

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 27 1985

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Wilcox, James D., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 93 E. 100 North not for publication

city, town Farmington vicinity of

state Utah code 049 county Davis code 011

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<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 Anthony Price

street & number 93 E. 100 North

city, town Farmington vicinity of state Utah 84025

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Davis County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Farmington state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Stone Buildings in Farmington has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 1985  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**

The James D. Wilcox House is a 1 1/2 story hall and parlor stone house. Its symmetrical facade, consisting of a door centered between two windows, is typical of hall and parlor houses, which have two rooms of unequal size with the door opening into the largest of the two. The stonework on the house has the general appearance of random course rubble masonry, however, on closer inspection, there is some evidence of an apparent attempt at coursed masonry. This is most apparent on the upper section of the wall on the east side of the house. The lintels over the windows and door in the original section are all single slabs of stone, while those in the lean-to addition are wood. The house is in good condition and, despite a few alterations, maintains its historic integrity.

An early addition to the house is the stone lean-to section across the full width of the rear of the house. It was probably added quite soon after the main part of the house was built, judging from its well-matched features and the use of adobe brick in the interior wall that divides the lean-to section into two rooms.

Other alterations to the house are found on the front porch and dormers. The Victorian front porch was probably added during the 1880s or '90s. The decorative wood elements on the dormers, and most likely the dormers themselves, were probably added at that same time. Although the dormers might have been part of the original construction, it is more probable that they were not, since none of the other one-story stone houses in town have original dormer windows. The dormers are aligned with the windows on the main floor and are consistent with the original symmetrical composition of the facade.

The original cellar or crawlspace beneath the house was probably enlarged into a useable basement some time after the turn of the century, as indicated by the lower portions of the basement walls which are concrete instead of stone. The basement windows, which are located directly beneath the windows on the facade, have stone lintels, indicating that they were part of the original construction.

Contributing buildings on the property: 1 (this house)

Non-contributing buildings: 0

There are no other buildings, structures, or objects on the property.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** c.1870 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built c. 1870, the James D. Wilcox House is architecturally significant as one of 20 well preserved stone buildings in Farmington, a town which is distinctive for its early stone buildings and structures. Thirty-six stone buildings remain in the community, of which only 20 are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Stone was a common building material throughout nineteenth-century Utah, but it was used extensively only in areas which had both a readily available supply of stone and skilled stonemasons. In addition to the Farmington/Centerville area of Davis County, other noted concentrations of stone buildings in Utah include the towns of Beaver in Beaver County, Willard in Box Elder County, Mendon and Wellsville in Cache County, Manti, Spring City, Ephraim and Fairview in Sanpete County, Midway in Wasatch County, Pleasant Grove in Utah County, and Bluff in San Juan County.

The exact date of construction of the James D. Wilcox House is unclear, but it is likely that it was built c. 1870. Wilcox owned this property as early as March 1867,<sup>1</sup> so the house may have been built in the 1860s. Official land records before 1870 are incomplete, however, so it is difficult to determine the exact date that Wilcox acquired this property and had this house built. The tax file on the property shows a construction date of 1870, though the accuracy of that information is often suspect.

The house was built for James D. Wilcox and his first wife, Anna Maria Robinson Wilcox, and served as his home until his death in 1916. James was born January 17, 1827, in Lexington, New York, to Henry and Susanna Miller Wilcox. A convert to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon or LDS Church), he came to Utah in 1852 with Henry Miller's company of emigrants and settled in Farmington, where his brother, Jonathan, had settled previously. The Farmington area was one of the first areas outside Salt Lake City to be settled after the first Mormon pioneers came to Utah in 1847. A large number of pioneers from the New York area settled in Farmington, and by 1860 accounted for approximately 80% of the town's population.<sup>2</sup> James met and married Anna Maria Robinson, daughter of his employer, Joseph L. Robinson, in 1854. In keeping with the Mormon practice of polygamy at that time, he married a second wife, Judith Oviatt Knapp, in 1862. She had previously been married and had a son, Nathan Willis Knapp.

Typical of many polygamous families, the Wilcox women apparently maintained separate households, as indicated by the 1870 census schedules which show James living only with Anna and her children. They most likely lived in this house, since their neighbors on the 1870 and 1880 census schedules were families who were known to have lived in nearby houses.<sup>3</sup> Judith Wilcox does not show up on the 1870 census for Farmington, but in 1880 she is shown living with her six children in a separate house in a different part of town. Judith spent much of her time in the summers on James' "Miller Field Farm" outside of

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Couvillon, Mary Louise. "James David Wilcox House," Utah Historic Sites Inventory. Available in National Register File, Utah State Historical Society.

