OMB NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic   Nielson, N. S. House

and/or common   Jones House

2. Location

street & number   179 West Main   ___ not for publication

city, town   Mt. Pleasant   ___ vicinity of   ~~congressional district~~

state   Utah   code 049   county Sanpete   code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_X_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	N/A ___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name   Ruth Jones

street & number   179 West Main

city, town   Mt. Pleasant   ___ vicinity of   state   Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.   Recorder's Office

street & number   Sanpete County Courthouse

city, town   Manti   state   Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title   Sanpete County Survey   has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes _X_ no

date   July 1980   ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records   Utah State Historical Society

city, town   Salt Lake City   state   Utah

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The N. S. Nielson house is a late 19th century example of Victorian eclecticism in rural Utah architecture. The house consists of extremely diverse stylistic elements imposed upon a rather commonly encountered "T" floorplan. In this case, the unknown builder and/or architect used a standard vernacular house plan as a vehicle for displaying a unique and highly successful combination of Second Empire, Queen Anne, and Beaux-Arts Classical external motifs.

The Nielson house is a 1 1/2 story brick structure which, stripped of its ornamental trim, is a gable-facade "T" vernacular type. This type, found throughout Utah in a great number of stylistic configurations, contains a centrally located hallway along the stem of the "T". The Nielson house has a gabled rear kitchen extension, a feature which may or may not be found on houses of this floor plan type . It is the eclectic stylistic design of this house which makes it exceptional.

Anchored firmly in the crook of the "T" is a two-story square tower with a bell-cast mansard roof. This centrally located tower projects out from the plane of the wall and creates a small pavilion which contains the front entrance hall. The mansard roof displays a gently curving ogee profile and is topped by wrought-iron cresting. The original tin plating has been covered, as has the rest of the roof, with asbestos shingles. The tower is frame above the first story and has a tripartite front window and a surface of decoratively recessed panels. The tower gives the Nielson house an overall Second Empire feeling, but the front porch is distinctively classical in design.

The front porch exhibits an interesting collection of Beaux Arts Classical details. A pedimented portico with balcony of recessed paneling projects out over the front entrance. The portico entrance is a massive cut-stone, rounded arch, supported by three small columns on each side. A porch extends along the facade and ends at the NW corner in a circular porch with a conical roof. The porch is supported by stylized ["Tuscan"] columns. The tympanum and frieze are enriched with applied decoration -- garlands on the frieze and a symetrical floral design within the closed pediment. Classical details also are found on the rear kitchen porch.

Rounding out the eclectic architectural appointments of the home are elements regularly found on late 19th century Victorian structures in Utah. Multi-hued leaded windows are enclosed under limestone segmental arches on both the north and west gables as well as on the side of the central pavilion. Upstairs windows are enframed by pedimented heads. The brick walls are painted a dark red and the mortar is black. The house and porch foundations are rusticated limestone.

8. Significance

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The N. S. Nielson house, constructed in about 1892, is an outstanding example of eclectic architectural design in rural Utah. Successfully blending Second Empire, Beaux-Arts Classicism, and Queen Anne stylistic elements within the overall structure of a popular vernacular house form, the Nielson house in Mt. Pleasant illustrates well the creativity and aesthetic diversity of late 19th century domestic architecture in Utah. Furthermore, built by a local banker, sheepman, and entrepreneur, the Nielson house represents the economic prosperity which Mt. Pleasant enjoyed as the financial center of a rapidly expanding Intermountain livestock industry.

The late-nineteenth century in Sanpete County was a time of growth and prosperity associated with the rapid expansion of the local livestock industry.[1] A combination of factors were responsible for the economic "take-off" of the period: First, the Sanpete terrain and climate proved ideal for the development of an efficient summer-winter grazing system; second, peace treaties with the local Indian tribes had opened up a vast acreage capable of supporting large herds of sheep; and third, the railroad connected Sanpete to the Salt Lake City markets in 1891.[2] The wealth created by this livestock boom produced a new local elite with both the money and desire to redefine their status in their communities by means of new architectural symbols. In builidng new houses for thier families, these livestock men rejected traditional dwelling farms in favor of designs then in vogue in Utah's urban centers.[3] The prestigious architecture of the period was found in the various styles associated with the Victorian era.

