

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 16 1977  
DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME \*\***

HISTORIC Canute Peterson House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

10 North Main

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ephraim

\_\_ VICINITY OF

01

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Utah

049

Sanpete

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Richard Nibley

STREET & NUMBER

10 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Ephraim

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Utah

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sanpete County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

160 North Main

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Manti

Utah

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE

August 1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City, UT

STATE  
Utah

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Canute Peterson Home is a two-story five over five double-depth, I-form structure built of local brick and stone. Built in 1869, the residence has a rectangular plan and symmetrical broadside front facade. The building has stylistic elements from the Federal period varied and combined with the vernacular to satisfy regional tastes.

The front facade is five bays wide and features central doorbays of Federal style and pairs of flanking six over six operable sash windows. The cornice is boxed, returns slightly across the gable ends and features paired brackets, dentils and a decorative frieze. The three original chimneys are intact, one to the right of the central stairwell and the others located above the north and south walls of the building. Metal tie rods run through the building at the second floor level to strengthen the structure which has experienced oblique settlement cracking between the bays of the first and second floor windows. Except for remodeling of the front porch and the addition of shutters and plant boxes along the first floor level, the exterior retains its original appearance.

The interior has also been maintained in good condition. The fancy stairs, hand-grained wood trim, fireplaces and wood floors are all intact. Some original wallpaper exists, though in poor condition. Two hidden areas of concealment or "polygamy pits" remain to remind one of the days Mormon Church leaders were forced to seek refuge from Federal marshalls for violations of the Edmunds-Tucker Act. One "pit" is under the dining room floor and was apparently planned as a diversion while another larger hole is situated under the floor of the room next to the kitchen. In addition to these dugout spaces, a full cellar with brick floor exists under the front rooms of the home. The main floor is supported by round logs and red pine joists. The flooring consists of pine planking. The second floor is of sawed joist and plank construction. All walls and ceilings are lathed and plastered. The Canute Peterson Home has been documented through architectural drawings prepared by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1869

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Canute Peterson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the first Scandinavians to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Canute Peterson, played a leading role in the conversion of many of his countrymen to Mormonism. He served three separate missions spanning a total of eight years in the Scandinavian countries. On his three return trips to Utah he guided hundreds of Scandinavian converts to Utah and as President of Sanpete Stake, to which the majority of Scandinavian converts went, he was responsible for their temporal and spiritual welfare after reaching the Mormon Zion.

During his tenure as stake president, the Manti Temple was constructed and the educational institution which became Snow College was established. A man who was well respected in the community, he was described as ". . . a man who blesses and is blessed; who loves and is loved; who respects and is respected, . . ."1

A Utah pioneer of 1849, Canute Peterson devoted his life to the development of Utah and the growth of his church. The home, constructed by him and his oldest son in 1869, is a well preserved and fitting symbol, to a man whose role in Utah history is of significance.

Canute Peterson, who constructed his Ephraim house in 1869, was born May 13, 1824, in Eids Fjord, Hardanger, Norway. At the age of thirteen he emigrated with his parents to America in 1837 and settled in La Salle country, Illinois, with a large group of Norwegian Quakers who were among the first emigrants from Norway to the United States. They were known as "Sloopers" because they had sailed to America in a small sloop which they had purchased. Canute's father, Peter, found earning a living on the Illinois frontier extremely difficult. Within eight months of their arrival, he was suddenly taken ill and died. Canute, left to care for himself, his mother, and pay off a \$400 emigration debt, hired himself out by the month to farmers in the area. In 1842 he and his mother joined the Mormon church and became part of an active branch of approximately 100 Norwegian converts. After a visit to Nauvoo, Illinois, in October 1844, he was asked to serve as a missionary among the Norwegian emigrants in Wisconsin. Returning to his house in the spring of 1845 he continued his work on the surrounding farms.

Because of his invalid mother, Canute did not join the 1846-47 westward migration following the Mormon expulsion from Nauvoo. However, following her death in June 1848, he began making preparations for the journey to Utah and the following April he left La Salle, Illinois, in company with twenty-one other Norwegian Mormons for Utah. While enroute to Utah he married his first wife, Sara Ann Nelson on July 2, 1849.

