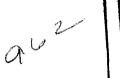
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form





This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x' in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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Name of Property		City, County and State				
5. Classification Ownership of Property check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)				
		Contributing	Noncontributing			
⊠ private	\boxtimes building(s)	2	1	buildings		
public-local	☐ district			_ sites		
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public-Federal	structure structure			objects		
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V/A		N/A				
6. Function or Use Historic Function Enter categories from instructions)	性學系符(1450年) -	Current F (Enter catego	unction ories from instructions)	n arrininak.		
DOMESTIC: single dwelling		DOMESTIC:	single dwelling			
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter catego	ories from instructions)			
LATE VICTORIAN		foundation	STONE			
OTHER: Victorian Eclectic		walls	BRICK			
OTHER: Central Block w/Projecting	ng Bays					
OTHER: cross wing		roof	ASPHALT shingle			
		other	WOOD trim			

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House	Scipio, Millard County, Utah
Name of Property	City, County and State
8. Description Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
☑ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	
☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Period of Significance
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
Property is:	1900, c.1905
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Persons (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
C a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
D a cemetery.	N/A
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ F a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder builders: Mr. Lund, H. Rasmussen
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) 9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)	See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	State Historic Preservation Office
	See continuation sheet(s) for Section 140. 9

Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House Name of Property	Scipio, Millard County, Utah City, County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 1.42 acres	
UTM References (Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
1 <u>1/2</u> <u>4/0/4/6/0/0</u> <u>4/3/4/4/7/4/0</u> <u>Northing</u>	2 / Zone Easting Northing
3 / Zone Easting Northing	4 / Zone Easting Northing
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) LOT 1, BLOCK 57, PLAT A, SCIPIO TOWN SURVEY	
Property Tax No. S 1238	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) The boundaries are those that were historically, and which continuous	
11. Form Prepared By	☐See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10
name/title Chris Clegg and J. Cory Jensen/Utah SHPO Staff	
organization	date June 22, 2001
street & number 300 Rio Grande	telephone_801/533-3559
city or town Salt Lake City	state_UT zip code_84101
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pro- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	large acreage or numerous resources. the property.
Property Owner name/title Chris Clegg	DE 12 a. 1998 kara kan terbesak birana kanta
street & number 110 West 200 North	telephone_435/758-9115
city or town Scipio	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House, Scipio, Millard County, UT

Narrative Description

The Merien & Rosabelle Robins House, built in 1900, is a one-and-one-half-story dwelling in a type known as a central block with projecting bays. The brick structure of the building rests on a stone foundation that has been covered with concrete. The asphalt shingle-covered roof features multiple gables, two chimneys, and a tall pointed hipped roof over the square bay at the southeast corner of the house. The diagonally placed bay adds a picturesque quality to the house, as does the cross gable that intersects the building from north to south unevenly dividing the primary gabled roof.

The main entrance is on the east facade but the mass of the building is oriented to the south. The somewhat imposing south and east façades display eclectic nature of the house through asymmetry and use of polychrome brick. The brickwork of the house is particularly distinctive. Two bands of rock-faced red brick encircle the house in a projecting water table and stringcourse. This brick contrasts with the beige brick used for the main body of the building. The same red brick is implemented in window hood moldings and trim on all facades.

There are two porches on the house, one over the main entrance on the northeast corner and one at the southwest corner of the house extending across the south facade of the small west addition. The original balustrades and corner brackets are missing from the northeast porch. Also, the original balustrades have either been replaced or covered with solid plywood knee walls. The east porch retains only three of the original seven Tuscan-style turned columns. The south porch retains the original thin, ornamental Victorian-style columns.

