

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

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

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

For HCRS use only

received JUN 11 1984
date entered JUN 24 1984

1. Name

historic William D. Roberts House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 212 North 500 West _____ not for publication

city, town Provo _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Utah code 049

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<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 James E. and Shirley A. Mangum

street & number c/o Craig Call, P.O. Box 231

city, town Provo _____ vicinity of _____ state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Utah County Courthouse

street & number University Avenue and Center Street

city, town Provo _____ state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah Historic Sites Survey-Provo has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Summer 1980 _____ 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 about 1875, the William D. Roberts House is a two-story brick structure with a gable roof. It was built as a double cell house, having had two doors on the facade and a plan two rooms wide and one room deep. The arrangement of openings on the facade has been changed. Originally the two doors were centered on the facade, each being flanked by a single window. Four second story windows were centered over the four first floor openings. After 1975, judging from some 1975 photographs of the house, restoration work was done which included the removal of white paint and shutters from the walls and the removal of a small disproportionate bungalow porch. One of the doors was changed to a window, and one second-story window was converted to a door. The proportions of each opening were not changed, but the height of the opening was either increased or reduced. Both doors are currently aligned one above the other. The two rooms of the original plan were of equal dimensions, with a door opening into each room. A staircase to the second story was located in the north room. When the house was converted to a duplex, perhaps even prior to 1975, the staircase was enclosed in a vestibule, effectively reducing the size of the north room. In the post-1975 remodeling the current two-story porch was added. It is complementary to the design of the house and is similar to the type of porch that might have been built on this house during the late nineteenth century.

The decorative elements of this building reflect the influence of the Greek Revival style. It has a boxed cornice and six over six light double hung sash windows with Greek Revival pedimental window heads. The doors, too, have identical window heads.

A 1-1/2 story extension was added to the rear of this house. Greek Revival headers over the windows and door decoratively tie this part of the building to the original section, but differences in height, brick color, brickwork, and the type of cornice indicate that the house and its rear extension were not built as a single unit. The extension is 1-1/2 stories compared with the two-story original section. The color of the brick of the extension is not as red as that of the original section. The brickwork is common bond on both sections of the house, but five rows of stretchers alternate with one row of headers on the original section, whereas six rows of stretchers have been alternated with one row of headers on the rear extension. The boxed cornice with returns on the gable ends of the original section was not repeated on the extension which instead has a simple fascia. Unlike many rear extensions which have an irregular arrangement of openings into them, the south facade of this extension has a symmetrical arrangement of first floor openings with two dormers asymmetrically aligned above them. A door is centered between two windows, and there are two original gable roof dormers. There is a small pedimental hood supported on brackets above the door. The door itself is a more recent but unobtrusive addition.

A one-story frame flat roof extension was added to the north side of the rear extension. It is not visible from the road and does not affect the original

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character of the building. The alterations made on the facade in 1975--specifically the addition of the porch, the conversion of one doorway into a window on the main floor, and the conversion of one window into a doorway on the second floor--were determined by the Historic and Cultural Sites Review Committee to be incompatible with the original architectural integrity of the house. The Committee felt, however, that despite those changes on the facade and the addition of the rear frame extension, the house retains its overall character as an early brick two-story vernacular house which documents the influence of the Greek Revival style in Utah.

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

Specific dates ca. 1875 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built about 1875, the William Roberts House is architecturally significant as one of about fourteen early two-story vernacular houses in Provo. Two of those early houses have been listed in the National Register, and six of them are potentially eligible for listing. The Roberts House is a one-of-a-kind example among those early houses. It is the best-preserved example in Provo of a house that displays the traditional form and Greek Revival detailing of the pioneer period while concurrently reflecting the increased verticality of the early Victorian influence in Utah. As a transitional building between the pioneer period and the peak period of Victorian influence in Provo, the Roberts House is the best-preserved extant example. Historically the Roberts House is significant because of its association with William D. Roberts who was involved in the development and upbuilding of Utah and the Provo area.

William D. Roberts was born September 4, 1835, at Winchester, Scott County, Illinois. When Roberts was about ten years old his family left Illinois and went to Garden Grove, Iowa; then in 1849 they moved to Lancaster, Missouri. The family moved again in 1851; this time to Provo, Utah. Soon after, William D. became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons). In 1851, William, his father, and his brother, Bolivar, headed to the mining fields of California. They reached Hang Town, now Placerville, on July 9. William and his brother mined while their father, a physician, practiced medicine. In the fall of 1853 William's father returned to Missouri. William turned to farming and planned to return to Utah as soon as he could sell his crop. However, the grain and potatoes he raised were mostly destroyed by a storm while being shipped to market. He only received \$360 of the \$5,000 he expected to make. His loss postponed his return to Utah. He and his brother then pursued placer mining and lumbering in northern California. His mining and lumbering activities brought him into contact with Spaniards who intensely hated Americans and several times he almost lost his life at their hands. Roberts returned to Utah in December, 1855, with only two \$20 gold pieces to show for his California years.

