

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NCRS use only
received AUG 4 1980
date entered OCT 14 1980

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

1. Name

historic Fredrick Christian Sorensen House

and/or common Sorensen House

2. Location E. Center St.

street & number Block 16 Lot 9 (E. Center Street between Main and 100 East) not for publication

city, town Ephraim vicinity of congressional district 01

state Utah code 049 county Sanpete code 039

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
	<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 Wanda Bachman

street & number 480 Federal

city, town Henderson vicinity of state NV 89105

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder, Sanpete County Courthouse

street & number 160 N. Main Street

city, town Manti state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sanpete Valley Vernacular Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Spring 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City 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 Fredrick C. Sorensen house in Ephraim is an adobe, 1 1/2 story folk/vernacular three-room or "pair house" type. This distinctive one-room deep, three-room wide plan is derived from Scandinavian folk tradition and is an interesting aspect of Ephraim's cultural landscape.

The Sorensen house is exceptionally long - about 42' - and is composed of a central square room flanked by smaller rooms to both sides. These two flanking rooms, the "pair" found to the sides of the center room, lend the house type its name. The "pair house" (in Swedish, Parstuga; in Danish, Tvillinghuser) is encountered frequently in Ephraim and other Sanpete towns which had large Scandinavian populations.

The Sorensen house is gabled and has a lean-to attached to the rear. The facade, symmetrical, is divided into three bays. The two outer bays (corresponding to the flanking pair of rooms) contain a single window opening each while the central bay has a cluster of three openings - window-door-window. Brick corbelled stove chimneys are placed internally on the ridge reflecting the tripartite division of the house plan. The house is relatively unadorned stylistically, the pedimented window heads being the sole attempt to promote a particular architectural fashion.

The house is made of adobe and early photographs show that the exterior was originally plastered to simulate red brick. The plaster was dyed red, applied, and then scored to replicate brick flemish bond pattern.¹ The house has been subsequently replastered and now little clue remains to its old pretentiousness.

Except for the exterior veneer, the Sorensen house remains unaltered and in excellent condition.

¹ Thomas Carter, "Cultural Veneer: Decorative Plastering in the Sanpete Valley," Utah Historical Quarterly (in press).

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1870

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fredrick Christian Sorensen house is significant as an American variant of an older Scandinavian folk house type. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints enjoyed considerable missionary success in the Scandinavian countries during the second half of the 19th century.¹ Sanpete County and Ephraim in particular became destinations for these foreign converts after emigration began in 1853.² Denmark sent the majority of Scandinavians to Sanpete and during the early 1860s, 50 of Ephraim's 80 families were Danes. These immigrants brought with them many old world customs which were adapted to the New Utah environment. Certainly many European traditions were quickly disregarded while others like language were preserved intact for many years.³ In the building trades, some particular construction techniques found in Sanpete have definite European antecedents.⁴ House plans, however, are not direct old world imitations, but compromises between various Scandinavian regional types and new American influences. Based on Swedish (Parstugor) and Danish (Tvillinghusor) three-room plan models,⁵ the Sanpete Scandinavians streamlined older designs to create an essentially new form - a three-room "pair-house" type which looked back to earlier types while becoming a prototype in its own right. The Fredrick C. Sorensen house epitomizes this ethnic side of Ephraim's character.

Fredrick Sorensen, born in Copenhagen Denmark, was one of the first Scandinavian converts to the Mormon Church.⁶ The Danish Mission opened in 1850 and Erastus Snow ordained Sorensen a priest later that same year. Little is known of Sorensen's early life but early church records show him emigrating to Utah in 1854 and owning "a little house" in the Ephraim Fort by 1857. Following the end of Indian hostilities in the late 1850s and the consolidations of the fledgling community (Ephraim was first settled in 1853), Ephraim was surveyed and incorporated as a city in 1860. At this time settlers began moving out of the fort and building homes on their new city lots. Fredrick Sorensen owned this lot in block 16 during the 1860s and probably commenced building his new house during this decade. Peter Madsen, a local carpenter, recorded in an 1872 journal entry that he "worked some on F.C. Sorensen's house this year."⁷ Whether Madsen helped build the house in this year or simply did some finishing touches or repairs is not known. Certainly, the house was standing (or nearly completed) by this 1872 date.⁸ Sorensen was a blacksmith by trade and an active church member. After Sorensen's death in 1891, the house was owned by Amelia Sorensen and then in 1896 was purchased by Dykes W. Sorensen.

¹ William Mulder, Homeward to Zion: The Mormon Migration from Scandinavia (Minneapolis: Univ of Minnesota Press, 1957), pp. 7-136.

9. Major Bibliographical References

William Mulder, Homeward to Zion: The Mormon Migration from Scandinavia (Minneapolis: Univ of Minnesota Press, 1957).
 H. Zaugenberg, Danske Bonderrgaarde: Grundplaner and Konstrucktioner (Kobenhavn, Deb Schonhergske Forlag, 1925) & Sigurd Erixon, Svensk Byggnadskultur (Stockholm: Aktiebolaget Bolverk, 1947).

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 UTM NOT VERIFIED
 Quadrangle name Ephraim, UT Quadrangle scale 1:24000
 ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>60</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Begin NW Cor Lot 8 Blk 16 Plat A: E 101.25', S 280.5', W 101.25', N 280.5' to beginning

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 Tom Carter/Architectural Historian
 organization Utah State Historical Society date April 1980
 street & number 307 West 200 South telephone 533-6017
 city or town Salt Lake City state UT 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 7/22/80

For HCPRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

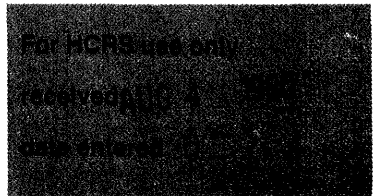
Bruce A. DeGard date 10-14-80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Paula Stoner Reed date 10/10/80
 Chief of Registration

for

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

- 2 See, Gary Topping, "History of Sanpete County," unpublished Ms. Utah State Historical Society Collection; Mulder, pp. 83-84; and William A. Wilson, "Folklore of Little Scandinavia," Utah Historical Quarterly, 47:2 (spring 1979), pp. 148-166. 1870 Census records indicate that about 30% of the population was Scandinavian.
- 3 Nineteenth Century diaries from Sanpete County in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Archives indicate that the Scandinavian language meetings in the area persisted into the 20th century as viable and vital institutions.
- 4 Thomas Carter, "Scandinavia-American Folk Building in the Sanpete Valley," Paper delivered at the Utah State Historical Society Annual Meeting, Ogden, Utah, Sept 19, 1978.
- 5 See, H. Zaugenberg, Danske Bonderrgaarde: Grundplaner and Konstruktioner (Kobenhavn, Deb Schonhergske Forlag, 1925) and Sigurd Erixon, Svensk Byggnadskultur (Stockholm: Aktiebolaget Bolverk, 1947).
- 6 Andrew Jenson, History of the Scandinavian Mission
- 7 Andrew Madsen, Journal, LDS Church Archives
- 8 Family records point to the 1865-1870 period as the construction date. The rear lean-to was added after original construction. It could be that Madsen was working on this addition to the house.