

HISTORIC SITE FORM

(10-91)

UTAH OFFICE OF PRESERVATION

1 IDENTIFICATION

Name of Property: **Wilkinson, Earl and Evelyn, House**

Address: 3414 E. Fort Union Boulevard

Twtnshp: 2 S Range: 1 E Section: 26

City, County: Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah 84121 UTM: 12T 432481 4497026

Current Owner Name: Mary L. Buxton

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

Current Owner Address: 3414 E. Fort Union Boulevard
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121

Tax Number: 22-26-230-006

Legal Description (include acreage): LOT 27 BRADFORD RANCHOS SUB. 0.39 AC.

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: 2016
☒ historic: 1952

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:
☐ university library(ies):

Drawings and Plans

☒ measured floor plans 1952 (tax card)
☒ site sketch map aerial photograph
☐ Historic American Bldg. Survey
☐ original plans available at:
☐ other:

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

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

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.

Deseret News, Salt Lake City, Utah. Various issues.

Polk Directories, Salt Lake City, 1944-2022. 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, Salt Lake City, Utah, various issues.

United States Census. *Butler & Union Precincts, Salt Lake County, Utah, 1940-1950*.

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

Date: 2022

Building Style/Type: Early Ranch / Early Ranch House No. Stories: 1
 Foundation Material: Concrete Wall Material(s): Asbestos Siding
 Additions: X none minor major (describe below) Alterations: none X minor major (describe below)
 Number of associated outbuildings 3 and/or structures 1.

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

The *Wilkinson, Earl and Evelyn, House*, located at 3414 E. Fort Union Boulevard in Cottonwood Heights, Utah, was built in 1947. The house is an Early Ranch-style frame residence sheathed in asbestos siding. The house is a rare example of an asbestos shingle house in Cottonwood Heights. The front porch was enclosed with clapboard siding in 1955. The house has low-pitch simple gable roof with an intersecting gable over the enclosed porch addition. The foundation is concrete and the roof is asphalt shingles. The façade has minor alterations such as some replacement windows with storms and faux shutters. The house has good integrity in the qualities design, materials, workmanship, location and association. The setting and feeling have been compromised by the construction of a non-contributing split log-clad house in front of the historic house (built in 1992). The property has two non-contributing outbuildings a garage (built in 2003) and a shed (built in 1993) just behind the historic house. There is also a non-contributing carport (built in 2000). The 0.34-acre parcel is smaller than the original parcel. The house is surrounded by newer subdivisions [Map #1].

The 1947 footprint of the Wilkinson House is a rectangle measuring approximately 50 by 29 feet, with the long side facing Fort Union Boulevard. The front addition measures 15 feet wide by nine feet deep. The covered open porch is located to the east and is six feet wide. The concrete foundation is nearly at grade and not visible due to planter boxes and shrubs. The asbestos siding is tan in color. There is some later wide aluminum siding in the gable trim of the end and front gables, and the sides of the addition (all white in color) [Photograph 1]. The original gable trim was vertical siding with scalloped edges in the addition [Figure 1]. The ridgeline of the main roof runs east to west. Both the main roof and the intersecting gable are sheathed in small, light gray asphalt shingles. The original roof was rolled asphalt. There is a red brick chimney placed just off-center in the roof.

The front concrete stoop is low with two steps. The porch roof is an extension of the front gable and supported on two square posts. The wood front door faces north. The 1955 addition has a large picture window. There are smaller windows in the main house on either side. The east elevation features a tri-partite window and an attic vent. The west elevation is similar. The rear (south) elevation has a small stoop and a basement entrance (added after 1960). On the interior, the house has 1,126 square feet of space on the main floor. The basement is a cellar with 319 square feet of space. The house has a living room, kitchen, four bedrooms, and 1½ baths.

The *Wilkinson, Earl and Evelyn, House* is located in the former east Butler area of Cottonwood Heights. Fort Union Boulevard was known as 7000 South for many years. The 0.34-acre parcel is a rectangle with the north property line following the angle of Fort Union Boulevard. The house is setback from the street by approximately 100 feet, which is why the newer 1992 house was built in the front of the older house rather than on a flag lot. The one-story log house is a perpendicular to the older house with a full-width porch and an attached garage at the north end. An aerial photograph taken in 1958 shows a shed behind the house that was later demolished when the carport, shed, and garage was built (between 2000 and 2005). The two non-contributing outbuildings and the carport structure are all located south (behind) the historic house. There is a C-shaped concrete driveway at the north end of the property to facilitate getting out onto busy Fort Union Boulevard [Map #2]. The log house is just south of the concrete driveway. The remaining driveway is a straight asphalt drive along the east property line. There are several mature trees on the west property line and small areas of lawn around the houses.

