

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 342 North 500 West UTM: 12/333340/4454230
 Name of Structure: Thomas N. Taylor House T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Verl G. Dixon Acreage: Less than one
 Owner Address: 342 North 500 West, Provo, Utah 84601

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #:
 Legal Description Kind of Building:

Com nw cor lot 4, blk 106, plat A, thence east 236.6 feet, south 66 feet, west 54 feet, south 10.78 feet, west 53.5 feet, south 56.5 feet, west 129.17 feet, north 133.28 feet to point fo beginning (includes other residences).

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Thomas N. Taylor Construction Date: c. 1904 Demolition Date:

Original Use: Single family dwelling Present Use: Multi-family dwelling

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

- | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant | <input type="checkbox"/> Not of the | <input type="checkbox"/> National Landmark | <input type="checkbox"/> District |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor Alterations | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributory | Historic Period | <input type="checkbox"/> National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Resource |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | | <input type="checkbox"/> Major Alterations | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Contributory | | <input type="checkbox"/> State Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Thematic |

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: Slide No.: Date of Photographs: Spring '79 Photo No.:
 Views: Front Side Rear Other Views: Front Side Rear Other

Research Sources:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstract of Title | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> U of U Library |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plat Records/Map | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Directories | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah State Historical Society | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BYU Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax Card & Photo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biographical Encyclopedias | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Interviews | <input type="checkbox"/> USU Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Obituary Index | <input type="checkbox"/> LDS Church Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> SLC Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Permit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County & City Histories | <input type="checkbox"/> LDS Genealogical Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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

Plat records, Utah County.
 Sanborn maps, 1908.
 City Directories, 1911, 1929.
 J. Marinus Jensen, History of Provo, Utah (Provo, Utah: J. Marinus Jensen, 1924), pp. 204, 275, 319, 328.
 William M. Wilson, Utah County, Utah in Picture and Prose (N.P.: n.p., 1914), pp. 7, 19.
 William M. Wilson, Pictorial Provo: An Illustrated Industrial Review of Provo, the Garden City of Utah (Salt Lake City: The Deseret News, 1907).
 Marilyn McMeen Miller and John Clifton Moffitt, Provo: A Story of People in Motion (Provo: BYU Press, 1974), p. 102.
 John Clifton Moffitt, The Story of Provo, Utah (Provo: Press Publishing, 1975), pp. 251, 252, 261, 276, 279.
 Thomas Sterling Taylor with Theron H. Luke, The Life and Times of T.N.T. (Salt Lake City: n.p., 1959).

Architect/Builder: N/A

Building Materials: Brick

Building Type/Style: Box Style

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

The Thomas N. Taylor house is significant as the most outstanding and well preserved example of a Classical Box in Provo. The box style was used extensively in Salt Lake City but is not a common type in Provo.

The Thomas N. Taylor house is an excellent example of a two and one half story classical box. Its classical detailing, irregular massing and unaltered condition make it particularly distinctive among the limited number of Provo examples of this type.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1908

History

Thomas N. Taylor was the most prominent person from Provo's west side in the early twentieth century. He was one of Provo's most successful merchants, a banker, a successful politician, an entrepreneur of high ambition and influence, an important Mormon leader, and a patron of education in Provo.

This large box-style house was built for Thomas N. Taylor about 1908. Taylor was the most important member of the most prominent west-side Provo family. He was born in 1868 in Provo, the son of George Taylor, Sr. and Eliza Nicholls Taylor. He attended Provo schools and Brigham Young Academy. In 1889 he married Maud Rogers in the L.D.S. Manti temple.

Taylor's father started a furniture store in the 1860s. This business expanded continually and Thomas became manager of the enterprise. The name was eventually changed to Taylor Brothers. After his mother stepped down from the presidency of the concern, Thomas N. Taylor became president of Taylor Brothers. While he directed the business, the imposing three-story building on the north side of Center Street between 200 and 300 West was constructed to house Taylor Brothers. Taylor also presided over the Provo Building and Loan Society, founded in 1904, and the Farmers and Merchants Bank, founded in 1906. He served on the initial board of directors of the Knight Woolen Mills and served on other boards.

Taylor was active in political affairs. He was mayor of Provo from 1900 to 1903. He ran for governor of Utah as a Democrat in 1920 and was defeated although he did better than practically all other Democrats in that Republican landslide year.

Thomas N. Taylor House
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Continuation of history

Taylor was an active Mormon who was called to important positions in his church. He served as bishop of the Provo Third Ward for nineteen years and subsequently served as president of the Utah Stake for twenty years. After he was released from being president of the stake, he was made stake patriarch.

Thomas N. Taylor was also active in civic concerns in Utah. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Brigham Young University and served for a time as chairman of that group and of the University of Utah Board of Regents. He was instrumental in the establishment of Utah Valley Hospital. Taylor died in 1950.

The house was deeded to Taylor Brothers after Taylor's death. In 1957 David S. Nelson bought the house. He owned it for sixteen years, then sold the house to Verl G. Dixon, a former mayor of Provo.

Thomas N. Taylor House
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Continuation of architecture

On the main facade windows and doors are symmetrically arranged in relation to one another, but are asymmetrical with respect to their placement under the eaves of the roof. The main door, located on the southwest corner of the facade, is centered under an imposing classical portico supported on Tuscan columns. The portico has a boxed cornice with dentils on the frieze of both the cornice and its pediment. The southwest corner of the box has been cut out to allow for porches on both the first and second stories. The bellcast roof of the first story porch also functions as the base of the second story porch. Tuscan columns support both porches. The classical ornament of the portico is continued on the frieze of the architrave of the first floor porch.

Major windows have leaded glass transoms of varying intricacy, and there are two oval and one square stained glass window which accent the west and south walls.

There is a projecting bay on the south wall which is capped by a low pitch hip roof. The more intricate arrangement of windows of differing shapes and sizes on the south wall contrasts with the simpler window composition of the north wall indicating that it was considered a major facade.

Although this building has an irregular arrangement of openings, massing and decorative elements, there is a balance to the composition which complements the system of classical ornament.

The only apparent alteration to the exterior of the building is the addition of a basement apartment whose entrance is visible, but which does not detract from the integrity of the original building.