

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received AUG 18 1980

date entered

OCT 22 1980

**1. Name**

historic Anthony W. Bessey House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Lot 1 Block 108 Plat A Manti City Survey (nw corner 400 N. 300 W.) not for publication

city, town Manti vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 01

state Utah code 0 49 county Sanpete code 0 39

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Maxine Bradley

street & number 1924 Sunland Drive

city, town Carson City vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state NV 89707

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sanpete County Courthouse

street & number 160 N. Main

city, town Manti state UT

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Sanpete Vernacular Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Spring 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City state UT

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Anthony Bessey House, built c.1860, is a 1-1/2 story square cabin folk/vernacular house type (see plan drawing). Measuring 22'x 17' on the exterior, the house is one of the larger single unit square homes to be found in Utah. The second story is quite spacious and is reached by a boxed staircase which runs along the south wall. The stairs to the cellar run underneath those leading to the upper floor. On the north wall is the fireplace which is extremely large, more than 6' in width. The interior has been remodelled to contemporary standards.

Externally the Bessey House is in excellent condition and virtually unaltered. The wall material is oolite limestone most certainly extracted from the "Temple Hill Quarry" several blocks to the east. The facade is coursed ashlar; the mortar is flush with incised lines emphasizing the geometrical coursing. Other walls are less handsomely treated and while they are cut-stone they lack the even coursing present on the facade.

The house has a simple gable roof with stone fireplace at the north located internally in the wall. The stone end walls extend up to the ridge of the roof in the gables. Decoration is minimal with the heavy stone lintels over the facade openings the only suggestion of ornamentation. The facade itself is unusually asymmetrical. The front door is placed centrally, but windows occur only to the right or north side. The upstairs window is a "half" window, typical of 1-1/2 story structures. To the left of the door the wall is blank. This fenestration pattern is distinctive in its unabashed asymmetry but can possibly be partially explained by internal factors. On the south wall, beginning right at the southeast corner, the staircase extends about 3' into the room. Windows on this end of the facade would be partially blocked by the staircase so were deleted from the overall design.

Alterations which detract from the home's historic appearance are few. There is a one story plastered adobe room added to the rear. This west room is gabled with a brick stone flue chimney and is undoubtedly a 19th century addition to the original square house. A modern gabled front door canopy is the only serious alteration of the original house.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1860 Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Anthony Bessey probably had this small stone house built shortly after his arrival in Manti in 1858. The home has a long association with the Bessey family and certainly construction features indicate an early building date. The house is historically important because as one of the first group of homes built outside the Manti forts, it represents the initial stage of local community development. Architecturally the Bessey House is significant as one of a number of typical house types utilized by the early Utah settlers and becomes an important example of Sanpete vernacular building.

The town of Manti, settled in 1849 by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, was the first town in the Sanpete Valley Colony. Colonists arrived in the fall of 1849 and after wintering in dugouts and wagon boxes, laid out a city in the spring and summer of 1850.<sup>1</sup> By the winter some 20 log homes had been erected and work was beginning on a meetinghouse. One year later travelers to Manti reported seeing "several handsome two-story adobe houses, many one story dwellings, a good grist mill and a sawmill."<sup>2</sup> Threat of Indian attack caused a general pattern of fort building in the 1852-1854 period. Mormon forts were erected to enclose rows of small dwellings and the Walker War (1853-1855) made the security of protected habitation attractive to Manti residents.<sup>3</sup> Peace in the later years of the decade allowed Manti residents to move out to their city lots and begin again the process of city building. It was about this time, in 1858, that Anthony Bessey arrived in Manti.

Anthony Wayne Bessey was born in 1835 in Bethel, Maine.<sup>4</sup> In his early years Bessey followed both the cabinetmaking and shoemaking trades. By the 1850's Bessey had joined the Mormon church and in 1857 he migrated westward to "Zion" in Utah. At first he made shoes in Salt Lake City but in 1858 he moved his family south to the Sanpete Valley and settled in Manti. Here Bessey farmed and pursued his shoe making trade and by 1870 had a personal value of about \$700 in property. For 18 years Bessey occupied a position on the high council of the Sanpete Stake of the Mormon church. In 1873-1875 he served as City Mayor and was elected to the city council in the years 1883-1890. Bessey probably had this small stone house built shortly after his arrival in Manti, c.1860. The house is an excellent example of the sturdy homes the Mormon pioneers built during the early stages of great basin settlement. In selecting a house design, Bessey followed a well-known traditional plan.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Sanpete County Records. W.H. Lever, History of Sanpete and Emery Counties (Ogden: WH LEver, 1898). Centennial Committee, Song of a Century (Manti, UT)  
 Henry Glassie, "Types of the Southern Mountain Cabin," in The Study of American Folklore, Jan H. Brunvand (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1968), pp. 338-370.  
 Leon S. Pitman, "A Survey of 19th Century Folk Housing in the Mormon Culture Region," Diss.

