



**ARKANSAS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

Sandwiching in History Tour Cherry–Luter Estate

521 W. Scenic Dr., North Little Rock

March 7, 2025

By Ashley Sides

Special thanks to: Steven and Theresa Tiner



*Cherry–Luter Estate
Photo by Ashley Sides, 2024*

Welcome and Introduction

Hi! I'm Ashley Sides with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, and this is our first Sandwiching in History tour of 2025. Welcome to the Castle, also known as the historic Cherry–Luter Estate. It's also the home of Steven and Theresa Tiner, and I want to express a special thank you to the Tiners for sharing their home with us today.

Many of you have driven by this property and found it fascinating, and you've wondered about its story. We're here today to tell you as much as we can about the history of this property, and at the end, you will have a chance to look around inside. We will have to do that as groups taking turns, though, because there's not much room inside. So I'll tell you about this house while we're gathered outside.

Architecture

The Cherry-Luter Estate stands out for its architecture. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 under Criterion C: Design/Construction, with local significance as "the finest example of the relatively unusual French Eclectic style of architecture in the city of North Little Rock."¹

What's the French Eclectic style? It's an architectural style that was popular in the United States from about 1915 until the end of World War II. It was meant to evoke historic French houses, and since it drew on centuries of architectural development from different regions of France, the French Eclectic style was quite varied. It was rare before World War I, but it surged in popularity starting around 1920 as American servicemen returned from the war, inspired by architecture they had seen in France.²

Many Americans even now feel captivated by European architectural styles. They were built to last and have stood the test of time. Old buildings constructed of stones and other natural materials carry an essence that combines a sturdy earthiness with refined culture and, whether simple or elaborate, demonstrate a level of artistry and skilled craftsmanship that stops us in our tracks and sparks our admiration and wonder. This house certainly evokes those feelings for many people. Locals know it as the Castle and have admired it for generations.

What is it about this house? The quiet grandeur of it? The solidity of the stone structure, sturdy and self-assured, commanding our respect? It's an unpretentious castle. It's a modest-sized home (1300 square feet), but it evokes something much larger. A house like this activates the imagination. Who hasn't driven by and, catching a glimpse of this home, fantasized to themselves what it would be like to live here and what they would do with this place if it was theirs. It ennobles the landscape with its commanding presence, and it lifts the aspirations of those who engage with it, whether they actually own it or simply dream of it. Can you imagine a Craftsman house from the same era, of the same size, having the same impact on this lot as this manor house? The Cherry-Luter Estate doesn't just hold our attention, it holds court.

¹ Ann McElmurry, "Cherry-Luter Estate," *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*, 1992, 8.2.

² Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 494.

Despite the variety of shapes and details that can be found within French Eclectic, common features include a tall, steeply pitched roof, usually hipped and always without a dominant front-facing cross gable like you might find in a similar Tudor design; the doors or windows are often topped with a segmental arch; the walls are often clad with brick, stone, or stucco and sometimes decorative half-timbering. One of the common subtypes features a tower with a high, conical roof, which usually houses the principal door or stairway. In the towered subtype, the roof is sometimes gabled.³

That's the case with the Cherry-Luter Estate. It's a two-story, gable-roof, towered residence constructed of limestone on a cast concrete foundation. It's very sturdy. The windows and doors are topped with concrete lintels and accented with quoins along the sides. The original casement windows themselves have for the most part been replaced, because they were leaky, cold, and drafty, but you can still find originals in the tower and the attic.

Here's some useless trivia, while we're on the topic of the tower: The staircase in the Cherry-Luter House tower spirals upward to the left. In actual historic castles in Europe, spiral staircases almost always go up to the right, for better right-handed defense against sword-wielding invaders coming up the stairs.

We think the house was built around 1923. If so, that would be fairly early in the popularity of the French Eclectic style. The outbuildings may have been built at that time too.⁴ In addition to the main house, the other improvements to the property include a carriage house, a pavilion, the stone wall fronting the street, and formerly a well with a pavilion-style covering. The well has been closed off and the deteriorated well house blew down in the wind last year.

