

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Woodruff, Wilford, Family, Historic Residences

and/or common Woodruff Family - Waterloo Area Historic Residences

2. Location

street & number See individual inventory forms not for publication

city, town vicinity of congressional district

state code county code

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes sub-sections like Public Acquisition and Accessible.

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership; see individual inventory forms

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salt Lake City and County Building

street & number State Street and Fourth South

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1980 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Wilford Woodruff Family Historic Residences-Waterloo Area thematic nomination is composed of three houses which represent the best known sites in the state of Utah, and Salt Lake City, that are associated with Wilford Woodruff, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1887 to 1898. These houses are all located in Block 13, Plat A, Big Field Survey of Salt Lake City, known as the "Waterloo Area." They are as follows:

- 1) Wilford Woodruff Farm House
1604 South Fifth East
- 2) Woodruff Villa
1622 South Fifth East
- 3) Asahel Hart Woodruff House
1636 South Fifth East

The houses, and their garden plots, comprise the nomination (see sketch map), as they were built upon the Woodruff family farm and retain some aspect (gardens) of that farming heritage.

The three Woodruff houses reflect three important periods in Utah history: first, the 1847-75 years of colonization and agricultural isolation; second, the 1880-1900 years of political struggle with the Federal Government; and third, the years 1900-1930 which witnessed the assimilation of Mormonism into the mainstream of American culture.

The Wilford Woodruff farmhouse, built in 1859-60, represents the pioneer agricultural period. This two-story log structure, now stuccoed, is a vernacular "I" house type with a rear salt box extension (added later). It is a double-pen plan house and contains two rooms on each of the two floors. In Woodruff's diary, he mentioned that on May 20, 1859 approximately 300 logs were cut to build the house (see the individual structure/site inventory form), making it the largest hewn log house thus far identified in the state of Utah.

Wilford Woodruff established his farm on the land occupied by the three residences. This area was known as the Big Field Survey of Salt Lake City, and represented an expansion of the city southward. Here, Woodruff planted and experimented with a variety of crops, serving as the president of the Utah Horticultural Society and the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society. Thus, the land surrounding the residences is also of importance.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates See inventory forms **Builder/Architect** See inventory forms

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wilford Woodruff Family Historic Residences-Waterloo Area thematic nomination comprises the Wilford Woodruff farmhouse, 1859-60; the Woodruff Villa, 1891; and the Asahel Hart Woodruff house, 1907. These three residences, and their garden plots, are significant as the best remaining known sites in Salt Lake City and Utah that were associated with Wilford Woodruff and his family. Woodruff served as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) from 1887 to 1898. In 1890 President Woodruff issued the Manifesto, the "official" declaration that proclaimed the end of polygamy among the Mormons. The practice of plural marriage had been at the forefront of antagonisms between the Federal Government and the Mormons, and had been the key issue in denying Utah statehood. In making his decision, President Woodruff wrote, "I have arrived at a point in the history of my life as the president of the Church . . . where I am under the necessity of acting for the temporal salvation of the Church."¹

In addition, the three Woodruff residences, through the Woodruff family, combine to reflect three important periods in the early history of Utah. The Wilford Woodruff farmhouse, a large log (now stuccoed) structure built in 1859-60, represents the pioneer agricultural period of Woodruff's life. The land on which the three houses stand was a part of the original Woodruff farmstead and an early expansion area of Salt Lake City. In 1891, approximately one year after the Manifesto, LDS church president Wilford Woodruff had the Woodruff Villa constructed. This Victorian brick house symbolized the end of the conflict between federal authority and the Mormons, and the hope for a peaceful future. After the Manifesto, Mormon leaders who had practiced polygamy came out of hiding and became publically visible. The Woodruff Villa, with a carved stone bearing its name on the facade, signified that visibility for Wilford Woodruff. A third period in Utah's early history was that of the younger generation of Mormons--one characterized by assimilation into American life. The Asahel Woodruff house, built in 1907 by a son of Wilford Woodruff, reflects this assimilation. Asahel Woodruff succeeded in business, which had been attainable within a free-enterprise environment, unlike the cooperative setting sponsored by the LDS church in the period preceding accomodation and eventual assimilation. Asahel Hart Woodruff also served the church as bishop of the newly established Waterloo Ward (a Mormon unit of ecclesiastical jurisdiction) in 1905; thus, this area of Salt Lake City's Big Field Survey became known as the Waterloo Area. This thematic nomination is a product of the ongoing Utah Historic Sites Survey, with research beginning on the Woodruff houses in 1974.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Arrington, Leonard J., and Bitton, Davis, The Mormon Experience, A History of the Latter-day Saints, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1979
Peterson, Charles S., Utah, A Bicentennial History, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., 1977

