

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received JUN 11 1984
date entered JUL 13 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Joseph H. Frisby House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 209 North 400 West _____ not for publication

city, town Provo _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

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 checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 Maurine Rucker McClean and Herbert McClean

street & number 209 North 400 West

city, town Provo _____ vicinity of _____ state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Utah County Courthouse

street & number University Avenue and Center Street

city, town Provo _____ state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date Summer, 1980 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Joseph H. Frisby house is a two story brick house with an irregular plan. The irregular plan is determined by the roof configuration of a central pyramid intersected on three sides by projecting gables. A one story porch wraps around the northeast corner of the facade and is terminated at each end by one of the projecting opelted wings. The porch is supported on Tuscan columns that extend from the side of one gabled wing under the eaves of the pyramidal roof to the other gabled wing. Classical detailing appears in the cornice and in the porch. The boxed cornice has brackets and a frieze decorated by dentils. A pediment with Classical Revival decoration on its tympanum and dentils on its frieze is located above the steps leading to the main entrance. Of particular note in the fenestration are the second story windows which have a triangular top above which the brickwork is in the configuration of a four-center ogee and a key-hole, and an oval stained glass window on the south wall of the first floor. A rear extension, which may have been a later addition, was most likely added soon after the original structure was built, and complements the house in its massing and fenestration.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 ca. 1906 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Joseph H. Frisby House, built ca. 1906, is architecturally significant as the best preserved of the approximately 13 Victorian Eclectic houses of a specific type in Provo. This house type, which consists of a 1 1/2 or 2 story central block with a pyramid roof, two or more cross gables, and various specific details, is regularly found in Utah County, but is not found in Salt Lake County and only occasionally seen in other areas of the state. This house type was usually associated with the local elite, in this case Joseph H. Frisby, a successful businessman who served for two years as mayor of Provo.

The Frisby house is a somewhat modest Victorian house type that was most likely influenced by house pattern books. The Frisby house was selected in a comprehensive architectural survey, conducted by staff members of the Utah Historical Society in the spring of 1980, as one of the best of approximately 13 Victorian Eclectic homes of a specific type that remain in Provo. The Frisby house is an example of a specific type of Victorian Eclectic houses constructed in Provo and other Utah County communities around 1905--the 1 1/2 or 2 story pyramid house with cross gables. It was not used in Salt Lake City or in many other areas of the state, but was inexplicably popular in Utah County. All known examples of this type are constructed of brick, are 1 1/2 or 2 stories high, have a steeply pitched pyramid shaped roof over the central block, have at least two cross gables, and have an unusually shaped window (round arched, pointed, or ogee) in the upper story of the gable ends. Many also have eyelid dormers. Their size and architectural embellishment (though relatively modest) distinguish them as homes for moderately wealthy citizens. They are not "high style" homes and were probably inspired by Victorian House pattern books. The ideal of Victorian pattern book houses was to express the personality and the financial and social status of the owner. Though the house was often standardized in form, ornamentation was the means of personal expression and made each house unique. Victorian idealism said that the home should serve as a refuge from the world. In the home, women and children were to be sheltered from urban life and the father was to receive the spiritual refreshment that he needed after a day in the business world. The ideal of nature served as a psychological refuge and pattern book house designers attempted to portray nature in their architecture by using various types of imagery. The irregular shape reflected organic complexity.¹

Rough limestone, wide clapboards, cedar shingles, green patina on slate tiles, all used for a single facade, gave the look of natural materials and venerable aging to a new house. It was common to simulate hues of nature with mineral paints and stains. Builders of the 1870s and 1880s favored the reds and golds of autumn leaves, the greens of ferns and lichens, the soft browns and grays of weathered woods. Unlike earlier ante bellum carpenters, they daringly combined four and five colors on one

9. Major Bibliographical References

Deseret News, December 1, 1915.

Jensen, J. Marinus, History of Provo, Utah. Provo, Utah: New Century Printing Co., 1924.