Apparently Canute had hoped to settle near Salt Lake City, but when it appeared that all of the good farm land had already been claimed he and five other men accepted the assignment to help establish the community of Lehi in the north end of Utah Valley.

<sup>1</sup> Deseret Evening News, June 6, 1894

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edith P. Christensen, Canute Peterson from Norway to America, privately published, Provo, Utah.

Canute Peterson, "Autobiography," dictated to Mrs. Carrie Peterson Tanner, copy at the Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

"Journal History," Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah. Various entries under Canute Peterson.

~~Andrew Jenson, Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia, Volume I.~~

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

Scale: 1:250,000

A 

1	2	4	4	9	5	4	0	4	3	5	6	7	7	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

A. Kent Powell, Preservation Historian / Allen D. Roberts, Architectural Hist.

ORGANIZATION Utah State Historical Society DATE August 22, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 603 East South Temple TELEPHONE (801) 533-5755

CITY OR TOWN Salt Lake City STATE Utah

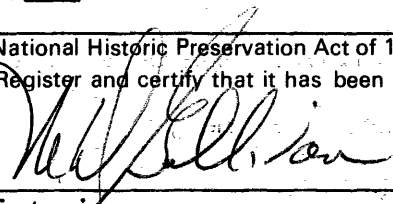
# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 National Park Service.


STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Michael D. Gallivan, State Historic Preservation Officer DATE November 4, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

 DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: <u>Andrew Cole</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>7-17-78</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE <u>7-5-78</u>
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The Canute Peterson house is one of the finest pioneer stone houses in Utah. The decorative frieze and gracheted cornice, the symmetrical five-over-five facade, and the two polygamy pits are the major elements that make the house an outstanding example of Utah architecture.

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During the winter of 1850-51, Canute constructed a log cabin at Lehi and in the spring of 1851 he moved his family to the new home. A little over a year later Canute was given a new assignment by Brigham Young. In September 1852 he left his pregnant wife and two-year old son Peter for a four year proselyting mission to the Scandinavian countries. After working in Denmark, he went to Norway where he was the first Mormon missionary to work in Christiania (now Oslo), the capital of Norway. While in Norway, he visited his birthplace and met many of the relatives who he had not seen for seventeen years. The mission was extremely difficult. Mobs threatened the Mormons with violence and on more than one occasion Canute was forced to defend himself with an iron rod or flee a city and hide in the woods. The police offered no protection and the Mormons were forced to take great precautions to avoid imprisonment for their missionary work. However, converts were made and when Canute Peterson left Liverpool, England on December 12, 1855, to return home, of the 512 Scandinavian converts for whom he was responsible, 46 were Norwegian. The company reached Salt Lake City September 20, 1856. Among the Norwegian converts escorted by Canute to Utah was Gertrude Maria Rolfson, a twenty-seven year old native of Christiania. On November 7, 1857, Canute took her as his second wife.

Upon returning to Lehi, Canute spent the next several years developing his farm and adding new rooms to his log house. In 1863 Canute was made a counselor to Bishop David Evans. During the period, several children were born to Sara and Maria. In February 1864, Canute was asked to return to Norway and serve a two year mission. During the nine years since his first mission, the Norwegians had grown more tolerant of the Mormons and the missionary work proceeded with greater success and fewer threats from mobs and the police. Returning to Utah in 1866, Canute once again married one of the Norwegian converts, the twenty-two year old Charlotte Amelia Extram, on February 2, 1867.

Later in 1867 Brigham Young asked Canute to leave his Lehi home and move south to Ephraim where he was to serve as Bishop. The assignment was of special importance because of the Black Hawk War which centered in the Sanpete area around Ephraim. During the peace negotiations, several of the Indian chiefs visited the Canute Peterson home in Ephraim and partook of food prepared by Bishop Peterson's wives. In 1869 the present home was constructed by Canute and his eldest son Peter. It was made of brick and stone hauled by Peter from a nearby quarry. With the increase of children from his three wives and the action by the Federal Government against the polygamous Mormons, Canute decided to build separate houses for the families of his second and third wives. A home was built for Maria north of the 1869 home occupied by Sara and here family. North of Maria's home a house was constructed for Charlotte and her family.

