

# HISTORIC SITE FORM

(10-91)

UTAH OFFICE OF PRESERVATION

## 1 IDENTIFICATION

Name of Property: **Berrett, Orson & Laura, House**

Address: 6700 S. 1655 East

Township: 2 S Range: 1 E Section: 21

City, County: Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah 84121 UTM: 12T 428491 4497950

Current Owner Name: Mark Daniel Gygi

USGS Map Name & Date:  
Sugarhouse, Utah Quad, 2011

Current Owner Address: 6700 S. 1655 East  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121

Tax Number: 22-21-329-013

Legal Description (include acreage): BEG AT NE COR LOT 5, GREENFIELD VILLAGE PLAT N; N 85°13' W 115 FT; N 4°47' E 71.61 FT; S 85°13' E 115 FT; S 4°47' W 71.61 FT TO BEG. 0.19 AC. 4172-0308 8907-2434,2438 8907-2467 10248-6845

## 2 STATUS/USE

### Property Category

☒ building(s)

☐ structure

☐ site

☐ object

### Evaluation

☒ eligible/contributing

☐ ineligible/non-contributing

☐ out-of-period

### Use

Original Use: Single Dwelling

Current Use: Single Dwelling

## 3 DOCUMENTATION

### Photos: Dates

☐ slides:

☒ prints: 2022

☒ historic: 1938, 1954

### Drawings and Plans

☒ measured floor plans 1938 (tax card)

☒ site sketch map aerial photograph

☐ Historic American Bldg. Survey

☐ original plans available at:

☐ other:

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

☒ abstract of title

☒ tax card & photo

☐ building permit

☐ sewer permit

☐ Sanborn Maps

☐ obituary index

☒ city directories/gazetteers

☒ census records

☒ biographical encyclopedias

☒ newspapers

☒ city/county histories

☐ personal interviews

☒ USHS Library

☒ USHS Preservation Files

☐ USHS Architects File

☒ LDS Family History Library

☒ local library: Whitmore Library

☐ university library(ies):

### Bibliographical References (books, articles, interviews, etc.)

Attach copies of all research notes, title searches, obituaries, and so forth.

Berrett, Golden L. "Golden L. Berrett History And Several Experience." Unpublished TMs, [1989].

Berrett, LaMar C. *Down Berrett Lane*. Orem, Utah: Published by the John Watts Family Genealogical Organization, Printed by Community Press, 1980.

Broschinsky, Korral. "Selective Reconnaissance Level Survey 2016: Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah." Final Report and Appendices, May 30, 2016. Available at the Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

Polk Directories, Salt Lake City, 1900-1979. Published by R.L. Polk & Co. Available at the Utah State Historical Society.

Roberts, Allen D. *City Between the Canyons: A History of Cottonwood Heights, 1849-1953*. United States: Cottonwood Heights City, 2018.

[Salt Lake County Tax Assessor's Cards and Photographs]. Available at the Salt Lake County Archives.

[Salt Lake County Title Abstracts]. Available at the Salt Lake County Recorder's Office.

Salt Lake Tribune, various issues.

United States Census. *Union Precincts, Salt Lake County, Utah, 1870-1950*.

Researcher/Organization: Preservation Documentation Resource/prepared for Cottonwood Heights City

Date: 2022

Building Style/Type: Victorian / Cross Wing No. Stories: 1

Foundation Material: Stone Wall Material(s): Brick, Aluminum Siding

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

Number of associated outbuildings          and/or structures         .

*Briefly describe the principal building, additions or alterations and their dates, and associated outbuildings and structures. Use continuation sheets as necessary.*

The *Orson and Laura Berrett House*, located at 6700 S. 1655 East in Cottonwood Heights, Utah, was built in several phases between circa 1895 and 1946. The oldest portion is a one-story brick cross wing built around 1895. Around 1910, a frame addition was added to the northeast corner. A concrete block addition was built at the northwest corner in 1946. The front porch was enclosed with glazing circa 1940s. A side porch was also enclosed around the same time. The east addition was later covered with aluminum siding. The house has a combination of stone and concrete foundations. The roof is covered with both asphalt and wood shingles. Despite having a few replacement windows and the non-historic siding on one elevation, the house has good historic integrity in the qualities of location, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling, for a period of significance up to the 1960s. The property's original setting was compromised when the surrounding farmland was subdivided in a series of plats between 1953 and 1972 [Map #1]. The house is the only building surviving from the Berrett family enclave known as Berrett Lane.

