



27 March 1964

Fairbanks Family in the West, Inc.  
743 Sunrise Avenue  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Friends:

You may wonder at my addressing you as friends. But having known Jonathan Fairbanks first as a student and then as a fellow worker for several years, and having visited his family in Salt Lake City, and having seen the wonderful things the Mormons have accomplished there, I feel a feeling of kinship toward you. Sometime past, Jonathan showed me photographs of adobe buildings built by the Mormons in and around Salt Lake City. He showed me these photographs at the time he gave a talk on this type of architecture to our staff and students at the Museum. To me this type of building was new and highly interesting. I have never seen it before.

Jonathan has continued to gather photographs and recently has been preparing for publication an article in the Bulletin of the Society of Architectural Historians. This article will, I feel, be of great interest to many people, since not much has been written up to now on this type of architecture and building and it is little known.

This morning Jonathan has brought to my attention the fact that the John Boylston Fairbanks house in Payson, Utah, may be sold and go out of the custody of the Fairbanks family. May I urge you not to allow the house to be sold. The house is an important house, much more important than it may seem to you who know it well and see it frequently. It is a part of one's everyday experience, and consequently it may seem ordinary. If the house is sold, you know not what will happen to it. My experience over the past twenty-five years has shown again and again that nothing is safe from destruction in this day and age except for the eternal vigilance of those who care. More than any other group of people in the United States, the Mormons have shown they treasure and place importance on what their forbears have done and accomplished. You have kept faith with the past and have treasured your inheritance. You have cherished the eternal varieties which bring strength to each succeeding generation through knowledge of the past. You must continue to do so.

Fairbanks Family in the West, Inc.

Page 2

27 March 1964

Please don't let the house be sold or let it run down. The cost is little; the gain is great.

With apologies for "butting into your business," I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles F. Montgomery". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

Charles F. Montgomery  
Senior Research Fellow

CFM/cah

CC Mr. Avard Fairbanks  
1489 Michigan Avenue  
Salt Lake City, Utah