

OMB NO. 1024-0018

EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 11 1984
date entered JUL 12 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Gibbs-Thomas House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 137 North West Temple St. not for publication

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Salt Lake County code 035

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input 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 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 Edna T. Hansen

street & number 137 North West Temple

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salt Lake City and County Building

street & number 400 South State Street

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah Historical Sites Survey - State Register has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

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

Built in 1895 for Gideon A. Gibbs and designed by Richard K. A. Kletting, architect, the Gibbs-Thomas House is a two and one half story brick Victorian house with a hip and gable roof, and a red sandstone foundation. It combines the most common Victorian plan, the side passage plan, with the massing and decorative elements which are typical of High Victorian design. The asymmetrical composition, the variety of materials, frame, brick and rough faced brick, and the variety of textures created by the combination of those materials in combination with the variety of forms, roof types and projections are reminiscent of the Queen Anne Style. Two cross gables project from the hip roof section, topping bays on the east and south sides of the building. There is a tent roof on a third bay located on the north side of the building. There are two bellcast roof dormers located at the northeast corner of the roof, facing east and north. Each has a lattice-type window. In addition there are 4 monumental chimneys and two tiny gables topped with finials that project from the roof.

The facade of the building is asymmetrically arranged with a bowed bay on the south side, and a porch and the main entrance on the north side. A shingle-faced gable section rests on monumental red sandstone bracket-type supports and extends over the projecting bay. Into the gable section is set a rectangular window which is accented by a projecting cornice and sill, each supported on brackets. There is a crest and coat of arms in the peak of the gable above the window. The bowed section of the bay is made of rough faced brick. Two long, narrow double hung sash windows frame a wider single sash window with a stained glass transom. Each of the windows has a red sandstone lintel and sill. The lintels are unusually large, about 10" high, and join to form a band across the front of the bay. A door flanked by a small double hung sash window is set into both the first and second stories of the north side of the facade. A single story porch attached to the north side of the bay wraps around the northeast corner of the building. It was probably designed by another well known Utah architect, Carl Scott, and was built about 1910. It is supported by pairs of Tuscan columns, has a wide overhang, and has a slatted balustrade on the north, south, and west sides. There may originally have been a section of balustrade across part of the east side and on the porch roof instead of the present metal railing. There is a three part projecting bay and a two story porch on the south side of the building. The bay is particularly distinctive because its side panels are bowed and are made of rough faced brick which contrasts with the smooth brick of the central section. Into each of the side panels are set two double hung sash windows. The windows of the central panel are large, almost square. The top half story of the bay is a screened porch with a semi-circular opening, a slatted balustrade, and a gable roof. The two story frame porch is behind the bay and extends to the end of the building.

A three part bay with a tent roof distinguishes the north side of the building. A chimney is set into the central panel of the bay, and there is one single double hung sash window per floor on each of the side panels. Rough faced brick was used to accent the line of juncture between the main wall and that of the bay.

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The house is in excellent condition and is set into a lush landscape setting bound by a wrought iron fence. Regrettably the house is no longer set among the other Victorian mansions which once lined the street, but it is landscaped in a manner that is appropriate and complementary to its high Victorian styling. The trim of the house is painted dark green, a color that was common in the Victorian period, which contrasts nicely with the orange of the brick and red sandstone sills and lintels.

A two story frame addition was made to the northwest corner of the building, probably about the time that the front porch was added, between 1910 and 1913. It has a wide overhang and narrow frame siding. It is painted green and though large in size, does not affect the original integrity of the rest of the building. There originally was a porch attached to the rear of the house which has been removed. Except for the removal of the rear porch and the addition of the front porch and the rear extension, the house is essentially unaltered. These changes were made with sensitivity to the visual effect that they would have on the rest of the building.

The plan of the interior is easily read on the exterior of the building. The side entrance opens into a passageway containing a staircase, and the bowed bay corresponds with a parlor which flanks the passageway. The plan is the most common Victorian configuration with two parlors, one behind the other, separated by double doors, on one side of the house, and a passage and dining room on the other side. Behind the main rooms is a kitchen. In the Gibbs-Thomas House there are two additional rooms, essentially halls for storage, between the main body of rooms and the kitchen. All of the original wood moldings and trim, the original fireplaces and mantels, and many of the original light fixtures are intact. The fireplace surrounds, mantels and original furnishings were obtained from the Dinwoodey Furniture Company of Salt Lake City. The changes that have been made to the interior of the building are generally minor except for the addition made to the northwest corner. That alteration, however, is completely self-contained, and does not affect the original integrity of the interior of the house.

