

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0674907

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 9 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAY 21 1979

**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

FORTUNATO ANSELMO HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

Ronald L. Beers House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

164 South 900 East St.

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

02

STATE

Utah

CODE
049

COUNTY

Salt Lake

CODE

035

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ronald L. Beers ✓

STREET & NUMBER

164 South 900 East

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah 84102

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Salt Lake City Recorder--City and County Building

STREET & NUMBER

400 South State Street

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

The Fortunato Anselmo house is a two and one-half story brick residence in a Victorian house pattern book "box style." Its roof is of a hip construction, with two dormers, one facing east and another facing north. Each dormer has two window openings, each containing nine square glass panes. The front facade, facing east, is comprised of an entry, to the north, and a large fixed sash window to the south--each has a leaded glass transom. An end wall porch is supported by six wood columns sitting upon a wood railing (the columns were originally ionic).

All other first and second story windows are double hung sash with patterned shutters added later to the first and second story front windows which detract very much from the simplicity of the front facade. The house has two end wall chimneys, located on the south end. A frame addition (n.d.) was placed on the back (west end) of the dwelling.

Much of the building's exterior character remains, and the present owner desires to restore it as much as possible, as well as to restore some of the interior features. Further research disclosed that a wood railing once existed around the second level of the end wall porch.

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Immigration
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1903	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Silas B. Wood
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Anselmo house derives its significance as the residence of Fortunato Anselmo, Italian vice consul in Salt Lake City for forty-one years. Anselmo, as vice consul, served a vital and necessary role in the lives of Italian people in the states of Utah and Wyoming, as well as being of significance in the political, social, and civic environment of Salt Lake City.

The house was originally built by Silas B. Wood, a carpenter, in 1903. Building registries indicate that a permit was issued May 9, 1903, for a nine-room residence with an estimated cost of \$4,000.¹ Wood was later listed in city directories as a contractor, and in 1907 joined with prominent architect John A. Headlund to form Headlund and Wood, Architects, a partnership which lasted only until 1910.²

Oscar G. Hemenway and his wife Rebecca acquired the house in December 1905. Hemenway was head of Hemenway & Moser, Wholesale Cigars, located at 73 West 200 South, Salt Lake City. In April, 1908, Frank B. and Emma Zina Gawan purchased the property and resided there until 1920. Gawan served as the superintendent of P. J. Moran, contractor, who operated an asphalt paving plant on Canyon Road.³

The house became the residence of Fortunato and Anna Anselmo in 1920, and remained as such until 1950. It was during this period that the house attained specific significance as the residence of Italy's vice consul for Utah and Wyoming.⁴

Fortunato Anselmo was born October 1, 1883, in Grimaldi, Italy. He immigrated to the United States in the first decade of the Twentieth Century, settling with his sister in Pueblo, Colorado. While in Pueblo Anselmo found employment as a reporter for the Italian-American newspaper Il Vindice, and also engaged in mercantile interests. He moved to Salt Lake City in 1911, and operated a wholesale imported food business, F. Anselmo & Co.⁵

Fortunato had married Anna Pagano in Pueblo in 1909. Upon his residency in Utah he founded, in about 1912-1913, La Gazzetta Italiana, quickly establishing himself as a spokesman within the Italian community. By 1915 Anselmo sold his newspaper interest upon being appointed Italian vice consul for Utah and Wyoming.⁶

His consular appointment was dated April 20, 1915, and the document signed by Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan. Through the vice consul's office passed all requests for passports, visas, and other papers and documents that required official approval of the Italian government in Rome. In addition, Anselmo served as a representative of the Bank of Naples, one of Italy's oldest and largest financial institutions.⁷ In this capacity he handled the sending of money orders by local Italians to relatives and friends back in the "old country." Such a function was critical and of vital importance to immigrants who had ventured to America with aspirations of attaining wealth, and sending money back in support of families, often living in a depressed economic condition. Anselmo soon became both friend and official adviser to Utah and Wyoming Italians.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anselmo, Fortunato. Papers. In possession of his daughter, Annette Anselmo.
 Notarianni, Philip F. "Italianita in Utah: The Immigrant Experience," in Helen Z. Papanikalos, ed. The Peoples of Utah. Salt Lake City, 1976, pp. 303-331.
 ----- "The Italian Immigrant in Utah: Nativism (1900-1925)." M.A. thesis, University of Utah, 1972.
 Polk, R. L. & Co. Salt Lake City Directory, 1904-1951.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 2	4, 2, 7, 0, 0, 0	4, 5, 1, 2, 8, 7, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing 10 rods north of the southwest corner of Lot 1, Block 55, Plat B, Salt Lake City Survey, and running thence west 7 rods; thence south 3 rods; thence east 7 rods; thence north 3 rods to place of commencement.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Philip F. Notarianni, Preservation Historian