Architect/Builder: Unknown Date of Construction: 1947

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

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

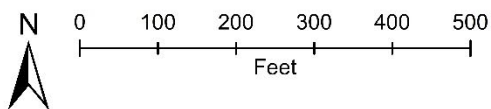
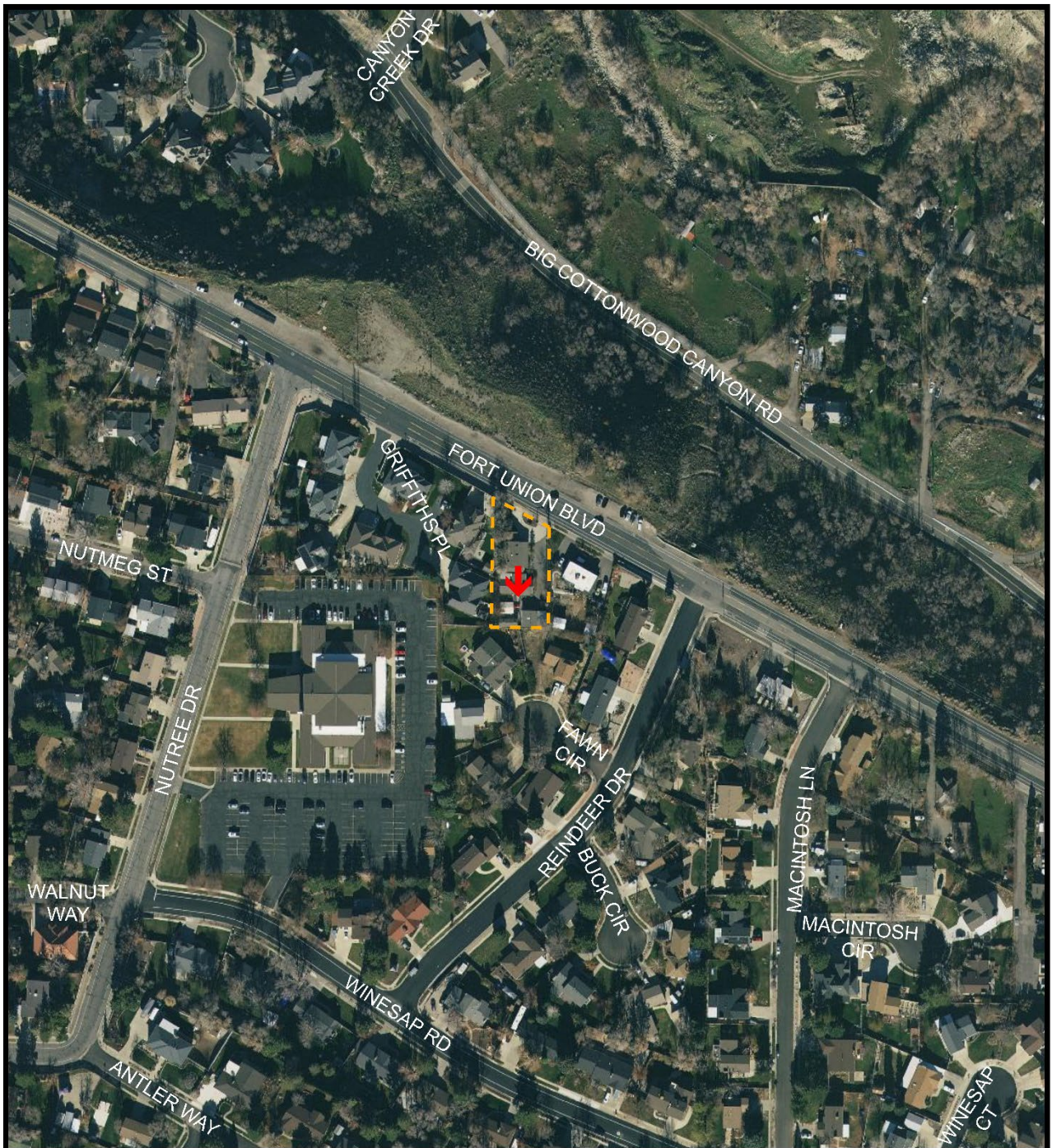
Write a chronological history of the property, focusing primarily on the original or principal owners & significant events. Explain and justify any significant themes marked above. Use continuation sheets as necessary.

