

The Hannah Haines Brown Whiting and Horace B. Perry Home

727 South Main Street
Mapleton, Utah



The year 1850 saw the site of this old house covered with a bunch of grass and sage brush, inhabited by animals natural to the territory of Utah. As pioneer settlers arrived and settled Springville they began expanding their grazing area to include the acreage on the southeast side of the town; this in time became Union Bench later to be name Mapleton. On the 20th of November, 1882, a homestead grant was made to Olive Amanda Smith, wife of John Solomon Fullmer. This tract of land included 160 acres. The land that this home would be built on was included in this homestead. 1st of April, 1883 seventy acres of Amanda Fullmer's homestead were sold to Richard Bird; the home site was within this acreage. On the 14th of February, 1887 Richard Bird deeded the seventy acres to his son, Charles Monroe Bird.

From the history of the life of Hannah Brown Whiting written by her granddaughter, Jenny B. Hill in 1955 we read that Hannah's son-in-law Charles Monroe Bird gave her a small piece of land and helped her build a house on it. This is the house where Horace Perry now lives. Hannah lived here next door to her only daughter, Abbie Whiting Bird until her death. The 29th of December, 1903, for the sum of \$500.00, Charles M. and Abbie Bird sold the small house and the one acre that it sat on to Horace B. Perry and his wife, Ariel Warren Perry. The 1st of April, 1919, 2 ½ additional acres behind the house were acquired by Horace from Charles Bird. And so it began a place that would become home, a place of love, generosity and hospitality. Everyone would be welcome here and as the years passed it would hold wonderful and happy memories.

The following was related by Leah Wilson, the youngest child of Horace and Ariel Perry:

“ Horace and Ariel with their two small daughters, Ardell and Elda, had been living at Winter Quarter where Horace worked in the coal mine. They returned to Mapleton in 1905 and moved in their new house. This house was made of adobe. It had large pine trees, a Linden tree and orchard in front with pasture on each side of the house. Later raspberries and a barnyard were added and it became home. Dena, Warren, LaVon and Leah were born here. In 1925 our house was again under a remodeling job. The house was stuccoed in a gray color and a large front porch extended along the front of the house. The large Linden tree that Edwin Whiting planted still stood in 1989 and is now a Heritage tree. Large round posts held the porch roof and it looked like a southern type porch. The pillars were painted white as was the wood trim on the house. There was a wooden fence with a gate out front. It had a wide board on top where you could sit and visit or view the sunset. The gate was kept closed as cattle would sometimes wander in. A lovely cement sidewalk was put in and led to the front door and around to the side porch which was an entry to the kitchen. This home is where many Perry and Warren cousins and friends from far and near would come to visit and many times beds were made on the floor. We were proud of our home on Perry Street.”

This was a wonderful house for grandchildren also. As a Perry grandchild I loved this house and its little bedroom where I would sleep when I stayed there. I can still feel under my bare feet the large wood knot in the threshold between the living room and the kitchen. Outside the back door was the cellar. It had a wooden door that lifted up to reveal the cement stairs; it was here the butter churn was kept. Hollyhocks surrounded the cellar and we had great fun making hollyhock ladies. This old house truly became home – a place for many to return to if only in memory. The house was then owned by a great grandson of Horace and Ariel Perry, Morgan Johnson and his wife Pat. It is now owned by Vernon Westberg.

Compiled and Written by
Juanita Jones, Granddaughter of the Perry's, October 1989