The footprint of the sprawling house sits within a rough square measuring approximately 56 by 48 feet. The brick and oldest main block is approximately 37 by 40 feet with the façade on the long side (south elevation). There is a slight projection at the southeast corner and a projecting cross wing on the west one-third. This part of the house has a stone foundation. Both of the rear additions have concrete foundations. The brick walls are built of red brick that has been painted white [Photograph 1]. The brick is laid in a running bond with flush mortar joints. The projecting gable on the façade (south elevation) features a full cornice return. The gable trim originally featured Victorian shingles with a diamond-shaped attic vent. The gable has since been sheathed in wide aluminum siding (circa 1980). A tax assessor's photograph taken in 1938 shows the front porch under a hipped roof with lathe-turned posts sitting on a half-height block wall [Figure 1]. The double-hung windows feature stone sills and lintels. In the 1940s, the front porch was enclosed with horizontal glazing [Figures 2-3]. Intentional holes in the half-height walls were filled in at the same.

In the tax photograph, the frame addition has two sections. The part along the east elevation of the house has a high roof that connects to the main wing of the house. The hipped section of the roof may have been added when the addition was built. The small addition with a shed roof extends from the north elevation. Both the addition and the enclosed southeast corner porch are sheathed in aluminum siding with newer windows. Above the shed roof a section of the frame addition has vertical wood siding. A new door is now the main entrance to the house on the east elevation [Photograph 2]. The tax photograph show a root cellar entrance at this location (demolished circa 1970s). The west elevation has the original brick walls and Victorian window openings. The 1946 concrete block addition at the northwest corner has a small stoop and a back entrance.

The south, east, and west section of the roof are covered in light gray asphalt shingles (circa 1970s). The north slope is sheathed in what appears to be original wood shingles [Photograph 3]. The two rear addition have the light gray asphalt shingles. There are four brick chimneys. The oldest is located on the west elevation and features a corbeled top. There are two, one in the center of the main house and in the addition, both have concrete caps. The fourth chimney is located in the 1946 addition. The house has 1,824 square feet of space on the main floor. In addition to the living room, kitchen, and dining rooms, there are four bedrooms and two baths. Although the attic height is tall, there are no finished rooms in the attic. The basement is minimal and not currently used.

The *Orson and Laura Berrett House* is within a mid-to-late twentieth century subdivision in the Union area of Cottonwood Heights [Map #1]. The current 0.19-acre parcel is the last remnant of the Berrett homestead, which began with 100.53 acres. The house is the only historic building left on Orson's 13.47-acre share of the family farm [Figure 4]. The road serving the Berrett family enclave was known as Berrett Lane. The road no longer exists but the entry point from Fort Union Boulevard still exists as 1495 East. The East Jordan Canal is extant one block south of the Berrett House property. The house nearly fills its lot with mature trees and shrubs along the south and west elevations. There is only a few feet of space between the east elevation and the curbing for 1655 East. Prior to 2018, the backyard was open to the neighboring parcel to the north where a mobile home sat [Map #2]. In 2018, a new house and vinyl fence was built to the north.

Architect/Builder: Unknown Date of Construction: circa 1895

Historic Themes: Mark themes related to this property with "S" or "C" (S = significant, C = contributing).  
(see instructions for details)

<u>C</u> Agriculture	<u>  </u> Economics	<u>  </u> Industry	<u>  </u> Politics/
<u>  </u> Architecture	<u>  </u> Education	<u>  </u> Invention	<u>  </u> Government
<u>  </u> Archeology	<u>  </u> Engineering	<u>  </u> Landscape	<u>  </u> Religion
<u>  </u> Art	<u>  </u> Entertainment/	<u>  </u> Architecture	<u>  </u> Science
<u>  </u> Commerce	<u>  </u> Recreation	<u>  </u> Law	<u>  </u> Social History
<u>  </u> Communications	<u>  </u> Ethnic Heritage	<u>  </u> Literature	<u>  </u> Transportation
<u>  </u> Community Planning	<u>S</u> Exploration/	<u>  </u> Maritime History	<u>  </u> Other
<u>  </u> & Development	<u>  </u> Settlement	<u>  </u> Military	
<u>  </u> Conservation	<u>  </u> Health/Medicine	<u>  </u> Performing Arts	

Write a chronological history of the property, focusing primarily on the original or principal owners & significant events. Explain and justify any significant themes marked above. Use continuation sheets as necessary.

