

## Finding Your House Roots

Researching The History Of Your Home



K.E.E.P. Yalecrest - May 11, 2023

## What We'll Talk About

- o General Considerations
- o About Your House
- o About Its Occupants
- o Other Info

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## General Considerations

<div data-bbox="207 195 591 483"> <h3>General Considerations</h3> <hr/> <p><u>The Good News</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More and more material is available online.</li> <li>• Yalecrest is a historic district.</li> </ul> </div>	<h3>The Good News</h3> <p>There have been some great advances in the past few years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Much</b> more material is available online, and much of that is available as high-resolution images.</li> <li>• Because Yalecrest is a historic district, it is almost certain that your home has been surveyed. The level at which it has been surveyed will determine how much information is available about it.</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 726 591 1014"> <h3>General Considerations</h3> <hr/> <p><u>The Not-So-Good News</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name spellings can vary.</li> <li>• Addresses can vary.</li> <li>• The same search term may generate different results.</li> <li>• Although digitized, much information is handwritten.</li> <li>• <u>Any</u> source can be unreliable.</li> </ul> </div>	<h3>The Not-So-Good News</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware that names can be spelled differently (e.g. Shenon &gt;&gt; Shenan OR Marian &gt;&gt; Marion OR even better: Vaneta &gt;&gt; Veneta &gt;&gt; Vanita) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– NOTE: One letter makes a big difference.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• OR People go by various names (e.g. James K. Snedden &gt;&gt; J. Ken Snedden).</li> <li>• Be aware that addresses can change.</li> <li>• Sometimes the same search will show different results.</li> <li>• Much of the data is entered by hand (e.g. Census), so it can be hard to interpret.</li> <li>• Any source can be unreliable (e.g. names are misspelled, addresses are incorrect, etc.).</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 1257 591 1545"> <h3>General Considerations</h3> <hr/> <p><u>General Tips</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vary your search terms.</li> <li>• ALWAYS download an item.</li> <li>• Avoid distractions (i.e. the "rabbit hole").</li> <li>• Triangulate (if possible).</li> <li>• Don't discount unexpected sources.</li> </ul> <p>BE PREPARED</p> <p>To have 17 tabs open in your browser at once</p> </div>	<h3>General Tips</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be sure to try different search terms for the same thing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– For example: When searching historic newspapers for info on a person, be sure to use their address as a search term as well.</li> <li>– OR Change how you present the name (e.g. H.J McKean or Howard J. McKean).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ALWAYS go ahead and download, even if you think the info is relatively insignificant or that you can remember it. Even the smallest tidbits can become significant later. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– And be sure to keep track of the source, because you may need to go back to it.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Avoid distractions (e.g. "I wonder why he/she did that?").</li> <li>• Triangulate. One source may not be definitive. (e.g. Assessor dates are often incorrect. SHPO dates are sometimes incorrect.). So try to verify a fact through various sources.</li> <li>• Unexpected sources can reveal significant factoids.</li> </ul>

# About Your House

- For the house itself, I generally follow this order:
  - When it was built
  - Who the owner was
  - Who the builder was
  - Who the architect was
  - What it looked like
  - What style it is
  - What modifications have been made

# About Your House

Salt Lake City Building Permit Cards (Salt Lake City)

Address: 5600 S. 12th St Dist: 2-58 Map: 9

Owner: J.D. Brown & Son, Inc. 1940

Building Permit No.: 11115

Estimated Permit Fee: \$2,500.00

Issued: 4-17-76

Issued From: 11115

Estimated Permit Fee: \$2,500.00

Issued: 4-17-76

Permit and Plan Fees: \$475.00

Total: \$2,975.00

Building Permit No.: 11115

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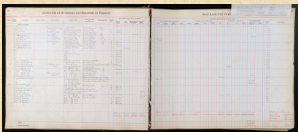
Total: \$2,975.00

- The permit cards don't have much detail but they do have permit numbers and dates, which are helpful in finding the permit record.
- NOTE: Both the Salt Lake County Assessor and the State Historic Preservation Office list estimated dates of construction but they are often incorrect. The date on the permit card is the most definitive.
- Permit cards will also show any additional work that has been done on your house. For example, this card shows that a plumbing permit was pulled in 1952.
- Sometimes the permit cards are kind of a mess.
- Not all permit numbers are in the building permit registers. My sense is that only new construction is listed in the registers.
- You can download the pdfs.