Notes

Following is a list of residences that Kletting designed, and a listing of their current condition or status with regards to the National Register. The last three houses listed have been attributed to Kletting or to his assistant Richard Watkins. There is no evidence available that conclusively indicates which of the two architects was responsible for those designs.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Issac Ambrose Clayton Hse.
1905 | 254 7th Avenue, SLC
National Register 1980 |
| 2. John Aldridge Evans Hse.
1889 | 174 B Street, SLC
National Register 1980 |

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- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 3. William Dinwoodey Hse.
1895 | 153 C Street, SLC
National Register 1980 |
| 4. George H. Dern Hse.
1902 | 36 H Street, SLC
National Register 1980 |
| 5. William F. Beer Hse.
1899 | 181 B Street, SLC
National Register 1980 |
| 6. Enos Wall Mansion
1905 | 411 East 100 South, SLC
National Register 1982 |
| 7. Henry Dinwoodey Hse.
1890 | 411 East 100 South, SLC
National Register 1974 |
| 8. Albert Fisher Mansion
1893 | 1206 West 200 South, SLC
Nominated to National Register |
| 9. Peter W. Madsen Hse.
1890 | 615 East 100 South, SLC
Demolished |
| 10. William Jennings Hse. | 147 East South Temple, SLC
Demolished 1930 |
| 11. Richard Kletting Hse. | 280 A Street, SLC
Demolished |
| 12. Parley Williams Hse. | 79 E Street, SLC
Altered |
| 13. R. Spencer Hines Hse.
1895 | 125 South 400 West, Provo
National Register 1978 |
| 14. Reed Smoot Hse.
1892 | 183 East 100 South, Provo
Nat. Hist. Landmark 1975 |
| 15. Ira Hatch Hse. | NE corner 300 East & Center,
Panguitch - eligible for
nomination |

²Interview with Edna T. Hansen, July 11, 1983, Salt Lake City, Utah.

³Salt Lake City Directories.

⁴Sanborn Insurance Maps show many of the large two story houses which used to make up this neighborhood. Several of the homes were owned by prominent LDS Church leaders and other prominent individuals in the community.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1896

Builder/Architect unknown/Richard K. A. Kletting

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gibbs-Thomas House, built in 1895 for Gideon A. and Margaret T. Gibbs, is both historically and architecturally significant. Bought by the Thomas family in 1909, the house is the only residence associated with Elbert D. Thomas, who, as a U.S. Senator for Utah from 1932 to 1950, served several notable diplomatic and military positions. He served as chairman of the senate committees of education and labor, and, because he had resided in Japan and was familiar with the language and culture, he chaired the military affairs and foreign relations committees during WWII. Following his years as senator he was appointed to be High Commissioner of the United States Trust Territories of the Pacific by President Harry Truman. Architecturally the house is significant as one of approximately a dozen documented extant examples of the residential design of Richard K. A. Kletting.¹ Because Kletting is best known for his design of the Utah State Capitol, and more commonly remembered for commercial buildings such as the Deseret News Building, for institutions and schools, and for the Saltair Pavilion, he is not generally considered to have made a major contribution to Salt Lake City residential design. However, Kletting actually began his private practice primarily designing houses, and in the 1890s and early years of the twentieth century designed a number of significant monumental houses for prominent citizens in Salt Lake City. The Enos Wall Mansion, 411 East South Temple, and the Henry Dinwoodey House, 411 East 100 South, are two notable examples. The Gibbs-Thomas House is one of the more restrained examples of the large two and one half story mansions which Kletting designed.

On June 24, 1895 Gideon A. and Margaret Taylor Gibbs received a building permit for a "brick residence 9 rooms, etc." on North West Temple in Salt Lake City. Gibbs, a pioneer Utah civil engineer and surveyor had married a daughter of John Taylor, third president of The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints (LDS Church). Taylor's gift of \$3,800 to the couple covered the house's estimated cost of construction.

