

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

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

For HCRS use only  
received **MAR 26 1980**  
date entered **APR 29 1980**

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

**1. Name**

historic Richard Vaughen Morris House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 314 Quince St. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Salt Lake City \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 02

state Utah code 049 county Salt Lake 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Brent Christensen

street & number 314 Quince St.

city, town Salt Lake \_\_\_ vicinity of state UT 84103

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number 4th South State

city, town Salt Lake City state UT

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title none has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Style and materials, as well as research documentation, point to the Morris home as one of the earliest surviving dwellings on Capitol Hill. Because they were easily and inexpensively produced, adobe bricks were a popular early building material in Utah. The rectangular, central hall plan with rear lean-to extensions, the gable roof, end chimneys and symmetrical main facade piercing point to a highly evolved house type which had predominated in England and the eastern United States for several centuries. The asymmetry of the Victorian period was not yet a pervasive influence in Utah during the 1860's when Morris was building this home. Following the established course of style and method, Morris chose a form that he was comfortable with, and which then current building skills could accommodate. Though in the early years, the concern was for shelter more than pretense, the substantial nature of the home suggests a desire for permanence, and confidence in the vernacular tradition. Hundreds of early Utah homes reflected these attitudes.

Cobblestones face the thick adobe walls, which were then stuccoed. The use of cobblestone as a facing material for adobe was unusual and may indicate Morris' desire either to give the home the appearance of being built of stone, or to keep the outer walls from weathering, a problem when using adobe. It is unclear whether the stucco layer is original.

The main facade piercing follows a three-over-three scheme which includes a second story door. Windows are double hung sash, originally two-over-two and changed to now with nine-over-nine lights by the current owner. Two rear lean-to's exist; one is probably original. The second lean-to is frame sided with ship lap siding, and though later, appears to have been a nineteenth century extension.

The main entrance reflects the Federal/Georgian tradition carried West from New England and adapted to pioneer housing. Though simple, the rectangular transom and sidelights of the entrance mark this influence of the Georgian tradition, which was itself an outgrowth of vernacular forms.

A hipped roof porch spans the main elevation of the home and continues around the south side. Supporting the roof are square posts with decorative sawn brackets. A low, plain balustrade spans the posts. The second story porch enclosure on the south was undoubtedly a later modification. The style of the porch of the Morris house suggests that it may have been added at a later date, probably in the 1870s or 1880s. Hipped roof porches with embellished supports were a characteristic of Victorian architecture, whether modest or pretentious. The addition of the porch signifies Morris's recognition of

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current taste and desire to update the exterior of his now dated dwelling which was gradually being neighbored by Victorian homes.

The interior of the home further expresses the vernacular tradition in its straightforward simplicity. Typical of the earliest permanent pioneer homes, the molded woodwork is plain, but carefully worked. Ceilings of the hall and parlor are coved and are defined by plain moldings. The central hall retains its staircase with turned balustade. Evidence on the upper level indicates that original floors may have been handgrained, a practice usually seen on doors and moldings. The present owner is reversing many alterations made by previous owners, and restoring or replacing many of the home's design elements.

## 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** ca 1860s **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Richard Morris house is significant as one of the oldest, relatively intact residences in Salt Lake City. The two story central hall house exhibits characteristics of the vernacular tradition in its materials and symmetry of plan and elevation. The outside porch probably indicates an attempt to update the home according to Victorian taste. The home reflects the Federal/Georgian tradition brought west from New England, with adobe construction adapted to a traditional form. A fine example of early domestic architecture in Utah, the Morris house typifies a substantial house/type subsequently replaced by the asymmetrical, more ornamented homes of the Victorian period. It was the residence of Richard Vaughn Morris, government official and businessman, for whom it was built no later than 1866.

Richard and Vaughn Morris was born September 23, 1830, in Abergele, Denbigshire, North Wales, to John and Barbara Morris. A frail child, he was sent at thirteen to England and was apprenticed to a lawyer. In 1847 he was baptized into the LDS Church by his brother Elias. The following year he left Liverpool to become secretary to the head of that church in Wales and in 1855 emigrated to Utah.

He served in the Nauvoo Legion Cavalry in two Indian Wars and the Morrisite War, attaining the rank of lieutenant. He was assistant federal assessor and collector of internal revenue under General A.L. Chetlain, secretary to Congressional Delegate William H. Hooper in 1870, secretary of the Deseret Telegraph Company, President of the Utah Soap Factory, and auditor of the Utah Central Railroad. From 1873 to 1875 he filled a mission to England. He served as President of the Birmingham Conference and returned with 300 converts.

Morris first married Hannah Phillips by whom he had three sons. After her death he married Lavinia Robins who emigrated with him. On May 16, 1868 he took another wife, Harriet Cecilia Jones, by whom he had eight children. They adopted an Indian child as well. Harriet, widowed when Morris died March 12, 1882, remarried and built the house next south at 132-134 W 300 N.

In 1886 the house passed from Morris' estate to his widow, Hattie Morris. In 1899 Hattie Morris Pickett sold the house to William F. Edward, who resold it the same year to Walter M. Heath. In 1901 Delia Heath Thatcher bought it and sold it back to Heath the following year. In 1906 Eva and Walter M. Heath sold the house to Jessie E. Graham. Jessie E. Graham Wise and George L. Wise sold it to W.P. Hemphill and J.W. Collins. They sold it the same year to John M. and Caroline Anderson who sold it in 1917 to Fidelity Investment Co.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Richard V. Morris," Deseret Weekly News, Vol 31, March 15, 1882, p.125; March 23, 1882, p. Deseret News, September 22, 1900, p.11.  
 Hermoine T. Jex, "Richard V. Morris," Research Memorandum, n.d., Utah State Historical Soc

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1  
 Quadrangle name Salt Lake City North, UT

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A 

1	2	4	2	4	5	1	0	4	5	1	4	0	9	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**

Beg N 0-23'23" E 80 1/2 ft Fr SW Cor Lot 3 Blk 14 Plat E SLC Sur N 0-23'23" E 68 1/2 Ft E 105.16 Ft S 3-10' 16" E 61.9 Ft W 53 Ft S 6 1/2 Ft W 52.16 Ft M or L to Beg 4622-235.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Henry Whiteside, Historian and Diana Johnson, Asst. Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date January 29, 1980

street & number 307 West 200 South

telephone 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City

state UT 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/19/80

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

for W. Ray Juce  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 4/29/80

Attest: William H. Bradman  
 Chief of Registration

date 4.23.80

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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Fidelity lost it in a sheriff's sale in 1926 to Tracy Loan and Trust. Tracy sold it in 1937 to John and Concha Adams. Adams sold it to Leslie D and Cora M. Spilsbury in 1941. The Spilsbury's sold it to Harlon W. and Geraldine M. Clark in 1978. They sold it the same year to LaMar T. and Karen H. Merrill, Jr. The present owner, Brent D. Christensen, bought the house in 1978.