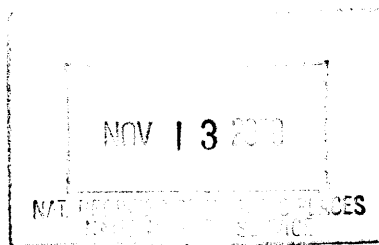


United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service

1569



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Montgomery, Sarah and Thomas, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 408 Washington Avenue South not for publication N/A

city or town St. Peter vicinity N/A

state Minnesota code MN county Nicollet code 103 zip code 56082

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

11/7/00  
Date

Ian R. Stewart, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Minnesota Historical Society

State or federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

Montgomery, Sarah and Thomas, House  
Name of Property

Nicollet County, Minnesota  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the  
    National Register.  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the  
    National Register.  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Joe*  
Signature of the Keeper      Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall      12/13/00  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property      Category of Property  
(Check as many as apply.)      (Check only one box.)  
  
 private       building(s)  
 public-local      \_\_\_ district  
 public-state      \_\_\_ site  
 public-federal      \_\_\_ structure  
                             \_\_\_ object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include listed resources in the count.)

	Contributing	Noncontributing
buildings	1	1
sites		
structures		
objects		
total	1	1

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a  
multiple property listing.)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)  
  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)  
  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions.)  
LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions.)  
foundation Limestone  
walls BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Montgomery, Sarah and Thomas, House  
Name of Property

Nicollet County, Minnesota  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria  
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying  
the property for the National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a  
significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons  
significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of  
a type, period, or method of construction or represents  
the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or  
represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose  
components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information  
important in our prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious  
purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved significance  
within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1874  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1874  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

"Mr. Glover"  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Montgomery, Sarah and Thomas, House  
Name of Property

Nicollet County, Minnesota  
County and State

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Primary location of additional data:  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other state agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Minnesota Historical Society

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) St. Peter, Minn., 1991

1	<u>1/5</u> Zone	<u>4/2/3/1/5/0</u> Easting	<u>4/9/0/8/2/5/0</u> Northing	3	<u>/</u> Zone	<u>////</u> Easting	<u>/////</u> Northing
2	<u>/</u> Zone	<u>////</u> Easting	<u>/////</u> Northing	4	<u>/</u> Zone	<u>////</u> Easting	<u>/////</u> Northing

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth A. Wiede, Historic Preservation Specialist; Christina Slattery, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist  
organization MEAD & HUNT, Inc. date July 2000  
street & number 6501 Watts Road telephone (608) 273-6380  
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53719-2700

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

Maps: A U.S. Geological Survey map (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Montgomery, Sarah and Thomas, House  
Name of Property

Nicollet County, Minnesota  
County and State

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Daniel and Nancy Jordet  
street & number 408 Washington Avenue South telephone (507) 931-2815  
city or town St. Peter state MN zip code 56082-2026

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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St. Peter, Nicollet County, Minnesota

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**Description**

*Property and Setting*

The Montgomery House stands facing southeast on Washington Avenue between Nassau and Grace Streets. This residential lot, which measures 154 feet by 88 feet, is northwest of St. Peter's nearby commercial center. The neighborhood around the Montgomery property has historically been light-to-medium density residential, with nearby public amenities, such as a park just across the street. Mature trees that surrounded the house were lost in the 1998 tornado. Nearby houses, including the building immediately to the southwest, were also destroyed by the tornado. A detached, frame, front gable garage, erected in 1998, stands to the rear of the house.

*Exterior*

The Montgomery House is two stories in height and exhibits Italianate features in its front porch, windows, and bracketed eaves. Its square massing, as seen from the front, is also typical of the Italianate style. From the side and rear facades, three distinct sections are visible: the two-story, brick main section; the slightly shorter two-story, brick mid-section; and a one-story, clapboard sided, frame rear section. A brick addition, with enclosed shed roof porch, projects from the mid-section on the southwest facade. The painted brick is laid in a running bond pattern over a limestone foundation. An asphalt shingle, hipped roof caps each section of the house. A central interior chimney protrudes from the main roof.

