

HISTORIC SITE FORM - HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY

PARK CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (10-08)

1 IDENTIFICATION

Name of Property: **Nathaniel J. Williams House**

Address: 945 NORFOLK AVE

AKA:

City, County: Park City, Summit County, Utah

Tax Number: GAR-ALL

Current Owner Name: GARDNER BRYAN B & KATHERINE K (JT) Parent Parcel(s): SA-156, SA-157

Current Owner Address: 606 DE SOTO ST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84103-2131

Legal Description (include acreage): ALL OF THE GARDNER PARCEL SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT ON FILE IN THE SUMMIT COUNTY RECORDERS OFFICE CONT 5626 SQ FT OR 0.13 ACRES, 0.13 AC

2 STATUS/USE

Property Category

- building(s), main
- building(s), attached
- building(s), detached
- building(s), public
- building(s), accessory
- structure(s)

Evaluation*

- Landmark Site
- Significant Site
- Not Historic

Reconstruction

- Date:
- Permit #:
- Full Partial

Use

- Original Use: Residential
- Current Use: Residential

- *National Register of Historic Places: ineligible eligible
 listed (date: 7/12/1984 - Mining Boom Era Residences Thematic District)

3 DOCUMENTATION

Photos: Dates

- tax photo:
- prints:
- historic: c.

Drawings and Plans

- measured floor plans
- site sketch map
- Historic American Bldg. Survey
- original plans:
- other:

Research Sources (check all sources consulted, whether useful or not)

- abstract of title
- tax card
- original building permit
- sewer permit
- Sanborn Maps
- obituary index
- city directories/gazetteers
- census records
- biographical encyclopedias
- newspapers
- city/county histories
- personal interviews
- Utah Hist. Research Center
- USHS Preservation Files
- USHS Architects File
- LDS Family History Library
- Park City Hist. Soc/Museum
- university library(ies):
- other:

Bibliographical References (books, articles, interviews, etc.) Attach copies of all research notes and materials.

- Blaes, Dina & Beatrice Lufkin. "Final Report." Park City Historic Building Inventory. Salt Lake City: 2007.
Carter, Thomas and Goss, Peter. *Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940: a Guide*. Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Graduate School of Architecture and Utah State Historical Society, 1991.
McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998.
Roberts, Allen. "Final Report." Park City Reconnaissance Level Survey. Salt Lake City: 1995.
Roper, Roger & Deborah Randall. "Residences of Mining Boom Era, Park City - Thematic Nomination." National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Nomination Form. 1984.

4 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION & INTEGRITY

Building Type and/or Style: Pyramid House type / venacular

No. Stories: 1 1/2

Additions: none minor major (describe below) Alterations: none minor major (describe below)

Number of associated outbuildings and/or structures: accessory building(s), # _____; structure(s), # _____.

Researcher/Organization: Preservation Solutions/Park City Municipal Corporation Date: 12-2008

General Condition of Exterior Materials:

- Good (Well maintained with no serious problems apparent.)
- Fair (Some problems are apparent. Describe the problems.):
- Poor (Major problems are apparent and constitute an imminent threat. Describe the problems.):
- Uninhabitable/Ruin

Materials (The physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time in a particular pattern or configuration. Describe the materials.):

Foundation: Not verified.

Walls: Drop siding.

Roof: Truncated hipped roof - wooden shingles?

Windows/Doors: Paired double-hung sash type.

Essential Historical Form: Retains Does Not Retain, due to:

Location: Original Location Moved (date _____) Original Location:

Design (The combination of physical elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style. Describe additions and/or alterations from the original design, including dates--known or estimated--when alterations were made): The 1 ½-story frame pyramid house has not been significantly changed from what is described in the National Register nomination form (see Structure/Site Form, 1983). A hand rail was added to the front porch and rather than center steps leading to the front porch--as seen in the tax photo--the steps are located to the side.

Setting (The physical environment--natural or manmade--of a historic site. Describe the setting and how it has changed over time.): The setting remains as it looked in the 1983 photographs and is typical of uphill lots in Park City. A gradual rise in the site from the street edge to the house, narrow lots with shallow side yards, and rear yards that rise severely or, as in this case, gradually.

Workmanship (The physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during a given period in history. Describe the distinctive elements.): The physical evidence from the period that defines this as a typical Park City mining era house are the simple methods of construction, the use of non-beveled (drop-novelty) wood siding, the plan type, the simple roof form, the informal landscaping, the restrained ornamentation, and the plain finishes.

Feeling (Describe the property's historic character.): The physical elements of the site, in combination, convey a sense of life in a western mining town of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Association (Describe the link between the important historic era or person and the property.): The Pyramid house is one of the three most common house types built in Park City during the mining era.

This site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 as part of the *Park City Mining Boom Era Residences Thematic District*. It was built within the historic period, defined as 1872 to 1929 in the district nomination, and retains its historic integrity. As a result, it meets the criteria set forth in LMC Chapter 15-11 for designation as a Landmark Site.

5 SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: Not Known Known: (source:)

Date of Construction: c. 1896¹

Builder: Not Known Known: (source:)

¹ National Register nomination.

