

Preservation Utah – Kenneth and Patricia Hadley

The settlers of Leeds in Washington County were predominantly Mormon. As in many pioneer communities, the Leeds Tithing Office building served as storage for in-kind donations to be used and re-distributed within the community. Built in 1891, this Leeds Tithing Office has 18-inch thick, stone walls and is one of only four that were built in the 1890s across the region. The more remarkable statistic is that this structure is the only one to have any portion of the original walls remaining.

After 1920, most LDS Church members paid cash and there was no longer a need for the tithing office. It was then converted into living quarters and rented out for \$12 per month. It was during these years that Patricia Hadley, nearly four years old, lived in the tithing office with her family for the first time. She remembers it being small but adequate, and Leeds has remained her "home town" ever since.

Every chance she had to drive through Leeds, Patricia would take inventory of the events at the tithing office. After marrying Ken, he learned of her love for this place and decided to try and purchase the property. After years of neglect, the family of the previous owner decided to sell the little fixer-upper to the Hadleys.

In the first year they put on a new roof and rebuilt the interior to its original plan with the design the front room representing the tithing office and the bedroom to represent the families who rented the house in the 1930s and '40s. They decided to restore the building to its original layout and let it be a museum open to the public. The Hadley's continue to maintain the tithing office as a tribute to her family and the history of the community.