The carriage house is worth mentioning. It is constructed primarily of limestone like the house, but has some fieldstones worked in, and the gable ends are brick. It has three bays, two of which open with rolling doors and which presumably once sheltered carriages or other vehicles. Stairs at the back lead up to the second-story living quarters, which you will see are scarcely habitable at this time. But they once were. In fact, below the stairway is a brick shed-like area where you can still see a 1920s-era toilet.

So that's the architecture. What about the history?

John and Lavinia Cherry

Historic properties are generally named for the people who built them and other significant people who owned them. In this case, the two main families are the Cherrys and the Luters. But

³ Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 485.

⁴ McElmurry, "Cherry-Luter Estate," 8.2.

there's some mystery surrounding the Cherrys' association with this house. We believe they had it built, but we don't know exact details about when and why and what they did with it. Here's what we know about the Cherry family, and we'll see what their connection to this house seems to be.

John Jackson Cherry was born in 1873 and at an early age lived in Lincoln County.⁵ Lavinia Willis Sticks was born in Little Rock in 1879.⁶ They married in Little Rock in 1894, when he was 21 and she was 15.⁷ They had two sons before she turned 19. John was a house painter by trade who ran his own business as a contractor, offering services like painting, wallpaper hanging, decorating, and perhaps even furniture.⁸

His name appeared in the newspaper in 1903 in connection with a wild incident. A young man—who might have been an employee of John Cherry—was driving the painter's wagon in downtown Little Rock. One of Cherry's horses somehow got unhitched and bolted at breakneck speed down the street, managing to miss pedestrians and other wagons until it reached the corner of Fourth and Main, where another horse was standing in its way. With its path blocked in other directions and going too fast to stop, the runaway horse dove under the standing horse and lifted it up on its back, where it kicked and scrambled for several moments until it was able to break free and get back down to solid ground. No vehicles were damaged, and neither were the horses injured, apparently. The driver of the painter's wagon was arrested but later released without being charged.⁹

What does that story have to do with the Cherry–Luter Estate? Well, nothing, really. Other than being connected with John Cherry. And what does John Cherry have to do with the Cherry–Luter Estate? Well, that's also a little bit of a tenuous link.

From at least 1920 until 1935, and maybe later, John and Lavinia Cherry lived at 809 Rock Street in Little Rock. They owned that home and often boarded lodgers; sometimes their adult sons

⁵ Ancestry.com, "John Jackson Cherry," *U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007*; U.S. Census Bureau, "John Cherry," *1880 United States Federal Census*.

⁶ Ancestry.com, "Lavinia Willis Cherry," *U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007*.

⁷ Ancestry.com, "Miss Lavinia Sticks," *Pulaski County, Arkansas, Marriages 1838-1999*.

⁸ Ancestry.com, "Little Rock," *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995*. John Cherry's occupation was listed in the following years thus: 1895—painter, 1897—painter, 1899—fireman, 1900—paper hanger, 1901—painters' union, 1903—painter, 1906—decorator, 1910—merchant in the cabinet industry (census), 1920—painter (house) (census), 1920—painter contractor, 1923—contractor, 1924—contractor, 1926—painter contractor, 1930—painter (house) (census), 1935—painter.

⁹ *Arkansas Gazette*, June 9, 1903, p. 5

lived there too. Then they moved to Los Angeles. John died there in 1939, and Lavinia moved in with her son and his family, who was living there too.¹⁰ She lived in LA until her death in 1961.¹¹

So if this house was built in 1923, as it seems to have been, then it would appear that the Cherrys never lived here. They did buy this lot in 1913, which up to that point had apparently just been used as farmland, if anything at all. Assessment records show that modest improvements of some kind were built on it in that year. It's not out of the question that they might have moved from Little Rock into whatever humble structure was built at that time, only to move back to Little Rock by 1920—but I think it's unlikely. We don't even know if the improvements represented a house; they had much lower assessments than surrounding properties.¹²

But notably, in 1923, the assessed value of this lot jumped, suddenly making it the most expensive property on the east side of the mountain.¹³ That would seem to indicate the construction of the Castle in that year. Also, that timeframe fits nicely with the architectural style of the house.

We didn't find any records to indicate why the Cherrys had this house built, why it was built in the uncommon French Eclectic style, or what they did with it. We can only guess that—if they didn't live here and their sons didn't live here—perhaps they rented it out. But the fact is that we simply don't know who lived here for the first 10 or 15 years of the Castle's existence.