The primary (east) façade features a variety of layers. Beginning on the right side of the façade the low, hipped porch roof attaches to the central projecting wing with a pedimented gable. All of the gables have wide eaves and feature brackets, dentillated cornices and wide frieze, and wooden fish-scale shingles. The original moldings with brackets, dentils, and wide frieze remain on the exterior of the home and are typical of the period of construction. On the wall of the gabled projection is a diamond-shaped leaded and stained-glass window. Another keyhole-shaped stained-glass window is located to the right of the entrance under the porch roof. Engaged to the corner is a one and one-half-story square bay that projects diagonally from the southeast corner of the house. A tall pointed hip roof with belcast eaves (locally known as the "witches hat") tops the bay. The roof was originally crowned with metal cresting, but this was removed at an unknown time.¹

The asymmetry is continued on the south façade with the square bay on the right. The remainder of the wall surface on this façade is planar, broken only by a wide chimney that projects slightly from the wall. The chimney has corbelling at the top and mid-section. A concrete-block chimney was added c.1970s when a new brick fireplace was constructed inside. All but a small portion of this has been

¹ Mrs. Klea Memmott and Mr. Marden Stone, both longtime Scipio residents, provided this information.

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Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House, Scipio, Millard County, UT

removed. The rest will be removed and the associated wall opening bricked in with matching historic brick. A wide window with arched top and transom (now covered with plywood) is the primary opening on this elevation. The original tripartite partition with flanking double-hung wood sash was replaced at an unknown date with aluminum windows. Above this is a narrower double-hung woodsash window that breaks the frieze and cornice molding. These windows are centered below a large fully pedimented gable that projects from the roof. Also visible on this façade is the south elevation of the hipped-roof kitchen addition that is constructed at the rear (west façade) of the house. Although this addition appears to be original to the construction of the house, various inconsistencies on the interior² suggest a slightly later construction date, possibly c.1905, but an exact date is not known. The entire façade of the addition is a covered porch that is enclosed with the above-mentioned knee wall and large glazed panels.

The west façade is fairly unadorned with only two windows: one a double-hung, one-over-one sash, the other a more recent horizontal slider that was retrofitted into the vertical space, the remainder of the space being bricked in.

The north façade is dominated by the projecting gable end of the cross wing. This is centrally placed on the façade and is similar in appearance to the gabled section on the south façade. The wide window with arched brick hood molding and transom has not been altered on this façade and retains the leaded, stained glass in the arch and tripartite window scheme with a central fixed pane and flanking one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows. Other windows on this façade include a double-hung window above the large window, a double-hung window on the hipped-roof rear addition, and a diamond-shaped window to the left side of the façade. Unfortunately, the stained glass was removed from this window at an unknown time.

Overall the building retains a good percentage of its original fabric and integrity. Alterations to the exterior of the building include the aforementioned removal of the balustrade of the porches, the replacement of the wooden floor of the porch with concrete, the reduction of three windows on the west and south end (in the porch area) when the kitchen was remodeled (c.1960s). Also, the original wood shingles on the roof were replaced with asphalt shingles. Some structural failure has occurred around the arched windows where the walls are slightly bulging out. Cracks have also occurred in the mortar joints in these areas. However, the changes that have been made do not greatly affect the architectural integrity of the building. The present owners plan to restore the porch balustrade and roof and repair the structural damage.

Alterations to the interior of the house include a two-foot drop of the downstairs ceilings using acoustical tile. Most of the original woodwork has been retained; originally this was hand grained to simulate oak, but all of it has been painted white. The west attic over the kitchen has received a

² The brickwork is tied into the main portion of the house and all brick and trim details match perfectly. However, when entering this addition from the main portion of the house, one must step slightly down. The floor-joist structure and door alignments also lead to the conclusion that this was a slightly later addition.

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Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House, Scipio, Millard County, UT

bathroom addition (c.1990s). When the bathroom was added the truss was cut in order to put the room in the drop ceiling area. This put excessive weight on the interior kitchen walls and caused added stress on the south wall where some cracks have occurred. A cable was recently added to reinforce the structure.

The floor plan of the building remains essentially unchanged. On the first floor, in addition to an entry foyer with staircase, there is a front parlor, a back parlor, dining room, bathroom, and a washroom, which was originally a pantry with a dumbwaiter. There are three bedrooms on the second floor along with a small bathroom that was added c.1990s in what was an empty attic space.

