



A & C. BENNETT HOUSE
701 Princeton Avenue, Steamboat Springs

The Francis M. Light family, which included seven children, moved to Steamboat Springs from the Midwest in 1905. Frank, who had always wanted to run a mercantile, realized his dream when, in late 1905, he opened F. M. Light & Sons (See F. M. Light House below.), now Steamboat Springs' oldest retail business in continuous operation under the same management. When R. Wayne Light, the second youngest child of the family, turned sixteen, his father gave him a breeding pair of silver foxes with which to start a business that was to be Wayne's livelihood for 25 years. Wayne purchased a Great Dane to protect his investment, which led to the breeding and nationwide selling of fine Great Danes for the next twenty years. He also raised a small herd of dairy cattle, and for a few years, bred and pelted mink. Circa 1935-1941, a two-story log home was built on the property for the man who helped Wayne with his breeding enterprises until the World War II war effort took precedence and farm hands were no longer available. At that time, Wayne sold his mink, continued to raise foxes for another five years, then abandoned that occupation to become the area's official weather observer, and, at various times, water commissioner, school bus driver, and newspaper delivery man. Wane sold his property in 1950. The land and log cabin were again sold in 1953, this time to Charlotte L. Perry, co-founder of the Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School

(See below). Charlotte doubled the cabin's size, enclosed the breezeway, and added a music room to the back of the house that she used as a summer home until she sold it in 1983 to Kevin and Jane Bennett, who subsequently added a deck on the rear elevation but otherwise retained the building and the changes made by Ms. Perry. The home is part of Old Town Steamboat Springs; reflects the community character and its early growth; and demonstrates the custom of raising livestock, within the City limits. Kevin Bennett served on the Steamboat Springs City Council for three and one-half terms; Jane was active in the fundraising efforts to preserve Perry-Mansfield's (See below) buildings and keep it operating as the longest-running dance camp in the United States. The charming home has a rock-and-mortar foundation, logs chinked on the ends, wood-clad gable ends, and a uniquely designed rock chimney through the center of the roof; has housed several people influential in the development of Steamboat Springs, and is indicative of a lifestyle common during Steamboat Springs' growth period. Additional sheds and a garage extant on the property are non-contributing buildings.