The *Orson and Laura Berrett House* is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement for its association with the homestead patent acquired by Orson's father John Berrett. The house, built in phases between 1895 and 1946, is the only surviving building associated with the Berrett homestead in the east Union area of Cottonwood Heights. In the area of Agriculture, the history of the property contributes to the understanding of the agricultural evolution of the land known as Berrett Field before it became a mid-to-late century subdivision.

John Watts Berrett immigrated from England in 1863. He sent for his fiancée, Eliza Hookway, who joined him in Utah in 1865. They were married in December 1865 and settled in the Union Fort area. John Berrett began improving a homestead of 160 acres in east Union, but because the survey work had not been completed and another settler was in that area, John was only able to receive a deed for 100.53 acres in Section 21, Township 2S, Range 1E. The north boundary of his homestead was the boundary between Union and the South Cottonwood area. The first irrigation water came a small tributary from the Little Cottonwood Creek that ran near the west section line. John Berrett dug an extension of the Tanner Ditch for more water. In the twentieth century, the East Jordan Canal was built through the south portion of Berrett Field [Figure 4]. This canal is still in use today.

John built a two-room adobe house for Eliza, which was later enlarged as their family grew. They were the parents of five sons: John Albert (1866), Heber Hookway (1868), Walter Lorenzo (1870), Orson Hookway (1873) and Frank Hookway (1875). The family worshiped and the boys attended school in Union. The census records lists John and all his sons as farmers when they reached adulthood. John Watts Berrett died on April 27, 1889. John's death was followed by the weddings of the five sons, occurring between 1890 and 1898. Four sons built a home for his family along Berrett Lane spread throughout the shared farmstead. The youngest, Frank stayed in the family home with his wife to care for his mother. Eliza Hookway Berrett died on February 7, 1917. Orson's home is the only one of the five houses to survive Union's post-World War subdivision boom period. In 1912, the land was officially divided between the five sons by decree. Orson's share was 13.47 acres surrounding his house and an additional 5.59 acres south of 70<sup>th</sup> South (later 7000 South then Fort Union Boulevard).

Orson Hookway Berrett was born on May 24, 1873, in Union. Growing up on the family farm, he was able to get only three grades of formal schooling. He married Laura Denney on March 13, 1895. Laura Alberta Denney was born in Salt Lake City on October 2, 1873. Her family moved to Union in 1887 and lived on the hill south of Berrett Lane. Because the Denney farm had no water source, the family would fill barrels at the creek near Berrett Field. Orson would help Laura fill the barrels and water the trees near her house. Orson built the brick home for his family around the time of his marriage in 1895. In his early years, Orson spent time as a contractor, freighting supplies to the mines in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. He carried ores to the smelters in Murray and Midvale on his return trips. Orson also worked driving a team while building roads in Salt Lake County, as well as being a road supervisor for Salt Lake County. Orson served a church mission to England in 1926-1928.

Orson and Laura had eleven children who lived to maturity and one stillborn birth. They had seven daughters: Lottie Alberta (1895), Alice Victoria (1897), Louie May (1900), Sarah Eliza (1901), Laura Ann (1904), Bertha Irene (1907), and Jessie Bell (1915). They had four sons: Herbert Orson (1898), Golden LeRoy (1903), Rulon John (1911), and Lyman Charles (1914). In addition to raising a large family, Laura was active in the Union LDS Church Ward, sang in the ward choir, and served on the old folks committee. She was also the secretary of the Union Camp of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. She maintained a lovely garden, orchard, and sold eggs and butter to support the family, most importantly during Orson's mission.

—continued—

In his later years, Orson was devoted full time to the farm. The family grew hay and alfalfa and managed a small dairy herd. Laura Alberta Denney Berrett died on April 29, 1945, and was buried in the Murray Cemetery. On January 7, 1946, Orson married Laura's younger sister, Caroline Ruth Denney. Ruth had been married twice before her marriage to Orson but had no children. She was affectionately called "Aunt Ruth" by her step-children and grandchildren. Photographs of Orson Berrett and his farm appeared in the March 24, 1951, issue of LOOK magazine; one with the caption "Brother Orson H. Berrett, 78, does a full day's work on his farm."<sup>1</sup> In 1952, Orson deeded the house and a portion of the family farm to his second son, Golden L. Berrett, and his wife, Caroline. Orson Hookway Berrett died on June 6, 1957. Ruth Denney Berrett died May 15, 1970, in a Holladay nursing home.

