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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUN 27 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name HUBER, JOHN, HOUSE AND CREAMERY  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Off Snake Creek Road N/A not for publication  
city, town Midway X vicinity  
state Utah code UT county Wasatch code 051 zip code 84049

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

No. of contributing resources  
previously listed in the  
National Register -0-

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

*Max Johnson*

*6-20-88*

Signature of certifying official

Date

UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

*Carol D. Shull*

*8-11-88*

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register.

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register.

\_\_\_ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

other: hall-parlor

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### Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone (pot rock)

walls wood (weatherboard)

limestone (pot rock)

roof wood

other \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Huber Farmstead consists of an 1878 one-story, frame, hall-parlor house, a c. 1880s 1-1/2 story stone creamery, and some of the surrounding orchard and farm land that was historically part of the farmstead. The house has been vacant for over 25 years and has deteriorated as a result. A rear lean-to addition (date unknown) has been removed and the full-width front porch has also been taken down. Overall, however, the house retains its original integrity. The creamery has remained virtually unaltered from its original appearance.

The John Huber House is a one-story hall-parlor house with a gable roof and board-and-batten exterior walls. It has a symmetrical facade consisting of a doorway flanked by two windows. It sits on a foundation of "pot rock," a local limestone material (travertine) formed by "hot pots" or hot springs in the vicinity. The balloon frame walls are infilled with soft-fired brick, apparently for insulative purposes. There is a one-story lean-to addition attached to the right (north) side of the house (probably 1870s or '80s). It sits on a pot rock foundation and has clapboard siding on the exterior walls. The walls of this section have also been infilled with brick.

The house is in somewhat deteriorated condition on both the interior and exterior. The shingles are virtually gone, and there are a few wall sections, particularly at the rear, where the siding has been removed. As mentioned above, the rear lean-to addition and the front porch have been removed because of structural failure. The interior has been vandalized somewhat, though the openings have recently been boarded over to prevent access.

The creamery is constructed entirely of pot rock, with walls two feet thick. It has a gable roof with the doorways set in the gable end. There is a ground-level doorway into the "basement" and an upper-level doorway accessible by a exterior stairway and porch. The basement area is a single room with no windows. The upper story consists of two rooms, one behind the other, which served as bedrooms. The creamery is in relatively good condition, though settling has caused a few severe cracks in the exterior walls.

Also located on the property, just north of the house, are a small frame outhouse and evidence of a collapsed root cellar. Neither are counted as contributing resources on the property. The root cellar is beyond recognition as a man-made structure, and the outhouse was very possibly constructed outside the historic period.

The Huber house and creamery are located on approximately eight acres of the original farm, the only portion that has not been extensively altered. Some of the original orchards remain on this property. Most of the surrounding land has been converted into a golf course. The barn and other outbuildings associated with the farm were located across the road to the south on land that is now part of the golf course.

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:      nationally      statewide   X   locally

Applicable National Register Criteria      A   X   B      C      D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)      A      B      C      D      E      F      G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

  Ethnic Heritage: European  

  1878-1914  

  1878  

  Religion  

Cultural Affiliation

  N/A  

Significant Person

  Huber, John  

Architect/Builder

  unknown/Huber, John (probably)  

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The John Huber House and Creamery, constructed in 1878 and c. 1885, respectively, are historically significant for their association with John Huber, a Swiss immigrant who was instrumental in converting to Mormonism many of his countrymen and in bringing scores of those converts to settle in Utah and Midway during the late nineteenth century. After joining the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon church), Huber served as a missionary in his native land on two occasions, 1860-63 and 1871-74. Many of those whom he converted to the church also followed his advice to settle in Midway after immigrating to the U.S. and "gathering with the Saints" in Utah. Huber presided over the Swiss and German mission from 1872 to 1874 and was involved in the translation and publication of a number of church publications and hymns. At the conclusion of both his missions he led groups of Swiss converts to the U.S.--60 converts in 1863 and approximately 160 in 1874. As a result of Huber's efforts, Midway became one of the few communities in Utah with a concentration of Swiss settlers. German language church meetings were held in the community with his assistance throughout the nineteenth century. The town still recognizes its Swiss heritage through the its annual Swiss Days celebration.

