



Jack Goodman

The Anders Hintze house, 4249 S. 2300 East, constructed in 1863-64, is one of the oldest residences in Holladay.

Scandinavian scenes are as close as Holladay

Some wintry but warm day, when roadside snowpiles melt, you can learn a lesson concerning Scandinavian architecture by journeying no farther from home than Holladay. Not only can you glimpse — imagine, at least — scenes of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, but you can also gain some knowledge of Mormon immigration to the raw territory of Utah by following your visit to Holladay with a bit of reading at the Utah Historical Society's library.

The dwelling to eye for such a study stands at 4249 S. 2300 East, on the east side of 2300 East a few blocks south of Olympus High School. It is the Anders Hintze house, which, having been built in 1863-64, is believed to be one of the oldest, if not the oldest, house in Holladay. Still owned and occupied by descendants of the Hintze family, the long, low house is a prime example of a style architectural historians label "Scandinavian vernacular." More specifically, they have given its particular appearance and sub-style the appellation "Scandinavian-American Pair House."

Fifteen other Scandinavian-American Pair Houses exist in Utah — but this is the lone example found in Salt Lake County. Most others are in Sanpete County, in the Spring City Historic District, or in such towns as Ephraim, Manti, Richfield, Fountain Green or Scipio.

The Hintze home is not only the lone example of its kind in Salt Lake County, it is also the oldest of its type in the state. Art historian Tom Carter explains that the designation "pair house" relates to the Swedish word "parstuga," and such dwellings — in the Old World and the new — are houses with large central room flanked by a pair of less-sizable rooms.

To the nonarchitectural eye, the house is exceptionally long and narrow, one story high, with a slightly curved, almost Dutch-appearing roofline visible under the snow



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Cityview

at its north and south ends. Built of locally made adobe, the home was covered with more modern stucco in the 1940s. There's a lean-to farm of extension at the north-west corner. A scroll-bracketed porch again runs the entire length of the facade — the scrollwork was removed in the 1940s, but recently replaced in keeping with the old look of the home.

To indicate how carefully researchers document such a building (this columnist is no researcher), it might be noted that studies of the Anders Hintze home utilized plat records of old Holladay, tax cards, old photos, city directories, county and city histories, biographical encyclopedias and the always-useful Sanborn Maps. One recent researcher even notes that telephone directories show 39 listings of Hintzes, including five in Holladay.

Briefly, such studies show that Anders Hintze was a native of Herslex, Roskilds Parish, Denmark. Born in 1821, he became an LDS convert and emigrated to Utah via sailing ship and wagon train in the early 1860s before the railroad arrived. He received a land grant that extended from today's 3900 South to 4500 South, and from 2300 to 2700 East.

You might, if you are curious, drive today's streets around the "metes and bounds" of this old Hintze grant. Things have indeed changed. There's little farmland left amidst large and small homes, malls, schools, churches and similar common signs of present suburbia. Whether

Anders Hintze would recognize his farm today is open to question, but towering Mount Olympus to the east, cottonwood trees and, of course, his old homestead remain much the same.

Hintze married three wives during the officially vanished days of plural marriage. Karen Sophia Swenson, who this nonresearcher presumes was his initial wife, lived with him in the Scandinavian-American Pair House, while the other wives dwelled in smaller houses built on his property.

Research study shows that, after Anders died in 1888, the house at 4249 S. 2300 East went to his son Ferdinand. This gentleman married four wives — and had the dubious distinction of being the initial Mormon arrested under the provisions of the Edmunds (anti-polygamy) Act in 1882.

While the 1863-64 house is certainly not "stylish" in the present sense, it remains recognizable as an example of "Scandinavian vernacular" to those of us lucky enough to travel to Denmark, Norway and Sweden on cruises to the fjords, on LDS missions or in search of native roots. Long and low, it retains the look of a Norwegian farmhouse, although not painted in properly picturesque fashion. Certainly it stands with its narrow end toward the north, a compass direction most likely to inflict frigid wind and snow. The two chimneys would seem to indicate a pair of stoves or fireplaces. It presents a sturdy, solid look, with just four windows and a single doorway piercing its facade.

One thing is certain. This season's heavy" snows collapsed the roofs of quite a few suburban homes.

The Hintze home was not among them.

Jack Goodman is a journalist and freelance writer whose Cityview column has appeared in The Salt Lake Tribune for a number of years.