

## Phineas Wolcott Cook Locality Project Manti, 1850-1853

### **Manti, Sanpete, Utah**

PWC Journal: *“In the month of August Br. Brigham visited San Pete and found the people in want of a mill for grinding their grain he came home and told me that he had made choice of me to go and build them a mill, he proposed to furnish the stones and the cash articles and I and father Morley was to do the work and we ware to each own 1/2 of it in co I was ready to do anything to suit him let it be what it might I got ready and put off the day that I was 30 years old we ware 10 days on the road”*

### **September to December, 1850, Grist mill at Manti**

“Phineas Cook was sent (to Manti) by Brigham Young to build a gristmill, which was warmly welcomed by settlers who had shared a hand-operated mill.”<sup>1</sup>

PWC Journal: *“After I had made my business known to the people I set to work as fast as I could geting out timber in the Kenyon, with one man to help me by the name of Wm Black, we got the timber out and then the brethren turned out and helped to haul it and frame it the frame was partly up as we bought a place in the mouth of the kenyon at Manti whare thare had been shingles made we gave \$350.00 for it. I got the mill runing so that we could grind without bolting the 25th day of December. I kept at work and ground the grain as fast as it came I worked early and late to accomplish my mision.”*

PWC Journal: *“I tended the grist mill three days in the week(.) The rest of the time I worked on my crop and some at my trade.”*

The autobiography of William Morley Black gives further details: “As harvest approached (in 1850) we saw the need of a grist mill, as there was none within a hundred miles of us. Phineas W. Cook and I undertook to build one. We went to the canyon, cut and hewed the timber, then the ward turned out and hauled it to the fort, then with broad-ax and whip-saw we prepared and erected the frame of the mill. In the meantime Charles Shumway and John D. Chase had built a sawmill just below us. From them we got lumber to finish our mill, and President Young came to our assistance by furnishing a pair of Utah homemade burs. With this help by Christmas our little mill was running, which proved a great blessing to the infant settlement of Sanpete.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Manti Grew Amid Struggle and Surprises, By Twila Van Leer, Staff Writer, Deseret News (<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/410801/MANTI-GREW-AMID-STRUGGLE-AND-SURPRISES.html>.)

<sup>2</sup> William Morley Black, “Sketch of the Life of William Morley Black (1826-1915),” p. 4-5.



<https://www.thisistheplace.org/heritage-village/buildings/manti-fort-gristmill/>

This replica mill, which ground grain into flour, was originally constructed at the mouth of Manti's City Creek Canyon in 1850 (by Phineas W. Cook.) Three years later, the miller and his assistant were killed and the mill was burned down. The mill's surviving, working parts were moved and installed in a new mill built inside the fort. Danish immigrant Christian Nielsen coordinated the new construction. The mill was a one-and-a-half story building made of limestone and held two sets of mill stones powered by a waterwheel.

A replica of the original mill now is part of the This-Is-The-Place Heritage Park in Salt Lake City.

Two years later Phineas was advised by Brigham Young to bring the mill out of the canyon and into the fort for protection against the increasingly hostile Indians. Unable to convince Morley, Phineas sold out his part of the mill to Isaac Morley, who promised to pay Phineas when he could.

PWC Journal: *"I then gave the mill into the hands of Father Morley this was in the summer of 1852... (That summer) Brigham gave council to move the mill down to the city out of danger of Indians, I advised with Father Morley about it he said if he could have his way about it he would not move it at all he thought it was needless labor and of coarse I could*

*not carry out the council. I then reported his feelings to Brigham he said he could have his way as far as he was concerned and advised me to sell out and to sell his part if I could and I had better go into some other business... He sold his 1/3 of the mill to Father Morly for five hundred dollars and I done the same."*

On October 4, 1853, after the Cooks had left Manti, two men were killed by Indians at the mill, an attack Phineas had predicted when he was working there. One month later, on November 16, 1853 the Indians burned it, necessitating the building of another mill in 1854, this time inside the big stone fort for protection.<sup>3</sup> Because Phineas had left Manti, the mill was rebuilt by others, utilizing the design of original mill.

The new mill, taken down in 1896, was reconstructed and is now at This Is The Place Heritage Park in Salt Lake City,<sup>4</sup> a replica of the original mill built by Phineas W. Cook in 1850.

