

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 JUL 28 1980

date entered OCT 3 1980

1. Name

historic Niels P. Hjort House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Block 19 Lot 4 (N. Main Street) not for publication

city, town Fairview vicinity of congressional district 01

state UT 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Wayne Russen

street & number 186 West 200 North

city, town Fairview vicinity of state UT

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sanpete County Courthouse

street & number 160 N Main St.

city, town Manti state UT

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sanpete 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 UT

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Niels P. Hjort house is a 1 1/2 story "modified temple-form" folk/vernacular house type. Greek Revival stylistic impulses in the early 19th century led to the introduction and subsequent popularity of a gable-facade (gable perpendicular to the street) "temple" house.¹ On the temple-form houses the front door was found on the central gable. As the house migrated westward in the 1830s and 1840s, it increasingly was seen with the front door moved to one of the side wings. This gable-facade house with a side-door has been generally designated a "modified temple form" a vernacular house.²

The Hjort house consists of a 1 1/2 story gable facade two-room deep central massing with a 1 1/2 story rectangular side wing extension. There is a lean-to on the rear of the side wing. The gable-facade section has four windows on the front placed symmetrically in a "two-over-two" pattern. There is an internal stove chimney on the main section while the side wing contains a large fireplace. The side wing has a three-opening facade fronted by a hipped porch with classical column posts. A dormer window occurs on the wing which may be a later addition. The original staircase leading to the upstairs rooms was located outside on the rear of the house - a common feature of Utah vernacular homes.

The house is built of oolite limestone. The walls are coursed ashlar and most of the lime-mud mortar has washed out of the exposed sections.

The most recent owners have renovated the structure for use as apartments. This work was accomplished with a sensitivity to the house's original character and does not detract from its historic appearance.

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/ 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1878 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Niels P. Hjort house is architecturally significant as an example of 19th century vernacular design in the Sanpete Valley. The house, a modified-temple form gable facade "T" plan, was one of a number of basic building forms employed by early settlers in the area. The house type itself originated during the Greek Revival stylistic period in the Eastern U.S. and became a traditional dwelling form in the upper Midwest by 1850.¹ The house occurs in the Hancock County area of Illinois and is a common type found in most Utah Mormon towns.² The house is thoroughly an American type, and Niels Hjort's choice of this building style suggests an adoption of American cultural symbols.

The written records of Fairview contain little biographical information on Niels P. Hjort. Fairview was settled by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1859-1860 as an offshoot of the Mt. Pleasant community.³ Struggling through the Black Hawk Indian war of the 1860s, Fairview began to achieve a degree of agricultural prosperity by 1870 and residents turned to the task of building up their town. Niels Hjort was a convert to the Mormon Church from Norway and was a moderately successful farmer living in Fairview by 1870. In the 1876-1877 period Hjort acquired property from John Sanders and John McCune and here began building this stone house. The building date for the home probably rests within the 1876-1880 time frame.

A Norwegian immigrant, Niels Hjort left behind Old World traditions in accepting a fundamentally American religion and moving to "Zion" in Utah. While many Utah Scandinavia converts chose to perpetuate Old World building traditions in their new western home,⁴ others like Niels Hjort made the opposite decision and opted for American architectural forms which suited their status as members of the Mormon community. In any immigrant situation there is pressure on newcomers to adopt the language and other cultural features of the dominant group. In Sanpete County, where there was an extremely diverse ethnic population comprised of English, Welsh, Irish, and Germans as well as Danes, Swedes, and Norwegians, the immigrant aculturation response among the first generation was uneven. The diversity of peoples in the valley undoubtedly helped dilute the midwestern Mormon influence to some extent and allow more freedom for individual immigrants to exhibit national identity. Niels Hjort's building of a New England house type is historically important as one immigrant's experience in Zion's "melting pot".

¹ Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 55:4 (December 1965) pp. 549-577.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sanpete County Records/Church Transfer Books
 Andrew Jenson, History of the Scandinavian Mission
 W.H. Lever, History of Sanpete & Emery Counties
 Leon S. Ditiman, "19th Century Folk Housing of the Mormon Culture Region"
 Sigurd Erixon, Suenjk Byggandskulnr

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than 1
 Quadrangle name Fairview Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 2	4 6 2 3 4 0	4 3 8 6 3 2 0	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

Begin 77' N SE cor Lot 4 Block 19 Plat A: W 53', 53', W 129', N 179', E 12', S 50', E 170', S 126' to beginning

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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.

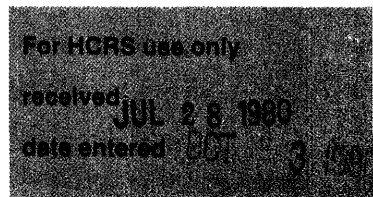
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/21/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Melvin T. Smith</u>	date <u>10/3/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Paula Storer Reed</u>	date <u>9/30/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Item number⁸

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- 2 Kniffen, "Folk Housing," p. 554.
 - 3 W.H. Lever, History of Sanpete and Emery Counties (Ogden, Utah: W.H. Lever, 1898), pp. 351-357.
 - 4 Thomas Carter, "Scandinavian American Folk Building in the Sanpete Valley," paper read at Utah State Historical Society Annual Meeting, Ogden, Utah, September 14, 1978.
 - 5 See Richard Poulson, "Folk Material Culture of the Sanpete-Sevier Area," Utah Historical Quarterly, 47:2 (spring 1979), pp. 130-147.