The present owners are making every effort to restore the house so that it closely resembles the original concept. They are attempting to buy or have made light fixtures, kitchen cabinets, and bathroom fixtures that are compatible with the design of the house. Where original moldings have been replaced, new replicas of the originals are being made to order to replace them.

The site basically retains its original nineteenth-century appearance with open land and a few mature trees. Also located on the property is one contributing outbuilding, a wooden "inside-out" granary, with the framing on the exterior and the horizontal planks on the interior. This approximately 12' x 12' structure probably dates from the turn of the century and has not been altered. A more recent, noncontributing chicken coop is located just to the north of the granary. The house and property remain in a good state of preservation and contribute to the history and character of Scipio.

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Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House, Scipio, Millard County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Merien and Rosabelle Robins House, constructed in1900 with an addition possibly c. 1905, is significant under criterion C for its distinctive architectural detailing in the town of Scipio, Utah. An early rural settlement, Scipio retains much of its nineteenth and early twentieth-century character in both its landscape and architecture. Out of only three³ residences in town in a type known as a central block with projecting bays, the Robins House is easily the most expressive. Distinguished by a diagonally placed corner bay capped by a tall peaked roof, and enhanced by a variety of brick and wood decorative features and surface textures, the Robins house is a well-defined and unique representation of the Victorian building tradition that prevailed in most Utah communities during the late nineteenth century. The Robins House stands out as the most ornamental and one of the larger residences remaining in Scipio and is a significant historic resource. While a majority of the houses in the town display vernacular characteristics, this home represents the apex in "high style" residential architecture.

History of Scipio

Located approximately 130 miles south of Salt Lake City, in what is known as "Round Valley," is the small town of Scipio. The original settlement of Scipio began 1859-60, when thirteen families settled along the only waterway in the south part of the valley next to a mountain range. Because of skirmishes throughout central Utah with the native Ute tribes in the mid-1860s, the settlers dismantled their log homes and built several single-room cabins joined together with adobe walls in a square fortress. In February 1867, a peace council was held with the Ute Chief Black Hawk in Scipio, and the fort was subsequently dismantled and the settlers moved back to their land. The agricultural pursuits of the residents of Scipio have continued from the time of settlement up to the present. Because of the short growing season, grain and alfalfa have been the primary crops. Cattle and sheep ranching have been a main source of income more recently, although many residents commute to other areas for employment. Although Scipio became an incorporated town in 1900, it did not increase in population much during the twentieth century until the 1980s when a slight increase occurred; currently the population is roughly 300. Because no major industries developed in Scipio, a majority of the historic architecture has been retained, most in a fair state of preservation.

Architectural Significance

According to Merien's son, Kenith Robins, the house was contracted by a Mr. Lund of California in the spring of 1900 and the Robins family moved into it in August 1900. An inscription on a windowsill in the upstairs center bedroom verifies this date. The inscription reads, "H. Rasmussen, Carpenter of Fillmore, Utah, August 3, 1900". Also the tax records indicate that the house was built in 1900.⁴

³ Based on a May 2001 reconnaissance level survey.

⁴ In most cases, however, tax-assessment records are not a reliable source for dating construction. In the early twentieth century the assessor obtained a construction date by asking the owner, occupant, or neighbor. This date was probably rarely verified.

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Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House, Scipio, Millard County, UT

The Robins House displays an interesting eclecticism in both its type and style. Besides being the most easily recognized and picturesque residence in Scipio, with its corner bay topped by the pointed "witches hat" roof, Its architectural significance lies in the fact that the house is a fairly unique plan not only for Scipio, but for the entire state of Utah, the Robins House cannot be fully classified as one particular architectural type, but rather a marriage of two common nineteenth-century types in Utah, the central block with projecting bays and the cross wing.