John Huber was born in Dodtnacht, Switzerland in 1840 and at the age of 21 joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon or LDS church). He served as a missionary for the church from 1861 until 1863, at which time he led a group of 60 Swiss converts to Utah where the church was headquartered. In 1863 he married Mary Magdalena Munz, a twenty year old Swiss immigrant who was among the party that he led to Utah.

  X   See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2

John Huber House and Creamery  
Midway, Wasatch County, Utah

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In 1864, after spending a short time in Payson, John and Mary Huber settled in the upper Provo River Valley in the area that would later become Midway. The upper Provo River Valley was first occupied by Mormons in 1859, with settlements established at Fort Heber and at locations on nearby Snake Creek. Displeased with the extent of Mormon intrusion into their country, the local Ute-Shoshone people rose up against the Mormon settlers in 1866. The ensuing Black Hawk War forced the Mormons to abandon the two Snake Creek communities and gather at a point midway between them for protection. Here, in a town appropriately called Midway, 75 log cabins were arranged fort-like around a 6-acre central enclosure. The Midway fort was maintained until the war ended in 1867. In that year the town was platted in gridiron arrangement according to Mormon custom, and a permanent village site was founded. People immediately began moving out to their new city lots.

In 1870 as John Huber was in the process of building a house in Midway he was called by church leaders to serve another mission in Switzerland. During the three years he was gone, his wife and four children lived in the partially built house. Upon his return in 1874 the house was completed. This house, located in the town proper, was apparently torn down and replaced by a newer house in early twentieth century.

During this second mission to Switzerland John Huber played a key role in Mormon church affairs in his homeland. From 1872 to 1874 he presided over the Swiss and German mission, directing the missionary work in those two countries. He also helped edit the "German Star," a German-language version of the church's Millennial Star newspaper, assisted with the initial publication of the Book of Mormon in German, and helped write various missionary tracts and translate others into German. John Huber also wrote a poems and songs and translated some hymns into German, some of which have persisted to the present in the church hymnal.

At the conclusion of his second mission in 1874, John Huber returned to his home in Midway, finishing the house that he had begun in 1870. In 1875 he purchased land at the mouth of Snake Creek where he eventually established his farm. But for two years he and his family lived at Cottonwood, across the mountain, where he helped ship granite from the quarry to Salt Lake City for use on the Mormon temple there. In 1878, after spending a short time in Salt Lake City, the Hubers moved back to Midway to their farm property and had a two-room frame house constructed there.<sup>1</sup> That house remained their home for the remainder of their lives. Lumber for the house was obtained from a sawmill farther up Snake Creek Canyon where the power plant now stands. Though John had operated a sawmill along Snake Creek in 1869, he devoted himself primarily to farming at this point in his life. He built up his farm over the years, purchasing additional land, planting orchards, and constructing a barn, corrals, root cellar, and creamery on the property. The creamery, with two bedrooms on the upper floor, helped accommodate his large family of ten children. In addition to farming, John also

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3 John Huber House and Creamery  
Midway, Wasatch County, Utah

---

spent some time as an auditor of store accounts in the neighboring towns of Heber City and Park City.<sup>2</sup>

Throughout his life, John remained active in local church and civic affairs. He served in the Midway Ward (congregation) of the Mormon church as ward clerk (1878-1908), founded a choir and directed it from 1880 to 1910, and he compiled the history of the ward, which was virtually a history of the town, from 1859 to 1905. He was a member of the Midway School Board for 24 years, a justice of the peace for two years, a census taker in 1880 and 1900, secretary of the Midway Irrigation Company for ten years, and local agent of crop reporting for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also taught a night classes in spelling and penmanship for adults, and was well known locally for the many songs and poems he composed.<sup>3</sup>

The house that John Huber built in 1878 served as his residence until his death in 1914. Mary continued to live there until her death in 1935. The house and farm passed to a son, Joseph, who lived there until 1960, when he sold it to the Division of State Parks and Recreation. State Parks developed a golf course on much of the farmland and adjacent property, tearing down all but the house and creamery in the process. These buildings have been left vacant for years, though tentative plans have been discussed for renovating and maintaining them as an interpretive historical site as part of Wasatch Mountain State Park.

