

Sept. 13, 2008
Cache Valley Historic Homes Tour

LOGAN, UTAH—For the first time in 10 years a historic homes tour and turn-of-the-century dinner will be held Sept. 13 in Cache Valley. Dinner will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and tours of the Old Rock Church and five other area homes will begin at noon. The event is presented by the Cache Valley Historical Society, Cache Valley Visitors Bureau and Temple Fork Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers.

“We have wonderful examples of historic homes that have been beautifully and tastefully restored and decorated,” said Bernice McCowin, committee member. “It’s interesting what can be done with some of these lovely homes.”

In addition to the Old Rock Church, two homes in Providence (Adolph and Louisa Baer and Alma Morris and Sophia Mathews homes), one in River Heights (John Davis Home), and two in Logan (Marriner S. Eccles and Julia Budge Nibley homes) will be available for viewing from noon to 5 p.m.

“These homes represent a variety of styles including Vernacular, Prairie, Victorian, and Arts and Crafts,” said Dan Davis, committee member and archivist at Utah State University. “They were selected for their historical importance, unique elements and authenticity of their restoration.”

Dinner will feature typical Cache Valley turn-of-the-century fare, including roast beef, country vegetables, homemade biscuits, fruit cobbler and famous Aggie ice cream.

“This is a rare opportunity for the public to look inside view these beautiful showpieces,” said Julie Hollist, director of the Cache Valley Visitors Bureau. “September is a wonderful time to enjoy Cache Valley with football, fall colors and cooler temperatures.”

Tickets are \$24 each and proceeds will fund a scholarship for a USU student studying local history. Stay overnight at the Seasons at the Riter Mansion (435-752-7727) or the Providence Inn Bed and Breakfast (435-752-3432) and receive a free ticket to the home show tour. Be sure to mention the tour when reserving the room. Tickets can be purchased at Macey’s Food & Drug, Lee’s Marketplace, the Cache Valley Visitors Bureau (199 North Main), and the Old Rock Church. Availability is limited. Participants

are encouraged to carpool when viewing the homes. For more information, call the Visitors Bureau at 435-755-1890.

Participating Tour Locations

The Old Rock Church - 10 South Main Street, Providence

This magnificent stone building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Construction of the “Rock Meeting House” began in 1869 and was completed in 1871. Officially the building was known as the Providence LDS Chapel and Meetinghouse. In 1926 a Georgian style wing was added that held the bishop’s office, a kitchen, Relief Society meeting room and Sunday School classrooms. The “Old Rock Church” is the oldest surviving rock LDS structure in Cache Valley. It is also one of the best remaining examples of early Utah pioneer meeting homes. Since 1968 the property has gone through a number of owners and renovations. Today it is a wedding and reception center as well as a bed-and-breakfast owned by Karl Seethaler.

Adolph and Louisa Baer Home (Owners: Jay and Margaret Hicken) - 94 West Center, Providence

Adolph Baer was the first postmaster of Providence and he built a special room on the southeast corner of this house to serve as the post office. The house was built between 1889 and 1890 and has been expanded multiple times. The house is built on a stone foundation encased in concrete. The brick masonry is laid in common bond with headers every sixth course. The only exterior modification is the wrought-iron rail around the small balcony. The balcony door is in the center of the west elevation, under a central gable and features a half-glass “angel” door. The door and windows feature corbelled brick hoods. The bungalow porch wraps around the east side. The east half of the north porch was enclosed in brick in 1896. Adolph Baer assisted in the construction of the Logan Temple, Logan Tabernacle, and the Providence School so he may have built this home himself. He planted numerous orchards and his trees were the first to successfully produce peaches in Providence. The Baer family is one of many in Providence of Swiss origin.

Alma Morris and Sophia Mathews Home - 110 South Main, Providence

This house, built in 1902, is a 1½-story Victorian frame house built on a stone foundation and sheathed in drop-novelty siding and fish-scale shingles. It is the finest example of the Eastlake style in Providence. This exuberant, decorative style was named from English architect Charles Locke Eastlake, who created a new style of domestic architecture featuring an abundance of wooden ornamentation including carved spindles, fan-shaped corner brackets and lathe-turned columns.

John Davis Home - 523 East 400 South, River Heights

This house, which has an elegant early 1900s décor, was built in 1915. It originally faced west and was surrounded by raspberry bushes. The smooth brick was shipped from Denver. Because the cellar under the porch was so cool, an icebox was unnecessary. An early sun porch on the east end has been closed in with a large wraparound porch added. The floor and windows were raised to accommodate a basement. A “nursery ditch” where children played and vegetables were washed still exists on the property.

Marriner S. Eccles Home - 301 West Center Street, Logan

Marriner S. Eccles, the eldest child of David and Ellen Eccles, built this remarkable home in 1913. Charles Schaub was the architect and styles include Spanish Revival, Classical, Italianate and Prairie. Unique features include a formal as well as an off-the-kitchen stairway, Italian marble in the rotunda reception room, hardwood floors, brass and stencil tile, two fireplaces, original bathrooms, a sleeping porch and radiator heaters. It features large French doors and windows allowing sunlight in every room. Marriner inherited the various Eccles family businesses upon the death of his father in 1912. He built a financial empire but also served in the Roosevelt administration as one the architects of the New Deal in the 1930s. In 1934 he became chairman of the Federal Reserve, a post he occupied until 1948.

C. W. Nibley and Julia Budge Home - 308 West Center Street, Logan

This Prairie-style home is a hip roof villa in the Spanish motif. It was built in 1915 for Julia Budge Nibley, Charles W. Nibley’s third plural wife. The two-story home has beige

stucco walls, strong horizontal symmetry, gently sloping hiproofs, low proportions, heavyset chimneys, sheltering overhands and low out-reaching terraces. A Spanish motif is portrayed by the red tile roof, an arched roof canopy above the front door, French doors used as windows and openings outlined by brick arches. The interior was remodeled in the 1930s, again in the 1960s and returned to its original period style in 1996. It was designed by Salt Lake Architects Pope and Burton (one of the few remaining homes they designed) who studied in Chicago and who helped bring the Arts and Crafts style to Utah. This house helped lead the break from elaborate Victorian homes and establish the Arts and Crafts house, particularly bungalows with Prairie influence, as the preferred homes in the state. This house is historically important because it represents one of the best and earliest examples of the Chicago school in Utah homes. C.W. Nibley was a successful entrepreneur who became an LDS General Authority, Presiding Bishop and Second Counselor to LDS President Heber J. Grant.