See continuation sheet 3

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property See individual inventory forms

Quadrangle name Salt Lake City, South - Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

See individual inventory forms

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual inventory forms

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James F. Cartwright, Researcher/Philip F. Notarianni, Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date March 1980 / March 1982

street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City state Utah

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 National Park Service

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Melvin T. Smith

name Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date April 6, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 2

The Woodruff Villa, constructed in 1891 immediately south of the farm house, represents the second period of Utah's early history. This two-and-a-half-story house integrates elements of the Eastlake and Queen Anne styles into a successful statement of late-nineteenth-century Victorian design. With Woodruff's rise in social and political status came the need for a new residential symbol of the change. The style and massing of this residence, as well as materials, clearly distinguished it from the earlier farm house. On the second story, above the front porch, is a stone marked "Woodruff Villa 1891," clearly marking the building's importance as the home of the LDS church president, Wilford Woodruff. In its own subtle way the house also serves as a symbol of a newly acquired sense of permanence which accompanied the final Mormon acquiescence to federal authority during the anti-polygamy era. Woodruff, a church leader and polygamist, found himself able to devote time and energy to his domestic affairs following the end of living underground during the polygamy raids of the 1880's.

Directly to the south of the Villa is the Asahel Woodruff house. Built in 1907, the house is an excellent example of a Classical Box style residence. This two-and-a-half-story brick house was built for Asahel Hart Woodruff, Wilford's son, and represents a generation of young Mormons who would be raised free from the intense conflicts of the preceding years. The house was built on the old family farm; and in 1905 LDS church authorities created the Waterloo Ward in the Big Field area. Asahel Woodruff was called as its first bishop; consequently, the area where these three residences stand became known as the Waterloo Area.

All three houses have been altered, as noted in the individual structure/site forms, but retain much of their historical integrity.

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Continuation sheet 2

Item number 8

Page 2

Wilford Woodruff was born March 1, 1807 at Avon, Connecticut to Aphek and Beulah Thompson Woodruff. In 1839 he was ordained an Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Brigham Young, and sustained as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in 1880. Wilford Woodruff became president of the LDS church in 1887 and served in that capacity until his death on September 2, 1898.²

President Wilford Woodruff is most significant for his role in issuing the Manifesto in 1890 that "officially" ended the practice of polygamy among the Mormons. Noted Utah historian, Charles S. Peterson, briefly summed this document by stating, "This famed proclamation denied that the church was still solemnizing plural marriages and declared Woodruff's intent to submit to the law and influence all Mormons to do likewise."³ Leonard J. Arrington and Davis Bitton noted that most Americans were glad to accept the official declaration as evidence of "Mormon accomodation." Thus, between 1894 and 1896 the property of the church was for the most part returned by joint resolution of Congress, and Mormon leaders "never attempted to reassert pervasive control over the territorial economy."⁴ President Woodruff's Manifesto had a profound effect and influence on the course of Mormon and Utah history.

The Wilford Woodruff farm house, Woodruff Villa, and Asahel Woodruff house link together both the periods of development of the Wilford Woodruff family and, as mentioned, the early years of Utah's history. The farm house was a residence for both a daughter and one of Wilford's plural wives, as well as a location where he occasionally lived. However in 1891, after the 1890 Manifesto, President Woodruff built the Villa and occupied that residence with Emma Smith Woodruff and their children. By 1907, when Woodruff's son Asahel Hart Woodruff built his house, opportunities existed among the youger generation of Mormon that had been restricted or closed in previous ones. The evolution illustrated in these three residences within the Woodruff family occurred in other Mormon families as well, but given the significance of Wilford Woodruff, they attain added importance.

