

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 OCT 28 1980

date entered DEC 2

## 1. Name

historic Paul C. Christensen House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 043 117 10 \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Castle Dale \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 01

state Utah code 049 county Emery code 015

## 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 George and Ada J. Magnuson

street & number

city, town Castle Dale \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Utah

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Emery County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Castle Dale \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 1980 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City, \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Paul C. Christensen house is a one and one half story gable roof brick house. It has a T plan with a one story shed and hip roof rear extension. Chimneys with distinctive brick coursing at the top are located at each end of the stem of the T. The lower half of the gable section of the facade has been beveled back as indicated by the hinging of the corner bricks so that it has become one large three part bay. There is a single double hung sash window on the side sections of the bay and a pair of double hung sash windows separated by a Victorian Eclectic mullion on the central section. The top half story has distinctive fish scale shingling and has not been beveled back at the corners, but rather has a recessed lower half. Into that lower half is set a pair of double hung sash windows with distinctive Victorian Eclectic trim which project into the central section of the first floor bay. A door opens from the north side wall of the gable section of the facade under a simple hip roof porch with long slender Tuscan columns. The porch spans the broad side of the facade into which are set a single double hung sash window flanked by another door. Above all of the windows and doors on the first floor, except in the rear of the house, is a distinctive segmented relieving arch consisting of an arched row of bricks topped by an arch of obliquely set bricks and a single arch of headers. Most of the windows are the double hung sash type and four of the six doors have a transom. A monumental gable roof dormer with fishscale shingles projects from the roof of the rear section of the stem of the T. Because of its scale it is questionable whether the dormer is original, but its treatment with shingles is certainly compatible. There are two doors on the gable section of the rear of the house, one above the other on the south half of that wall. The second story door is flanked by a single window.

The one story rear extension may not be original judging from the way it crowds the rear door and projects from the rear of northeast corner of the house. If it is not original it was most likely added soon after the original construction because the door on the east side covered by a small hip roof porch with slender Tuscan columns and the window on the north wall have brickwork similar to that of the rest of the house. A change in the brickwork, in the fenestration and in the cornice line of the extension indicates that it may have been added in two parts. There appears to have been no other major alterations to the exterior of the house except for the extension which has been made so that its brickwork is complementary to the original building and its massing is unobtrusive. The integrity of the original building has been maintained.

The woodwork on the interior of the house is remarkable for its Victorian Eclectic detailing and multi-paneled doors capped by transoms.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 @ 1906

Builder/Architect Unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Paul C. Christensen house, built in approximately 1906, is architecturally significant as a distinctive variant of a Victorian Builder home in Utah. Its plan derives from the vernacular T plan, but its scale and detailing mark it as a transitional Victorian house type. While the Victorian Builder type is common in the small towns of Utah, the distinctive brick work and treatment of the front bay qualify this house as an outstanding example. It also contains some of the best examples of hand carved carpentry locally known. The barn is also included in the site, built in about the same time as the house.

It was probably first built for Castle Dale's only dentist, Paul C. Christensen, who served the community for forty-four years. Not only was this his residence, but it served as the first dentist's office in Emery County.

The house is located in the Wilberg Subdivision of Castle Dale, and Dr. Christensen probably had the house built around 1906 on this property. He acquired title to the land from Carl Wilberg in 1909 and sold the house to Hyrum and Maggie M. Seely in 1919. Maggie retained sole ownership in 1940 after her husband died, and in 1950 sold the house to the present owners, George and Ada Magnuson.

The house's almost unchanged appearance and fine condition testify to the skill of its builders. Fars Christensen, an excellent brick-layer, did the brickwork on the home. The bricks were probably made by John Bott, who carved his name in two bricks over the southwest window. Brigham T. Higgs hand-carved most of the outstanding interior and exterior woodwork during his stay at Castle Dale, where he also taught carpentry at the Emery Stake Academy. He later pursued his career at Brigham Young University where he educated dozens of other skilled carpenters.

Higgs probably also constructed the unique linen closet contained in this house, a practical set of revolving shelves located in a cupboard under the staircase. This original use of awkward space was the invention of the builder.

These fine craftsmen were in all probability commissioned by Dr. Paul C. Christensen to build this house. As a dentist, he was one of the wealthier men in the area, hence was able to enjoy the luxury of a fine home. Christensen, a native of Denmark, came to the United States in 1870 at age 8. He first settled in Mount Pleasant and worked as a professional carpenter and cabinet maker (and may therefore have been the inventor of the revolving linen closet, rather than Higgs). However, in the course of his work he injured his hip in a saw mill accident so in 1892 began dental studies under Dr. McGozen of Mt. Pleasant. He shortly qualified and came to Emery County in 1894 as the

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

McElprange, Stella, comp. "Castle Valley," A History of Emery County (Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1949).

Magnuson, George and Ada, Correspondence with Utah State Historical Society, 12 March 1980 and 10 May 1980.

# 10. Geographical Data

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property Less than one  
 Quadrangle name Castle Dale

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
 Quadrangle scale 1:62500

**UMT References**

A	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Beg. SW. cor. of lot 2 Block 14, Wilberg's Subdivision of Castle Dale Townsite Survey, th. N. 13 rds; E. 132½ ft.; S. 54½ ft.; W. 50 ft.; S. 160 ft.; W 82½ ft. to beg.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Taniguiche, Research Assitant

organization Utah State Historical Society date June 1980

street & number 307 West 200 South 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 15 October 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Diana M. Dwyer</u>	date <u>12.2.80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

second dentist in the area. (The first, however, maintained his office in a store in Orangeville instead of in a separate office). After Christensen's house was completed, he conducted professional business in the front room and used the rest of the house as his family residence.

The house has changed little since original construction. A bathroom was added to the rear about 40 to 50 years ago. Around 1950 the southwest window (bearing the name "John Butt") was shortened and a concrete foundation laid over the exterior of the original rock foundation, still intact. About 1965 the kitchen was remodeled and a concrete block wall constructed to enclose the small back porch. Most other features of the house, including a majority of the light fixtures, remain in their original form. The beautiful woodwork has been carefully preserved, including the original white enamel color.

Behind the house are several outbuildings that also date from the house's original construction. Most important of these is the barn, which sports an unusual detail of pigeonholes over the south opening. The barn itself is of typical sawed-lumber construction, and the tackle for the hay hook is still in place although the hook itself rests, unattached, on the barn floor. A nearby shed is also of sawed-lumber construction, while the present storage shed is of adobes covered with corrugated metal to prevent further deterioration. The rear (north) line of the lot is demarkated by a row of Lombardy poplars, another typical aspect of a traditional Mormon rural landscape.