The two homes were probably constructed after 1872 when Canute returned from his third mission to Scandinavia. In 1870 he was called by Brigham Young to serve as President of the Scandinavian Mission. Prior to his departure, Canute had played a leading role in the establishment of the cooperative system--an economic system instituted by Brigham Young in the face of the approaching railroad which was designed to encourage home industry, home trade, and a lack of depending upon non-Mormon merchants. Contem-

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porary reports in the Deseret News indicate the role of Canute Peterson in the cooperative movement.

"It would be gratifying to you to see the beautiful and resurrected town of Ephraim, and its Gabriel, Bishop Peterson, who spoke, and the dry bones of Ephraim have lived again. All the people have again partaken of the vivifying influence of cooperation, and all are alive to the importance of sustaining themselves in the several towns. Wisely and correctly they attribute cheap goods to cooperation, and correctly the children have learned that they should sustain the Parent, and buy only of her who gave cheap merchandise."<sup>2</sup>

"A very strong effort is being made to establish a cooperative woolen factory for the county; its cost for machinery \$10,000. The building will, of course, be commensurate, Bishop Peterson is urging its claims upon the good people of Sanpete and a better advocate could not possibly be found. In this city the sense and spirit of cooperation is not dead, for tanning, shoe-making, etc., are urged upon the people and they are not slow to hearken and obey. Should these projects meet with the success they merit, it will soon be an anomaly to see a Sanpitcher hauling his produce to Salt Lake."<sup>3</sup>

Four years after his return to Ephraim from his service as President of the Scandinavian Mission, Canute Peterson was chosen as president of Sanpete Stake in 1877. His ecclesiastical duties included general supervisor of the communities in Sanpete Valley. He occupied this position until 1900 when Sanpete Stake was divided. At that time, he was asked to continue as President of the South Sanpete Stake. His tenure as Stake President occurred during a time of critical importance to the Mormon church. During the 1880's the Federal government increased its efforts to rid Utah of polygamy. As a polygamist and local leader of the Mormons, Canute Peterson felt greatly threatened by the government's efforts. Hiding places, known as "polygamy pits," were built in the floors of his house. The home served as a refuge for other church leaders who were on the run to avoid arrest by Federal marshals. On one occasion, Canute Peterson was arrested on charges of unlawful cohabitation and his three wives were ordered to testify against him. However, following the trial held in the home of Judge Jacob Johnson in Spring City, Peterson was allowed to go free.

As stake president, the two most monumental activities in which Canute Peterson engaged were the erection of the Manti Temple (a National Register site) and the establishment of Snow Academy. The cornerstones for the Manti Temple were laid on April 14, 1879. Canute Peterson was given the honor of offering the dedicatory prayer on the northwest cornerstone. Nine years later when the structure was completed in May 1888, he participated as a speaker at the dedication. During the years of construction, he was responsible to insure that men, supplies, equipment and money were provided to carry out the project.

<sup>2</sup> J. H. August 7, 1869. From Deseret News, 18: 347.

<sup>3</sup> J. H. January 30, 1870, from Deseret News, 19:15

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Anxious to provide Mormons in Sanpete Valley with an excellent church-oriented education, Peterson was one of the leaders in the establishment of the Sanpete Stake Academy. Organized in 1888, the Academy first met in the Relief Society Room located in the second story of the Ephraim United Order cooperative building, (a National Register site). Originally designed to meet only the immediate local need for education, by the late 1890's Canute Peterson and other community leaders saw the need to expand the school and seek to bring in students from outside the Sanpete area. Recordingly, Canute Peterson and other leading Sanpete citizens petitioned the First Presidency of the LDS Church for permission to erect a new, larger school building. The permission was granted and in recognition of his help and in an effort to secure a new name for the School which would de-emphasize its Sanpete location while encourageing students from outside the area to attend, Canute Peterson asked church President Lorenzo Snow for permission to name the school "Lorenzo Snow Academy." President Snow declined the honor of having the school named for himself but did suggest the school might be named Snow Academy in honor of both himself and his brother, Erastus. Canute Peterson readily accepted the change.

In August 1900, Canute Peterson began dictating his autobiography to his daughter, Carrie Peterson Tanner. The narrative was rich with detail and excitement, however, he was only able to cover the period through 1854 before he died. While attending the October 1901 General Conference of the Church in Salt Lake City in October 1901, the seventy-two year old Peterson caught a cold which left him in poor health until his death a year later on October 14, 1902.