

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

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

For HCRS use only

received JAN 23 1980

date entered FEB 28 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic John Murdoch Houseand/or common John Cummings House (second owner)

## 2. Location

street & number 261 North 400 West St not for publicationcity, town Heber City vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 01state UT code 049 county Wasatch code 051

## 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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Raiford L. Frenchstreet & number 261 North 400 Westcity, town Heber City vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state UT

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wasatch County Courthousestreet & number Main Streetcity, town Heber City state UT

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

## 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**

In 1880, John Murdoch built a substantial 1 1/2 story frame and adobe home in Heber City, Utah to replace the log and dugout home his family had occupied there since 1860.

The home is an asymmetrical, cross plan structure. Steep cross gables, the symmetrical main facade and hipped roof front porch with turned supports contribute to the Gothic Revival allusions.

Built on a fieldstone foundation, the home was constructed of frame with pine siding scored vertically every eighteen inches to give the appearance of stone. Adobe insulates the walls.

Exterior ornament includes a wide moulded cornice with gable end returns turned porch support, and moulded window sills and pedimental headers of a Classical flavor for the two over two double hung windows. The front door contains an oval light which is surrounded by carved floral motifs. Shutters are a later addition, as is the stone facing on the front porch floor. A picket fence of a fine milled motif marks the front yard boundary.

A rear, hipped porch, identical to the front porch configuration wraps around the back. A laundry room/bathroom encloses part of one side porch, though the siding has been made to match the original scored pine.

The interior arrangement on the first floor is a hall (dining room) and parlor with central hall, and a rear kitchen. Upstairs are four bedrooms, one of which (in the south) has been divided to accommodate a second bathroom. Also upstairs is the secret space built into the home (ca post 1890) as a hiding place in the event of a polygamy raid.

Fine hand-graining is extant in the dining room and parlor on the first floor. Originally it had existed throughout the first floor rooms.

The present owners, Raiford and Camille French, are involved in a restoration of the home, intending to preserve the original character as much as possible.

# 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 1880

Builder/Architect John Murdoch

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

John Murdoch's home is significant as a symbol of the economic and social evolution of a Utah Moromon sheep rancher whose family moved from a dugout, to a log home, to this fine Victorian residence. The use of materials signify an intention by Murdoch to appear even more affluent than he had already become. The interesting allusion to stone created by the scored pine siding is a "dishonest" use of materials (as is the interior hand-grained woodwork) fully acceptable before the twentieth century. A contemporary showplace, the home was intended to be pretentious as evidenced by the awareness of current architectural trends in the design, in the size and scale of the home, and in the illusionistic use of materials.

John Murdoch had emigrated from Scotland in 1852, his passage paid by Brigham Young who had given intructions to an agent in Great Britain to secure "2 Scotch shepherds" for his estates. Murdoch's involvement in the early woolen industry in Utah is discussed in The Peoples of Utah.<sup>1</sup> After striking out on his own as a farmer in the Heber Valley, Murdoch grew quickly in financial status and rapidly became an important figure in local politics and government.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Frederick S. Buchanan, "Imperial Zion: The British Occupation of Utah," The Peoples of Utah, Helen Papanikolas, ed. (SLC, UT: Utah State Historical Society, 1976), pp.69-70.

# 10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property less than one **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**  
 Quadrangle name Heber City, UT Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 2	4 6 4 4 1 5	4 4 8 4 3 7 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Commencing at a point South 1°01' West 97.92 ft from the Northeast corner of Block 110 of the Heber City Survey of Building Lots; and running thence South 1°01' West 97.92 feet; thence North 88°16'37" West 99.67 feet; thence South 1°01' West 4 ft; thence North 88°58' West 99.66 ft; thence North 1°01' East 99.66 ft; thence South 88°58' E

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** 99.66 ft; thence North East 1.74 ft; thence South 88°16'37" East 99.67 ft to point of beginning.

state	code	county
state	code	county

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diana Johnson/Architectoral Intern  
 organization Utah State Historical Society date \_\_\_\_\_  
 street & number 307 W 200 S telephone 533-6017  
 city or town SLC state UT

# 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 Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date December 27, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

W. Ray Luce date 2/28/80  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attent: