

## Fulton House, Built in 1892, Full of Treasured Memories

The statistical history of a house can be obtained from paper but the history of what made the house a home can only be gleaned from the memories of those who lived within its confines.

The Fulton home, address 305 North Meadow, built by J.H. Robinson and sons in 1892, has been occupied by members of the same family since its origins.

It is now occupied by Mary Fulton. She generously shared her knowledge and love of the house for this article.

Statira Robinson, then Statira Elizabeth Gibbon, and J.H. Robinson arrived in Florence in the early 1860's. It was a mining camp, and Statira taught school to the miners' children about 1864. She and her husband had two daughters, Lillian, later to become Mrs. R.F. Fulton, and Margaret, to be known in later life as Aunt Maggie Robinson.

Moving into Grangeville in the early 1890's, Mr. Robinson built the home on Meadow street in 1892. He straightened the creek and hauled extra dirt to fill in, to avoid flooding if the creek rose in a very wet spring.

There was a parlor for entertaining special guests, a dining room and kitchen, one bedroom downstairs, and two bedrooms upstairs in the original plan. There once was a picket fence around the house. Now a lilac hedge, originally planted to cut down the dust from the dirt street surrounds the house. At one time there was a sawdust lined cellar, for food storage, which was later done away with.

Robinson died in 1909. His daughter, Lillian, married R.F. Fulton, an attorney and one-time mayor of Grangeville. His daughter, Margaret, taught school, had a millinery shop, a fore-runner of a boutique shop where she sold import items and dishes, and worked for Henry Telcher, auditor and recorder, in the Idaho County Courthouse. She issued her nephew, Dale's wedding license in 1934.

"Aunt" Maggie and her father had housekeeping rooms in the upstairs of the house. A bedroom was added over the kitchen for "Auntie", and she also had a dining area.

Lillian, Mrs. R.F. Fulton,

had two children, Dale and Lallah. Lallah Fulton, a one time piano teacher, now lives in Santa Monica, California. Dale taught violin, was a distributor for the Spokane Chronicle, justice of the peace, and a probate judge. But most importantly, husband and friend of Mary, who lives in the house now.

Mary and E.D. Fulton had two children. Danny and his wife live in Spokane where he is a machinist. They have four children. Fulton's other son, Bruce, attends Divinity School at Vanderbuilt University.

Lillian Fulton was a wise and cultured lady. Her children attended the Combs Conservatory of Music in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was a musical family, as both children played several instruments, and Lillian was the organist for the Methodist church in Grangeville. Her husband played in the horn band.

The piano which Mrs. Fulton played is still in the house. It is a beautiful walnut burl piano which Mrs. Fulton bought from money she saved in her dime bank. Mary Fulton said, "She was a methodical and frugal woman, but very generous. She had a good way of planning for things."

She also planned and saved her dime bank money for the Victrola which still stands in one corner of the parlor. The records are

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The house has undergone some remodeling since its building. The kitchen was moved to the area of the back porch. What was once the kitchen became a library. The back porch floor was slanted to allow for drainage of water. It is still slanted and the appliances have a variety of different sized blocks under them to level them so they function properly. The long windows that were the fashion in the 1890's when the house was

built, have been shortened and venetian blinds applied, which were popular in the 1930's. The south side of the stoop around the front entrance has been removed. A back porch off of the kitchen still serves the purpose for storage of food when the refrigerator is too full and for summer dining when the weather gets hot. Lillian Fulton had the porch screened in as a surprise for her children one summer in the 1920's when they returned from the conservatory.

The bathroom was later added onto the kitchen. Mary Fulton said, "The house has

sort of grown like Topsy."

The furniture. The newest piece is a chair that was a 1940 Christmas present. Mary Fulton's favorite chair is a wicker rocker that she recovered with a floral print in 1948. The chair at the walnut burl piano has inlaid wood. The needlepoint seat was done by Lillian Fulton when she restored the chair in the 1930's. There are two delicately-turned chairs, one for the parlor in natural wood and one for the bedroom, painted white. Mrs. Fulton purchased the set when she was married in 1895.

The davenport and mat-

ching overstuffed hair chair were bought in the early 1930's. The dining room buffet was Lillian Fulton's. There was at one time a matching side-board, but it is gone now. The heavy-legged mahogany dining table has been replaced with a more delicate one.

The curved glass china closet in the parlor is filled with hand-painted Haviland. Belle Steele, a half-sister to Mrs. Fulton, was a renown china painter. The dishes have her name on them and dates of 1905, 1904. Her husband, F.G. Steele, was a captain during the Civil War. She visited her half-sister in

the west in the early 1900's. She lost a child to a fever on her western journey so she stayed in Grangeville a while before returning east. During that time she taught a class in china painting. Mrs. Lillian Fulton learned the craft, and some of her pieces are amongst the ones in the teasured cabinet.

The china cabinet was once part of a desk-cabinet combination piece, that has since been separated. Lillian Fulton restored the tiny ornate desk by using a table leaf for the siding where the cabinet once was. There is another combination piece standing in the corner of the dining room that was Mary Fulton's parents. It was part of the Hohaus furnishings. Other furniture from the Hohaus place include a walnut four-legged table, circa 1870, and a leather-covered chair, circa 1880. The chair was a favorite of Mary's father.

There is a beautiful curved wooden rocker, and a full set of dining chairs that were once cane-seated, that Mary's father restored with oak seats.

The light fixtures are singular. They have the beautiful tulip-bellied glass shades adorning them in the parlor and the dining room.

There are pictures that have adorned the walls since the 1930's. One of them is Howard Payne's "Home Sweet Home", featured in the Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

A beveled mirror hangs in the dining room reflecting the glorious past of this historical home.

The kitchen, where Mary cooks, has a wood stove which she uses. There is a 1924 apartment model Hotpoint Hughes electric range, for which Mary has the original cookbook. The oven of the range is to be heated to a certain tem-

perature, marked by the thermometer on the door, then the baked item put in and the stove shut off. If it should be allowed to heat, it would just get hotter and hotter.

The grounds of the house are full of trees and shrubs, even each of them have their story. The grass blooms with small delicate blossoms before the mower cuts them down. The creek runs under a cement bridge that you cross walking down the diagonal sidewalk to the

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(Continued from previous page) front door. It is a natural haven for the birds of the area. A cat guards the door as it rests in the window over the door. The woman occupying the house is a treasure of knowledge of her home, her town, and her

family. She has given us a taste of the past and I hope she does not change a thing in her lovely home. Mary Fulton is active in the community affairs of Grangeville. She will help us mold our future with her knowledge of the past.