[Sign In \(slcgov.com\)](http://slcgov.com) (Just click on "Sign In")

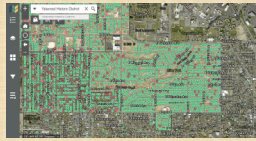

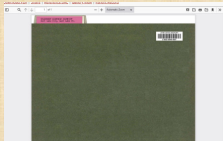
# About Your House

Building Permit Registers (Utah State Archives)




- Permit records are available through 1954.
- Building permits may have information that the permit cards do not (e.g. builder, material(s), number of rooms).
- There is a search window at the website, but I haven't been able to make it work.
- Finding the specific page is a little bit of "hunt-and-peck".
- You can download the images. **Download the "full size"**.

<div data-bbox="207 191 591 483"> <p>About Your House</p> <p>Tax Photos (Salt Lake County Assessor)</p>  </div>	<p><b>Salt Lake County Assessor Tax Photos</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tax photo can tell you a lot about what your house looked like previously.</li> <li>• The problem is that tax photos aren't dated.</li> <li>• Not all buildings have associated tax photos.</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 720 591 1014"> <p>About Your House</p> <p>Historic Photos (Marriott Library)</p>  </div>	<p><b>Historical Photos (Marriott Library Digital Collections)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– By address</li> <li>– By street</li> <li>– By occupant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 1251 591 1545"> <p>About Your House</p> <p>Historic Photos (Genealogy Websites)</p>  </div>	<p><b>Genealogy Websites</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genealogy websites (e.g. ancestry.com, familysearch.com, et al) can provide information about your house.</li> <li>• These images show the owners in front of their respective homes.</li> </ul>

<div data-bbox="207 195 591 485"> <p>About Your House</p> <p>Research (State Historic Preservation Office "HUB")</p>  </div>	<p><b>State Historic Preservation Office "HUB"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The HUB is a map showing all the buildings that have been surveyed for the SHPO to determine their architectural and/or historical status.</li> <li>Each green (or red) dot represents a building that has been surveyed.</li> <li>You can click on the dot associated with your house to pull up basic information on it.</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 722 591 1012"> <p>About Your House</p> <p>Research (State Historic Preservation Office "HUB")</p>  </div>	<p><b>State Historic Preservation Office "HUB" (sample entry)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HUB entries contain information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The original (or significant) owner</li> <li>The evaluation of your house for the National Register of Historic Places</li> <li>Its National Register status (whether it's listed on the National Register)</li> <li>The year built (although it may be incorrect)</li> <li>The original use</li> <li>The type and style(s) of your house (see "The Bible" below)</li> <li>The primary material of your house</li> <li>How tall your house is</li> <li>When your house was surveyed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 1318 591 1608"> <p>About Your House</p> <p>Building/District Files (SHPO)</p>  </div>	<p><b>Building Files (Marriott Library Digital Collections)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's likely that your house has been surveyed, so there will be a file with related information at the State Historic Preservation Office.</li> <li>How much information is available depends on the extent to which your house has been surveyed (researched).</li> <li>Many of these files have been digitized and are available through Marriott Library Digital Collections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NOTE: Not all building files have been digitized. If you can't find a file on your house through the Marriott Library website, contact Cory Jensen at the State Historic Preservation Office.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>


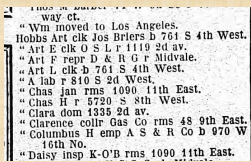




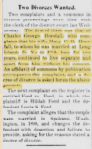

<div data-bbox="207 195 591 483" data-label="Image"> <p>The slide is titled "About Your House" and has a sub-header "Newspapers (Utah Digital Newspapers)". It displays two historical newspaper clippings. The left clipping shows a two-story house with a gabled roof and a porch. The right clipping shows a similar house with a different architectural style, possibly a different view or a different house. Both clippings are from the "Utah Digital Newspapers" collection.</p> </div>	<p><b>Historical Newspapers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utah Digital Newspapers is a primary source for local historic newspapers.</li> <li>• Subscription sites (e.g. newspaperarchive.com) can be great supplements.</li> <li>• The Library of Congress also has digitized numerous historical newspapers.</li> <li>• More recent news (from the mid-1980s) is available through America's News (SL Public Library).</li> <li>• The Salt Lake Tribune also has a subscription service for its archives.</li> <li>• Newspapers can be unreliable (e.g. addresses can be wrong. Example: an article identified a house's address as "Lowell" instead of "Laurel".).</li> <li>• Search terms may see letters differently (e.g. u might be a).</li> <li>• And there can be issues with terms that a newspaper has to hyphenate.</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 789 591 1077" data-label="Image"> <p>The slide is titled "About Your House" and has a sub-header "Sanborn Maps (Marriott Library)". It displays a sample Sanborn fire insurance map. The map is a detailed street grid with various colored areas representing different types of buildings and structures. The colors include red, yellow, and green, which are used to distinguish between different materials and structures. The map is oriented with North at the top.</p> </div>	<p><b>Sanborn Maps (sample page)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanborn maps can show you how your house may have changed over time.</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 1323 591 1610" data-label="Image"> <p>The slide is titled "About Your House" and has a sub-header "Sanborn Maps (Marriott Library)". It displays three drawings of a house from different years: 1911 (upper left), 1926 (upper right), and 1950 (lower). The drawings show the house's footprint and materials (colors) that show how the house has been modified over time. The 1911 drawing shows a simple rectangular footprint. The 1926 drawing shows a more complex footprint with a porch. The 1950 drawing shows a significant expansion of the footprint and the addition of a new wing.</p> </div>	<p><b>Sanborn Maps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an example of drawings for a particular house from 1911 (upper left), 1926 (upper right), and 1950 (lower).</li> <li>• Note the changes in footprint and materials (colors) that show how the house has been modified over time.</li> </ul>