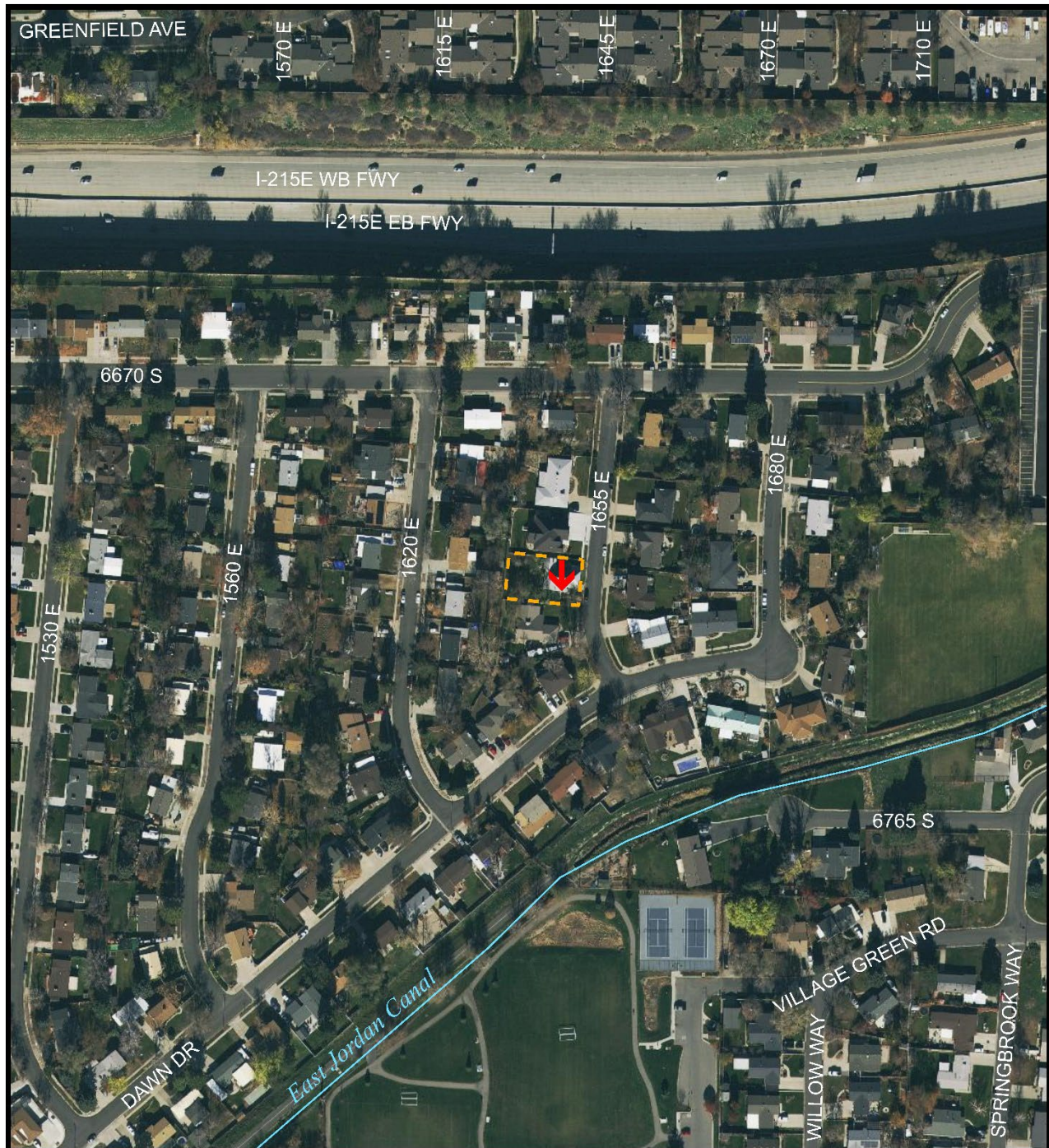
Golden LeRoy Berrett was born in 1903. A graduate of Jordan High School, he worked for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad while earning a college degree. He taught public school for five years and helped his younger brothers, Lyman and Rulon, to run the family farm while Orson served his mission. Golden married Caroline Roberts Kimball from Draper, Utah, in 1932. They lived in Union and later in Duchesne, Utah, for five years. Golden and Caroline moved back to the family farm in Union during World War II. Because building material was scarce during the war, they expanded the farm house. Before Orson's death in 1957, he hired a neighbor to appraise the farm house, sheds, barns, potato cellar, and other outbuildings. Because no one in the family wanted the old house and farm, Golden bought it. He and Caroline lived there until their new house was completed to the north in 1964 (6696 S. 1655 East). Golden planted a new fruit tree orchard but discovered the locals were harvesting the fruit without his permission. He gave up farming when he realized that more people were interested in buying building lots and the orchard became a subdivision. Golden and Caroline gifted lots to seven of their eight children. One son, Chad, died at the age of ten in 1958.

