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Deseret News, Tuesday, August 08, 2000, 12:00 AM MDT

Fire-damaged home built by LDS apostle about 1910

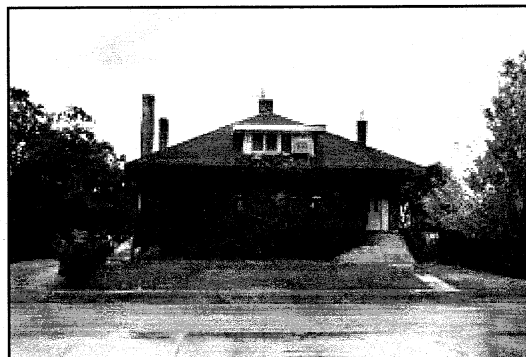
*Child playing with matches may have started the blaze***By Douglas D. Palmer**

Deseret News staff writer

An historic home that was recently heavily damaged by fire on Salt Lake's west side was once owned and occupied by Sylvester Q. Cannon, a prominent businessman and LDS Church leader.

Georgia P. Dalton, present owner of the two-story home, which sustained about \$200,000 damage in the fire, said she had lived in the home since 1938 and purchased the structure about 1972 from her father, Harold Powell. She said her parents bought the home in 1938 from a daughter of Sylvester Q. Cannon.

A son of George Q. and Elizabeth Hoagland Cannon and presiding bishop and later an apostle in the LDS Church, Sylvester Q. Cannon probably built the home at 1380 S. 900 West about 1910, according to the Utah Historical Society. A document in the Salt Lake County Assessor's Office indicates the home was built in 1902.



The historic home at 1380 S. 900 West, once owned by former LDS apostle Sylvester Q. Cannon, sustained about \$200,000 in damage in fire recently.

Michael Brandy, Deseret News

Sylvester Q. Cannon, who lived in the bungalow-style, river stone and stucco home until 1929, inherited much of the land in the area and was responsible for its development, according to materials supplied by the historical society. During the time Cannon lived in the two-story home, he was the city engineer and presiding bishop of the church.

The fire, which started in a basement bedroom, was apparently caused by a child playing with matches or a cigarette lighter, according to Capt. James W. Hansen, acting public information officer for the Salt Lake City Fire Department.

Dalton, 69, and 11 other family members, including sons Marlin J. Dalton, David G. Dalton and their families, were living in the ivy-covered home at the time of the fire.

Officials said the fire, which broke out about 10:30 a.m. July 26, was difficult to extinguish. Ten people were in the home when it caught fire. None of the occupants was injured, but one firefighter injured his back during the blaze.

Marlin J. Dalton said the attic contained pictures of the George Q. Cannon family. The

leader's named was etched in stone on a basement stairway, he said.

During a Deseret News visit to the burned-out structure, Georgia Dalton said she didn't have insurance to cover damage to the home or its contents. She said the fire department was slow to respond, and firefighters seemed to delay their efforts after they reached the scene.

That may have occurred, she said, because someone, either an individual in the neighborhood or a fireman, said the home was a "drug house." Georgia Dalton and other family members at the home emphatically denied that illegal drug activity had ever taken place at the home.

Hansen said the fire department responded within five minutes after receiving the first call. The house, he said, was engulfed in flames and heavy smoke. The first crews entered the front of the home. Other crews went to the rear, Hansen said, but were not able to get into the structure because of heavy flames.

He said a propane-fired barbecue at a back door was beginning to create a hazard. Hansen said fire investigators did not find any evidence that the home was a drug house. However, Hansen quoted a state drug enforcement agent as saying there had been drug activity in the past at the address. But Hansen said he doesn't know if any current residents of the home were involved.

Hansen said firefighters received warning of possible drug activity at the house. The warning, he said, caused concern for the safety of spectators, residents of the home and neighbors.

One couple, Joe and Irene Nava, neighbors of the Daltons, said they had lived in their home since 1978. They said the Daltons are "very good people. They are excellent neighbors."

With the home now uninhabitable, Georgia Dalton and some family members are living in a trailer behind the home. Other family members found shelter after the fire at a motel arranged by the Red Cross.

Georgia Dalton said she is on Social Security and is hoping for assistance from friends and others to help haul debris away from the home. She said she has no idea of the cost for repairs and hadn't contacted any contractors to get an estimate.

Georgia Dalton's daughter, Sharon Linschoten, Magna, said Wednesday that a trust account, the Georgia P. Dalton Home Fund, has been opened at Cyprus Credit Union for people who wish to donate funds that would be used in rebuilding the home. The account number is 123390, said Myron A. Denison, executive vice president. The credit union is at 3505 S. 8400 West, Magna, UT 84044. Information on branch locations is available by calling 250-5858.

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