

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

## Structure/Site Information Form

Street Address: 390 East Center UTM: 12/444620/4453660  
 Name of Structure: Knight/Allen House T. R. S.  
 Present Owner: Max Hansen Acreage: Less than one  
 Owner Address: 725 East 100 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660  
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #:  
 Legal Description Kind of Building:

Commencing ne cor lot 8, block 26, plat B, thence south 83.77 feet, west 149.9 feet, north 83.77 feet, east 149.9 feet to point of beginning.

Original Owner: J. William Knight Construction Date: c. 1900 Demolition Date:  
 Original Use: Single family dwelling Present Use: Multi-family dwelling  
 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-Resour  
 Deteriorated  Major Alterations  Not Contributory  State Register  Thematic

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, 1890, 1900.  
 City directories, 1901-1939.  
Salt Lake Tribune, March 12, 1956; April 28, 1967.  
Deseret News, March 12, 1956; April 28, 1967.  
 William M. Wilson, Utah County, Utah in Picture and Prose (N.P.: n.p., 1914).  
 J. Marinus Jensen, History of Provo, Utah (Provo: J. Marinus Jensen, 1924), pp. 275, 327.  
 John Clifton Moffitt, The Story of Provo, Utah (Provo: Press Publishing, 1975), p. 253.

Architect/Builder: RICHARD C. WATKINS

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 Knight Allen house more than any other residence in Provo displays the Victorian fascination with a variety of exotic styles and the possibility of their combination in order to create new forms. It is one of a very limited number of houses in Utah which reflects Moorish influences.

Architectural Description

The Knight Allen House is an irregularly massed one and one half story brick residence which is a handsome example of Victorian Eclecticism. Combined in the design of the house are Moorish elements, elements of the Classical Revival style, the Romanesque Revival style, Italianate, and Victorian Pattern book design.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: c. 1900

History

The Knight Allen house was built for J. William Knight, an important businessman in turn-of-the-century Provo and a son of Jesse Knight. It was subsequently owned by R. E. Allen a son-in-law of Jesse Knight who was also an important businessman and an officer in all the Knight family businesses. The Knight-Allen house is significant historically as the residence of important early businessmen of Provo.

The Knight-Allen house was built about 1899 for J. William Knight. It is probable that it was designed by Richard C. Watkins, a prominent local architect. J. William Knight married in 1899 and this was the couple's first house. When he and his new wife moved to Canada to manage a Knight concern there, J. William Knight sold the house to his sister Inez and her new husband, Robert Eugene Allen. Because the Knights lived in the house for such a short period of time, the building is more closely associated with the Allen family.

Robert E. Allen was born in Coalville, Utah in 1877. He received his education at Summitt Academy, Brigham Young Academy, and Rochester Business College. In 1901 he started teaching at Brigham Young University and in 1902 he married Amanda Inez Knight. Allen was quickly assimilated into the business concerns of the Knight family and became a rather wealthy businessman. He served as manager of the Knight Power Company from 1908 to 1912. From 1907 to 1933 he was secretary of the Knight Investment Company which directed the family's holdings and was also cashier of the Knight Trust and Savings Bank. He later served as manager of First Security Bank in Provo.

Knight Allen House  
390 East Center  
Provo, Utah

### Continuation of architecture

Its massing, a central hip roof section combined with gable roof sections that radiate from it, is typical of the most common pattern book designs. Its fenestration and decorative elements, however, distinguish it from any common type. The most distinctive feature is an imposing two story turret with a Moorish onion dome roof with tin scalloped shingles. The top of the brick section of the tower has been accentuated by a row of obliquely set bricks, and the walls have been pierced by narrow round arch windows with raised extrados reminiscent of Italianate design.

The turret is centered over the entrance of the house which is sheltered by a one story flat roof porch. The original door with oval glass is still intact. It and a circular window accent the entrance space. The porch has round arch openings, corbeled impostes, and battered piers. A brick parapet tops the porch and gives the house a fortress-like appearance. The parapet motif is repeated over the projecting bay of the east wall.

Gable roof bays project from the east, west, and north walls. The gable motif of the major gable of the facade is repeated in the gablet behind it which has been cut into the hip roof. The round arches of the large windows on the facade and the three second story windows are echoed by the fan light in the gablet. The gable roof bay on the east wall has a projecting central bay topped with a parapet. There is a single sash window on that bay and a single round arch window behind the parapet. Bellcast roof dormers flank the west bay and one of them is situated south of the east bay.

Decorative elements which create a sense of texture include: the brackets under the eaves of the major roof line; the raised moldings over each of the most prominent windows; the obliquely set bricks at the top of the turret; the coping at the top of the parapet; and the recessed panels of the parapets and of the piers of the entrance porch. The house has been further enriched by the use of stained glass windows and various window types, round arch windows of several sizes, a keyhole window, a circular window and the more common rectangular single sash window with transom.

Romanesque Revival elements include the broad round arch openings of the porch and windows, and the heavy parapets. The brackets under the eaves suggest Classical Revival influences, the onion dome roof of the turret represents Moorish influences and the group of narrow round arch windows reflect Italianate influences. The combination of these influences, the variety of textures and window types, and the irregular massing are all typical of the design of the Victorian period. The Knight Allen house, however, takes the Victorian design characteristics to their limit, exhibiting the full range of possibilities of the eclecticism of the late nineteenth century.

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Continuation of history

Inez Knight Allen was a woman of note. She was one of the first two women sent as proselyting missionaries by the L.D.S. Church. She later became very active in politics and civic affairs. She was the Democratic National Committee woman from Utah for four years, was a delegate to National Democratic conventions, and ran unsuccessfully for the state senate. She also chaired many local civic groups.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen were very generous with their wealth and contributed heavily to B.Y.U. Several buildings were constructed by the University with these contributions.