

Effective Age:
Kind of Building: Residence

Tax #: B-851-c

Com 268 Ft. S of NW cor Lot 7, Blk 1,
R 1, N&E; th S 192ft.; E 235.5 ft.; N
192ft.; W 235.5 ft. to beg.

2 STATUS/USE

Original Owner: ~~probably~~ Joseph Bohn

Construction Date: c. 1872
and 1885

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 Field work

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

Lula Parker Betenson, Butch Cassidy, My Brother,
1933 photo on tax card in County Assessors Office
Brent Stapley, interviewed 7/3/80 in Beaver by L.L. Bonar
Mrs. Peggy Blackner, interviewed 7/3/80 in Beaver by L.L. Bonar
Mrs. Ella Firmnge, interviewed 7/12/80 in Beaver by L.L. Bonar
Mrs. Clerinth Larson, interviewed 7/14/80 in Beaver by L.L. Bonar

Researcher: L.L. Bonar

Date: 7/3/80

Architect/Builder: Thomas Frazer for black rock and possibly for pink rock too

Building Materials: pink rock (tuff) and black rock (basalt)

Building Type/Style: vernacular hall & parlor and vernacular mansard

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The original portion of the house was a 2 room hall and parlor plan constructed primarily of black rock. It was built by Thomas Frazer and several of the characteristics of his early style of masonry are evident. For example, it displays well cut and squared stone blocks on the front facade and the blocks are joined by white stained beaded mortar joints. The facade also has what is known as "Aberdeen Bond" stonework, where three small stones are stacked next to a larger stone block and repeated several times throughout the front facade. The Aberdeen Bond is only found in Frazer's earlier buildings and in a technique he learned in Scotland before immigrating to Utah. Also to be seen in the front facade is the use of green granite. The green granite was quarried south of town and was originally used to supplement the brown granite and the black basalt. However, by about 1876, the basalt became the predominant building rock, nearly to the exclusion of the other types until the pink rock quarry was opened c. 1881. This black rock section of the house has a brick bay window added on its south facade, the bay window probably dating from the same time as the pink rock (tuff) portion of the house.

The pink rock section of the house was built on the N. facade of the black basalt house c. 1885. The mason is unknown for certain but it is probable that it is the work of Thomas Frazer as well. It is two stones tall and rests upon a

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:

black nibble rock foundation. The pink rock blocks used in the first two courses are quite large and all the windows & doors make use of large stone lintles above them. The plan of this pink rock section is rectangular and it originally had 2 rooms downstairs, with bedrooms upstairs. There are several dormer windows in an original mansard roof and a nice wooden cornice trims the eaves and the dormer windows.

There is a non-historic, cinderblock addition on the rear of the home which is not visible from the street and the pink rock section has been painted white.

The home is significant within a historic district because of its stone building materials, its historic date, the fact that it was built by Thomas Frazer and its fine architectural integrity. Besides these attributes, it is possible that Butch Cassidy may have been born on the property.

The original black rock cottage was probably built for Joseph Bohn by Thomas Frazer sometime c. 1872, though Mr. Bohn lived across the street and to the north in an adobe house that is still extant (see structure/site form #). Bohn sold the property to David Levi in 1876, and Levi's second wife in polygamy - Christina Gillis Levi - lived there part time and raised her family. Circa 1885, Christina and David had the pink rock section of the house built.

Jane Gillies, Christina's mother, also lived in the home, apparently taking care of it when Christina was residing and working at her farm just west of Beaver (there was also a house on this farm). In her book, Butch Cassidy, My Brother, Lula Parker Betenson (Butch's sister) states that her brother was born in Beaver, in 1866, at the home of his maternal grandmother, Jane Gillies. If Butch was born on this property, as many Beaver residents believe he was, it must have been in an early log or adobe cabin that is no longer extant. The earliest possible date of construction for the black rock section (original) would be 1869 when Thomas Frazer first arrived in Beaver. According to Butch Cassidy's sister, he was born in 1866, thus pre-dating the earliest possible date for the existing stone house by three years.

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The fact that the property was owned by Joseph Bohn until 1876 does not automatically rule out the possibility of the Gillies or Levi family living there earlier. Joseph Bohn lived across the street in an early adobe home and it was not uncommon in Beaver for someone other than the legal owner to be living on a piece of property especially if they were related to the owner in some way.

In conclusion, this author has researched three other homes that were thought by some to be the birthplace of Butch Cassidy. None of those three were likely candidates once even a superficial amount of research was done. This property though probably not this house, has encouraging abstracts, but all in all the documentable facts still remain too sketchy at this time for any definitive conclusions.