

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 415 South University UTM: 12/444070/4453080
 Name of Structure: William H. Ray House T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Utah County Acreage: Less than one
 Owner Address: Utah County Building, 61 South University, Provo, Utah 84601
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #:
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Com. nw cor lot 5, block 5, plat B, thence south 100.15 feet, east 158.62 feet, north 100.15 feet, west 158.52 feet to point of beginning.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: William H. Ray Construction Date: c. 1898 Demolition Date:
 Original Use: Single family dwelling Present Use: County government programs
 Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:
 Excellent Site Unaltered Significant Not of the National Landmark District
 Good Ruins Minor Alterations Contributory Historic Period National Register Multi-Resource
 Deteriorated Major Alterations Not Contributory State Register Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: Slide No.: Date of Photographs: Spring '79 Photo No.:
 Views: Front Side Rear Other Views: Front Side Rear Other

Research Sources:
 Abstract of Title Sanborn Maps Newspapers U of U Library
 Plat Records/Map City Directories Utah State Historical Society BYU Library
 Tax Card & Photo Biographical Encyclopedias Personal Interviews USU Library
 Building Permit Obituary Index LDS Church Archives SLC Library
 Sewer Permit County & City Histories LDS Genealogical Society Other

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

Salt Lake Tribune, November 1, 1936.
 Plat records, Utah County.
 Sanborn maps, 1890, 1900.
 City directories, 1891-1939.
 Marilyn McMeen Miller- John Clifton Moffitt, Provo: A Story of People in Motion (Provo: BYU Press, 1974), p. 103.
 John Clifton Moffitt, The Story of Provo, Utah (Provo: Press Publishing, 1975), pp. 252, 263, 272, 276.
 William M. Wilson, Pictorial Provo: An Illustrated Industrial Review of Provo, the Garden City of Utah (Provo: The Scribbler, Simon K. Benson, 1910 edition republished 1974), pp. 49, 66, 71.
 J. Marinus Jensen, History of Provo, Utah (Provo: J. Marinus Jensen, 1924), pp. 219, 241, 327.

Architect/Builder: See below

Building Materials: Brick

Building Type/Style: Romanesque Revival

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)Statement of Significance

The Ray House is the most distinctive example in Provo of the adaption of Romanesque Revival characteristics to a general Victorian form. Elements uncommon to Provo's Victorian residences are the stepped gable wall dormers, rusticated turret and foliated capitals.

The Ray house is significant as one of two well preserved examples of the application of Romanesque Revival elements to a residential design in Provo. It varies from the other residence in that it is of a larger scale, and more comparable to high style designs.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: c. 1898

History

William H. Ray was an important turn-of-the-century entrepreneur in Provo. He was a financier, banker, broker, and mayor of Provo. He was a non-Mormon whose influence was often felt in Provo through his many activities.

This large residence was built for William H. Ray in about 1898. It was probably designed by Richard C. Watkins, a prominent Utah architect who lived in Provo. Ray was a native of Missouri who moved around in the West until 1892 when he was sent to Provo by the railroad for which he was working. He quickly left the employ of the railroad to engage in entrepreneurial activities. He was successful in his pursuits and was soon one of the founders and first president of the State Bank of Provo. He established and presided over the Ray Investment Company, an insurance and real estate brokerage. His name is seen throughout county abstract books as the mortgagee of a very large quantity of local real estate. Ray was active in local commercial affairs and served for a time as president of the Provo Commercial Club.

In 1909 Ray was elected mayor of Provo in one of the most interesting elections in the city's history. One of the major issues of the campaign was prohibition in this predominantly Mormon town. The "wets" of both major parties bolted their parties and nominated Ray as their candidate. He was elected by a small majority.

Ray was very active in local fraternal orders such as the Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks, and Modern Woodmen of America.

William H. Ray House
415 South University
Provo, Utah

Continuation of history

Ray sold this house in 1905 to Sarah J. Schofield and moved to another large residence in Provo. Schofield owned the property for only four months, then conveyed it to Edward H. Sparks. Sparks lived in Provo a short time, then moved to Salt Lake City where he established the Sparks Candy Company. He retained ownership of the house, however, and moved back to Provo in the early 1920s. In 1940 Sparks sold the house to Albert D. Clark who owned it for eighteen years. In 1958 it was sold to the Utah Alcoholism Foundation which in turn conveyed it to Utah County in 1973. It is currently used for some drug treatment programs.

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Architectural Description

This handsome two and a half story irregularly massed house is a fine example of the Romanesque Revival Style. The brick building rests on a coursed rubble base and has multiple hip and gable roofs with a boxed cornice and brackets. The recessed central entrance on the west facade with paneled door, stain glass transom and masonry lintel has a flat roof porch with dentiled cornice and frieze supported by columns with foliated capitals and masonry plinths. Originally this porch had a classical pediment and balustrade but it has been replaced with a metal railing. Above the porch there is a second story door and double hung window with rubble lintel and quoins. An unusual feature is the tent roof dormer above the second story which also has a door.

Particularly characteristic of the Romanesque Revival is the round two story rusticated brick turret north of the entrance with conical roof and asymmetrical fenestration, and the stepped gable wall dormers located south of the entrance and on the north and south facades. The wall dormers are two and a half stories high, have a distinctive pediment and two round arch windows with raised extrados and dentiled imposts. They rest on a wide stringcourse of obliquely set bricks. The north and west wall dormers have rounded edges with rounded double hung windows flanking a wide single sash window with stained glass transom. The south wall dormer houses a chimney with lunette and has on each of the first and second stories only one double hung vertical window with an Eastlake mullion. In addition, the south wall is decorated on the second story with a vertical brick design framed by a brick lintel and lugsill. Typically Romanesque are the deeply cut windows with masonry lintels and lugsills. Alterations consist of the bricked up north entrance, re-roofing, and the addition of a frame extension in the rear, but none of these changes detract from the original character of this distinctive house. The interior is basically intact.