DATE

Utah State Historical Society

October 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

307 West 200 South, Suite 1000

(801) 533-6017

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Salt Lake City

Utah

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE J. Phillip Keene, III, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 12, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5-21-79

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-21-79

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While official census reports indicate a high of 3,225 foreign-born Italians in Utah in 1920, and 1,948 in Wyoming,⁸ actual numbers were higher due to the movement of many workers throughout the intermountain area. Numerous Italians were employed in the mining, milling, smelting, and railroad industries; and as such formed a portion of a fluid population, traveling from mining camp to mining camp, or working on highly mobile railroad section gangs. In the final analysis, Italians formed one of the largest groups of southern and eastern European stock in the state of Utah.⁹

Fortunato Anselmo as vice consul involved himself actively in the political and social scene of Salt Lake City. Within the scope of this involvement his residency at 164 South 900 East served as a location for official receptions, and a place of entertainment. Italian dignitaries and personalities, as well as numerous public officials often visited the Anselmo home as guests, with many such affairs having gained local press coverage. In actuality, while Anselmo's consular office was located at his place of business, 249 Rio Grande St., his home functioned as his social office, illustrating a characteristic of Italians, stressing the home as the center for social activity.

In 1917 the vice consul became politically active by lobbying the Utah State Legislature to have Christopher Columbus Day declared a legal state holiday. A rising tide of pro-immigration restriction sentiment resurfaced during and after World War I, stressing the "inherent" differences between northern and southern and eastern Europeans. Anthropologists, sociologists, historians, eugenicists, and politicians joined others in proclaiming the inferior nature and character of the latter group. Anselmo undoubtedly sought to combat this view and seek some type of recognition for the Italian nationality by placing an emphasis on Columbus as "the herald of Liberty which our people [all Americans] now enjoy." The 1917 effort proved futile, but on March 13, 1919, Utah Governor Simon Bamberger signed into law House Bill Number 130, which amended Section 2896 of the Compiled Laws of Utah, 1917, making October 12, Columbus Day, a legal state holiday.¹⁰

On October 13, 1919 the largest Columbus Day celebration in Utah's history occurred. The Salt Lake Telegram labeled the affair as "one of the most pretentious pageants ever held in the city . . ." ¹¹ Residents from various states, ethnic communities, and political and religious preferences joined the celebration; thus, reflecting a basic sense of cooperation and mutual respect on the part of both the Italian and non-Italian communities. It provided an occasion with which both groups could identify, acting as another common denominator indicating that an accommodation to the American environment was in progress.

Fortunato Anselmo involved himself deeply in the lives of the immigrants and their families. They looked to him for aid in solving many of the problems encountered in daily life. The spectrum of this assistance ranged from his helping to bring relatives from Italy to Utah, translating Italian into English, to acting as an adviser when legal matters were in question. In a title of respect, he was "Don Anselmo." On March 8, 1924, the Castle Gate Mine Number 2, in Carbon County, Utah, exploded killing 172 men, twenty-two of whom were Italians. Anselmo, with Catholic prelate Monsignor Alfredo F. Giovannoni, quickly attended to the needs of the grieved families.¹² The vice consul traveled often, visiting the areas where groups of Italians resided.

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At his home Anselmo greeted many dignitaries and celebrities. In 1920-1921 Italian Ambassador to the United States, Vittorio Rolandi-Ricci, was entertained there, while in 1930 Italian heavyweight fighter Primo Carnera figured among visitors. In 1936 Anselmo met Italian and Catholic dignitaries at the Salt Lake airport. Included in the group were Italian Count Enrico Gallazzo, Archbishop Francis J. Spellman (later Cardinal), and Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, who was to become Pope Pius XII. Local Catholic and Mormon officials also visited the vice consul, as did countesses, entertainers, and a wide variety of personages.¹³

In recognition of his consular service Fortunato Anselmo received two honors from the Italian government. He was awarded the Cross of "Cavaliere della Corona d'Italia" (Knight of the Crown of Italy) and in 1922 he received an elevation to "Ufficiale della Corona d'Italia" (Officer of the Order of the Crown of Italy).¹⁴ Anselmo became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1923, and as such was ordered by the Mussolini government to resign his post. He was to remain until a successor could be appointed; however, since no one was named, Anselmo remained until the office formerly closed in 1941.¹⁵

The office closed in July 1941 upon order of the American government. The Italian embassy was directed to cease operations at the agency; consequently, Anselmo packed documents, seals, stamps, etc. and sent them to the embassy in Washington.¹⁶ He was reappointed in 1950, and remained as vice consul until his death on July 15, 1965; thus, he had served as consular agent forty-one years. He was survived by his wife Anna, and daughters Annette Anselmo, Mrs. Gilda Bravi, and Mrs. Emma Veltri.¹⁷

The Anselmo family left their Ninth East residence in 1950, moving to 1253 East 200 South (where Annette still resides). Hilda Beer, of Salt Lake City, purchased the home, and later sold it to its present owner, Ronald L. Beers, who has plans to restore it as much as possible to its original state.

