

The Bulletin

CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



This Old House

Solomona & Raanaana Umi Property
J.W. Whitecar House
240 W. Fern Avenue
by Nelson Knight

Salt Lake's Marmalade district, known for the fruit names given its core streets, has a bit of pineapple mixed in due to the history of a few of its least known residents.

If you consider yourself well versed in Utah history, you may be aware of Iosepa. The town in Skull Valley, in Utah's West desert, was the center of Utah's Polynesian Community from 1889 to 1917. Iosepa, meaning "Joseph" in Hawaiian, is pronounced "Yo-see-pa." The colony was established by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints as a community for Polynesian members of the Mormon faith who wished to immigrate to Utah to be close to the headquarters of the LDS Church.

However, unless you know the esoterica of Utah history, your probably aren't aware that prior to the establishment of Iosepa, Utah's Polynesian culture was centered on two blocks of West Capitol Hill. The blocks on Reed Avenue and Fern

Avenue, between Second and Third West, were the home to a group of about seventy-five Hawaiians from 1864 until 1889. All were members of the LDS Church – many worked on the construction of the LDS temple. Why the Hawaiians chose to settle in this neighborhood is not known. At the time, the area was on the outskirts of town, near the wall that surrounded the city. The land was mostly undeveloped and was probably inexpensive. Many Native Americans camped in the area, and George Washington Hill, the man in charge of Native American relations for the LDS Church, had a house at 270 Reed Avenue. Later Hawaiians may have also settled here based on the fact that other Hawaiians lived in the neighborhood – one of the first Hawaiians to move here, John W. Kaulainamoku, bought a large lot on the corner of Reed and 300 West. His house, which was located on what is now the site of the Reed Avenue townhomes, was home to several other Hawaiians in addition to the Kaulainamoku family.

Solomona Umi owned the site of this house from 1886 until 1889. According to genealogical records,

CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
State Capitol Senate Cafeteria

6:00pm Mobile Watch Meeting

6:30pm Neighborhood Council Meeting

Welcome by Chair, Polly Hart

- 6:35 Police Report, Brian Wahlin
- 6:45 Mobile Watch Report, Georg Stutzenberger
- 6:50 Mayor's Office Report, Joyce Valdez
- 7:00 Elected Officials Reports
- 7:30 City Creek Fuel Break Update, Patrick Nelson
- 7:45 Satellite Library Update, Beth Elder (City Library Director)
- 8:00 Vote on conditional use for The Jam
- 8:20 Trustee Elections
- 8:30 Adjourn

NEXT MEETING:

DECEMBER 16, 2009, 6:30 P.M.

Solomona was born in 1847 in Kawaihae, Hawaii, then known as the Sandwich Islands. His wife, Jane Raanaana Makakao, was also born in Kawaihae, in 1856. In 1877 or 1878, they had a daughter, Emale Emily Solomona. She was followed by a son, Kawika David Solomona, in 1881. The would have immigrated to Salt Lake City from Hawaii sometime after Kawika's birth. Solomona is listed in the 1885 city directory as a stonecutter, and he may have been one of the Hawaiians who worked on the Salt Lake Temple. His residence is listed as 353 W. 7th North (now 800 North), though his business is located between 2nd and 3rd West on 7th North (also now 800 North). Addresses for these directories were inexact, especially in this part of the city, where the streets were only loosely defined. It is possible that this property was the site of his business, or that he intended to build on the property later. It is unclear

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Iosepa Residents, 1914

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whether the house stood on the site at that time. Sanborn Maps indicate that it was built sometime between 1886 and 1898. The front brick portion of the house is the original section, and may have been built during the Umi's ownership, though research conducted by the Utah State Historical Society in 1980 concludes that the house was probably built later.

The Hawaiians in Salt Lake City encountered difficulties assimilating

into the culture, and an outbreak of leprosy in the community caused concern and some ostracism. Kawika David Solomona Umi died in 1887 and is buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Around the same time, officials of the LDS Church began a search for a large piece of land to establish a separate Hawaiian community. They settled on a 1920 acre parcel in Skull Valley and made plans to move the Hawaiians to the settlement, named Iosepa in recognition of two men: church founder Joseph Smith, and church president Joseph F. Smith, who served as a missionary in the Hawaiian Islands. A first party of 46 Hawaiians to move to Iosepa on August 28, 1889. It does not appear that the Umi family was among these first settlers, though they sold the property at 240 Fern Avenue in 1889. However, it is clear that at least Emale joined the colony later - her marriage to John Kanahi

Naihi Mohoe was in Iosepa in 1896. No additional information on her parents was located for this article.

