

**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 APR 17 1984

date entered

## 1. Name

historic MITCHELL, BYRON T., HOUSE

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Corner U.S. Highway Alt. 189 and State Highway 35 VT not for publication

city, town Francis vicinity of congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Summit code 043

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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
	<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 Chad L. Mitchell - Parley B. Mitchell

street & number 30 Club Lane - Francis, Utah 84036

city, town Cheshire vicinity of state Connecticut 06410

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Summit County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Coalville state Utah

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Byron Mitchell house is a 1 1/2 story brick house which combines elements of Gothic Revival, Second Empire, and Victorian design in an eclectic fashion common in late 19th-century Utah. The house consists of two rectangular units placed at right angles in an "L" configuration and is an example of the popular cross-wing house type. The home, as it was originally constructed, contained four rooms. The room on the bottom floor on the south was the kitchen and dining area; the room on the bottom floor on the north was used as a living room; and the two upstairs rooms were bedrooms. The stairs leading to the upper level were located at the northwest corner of the house.

The Mitchell house is constructed of locally produced brick. Mitchell, with the help of his brother who operated a brick kiln in nearby City Canyon, made the bricks for the house. Fired brick was used on the outside only, the inner layers and the interior walls were unfired or adobe brick. Mitchell did most of the carpentry himself and worked from an imaginative design. Using the basic cross-wing plan, Mitchell fashioned a house which successfully combined several later 19th century styles: the truncated hip roof suggests the Second Empire, the steeply pointed wall dormers on the ends of the wings as well as the bracketed cornice are features associated with the earlier Gothic Revival buildings in Utah, and the paired relieving-arched windows are typical of Victorian era brick buildings in the state. Despite these decorative flourishes, the home remains outwardly unassuming and presents the clean lines and symmetry favored by rural builders of the time. The Mitchell house remains one of the best examples of the architectural eclecticism which is characteristic of Utah during the 1880-1910 period.

The Mitchell house has been changed very little since its completion in 1897. The wood shingles on the roof have been replaced with asphalt shingles, which are now in a deteriorated condition. The house itself appears in excellent condition considering its long years of disuse. The stretcher bond brick walls and the ashlar limestone foundation show little signs of weathering. Most of the changes in the house have occurred on the inside. In about 1911 the kitchen and dining area was moved to the north room on the bottom floor. This was done to enable the south room to be rented out to Lucille Jensen who moved to Francis as the teacher of the local school. At that time a small room used as a pantry was enclosed underneath the stairs in the west wall of the north room. A small bathroom was added to the northwest corner of the bottom floor in about 1950.

There are several outbuildings located on the property, but they are not included in the nomination. Those outbuildings, considered important but not contemporary to the historic period of the house, are: a log barn, a frame granary, a root/fruit cellar immediately west of the house built by Byron Mitchell and his son, Parley Mitchell, in 1919; a well, dug by Parley Mitchell in the same year; a garage north of the house constructed by the Mitchells in 1920; and a milking barn and milk cooler building built about 1928 by Byron and Parley Mitchell.

## 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 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** 1897 **Builder/Architect** Byron Mitchell/Byron Mitchell

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Byron T. Mitchell house, built in 1897, remains an excellent example of late 19th-century architectural eclecticism in rural Utah. A pleasing mixture of Gothic, Second Empire, and Victorian elements, the house displays a sense of achievement and well being which served to establish the Mitchell family's status in the farming community of Francis. The house is unusual in the Provo River Valley area of Summit County because of it is constructed of brick. Most homes of similiar stature and age were built of wood, an abundant local commodity. The Mitchell house is also significant as the last unaltered 19th century farmhouse in Francis. Byron Mitchell, with the help of his brother, designed and built the house which today remains in excellent though neglected condition.

The town of Francis was first settled in the 1860s, primarily by homesteaders moving in from the adjacent communities of Kamas and Peoa. A lack of water for irrigation retarded growth on the Francis bench until 1873, when a canal was dug to bring water into the community from the Provo River. The availability of water, coupled with the surveying of the town into sections in 1880, made Francis an attractive location for homesteading and settlers began arriving in greater numbers by the middle 1880s. In addition to farming, local residents quickly saw the potential for developing the abundant timber resources in the nearby mountains and a lucrative lumber industry was soon in operation. It was at this point--a period of time lasting from about 1885 to 1905--that most of the early log homes of the original settlement period were replaced with larger, more substantial frame dwellings. [Several fine examples of the local wooden architecture have been listed on the National Register: the Oscar Lyons house c.1880 in Peoa, listed 1983, and the William Myrick home c. 1900 in Marion, listed 1982] It was during this time of local architectural development that the Byron T. Mitchell home was erected in Francis.

The Mitchell house, a 1 1/2 story cross-wing house, was constructed in 1897 by Byron Mitchell, the son of an early settler of Summit County. Byron Teancume Mitchell was born on March 28, 1872 in nearby Kamas. He father was Benjamin T. Mitchell, a stone mason and carpenter by trade. It seems likely that Byron learned some of the masonry skill which he later exhibited on his own house from his father. In 1895, at the age of 23, Mitchell married Emeline Anderson and it was at this time that the work on the new house in Francis was begun. The couple stayed with Mitchell's parents in Kamas while the construction was underway. Emeline's personal history contains the following description of the house: "We moved to Francis on April 1, 1897. Our house was not finished, it only had the floor part way and walls block adobe. In June we got it plastered and the floor finished. Our furniture was a stove, table, three chairs, and a bed, and a tub and a washboard, and a few dishes. I made a cupboard out of two boxes and put a curtain up for a door."

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Echoes of Yesterday: Summit County Centennial History, Summit County: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1947.  
 Interviews with Parley B. and Clara Louder Mitchell by Chad Mitchell, communication March 27, 1983.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.35 acres  
 Quadrangle name Francis Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

See Continuation Sheet.

**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 Chad Mitchell, assisted by Tom Carter/Architectural Historian  
 organization Utah State Historical Society date January 23, 1984  
 street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-6017  
 city or town Salt Lake City state Utah 84101

# 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

title A. Kent Powell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date March 20, 1984

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Beth Groover</u>	date <u>5/24/84</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Byron Mitchell was a farmer and owned acreage in and around Francis. He also homesteaded property in Lake Fork, Duchesne County, Utah. He died on June 27, 1948 and the property remained with his wife Emeline until her death ten years later. Parley B. Mitchell, the third son in the family and the current owner, acquired the home in 1958. A retired dairy farmer, he presently lives several houses away from this house and intends to keep it in the family. The house has been vacant for many years and suffers from such neglect. However, the house itself remains unaltered and in sound condition.

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Personal History, Emeline Anderson Mitchell, Original in possession of Parley B. and Clara L. Mitchell.

Summit County Records.

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Legal Description of Property

Commencing at a point 2 rods North of the Southeast corner of the Southeast quarter of Section 29, Township 2S, Range 6E, Salt Lake Meridian and running thence West 18 rods; thence North 12 rods; thence East 18 rods, thence South 12 rods to beginning. Excepting the following: Commencing at a point 2 rods North and 18 rods West of the Southeast corner of the Southeast quarter of Section 29, Township 2S, Range 6E, Salt Lake Base and Meridian and running thence East 22 ft; thence North 29 ft; thence West 22 ft; thence South 29 ft to the point of beginning.