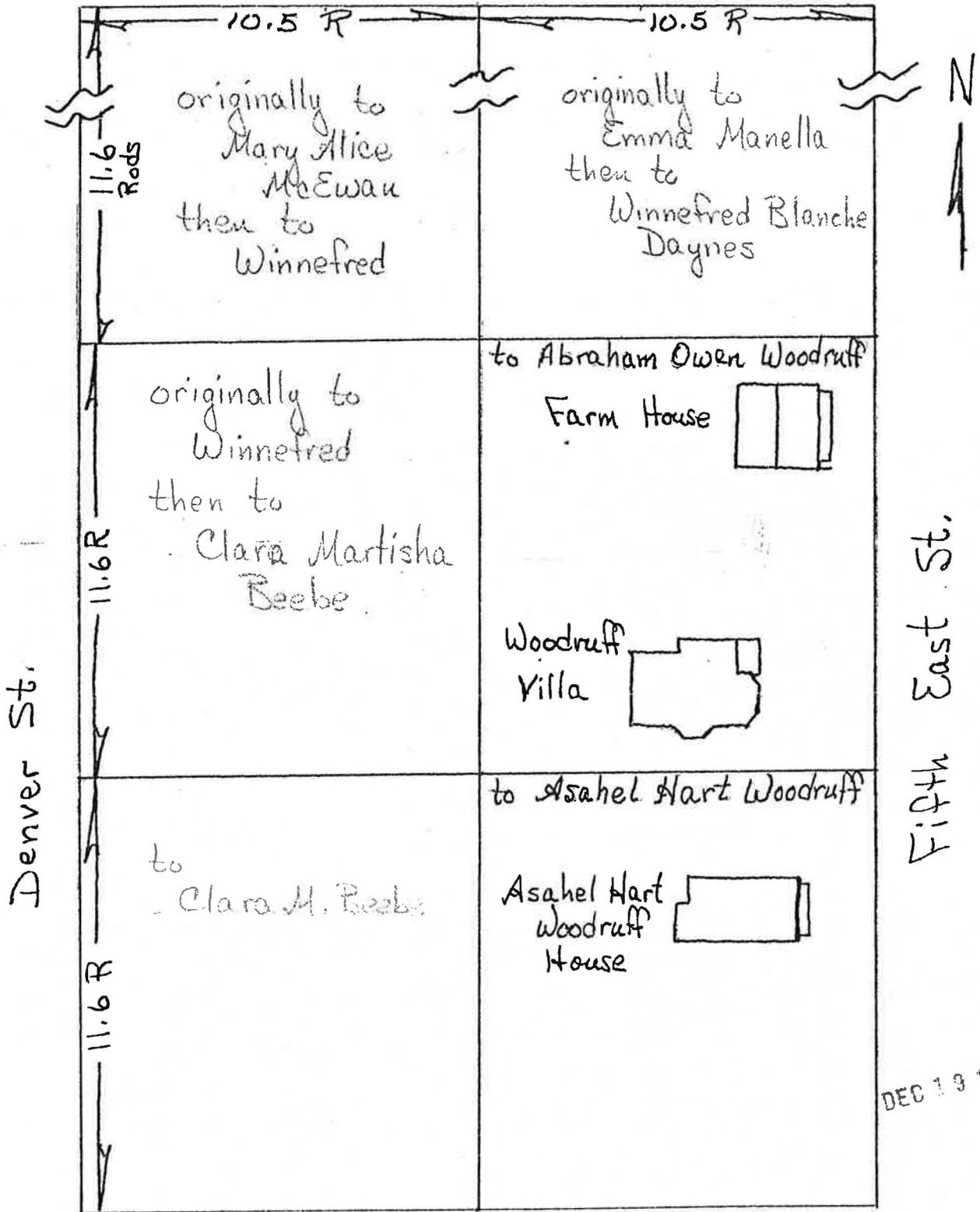
¹Leonard J. Arrington and Davis Bitton, The Mormon Experience. A History of the Latter-day Saints (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1979), p. 183. Quoted from the journal of Wilford Woodruff.

²Deseret News 1982 Church Almanac (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1981), p. 95.

³Charles S. Peterson, Utah, A Bicentennial History (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. 1977), p. 103.

⁴Arrington and Bitton, The Mormon Experience, p. 184.