Iosepa remained a community for 28 years, and grew to 228 residents. Life in Skull Valley was difficult and very different than life in the South Pacific. Nevertheless, many residents stayed despite economic difficulties and the harsh conditions. In 1917, with the Hawaiian LDS Temple under construction, the LDS Church relocated the remaining residents back to Hawaii. Many settled on the Church's plantation at Laie, Oahu, where the temple is located. The Iosepa townsite was abandoned, though the cemetery and a few structures remain. Each year, Utah's Polynesian community celebrates the legacy left by these pioneers with a luau and celebration held at the site over Memorial Day weekend.

After the Makaulas left Salt Lake City, they sold the property for \$200 to

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SLPD / CRISIS INTERVENTION

Salt Lake City Police	Det. Brian Wahlin	801-799-3314
	brian.wahlin@slegov.com	
Abandoned Shopping Cart Hotline		801-446-7984
Graffiti Busters		801-972-7885
Mobile Watch	Robert King	801-359-9992

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240 W Fern Ave

John W. Whitecar. Whitecar probably built the house at this time, though evidence is not conclusive. John was a successful businessman who owned his own design & engraving firm. City directories do not list Whitecar at this address, indicating he probably did not live here. In 1898, John transferred the property to James Whitecar, who sold the property to Fred Crane in 1903. Crane, a brick mason, may have excavated or enlarged a brick basement under the house -- the brickwork on this portion of the building is unusually well executed for a house of this size and modest construction. Crane lived in the house until 1910, when he sold it

to Norton Ray Willey. The rear portion of the house as it stands now appears to have been added in the late 1940s.

Within State History's preservation office, where I work, this house is known for other reasons. In 1996, the owners of the house purchased one of the familiar Utah-shaped historic

markers for this house. The plaque was made, and arrived in our office, ready to be sent to the owner for installation. One problem: the owners were nowhere to be found. Repeated attempts to contact them by mail and in person over the course of the year failed. Finally, in 1998 staff sent the marker to the house in care of "Resident." It was never installed on the house, and remains a phantom plaque.

The significance of this neighborhood as the first home of Salt Lake City's Hawaiians has been overlooked, even among the Pacific Islander community. We hope that this significance may be recognized

and reinforced as the neighborhood is revitalized. One Hawaiian house, the Kaulainamoku house at 752 N. 300 West, was demolished after years of incompatible alterations and poor maintenance by previous owners. Four houses remain, including the Makaula House, the Salamona Nui Kapiipiigm House at 222 Fern Avenue, the A.H. Kapukini House at 226 Fern Avenue, and the Peter Kelakaihanau House at 248 Fern Avenue. Others may remain, as research into this house has shown that other Hawaiians owned property in the neighborhood.

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Our sincere thanks to LDS Hospital for printing The Bulletin.

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*the Salt Lake Association of Community Councils is recognized by the IRS as a section 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization.)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Roasted Sweet Potatoes
with Cashew Butter Sauce**

Try something different for Thanksgiving this year with a meatless meal. In addition to a Tofurkey (find them at Whole Foods or Smith's Marketplace), add this recipe from Vegweb.com to your animal-free dinner.

Makes: 2 Servings

Preparation time: 15 Minutes

Cooking time: 30 Minutes

Ingredients:

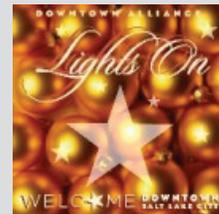
- 1 large sweet potato or garnet yam, peeled and chopped
- 1- 2 tablespoons olive oil (or vegetable oil for lighter taste) dash of cinnamon, ground ginger, & nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons cashew butter
- 1 tablespoon agave nectar
- 1/4 cup broken raw cashew pieces
- 1- 2 tablespoons almond milk (to thin cashew butter when melting)

Directions:

- Peel and chop sweet potato, place in shallow roasting pan and toss with oil.
- Sprinkle on the ginger, cinnamon, and nutmeg.
- Roast in oven @ 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 20-30 minutes, tossing with fork about every 5-10 minutes.
- Once the sweet potatoes are tender and slightly crispy; combine cashew butter, agave nectar, and 1 tablespoon almond milk in small bowl.
- Mix together with a whisk, then microwave in intervals of 10 seconds until sauce is creamy, stirring each time.
- Drizzle sauce immediately over sweet potatoes, and garnish with broken cashew pieces.

UPCOMING FREE EVENTS!

Friday, November 27th, 2009
4:30pm-6:00pm



Be there for Lights On!, an annual celebration of the illumination of the downtown holiday lights and spectacular showcase of the downtown holiday season! Enjoy shopping and activities throughout the day. The event combines four significant downtown venues: the Gallivan Center, Temple Square, The Gateway, and Broadway Boulevard. Be among the first to see the brilliant lights downtown and on Temple Square. Unique shopping is available on East Broadway Boulevard.

WRITERS WANTED

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