Thus, the Fortunato Anselmo home symbolizes a key element in the theme of Italian immigration into Utah and Wyoming. As the residence for thirty years of the Italian consular agent, the home served as the vice consul's social office and is a remnant reminding Utahns of the numerous contributions made by Fortunato Anselmo.

¹Salt Lake City, Register of Buildings, 1900-1904, Permit Nos. 2958-2959 (located at the Utah State Historical Society Library). Permit number 2958 was issued for a "frame barn" estimated at \$300.

²R. L. Polk & Co., Salt Lake City Directory, 1904, p. 913; 1905, p. 1016; 1907, p. 1142; 1910, p. 1146. John A. Headlund designed various important Salt Lake City structures, one of which was the Emanuel Baptist Church.

³Salt Lake City Abstracts, Lot 1, Block 55, Salt Lake City Plat B, Salt Lake County Recorder's Office; Polk, Salt Lake City Directory, 1907, p. 510; 1908, p. 523; 1909, p. 444.

⁴Ibid. Polk, Salt Lake City Directory, 1921, p. 83; 1951, p. 60.

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⁵Biographical information on Anselmo was derived from the following sources: Salt Lake Tribune, July 4, 1941, p. 9; Salt Lake Tribune, July 16, 1965, p. 8B; Utah Since Statehood. Volume II (Salt Lake City, 1919), pp. 495-496; Zopito Vallentini, comp., Attività Italiane Nella Intermountain Region (Salt Lake City, 1930), pp. 46-47; Fortunato Anselmo Papers, in possession of his daughter Annette Anselmo. The company's name was listed in the 1912 Salt Lake City Directory as Anselmo & Pagano. For a colorful and well written account of the experiences of the Pagano (and Anselmo) family see Jo Pagano, Golden Wedding (New York, 1943).

⁶Salt Lake Tribune, July 16, 1965, p. 8B; Utah Since Statehood, p. 496.

⁷Salt Lake Tribune, July 4, 1941, p. 9; Utah Since Statehood, p. 496.

⁸Andrew F. Rolle, The Immigrant Upraised Italian Adventures and Colonists in an Expanding America (Norman, 1968), p. 350.

⁹A general discussion of Italians in Utah is found in Philip F. Notarianni, "Italianita in Utah: The Immigrant Experience," in Helen Z. Papanikolas, ed. The Peoples of Utah (Salt Lake City, 1976), pp. 303-331.

¹⁰Philip F. Notarianni, "The Italian Immigrant in Utah: Nativism (1900-1925)," (M.A. thesis, University of Utah, 1972), pp. 14-51, 66; Fortunato Anselmo, "A Memorial to the Legislature of Utah--1919--Columbus Day," copy in possession of the Utah State Historical Society; Simon Bamberger, "Governors Correspondence Papers, Letters of Transmittal P-Q 1919," Utah State Archives. Anselmo was honored on the floor of the U.S. Senate in 1974 for his efforts in having Columbus Day declared a legal national holiday. See Senate Bill No. 18974, Congressional Record-Senate, October 11, 1974.

¹¹Salt Lake Telegram, October 13, 1919.

¹²The Sun (Price, Utah) March 21, 1924, p. 1.

¹³Fortunato Anselmo Papers; Salt Lake Tribune, May 12, 1930, p. 10 (article about Primo Carnera). Among Anselmo papers is a large scrapbook containing the calling cards of many who visited the Anselmo house.

¹⁴Salt Lake Tribune, July 16, 1965, p. 8B. He also received the medal of merit, as well as a later Papal Blessing from Pope Paul VI for his work with Italian immigrants.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Salt Lake Tribune, July 4, 1941, p. 9. The newspaper article stressed Anselmo's loyalty to the United States.

¹⁷Salt Lake Tribune, July 16, 1965, p. 8B.

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Salt Lake City Abstracts, Lot 1, Block 55, Salt Lake City Plat B. Salt Lake County Recorder's office.

Salt Lake Telegram, October 13, 1919.

Salt Lake Tribune, July 4, 1941; July 16, 1965.

Utah Since Statehood, Volume II. Salt Lake City, 1919.

Vallentini, Zopito, comp. Attivita Italiane Nella Intermountain Region. Salt Lake City, 1930.