



HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY
HISTORIC SITE FORM
 PARK CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION



IDENTIFICATION

Property Name (if any): Ferry-Kearns Mansion

Address: 2245 Monitor Drive

Date of Construction: c. 1890

City, County: Park City, Summit County, Utah

Architect/Builder, if known: unknown

Tax Number: HR-2

Current Owner: Mark J. Fischer

Legal Description (include acreage): LOT 2 HOLIDAY RANCHETTES SUBDIVISION IN SECS 4 & 9 T2SR4E CONT 2.095 AC M123-108 M58-240 M129-301-303 419-272 458-1729-764 876-711 1264-134

STATUS / USE

Original Use: single dwelling Current Use: single dwelling

Property Type:

- Building
- Structure
- Site

National Register of Historic Places:

- Eligible
- Ineligible
- Listed, Date:

Evaluation:

- Landmark Site
- Significant Site
- Non Historic

DOCUMENTATION

Photographs:

- Tax Photos
- Prints:
- Historic

Research Sources:

- Sanborn Maps
- tax Card
- Census Records
- City/ County Histories
- Personal Interviews
- Park City Museum
- Newspapers
- Other:

DESCRIPTION

Architectural Style: Queen Anne style

No. Stories: 1

Number of Associated Structures: Accessory building(s). # Structure(s). #

Condition: Good Fair Poor Uninhabitable/Ruin

Location: Original location Moved (Date: ,original location:)

Materials: (Describe the visible materials)

Exterior Walls: Drop siding

Foundation: Concrete

Roof: Cross-wing and complex forms - wood shingles

Windows/Doors: Double-hung, casement, and casement with transom

Additions: Major Minor None

Alterations: Major Minor None

Describe Additions/ Alterations (Dates):

Essential Historic Form: Retains Does Not Retain

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

(Briefly describe the property and its setting. Include a verbal description of the location; a general description of the property including the overall shape, number of stories, architectural style, materials, shape of roof; identify and describe any associated structures; identify any known exterior additions and/or alterations.)

The two story Queen Anne style house at 2245 Monitor Drive was not originally built there, but moved to its current site in 1972. The Queen Anne style was common in the state of Utah during the turn of the 19th century but was not often built in the Park City area. Several additions have been built onto the house, though whether these were completed before or after the relocation of the house is unknown. The roof is a cross wing with other complex forms present, and is sheathed with wood shingles. A gable dormer is seen on the north side of the main roof section. Wood drop siding clads the house. There are several different types of windows present on the house, primarily being the double hung type, with several decorative round windows present in the gables and on other parts of the façades. A turret is present at the southeast corner of the house. The front porch is covered by a second story balcony and both porch and balcony wrap from the south façade to the east. The porch and balcony are surrounded by a wood balustrade with simple details on the posts. Another balcony and covered porch are present on the rear of the house, wrapping from the east to the north façade. The site is large and the house is

surrounded by many different types of trees. The cumulative formal and material changes have diminished its historic value

SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Era:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance:

(Briefly describe those characteristics by which this property may be considered historically significant.)

This house was originally built at the mouth of Thaynes Canyon by Colonel William Montague Ferry, an early Park City resident and member a select group of Michigan natives who took leadership roles in the formation of the mining camp. William M. Ferry was the son of the Reverend William Montague Ferry, a prominent Presbyterian minister who founded numerous Michigan cities, including Grand Haven. William M. was born in 1824 at his familial home on Mackinac Island, where his father had a mission.

William M. moved to Grand Haven with his family in 1834, and he became successful as an inventor and engineering draftsman. He formed the Ottawa Iron Works, a successful company, and was elected as a regent of the University of Michigan in 1856. His life in Michigan was interrupted by the American Civil War, as Ferry volunteered as a private in the Fourteenth Michigan in 1861. He was a captain in 1862 when his actions regarding rations under General Rosecrans were seen as heroic. He was asked to take similar actions by General Grant the following year at Vicksburg. According to his obituary, "This system of commutation of rations first introduced by Capt. Ferry, has now been included in the regulations of the army, and has received the formal approval of Congress." He retired from service as a colonel, moving back to Michigan to become active in politics. After being defeated handily as the Democratic nominee for governor in 1872, Ferry served as Grand Haven mayor.

William M. Ferry moved to Utah in 1878 to join a handful of other Grand Haven residents, including brother Edward Payson Ferry, D.C McLaughin, J.W. Mason, and F.A. Nims, who had moved to Park City around 1871 and were already prospering as prospectors. E.P. Ferry was leading the group as they bought the productive Flagstaff Mine and eventually built the Marsac Mill. The Michigan partners also made a move to gain a patent to the land of the early mining camp, which had not been formally granted from the United States. They were officially given the land, which started a property lawsuit that was not settled for decades. Most townspeople bought the land they had already settled, but some refused. Edward P. Ferry was thus the grantor on most of the land purchases from the Townsite Company.

