

# Adobe home dismantled

The John Boylston Fairbanks home, built in stages from 1856 to 1862 in Payson, has been dismantled and will become part of the village in Pioneer Trail State Park.

Fairbanks built his adobe home after he moved his family from nearby Pondtown to Payson in 1853. He was a member of the Payson City Council and became an LDS bishop on April 27, 1862. Brigham Young used the Fairbanks home as his headquarters when he visited Payson.

The south upstairs bedroom was known as

"Brigham Young's room" and in it, history reveals, a prayer circle was held on July 22, 1860, and a School of the Prophets was organized in the upstairs rooms in September 1868.

Fairbanks and his wife, Sarah Van Wagoner, had 11 children, nine of whom at one time or another lived in the Payson home.

After Fairbanks died of pneumonia in 1875, his widow continued to live in the home until her death at age 76. Their daughter, Lillie Marie, continued to live in the home until 1921, when the home ownership went to her sister, Mary Fairbanks Brown.

The house has stood vacant since 1938.

The home was built in

several stages. First, a two-story structure with two rooms downstairs and two upstairs, with a fireplace in each room was constructed. Next, a large kitchen with a stove and a fireplace was added, then a small pantry and porch on the north side, with a small storeroom on the south end. Another bedroom was added on the backside of the kitchen, but it was torn down. Later, the south room and porch were enlarged.

The home is listed on the Utah Register of Historic and Cultural Sites.

A family history says the Fairbanks home was one of the first adobe homes in the area and among the first to go from dirt to shingled roofs. In his diary, Fairbanks mentions the date

that his brother was run over by a wagon and the boy was brought in and laid down on the kitchen table. This occurred in 1859 and indicates that the kitchen, part of the second phase of construction, was completed.

The home is an example of a style adapted from the New England Federal or Greek revival homes. The family believes the home was built and designed by John Fairbanks.