The *Wilkinson, Earl and Evelyn, House* locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a rare extant example of an asbestos shingle Early Ranch-style house in Cottonwood Heights. A 2016 survey of historic buildings in Cottonwood Heights found only three examples of asbestos-sided houses in the city. The other two were both built in 1939. One house at 1561 E. 7200 South was closer to a period revival-style house than an Early Ranch, though it did have an attached garage. It was demolished in 2019. The other house at 6958 S. 1700 East was a Minimal Traditional cottage. It was demolished in 2020. The Wilkinson house also contributes to the local history of Cottonwood Heights under Criterion A in the area of Community Development & Planning. Earl and Evelyn Wilkinson were part of a transitional generation of Butler/Cottonwood Heights residents. They enjoyed living on a large lot near the canyons, but their commuter lifestyles were different from the early homesteaders of the area.

Earl Morton Wilkinson was born on March 20, 1900, in a brick home near the old paper mill in Butlerville. His parents were John Morton Wilkinson and Sine Petrine Marie Jensen, who were English and Danish immigrants respectively. Evelyn Louise Burleson was born September 11, 1911, in Decatur, Alabama. Her parents were Sylvainus Cummings Burleson and Mary Ellen Crabtree. Evelyn's father died in 1926. Mary Ellen Bauer remarried Emil Mack Bauer in Utah in 1928 taking her youngest daughters with her. The 1930 census lists Emil, Mary, and daughter, Ruby Burleson, living in Salt Lake City. Emil Bauer, known professionally as Dutch Shider, was the zoo keeper of the Liberty Park Zoo and trainer of the famous Princess Alice elephant. After escaping her pen and roaming the neighborhood several times, Princess Alice (and her trainer) were relocated when the zoo was moved to Emigration Canyon and renamed Hogle Zoo.

Earl and Evelyn were married on June 17, 1929. The 1930 census shows the newlyweds living in Murray, Utah, while Earl worked on a chicken ranch. By the 1940 census, they had moved to 1000 East in Union. Earl was working for the United States Smelting Company in Midvale, Utah. They are listed in 1940 with their two oldest daughters, Delores "Dolly" and Mary Lee. In 1946 and 1947, they obtained property from Ray and Rose Nunley and from the estate of Edith Butler Boyce. The house was built in 1947. There were two mortgages recorded in 1948 and 1950 from the Sandy City Bank. On the 1950 census, the family is living on 7000 South (later Fort Union Boulevard) with daughter Mary Lee, and twin daughters, Marlene and Maureen. The house was expanded soon after the twins were born. Earl was still working at the smelter where he spent 22 years of his life, in addition to working eleven years in the Silica Mines. In his later life, he worked as a school crossing guard. In addition to raising four girls, Evelyn Wilkinson worked for the Jordan School District as a cook for 23 years. She was known for her southern cooking and love of little children. Although Earl Wilkinson was born of early farmers in Butler, he was not a farmer, but enjoyed gardening as a hobby. He owned a mine property in Big Cottonwood Canyon but used it primarily for recreation.

After Mary Bauer's husband, Emil, died in 1944, Mary lived in Salt Lake City with a son, Henry Jackson "Jack" Burleson, who never married. Mary Ellen Crabtree Burleson Bauer, died in 1966 while living with the Wilkinsons in Butlerville (Cottonwood Heights). Jack Burleson was an outdoorsman and appears to have been a frequent visitor to the house. He was photographed in Earl's garden with Earl and Evelyn in 1984 before his death in 1987 [Figure 2]. According to Earl Wilkinson's obituary, he died on April 7, 1992, "in his special home in Butlerville, Utah, which was next to his garden as his favorite place." That year Evelyn deeded the house to her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Lee and Verl W. Buxton. Evelyn Burleson Wilkinson died on March 13, 1998. Verl W. Buxton died in 2015. The house remains in the family under the Mary Lee Buxton Family Protection Trust.

**MAP #1 - Neighborhood Map**

↓ Latitude: 40.621451° Longitude: -111.798258°

Wilkinson, Earl & Evelyn, House

3414 E. Fort Union Boulevard
Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah

GIS Data Courtesy Utah AGRC & Cottonwood Heights City



**Photograph 1**

North elevation of the Wilkinson house. Camera facing south (photographed in 2016).

**Photograph 2**

North and east elevations of the log house. Camera facing southwest (photographed in 2016).

**FIGURE 1**

3414 E. Fort Union Boulevard
Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah

circa 1952 tax assessor's photograph
courtesy Salt Lake County Archives

**FIGURE 2**

3414 E. Fort Union Boulevard
Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah

Earl, Evelyn, & Henry photographed in backyard, 1984
courtesy Wilkinson Family Photograph Collection