

**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 MAR 17 1982

date entered APR 19 1982

1. Name

historic Jensen, Frederick C. House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2nd West 2nd South _____ not for publication

city, town ^{Mount} Mt. Pleasant _____ vicinity of congressional district

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 Board of Trustees

street & number Wasatch Academy

city, town Mt. Pleasant _____ vicinity of state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Sanpete County Courthouse

city, town Manti _____ state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sanpete County Survey _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1980 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City _____ state Utah

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 Frederick C. Jensen house in Mt. Pleasant is a fine example of late 19th century eclecticism in rural Utah domestic architecture.¹ The overall stylistic mood, set by the spindled porches and decorated gables, is Eastlake. Lesser compositional elements are drawn from the Second Empire, Carpenter's Gothic, and Classical Revival styles. Subdued in both massing and texture, the F. C. Jensen house reflects a basic design compromise between the regular geometry of the builder's vernacular and the ornamental, picturesque nature of Victorian architecture.²

The F. C. Jensen house is a relatively straightforward, multi-gabled structure whose plainness is disguised by elaborately detailed Eastlake porches on the two principal facades. The north front porch has a flat roof and plain cornice supported by stylized Tuscan columns. The spindle and spool-like balusters run between chamfered balcony posts. The porch frieze is spindled and has scroll brackets above the capitals of the supporting posts. The porch on the west side is, in general appearance, a smaller rendition of the one on the front. It differs in having a balustraded mansard roof with fishscale shingles and a dentiled, classical cornice. The decorative quality of the home is further augmented by a fancy, projecting bay window on the side, between the two porches, patterned gable shingling, and carved-panel bargeboards.

The Second Empire influence found on the side porch is carried over to the projecting half-octagonal bay window. In addition to the dentile cornice and scroll-brackets -- motifs found on the side porch, the bay also has a mansard roof with concave sides. There are carved panels over the bay windows. These panel designs are repeated on the doors leading to the two upstairs balconies. The house has four main gables which are distinguished by several types of patterned shingling. On the two larger gables, a diagonal pattern gives way to a band of fishscale shingles which in turn is replaced by another two rows of the diagonal variety. The bottom of the gable is finished off with a band of vertical shingles. On the smaller gables, only the diagonal and fishscale patterns are found. Most of the doors retain their spindled screens and the upstairs windows are paired with both sashes containing a border of small, multi-colored, square lights. The walls are covered with rather prosaic "novelty" siding and there are simulated quoins at the corners.

¹See Karl T. Haglund and Philip F. Notarianni, The Avenues of Salt Lake City (SLC: Utah State Historical Society, 1980), p. 59, for a discussion of the "Victorian Eclectic" style in Utah.

²The contrast between the symmetrical, classical-derived styles of the early and middle 19th century and the highly asymmetrical and picturesque designs of the late-19th century is discussed in William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects: Technology and the Picturesque (New York: Doubleday, 1978), pp. 4-8.

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 checked="" 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 1891 **Builder/Architect** Not known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Frederick C. Jensen house in Mt. Pleasant built in 1891, is an excellent example of Victorian Eclectic architectural design in late 19th century Utah. Emerging in the 1880s from the confines of the classical proportions of the vernacular builder's repertory, Utah house carpenters and architects began utilizing the irregular and asymmetrical visual elements of the picturesque movement. Often features from several major styles were combined into a single architectural statement. The F. C. Jensen house successfully integrates aspects of Eastlake, Second Empire, Classical Revival, and Carpenter Gothic styles. The Jensen house also represents a major building boom in Sanpete County associated with the rapidly expanding local livestock industry. F. C. Jensen, a furniture dealer, profited from the increased demand for consumer goods which naturally accompanied the arrival of economic prosperity. Large Victorian homes sprang up in most Sanpete towns at this time and reflect, not only the presence of newly acquired "sheep" money, but also a general rethinking of the older, classical architectural aesthetic.

History:

This house was built in 1891 by Frederick C. Jensen. Jensen was born in Odense, Denmark in 1858.¹ His parents were recent converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Mormons. Apparently the family was fairly affluent, for when Frederick's father died in 1861, his mother emigrated to Utah, paying for the trans-Atlantic passage of many poor Danish converts as well as her own. The Jensens came to Mt. Pleasant, Sanpete County, in 1862. The town was largely an agricultural village during these years, and Frederick was raised into the farming life. By the time he was 24, however, he had learned the cabinet making trade and began the manufacturing of furniture for local consumption. A clever businessman, F. C. Jensen was perfectly placed to take advantage of the economic changes which swept the area during the 1880s and 1890s.

Because of its geography and climate, Sanpete County was rapidly becoming one of the principal centers of Utah's "summer-winter" sheep industry.² Its proximity to high mountain summer grazing and mild, winter desert range gave Sanpete sheepmen an excellent opportunity to increase the size and quality of their herds. The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 had opened up eastern markets to Utah wool and mutton and Sanpete was linked directly to this larger transportation network with the arrival of the Denver & Rio Grande Western into the area in 1891. As sheep herds moved out of the valley, money poured in and F. C. Jensen keenly shifted his operation to meet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lever, W. H. History of Sanpete and Emery Counties. Ogden: W. H. Lever, 1898.
Longsdorf, Hilda Madsen. Mount Pleasant. Mt. Pleasant: Pioneer Historical Association, 1959.
Sanpete County Records.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1.25

Quadrangle name Mt. Pleasant

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	2	4	6	0	8	1	0	4	3	7	7	0	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Begin NW corner Lot 2 Block 60 Plat A, E 170.50', S 6 rds, W 170.5', N 6 rds to beg.

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

state UT code county code

state UT code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Carter, Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date November 1981

street & number 300 Rio Grande

telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City

state Utah 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 2-17-82

For HCERS use only

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

William H. Brauman

date 4.19.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

EXHIBIT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

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the new demand for sophisticated consumer goods. He ceased making furniture on his own and became a furniture dealer.³ By 1895 Jensen's Consolidated Furniture Company was doing a brisk trade in household furnishings. Writing in 1898, W. H. Lever noted that Jensen's store carried "a good assortment of about \$4000, consisting of carpets, wall paper, paints, oils, and general household furnishings."⁴ He also helped organize the Mt. Pleasant Bank and became a large wool-grower in his own right, owning over 5,000 sheep and acting as agent for a Kansas City marketing firm. In 1909, Jensen purchased the first Cadillac in Mt. Pleasant.

F. C. Jensen was active in politics, served on the city council, and supported the Presbyterian Church. He helped in starting the Wasatch Academy (a Presbyterian school, listed in the National Register) and died in 1925. Today the home is in good condition and is the property of the Wasatch Academy.

¹Biographical information primarily drawn from W. H. Lever, The History of Sanpete and Emery Counties (Ogden: W. H. Lever, 1898), p. 246. Also, Hilda Madsen Longsdorf, Mt. Pleasant (Mt. Pleasant: Mt. Pleasant Pioneer Historical Association, 1939).

²For information on the Sanpete livestock industry, see Everett H. Mecham, "The History of the Sheep Industry in Utah," unpublished thesis, University of Utah, 1925.

³The arrival of the railroad in 1869 and the general improvement of intra-state transportation in the 1870s and 1880s doomed local, folk craft production -- including furniture -- to extinction. See, Nancy Richards, "Mormon Craftsmen in Utah," in Utah Folk Art, ed. by Hal Cannon (Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 1980), pp. 61-89.

⁴Lever, p. 246.