

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

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

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

For HCRS use only

received JUN 8 1983

date entered

1. Name

historic Cannon, George M., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 720 East Ashton Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Salt Lake City _____ vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Utah code 049 county Salt Lake code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A <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 checked="" 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 William A. and Diane B. Goldsmith

street & number 720 East Ashton Avenue

city, town Salt Lake City _____ vicinity of state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salt Lake City and County Building

street & number 400 South State Street

city, town Salt Lake City _____ state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Salt Lake City Central/
title Southern Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Salt Lake City Planning Department

city, town Salt Lake City _____ state Utah

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	date unknown	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The George M. Cannon House is a two story brick building constructed in 1890 which reflects the eclectic spirit of the late Victorian era. Built in a period when pattern book designs were used to create replicates of a popular type, the Cannon House stands as a unique creation. Elements common to Victorian designs such as brick corbeling, round arch windows, stained glass transoms, roof cresting and Eastlake porch elements have in this house been combined to create a statement of the possibilities of Victorian eclecticism unlike any other in Salt Lake City.

What is particularly unusual about this house is its orientation and massing. It has a longitudinal axis which runs east to west with the facade facing west. It is a very long building with an extremely narrow facade. As a result the north wall instead of the facade visually dominates because of its size. The house is an irregular box with a projecting bay on the north side, and two projecting bays and a frame porch on the south side. The rear section of the porch has been enclosed. Several one story brick additions have been made at the rear of the house. All appear to have been made in the historic period, except for the frame section between two brick sections. The southeast section has brick corbelling at the roof edge which may indicate that it was built before the unadorned addition on the northeast corner. These additions do not detract from the original integrity of the house.

Achieving variety of massing, color, shape, and texture typical of High Victorian architecture was clearly the aim of the architect. On the facade, for example, a gable pierces the roof edge framing a panel that runs down the length of the wall. Step corbelling echos the angle of the gable, and brick piers extending down from the gable ends further emphasize the central panel. Round arch windows highlighted by an upper edge of dark brick and a sandstone keystone are set into that section on the second story. A deep square bay projects to fill the first floor section of the central panel. It contains two broad single pane windows which have stained glass transoms. The windows are accented by sandstone linels and beading under the transoms. Even the slit window in the gable has been highlighted by a sandstone sill.

The attention to detail which is exhibited on the facade is also evident, though to a lesser extent, on other parts of the building. Patterns in the brickwork have created an active surface, and have given visual interest to what would have been large, flat areas of brick. Several belt courses break up the wall surface horizontally. The one between the two stories, and the one that is below the cornice are distinctive in that they are made of bricks turned at an angle. The internal chimneys on the north side of the building are indicated on the wall surface by nonfunctional raised panels of brick which echo the shape of the chimney inside the wall. Sandstone has been used to contrast with the brick and to provide accents on the surface of the building. There is a sandstone foundation and all of the double hung sash windows have sandstone sills and lintels. Small sandstone blocks have been used on the north wall to accent the corners of the projecting bay and the raised chimney panel. Roof cresting tops the house. It and the tall chimney enhance the verticality of the mass of the building.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 2

The house was divided into three apartments in the last ten years which necessarily has meant some alteration to the interior of the building. The rooms of the major bay, however, which are located behind the narrow facade, have received only minor alterations, and are essentially intact. The original Victorian moldings are still in place. On the exterior, the enclosing of the porch is the only major change. It is reversible, and does not greatly affect the integrity of the building. Other alterations include the addition of shutters to the north side of the building, the loss of the balustrade over the bay window, the addition of a small new porch to the entrance on the north side, and the loss of much of the original porch and the balustrade over it. Those changes could easily be rectified, and do not represent any permanent effect on the integrity of the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1890 **Builder/Architect** /John A. Headlund

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George M. Cannon House, built in ca. 1890, is significant as the only house associated with George M. Cannon, an important business and political leader, whose principle contribution to Salt Lake City's history was the establishment and promotion of Forest Dale, a residential streetcar suburb. The house documents the establishment of one of the earliest and most successful streetcar subdivisions in the city, and reflects a late nineteenth century trend of middle and upper class families to seek residences outside the older and more established areas of the city. It is also significant as one of the first buildings designed in Utah by John A. Headlund, a prominent local architect. As a unique creation, it documents the existence of and possibilities for eclecticism which came to dominate Utah's architectural endeavors in the late Victorian period. In addition to his real estate and business activities, Cannon also served as County Recorder from 1884 to 1890, a member of the state constitutional convention, chairman of the Territorial Republican Committee in 1895, and as president of the first state senate in 1896.

George M. Cannon was born in a wagon in St. George, Utah on December 25, 1861 to Angus M. and Sarah Mousely Cannon, Mormon pioneers who had been sent to help colonize Utah's Dixie several months before. Angus M. Cannon, who had been a member of the group sent to establish Parowan as the mother colony of the Iron Mission in Southern Utah in 1850, married sisters Sarah Mariah and Ann Amanda Mousely in 1858 before being called as a member of the St. George group. Angus served as mayor of St. George for four years, then returned to Salt Lake City in 1868, where he managed the LDS Church-owned Deseret News until 1874. Angus also served the church as president of the Salt Lake Stake from 1876 to 1904, while supporting his family with his wagon and implement business.

George Mousely Cannon attended school in Salt Lake City and worked for the Grass Creek Coal Company as a youth, weighing coal and keeping the company's accounts. In 1878 he graduated from the normal school at the University of Utah, but taught school for only a few years. In 1884 he was elected County Recorder, a position his father had held for the previous eight years, and which he held until 1890.