Eaves of the hipped roof are decorated with a pattern of paired, large brackets closely spaced, then two wider spaced, smaller brackets, repeating the pattern along the tallest roof level. Brackets on the porch are single, small, and widely spaced. The eaves of the southwest bay window projection, the brick mid-section, and the addition on the southwest facade feature widely-spaced, paired brackets. The eaves of the rear frame section are not bracketed.

Windows on the house are predominantly tall, narrow, two-over-two, double-hung type set in segmented arch openings. Windows are arranged in pairs or single. The front facade has symmetrical fenestration, but the rear and side facades show asymmetrical fenestration patterns. Decorative arched hoods are found over each window. Windows on the northeast facade maintain the arched form, but are smaller than those found on the other facades. The rear clapboard section and enclosed porch have rectangular, paired, two-over-two windows.

The front (southeast) facade features a frame screen-enclosed porch with a flat roof, creating a balcony with an open rail and turned balustrade on the second story. This frame porch, which extends across the entire facade, replaced a brick porch dating to c. 1930 that was heavily damaged in the 1998 tornado. The present porch design is wider than the c. 1930 porch and features three arched openings separated by Doric columns. Photo documentation of the building's original porch was unavailable; however, Sanborn Insurance maps from both 1914 and 1927 show a one-story frame porch. The present porch's low railing has turned balusters. The front entry features paired panel doors with etched glass upper panels and a divided fanlight.

The 1998 garage behind the house has clapboard siding and a front gable roof. A shed roofed porch with simple posts is located on the garage's southwest facade. Historic Sanborn Insurance maps show the property included a shed in 1914 and a larger frame ancillary building, probably a garage, in 1927.

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*Interior*

Interior decoration of the Montgomery House is modest. The woodwork is simple, save for the staircase. Pine is used in the 1 ½-inch-wide floorboards and woodwork throughout the interior, including the simple crown molding, six-panel doors, and door and window surrounds.

The first floor is comprised of seven rooms with a main staircase and a second, smaller staircase off the kitchen. The rooms project from the central foyer and living room and include a den, study, and a kitchen and dining room. The foyer staircase is an open quarter flight with decorative bracketed stringers, turned balusters, and an octagonal newel post. It is situated to the left as one enters the house.

The second floor includes four bedrooms, a small study, a play room at the top of the closed staircase, and a bathroom. Rooms on the second floor lead directly into another. This level has plain, pine door and window moldings.

*Integrity*

The 1998 tornado removed the Montgomery House's roof, broke all its windows, and damaged the c. 1930 front porch. All of these elements have been replaced with sensitivity to the historic nature of the house and consideration to its distinctive Italianate features. According to current owners, the original rear porch was extended 10 feet in 1998. The rear frame section appears to date from around the time of original construction, but underwent changes in window fenestration and door location in 1998. The rebuilt front porch is wider than the previous one and is executed of wood, which would be characteristic of an Italianate style house of this period. These minor alterations do not detract from the house's overall integrity.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Owner Nancy Jordet interview by Christina Slattery, Amy Squitieri, and Beth Wiede, 26 October 1999.

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St. Peter, Nicollet County, Minnesota

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**Statement of Significance**

The Montgomery House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under *Criterion C: Architecture*, as an excellent example of the Italianate style applied to residences. Stylistic features of the Montgomery House include: decoratively bracketed eaves under a low hipped roof; tall, narrow windows with elaborate arched hoods; and decorative bracketing and square columns on the open porch. The period of significance for the Montgomery House is its 1874 date of construction. The house was designed by a "Mr. Glover" for the Thomas Montgomery family. Montgomery, an Army major, served as an attorney dealing with real estate, collection, and insurance with his partner T.G. Carter.<sup>2</sup> The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) inventory identifies 10 Italianate houses in St. Peter built between 1854 and c. 1880, including the Montgomery House. The Montgomery House compares favorably to the other Italianate examples in St. Peter and is a distinctive, intact example of brick construction. The property contributes to the local context of "Residential Development, 1854-1945," detailed in *St. Peter's Historic Contexts: Final Report of a Historic Preservation Planning Report*.