William M. Ferry bought the land and built this mansion at the base of Thaynes Canyon around 1890. After arriving in Park City, he had made a fortune as an early investor in the Quincy Mine. Ferry was a philanthropist, donating \$500 to the construction of the Miner's Hospital and donating land and money to Westminster College in Salt Lake City. This resulted in the naming of Ferry Hall, an original campus building that was razed in the 1980s.

William M. Ferry died in 1905. His funeral was held in this mansion before he was brought to Grand Haven to be buried.

Mrs. Jeanette Hollister Ferry (m. 1851) owned the mansion until 1915, when it was sold to the Silver King Consolidated Company as a site for what would become the Spiro Tunnel. The Ferry property would become the Sullivan Ranch, the Hurley Ranch, and finally the Snow Summit Ranch. Treasure Mountain Resort would bring development to the area. Currently, the site of the Ferry property houses subdivision development and the Park City Golf Club.

Thomas Kearns, Jr. enjoyed a fair amount of time in the mansion after it was purchased by Silver King Con, his father's company with David Keith, which is why it has become known as the Ferry-Kearns Mansion. The mansion fell into disrepair, however, as evidenced by photos from the 1960s. It was purchased by Rae Ann Prescott for \$2,000 in the early 1970s. She had it moved to the current site in 1972 but died tragically in a horse riding accident the following year, after which the house remained in poor condition in the new Holiday Ranch subdivision. It was finally repaired in the early 1980s. Plans to convert the mansion into a bed and breakfast fell through, and it was sold most recently as a private house with a large addition. Many of the original materials and essential visual elements have been lost. Combined with the move, those factors make this house not eligible for National Register listing. It is, however, a valuable record of local history and the life of William M. Ferry, a key mining man in early Park City.

REFERENCES

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- Carter, Thomas and Peter Goss. *Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940*. Salt Lake City: Center for Architectural Studies, Graduate School of Architecture, University of Utah and Utah State Historical Society, 1988.
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- National Register of Historic Places. Park City Main Street Historic District. Park City, Utah, National Register #79002511.
- Peterson, Marie Ross and Mary M. Pearson. *Echoes of Yesterday: Summit County Centennial History*. Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1947.
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- Randall, Deborah Lyn. *Park City, Utah: An Architectural History of Mining Town Housing, 1869 to 1907*. Master of Arts thesis, University of Utah, 1985.
- Ringholz, Raye Carleson. *Diggings and Doings in Park City: Revised and Enlarged*. Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1972.
- Ringholz, Raye Carleson and Bea Kummer. *Walking Through Historic Park City*. Self-published, 1984.
- Thompson, George A., and Fraser Buck. *Treasure Mountain Home: Park City Revisited*. Salt Lake City: Dream Garden Press, 1993

PHOTOS

(Provide several clear historical and current photos of the property as well as locational maps indicating the location of the property in relation to streets or other widely recognized features.)

2245 Monitor Drive, Park City, Summit County, Utah

Intensive Level Survey—Biographical and Historical Research Materials



In 1964, on historic site (Utah State Historical Society)



Mouth of Thaynes Canyon c. 1900 (Park City Historical Society & Museum)



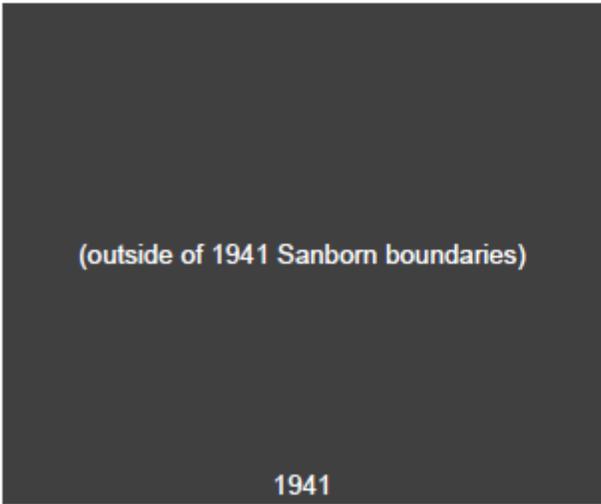
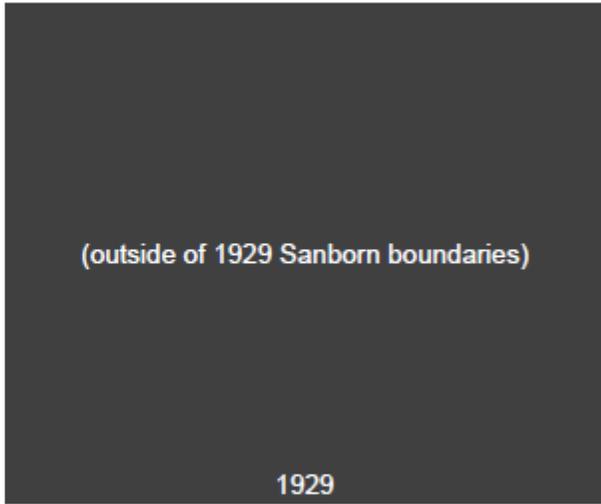
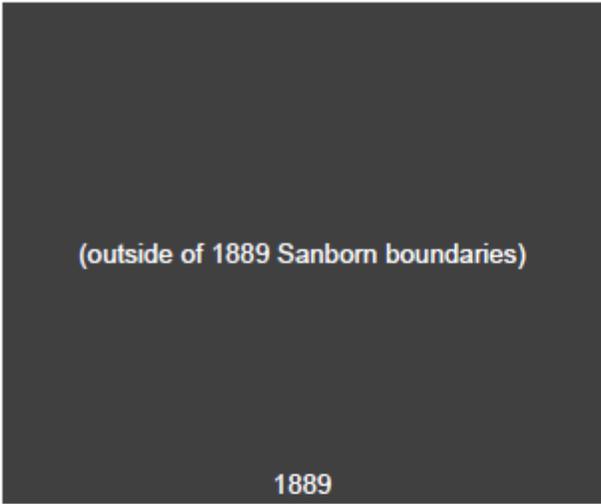