Herbert and Montice Luter

We also don't exactly when Herbert and Montice Luter bought it, though we know they certainly didn't live here before 1944.¹⁴ By then John Cherry was deceased and Lavinia lived in LA; did the Luters buy it directly from Lavinia, or were there intermediate owners between the Cherrys and the Luters? I haven't seen the deeds of sale, so I don't know.

But here's what I do know about Herbert and Montice Luter. They came from northern Arkansas but bounced around the state before settling in North Little Rock. Herbert was born in

¹⁰ Ancestry.com, "Lavinia W Cherry," *California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997*

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, "1940 U.S. Census Record for Lavinia Cherry," *Census Place: Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California; Roll: m-t0627-00417; Page: 14A; Enumeration District: 60-373*; Ancestry.com, "Lavinia W Cherry," *California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997*

¹² McElmurry, "Cherry-Luter Estate," 8.1.

¹³ McElmurry, "Cherry-Luter Estate," 8.1.

¹⁴ They lived at various places in North Little Rock from the 1930s until at least 1944, according to Little Rock / North Little Rock city directories. After 1944, the next record of them appears in the 1953 city directory, by which time they are at Scenic Road. Ancestry.com, "Little Rock," *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995*; Ancestry.com, "North Little Rock," *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995*

Randolph County in 1889. By 1917, he was a 27-year-old resident of Hidgen in Cleburn County, working as a station agent for the M&NA Railroad. That spring, the United States entered World War I. Herbert registered for the draft in June, and in September he married his 18-year-old sweetheart, Montice Ditty, from the little Stone County community of Arlberg, and they moved to Harrison.¹⁵ He enlisted the following March, by August he was shipping out from Brooklyn for France, and after spending that fall and winter in Europe, he returned and was discharged from military service in March 1919.¹⁶

Now that the war was over, Herbert and Montice could finally start building their life together. Their first child, Carl, was born in 1920, but only lived four months. In 1923 another son was born, Edward.

Meanwhile, Herbert had found his way back to the railroads, but this time as a messenger and clerk with the American Railway Express Company, and the family moved around the state for this work. The Luters lived in Texarkana, then Helena, and finally in 1931, Little Rock.¹⁷

By 1940 Herbert had switched careers and was working as an attendant at the VA Hospital at Fort Roots.¹⁸ The family had by now settled in North Little Rock, though not at this address.¹⁹

It was probably around 1944 when the Luters moved into the Castle.²⁰ It's doubtful if their son, Ed, ever lived here with them, as he was starting his independent adult life about that time—going to war, then moving to Arkadelphia and getting married, and ultimately moving to Texas to stay.²¹

¹⁵ Ancestry.com, "Herbert Luter." *U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*; FamilySearch, "Herbert Luter," *Arkansas, U.S., County Marriages Index, 1837-1957*.

¹⁶ The National Archives at College Park, "Herbert Luter," *Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, 1774-1985*; Record Group Number: 92; Roll or Box Number: 380; The National Archives at College Park, "Herbert Luter," *Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, 1774-1985*; Record Group Number: 92; Roll or Box Number: 214; Ancestry.com, "Herbert Luter," *U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010*.

¹⁷ "Texarkana," *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995, 1929*; "Helena," *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995, 1929*; "Little Rock," *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995, 1931*.

¹⁸ "Little Rock," *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995, 1940*.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ The 1944 city directory shows them living on Division Street. Presumably that reflects their 1943 status: "Little Rock," *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995, 1943*. By the 1950 U.S. Federal Census, they are already living at 10 W Scenic Rd. (an earlier address for the Cherry-Luter Estate): U.S. Census Bureau, "Herbert Luter," *Census Place: North Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas*; Roll: 4200; Page: 80; Enumeration District: 60-70.

²¹ Ed registered for the WWII draft in 1942: Ancestry.com, *U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947*. His mother, Montice, kept a diary in which she wrote frequently about missing him as he was off at war (information from Steven and Theresa Tiner, who found the diary). Ed Luter and Anita Smook married in Arkadelphia in 1946: Ancestry.com, "Herbert Luter." *Arkansas, U.S., County Marriages Index, 1837-1957*. In 1947 he was an instructor in business administration at Henderson State College: Ancestry.com, "Edward R. Luter," *U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-2016*. Records after that show him and his family in Texas.