<sup>3</sup> <https://millpictures.com/mills.php?millid=370>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thisistheplace.org/heritage-village/buildings/manti-fort-gristmill/>

## **Spring through July, 1851, Designed and worked 11 days on the Manti Fort**

PWC Journal: *“The spring of 1851 I was called upon by the council to make a draft of a fort and send a copy to Brigham Young. We located the fort on the creek, about 1/3 of a mile from our houses it was to be built of rock, 10 rods on each side. I labored on it 11 days which was an average for all. We held the 4th of July in our new fort and had a picknick dinner.”*

The Manti settlers immediately planned a fort when they arrived in 1849, but needed an expansion in 1851, for which Phineas Cook was asked to provide the plan. The town itself was moved a few blocks to the south for better protection against the Indians. Artemus Millet supervised the work, and every man in town was asked to donate labor. Artemus reported he worked on it for 13 days and Phineas reported he worked 11 days. It was finished in one month and dedicated in July of 1852.

“Three forts were constructed at Manti. The Little Stone Fort occupied the northwest quarter of block 64. The Log Fort was added to it on block 77, the block on which the Sanpete County Courthouse now stands. The Big Fort enclosed nine square blocks, which included the Little Stone Fort. It was erected in 1854. The center block of this fort was number 56.”<sup>5</sup>

“The Manti Saints relocated their settlement to the south, with the present-day Manti Tabernacle as the center block. They did this in consideration of the Indian threat and the desire to move their settlement away from the hill. This move occurred in 1852, beginning the first organized deed records in Sanpete County.”<sup>6</sup>

“The relocated Manti settlement was walled in and called the Little Stone Fort. Artemus Millet supervised the building of the fort in the summer of 1852 as well as the later additions to it.<sup>7</sup> The fort, like its later addition and other buildings Millet worked on in Manti, was built of stone. Construction began on 27 May and was completed on 28 June. A dedication service was held on 3 July 1852.”<sup>8</sup>

“A Deseret News article dated 17 June 1852 described the fort’s construction... ‘It has a gate on the west side in the center of the wall, and round bastions at the north, west and south-east corners,’ the report stated. ‘The wall is eight feet high and two feet thick and is set upon a foundation of stone three feet wide.’”<sup>9</sup>

Frederick Walter Cox and his wives moved to Manti before August 1853 when their first child was born there. He lived there until his death in 1879. The family reported they lived in the Stone Fort, probably the Little Stone Fort because the Big Stone Fort wasn’t built until 1854. When the Big Stone Fort was added to the Little Fort, they lived there for 9 years as a protection

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<sup>5</sup> Albert Antrei, *Utah History Encyclopedia* (<https://historytogo.utah.gov/places/manti.html>)

<sup>6</sup> Josh E. Probert and Craig K. Manscill: Artemus Millet, [http://mormonhistoricsites.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/MHS\\_Spring\\_2004-Artemus-Millet.pdf](http://mormonhistoricsites.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/MHS_Spring_2004-Artemus-Millet.pdf), p. 73.

<sup>7</sup> Artemus Millet, “Reminiscences,” LDS Church Archives, Family and Church History Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah. A typescript of Millet’s “Reminiscence” has been included in Erekson and Newell, “The Conversion of Artemus Millet,” Appendix, 107–15.

<sup>8</sup> Elizabeth Crawford Munk, *Early History of Manti* (Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1928), 10.

<sup>9</sup> Elizabeth Crawford Munk, *Early History of Manti* (Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1928), 11.

against the Indians. The following description probably applies to the Little Stone Fort as well as the later addition they called the Big Stone Fort.

“...we moved into the stone fort. It surrounded 5 acres of ground on the block that now houses the National Guard Armory, Sewing Plant, residences, stores, and the road to the east of this block. The walls of rock were 9 feet high. One entrance in the center of the west side was large enough for teams to drive in and out. There was also a doorway for the people to use. There were bastions built 2 stories high, one in the northeast corner and the other in the southeast corner. Both the fort and the bastions had portholes for defense. The dirt roofs slanted toward the inside so there was no danger of Indians setting fire to our houses. There were 10 or 12 rooms on the side, making room for 30 or 40 families.”<sup>10</sup>



