

Wade House—397 North Main Street --By Nelson Knight

This month's house is located at the corner of 400 North and North Main Street in the Capitol Hill Historic District. This c.1906 house was probably based on a pattern book design - the forerunner of the today's magazines that offer house plans for purchase. The 1-1/2 story building has many typical Victorian architectural and decorative elements, such as a large front window with a decorative transom window, shingled gables, and a wood sunburst element in the front porch pediment. The house was built for Harry C. and Janet Wade. Little information was found on the Wades, except that Mr. Wade is listed in city directories as a clerk. In 1935, title to the house passed to James W. Wade, son of Harry and Janet.



James was a mining engineer. The house has changed very little from its historic appearance, as shown by these photos. Small details, such as the roof cresting, have been removed, as well as a chimney on the south side of the house.



The photo was taken on May 15, 1909 by Shipler Commercial Photographers for the Salt Lake Security and Trust Company, probably in connection with a mortgage. The photograph is one of over 100,000 photographs taken by the Shiplers from 1903 to 1980. After the studio closed, the Utah State Historical Society acquired the Shiplers collection, which documents thousands of people, events and places over much of the twentieth century. The Historical Society has scanned and digitized over 10,000 of the images, and has created a searchable online database of the photos at their website, www.history.utah.gov. This archive is a great resource for owners looking for photos of their home or neighborhood. Try a search by address or street name, or try the name of a nearby church or business. For instance, many of the several hundred images documenting construction of the State Capitol building show nearby homes in the background.

Another good source for online photographs is also at the Utah State Historical Society's website: www.history.utah.gov. The Salt Lake City Engineer's Collection documents public works projects in the city from approximately 1900 to 1932. The online collection has many Capitol Hill photos - Did you ever wonder how City Creek looked like when it ran above ground on North Temple, or how big the ruts were on Wall Street before it was paved? You can see the photos online for an answer. Only a small portion of both these collections are online. Check with the Historical Society's library, located in the former Rio Grande depot at 350 West 300 South, if you don't find what you are looking for on

their website. Their staff is very helpful and friendly. The Historical Society also has information on the history of many buildings in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, especially in the historic district.

Finally, the best source for historic photos of almost any building in Salt Lake City is the Tax Photo Collection at the Salt Lake County Archives. The archives have preserved photographs taken for tax assessment purposes of most properties in the county. Most of these photos were taken in the late 1930s, and will yield great information on the appearance of a building during that time. Unfortunately, this collection is not online, but it is well worth a call (468- 2330) or a visit to the archives office, at 2001 S. State Street Suite N4400, to see if a photo is available. Xerox copies of the photos are free, and you may order a digital or photo copy for a small charge.