

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

**Structure/Site Information Form**

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 185 East Center UTM: 12/444330/4453720  
 Name of Structure: Jesse Knight House T. R. S.  
 Present Owner: Mr. Carl Berg Acreage: Less than one  
 Owner Address: c/o Berg Mortuary, 185 East Center, Provo, Utah 84601  
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #:  
 Legal Description Kind of Building:

All of lots 1 and 8, block 27, plat B.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Jesse Knight Construction Date: 1905 Demolition Date:  
 Original Use: Single family dwelling Present Use: Funeral home  
 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-Resou  
 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 map, 1908.  
 City directories, 1903-1939.  
 J. Marinus Jensen, History of Provo, Utah (Provo: J. Marinus Jensen, 1924), pp. 275, 327  
 William M. Wilson, Utah County, Utah in Picture and Prose (N.P.: n.p., 1914).  
 Wilson, Pictorial Provo: An Illustrated Industrial Review of Provo, the Garden City of Utah (Provo: The Scribbler, Simon K. Benson, 1910 edition republished 1974), p. 13.  
 Writers' Program, WPA, Provo: Pioneer Mormon City (Portland: Binfords and Mort Publishe 1942), pp. 117, 134, 135, 149, 152.  
 J. William Knight, The Jesse Knight Family: Jesse Knight, His Forbears and Family (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1940).

Architect/Builder: *see below*

Building Materials: Brick

Building Type/Style: Colonial Revival Box

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

The Jesse Knight House is significant as the only Colonial Revival Box in Provo. It is unique among examples of the box style in Provo because of its monumental proportions and intricate classical detailing. Particularly unique are high style elements such as the swan's neck pedimented dormers, the corner quoins capped by Ionic capitals resembling pilasters, and the exquisite rounded bay windows. It is also significant as the design of Walter Ware, one of the first professional architects in Salt Lake City, who later was a partner in the successful architectural firm of Ware and Treganza.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1905

History

Jesse Knight was probably the wealthiest and most prominent of all the turn-of-the-century entrepreneurs in Provo. He amassed a fortune in mining then diversified into a number of business concerns. His influence in Provo was great and his generosity and philanthropy matched his wealth and fame.

His house was designed by Ware and Treganza, prominent Salt Lake City architects and completed in 1905. The dedication of the house was attended by townspeople, church leaders, and political figures of Utah.

Knight was born in Nauvoo, Illinois in 1845. His family began moving west with the Mormons in 1847, but Knight's father died in that year and the family was not able to reach Utah until 1857. Jesse Knight married Amanda McEwan in 1869 and they settled on a ranch in Payson. Later Knight, purportedly impressed by a dream, located mining property in the Tintic area and struck it rich. His family moved to Provo shortly after this (in the late 1890s) in order to be closer to educational opportunities for the children. Knight obtained more mining property and soon established his own mining towns sometimes called the "cleanest mining camps in the West" because of Knight's insistence on strict morality in the camps. He later diversified his economic interest, buying large amounts of Provo real estate, obtaining large farming and cattle interests in Canada, establishing a bank, starting a power company, and buying the Provo Woolen Mills (the name was changed to Knight Woolen Mills). He even bought a huge tract of farming and timber land in South America. Knight included his children in his businesses and made them rich as well. He used much of his wealth to endow B.Y.U. and other institutions. When he died in 1921 he was one of the best-known people in Utah. His widow Amanda continued to live in this house until her death. Wyman Berg, a local

Jesse Knight Home  
185 East Center Street  
Provo, Utah

This two and one half story brick box reflects the Colonial Revival style of architecture at the turn of the century in its symmetrical facade and classical detailing. Classical elements include: a broad entablature with a boxed cornice; egg and dart ornament and dentils on the frieze; swan's neck pedimented dormers; pilasters on the corners of the dormers and flanking the first floor windows; Ionic capitals on brick corner quoins that are meant to resemble pilasters; and Ionic columns that were once a part of two porticos that existed on the south and east sides of the house, but which are now incorporated into a veranda and carport that flanks the building on three sides.

The house has a low hip roof with a dormer on each side. A central three part bay window on the second floor is flanked on each side by single sash windows with plain transoms. On the first floor the door is flanked on each side by three part rounded bay windows capped by a central fanlight and curved side transoms. The rounded bay window is repeated on the east wall. Circular, oval and square stained glass windows ornament the east and west sides of the house.

Major alterations include the removal of: brackets from the cornice; the wide entablature over the first floor bay windows; and the balustrade over the portico. A major two story wing has been added to the rear of the house and the porticos have been extended. There have been no changes made to the original openings of the facade. An effort has been made to match the brick of the addition with that of the original structure and to duplicate the ornamentation so that the original integrity of the house was maintained as much as was possible with so large an addition.