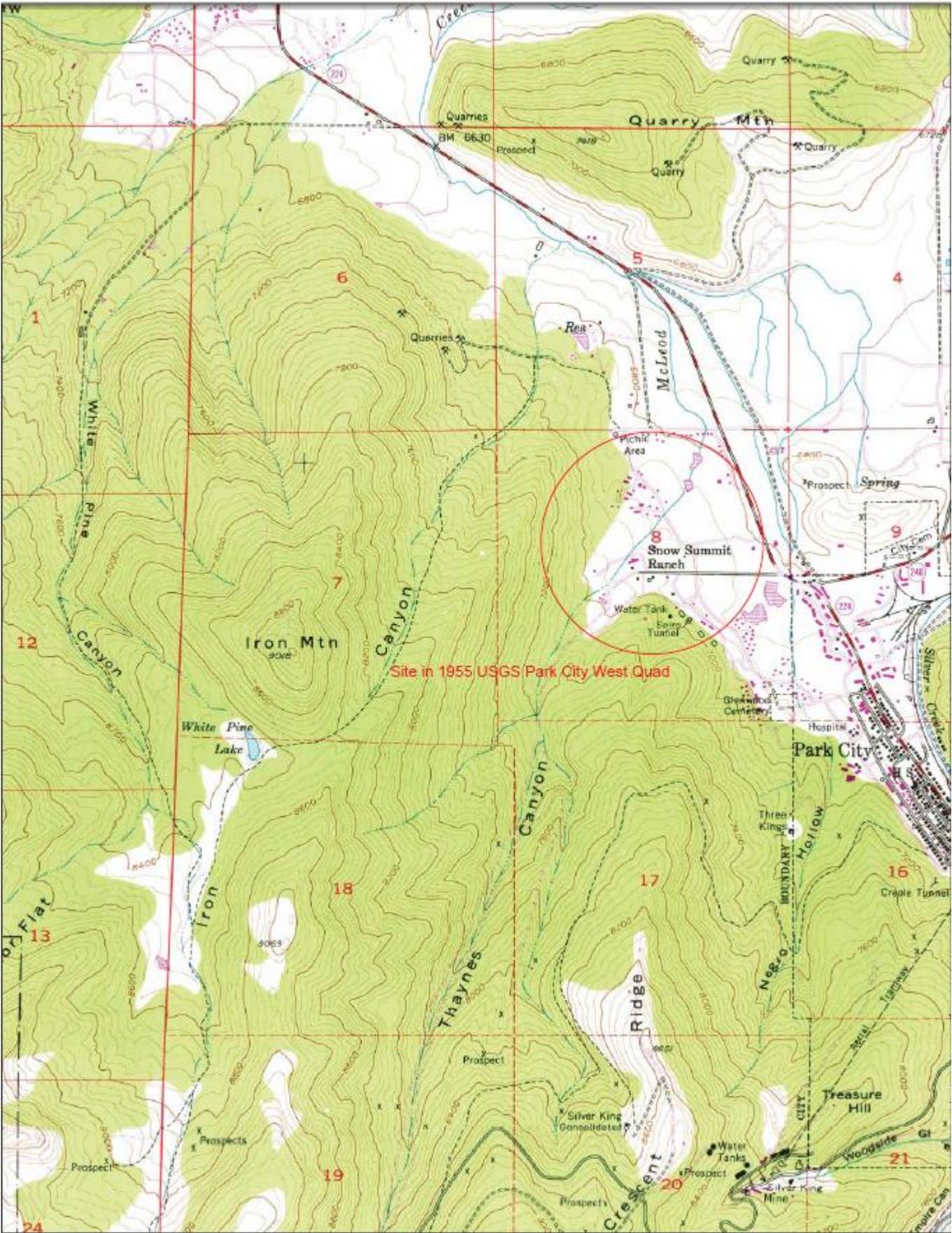


MAPS

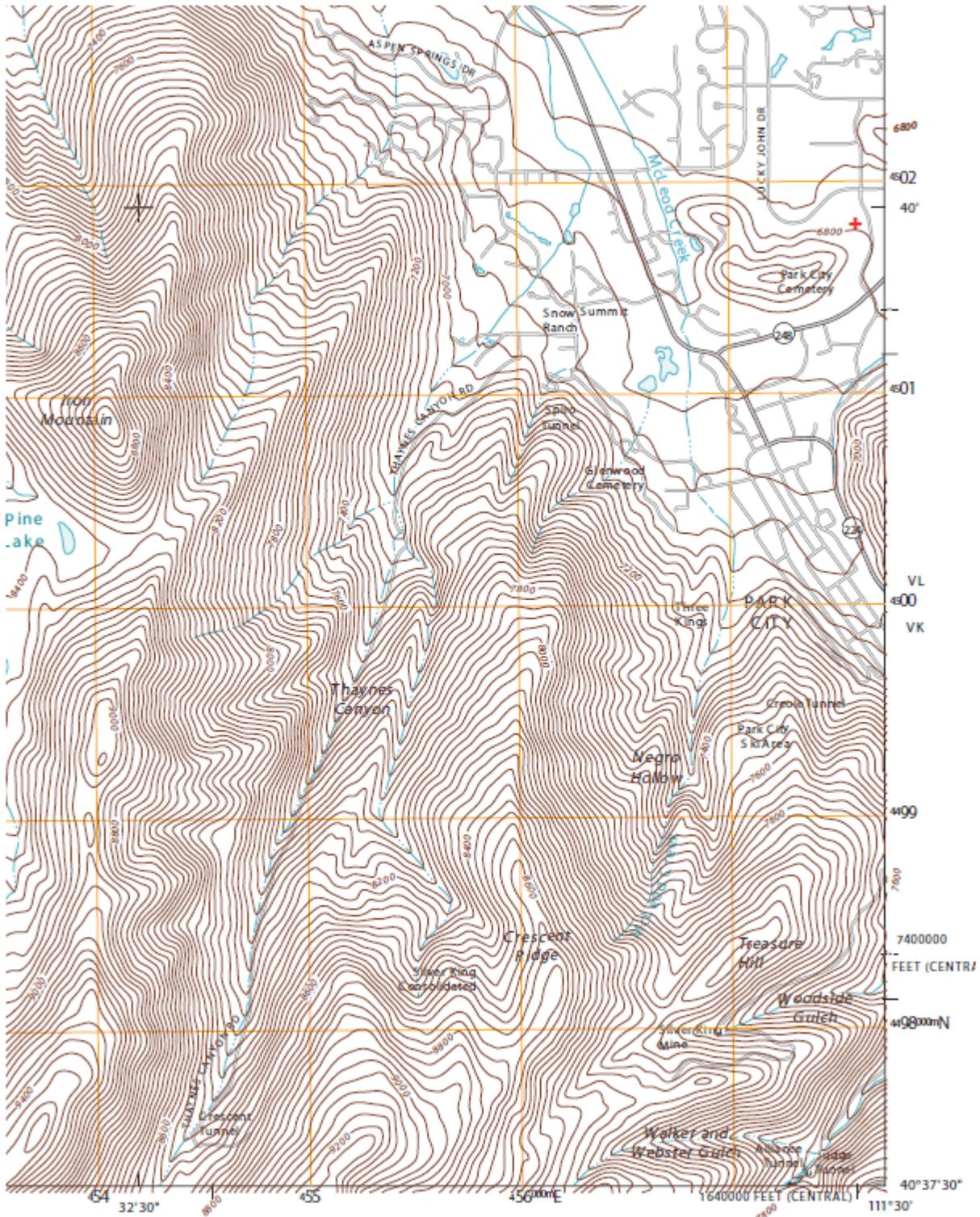
2245 Monitor Drive, Park City, Summit County, Utah

Intensive Level Survey—Sanborn Map history





2245 Monitor Drive, Park City, Summit County, Utah
Intensive Level Survey—USGS Map



+ location on USGS Park City West 1:24000 Quadrangle Map (2011)

DOCUMENTS

TITLE SEARCH FORM

[Obtain information from title abstract books at County Recorder's Office]
 Address: 2245 Monitor Drive
 City: Park City, UT
 Current Owner: Mark J. Fisher
 Address: (see historic site form for address)
 Tax Number: HR-2
 Legal Description (include acreage): L2 Holiday Ranchette Sub. (see historic site form for complete legal description)