Miller, Marilyn McMean and John C. Moffitt. Provo: A Story of People in Motion. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1974.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Provo Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Commencing at Southeast corner of Block 93 Plat A Provo City Survey; West 5 rods; North 84 feet; East 5 rods; South 84 feet to 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 Jill Thorley Warnick/Researcher

organization Utah State Historical Society date April 26, 1984

street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City state Utah

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature A. Kent Powell

title A. Kent Powell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date May 25, 1984

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

Beth Grosvenor
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/13/84

Attest:

date

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with overhanging eaves and decorative shingle patterns, together with horizontal emphasis from different materials being used for each story--were meant to bring it closer to the ground plane.²

In Utah, Victorian houses built for middle class owners usually incorporated only a few Victorian elements; emphasis was on detail and not form, making these houses subdued representatives of the style. The major distinguishing characteristic of the Frisby house is its irregular shape. Ogee windows, keyhole window and eyelid dormer, are details that emphasize the irregularity of the house. But even with its obvious asymmetry the house portrays a sense of symmetry through its predictable irregular shape and classical detailing: modillions on the cornice, Tuscan columns supporting the porch, pediment over the entranceway, and decorated tympanum.

The Frisby house is virtually unaltered and is beautifully preserved, making it the best representative of this type of Victorian Eclectic house in Provo. The architectural style represents the social position and involvement of its middle class owner, who served in the community and local government.

Joseph H. Frisby was an English immigrant. Born at Birmingham, England in 1850, he came to Utah, crossing the plains by ox team, in 1864 and settled at Coalville, where he remained for several years until he went to Arizona. In about 1903 he settled in Provo, Utah and became involved in business and city government. Frisby probably had this house built soon after purchasing this property in 1905. He lived here until 1913, when he sold this house and moved into a house down the street at 258 North 400 West, where he died two years later. He was serving as a justice of the peace when he died November 31, 1915. He had previously served as mayor for two years, 1906-07, and had operated a mercantile business.³ (He conducted business in the building that formerly housed the Provo West Co-op Store at 466 West Center.)

Frisby's 1906 election as mayor was tied up in a major controversy over where the new train depot should be built. The town of Provo had become divided over business interests. Westsiders wanted the new train station located on their side of town and eastsiders wanted it on their side of town. Discussion went on for a time until 1905, when the Denver and Rio-Grande offered to build the depot. Westside interests captured the Republican convention and nominated fellow westsider Joseph Frisby for mayor because they expected him to act in their favor. Frisby won the election but only by 40 votes. Because of this narrow victory Frisby took no action on the matter during his two years in office--1906-07. In 1908, after Frisby left office, impatient railroad officials requested action on the matter. A vigorous and bitter struggle between the opposing interests ensued until July 27, 1909 when an election was held. A small majority passed a franchise to build the new train depot on a westside location. It was built in 1910 at its present location on Third West and Sixth South.⁴

In 1913, Frisby sold this house to Charles Hopkins. Like Frisby, Hopkins was

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where he was involved in mining and the mercantile business and served fifteen years as the postmaster. In 1912 he came to Utah and settled in Provo. In 1919 he was first elected to the Provo City Commission. He worked in this position for thirteen consecutive years, 1919-1931, and was influential in modernizing the city. Under his administration the City and County Building was built, the Provo Memorial Park was planned and most of Provo's streets were paved. In addition to his city government service, Hopkins served as the chairman of the Utah County WPA and FERA, 1932-1934. He died November 9, 1936 in the Frisby house.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Gwendolyn Wright, Building the Dream (New York: Pantheon Books, 1981)pp.96-113.

² Ibid. p. 106.

³ J. Marinus Jensen, History of Provo (Provo, Utah: New Century Printing Co., 1924)p. 336.

⁴ Marilyn McMeen Miller and John C. Moffitt, Provo A Story of People in Motion (Provo, Utah: BYU Press, 1974) pp. 60-63.

SOURCES

Deseret News. December 1, 1915 and November 11, 1936.

Jensen, J. Marinus. History of Provo, Utah. Provo, Utah: New Century Printing Co., 1924.

Miller, Marilyn McMeen and John C. Moffitt. Provo A Story of People in Motion. Provo, Utah: BYU Press, 1974.

Wright, Gwendolyn. Building The Dream. New York: Pantheon Books, 1981.