But it must have been right around the time that Herbert and Montice acquired this house—about 1944—that it caught fire from one of the fireplaces and burned the interior.²² It's not known if the fire happened before the Luters bought it (perhaps that's why it was sold), or if it happened shortly after they moved in. Ed recalled that his parents had to live in the coach house while the interior was being replaced.²³

Herbert and Montice Luter lived here for the remainder of their lives—close to 40 years. Neighbors remember them as nice people, and their record of public service would seem to back that up.²⁴ Herbert worked as an attendant or nurses' aide at the Fort Roots VA Hospital until he retired, probably sometime in his 80s. He was so respected that his former colleagues at the VA Hospital hosted a 60th anniversary celebration for him and Montice in 1977.²⁵ Montice had a variety of occupations. In the 1950s she was a telephone operator in a hotel and later at the State Department of Revenues, as well as a nursery worker at First United Methodist Church where she and Herbert were members.²⁶ In the 1960s and early 1970s, she babysat children in the neighborhood.²⁷ And in 1970, Montice was elected to represent North Little Rock Ward 3 in the Pulaski County Democratic Committee.²⁸

The Luters cultivated a garden here on the property. They grew things like tomatoes and potatoes, and they rotated what they planted so that they weren't always growing the same things in the same sections of the garden. One summer day in 1963, Montice was digging up some potatoes that she had planted earlier in the spring. When she looked at the vines more closely, though, she suddenly panicked. She was pulling the wrong plants—there were small tomatoes on the vines! But she was pretty sure they hadn't planted tomatoes in that spot, not since the year before last. Did she get mixed up? She checked the roots—no, it was definitely potatoes! But somehow this year the potatoes also came with tomatoes on the vines. She

²² The National Register nomination, p. 7.2 says the fire happened “around 1944.” Steven and Theresa Tiner stated that the fire originated in the chimney: personal interview, February 12, 2025.

²³ Ann McElmurry, email communication with Song Johnson, February 18, 2025.

²⁴ Brenda Simpson Nichols, Facebook comment, January 3, 2025. Nichols also recalled Mrs. Luter helping Nichols's mother clear a wooded lot next to their house.

²⁵ See Little Rock city directories from the 1940s to 1960s. The latest city directory record for Herbert Luter that could be obtained for this study dated to 1958, but it is likely that he continued to work at the VA Hospital on into the 1960s or even 1970s. Kim Montgomery remembers being babysat by Mrs. Luter in the Luters' home in the late 1960s and early 1970s but does not remember Mr. Luter ever being at the house. She was aware that he was at the VA Hospital, although her impression as a child was that he was a long-term patient. Also, the fact that the VA Hospital nurses honored the Luters on their 60th wedding anniversary in 1977 implies that Herbert had probably retired only recently: “60th Anniversary,” *Arkansas Gazette*, September 27, 1977, 12.

²⁶ See 1950 U.S. Federal Census for Herbert Luter; “Luter” in North Little Rock City Directories from 1957, 1958, and 1959; “Deaths/Funerals: Mrs. Montice Luter,” *Arkansas Democrat*, January 27, 1983, 29; “LR and NLR Deaths and Funerals: Herbert Luter,” *Arkansas Gazette*, December 30, 1980, 6.

²⁷ Kim Montgomery, phone conversation with Ashley Sides, March 4, 2025.

²⁸ “Results of Pulaski Democratic Committee Races,” *Arkansas Democrat*, August 27, 1970, 10; “Pulaski Democratic Committee Certifies Vote Returns,” *Arkansas Gazette*, August 29, 1970, 6.

called Herbert over and they checked them out. Real potatoes and real tomatoes. They were so baffled that they called the *Arkansas Democrat*, which ran the story under the title, “This Tomato Got Cozy With Potato.” The Luters’ best guess was that, since the potatoes and tomatoes (growing elsewhere in the garden) flowered at the same time, they may have cross-pollinated and produced tomato fruits on a potato vine. A plant pathologist with the Little Rock agriculture extension said that might have been the cause, but that something like that happening by chance is very rare.²⁹