The home of Orson and Laura was rental property until 1970. That year Golden and Caroline's son, Vaughn married Hallie Virginia Hawkins and moved into the home. The two Berrett houses (6700 and 6696) were finally surrounded by Plats "N" and "O" of the Greenfield Subdivision in 1972. The deed was finalized in 1975. Golden LeRoy Berrett died in 1992 and Caroline Roberts Kimball Berrett died in 1998. Vaughn worked as a water treatment operator and taught piano lessons. Vaughn and Hallie had four children. Vaughn Kimball Berrett died in 1994. The house property passed to Hallie Berrett and her son Jason in 2003. After Hallie Hawkins Berrett's death in 2017, the house was sold by the Hallie Berrett Trust to the current owner Mark Daniel Gygi, the husband of Hallie's daughter, Caroline Berrett Gygi. A new home replaced the mobile home between the two Berrett houses in 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> LaMar C. Berrett, *Down Berrett Lane*, (Orem, Utah: Published by the John Watts Family Genealogical Organization, Printed by Community Press, 1980): 373.





0 100 200 300 400 500  
Feet

### MAP #1 - Neighborhood Map

↓ Latitude: 40.623703° Longitude: -111.816509°

## **Beckett, Orson & Laura, House**

6700 S. 1655 East  
Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah

GIS Data Courtesy Utah AGRC & Cottonwood Heights City





0 10 20 30 40 50  
Feet

## MAP #2 - Site Plan & Photo Key

 PHOTOGRAPH KEY

### ***Beckett, Orson & Laura, House***

6700 S. 1655 East  
Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah

GIS Data Courtesy Utah AGRC & Cottonwood Heights City

**Common Label Information:**

1. Name: *Berrett, Orson & Laura, House*
2. Address: 6700 S. 1655 East, Cottonwood Heights, Utah
3. Photographer: Korral Broschinsky
4. Date: 2022
5. Digital color photographs on file at Utah SHPO.

**Photograph 1**

South elevation of house. Camera facing northwest.