Devoid of the rear addition and diagonal bay, the plan of the Robins House is that of a basic cross wing. The cross wing was a ubiquitous house type in Utah. Because Mormon town planning, based on Joseph Smith's "Plat of the City of Zion," was promoted in Utah's settlement, nucleated villages were set up in a gridiron fashion. With a prescribed number of lots per block, housing, a garden, and a small family farm were incorporated into each homestead. Houses were usually placed at the corner of the lot nearest the intersection of the streets, which left two sides of the house as potential formal facades. With symmetry being a principle concern in the design of a house, the ambiguity of placement was somewhat disconcerting to the designers. But house builders devised solutions that were also in keeping with changing architectural trends. By adding another wing to the common single-cell or hall-parlor, another less-formal facade was created so that there was now an entrance onto both streets.

With the addition of the wing the Classical form of the house was altered to a more asymmetrical Victorian type. Thus, not only was space increased, but the entire appearance of the house was updated as well.⁵ The familiar, and proven, hall parlor plan was maintained with the addition of another room, usually in the form of a kitchen. By approximately 1880, cross wings were being constructed as a general type, rather than just as additions to previously existing homes, although cross-wing additions continued to be a popular way to update and enlarge an existing home.

The Robins House is a later example conceived and built as a cross wing. The addition of appendages, however, make it more akin to another prominent later Victorian Utah house type, the central block with projecting bays. The central-block-with-projecting-bays house type was an important basic form of the Victorian house. Projecting bays were added to the principal rooms of a central core structure to achieve a desired external asymmetry and made the rooms larger and brighter. Smaller, less expensive houses, usually had entries directly into the living room or parlor.⁶

⁵Keith Bennett & Thomas Carter, "Houses with Two Fronts: The Evolution of Domestic Architectural Design in a Mormon Community," <u>Journal of Mormon History, Volume 15</u>, (Provo, UT: Mormon History Association, 1989), pp.49-50.

⁶Thomas Carter and Peter Goss, <u>Utah's Historic Architecture 1847-1940: a Guide</u>, (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society & University of Utah Graduate School of Architecture, 1991), p.44.

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Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House, Scipio, Millard County, UT

Nineteenth-century domestic architecture in Utah is dominated by the historical styles, beginning with the classical modes and culminating in the picturesque tradition. Save for the most elite examples, house design here is rarely confined to a single style and is, more often, the end result of a vernacular process of combining and interchanging historical motifs. Such fluidity of composition, however, cannot be dismissed as provincial naiveté, for it grows from an eclectic intellectual tradition which was widely felt throughout the United States during the 1850-1900 period.

Reacting against the rigid classical paradigm, architects and builders in Utah in the second-half of the century struggled to achieve "style by avoiding style" and introduced a new architecture based upon highly irregular plans, asymmetrical forms, and highly ornamented and textured surfaces. This visually complex, picturesque style, popularized in the years after 1875 in America by the Queen Anne, was visible in Utah's urban centers by the 1880s and produced a dramatic change in the architectural landscape of the state.

The adoption of the new picturesque aesthetic was universal, though it occurred everywhere at a different time and with the expected opposition of the more conservative elements of the population. Plans and elevations were disseminated through the state both by the specific works of particular architects and by the popular house pattern books of the period. In time, there is little doubt that the new styles were absorbed into the vernacular tradition and were also spread by local and itinerant carpenters.

Victorian Eclecticism could be considered as more of a picturesque expression than a style. Common in Utah between 1885 and 1910, Victorian Eclecticism drew from the many styles that were both currently and formerly fashionable such as Queen Anne, Neoclassical, Romanesque Revival, and Colonial Revival. Characteristics include bay windows, patterned-shingle gable ends, gingerbread and small bargeboards, decorative spindles and brackets, leaded and stained glass transom windows, segmental arched windows and doors, and asymmetrical massing. Both large mansions and humble cottages implemented Victorian Eclectic detailing making it the most common architectural expression of the era. The Merien Robins house in Scipio, built in 1900, is a fine local example of the creative impulse generated by this eclectic thinking in domestic architecture.