TRANSACTION DATES	GRANTOR (SELLER)	GRANTEE (BUYER)	TYPE OF TRANSACTION	DOLLAR AMOUNT	COMMENTS
3/30/1881	United States	Wilson I. Snyder	Patent		[all of NW1/4 Section 9]
4/10/1906	Rhoda Orchard Snyder	M.F. Heal	W.D.		"N1/2 of NW1/4, Except -1- Acre..."
9/22/1906	M.F. Heal	Ezra W. Robertson	W.D.		"N1/2 of NW1/4 with Exceptions."
9/29/1906	E.W. Robertson & wife	Daniel Clark et al	Lease		"N1/2 of NW1/4 Sec 9"
9/4/1919	E.W. Robertson & wife	Albert E. Mills, et al	W.D.		"N1/2 of NW1/4 [Sec. 9] excepting 1 A."
4/20/1946	S.J. Mills, et ux	Vern L. & Kenneth L. Mills	W.D.		"1/3 Int. N1/2 NW1/4"
10/1/1948	Vern L. & Kenneth L. Mills	England Brothers	R.E. Contract		"N1/2 NW1/4 except 1 ac."
7/21/1959	Kenneth L. & Grace H. Mills	Cottonwood Stake of LDS Church	W.D.		"N1/2 NW1/4 except 1 ad[...]"
7/19/1959	Vern L. & Alice K. Mills	Cottonwood Stake of LDS Church	Q.C.D.		"N1/2 NW1/4 except 1 ad[...]"
2/10/1971	Cottonwood Stake of LDS Church	Treasure Mtn Resort Co	W.D.		"N1/2 NW1/4 except 1 ad[...]"
7/16/1974	Greater Park City Company	Donald Frank Prescott	Sp. W.D.		[HR-2]
3/7/1979	Lothaire R. Rich, Admin.	Phidia K. Bturbus, et al	Ad. Deed		[estate of Rae Ann Prescott, deceased]
2/19/1987	Phidia K. & Homer K. Cutrubus	John & Shelia Newman	Q.C.D.		
12/18/1987	John & Shelia Newman	James W. Newton	Q.C.D.		
6/4/1993	James W. Newton	Alfred L. III & Mary Holmgren Baker	W.D.		
6/4/1999	Alfred L. III & Mary Holmgren Baker	Mark J. Fisher	W.D.		

Researcher: John Ewanowski, CRSA Architecture Date: 5/5/2014

2245 Monitor Drive, Park City, Summit County, Utah

Intensive Level Survey—Biographical and Historical Research Materials

PARK FLOAT

Mrs. Col. W. M. Ferry gave a very enjoyable tea party last Monday evening to a large number of her lady friends. The party was given as a sort of farewell on the eve of Mrs. Ferry's change of residence to the Colonel's ranch near the mouth of Thayne's canyon where they have built a nice home.

Park Record, 9/20/1890

SILVER KING CON. CLOSES DEAL FOR NEW TUNNEL SITE

What will be the best kind of news for Park City is a mining sense is the fact that the Silver King Consolidated has closed a deal for the site for their proposed tunnel, and that work will commence in the very near future. The site finally decided upon by the company, and for which deeds are now in transit, is the Sullivan Ranch, perhaps better known as the Wm. M. Ferry property. This tract embraces at least eighty acres. Here the portal of the tunnel will be started which will tap the King Con workings close to 1000 feet and will prospect the Thayne's Canyon holdings of the company and eventually branch off to the D. & M. group of cleams toward the Scott Hill country. This is going to mean a great deal for this already wonderful mining camp, for it will prospect a country practically unexplored and add millions to the wealth of Park City and make of the King Con. property a marvelous wealth producer. To General Manager Solon Spire and Consulting Engineer Harry Lee the credit for this great developing and later labor saving and expense reducing scheme, is due, and wonderful will be the benefits derived for all concerned. In connection with this, a modern mill is to be erected on this site for the working of the vast reserves of this great producer, and to further increase the working facilities an aerial tramway has been decided upon, so before the close of 1915 the Silver King Consolidated will have in operation a modern plant in every detail for the mining, milling and transportation of their apparently unlimited ore bodies. It is estimated that the aerial tram, when in operation will mean a saving to the company of at least \$75,000 a year. In speaking of the King Con the last issue of the Utah Mining News says: "A full face of rich gemme ore making into entirely new territory south-east of the present workings, is giving satisfaction to the management of the Silver King Consolidated mine at Park City. The ore is at least 25 feet below the original south bedding from the main fissure and is nearer the quartzite footwall than any of the ore previously developed in or near the fissure. To the north the ore masses have shown a tendency to hug the blue lime hanging-wall. The new developments indicates that the ore to the south of the fissure may make in equally great volume on the quartzite floor. Dividend No. 10 has been declared by the directors of the company. It is payable December 21 to stockholders of record December 11 and is at the regular rate of ten cents a share. No extra dividend will be paid by the company this year as the management has decided upon the erection of an aerial tramway from the mine and other big improvements.

Park Record, 12/3/1915

2245 Monitor Drive, Park City, Summit County, Utah
Intensive Level Survey—Biographical and Historical Research Materials

COL. W. M. FERRY

Called to His Eternal Home Monday Last.

IDEAL MAN AND CITIZEN

Twenty-five Years a Resident of Park City, and Largely Identified with Its Growth and Prosperity—Sketch of His Life.

A general gloom was cast over the city shortly after the noon hour last Monday, when it became known that Colonel William M. Ferry, one of the Park's oldest, best and most highly respected citizens, and man of affairs had been called to his eternal home. The sad news spread rapidly and caused much surprise as it was not known but what the Colonel was in his usual health and spirits. And in fact he was apparently as well as ever until an hour before his final summons came, when he stricken down and Dr. Wilson who was immediately called succored to the members of the family present that the end was near. On New Year's day he was in his

some position he had made at Corleith the year before. He was also ordered to make such other changes as were necessary for the health of the army. This system of commutation of railroads first introduced by Capt. Ferry, has now been included in the regulations of the army, and has received the formal approval of Congress.