Like other areas of the country, nineteenth-century Victorian architecture in Utah was based upon a picturesque aesthetic which championed irregularity of plan, asymmetrical facades, textured wall surfaces, and complex roof lines.[4] The period was also characterized by eclecticism--the willingness to combine and integrate historical styles and features in order "to create something comfortable and charming, using anything and everything that served the purpose," rather than striving for authenticity and integrity of any particular style.[5] The N. S. Nielson house in Mt. Pleasant, combining Second Empire, Beaux-Arts, and Queen Anne stylistic elements into a successful whole, is an excellent example of the eclectic spirit which surfaced in Utah communities during the 1880-1910 period.

N. S. Nielson was born in Sweden in 1848. After converting to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Nielson traveled to Utah in 1868 with his sister Hannah. Locating first in Moroni, he tried farming and mining before moving to Mt. Pleasant in 1869. Settled in 1859, Mt. Pleasant was just

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lever, W. H. *History of Sanpete and Emery Counties*. Ogden: W. H. Lever, 1898.
Longsdorf, Hilda Madsen. *Mt. Pleasant*. Mt. Pleasant: Pioneer Historical Association, 1959.
Sanpete County Records.
Interview with Mrs. Ruth Jones by Tom Carter June 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property __Less than one__

Quadrangle name __Mt. Pleasant__   Quadrangle scale __1:24000__

UMT References

A |1,2| |4,6,0,6,5,0| |4,3,7,7,3,1,0| B |__| |__| |__|
　Zone Easting　　　 Northing　　　　　　 Zone Easting　　 Northing

C |__| |__| |__| D |__| |__| |__|

E |__| |__| |__| F |__| |__| |__|

G |__| |__| |__| H |__| |__| |__|

Verbal boundary description and justification

North ½ of Lot 2, Block 41, Plat A, Mt Pleasant Survey.

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　Tom Carter, Architectural Historian

organization　Utah State Historical Society　　date　November 1981

street & number　300 Rio Grande　　telephone　(801)　533-6017

city or town　Salt Lake City　　state　Utah

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national　　___ state　　_x_ 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer　　date　June 7, 1982

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

_____　　date　7-26-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____　　date　7-22-82

Chief of Registration

NPS Form 10-900-a
(7-81)

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emerging from its pioneer stage of development and offered excellent
opportunities for a young man with thoughts of improving his position. At
this time, Nielson became disenchanted with the authoritarian nature of the
LDS Church and left the religion. In the early 1870s, many local
Scandinavians shared similar feelings toward the Mormon faith and organized a
branch of the Presbyterian Church. In Mt. Pleasant tradition, this movement
is known as "the Swedish Apostasy."

In 1872, Nielson and his brothers, Andrew and Hans "clerk," joined other
disaffected Mormons as stockholders in the Sanpete County Cooperative Store.
This merchantile business proved extremely successful and in its early years
was known as the "Swedish" store. Later, it was called the "Gentile," or
non-Mormon, store and in 1888 it was moved into a fine new brick building on
Main Street (the Sanpete Co-op was listed on the National Register in 1979 as
part of the Mt. Pleasant Historic Commercial District). By 1877 Nielson was
starting out in the cattle business and in 1883 purchased his first sheep. By
1900 he was one of the leading sheep ranchers in Sanpete County, owning a herd
of nearly 10,000 head and is said to have bought and sold nearly 20,000 sheep
in 1897 alone. Nielson later became president of the Mt. Pleasant Commercial
and Savings Bank and served one term as mayor in 1896-1897. Nielson died in
1925.

Notes

[1]For an overview of Sanpete Architecure see, Tom Carter, "A Hierarchy of
Architectural Values," The Other 49'ers: The History of Sanpete County, ed.
Albert Antrei (Manti: Sanpete County Commission, in press).

[2]See Everett H. Mecham, "The History of the Sheep Industry in Utah,"
thesis, University of Utah, 1925.

[3]For an overview of nineteenth-century architectural styles in Utah, see
Peter L. Goss, "The Architectural History of Utah" Utah Historical Quarterly
43:3 (Summer 1975), pp. 216-227.

[4]Leland M. Roth, A Concise History of American Architecture (New York:
Harper and Row, 1979), pp. 150-60.

[5]Walter C. Kidney, The Architecture of Choice: Eclecticism in America,
1880-1930 (New York: George Braziller, 1974), p. 6. Also see, Richard W.
Longstreth, "Academic Eclecticism in American Architecture," Winterthur
Portfolio, 17:1 (Spring 1982), pp. 55-82.