**Photograph 2**  
East elevation of house. Camera facing west.



**Photograph 3**  
East and north elevations of house. Camera facing southwest.

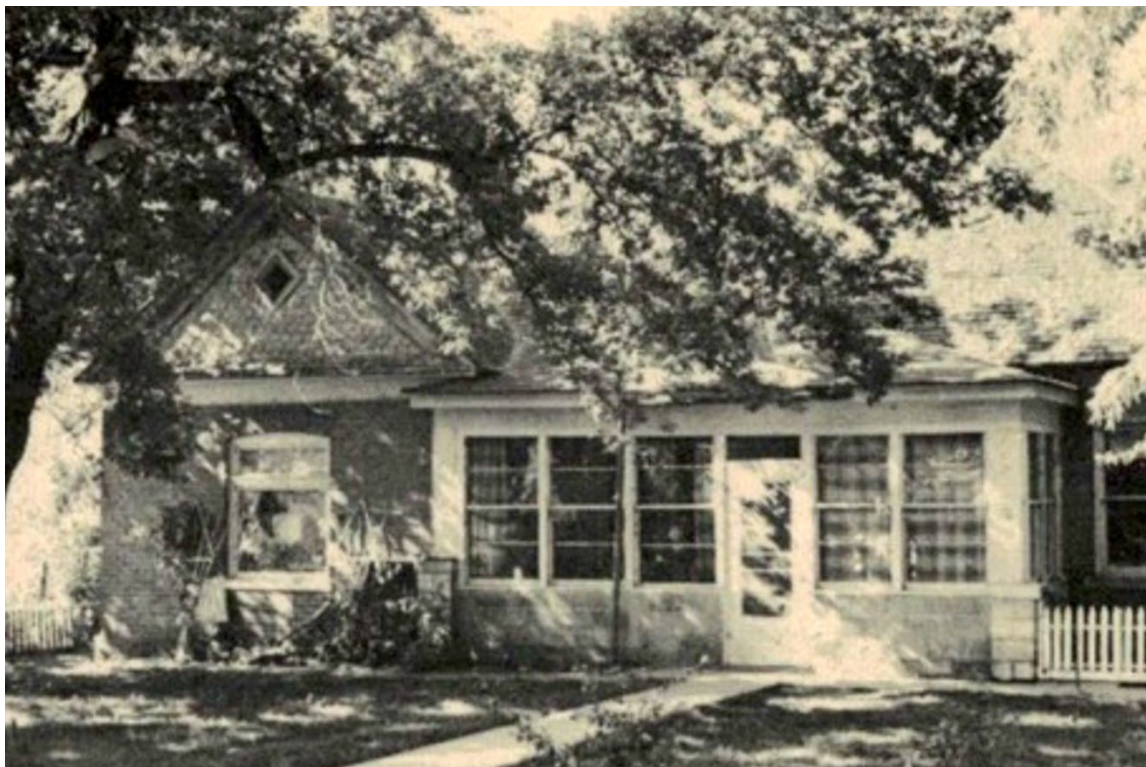




**FIGURE 1**

**6700 S. 1655 East**  
Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah

**1938** tax assessor's photograph  
courtesy Salt Lake County Archives



**FIGURE 2**

**6700 S. 1655 East**  
Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah

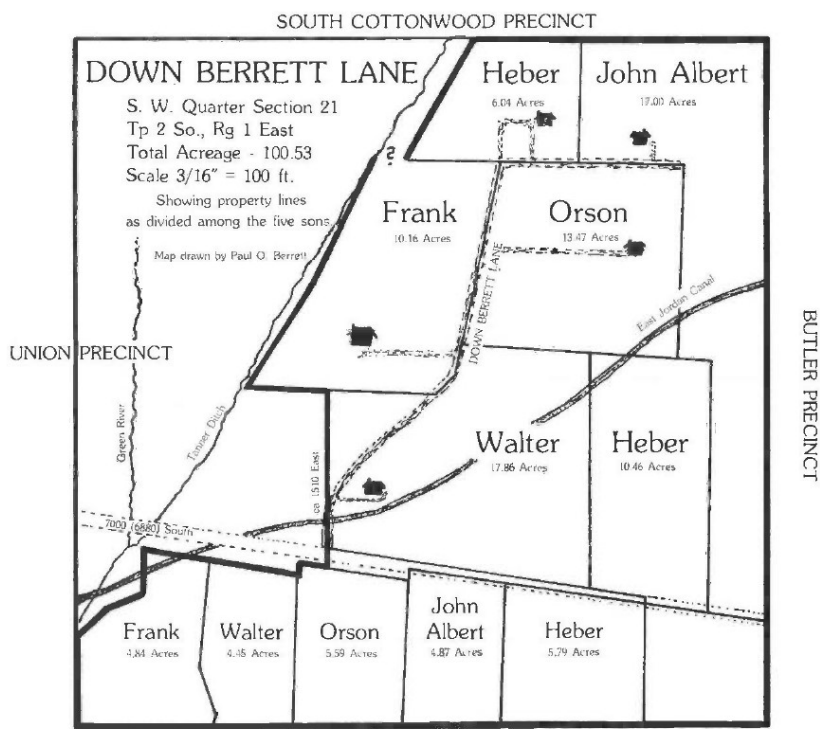
photographed in **1938**  
in *Down Berrett Lane*



**FIGURE 3**

**6700 S. 1655 East**  
Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah

south elevation photographed in **2016**  
courtesy Salt Lake County Archives

**FIGURE 4**

**Map of Berrett Lane**

in *Down Berrett Lane*, published in 1980