Soon after his arrival in Provo, Roberts was made a member of a posse that was to go after Indian Chief Tintic and his band who had been driving off large numbers of horses and cattle belonging to the settlers. The posse followed the Indians and was fired on by them. Members of the posse felt they could have captured the Indians if a retreat hadn't been ordered. In the winter of 1856 the last of the handcart emigrants were caught in the snows of the Wasatch Mountains and suffered terribly. Roberts was part of the relief party sent to their rescue.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Utah Since Statehood. Noble Warrum, ed. Vol. III. Salt Lake City: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1919.
Whitney, Orson F. History of Utah, Vol. IV. Salt Lake City: George Q. Cannon & Sons Company, Publishers, 1904.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.5 acre

Quadrangle name Provo, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	2	4	4	3	3	3	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

West half of Lot 2 Block 93, Plat A, Provo City Survey.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debbie Randall, Architectural Historian, and Jill Thorley Warnick, Researcher

organization Utah State Historical Society

date April 26, 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

A. Kent Powell

A. Kent Powell

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 25, 1984

For HCERS use only

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

date

7/24/84

Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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Back in Provo Roberts became involved in farming, freighting, trading, and making stoneware. In 1857 he was called to participate in the Echo Canyon Campaign against the United States Army that was marching to Utah to put down a rumored rebellion. Later in the year Roberts and Daniel Jones went to the Sweet Water area to trade with emigrants. In the process, both of them were captured by Crow Indians but were rescued the next morning by a group of people on their way to California. The next year Roberts went to southern California and brought back a band of wild horses and several hundred head of sheep. Roberts was called again to fight Indians in what is known as the Echo Canyon campaign. At about this time his mother and brothers returned to Missouri, but William chose to stay in Provo. He then (1858) became involved in freighting and carrying passengers between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles, California. In April of the next year Roberts returned to Missouri to visit his parents. He stayed for a year and bought a herd of cattle which he drove across the plains to Utah. The following winter he brought eighteen colonies of bees from California to Utah. With subsequent trips he increased this number to 600. Roberts freighted goods to Austin, Nevada. On one of his trips he captured John Webb, who, along with another man, Ransom G. Young, had killed three traveling companions with a hatchet. Intending to take the man to officials in Austin, Roberts was overtaken at a place called Shell Creek by a posse of over fifty men who had captured the murderer's partner. The posse decided to carry out their own justice, and in less than an hour the two men had been lynched.

During the Civil War Roberts decided to visit his parents in Missouri. He made the trip by overland stage and train. Both Union and Confederate lines were crossed before he reached Lancaster, Missouri. During this trip he met Maria Julia Lusk and married her on February 6, 1862. Not telling his wife he was a Mormon, he brought her, his mother and brothers, with two of their wives, back to Utah. Roberts then became involved in building up the Provo area. He was a member of the Provo City council for three years (1878-1881) and was an alderman for two years (1884-1885). He then became Provo's first postmaster after Utah received statehood. One historian notes that Roberts:

. . . planted orchards and vineyards and conducted his farm along the most progressive lines, importing blooded horses, cattle, pigs, and chickens. He was also connected with a company that imported the first steam power threshing machine and the first steam power brick machine into Utah . . .
.. Roberts discovered and developed mines in the Tintic district and spent much money in connection with the timber and lumber business. Whatever he undertook he carried forward to successful completion.¹

Roberts also belonged to Provo's first dramatic association and was a member of the first brass band organized in Utah County.

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In the midst of all his business activities, Roberts actively supported his church. He filled two proselyting missions, one in Great Britain and the other in California. From May 17, 1857, he became a member of the Seventies (leadership position in the Church) and at the time of his death he was serving as the senior president of the Thirty-fourth Quorum of Seventy. Roberts "occupied the old home until his death" on March 8, 1912.² His life and his home represent the link between the harsh settlement times and the easier times that are marked by business and cultural development in Provo and in Utah.

The house at 212 North 500 West is the only house in Provo known to be associated with Roberts. For a time he managed the hotel which he later bought and named "Hotel Roberts". He later sold the hotel to his son William D. Jr.³ The Hotel Roberts was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

Footnotes

¹Utah Since Statehood, Noble Warrum, ed. Vol. III (Salt Lake City: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1919) p. 579.

²Ibid. p. 566.

³Daphne R. Hartle, Jennie N. Weeks, and Margaret Watkins. The Roberts Family: Connecticut to California. (Salt Lake City: Jennie M. Weeks, 1965) p. 324.

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Deseret News. March 8, 1912.

Hartle, Daphne R., Jennie N. Weeks, and Margaret Watkins. The Roberts Family: Connecticut to California. Salt Lake City: Jennie M. Weeks, 1965.

Miller, Marilyn McMeen and J. C. Moffitt. Provo: A Story of People in Motion. Provo: BYU Press, 1974.

Utah Since Statehood. Noble Warrum, ed. Vol III. Salt Lake City: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1919.

Whitney, Orson F. History of Utah, Vol. IV. Salt Lake City: George Q. Cannon & Sons Co., Publishers, 1904.