The Gibbse commissioned Salt Lake City architect Richard K. A. Kletting to draw up plans for their house. Kletting was Utah's most prominent architect from the late 1880s until about 1910, having designed the State Capitol, the Deseret News Building, the first Saltair Beach pavilion, and many other buildings. Residential architecture was but one facet of Kletting's output, and the Gibbs-Thomas House survives as one of 9 to 12 documented extant examples of houses that he designed for prominent citizens in Salt Lake City and Provo. The Gibbse may have been familiar with Kletting's work for other socially prominent individuals such as Albert Fisher and Henry Dinwoodey, and may have wanted an equally elegant house in the fashionable neighborhood one block north of Temple Square.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Obituary Index. Utah State Historical Society.

Hansen, Edna T. Interview, July 11, 1983, Salt Lake City, Utah.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name SLC North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	2
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4	2	4	6	0	0
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4	5	1	3	7	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the Southeast corner of Lot 7, Block 95, Plat A, Salt Lake City Survey; thence North 55½ feet, West 10 rods, South 55½ feet, East 10 rods to beginning. 0.21 acres.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter Brown/Volunteer Researcher

organization Utah State Historical Society date January 23, 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature A. Kent Powell

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

<p>For NPS use only</p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register</p> <p><u>Arlow Byers</u> Keeper of the National Register</p> <p>Attest: Chief of Registration</p>	<p>Entered in the National Register</p> <p>date <u>7/12/84</u></p> <p>date</p>	
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Owing to financial reverses Margaret Gibbs was forced to sell the house "by Sheriff" in 1903. Very little is known about the second owner, Mrs. Martin Solomon, other than that she owned the residence for six years.

In 1909 Mrs. Solomon sold the house to Richard Kendall Thomas, a proprietor of a ladies' clothing store on Main Street. Some time between 1910 and 1913 two additions were made to the original structure: a front porch, attributed to Salt Lake City architect Carl Scott; and a three story tier of sleeping porches on the house's north side.²

During the second generation of Thomas family ownership, the house's most illustrious resident appeared: Elbert D. Thomas, U. S. Senator for Utah from 1932-1950. After graduating from the University of Utah and subsequently teaching at the university, Thomas received a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. Thomas remained an active scholar throughout his life, authoring five books and numerous articles on a variety of subjects. After earning his doctorate, Thomas and his wife went on a Mormon mission to Japan for several years. In 1931, a year after Thomas returned from Japan, the house was left to him and a brother Roger by his widowed mother, Caroline Stockdale Thomas. Elbert subsequently assumed sole ownership of the house, which served as his only residence in Salt Lake City and the state.

Elbert Thomas was elected as a U.S. Senator from Utah in 1932, defeating Republican incumbent Reed Smoot. During Thomas' 18 years in Washington he served as chairman of several important Senate committees, including those of education and labor. During World War II he chaired the military affairs and foreign relations committees, contributing valuable and timely expertise on Japan.

Thomas was defeated for re-election in 1950, and immediately thereafter President Truman appointed him to be High Commissioner of the United States Trust Territories of the Pacific. Three years later he died in Honolulu at the age of 69. In honor of a life of distinguished public service, U.S. Navy warships in Pearl Harbor flew their flags at half-mast for three days.

Thomas retained ownership of the house while tending to his responsibilities as senator in Washington, D. C. Some alterations of the interior were made in 1932 to convert the house into several apartments that were to be occupied by Thomas relatives. Although Thomas sold this house to his daughter, Edna Thomas Hansen, eight years before his death, he apparently continued to live here whenever his governmental duties allowed him to be in Salt Lake City.³ The house was reconverted into a single family dwelling in 1947 by his daughter soon after she assumed ownership. In addition, a small barn in the rear of the property was razed soon after WWII. The Gibbs-Thomas House has maintained its original integrity despite the changes that were made. It is unfortunate, however, that the West Temple street scape, which previously contained numerous large mansions from the 1880s and '90s, having been a fashionable residential location near the Salt Lake Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Only the Gibbs-Thomas House remains in this neighborhood to give some indication of the former elegance of the West

GIBBS/THOMAS HOUSE
SALT LAKE CITY, SALT LAKE COUNTY, UTAH

