

**Statement of Henry Grow Family Association  
Submitted to Cottonwood Heights Planning Commission  
On Preservation of Old Cottonwood Mill  
June 5, 2024**

The Henry Grow Family Association is a non-profit corporation that represents the interests of approximately 25,000 living descendants of Pioneer Builder and Civil Engineer Henry Grow Jr. He is best known as the designer of the historic Salt Lake Tabernacle on Temple Square in Salt Lake City. However, during his lifetime he oversaw the construction of numerous railroad bridges in Pennsylvania, many structures in Nauvoo, Illinois and several bridges and other buildings in Utah. Over the years, our organization has endeavored to commemorate the remarkable achievements of our ancestor and to strengthen the family ties among our members. We hold periodic family reunions and at our 2015 gathering held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle, over 3,000 attended. As part of our reunions, we organize visits to sites built by Henry.

Henry remained in Illinois to finish the Nauvoo Temple after Brigham Young led the main body of pioneers to Utah. After Henry arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, he worked on many projects, including the Assembly Hall on Temple Square, historic homes, bridges over the Jordan, Weber and other rivers, the Sugar Beet Mill in Sugar House, numerous saw mills, and the sturdy granite Cottonwood Paper Mill. Many of these structures are now gone but the paper mill still stands near the mouth of Cottonwood Canyon.

We understand that the Planning Commission is considering development plans for the property on which the Cottonwood Paper Mill now stands. In connection with that planning, we encourage the Commission to reject any proposal to destroy this historic structure. We believe funding can be obtained to restore the mill and use it not only as a memorial to the pioneers who built it but also as a community gathering place and public resource. It may also serve as a means of promoting economic development by attracting visitors and new residents to the Cottonwood Heights area.

We appreciate the Commission's willingness to consider our comments and we look forward to providing periodic updates concerning our efforts to preserve this historic structure.

Michael A. Grow  
President  
Henry Grow Family Association  