*Historic Context*

*Residential Development in St. Peter*

St. Peter's residential areas were platted with wide streets and large parcels to make room for the potential growth as the state government center, though this vision was never realized. Residential lots were originally laid out on a skewed grid system oriented toward the Minnesota River, so lots in the earliest part of town have a northeast-southwest orientation. As additions were acquired, the grid shifted away from the river to orient true north and south. By 1870, the city's residential area was found along Washington, Front, Locust, and Broadway Streets, but soon grew beyond these limits.<sup>3</sup> By the 1880s, the city had grown due to its status as a commercial center and seat of county government, boasting a population of about 4,000 in 1884.<sup>4</sup>

Housing, such as the Montgomery property, that stood in the area around Minnesota Avenue – St. Peter's main commercial street – allowed ready access to goods and services. Late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential units were primarily detached, single-family dwellings with carriage houses or other outbuildings to the rear of the lot. Some lots included housing for livestock before St. Peter passed an ordinance prohibiting this. The houses were generally constructed of wood frame or locally produced brick.<sup>5</sup> St. Peter boasted a wide variety of residential architectural styles, including Italianate, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne.

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<sup>2</sup> Minnesota Historic Properties Inventory Form NL-SPC-209, "Montgomery House," Collection of the Minnesota Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 1998; and Edward D. Neill, History of the Minnesota Valley (Minneapolis, Minn.: North Star, 1882), 665.

<sup>3</sup> Gemini Research, "St. Peter's Historic Contexts: Final Report of a Historic Preservation Planning Project" (St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota State Historical Society), 79-80.

<sup>4</sup> Nicollet County, Minnesota, as an Agricultural and Dairying Section and St. Peter as a Manufacturing Center, Sketches of Their Early History . . . With Numerous Illustrations (St. Peter, Minn.: Reliable Publishing Co., 1884), 18.

<sup>5</sup> Gemini Research, "St. Peter's Historic Context," 80.



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*Italianate Architecture*

Tuscan and sixteenth century Italian palazzo designs influenced the Italianate style popularized in the United States between 1850 and the early 1890s. Italianate styling was common in the Midwest – including Minnesota – and growing cities along the northeastern seaboard, although rare in the South due to economic conditions during the style's popularity. It was a style shared by both wealthy and middle income homebuilders of the time. Expensive houses were custom designed by an architect and had decorative features hand produced by craftsmen, and features found on the less expensive properties were factory produced and available through lumber yards and mail order catalogs.<sup>6</sup>

The Italianate style was extremely popular for both residential and commercial buildings, and was readily adaptable to an urban setting with narrow street frontages. In Italianate houses built on narrow residential lots, ornamentation was concentrated on the principal elevation, resulting in an elaborate, and sometimes flamboyant, appearance. It was common to employ ornamental details, such as brackets and columns in pairs. Low-hipped roofs with broad eaves emphasized the massing of the building below. The style is also marked by tall, narrow, windows that usually have an arched hood over them, and in some high-style cases, a cupola or tower.<sup>7</sup> The Montgomery House displays many of these characteristic features, including a low roof, bracketed eaves, square porch columns, and narrow windows under arched hoods.

The Montgomery House compares favorably to other examples of the Italianate style in St. Peter and is distinctive for its brick construction. The SHPO inventory identifies 10 Italianate houses in St. Peter, including the Montgomery House. Of these, four exhibit brick construction, five are frame with clapboard or artificial siding materials, and one has a stucco exterior. Two Italianate style residences in St. Peter have been listed on the NRHP in 1983. The Henry A. Swift House at 820 Minnesota Avenue South, completed in 1857, has both late Federal and Italianate style features, including massing, hip roof, and paired brackets. The Frederick A. Donahower House at 720 Minnesota Avenue South is a two-story, brick Italianate style residence completed in 1865 and embellished by a dominant eaveline supported by a combination of dentils, modillions, and paired brackets. Four of the 10 surveyed Italianate residences have been recommended as not eligible for the NRHP because modern alterations have diminished their historic integrity. The Montgomery House is a well-preserved example of a nineteenth-century Italianate residence in St. Peter.

