

**DR. ROBERT E. STEELE
DR. HORACE HOLBROOK
DR. HAROLD CHRISTENSEN
UTAH LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
ROGER PRICE BARBER SHOP
TUFF'S BARBERSHOP
BAR-C TAXIDERMY
BACKROOM ANTIQUES**

Constructed: 1899

Address: 60 West Main

Present owner: Jetta Allred

The still-standing building at 60 West Main (immediately east of Reams) has a long history of use as both a medical office and a barbershop. Dr. Robert E. Steele, a graduate of Chicago's College of Physician Surgeons, was the first medical doctor to achieve a sustained period of respectability in Lehi. He came to town in 1896 and nailed up his shingle on a rented office. On 23 September 1899, he bought property from Er. E.C. Merrihew, whose dental parlor was the next door west. The 10 October 1899, *Lehi Banner* noted that "Dr. Steele's elegant new office is nearing completion."

While not likely to be called elegant today, this smallish brick structure, probably built by local masons Andrew Fjeld and Charles Ohran, is a sturdy example of fine craftsmanship--a signature-style of bricklaying rarely done anymore. The interesting facade, like that of several other turn-of-the-century buildings constructed in Lehi was designed to make the structure seem more imposing.

Dr. Robert Steele was no blue-ruin sawbones. Assisted by his brother, Dr. Frank Steele, he performed the first appendectomy in Lehi on Joseph Hammer. Despite the marvel of the young doctor's surgical skills, however, he could not

convince reluctant Lehi citizens of the value of the smallpox vaccination during a local 1900 epidemic.

The State Board of Health intervened and issued an order, implemented by the Local Board of Health, that all children must be vaccinated or prevented from attending school. The Lehi School Board initially refused to honor the decree, but relented under threat of prosecution.

A mass meeting was held in town on 17 January 1901, to protest the Board of Health's intimidation. The group drafted a petition to the state legislature which read in part, "We the people of Lehi . . . are opposed to compulsory vaccination as not being a sure preventive to smallpox and believing it to be an infringement of rights and personal liberty and also believing vaccination to be a propagator of many diseases and suffering and often death." Smallpox essentially was eradicated from the earth through wide-spread education and vaccination.

Dr. Steele moved to Salt Lake City in 1907 and sold his practice to Dr. Horace Holbrook. Holbrook was a recent graduate of the Medical Surgical College of Philadelphia. He maintained his office at 60 West until 1913. It was Dr. Harold Christensen's dental parlor until April of 1915. The structure was then remodeled as a branch office for the Utah Light and Power Company under the management of Alma Earl and his clerk, Effie Ross Day. The electrical utility, which eventually became Utah Power, remained in the Steele building until November of 1941.

In 1948 barber Roger Price bought the Steele building and opened a barbershop. Arley Edwards took over the place in early 1951. The following year Wayne Allred bought the building, and opened Tuff's Barbershop.

Tuff and his wife, Jeta, opened Backroom Antiques in the rear of the barbershop in 1973. After Tuff gave up barbering because of his health problems, Larry Woffinden cut hair on the premises for awhile. Then Clay Calton maintained his Bar-C taxidermy shop there. At the present time the building houses a small antique shop.