The style of the house describes the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and the changes that were occurring in Utah. Rural areas like Scipio were less isolated from stylistic developments occurring on both the national and local levels. The pattern-book styles and standardized building

⁷ Peter L. Goss, "The Architectural History of Utah," <u>Utah Historical Quarterly</u> 43:3 (Summer 1975), pp.208-239.

⁸ William A. Pierson, Jr., <u>American Buildings and Their Architectects: Technology and the Picturesque</u> (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1978), pp.4-8.

⁹ Richard W. Longstreth, "Academic Eclecticism in American Architecture," Winterthur Portfolio, 17:11 (Spring 1982), p.55.

¹⁰Carter & Goss, pp.110, 127.

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Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House, Scipio, Millard County, UT

components were available and easily adapted for use with local materials. The former isolation of rural areas was no longer an obstacle to building well and the quality of design and workmanship were also affected during the Victorian era.¹¹

History of the Robins

Merien Richard Robins was born December 15, 1865, in Scipio, Utah. He was the fourth son of William Robins and Charlotte Nixon Robins, and was one of six boys and six girls (there being twelve children in all). When he was eighteen years of age Merien persuaded his father to let him go away to do some logging in Park City with a young man named Joseph Yates. Merien later worked on a ranch in Colorado with a man named Jack Elliott. In 1886 he went to work for Fred Rockwell of Colorado Springs. Upon his return to Scipio, he married Rosabelle Thompson on January 19, 1890.

Rosabelle Thompson Robins was born July 24, 1867, in Fillmore, Utah. Rosabelle was the fourth girl of Daniel Thompson and Lorinda Bronson Thompson. She was one of five girls and six boys. Her father Daniel Thompson was twice elected as a member of the Territorial Legislature and was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1867. Not long after her birth, Rosabelle and her family moved to Scipio. Her father, Daniel was chosen by Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints president Brigham Young to be a presiding elder (a local ecclesiastical leader) in Scipio. At this time, Brigham Young traveled back and forth from Salt Lake City to St. George, Utah, at the extreme southwest corner of the territory, where he had a winter home. During these trips he always stayed with the Thompsons in Scipio.

In the spring of 1891 Merien went to Geyser, Nevada, to work for a noted ranch and cattleman named, J.C. Campbell, after a years time he was put in as foreman of the ranch, remaining there eight years. He continued to work on other ranches after the Campbell Ranch changed ownership. Merien and Rosabelle purchased a lot in Scipio, with a small log cabin on it from Benjamin Martin Ivie in 1893. The Robins began construction on a new residence that was completed on August 3, 1900.

While working on the Nevada ranches, Merien would return to Scipio on visits to see his wife and family; In December 1906, he returned to stay. He started farming and raising cattle on his own for a livelihood. Merien became anemic in the winter of 1936. His health became progressively worse and in July 1937 he was confined to his bed. In August he was taken to his daughter Margie's home in Ogden, Utah, where he died on September 2, 1937. Rosabelle continued to live in their home for a while after Merien died, then she sold the property and went to live with her youngest daughter. She died on June 24, 1958, and was buried alongside her husband in Scipio.¹²

¹¹ibid., pp. 110-111

<u>1010</u>., pp. 110 111

¹² All information for the Robins obtained from: Florence Robins, "Merien Richard Robins," unpublished manuscript, ND, as dictated by Kenith Robins.

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Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House, Scipio, Millard County, UT

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 1

Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House, Scipio, Millard County, UT

Common Label Information:

- 1. Robins, Merien & Rosabelle, House
- 2. Scipio, Millard County, Utah
- 3. Photographer: J. Cory Jensen
- 4. Date: February 2001
- 5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1:

6. South elevation of building. Camera facing north.

Photo No. 2:

6. North & east elevations of building. Camera facing southwest.

Photo No. 3:

6. North & west elevations of building. Camera facing southeast.

Photo No. 4:

6. South & west elevations of building. Camera facing northeast.

Photo No. 5:

View of site. Camera facing northwest.



Merien Robins House c. 1930s

Merien Fobius House possibly 1970s or 1405