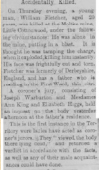
<div data-bbox="207 195 591 485"> <p>About Your House</p> <hr/> <p>The Bible</p>  </div>	<p><b>Utah's Historic Architecture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the definitive work on Utah architecture.</li> <li>• You can find descriptions of your house type and style(s) in this book. (Refer to the "HUB" entry for your house to find its type and style(s)).</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 722 591 1012"> <p>About Your House</p> <hr/> <p>Other Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ SL County Tax Appraisal Cards</li> <li>◦ Architectural drawings/blueprints</li> <li>◦ Utah Center for Architecture Architects Project</li> <li>◦ SHPO architects files</li> <li>◦ Publications</li> <li>◦ Family histories</li> <li>◦ Salt Lake City historical plat maps</li> <li>◦ Board of Adjustment case files</li> <li>◦ Former owners/residents</li> </ul> </div>	
<div data-bbox="207 1251 591 1541"> <p>About Your House</p> <hr/> <p>Utah State Historic Preservation Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Cory Jensen!!!</li> <li>◦ Amber Anderson!!!</li> </ul> </div>	<p><b>State Historic Preservation Office</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For questions about building files and/or the National Register of Historic Place, contact Cory Jensen: <a href="mailto:coryjensen@utah.gov">coryjensen@utah.gov</a>.</li> <li>• For questions about the historic tax credits program, contact Amber Anderson: <a href="mailto:amberanderson@utah.gov">amberanderson@utah.gov</a>.</li> </ul>

<div data-bbox="207 195 591 485" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p>This information can personalize your house—almost as if the previous occupants were an extended family.</p>
<div data-bbox="207 722 591 1012" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p><b>Legal Description</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The legal description is THE identifier of your property.</li> <li>• It's essential for finding the “chain of conveyance” (the transactions among various owners of your house) and for ensuring that the property you're researching is actually yours. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– NOTE: It was not uncommon for someone to own several lots (parcels) and to sell them individually. If you're searching through the Title Abstracts (see next slide) and run across the name of an owner of your property, you'll need to verify through the legal description that they were selling <u>your</u> lot and not a different one.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• You can find it at the Salt Lake County Assessor's website (search for your address) or in your title documents.</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 1255 591 1545" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p><b>Title Abstracts (sample page)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These registers track property transactions in Salt Lake County.</li> <li>• You can use them to find the owners of your property and when it changed hands.</li> <li>• You can buy a “day pass” through County Recorder's Data Services that allows you to access the Title Abstracts online. Or you can go to the Recorder's office in the county complex at State Street and 2100 South. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– NOTE: Searching these records is not necessarily intuitive.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<div data-bbox="207 191 591 485"> <p>About Its Occupants</p> <p>City Directories (Heritage Quest/Marriott Library)</p>  </div>	<p><b>City Directories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City directories are accessible through the SL Public Library (HeritageQuest) and through Marriott Library Digital Collections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REMEMBER: Not all the occupants of your house were necessarily owners, so you won't find their names in the Title Abstracts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>After 1925, occupants are listed both by name and by address. Listings by address are found towards the end of the directory.</li> <li>If the name you're searching for doesn't appear in the results, go to that page anyway, because that person may be listed differently from what you were expecting.</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 722 591 1016"> <p>About Its Occupants</p> <p>City Directories</p>  </div>	<p><b>City Directories (sample entries)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware that listings contain codes that refer to various characteristics (occupation, ownership or rental status, et al).</li> <li>The legend/index for the codes can be found near the beginning of a directory.</li> <li>Be aware that people may list their names in different ways (HJ McKean may be Howard J McKean). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NOTE: Not all occupants were homeowners.</li> <li>NOTE: The city directories often don't list all the occupants (especially children).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 1253 591 1547"> <p>About Its Occupants</p> <p>US Census (Heritage Quest)</p>  </div>	<p><b>US Census (sample page)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Census data provides lots of details (e.g. name, age, occupation, ownership, etc.).</li> <li>It's a good way to find out who all the family members are (although that may change over the period of 10 years). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NOTE: Census entries can be incorrect (e.g. names are often misspelled).</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Census is accessible through the Salt Lake Public Library (HeritageQuest) and through various genealogy websites.</li> <li>The Census is available through 1950.</li> </ul>