# 10. Geographical Data

Louisiana State University, 1973.

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 **UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
 Quadrangle name Manti, UT **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:24000  
 UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Begin SE cor lot Blk 108 Plat A: N 6 1/2 rods, W 6 1/2 rds, S 6 1/2 rds, E 6 1/2 rds to beginning

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Carter/Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date April 1980

street & number 307 West 200 South telephone 53-6017

city or town Salt Lake City, state UT 84101

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T Smith

title Melvin T Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Kevin Fran Dunge</u>	date <u>10/22/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Paul Stoner</u>	date <u>10/22/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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received AUG 18 1980

data entered OCT 22 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

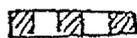
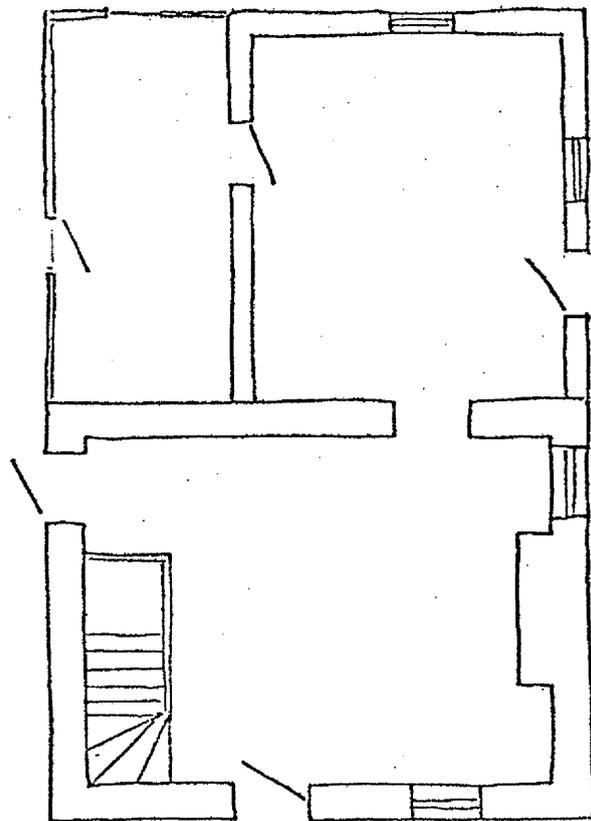
Page 2

The square bay (roughly square) evolved as a folk building unit in England during middle ages and was employed extensively in cottage construction.<sup>5</sup> The house appeared as a one-room type (with or without upper loft) as was utilized extensively throughout the English American Colonies.<sup>6</sup> Advancing westward, the "square-cabin" type house is ubiquitous on the American frontier.<sup>7</sup> Mormon examples have been recorded at Nauvoo, Illinois<sup>8</sup> and the square cabin house was extensively dispersed throughout the LDS western communities.<sup>9</sup> Anthony Bessey most certainly would have been familiar with such a square house plan in his native Maine and opted for this rather modest design in his new western home.

The Bessey House is one of a number of folk building types employed by Manti residents in the first stages of settlement. The house is typical of smaller, more inexpensive homes built by the pioneers. Despite its rather distinctive facade, this house gains its architectural and historical significance through its unexceptional nature, i.e., its ability to define the capabilities of the average. There are both larger and smaller homes in Manti, built by people who had both more and less than Anthony Bessey. Bessey's home, taken in the larger context of vernacular building tradition of the area, helps expand the historical record to include the total population, not just a small percentage of exceptional individuals.

- 1 Andrew Jenson, Manuscript History of the Manti Ward, microfilm of typescript, Library-Archives, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- 2 Jenson, Manuscript History.
- 3 W.H. Lever, History of Sanpete and Emery Counties (Ogden: W.H. Leve, 1898), p.18.
- 4 Lever, pp. 100-101, and U.S. Census 1870.
- 5 See, Henry Glassie, "The Types of the Southern Mountain Cabin," in The Study of American Folklore, Jan H. Brunvand (New York: W.W. Norton, 1968), pp. 351-353.
- 6 See, Bernard L. Herman and David G. Orr, "Pear Valley et al: An Excursion into the Analysis of Southern Vernacular Architecture," Southern Folklore Quarterly, 39:4 (December 1975), pp. 314-316, and J. Frederick Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut (1924: rpt, New York: Dover, 1963), pp. 5-20.
- 7 C.A. Weslager, The Log Cabin in America (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1969).
- 8 Tom Carter, personal files, Utah State Historical Society.
- 9 Leon S. Pitman, "A Survey of Nineteenth Century Folk Housing in the Mormon Culture Region," diss. Louisiana State University 1973, pp. 138-145.

# ANTHONY BESSEY HOUSE MANTI



STONE SQUARE CABIN TYPE C. 1855-60

AUG 18 1980