The site must represent an important part of the history or architecture of the community. A site need only be significant under one of the three areas listed below:

1. Historic Era:

- Settlement & Mining Boom Era (1868-1893)
- Mature Mining Era (1894-1930)
- Mining Decline & Emergence of Recreation Industry (1931-1962)

Park City was the center of one of the top three metal mining districts in the state during Utah's mining boom period of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and it is one of only two major metal mining communities that have survived to the present. Park City's houses are the largest and best-preserved group of residential buildings in a metal mining town in Utah. As such, they provide the most complete documentation of the residential character of mining towns of that period, including their settlement patterns, building materials, construction techniques, and socio-economic make-up. The residences also represent the state's largest collection of nineteenth and early twentieth century frame houses. They contribute to our understanding of a significant aspect of Park City's economic growth and architectural development as a mining community.²

2. Persons (Describe how the site is associated with the lives of persons who were of historic importance to the community or those who were significant in the history of the state, region, or nation):

3. Architecture (Describe how the site exemplifies noteworthy methods of construction, materials or craftsmanship used during the historic period or is the work of a master craftsman or notable architect):

6 PHOTOS

Digital color photographs are on file with the Planning Department, Park City Municipal Corp.

Photo No. 1: Northeast elevation. Camera facing southwest, 2006.

Photo No. 2: Northeast elevation. Camera facing southwest, 1995.

Photo No. 3: West oblique. Camera facing east, 1983.

Photo No. 4: West oblique. Camera facing east, tax photo.

² From "Residences of Mining Boom Era, Park City - Thematic Nomination" written by Roger Roper, 1984.



SA 157

X-355

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 945 Norfolk UTM: 12 457680 4499590
 Park City, Summit County, Utah
 Name of Structure: Nathaniel J. Williams House T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Lawrence H. and Emma Mary DeLand
 Owner Address: 5971 Lakeside Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: SA 157
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:
 North half Lot 11 and All Lot 12 Block 15., Snyder's Addition.
 .06 acre.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: probably Nathaniel J. Williams Construction Date: c. 1896 Demolition Date:
 Original Use: Residence Present Use:
 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

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1983 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1983 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 Census Records

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):
 1900 Census Records. Summit County, Park City Precinct, p. 170-B.
Salt Lake Tribune. December 20, 1943, p. 23. Nathaniel J. Williams obituary.

Architect/Builder: probably Ellsworth J. Beggs

Building Materials: Wood

Building Type/Style: Pyramid House (variant)

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

This house is a one story, frame variant of the pyramid house. It is one of four pyramid houses in the nomination which have the same roof, porch and facade arrangement as the basic pyramid house, but which are larger, rectangular versions of the type. The truncated hip roof, the hip roof porch spanning the facade, and the symmetrical arrangement of openings on the facade, with a door centered between pairs of double hung sash windows, are key features of the pyramid house. The basic type was varied, however, by expanding the one story, four room square plan to a one and one half story, six room rectangular plan. The space of the top half story was made available by piercing the roof with dormers on the east, west, and south sides. All the windows of the house are the double hung sash type, and are either paired or single. The house is supported on battered concrete piers, and has a dugout basement.

The interior of 945 Norfolk is more impressive than the exterior. The plan is simple, with three rooms on each half of the first floor of the house, but there are high ceilings and decorative Victorian eclectic moldings, some of which are hand grained, that convey a feeling of grandness. There are three bedrooms on the north side of the house. A living room, dining room and
(See continuation sheet)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: c. 1896

Built c. 1896, the Nathaniel J. Williams House at 945 Norfolk is architecturally significant as one of 69 extant pyramid houses in Park City, 28 of which are included in this nomination. Of the 28 being nominated, 11 are true pyramid houses and 17 are variants of the basic type. This house is one of the variants. The pyramid house is one of the three most common house types built during the early period of Park City's mining boom era, and significantly contributes to the character of the residential area. It appeared early on, but continued to be built with variations longer than the other two house types.

This house was probably built in 1896 for Nathaniel J. Williams, who purchased the property that year and took out a \$700 mortgage from Ellsworth J. Beggs, a local carpenter, who probably built this house. Beggs is credited with building some of the larger, more elaborate houses in town, including the houses at 421 and 703 Park. Nathaniel J. Williams was born in Brazil in 1871 to John T. and Mary Williams. Little more is known of him except that he worked for a time as a miner and that he probably never married. Although the elaborate interior woodwork in this house suggests that this would be an owner/occupied home, Nathaniel apparently rented it out for at least a time, as indicated by the 1900 census records which list him as living with his parents in a house on Empire Avenue, one street west of Norfolk Avenue. Nathaniel Williams owned this house for thirty years, during which time his parents were sometimes at least partial owners and perhaps even occupants of this house. Nathaniel sold this house in 1926 to Mae W. Paxton, a school teacher, who owned it until 1965.

945 Norfolk

Description continued:

kitchen line one behind the other on the south side of the house. The original grooved moldings with decorative corner blocks are still intact in all of the rooms. As one would expect, the use of hand graining was confined to the public areas, the dining and living rooms, and the moldings in the kitchen are of a simpler design. There are three rooms on the second floor.

The house is essentially unaltered on the exterior, except for some deterioration of the front porch. It is especially unusual because it is one of few Park City houses that did not receive an addition of some kind. Changes to the interior too are relatively minor. The house has a balloon frame over which the current owners have built new walls in several of the bedrooms, but no changes have been made to the floor plan, and the original decorative features. The house therefore maintains its original integrity, and is a significant example of a fancy version of the pyramid house.



Nathaniel J. Williams House
945 Norfolk
Park City, Summit County, Utah

Southeast corner

Photo by Debbie Temme, October 1983
Negative: Utah State Historical Society