<div data-bbox="207 191 591 485" data-label="Complex-Block"> <h3>About Its Occupants</h3> <p>Newspapers (Utah Digital Newspapers)</p>  </div>	<div data-bbox="737 191 1468 695" data-label="List-Group"> <h3>Historical Newspapers</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utah Digital Newspapers is a primary source for local historic newspapers.</li> <li>Subscription sites (e.g. newspaperarchive.com) can be great supplements.</li> <li>The Library of Congress also has digitized numerous historical newspapers.</li> <li>More recent news (from the mid-1980s) is available through America's News (SL Public Library).</li> <li>The Salt Lake Tribune also has a subscription service for its archives.</li> <li>Obituaries often contain substantial information about an individual. Assuming that an obituary has been written by a family member, it can be considered reasonably reliable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NOTE: Until relatively recently, spouses were referred to as "Mrs. Whoever" rather than by their first names.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </div>
<div data-bbox="207 722 591 1016" data-label="Complex-Block"> <h3>About Its Occupants</h3> <p>Newspapers (Out of State)</p>  </div>	<div data-bbox="737 722 1468 947" data-label="List-Group"> <h3>Historical Newspapers</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't limit yourself to local papers.</li> <li>Out-of-state newspapers are accessible through the Library of Congress and various subscription services (e.g. newspaperarchive.com).</li> <li>This story about Charles Horsfall seeking divorce from his spouses is from a Nome, Alaska newspaper.</li> </ul> </div>
<div data-bbox="207 1253 591 1547" data-label="Complex-Block"> <h3>About Its Occupants</h3> <p>Historic Photos (Marriott Library)</p>  </div>	<div data-bbox="737 1253 1468 1419" data-label="List-Group"> <h3>Historic Photos (Marriott Library Digital Collections)</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Search by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By address</li> <li>By street</li> <li>By occupant</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </div>

<div data-bbox="207 195 591 485"> <p>About Its Occupants</p> <p>Historic Photos (Genealogy Websites)</p>  </div>	<p><b>Genealogy Websites</b></p>
<div data-bbox="207 726 591 1016"> <p>About Its Occupants</p> <p>Birth And Death Certificates (Utah State Archives)</p>  </div>	<p><b>Birth and Death Certificates (sample certificate)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible through the Utah State Archives website.</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="207 1257 591 1547"> <p>About Its Occupants</p> <p>But Be Prepared...</p>   </div>	<p><b>Be Prepared</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some stories can be incredibly poignant and may affect how you feel about your home.</li> <li>• Albert Bement (left) lost his wife in childbirth, and their three children died as infants.</li> <li>• Alice Bement (Albert's sister) planned to marry William H. Fletcher, but he was killed on 10 September 1874 in a blasting accident in a quarry in Cottonwood Canyon. She was sealed to him two months after his death and remained single the rest of her life. (She eventually moved in with Albert.)</li> </ul>

<div data-bbox="206 191 591 483"> <h3>About Its Occupants</h3> <hr/> <p>Other Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o General online searches</li> <li>o Cemetery websites (e.g. findagrave.com)</li> <li>o Obituaries (legacy.com)</li> <li>o Private libraries</li> <li>o Family histories</li> <li>o Publications</li> <li>o General histories</li> </ul> </div>	
<div data-bbox="206 720 591 1014"> <h3>Oh Yeah...</h3> <h3>Anything Else You Can Find</h3> <p>35</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can often get valuable information from unanticipated sources.</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="206 1251 591 1545"> <h3>Contact</h3> <hr/> <p>Bim Oliver Bim Oliver Consulting bimconsult@comcast.net 801-419-4712</p> <p>36</p> </div>	