

PH0353116

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 27 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 19 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC ⁺ Mathias Cowley House *h*

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

110 South First East

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Preston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

second

STATE

Idaho

VICINITY OF

CODE

16

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Edwin and Beula Hinckley

STREET & NUMBER

1941 North 360 East

CITY, TOWN

Provo

VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah 83601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Preston

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Like many other substantial pioneer Mormon houses in the area, the Cowley house is built of locally quarried stone. Although built in 1895, it reflects an earlier architectural tradition of simple massing rather than the then popular Queen Anne seen elsewhere in this Mormon community. Two story-and-a-half gabled forms connect at right angles to make a T-shaped house with entry porch at the intersection. Shingled shed dormers increase space and furnish light to the bedrooms upstairs. Openings are topped with segmental stone arches, but rectangular double-hung sashes are used, without arched tops.

The house is substantially as built except that the entry porch formerly extended the length of its wall. A small porch which covered the south door has also been removed.

Original interior woodwork, including pine wainscoting, remains. Original plaster walls have been replastered. Present owners hope to restore exterior porches and minor details to original condition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cowley house represents a type of Mormon architecture found also in Utah, although it is a late example. Its importance in local history derives as much from its owners as its architecture. Mathias F. Cowley settled in Preston, Idaho, in 1887. He built this house himself, completing the project in 1895 from stone quarried near Whitney.

After being made an apostle in the church in 1898, he moved to Salt Lake City. John Larson, newly appointed bishop of the Preston ward purchased it that year, and it remained in the family until 1940.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	2
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4	2	7	7	5	0
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4	6	6	0	3	6	0
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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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ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Only the building is included.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Arthur A. Hart, Director

4-23-76

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

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

Marle Wells

TITLE Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4-23-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

17/19/76

ATTEST
[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

July 16, 1976

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Matthias Cowley Residence

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Originally settled in 1872-1874 as an agricultural expansion of the farming area around Franklin, Preston gradually grew into an independent community served by the Cub River and Worm Creek Canal Company. Constructed at a cost of \$30,000 (rather an expensive project in those days), a ten foot canal ran fifteen miles to reach Worm creek lands in need of water for farming. After the Utah and Northern Railway was extended northward from Franklin, enough Mormons lived there to justify organization of the Worm creek ward, October 21, 1879. This community was renamed, May 14, 1881, for William B. Preston, and in less than a decade became the major Idaho settlement in Cache valley.

In 1884 Matthias Cowley was called by the Mormon Church to preside over the Oneida Stake Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association. He settled in Oxford until 1887, when he became second counsellor for the Oneida Stake presidency and moved to Preston. Then in 1897 he was sustained as a member of the Council of Twelve Apostles of the Latter Day saints Church. Finally in 1898, he and his family departed from Preston, selling their house to John Larson, the newly appointed bishop in the Preston Ward. When Preston was incorporated in 1900, Larson was named the first village board chairman.

The house is in the heart of Preston, being located one block east of Main Street, across from the original public square. It was only 1½ blocks from the first ward meeting house and the school. Across the street was the opera house (razed in 1963) and the Oneida Stake Academy. The academy (now on the National Register), was constructed of the same stone as the Cowley residence and both structures were dedicated on the same day (July 28, 1895) by Apostle Moses Thatcher of Salt Lake.

The Matthias Cowley house is a recognizable example of late nineteenth century Mormon residential architecture in which local stone was employed in construction of symmetrical, one and a half story substantial dwellings. The T-shaped floor plan frequently appeared within the Mormon community. As was customary for plural marriage families, his house had more than one front doorway. The central chimney sets the house apart from the Mormon tradition of gable-end chimneys.

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ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Henry A. Smith, Matthew Cowley, Man of Faith, Salt Lake City, Bookcraft, 1954.

Cindy Rice, "Spring City: A Look at a Nineteenth Century Mormon Village," Utah Historical Quarterly, V. 43, (Summer 1975), p. 271

Peter Goss, "Utah's Architectural Heritage," Utah Architect, Vol. 52 (1973), p. 15.



- 1) Mathias Cowley House
- 2) Preston, Idaho *Franklin Co.*
- 3) Idaho Historical Society Staff
- 4) Recent
- 5) Idaho State Historical Society
- 6) Looking Southwest
- 7) *1 of 1*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

APR 27 1976

JUL 19 1976 Doc-