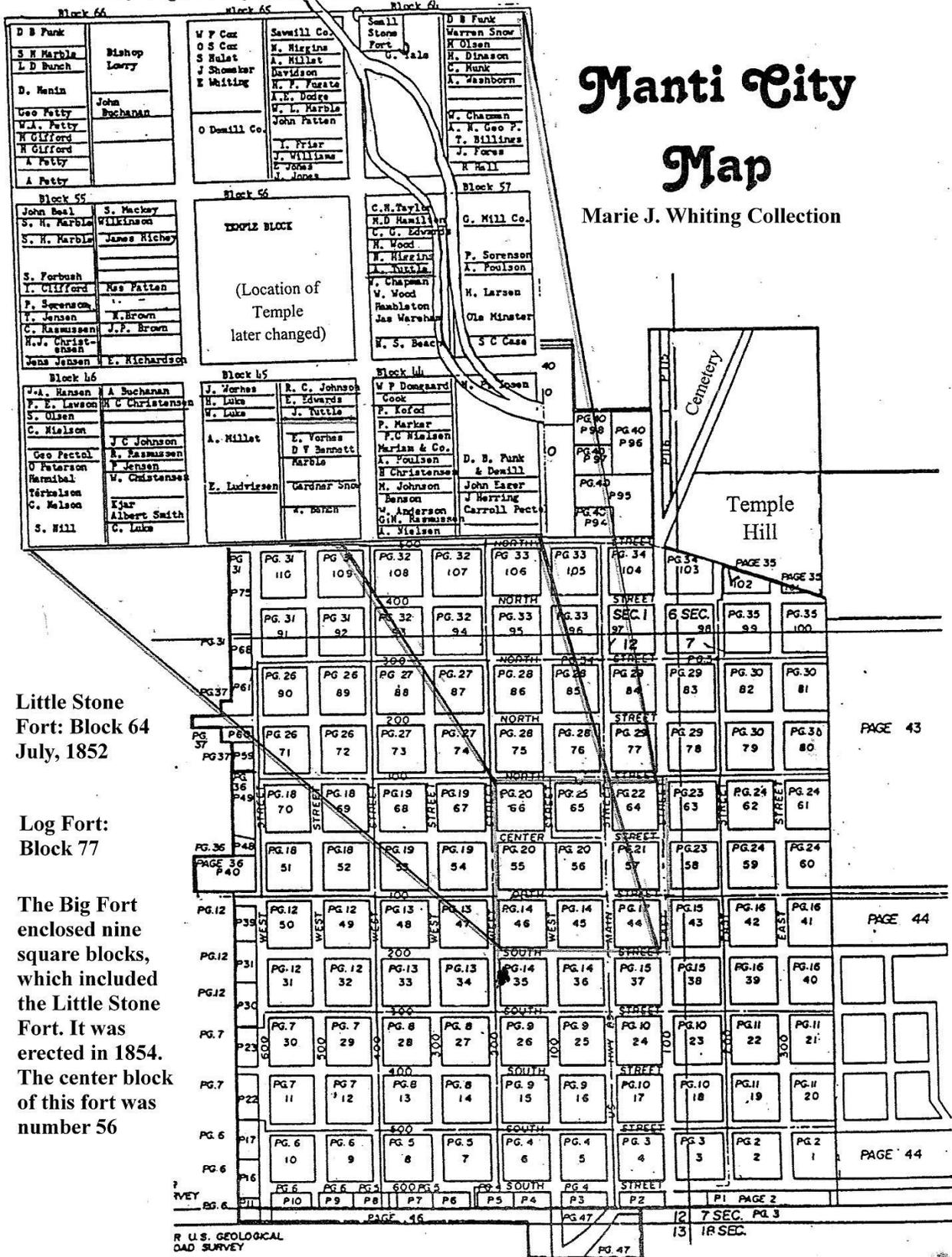
*Illustration of Manti, Utah, 24 July 1855 by Joseph Hedges. The fort, shown lower left of center, appears to be the Little Stone Fort. In 1854–55, the community began the construction of a larger fort called the “Big Fort.” Artemus Millet was employed as a mason on the construction of the larger second fort.*

*Illustration courtesy of Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.*

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<sup>10</sup> Early Pioneer Life in Manti as lived and told by the children of Frederick Walter Cox, Edited by Carl Cox, June 2007, <http://oscox.org/fwcox/fwmanti3.html>

