

9.- THOMAS HOUSE, PALMYRA

This house is located on Jeffrey Road in the town of Palmyra and is owned by Mr. Schlegel. It is known in the general area as the Thomas House. This house was probably built by the same mason that built the Philip Miller House. The windows still have the original hand-blown glass. The windows open inward like French doors. The maple floor in the front room is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches thick.

STONES: The field stones in front measure  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -2 x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 inches.

The course is 3 inches high.

JOINTS: The horizontal joint is a V and the vertical a pyramid.

MORTAR: The mortar is hard and gray.

QUOINS: The limestone quoins are untooled and rough, irregularly cut.

LINTELS: The lintels are 1--12 vertically laid cut limestones.

The Martin Harris Farm is now used by the Church of the Latter Day Saints for their headquarters in this area. This house was built by Robert Johnson for William Chapman in 1849. Martin Harris had mortgaged the farm land in 1829 for \$3,000 to E. B. Grandin, owner of the WAYNE SENTINEL, who in turn agreed to print the first edition of the BOOK OF MORMON. For this first edition, five thousand copies were printed.

Each house had its own individuality. The photographs and accounts of others of the 152 houses in the accompanying five notebooks will reveal many other interesting features not mentioned in this essay. No two of these houses were alike. In many of these places one will still find the original hand-blown windows, mainly around the entrance. Since hand-blown glass is wavy and contains small bubbles of air pockets, which tend to distort objects, it doesn't make a good viewing glass and therefore has been replaced in some homes. Also, because hand-blown glass does not have the strength of manufactured glass, it is easily broken, hence its rarity.

At the Thomas Place on the Jeffry Road, the lower front windows are of the Southern Terrace type. They are made to open on the porch like French doors. These were incorporated into the house when it was built. All windows at the Franz Place are said to be of the same size, which

is unusual for an older type dwelling, for the upstairs windows were more often made smaller.

The woodwork of many of these old homes is of chestnut, such as is in the Jordon Place on Alderman Road. This is interesting to note because of the blight which has swept the chestnut trees in recent years.

On one of my trips I was told that the masons used a few large stones placed at intervals along one course which passed straight through the wall, not only to tie in the veneer of small stones but also to be used as a scaffold holder. It seems reasonable that they could be used for scaffold riggings because of their parallel position and the force they could withstand. A good example of these tie-in stones may be seen in the front of the Hanagan Place. Check the Appendix for a picture of two of these stones found in a wall of the Hoagland House.

Apparently, the old time owners were happily contented with and liked their cobblestone buildings. This is evident because of the many cobblestone additions found on the original cobblestone houses. I can recall only a few places having a foundation with a cobblestone exterior. For the most part, the foundations are of cut limestone. Why this should be I can find no reason and is the more odd when one considers the countless cobblestone foundations found under frame houses. Indeed, these foundations have more