The plans for the construction of the Montgomery House were described in the St. Peter Tribune on May 27, 1874, as follows: "The main building which the Major proposes to erect will be 27x31 feet, two stories high with addition in the rear 21x8, one and a half stories high, and one story addition 16x10 feet. It will be frame with brick out side walls, and sheathed on both sides of the studding. The plan shows a very convenient as well as a handsome dwelling and the cost will be among the thousands."<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Paul Jakubovich, As Good As New: A Guide to Rehabilitating the Exterior of Your Old Milwaukee Home (Milwaukee, Wisc.: Department of City Development, 1993), 14; and Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), 212.

<sup>7</sup> Charles Nelson, historical architect, "Tech Talk: Minnesota's Architecture, Post-Civil War Architecture," Minnesota History Interpreter (May 1999); Jakubovich, 14.

<sup>8</sup> St. Peter Tribune, 27 May 1874.

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*Architect/Builder*

The architect/builder of the Montgomery House is identified on the state's inventory form as a "Mr. Glover."<sup>9</sup> No information about him was found in city or state business directories, or in the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society.

*Ownership History*

The Montgomery House was built in 1874 for the family of Major Thomas Montgomery. Montgomery was born in Donegal County, Ireland, in 1841. When he was 4 years old, his family moved to Canada, then in 1856 emigrated to a farm in LeSueur County, Minnesota, and moved again in 1862, this time to a farm in Meeker County. Montgomery enlisted in Company K, Seventh Regiment stationed at Fort Snelling and was soon appointed corporal. His military promotions continued during the time he served in the Midwestern Native American conflicts. By the time he was discharged in March of 1865, he had been given the title of Major.<sup>10</sup>

Settling in St. Peter upon his return to Minnesota, he formed a partnership with T.G. Carter, a former Army captain who had also served in Company K, Seventh Minnesota regiment. The pair practiced law in St. Peter, conducting business in real estate, collections, and insurance. The pair advertised their services in the St. Peter Tribune September 30, 1874, with the following:

Carter and Montgomery  
Real Estate and Insurance,  
And Claims Agents  
Notaries Public and Conveyancers.  
Make Collections, Pay Taxes, and Negotiate Loans  
Buy, Sell, and Rent Improved Farms,  
Houses and Lot  
Prairie and Timber Lands  
Office in Lange's Block, St. Peter, Minn.  
T.G. Carter Thos. Montgomery

In 1867, he married Sarah A. Purnell, and the couple had six children – Edmund, Cora, Charles, Edith, George, and Thomas.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Minnesota Historic Properties Inventory Form NL-SPC-209.

<sup>10</sup> Neill, 665.

<sup>11</sup> Neill, 665.

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Montgomery lived in the house for 15 years, then it was owned by attorney Marshall E. Stone, whose family occupied the house for the next 80 years (from about 1889 to about 1969). Stone was born in St. Peter in 1876, attended Gustavus College, and joined his father's law firm after being admitted to the bar in 1908. He served 20 years as city attorney from 1910-30. In 1970, the house was purchased by Donald Scholls. The Dan and Nancy Jordet family, which restored it following the 1998 tornado, currently occupies the house.<sup>12</sup>

**Conclusion**

The Montgomery House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under *Criterion C: Architecture*, as an excellent local example of the Italianate style. Stylistic features of the Montgomery House include: decoratively bracketed eaves under a low hipped roof; tall, narrow windows with elaborate arched hoods; and decorative bracketing and square columns on the open porch. Repairs to the house after the 1998 tornado were sympathetic to the house's historic details. The house maintains good integrity.

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<sup>12</sup> Minnesota Historic Properties Inventory Form NL-SPC-209.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Montgomery House is located on Lot 6, and the north 2 feet of Lot 5, Block 26, Amended Plat, to the City of St. Peter. This parcel measures 84 feet along the southeast border and 155 feet along the southwest border.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the Montgomery House enclose all the extant resources historically associated with it, and coincide with the legal boundaries of the parcel on which it sits.