Enlarged Area: Big Stone Fort



# Manti City Map

Marie J. Whiting Collection

Little Stone  
Fort: Block 64  
July, 1852

Log Fort:  
Block 77

The Big Fort  
enclosed nine  
square blocks,  
which included  
the Little Stone  
Fort. It was  
erected in 1854.  
The center block  
of this fort was  
number 56

## May-August, 1851, Shumway's Mill at Manti

Charles Shumway and Seth Taft were called during October General Conference in 1849 to assist Isaac Morley in establishing a community in Sanpete County near the Indian encampment of Chief Wakara. Over 200 settlers left October 28, enduring an unexpected winter with deep snow and unusual cold. Upon arriving at the present location on Manti, the pioneers realized the native Americans expected them to share their food. More than half of their cattle perished, and they barely survived.<sup>11</sup> A year after that first winter Shumway was ready to build a sawmill in the canyon at Manti to help build the city. Phineas had finished Brigham Young's mill and was asked to help Shumway.

There are several pages in Phineas' journal about Charles Shumway. Although Phineas had some negative experiences with him, especially as they traveled to Salt Lake City together, Charles was well respected among church leaders. In spite of his obvious faults, Charles served the church well. He was Isaac Morley's first counselor at Manti and later was called as Bishop of the ward. In 1851 he was elected to the House of Representatives from Manti,<sup>12</sup> and was in service to the church his entire life, never turning down a call no matter how difficult or inconvenient. Brigham Young said of Charles Shumway: "There was never a more faithful man in the Church. He was a man who was not wed to his gold. He would give everything he had to the Church, to the building of the Kingdom of God."<sup>13</sup>

"While Charles (Shumway) lived in Manti, Utah, he was in a partnership with Brigham Young. Charles constructed the first saw mill in the area. Brigham Young provided the metal and straps and Charles constructed the saw mill."<sup>14</sup>

PWC Journal: "*we were building Shumways sawmill...*"

*"I had some logs drawd to the mill and he had agreed to have them sawd but he (Shumway) put it off a long time and in the winter he went to the legislature and left a man by the name of Geo Pectot (George Peacock) to attend to his mill and he commenced sawing for me(.) In the mean time Father Morley had told me that he wanted me to see to it myself, so I told Pectot of it and he said then he would leave the mill in my care and go about his own business. I said he could do as he thought proper, so he left me to sawing my logs, so I stuck to it night and day till I got done, there was 6793 feet of the lumber When he (Shumway) came home he found my logs all sawed out..."*

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<sup>11</sup> "Establishing Zion", by Eugene E. Campbell, Settlements from Manti to Salt Creek (<http://signaturebookslibrary.org/the-inner-colonies/>)

<sup>12</sup> History of Sanpete and Emery Counties, Utah: With Sketches of Cities, Towns and Villages, Chronology of Important Events, Records of Indian Wars, Portraits of Prominent Persons, and Biographies of Representative Citizens, by W. H. Lever. ([https://books.google.com/books?id=I5VsdKfmnEC&dq=%22Manti+Fort%22&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](https://books.google.com/books?id=I5VsdKfmnEC&dq=%22Manti+Fort%22&source=gbs_navlinks_s))

<sup>13</sup> Biography of Charles Shumway, <http://fdrel261.blogspot.com/2010/04/charles-shumway-was-born-on-august-1.html>

<sup>14</sup> Biography of Charles Shumway, <http://fdrel261.blogspot.com/2010/04/charles-shumway-was-born-on-august-1.html>

The Shumway mill was located in the canyon, closer to town than the gristmill. As Phineas Cook and William Black worked on the gristmill, they were able to saw logs as the sawmill was in progress:

William Black wrote: "Charles Shumway and John D. Chase had built a sawmill just below us. From them we got lumber to finish our mill..."<sup>15</sup>

### **Fall, 1851-April, 1853, Brigham Young's House at Manti**

Brigham Young traveled through the towns in Utah at least once a year, offering encouragement and counsel. His house in St. George has been preserved and is a historic landmark, but his houses in other towns were not. He asked Phineas to build his house in Manti, but it was not set apart as a historic building.

