

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

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

For HCRS use only  
received **OCT 27 1982**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Scorup, John Albert, House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number ~~Lot 2 Plat B~~ LOT 47 \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Bluff \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district

state Utah code 049 county San Juan code 037

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Dorothy C. and Colleen Nielson

street & number -----

city, town Bluff \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Juan County Courthouse

street & number -----

city, town Monticello \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Survey of Bluff, San Juan County, Utah has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1975-76 \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

The Scorup house is a large, rambling one-and-a-half story house built in 1904 of coursed ashlar sandstone blocks. The house consists of a hip-roofed central core around which gabled wings project--in almost a pinwheel fashion--to the west, north, and east. The house is notable for its size, profusion of gabled wall dormers, and Victorian decorative features. The various gabled wings are pedimented and contain wood shingled siding. Eight window and door dormers are to be found on the house elevations. On the first story, there are segmentally arched windows with keystones on the back and side elevations. More elaborate round arched openings are found on the principal bay on the facade. The first floor veranda and second floor balcony have been removed (dates unknown), though such alterations do not detract from the historic integrity of the home.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** 1904 **Builder/Architect** Stone Masons: Nick Loveless and Ed Thompson

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John Albert Scorup House, constructed 1903–1904, is significant for its association with John Albert (Al) Scorup, important in the development of livestock and banking in Southeastern Utah. His move from a small, rented log cabin to this house represents the first and most important visual manifestation of his newly acquired wealth in the Southwestern Utah cattle industry. A relatively latecomer to the San Juan Region, Al Scorup left his Salina, Sevier County home in 1891 at the age of 19 to take care of 150 cattle owned by Claude Sanford in the White Canyon area of San Juan County. For the next six years he worked for Mormon and non-Mormon cattlemen until 1897 when he signed a contract with the "Bluff Pool," a cooperative of Mormon cattle owners, to gather wild cattle from a sixty mile maze of junipers west of Bluff. Scorup collected 2,000 head netting a total of \$10,000 which provided the necessary capital to purchase and build a large herd making he and his brother/partner one of the largest cattle owners in the state. Al Scorup's success as a cattleman led him into banking where he was President of the First National Bank of Moab, Vice-President of the First State Bank of Salina, and active in the organization of the first bank in Blanding. His policy in banking was to keep economic resources generated in the region at work and available in the area rather than depending on outside investments. His life and the house constructed within a few years of his emergence as a successful cattleman, demonstrate the rise of a poor hard working cowboy to the owner of "Utah's largest cattle outfit."<sup>1</sup> Although Scorup moved to Provo in 1917, he was already a successful cattleman and the Bluff house represents the transition from a poor cowboy to a successful cattle entrepreneur.<sup>2</sup>

John Albert Scorup was born September 29, 1872 in Ephraim, Utah, the son of Christian C. and Karen Hansen Scorup, Mormon converts from Denmark who came to Utah in 1864. Developing an interest in cattle at an early age, he and his brother Jim "...rode stick horses around their yard in Salina and 'branded' imaginary calves with pieces of twisted wire."<sup>3</sup> As a teenager he herded for a number of cattlemen, including the Salina Grazing Company for whose herd he was given sole responsibility, and traveled by cattle train to Omaha, Nebraska. In 1891 he accepted an offer to work for Claude Sanford taking care of his 150 head of cattle in San Juan County's White Canyon area for which he was to receive 1/3 of the calves. Working with his brother and partner Jim, they herded Sanford's cattle and worked for other cattlemen in the area to secure the cash to sustain them. They also put together a herd of their own by borrowing cattle from their father and other livestock men in the Salina area to combine with their own. The brothers met with some success until the hard winter and low prices of 1896–97 left them with only 40 cows and a few calves. Desperate for cash, Al Scorup signed a contract with the Bluff Pool to round up cattle that had run wild for several years in the dense junipers and steep canyons west of Bluff. The \$10,000 which he earned in this venture allowed for the purchase of livestock and the gradual building up of an

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Lambert, Neal, "Al Scorup: Cattleman of the Canyons," Utah Historical Quarterly, XXXII (Summer 1964), 301-320.  
 Scorup, Stena, J. A. Scorup, A Utah Cattleman, 1944.  
 Walker, Don D., "The Cattle Industry of Utah, 1850-1900, An Historical Profile," Utah Historical Quarterly, XXXII (Summer 1964), 190.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Bluff, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes all of Lot 2, Plat B, Bluff survey.  
 (No block number was assigned to this area which comprises the extreme eastern portion of Bluff.)

### 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 Kent Powell, Historian/Tom Carter, Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date Summer 1982

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 2/18/83

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Luida McClelland date 2/13/83  
 Keeper of the National Register

for Patrick Andrews date 4/13/83  
 Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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extensive herd which gave the two brothers one of the largest cattle outfits in Utah.

On January 2, 1895, Al Scorup married Emma Bayless of Bluff. They established their home in Bluff where six children, all daughters, were raised. In 1903 construction began on this house with Nick Loveless (also spelled Lovelace and Lovice) and Ed Thompson stone masons. Out of concern for his wife's health and a desire for his daughter<sup>s</sup> to attend a university, Al Scorup moved his family from Bluff to Provo in 1917. At this time the Scorup brothers sold out their San Juan County holdings in the Wooden Shoe-White Canyon area to Jacob Adams and his brother intending to leave the southeastern Utah cattle business. However when the Indian Creek Cattle Company was offered for sale, Al Scorup persuaded Bill and Andrew Somerville to join in the purchase of the large holdings. Known as the Scorup-Somerville Cattle Company their cattle operation was recognized as the largest in the state.

Emma Scorup died in January 1935 and later in the year Al Scorup married Laura Wilson Shuppe, a 45 year old widow. Leaving the Provo house in the care of his daughter Veda, he moved to Moab where he lived until his death on October 5, 1959.

Notes

<sup>1</sup>Charles S. Peterson, Look to the Mountains: Southeastern Utah and the LaSal National Forest, Provo, Utah, Brigham Young University Press, 1975, p. 100.

<sup>2</sup>Two other houses also document the significance of the livestock industry to southeastern Utah--the James Bean Decker House and the Lemuel Hardison Redd, Jr. House in Bluff. These houses were identified and documented as part of a study of the town of Bluff as a potential historic district nomination. After application of the four criteria and review of integrity questions, these three houses, along with the Jens Nielson House (listed in the National Register on 2/22/82) and Old Fort Cabins were considered eligible for nomination. A related nomination is the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail which is the road constructed by settlers of Bluff to reach the San Juan River (listed in the National Register on 8/8/82).

<sup>3</sup>Neal Lambert, "Al Scorup: Cattleman of the Canyons," Utah Historical Quarterly, Summer, 1964, Volume 32 Number, 3, p.301.