On December 25, 1885 he married Marian Adelaide Morris, daughter of Elias and Mary L. Morris. (Elias established in 1860 Elias Morris & Sons, a major supplier of stone and construction materials in the state, which is still in operation today.) In addition to raising her nine children, "Addie" Cannon served for thirty years in the presidency of the Forest Dale Ward Relief Society, seventeen years as president, and as an active member of the PTA.

After his term as County Recorder ended in 1890, George devoted full time to his real estate business, which he and his brother, John, had begun in 1886.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Obituary Index - Utah State Historical Society
 Salt Lake City Directories, 1890-1979
 Utah: Her Cities, Towns and Resources. Chicago: Manly and Litteral, 1891-92.
 Warrum, Noble. Utah Since Statehood. 3 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1919.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Sugar House Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Commencing 141.5 feet East from the Northwest corner of Block 9 of Forest Dale of Block 44 Ten Acre Plat A Big Field Survey; East 80.36 feet; South 90 Feet, 47-31' 40", East 23.83 feet; South 31 feet; West 86.5 feet; North 9.37 feet; 77-25'; West 19.47 feet; South 1.5 feet; North 51-40'; West 22.7 feet; North 10-20'; West 22.7 feet; North 10-20'; West 38.5 feet; North 23-40'; East 80 feet to beginning.

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deborah R. Temme/Architectural Historian & Roger V. Roper/Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date March 1983

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 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 5-25-83

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
jhr <u>Bob Groves</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>7/18/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 8

Page 2

Purchasing part of what had been Brigham Young's Forest Farm in 1889, he set about developing the area as a residential subdivision by dividing the land into building lots and renaming the area Forest Dale. The Forest Farm, which had been so named because of a grove of trees there, was used by Brigham Young as the site of his own dairy herd and as a sort of experimental farm for the territory, where several new crops were first tried. Some of those crops, such as alfalfa, sugar beets, and mulberry trees, later played important roles in agricultural and industrial developments in the territory. Brigham Young had a large frame house built on the farm in 1863,² which was used by one of his wives and others who helped run the farm. Young, however, never lived there himself.

Cannon realized that Forest Dale's success as a residential area depended on the availability of streetcar transportation to carry the residents the few miles that separated the development from town. He negotiated a contract with the streetcar company wherein, for a bonus of \$21,000, they would "furnish continuous service at a minimal rate of fare for twenty years."³ The area grew rapidly and young people especially found it to be ideal for residential purposes. Cannon instigated the successful move to incorporate the town of Forest Dale (500 East to Highland Drive, 2100-2700 South), in 1902, however, due to rising municipal costs, the town disincorporated in 1912 and was annexed back to Salt Lake City.

In 1892, George M. Cannon accepted the position of cashier of Zion's Savings Bank and Trust Company, but continued to be active in his real estate business as well. He was elected chairman of the Territorial Republican Committee in 1895, and served as a delegate to the state constitutional convention that same year. In 1896, when Utah was granted statehood, he was elected as a state senator and chosen to serve as president of the first senate.

Lucille Cannon Bennion, a daughter of George and Addie, and her husband, Glynn, bought the house from her father in 1935, although he lived with them for much of the time until his death in 1937. The Bennions lived here for about seven years, dividing the house into two apartments around 1940. Title to the property was transferred to Cannon Beneficial Realty Company in 1939, and in 1945 the house was sold to David H. and Inez H. Allred, who lived here only two years. David was the state director of the U.S. Production and Marketing Administration. Max D. Rodgers, who bought the house in 1947, lived here for only a few years in the mid-1950s, renting it out the remainder of the time until selling it in 1958. That year the property changed hands several times, from Rodgers to R. George Gregersen, to Harlan W. and Geraldine M. Clark, then to Morris D. and Blanche T. Webb, all of whom lived elsewhere and rented out this house. Franklin E. and Gwen Y. Wilcox bought the house in 1965, renting it out also until selling it in 1973 to William A. and Diane B. Goldsmith. Mr. Goldsmith is currently living in the house and renting out a rear apartment in the house.

This large, two story house was one of the first Utah buildings designed by John A. Headlund. Born and educated in Sweden, he came to the United States in 1880. After having initially settled in Kansas City, Missouri, working

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 3

Item number 8

Page 3

with the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad doing general work in the engineering department, he moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he was employed by the firm of Van Brunt and Howe as a superintendent. Later he was superintendent of the building enterprises of W. S. Stratton. Headlund first resided in Salt Lake City in 1889, when he designed the Cannon House, but returned to Colorado Springs until 1891. At that time he returned to Salt Lake City. His contribution to American architecture included the design and construction of more than five hundred buildings in Utah, Idaho, Nebraska and Wyoming.⁴ He is perhaps best remembered for his design of the Immanuel Baptist Church, 401 East 200 South, Salt Lake City, listed in the National Register in 1978, and the Woodruff-Riter-Stewart House, 225 North State Street, Salt Lake City, listed in the National Register in 1979. The Cannon House may have been Headlund's earliest monumental building in Utah, having been designed during his first short residence in the state.

NOTES

¹Golden Jubilee, Forest Dale Ward, 1896-1946, (Salt Lake City: The Golden Jubilee Committee, 1946), p. 13.

²Brigham Young's Forest Farm Home was moved in 1974 to Pioneer Trail State Park at the mouth of Emigration Canyon in Salt Lake City.

³Utah: Her Cities, Towns and Resources, (Chicago: Manly and Litteral, 1891-92), p. 99.

⁴Noble Warrum, Utah Since Statehood, 3 vols., (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1919), 2:450.