PWC Journal: *"In the fall Brother Young came out there and said he wanted me to build him a house (and collect in the subscriptions for the news) and lay it out on the house He let me have three oxen and a cow to buy lumber and shingles with fer it and told me to collect in all I could on tithing labor I went at it as hard as I could he let the job of stone werk to father Millet, under my direction. Father Millet got the cellar dug and I got the most of the lumber on the ground in the spring ready to commence operations as soon as possible."*

PWC Journal: *"I finished the house all off and got done in the spring of 1853."*

*"They got a charter by the name of the Great Salt Lake City Water Works in the name of B. Young Jesse C. Little P. W. Cook from the Legislature next session I then returned home and went to work to carry out his council finished off the house done all things up April 28 settled with Thomas Bullock for (Brigham Young's) house."*

### **February, 1852 - Manti incorporated as a city**

The county was organized under the provisions of the act of February 3, 1852, with Manti as the county seat and the following officers: George Peacock, probate judge; Gardner Lyon, Phineas W. Cook and James Richey, selectmen (commissioners).<sup>16</sup>

PWC Journal: *"I was chosen 2nd Alderman of the City Council of Manti City Brother Joseph L Haywood was presant at our first meeting and spoke to us on our duty."*

### **1853-1855 - Walker War**

"The Walker War (1853-1855) is believed to have been brought about because of Chief Walker's anger that the Ute trade in Piute children with the Spanish traders from New Mexico was terminated by the territorial government. This followed the interception and arrest of a party of Spanish slave traders at the mouth of Salt Creek by a posse from Manti. A preliminary hearing

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<sup>15</sup> William Morley Black, "Sketch of the Life of William Morley Black (1826-1915)," p. 4-5.

<sup>16</sup> *Utah Since Statehood: Historical and Biographical*. Volume I. Chapter XXIII: County History, Continued, Sanpete County, accessed on Ancestry.com.

was conducted at Manti, but the decision was made in the First District Court in Salt Lake City.”<sup>17</sup>

PWC Journal: *“We found on our arrival at Manti city (September, 1850) all of Walkers and Aropeans bands of Utah Indians numbering from 3 to 4 hundred souls, the day after a little fray took place which came near exciting a war, one of the band by the name of Ammon stole a few potatoes from Joseph S. Alen. he was angry with him and struck him and knocked him down with his fist This made them all mad and they wanted to fight and they ware prepareing for it by sharpening their knives and arrows on every sand stone that could be found, but a council was called and they ware pasified by giving them an ox which belonged to Brother Alen.”*

During their first winter of 1851 Ann Eliza and the children were threatened by Indians who were not satisfied with the proposed trade for service berries. As he was working at the mill Phineas was attacked by the same group of Indians. Others who worked in his place were also threatened, and it took a great deal of effort to restore good relations. Although the Walker War had not begun, obviously there were bad feelings among the Indians. Eventually two men were killed by Walker’s band at the mill.

PWC Journal: *“I carried my gun nearly always after that while the mill was in my care least some stragling indian might be lurking about to seek my life, but Thanks be to my father in heaven and his angels I was saved from all their wrath and bloodthirsty revenge. Sometime in the course of the fall Aropean his chief sent him to me to make peace which I did and gave him some bread he was pleased and said he would always be my tick a boo (that is friend).”*

William Morley Black’s autobiography: “July 19, 1853 the Walker War commenced, and on October 4 John R. Warner and William Mills were killed near our grist mill, while Brother Mills was on duty as watchman or day guard, as the Indians had threatened to burn the mill. One morning Brother Mills, needing fire wood, took his team with him and it is supposed that Brother Warner filled the hopper with wheat, started the mill, then went a short distance around a point to a grove of timber, helping to load the wood when the Indians surprised and killed them. The wants of the people required the running of the mill and no one else understood the business. Martin Wood and myself were called to run it night and day until the people were supplied with flour, so we could pull down the mill and move it to town. Two men were put on guard in the day time and twelve men at night, and this continued until the first of November, when grinding ceased and we quit guarding entirely to rest a few days and then pull the mill down, but the Indians were evidently watching us, for on the 6th of November the mill was burned and everything pertaining to it was lost.”<sup>18</sup>

### **May, 1853 - Return to Salt Lake City**

PWC Journal: *“I hired Henry Higgins to go down to help me move my family and household goods to Salt Lake City we was to start the 4th day of May (1853).”*

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<sup>17</sup> Albert Antrei, *Utah History Encyclopedia* (<https://historytogo.utah.gov/places/manti.html>)

<sup>18</sup> William Morley Black, “Sketch of the Life of William Morley Black (1826-1915),”