Charlotte DeRoche

Herbert Luter died in 1980 and Montice died in 1983.³⁰ The house may have been vacant for the better part of the next decade.³¹ From at least 1993 until 2016, Charlotte DeRoche Thompson lived here. The Luters’ descendants still owned the house, and they lived in Texas, so Charlotte was considered a kind of caretaker. She was also a passionate gardener and an Arkansas Master Naturalist. She volunteered at St. Joseph’s, and a schoolteacher by profession, teaching art at Seventh Street Elementary School until she retired.³²

Charlotte sometimes hosted weddings at the Castle. One of the guests at a wedding in 1996 or 1997 was actress Joey Lauren Adams, who starred in movies like *Chasing Amy*, *Dazed and Confused*, and the TV show *Married...With Children*. It was Adams’s aunt’s wedding, and she performed a song from *Chasing Amy*, which had not yet been released.³³

Charlotte moved out in 2016 and the Luter family put the property on the market. Charlotte DeRoche continued to live in North Little Rock, and sadly, she passed away just five weeks ago.³⁴

Steven and Theresa Tiner

Steven and Theresa Tiner have lived in this area for many years. Whenever they would drive by the Castle, it would catch their eye. They were interested in this property from the beginning but never thought it would be available. Then one day in 2016 they were driving by and saw the

²⁹ “This Tomato Got Cozy With Potato,” *Arkansas Democrat*, July 5, 1963, 1. It’s also possible that these were simply potato berries, the natural fruit of the potato plant, which can look like tomatoes but are actually toxic.

³⁰ “Deaths/Funerals: Mrs. Montice Luter,” *Arkansas Democrat*, January 27, 1983, 29; “LR and NLR Deaths and Funerals: Herbert Luter,” *Arkansas Gazette*, December 30, 1980, 6.

³¹ Ann McElmurry, transcription of Little Rock / North Little Rock city directory listings.

³² “Charlotte Anne DeRoche,” obituary, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, February 8, 2025, 10.

³³ “An Arkansas product sees star on the rise,” *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, December 26, 1997, 74. Another wedding held here was that of Jason and Kristen Elliott. Kristen was a friend of Charlotte’s.

³⁴ “Charlotte Anne DeRoche,” *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, February 8, 2025, 10.

for sale sign. They immediately jumped on the opportunity and bought the house of their dreams. I'll let them tell you what it's been like to own it, renovate it, and live here...

[*Steven Tiner*] Thank you. I'm Steven, and this is Theresa. And we're happy to welcome you and to share with you today. We moved onto Scenic Hill in 2003. I'm pastor of Levy Baptist Church, and we moved here from Dermott. And we wanted to live close to the church, so we found Scenic Hill and loved the neighborhood. And we first lived on Cliffwood Circle in Mike and Peggy Hogg's house—we bought it from the Hogg's Meat Market owners. And we loved that house, but we went riding around in Scenic Hill one day to just see the neighborhood, and we turned the corner and saw the Castle and fell in love with it and began to talk to neighbors up here who all told us, "You can forget it. You will never own the Castle. It's not going to happen. The owners live in Texas. They'll never sell it. It's been leased for years."

And so that was the story. We'd always loved historic homes, and we couldn't get the Castle off our minds. And at that time, I was doing a great deal of travel. And it was on our wedding anniversary in 2016 that I was flying home from Phoenix, Arizona, and Theresa texted me and said, "The Castle is for sale." She had seen it on the Scenic Hill Facebook page.

And I said, "Well, go down and take a picture of the sign; I'll call the Realtor right now." So she did, and I called the Realtor, and he said, "Well, I did put the sign up today." He said, "But we're not ready to sell it because we haven't done a survey of the land yet..."

And I said, "Yeah, could you meet me Monday morning at 9:00?"

And he said, "Well, like I said, I'm not really ready..." You know, went through that spiel.

And I said, "Yeah, can you meet me Monday morning at 9:00?"

And he said, "Well, okay, I'll meet you up there."

And so, when we met him, I said, "Look, I need you to sell my house and sell me this house." So of course, he's thinking two commissions. And so that worked out really well because it allowed the house to never have an open house or anything. So we kept our mouths shut, you know. On Facebook, everyone was saying, "Is there going to be an open house at the Castle?" And we were just staying quiet about it until everything began to happen.

