

**Structure/Site Information Form**

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 287 East 100 North UTM: 12/444470/4453880  
 Name of Structure: John R. Twelves House T. R. S.  
 Present Owner: Provo City Acreage: Less than one  
 Owner Address: 351 West Center Street, Provo, Utah 84601  
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #:  
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:  
 Eastern 1/2 of lot 1, blk 31, plat B.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: John R. Twelves Construction Date: c. 1902 Demolition Date:  
 Original Use: Single family dwelling Present Use: Veterans' Center  
 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.):

Plat records, Utah County.  
 Sanborn maps, 1900, 1908.  
Deseret News, March 26, 1913, July 30, 1932, April 19, 1960.  
Salt Lake Tribune, April 19, 1960.  
 J. Marinus Jensen, History of Provo, Utah (Provo: J. Marinus Jensen, 1924), pp. 287, 326, 341, 342, 353, 354.  
 Writers' Program, WPA, Provo: Pioneer Mormon City (Portland: Binfords & Mort Publishers, 1942), pp. 123, 125, 127, 128, 149.  
 William M. Wilson, Pictorial Provo: An Illustrated Industrial Review of Provo, the Garden City of Utah (Provo: Simon K. Benson, 1910 edition republished 1974), p. 67.  
 Marilyn McMeen Miller, John Clifton Moffitt, Provo: A Story of People in Motion (Provo: BYU Press, 1974), p. 65.  
 John Clifton Moffitt, The Story of Provo, Utah (Provo: Press Publishing, 1975), pp. 175, 180, 207, 209, 252, 261.

Architect/Builder: N/A

Building Materials: Brick

Building Type/Style: Victorian Eclectic

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

The John R. Twelves house is significant as one of two outstanding examples in Provo of residences with Romanesque Revival elements. It, however, is unique because it is the only example in which Romanesque Revival elements and elaborate classical detailing have been applied to a common type of Victorian pattern book house whose design was used repeatedly in Provo. Particularly distinctive are the wall dormers with simulated corner buttresses and foliate ornament.

This two story brick building has the irregular massing of Victorian design, classical detailing, as well as distinctive Romanesque Revival features. A central pyramid roof is pierced by a cross gable, and is flanked by hip roofs

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: c. 1902

History

John R. Twelves was a second-echelon entrepreneur in Provo who was significant as an officer in mining companies, banks and businesses in Provo.

This fine residence was constructed in 1902 for John R. Twelves. Twelves was born in 1844 in England. He came to Utah with his parents, L.D.S. converts, in 1856. In 1866 Twelves was married to Eliza Luella Daniels.

Twelves was a prominent banker and businessman in Provo. He served as the bookkeeper of the Provo Co-op in 1870, as secretary-treasurer of the Provo Woolen Mills, as cashier of the Provo Commercial and Savings Bank, and as secretary of the Grand Central Mining Company. Twelves was active in county government and served as county treasurer and county recorder. He was an active member of the L.D.S. Church and sang in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Two subsequent owners of the house are also historically significant. George H. Brimhall, who served as president of B.Y.U. from 1903 to 1920, bought the house from Twelves in 1908. Brimhall was a prominent educator in Utah and in the Mormon Church. In 1927 Brimhall sold the house to Franklin S. Harris, who had succeeded Brimhall as president of Brigham Young in 1920. Harris was an internationally prominent agricultural scientist who represented the United States in a number of countries at scientific conferences and helped such foreign countries as Iran modernize their agricultural industries. Harris held many important national, international, church and business leadership positions. Harris and his family lived in the house for only a year while the president's house on campus was being completed. Harris sold the house in 1928 to E. Franklin Birch, who conveyed the residence to Metropolitan Life

John R. Twelves House  
287 East 100 North  
Provo, Utah

Continuation of history

Insurance Company in 1934. The company sold the house to Leon A. Hedquist in 1940 who owned it until 1944 when it was sold to Utah County. The county deeded the house to Provo City in 1958. It currently is used as the Veteran's Center.

John R. Twelves House  
287 East 100 North  
Provo, Utah

Continuation of architecture

which are faced with wall dormers. What is particularly different about the Twelves house, and the reminiscent of Romanesque Revival design is the rusticated stone basement, the fortress-like quality of the faces of the dormers with simulated corner buttresses, the paired round arch windows, the foliate ornament at the corners of the dormers, the short columns with a variation of Corinthian capitals that support the veranda, and the conical roof pavillion. Classical elements which have been coupled with the Romanesque are the bracketed eaves and the broad frieze of the roofline, on the cross gable, and on the porch; the eyelid dormer with fanlight on the main roof and the square-topped Palladian window on the west wall. The broad single sash window with leaded transom of the facade and the three part windows with leaded transoms on the east and west walls as well as the veranda that wraps around the southeast corner of the building are all standard elements of Victorian Eclectic design. Major changes include the modern entrance, the three out of period frame additions on the southeast corner, on the northeast corner, and on the northwest corner of the building, and the bricking in of a round arch window on the west wall. These changes do detract from the original integrity of the building, but all the changes are reversible except for the bricking in of the window.