Upon the cessation of hostilities Captain Ferry, who had now become a Colonel was mustered out of service. His again took up his residence in Grand Haven and became a central figure in the politics of the state. In 1870 he was nominated for congress by the Democrats of his district, but was defeated. In 1872 he was secretary of the Democratic National convention at Louisville, Ky., and was also the Democratic nominee for Governor of Michigan that year. In 1875 he was appointed one of the members of the Constitutional convention to form a new constitution for Michigan, and in 1876 he was elected Mayor of Grand Haven. In 1878 he came to Utah, and at once took an active interest in the welfare of the state, an interest which never lagged even up to the last.

IN UTAH

Although Colonel Ferry had always been a strong Democrat in National politics, he became a staunch member of the old Liberal party in Utah. From 1898 to 1902 he was the Democratic national committeeman for the state and was the Democratic nominee for Congress in the state in 1892, being defeated by John T. Cairns the People's

to him their last and respects.

The services were opened by the quartette composed of Mrs. F. C. Goin, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Wright and Mr. G. T. Mixer, singing "White Tree I Seek, Protecting Power," the last hymn being by Mr. Ferry at family worship. Miss Genevieve Wilcox accompanied the organ on the piano.

The 80th psalm was then read by Mr. Grubbill, this being the psalm read to the Colonel as he was dying. Mr. Grubbill then spoke eloquently and fittingly on the Colonel's life and death, and noted at the conclusion of his remarks Dr. McNeese of Salt Lake, who had known the Colonel for many years.

Dr. McNeese paid a glowing tribute to the deceased, dwelling on his energy and persistency in carrying out worthy purposes, his holy patriotism, his lofty moral courage and his upright and integrity of character. The speaker concluded Mr. Ferry's death a victory, and in closing bids him farewell until they should meet in heaven, the quartette then sang "In the Cross of Christ and Glory," which was sung at the deathbed and which was another of the Colonel's favorite hymns.

Dr. Wilford then spoke using as text "I am the resurrection and the life." He eulogized the Colonel and also paid a beautiful tribute to Mrs. Ferry. Mr. Wilford spoke of Mr. Ferry's war record and his public and private life, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," was then sung, after which Dr. C. M. Wilson, read his previously a tribute to Colonel Ferry sent from the city by Judge C. C. Goodrich. Dr. Patton of Salt Lake closed the services with a beautiful prayer.

While the friends were viewing the remains Miss Wilson played Mendelssohn's "Consolation" and as the remains were being taken from the home, the hymn "God Be With You Till It's Meet Again," was played. The final offerings were numerous and handsome.

The pall bearers were James T. Hunt, H. B. Townsend, F. W. Hart, Wm. M. Curtis, W. W. Armstrong and W. V. Rice. The honorary pall bearers were Judge C. B. Zane, Judge H. P. Heald, son, James Barrett, H. W. Lawrence, A. H. Stearns, James W. White and F. W. Blarman.

The funeral cortege was probably the

largest ever seen in the city, the G. A. R. veterans, members of the Masonic and Eastern Star orders, and a host of friends followed the remains to the Union Depot where they were placed in a casket destined for the occasion and taken to Echo, where connections with the Overland Limited to Chicago were made. From there the body was taken to Grand Haven, Michigan, for interment. The members of the immediate family accompanied the remains to their destination. The flags of the city were at half mast during the ceremonies, and the Park City Military Band played appropriate selections at the depot. A number of friends went as far as Echo on the Overland.

CAUSE OF DEATH

Dr. C. M. Wilson, the attending physician described Mr. Ferry's death to heart failure, the contributory cause being an attack of influenza which, together with the advanced age of the deceased proved fatal.

LINE OF ORIGIN

Colonel William Montague Ferry was in his eighty first year, he having been born in Michilimackinac, Mich., on July 25, 1814. He was the eldest son of Rev. Wm. M. Ferry a prominent Presbyterian minister of Michigan seven generations of the Wm. M. Ferry's having followed the clergy. In 1834 the family removed to Grand Haven Mich., which was Mr. Ferry's home until he came to Utah. Early in life he mastered the trade of a cabinetmaker and soon became distinguished as an inventor and mechanical draughtsman. He successfully established the Ottawa iron works and in 1836 he was elected one of the regents of the University of Michigan.

WAR RECORD

In 1861 he enlisted as a private in the Fourteenth Michigan volunteers and served with the Union forces throughout the war. He was soon promoted and was appointed by President Lincoln a Captain and commissary in the subsistence department. Being brought into close contact with the short comings of the rations he made a report on the subject to Gen. Rosecrans in 1862. He vigorously condemned the "sutler" system as a device to rob the soldiers. He presented in his report the lamentable condition of the army in the field and in the hospitals. The report was approved by Gen. Rosecrans, but he assured Capt. Ferry that anyone attempting any innovation to remedy the state of affairs would be summarily "cashiered." But Capt. Ferry's sympathy for the wounded, the sick and the dying, did not stop there so he assumed the responsibility himself. He ordered the necessary supplies and paid for them out of Government funds. To make up for the deficiency he commuted the army rations and included this innovation in his regular monthly report. This was emphatically and absolutely condemned at first by the War department in Washington. Capt. Ferry replied, stating the need for his action, and asked for leniency until the results were found to warrant the change. He was permitted to continue in his course of action.