Woodruff Family - Waterloo Area
Property Divisions among Children of
Emma Smith Woodruff
(east 1/2 of Lots 1 & 20)



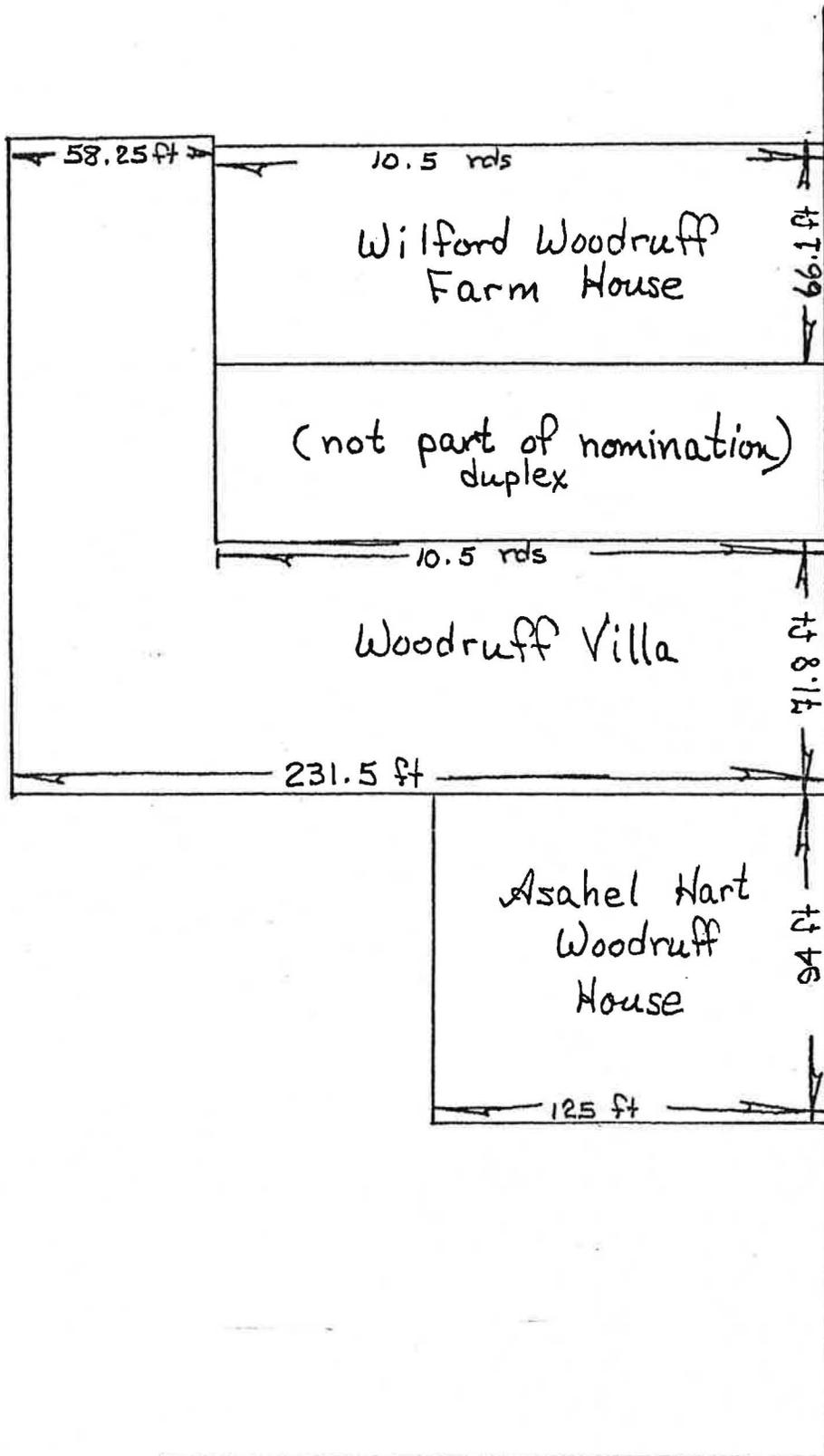
DEC 19 1980

11th (17) [1 inch = 4 Rods Houses approx. in size & location] So. St.
see: S.L. County Plat Records

Woodruff Family - Waterloo Area

Current Property Lines

(March 1980)



Fifth East St.

Seventeenth South St.