Much of the Swiss heritage of the Midway area can be attributed to John Huber. Both he and his wife were Swiss, and, as documented above, he was instrumental in bringing scores of his countrymen to Utah to settle. The exact number of Swiss immigrants who settled in Midway as a result of John Huber's influence is unknown. Many of the Swiss families in the area have credited him with directing their ancestors to Midway.<sup>4</sup> The Swiss influence in Midway's early history were noted as early as 1872, when it was reported that most of the town's 80 families were Swiss.<sup>5</sup> That claim was probably somewhat exaggerated, though the number of Swiss immigrants settling in Midway was rapidly increasing at that time. The census records show that between 1870 and 1880 the percentage of Swiss in the town rose from 14.5 percent to 33.3 percent.<sup>6</sup> The local awareness of their Swiss heritage continued into the twentieth century, being expressed most explicitly in the construction of a "Swiss" style WPA city hall in 1939-41. The town's annual celebration, Swiss Days, continues to recognize the ethnic nature of many of the early settlers.

Midway is not the only town in Utah in which Swiss immigrants settled in significant numbers. The towns of Payson in north/central Utah, Santa Clara in southwestern Utah, and communities in Cache Valley and the Bear Lake region, had concentrations of Swiss as well. Midway, however, is probably the community best known statewide for its Swiss heritage. Whether the Swiss influence was actually strongest there is unknown; adequate ethnic studies have not been completed yet.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 4 John Huber House and Creamery  
Midway, Wasatch County, Utah

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The Swiss influence on the local built environment has not been documented to date, so it is difficult to assess the Huber house within a local context of Swiss-inspired architecture. The house features a hall-parlor plan, which was the most common type built in late-nineteenth century Utah. The creamery, with its cantilevered porch and masonry insulation between the floor joists, appears to exhibit certain German/Swiss construction techniques.

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Notes

<sup>1</sup>Mary Magdalena Huber Probst, "History of John Huber," p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Kate B. Carter, comp., "The Swiss in Midway," Heart Throbs of the West volume four (Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1943), p. 277.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>See biographical sketches in William James Mortimer, compiler and editor, How Beautiful Upon the Mountains (Heber City, Utah: Wasatch County Camp of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1963).

<sup>5</sup>Deseret Weekly News, 16 (October 9, 1872):36, p. 589.

<sup>6</sup>Children born in the U.S. to Swiss parents were counted among the Swiss population because they were part of a Swiss household.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Deseret News, John Huber obituary, November 27, 1914, p. 9
Esshom, Frank. Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah. Salt Lake City: Western Epics, Inc., 1966. Reprint of original 1913 publication.
Jenson, Andrew. Latter-Day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia, Volume IV. Salt Lake City: Andrew Jenson Memorial Association, 1936.
Probst, Mary Magdalena Huber. "History of John Huber." Unpublished typescript, 1934. Available at Utah State Historical Society Library.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

- Primary location of additional data:
[X] State historic preservation office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 8.17 acres

UTM References

Table with 4 columns: A, B, C, D. Each column contains Zone, Easting, and Northing coordinates.

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

X See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes a portion of the farmstead historically associated with John Huber and his home; other portions of the farmstead have been incorporated into a golf course.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephanie Deans/Park Ranger; Roger Roper/Historian
organization State Parks; State History date May 1988
street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-6017
city or town Salt Lake City state Utah zip code 84101



NPS Form 10-900a  
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Utah Word Processor Format (02741)  
Approved 10/87

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 2

John Huber House and Creamery  
Midway, Wasatch County, Utah

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point 1.5 chains S from the NW corner of the SE quarter of Sec 21, T3S, R4E, Salt Lake Meridian; thence along Snake Creek S 65\*13' E 7.15 chains; thence S 57\* E 11.92 chains; thence S 61\*15' E 10.86 chains; thence S 4 chains more or less to the road; thence along road N 63\* W 12.12 chains; thence N 35\*30' W 6.06 chains; thence N 61\* W 12.12 chains more or less to the W line of the SE quarter of Sec 21; thence N to beginning.