SERVED WITH GRANT

In 1863 Capt. Ferry was assigned to duty on the staff of Gen. James B. McPherson, commanding the Seventeenth army corps of the Army of the Tennessee. During the siege of Vicksburg he was ordered by Gen. Grant to make the

party candidate. He was one of the World's fair commissioners for Utah in 1893. Last year he upheld the cause of the American party in the state and was that party's nominee for Governor, but was defeated by John C. Cutler, the Republican party candidate who was being inaugurated into office at the same hour as the Colonel's spirit was leaving the mortal body.

IN PARK CITY

During his long residence in Park City Mr. Ferry had been a faithful, beloved and admired citizen. He loved most happily with his wife, daughter, Mrs. M. M. P. Allen, and grandchildren. His home life was ideal and made beautiful by the Christian spirit which pervaded it. The Colonel was one of the original owners of the Glenview mine, and was also interested in other rich properties of the camp. His latest mining venture was entered into a few months ago when he had his son in law, Geo. B. Hancock secured a lease on the Curtis property, which is now being modernly equipped for extensive development. Mr. Ferry secured considerable wealth through the Glenview and since that time instances of his philanthropy have been numerous, one of his latest donations being that of \$500.00 to the new hospital. The Colonel loved Park City and was proud to call it his home. He took a keen interest in religious educational work in Park City and in the state and was vice president of the board of trustees of Westminster college in Salt Lake City. While in Michigan he wrote extensively on political and historical events of the state and until late in life was a frequent contributor to current literature. He was a member of the Loyal Legion in the commandery of the state of Michigan. He also belonged to the Society of the Army of the Tennessee and to Menasha Lodge Commandery No. 2 of the Knight Templars.

HIS FAMILY

In 1840 Colonel Ferry was married to Miss Jeanette Hollister who with two daughters Mrs. M. M. P. Allen and Mrs. Geo. B. Hancock, survive him. Four sons were also born to Mr. and Mrs. Ferry but none are now living. He also leaves four grandchildren. Montague Allen the only one not present at his death, Miss Kate, who was at home from Ferris Hall, Lake Forest, Mich., Miss Hollister Hancock, who was also home for the holidays from National Park academy, and John H. Hancock. He also leaves two sisters Mrs. Hannah Jones of California and Mrs. A. H. Hall of Ashfield, Mass.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral was held Thursday afternoon from the family residence at North Park, the services being very beautiful and impressive. The services were conducted by Rev. D. Q. Grubbill, of the Congregational church, who was a warm personal friend of the deceased and who was at his side when the end came. The lower rooms of the large home were well filled with friends of the Colonel, who came to once more look upon the kindly face of the departed and to pay



Wm. M. Ferry

2245 Monitor Drive, Park City, Summit County, Utah

Intensive Level Survey—Biographical and Historical Research Materials



The Ferry Mansion as it stands today for its elegant interior and beautiful grounds. The Mansion was known at Holiday Ranch.

Mansion Story Told

By Jeran Cottis

Colonel William F. Ferry and his family, with 11 other men from Michigan, came to Park City about the time the Great Ontario Mine came into existence.

Their main interest was in mining but they helped shape and mold Park City into the fine town it did become. They organized the plans for the water system and for the roads and helped with electricity.

The Ferrys were a family of money and means and of great education. Colonel Ferry built their home where the Spiro Tunnel is today.

It was then called The Ferry Ranch.

The beautiful Victorian Mansion was built around the turn of the century. The home had elaborate stained glass windows and every

room had a fireplace including the bedrooms upstairs.

The curtains were made of lace imported from Nottingham, England. All the furniture was made of hard wood and heavily carved as was most of the early furniture.

The turret room was more or less a look-out area, as you climbed the many stairs to the top of the small octagonal room, a great view could be seen.

The mansion was known for its elegant interior and its spacious and beautiful grounds, but most of all for the wonderful parties the owners gave out on the veranda.

The old home was moved two summers ago from its original location, and now

rests on a new foundation at the Holiday Ranch area.

The late Rae Ann Prescott had great plans, in hopes, to restore this once great mansion; but for now, it looks as if it might remain a shell forever.

Park Record, 5/16/1974

2245 Monitor Drive, Park City, Summit County, Utah

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The Ferry-Kearns mansion.

photo by Nan Chaiat

No room for the inn?

by Teri Gomes

In 1885 Col. William Ferry built an elegant home for himself on property owned by the Silver King Mining Company near the spot where the Spiro Tunnel would later be built. He eventually sold the home to Thomas Kearns who lived there for years before building his mansion on South Temple, today the Governor's mansion.

