

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received APR 28 1982

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Cluff, Harvey H. House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 174 North 100 East not for publication

city, town Provo vicinity of congressional district 01

state Utah code 049 county Utah code 049

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. Willard C. Nelson

street & number 1242 East Elm

city, town Provo vicinity of state Utah

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Utah County Courthouse

street & number University and Center Streets

city, town Provo state Utah

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Utah Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Harvey H. Cluff house is a one-and-a-half story brick example of a cross-axial temple-form vernacular house type with Gothic Revival stylistic ornamentation. The temple-form type, growing out of the Greek Revival of the early nineteenth century, is characterized by a gable-facing facade. In these houses, the main ridge of the roof stands perpendicular rather than parallel to the street. The Cluff house consists of a one-and-a-half story central structure which is flanked at right angles by two smaller side wings. The cross-axial temple-form type is rare in Utah and is usually found with Greek Revival stylistic ornamentation. The Gothic Revival was particularly popular in Utah in the 1870-1890 period, and it is not unusual to find picturesque elements applied to earlier vernacular house forms.

The Cluff house is basically a symmetrical design. The north wing is several feet smaller than the south one, but this discrepancy is barely noticeable. A narrow stove chimney is situated on the end of each of the side wings. A half octagonal frame bay window projects out from the ground floor of the central axis and has six-over-six double-hung windows. The bay is topped with a balcony onto which opens a pair of long, narrow, four-over-four double-hung windows. One of these windows serves as an entrance onto the balcony. There is a balustrade on the bay with flat, jigsawed balusters. Each of the side wings has a wall dormer breaking the line of the eaves. The bracketed side porches have posts with cutout decorative panels. Curvilinear bargeboards are found on the gables and eaves and all the major openings have Greek Revival pedimented heads. Of the two brick rear extensions, one with a flat roof and one with a gable roof, the gabled one on the northeast side may be original because its windows have the six-over-six lighting and Greek Revival pediments as do the windows on the facade. Both are in period. Only a wooden staircase attached to the south wall detracts from the original integrity of the exterior of the building. The interior has probably been altered to some extent because the building is now divided into several apartments. It is in need of maintenance, especially the wood of the porch and decorative trim. Within the last year the paint on the exterior of the building has been chemically removed.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** c. 1877

**Builder/Architect**

Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Harvey H. Cluff house, built around 1877, is one of the best examples of both the Gothic Revival architectural style and the vernacular cross-axial temple-form plan in Utah. Furthermore, the Cluff house was identified as one of 34 significant sites in Provo during an exhaustive 1980 summer survey of the city. Harvey H. Cluff was an important business and religious leader in Provo during the late nineteenth century.

The Harvey Cluff house is a fine late-nineteenth-century example of vernacular architecture in Utah. The cross-axial plan is derived from a traditional design which places the central ridge orientation of the house perpendicular rather than parallel to the street. This gable-facade house type is the product of the Greek Revival movement of the early 1800's and is often called a "temple-form" house because early examples had a colossal temple front.<sup>1</sup> The house moved across the upper Midwest with the expanding New England frontier and eventually found its way to Utah with members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.<sup>2</sup>

While the temple-form house is most commonly characterized by Greek Revival returned pediments and other elements of classical detailing, it surfaces in Utah after approximately 1870 with Gothic Revival stylistic features. The transition from classicism to gothicism requires several superficial changes in exterior design. First, the roof acquires a steeper pitch. Second, wall dormers, bargeboards, and finials are attached, and third, the front door--placed in the middle of the central axis--is replaced by a frame bay window. About a half-dozen Gothic temple-form houses have been documented in the state.<sup>3</sup> Such houses are rare manifestations of this not-all-too-common vernacular type. The Cluff house is a significant example of early architectural design in Utah and is one of thirty-four sites determined eligible for National Register listing during an intensive survey of the town conducted by the staff at the Utah State Historical Society.

Harvey H. Cluff the original owner of this house, built about 1877, was a significant person in Provo as a business and ecclesiastical leader. He was born in 1836 in Kirtland, Ohio, the son of early Mormon converts. The family moved west in the late 1840's and settled in Provo in 1850.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Chamber of Commerce, Provo: Garden City of Utah. Omaha: D.C. Sunbar & Co., 1888, pp. 17, 29, 30.

City Directories, 1884-1939.

Continuation sheet 2

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Provo

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	2	4	4	4	2	2	0	4	4	5	3	9	6	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Commencing 43.5 ft. south of NW corner of Block 30, Plat B, thence east 96.5 ft, north 43.5 ft, east 30.58 ft, south 148.5 ft., west 11.58 ft., north 47.92 ft., west 115.5 ft., north 57.08 ft., to point of beginning.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Carter, Architectural Historian/Ken Cannon, Historian  
organization Utah State Historical Society date Summer 1980  
street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-6017  
city or town Salt Lake City state Utah 84101

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date April 7, 1982

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Romeo Her Buzgal date 8-4-82  
for Keeper of the National Register

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With three of his brothers, Cluff erected a large furniture factory in the late 1850's which also served as an early music and dance hall. Cluff later served as superintendent of the Provo Lumber and Manufacturing Company and, because of his building expertise, he superintended construction of the Provo Tabernacle and the Academy Building of Brigham Young Academy. He subsequently served as president of the Provo Foundry and Machine Company, as a director of the First National Bank in Provo, and as president of the company which published the local newspaper, The Enquirer.

Active in civic affairs, Cluff served two terms in the city council and was one of the founders of Brigham Young Academy. He was also an important Mormon leader and held numerous positions of leadership in the LDS Church. He was bishop of the Provo Fourth Ward for a time, a counselor in the Utah Stake Presidency, and mission president of the Sandwich Islands beginning in 1879. Cluff was also a practicing polygamist who had three wives.

After Cluff moved to Salt Lake City in about 1915, he sold the house to W. Ray Ashworth, a carpenter. The house remained in the Ashworth family until 1974 when it was obtained by Willard C. Nelson, a local architect.

NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Henry Glassie, Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), pp. 129-133.

<sup>2</sup>Fred Kniflen, "Folkhousing: Key to Diffusion," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 55:4 (December 1965), pp. 549-577.

<sup>3</sup>One, the Peter Greaves house in Ephraim, Sanpete County, is listed on the National Register.

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Compiled by the Writers' Program, WPA, Provo: Pioneer Mormon City. Portland: Binford and Mort Publishers, 1942, pp. 123, 133.

Deseret News, April 19, 1916.

Jensen, J. Marinus, History of Provo, Utah. Provo: J. Marinus Jensen, 1924, pp. 218, 280, 348, 388.

Miller, Marilyn McMeen and Moffitt, John Clifton, Provo: A Story of People in Motion. Provo: BYU Press, 1974, p. 101.

Moffitt, John Clifton, The Story of Provo, Utah. Provo: Press Publishing, 1975, pp. 54, 206, 217, 255, 278.

Plat records, Utah County.

Sanborn maps, 1890, 1900.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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