

**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 6 1982  
date entered FEB 11 1982

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

**1. Name**

historic Dennis A. Smyth House  
and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 635 25th Street not for publication  
city, town Ogden vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 01  
state Utah code 049 county Weber code 057

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 checked="" 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 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 Erik M. Ward  
street & number 2285 East 6175 South  
city, town Ogden vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Weber County Recorders Office  
street & number Municipal Building  
city, town Ogden state Utah

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Utah Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date Spring 1981  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society  
city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

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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**

This two story brick residence is an outstanding example of Victorian Eclecticism in late nineteenth century Utah. It is situated on a corner lot and is oriented to the north and east, those walls having been composed of a unique combination of elements of the Second Empire, Moorish and Romanesque Revival styles.

It has a coved Mansard roof, characteristic of the Second Empire Style, which has a slight overhang. A paneled parapet once topped the roof edge, but it was removed during the recent restoration process.

The rectangular form of the southwest corner of the building gives away to an undulating wall surface on the north and east sides. A monumental rounded bay marks the northeast and is centered between two distinctive towers.

The bay is distinguished by slender round arched windows on both stories. Those on the second story rest on a belt course that marks the division of the two stories. The first story windows vary in length in order to indicate on the exterior the rise of the staircase on the interior. The windows have leaded glass in them with a stained glass trim.

The towers which vary in size and roof type both consist of a first floor entrance porch and a second story balcony. They both have round arch openings which are supported on short round columns on the second story balconies and square piers on the east porch and short columns with elaborate capitals on the north porch. Those round arches are reminiscent of the Romanesque Revival Style. The tower on the north side has a conical roof topped with a finial, and a curved second story balustrade. The tower on the east side has a bellcast hip roof topped with a small Moorish dome and a simple second story balustrade set into the porch roof.

The round arches of the towers are echoed in the elaborate window of the bay on the north wall, in the double door opening onto the second story balcony of the north tower, and in the simple windows of the three part bay on the east side. The northwest corner of the building is rounded and windows have been set into it.

The Smyth house is not only a combination of elements of various late nineteenth century styles, but it is also a unique composition which juxtaposes rounded and sharp edged forms. Rounded elements include the curve of the Mansard roof, the stair tower, the rounded northwest corner, the conical roof and the curved second story balustrade of the northwest tower, the arches of the porches, the curve of the bellcast roof of the east tower, and the variety of round arch windows. Sharp edged elements include the roof edge, the corners of the first story porches and the second story balcony of the east tower, the edges of the three part bay on the east side, the roof edge of the east tower, and the straight headed second story window openings. Both rounded and sharp edge elements have been combined to create a unique asymmetrical composition that may have been intended to epitomize the potential for visual expression in the eclectic spirit.

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The building was painted white and had a black slate roof prior to restoration. The paint was chemically removed and the roof was reshingled with wood shingles. The wood trim on the towers, porches and balconies has been repainted in several colors as it might have been painted at the time of construction. Except for a few minor alterations to the rear of the house, it is essentially unaltered and is in excellent condition.

Photographs on the interior indicate that some of the original wood trim, the bannister, the light fixtures, and the stained glass transoms are intact.

# 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 checked="" 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** ca. 1889 **Builder/Architect** /S.T. Whitaker

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Smyth House is significant as the best example of Victorian Eclecticism in Ogden and as one of the best examples of that type in the state. At the present time no other building in Utah has been identified which combines the elements of several high styles to create so unique a composition. The house is also significant as the residence of the colorful D. A. Smyth, a local businessman who was involved in managing several Ogden companies. The family also hosted several important dignitaries including President William Howard Taft. It was built in about 1889, designed by S. T. Whitaker.

The house located at 635 25th Street in Ogden, has been known by a number of names. Some of these include: Nye Villa, Smyth Villa, the Irish Castle and Christ the King Convent. The house was designed by a prominent Ogden architect, S. T. Whitaker and was built about 1889.

The original owner of the house was Ephraim H. Nye. Nye was part owner in Dalton, Nye and Cannon, a store specializing in stationery, books, and music and later a partner in Nye and Hobson. In about 1897, Nye and his wife Harriett, left Ogden and moved to San Francisco. In 1898, Dennis A. Smyth acquired the property but did not move into the house until about 1910.

Dennis A. Smyth was born in 1858 in County Cavan, Ireland. He came to the United States via Scotland in the late 1870s, settling in Laramie, Wyoming and worked there for twelve years with the Union Pacific. He went to Ogden in 1889. By 1895, he had become proprietor of the European Hotel and Diamond Sample Room, residing there until his move to this house. A real estate book entitled, Ogden, The Junction City stated that "D. A. Smyth, the general proprietor, boasts for Ogden by keeping one of the finest hotels in the state." In addition to his proprietorship of the hotel, Smyth was also vice-president of the J. P. O'Neill Construction Company and the Commercial National Bank, and vice-president of the Intermountain Land and Live Stock Company.

In addition to his business dealings, Smyth was a very colorful man as is illustrated in a letter from his daughter. She explained that her father owned a trained mowaw, which would ride on a perch in Mrs. Smyth's Pachard. The bird accompanied the family on trips to Mexico and Yellowstone.

During his later years, Smyth had lights strung from tree to tree and had wanted to put up colored lights at Christmas, an idea to which Mrs. Smyth sternly objected.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ogden, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A 

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4	1	9	2	7	10
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4	5	6	3	4	6	10
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Pt of Lot 7, Block 15 of Plat A of GSLC Survey; Beg at a pt. 233.25 ft. E of the NW corner of Lot 7; thence E 72 ft.; thence S 8 rods; thence W 72 ft.; thence N 8 rods to pt. of beg.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Fred Aegerter, Historian/Deborah R. Temme, Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date Spring 1981

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 Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date December 18, 1981

For HCERS use only

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

Melvin T. Smith  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 2/11/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Visitors to the home include President William Howard Taft to whom Smyth gave a ride up Ogden Canyon "at the high rate of speed of 35 miles an hour," which upset President Taft! He was also visited by Eamen de Valera, president of Ireland and the famous Irish singer and actor, Chauncy Allcot.

Smyth died January 3, 1922, leaving the house to his wife, Mary A. In 1939, Mrs. Smyth deeded the property to D. Lowell Kerr, etal and three years later, the house was deeded to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salt Lake.

The house served as a convent from 1948 through 1967. The Christ the King Convent was run by Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters.

The house was sold to Fred J. Hunger who used the house as a residence and business. Hunger later sold the house to the present owner. It is presently being used for commercial purposes, as a legal office.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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Polk Ogden City Directory, 1890-1970.  
Ogden, The Junction City, ca. 1910, p. 10.  
Letter from Mary Smyth Smith to Barbara Sabin, July 22, 1970.  
Abstract of Title, Ogden City Recorders Office  
Ogden Standard Examiner, "The Irish Cattle" November 29, 1979, p. 5 C.  
Ogden Standard Examiner, D. A. Smyth, January 3, 1922, p. 6.