In the early 1970s, Rae Ann Prescott bought the remains of the once-stately home for just \$2,000. She spent an additional \$10,000 to move the home to a field north of town where she planned to restore the building to its former glory. But she died shortly afterwards and the old Ferry-Kearns house sat on the two-acre lot in the Holiday Ranch subdivision for years unattended.

The home was later bought by John Newman. It has been refurbished, enlarged, and is currently for sale. Asking price—\$700,000.

Robert and Vicki Webber have taken out an option to buy the home. Their plans are to turn the buildings into an executive-style inn, very much like the popular Brigham Street Inn in Salt Lake City. In fact, they have even retained John Pace, the architect for the Brigham Street Inn, to explore how to make the building into an inn.

All told, Mr. Webber sees this as at least a \$1 million investment. He would include landscaping and a small park area to be dedicated to the public good. He would tone down the yellow exterior by painting the building grey, accented by plum, tan and cream. And once completed, he would open the lobby or living area for civic groups to use.

But Mr. Webber may be withdrawing his option. The homeowners association of Holiday Ranch doesn't want the inn.

"We sent around letters to all the 100 plus homeowners in the area,

explaining the project," said Webber. "The homeowners' committee received eight negative phone calls as a response to that letter and decided that was too much negative response to consider the proposal.

"I know their concern in this would be letting open the floodgates to nightly rental in the area which isn't presently permitted. We're not going to fight them. We don't want to force our project on anyone. But it does put us at a bit of an impasse."

Webber said the response had been very positive from members of the Planning Commission and the Historic District Commission. "And I think we could fight this thing, and win," said Webber. "I just didn't want to do that."

Webber has asked for a formal letter from the Holiday Ranch Homeowners' Association explaining in detail their objections to the inn.

Park Record, 12/1/1983

The Ferry Mansion

TEXT: HAL COMPTON
PHOTOGRAPHY: DOUGLAS BURKE



Sometimes called the Kearns Mansion, the large home at 224 Monitor Drive was actually not built or ever lived in by Utah State Senator and Park City mining-millionaire Thomas Kearns and family. Instead, the home belonged to Colonel William M. Ferry, who came to Park City from Grand Haven, Michigan, in 1878, and as a mine owner, quickly made a fortune.

In 1882, Colonel Ferry, who served in the Civil War, purchased 160 acres of land in what was called North Park at the mouth of Thaynes Canyon. On September 20, 1890, *The Park Record* reported, "Mrs. W. M. Ferry gave a very enjoyable tea party ... The party was given as a sort of farewell on the eve of Mrs. Ferry's change of residence to the Colonel's ranch near the mouth of Thaynes Canyon, where they have built a nice home." Colonel Ferry was a generous philanthropist and made substantial contributions to Westminster College in Salt Lake City and for the construction of the Miners Hospital in Park City.

After Col. Ferry died in 1905, Mrs. Ferry and her daughter continued to live in the mansion until 1915 when the property was sold to the Silver King Consolidated Mining Company. (It later merged with Silver King Coalition Mining Company).



Although Thomas Kearns was a part owner of the mine company, there is no evidence that he ever stayed in the mansion. However, his son Thomas Kearns, Jr., occasionally used it as a summer vacation home until 1929 when the building and land were converted into a cattle and dude ranch.

In 1943, the Kearns family and mine company discontinued their financial support of the mansion, and it was abandoned. When the mining company decided to demolish the mansion, local resident Rae Ann Prescott convinced them to give her the building if she moved it. It was moved to Monitor Drive in 1973 at a cost of \$2,000. Tragically, Rae Ann was killed in a horse-riding accident in 1974. Subsequent owners renovated the mansion and added a new wing. Current owners have completed the renovation and extensive landscaping of the historic home, so that it still stands as a shining tribute to Park City history.

This article appears in the Winter/Spring 2007 issue of Park City Magazine
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POSTED BY ANONYMOUS MAY 11, 2010 08:38 PM

My family was the Ferry family who were partners in the Silver King Mine. We have hundreds of photos of Park City from the Ferry perspective from the boom-years of the mine.

If someone would like to see them, do comment here and we'll consider the best route.

Cheers.

POSTED BY MICHAEL KEARNS DEC 28, 2011 01:28 AM

-Actually, Sen. Kearns children Tom Jr., Edmund and Helen used the Ferry house on a regular basis. The family sold their ranch in California in 1918, the year Thomas Kearns died. So, in addition, their children were also regular visitors at the house during the summers hosted by their grandmother Jennie Judge Kearns.

-Thomas Kearns and his partner David Keith, were the majority shareholders of the Silver King Mining Co. which became the Silver King Coalition Mining Co. The Kearns estate eventually became the majority shareholder. The SKCM co. actually leased this property from the Ferry family who were very good friends of the Kearns. The house was used so much by the Kearns Family during the 20s it is easy to understand why it was often called the Kearns Park City Mansion. The family has many photographs at this house during that time.

POSTED BY ANONYMOUS AUG 21, 2010 02:33 AM

Where exactly was this house originally located?? and what was built on the property after the house was moved??

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