Hess, Margaret Steed. My Farmington. Farmington, Utah: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1976.  
(See continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .295 acres

Quadrangle name Farmington

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	2	4	2	5	5	6	0	4	5	3	6	9	6	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

Commencing at the SE corner of Lot 1 Block 14 Farmington City Survey; thence N 95 feet, W 134.5 feet, S 95 feet, E 134.5 feet to beginning.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger Roper/Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date August 1985

street & number 300 Rio Grande

telephone 801-533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City

state Utah

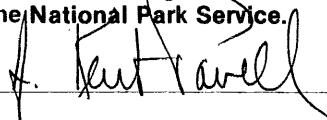
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title A. Kent Powell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date August 26, 1985

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

date 11-26-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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James D. Wilcox House

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town, cooking meals for the farm workers, etc., and living in a tent and a cleaned-up horse stable.<sup>4</sup> James built a house on the farm property, probably in the mid-1880s, at which time Judith and Anna switched houses. Anna remained in the house on the farm until her death in 1897.<sup>5</sup> The property and the house in town were transferred from James to Judith in 1886, indicating that the switch might have taken place at that time. It may have been at that time that the Victorian porch and dormers were added. Both James and Judith lived in the house until their deaths in 1916 and 1918, respectively.

In addition to his farm work, James was also skilled at shoemaking, cutting shingles, and making furniture. He reportedly made the furniture that was first used in this house. He and his brother-in-law, Oliver L. Robinson, bought the first mowing machine in Farmington and together did cutting for many farmers in the Farmington area, and even for some up in Weber and Cache counties. James was also trained as a tanner and glazier, and, like many men of that period, he picked up other miscellaneous trades such as plastering, molasses making, carpentry, and other useful skills. He lived in Farmington for virtually all of his adult life, except for a short period in the 1850s when he helped establish the Salmon River Mission in Idaho, the northernmost, and ultimately unsuccessful, settlement in the envisioned Mormon corridor.

Although there are stone buildings in communities throughout the state, concentrations of them are found in only some half dozen locations. Those communities are all located either near stone quarries or on fieldstone-littered land at the base of the mountains. There is an abundance of fieldstone in the southern Davis County area, and stone houses are found in significant numbers in the communities of Farmington and Centerville. Bountiful, too, has a number of stone buildings, but not in the concentrations found in the other two communities. In addition to the Farmington/Centerville area, other Utah locales which have significant numbers of stone buildings include the following: Beaver, Beaver County; Mendon and Wellsville, Cache County; Midway, Wasatch County; Pleasant Grove, Utah County; Bluff, San Juan County; Manti, Ephraim, Spring City, and Fairview, Sanpete County. Farmington and Centerville are situated at the foot of the Wasatch Mountains and the stone used in the buildings constructed there came from the riverbeds and the surrounding cobbly alluvial land. Fieldstone houses are also found in significant numbers in Mendon, Wellsville, and Willard.

Stone houses in Utah were generally built between the 1850s and 1880s in locations which not only had readily available stone, but skilled stone masons as well. Charles Duncan and his sons, residents of Centerville, were some of the best known and most prolific stone masons of the nineteenth century in Davis County, but there were probably a number of other stone masons as well. Hector C. Haight is known to have built a number of houses in the Farmington area, but there is no evidence linking him to this house.

A survey conducted in Farmington in the spring of 1985 revealed that a total of 36 stone buildings remain in the community. Of those 36, only 20 are possibly eligible for listing in the National Register. Twenty-four hall and

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parlor stone houses were identified, making it the single largest house type represented in the town. Of those, only 11 are potentially eligible for listing.

Notes

<sup>1</sup>Davis County Recorder's Office, Deed Book "A" p. 105.

<sup>2</sup>Leonard, "History of Farmington to 1890," p. 35.

<sup>3</sup>Hess, My Farmington, p. 30, and the 1870 and 1880 census schedules for Farmington. Houses listed in both places as being near the Wilcox house include those of John Wood, William Miller, Frederick Coombs, William Rice, and Jonathan Smith.

<sup>4</sup>Margaret Hess, My Farmington, p. 185.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

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Bibliography continued:

Leonard, Glen M. "History of Farmington to 1890," Masters thesis, University of Utah, 1966.

Wilcox, James Henry. "Short Sketch of the Life of James David Wilcox," unpublished manuscript, 1948. Available at Utah State Historical Society Library.