But we had a retired contractor in our church who just kept saying, "Don't do that. Don't do it. It's a big project. You don't know what you're getting into." But we had a couple in the church, Mark and Dena Sowell, and they're kind of like Chip and Joanna Gaines, you know? And they were like, "Oh, you can do this. And we will help you with whatever you want to do." And they were incredibly helpful to us.

We were so shocked by how tiny the—it's like living in a tiny home—and so we really scaled down. We had to figure things out, like what we're going to keep, what we're going to get rid of to move into this size house.

And so that led us to decide to take in the attic as a third floor. The attic was already floored and walled, but it only had a pull-down ladder. So we had to build stairs up there, but that gave us a little bit more room.

But there were all kinds of problems from day one. I was convinced that I would never live in a house that did not have central heat and air, and that was going to happen one way or the other. Well, we had five different companies all say, forget it, it's not going to happen. The house has beams that are about one foot apart that stabilize it. And they said, "We'd have to cut into those with ductwork. We can't compromise." And so that was out.

Well, when we bought the house, it was a poster child for conduit—I mean, there was conduit all over this house. And I wanted all of that gone as much as possible. And so that's why we don't have split units. And everyone says, "Why don't you get a split unit?" Well, we would have had to have conduit, because the walls are 17 inches thick. And we didn't really know why they were that thick, with no space in between whatsoever. So you can't put anything in the walls.

And we didn't know that the interior walls are also all stone—everything was stone. So we had to take out a stone wall in the kitchen, because, in order to meet code, they said, you've got to put gas inside the wall. We said, we can't put gas inside the wall. It's a stone wall. And they said that you've got to tear that wall out. So we had no option but to remove it and put in a wall that we could put the gas in the wall.

The front door is a 30-inch door and the side doors are 28-inch doors. So we couldn't get our furniture in either. So that was another question: What are we going to do? So we decided—the back door of the house was originally a window, and so we made it a door in order that we could get our furniture in. And that's when we discovered why the walls are 17 inches thick. They are limestone, cinderblock, brick, plaster, and sheetrock. So that's where your 17 inches come in. There is the turret—or the tower—it still has the original plaster in it, but the rest of the house has sheetrock that's over plaster.

And a lot of that was because we didn't want to be those historic homeowners who always have a pipe bursting or something like that. So we put all-new water pipes, all-new gas pipes, and all-new electric, so we wouldn't constantly have that problem. And of course, to put all-new electric means you've got to tunnel into the plaster. It was just cost prohibitive to go back with plaster, so there's some sheetrock over some of the plaster.

The windows—we so wanted to keep the original windows. That was really, really important to us. There was a steel bar in the middle of them that would not allow us to get out in the case of a fire. So with code and all of that, we really didn't have much choice. So these two windows are original, the attic windows are original, and the tower windows are original, but the others are modernized to allow us to escape if we had an emergency situation or something like that.

So it's been fun, we've enjoyed it. It's been challenging; we've never done anything like this, but we're thankful and have enjoyed living here and are grateful for that.

[*Question from guest*] How long have you been in the house?

[*Steven Tiner*] So we bought it in February of 2016 and moved into it in February of '17. It took a year to renovate, but it was really about nine months of renovation. Our neighbor next door was Ernie Alonzo, and he was our contractor. And three months in he had a massive heart attack. And we wanted to stay committed to him. So we waited three months for him to get well, and we discovered that he was going to have to take permanent retirement. And so, there was a contractor in our church, and I went to him and said, "Would you please finish our house?" And then he agreed to do that. So it was really about nine months of work, but it was 12 months before we were able to move in.

Touring the Castle

[*Ashley Sides*] Now we're going to let you look around inside the Castle. We'll have to do it in a regulated way, though, because it's small and can't accommodate very many people at a time. Also, there's only one narrow staircase to each floor, so it doesn't really allow two-way traffic flow. We'll have to let groups of 10-15 people at a time go in and look around, and when they come out, let another group in.

In the meantime, those who are waiting to see inside the house can check out the other features of the property, like the carriage house.

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