

Mountain Valley Tour

Length of main tour from Salt Lake City: 120 miles roundtrip

City: 120 miles roundtrip

Time to allow: one to two days

Season: May through October for full circle; good skiing at Brighton and Park City resorts, but road from Midway to Brighton is closed in winter

Accommodations: Park City, Heber, Brighton; Midway, by arrangement



MOUNTAIN DELL DAM: see Pioneer Trail—Wasatch Tour, page 11.

KIMBALL HOTEL AND STAGE STATION, Silver Creek Junction. One of the important stations on the Overland Stage Line, built in the early 1860's by William Kimball of limestone; exterior little changed. One-story lean-to functioned both as post office and bar. Sheltered such famous travelers as Mark Twain and Horace Greeley.

PARK CITY: now enjoying a boom as a ski resort, Park City is one of the oldest mining towns in the state. Col. Connor's prospecting soldiers discovered ore here in 1869 and the town grew up overnight. In 1884, the editor of the *Park Record* complained that "there is too much promiscuous shooting on streets at night." Disastrous fires raced through the streets, the worst in 1898, but each time the town was rebuilt.

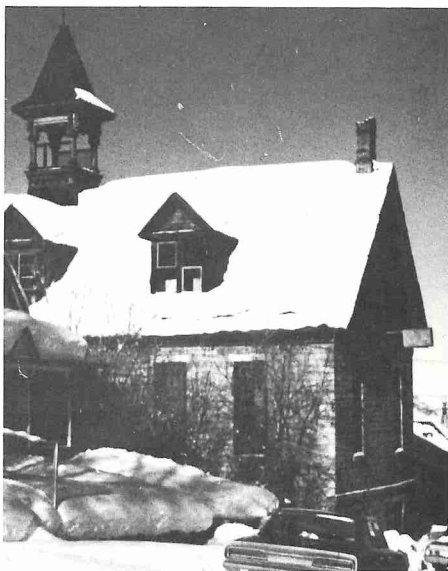
St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church and School, 121 Park Avenue. Built in 1883, this is the oldest

Catholic church and school in the diocese of Salt Lake City and Utah, pre-existing the diocese by 8 years. First frame buildings (1881-82) were destroyed by fire, rebuilt of stone. **Open** Sundays. (S)

Silver King Ore Loading Station, highway into Park City. Built in 1901, the station served as the lower terminal for the Finlayson patent wire rope tramway used to transport lead, zinc and silver ore from the Silver King mines west of town. The structure forms a very important part of the landscape both visually and historically, reminding visitor and resident alike of one of Utah's greatest eras. (S)

George Washington School, Park Avenue. Completed in 1889 at a cost of \$10,555, was used as public school from 1889 to 1932. Was built to provide free public education at a time when most schools in Utah were run either by the L.D.S. Church or other church organizations. Presently owned by a development company which plans to restore the structure. (S)

City Hall, Main Street. Constructed in 1885, a year after Park City received its charter from the Territorial Legislature. The interior was gutted during the fire



George Washington School



Wasatch Stake Tabernacle

of 1898; however, the walls remained intact and the hall was rebuilt. Essentially in its original state, the jail cells in the basement are of particular interest.

Open M-F 9:30-5:00. (S)

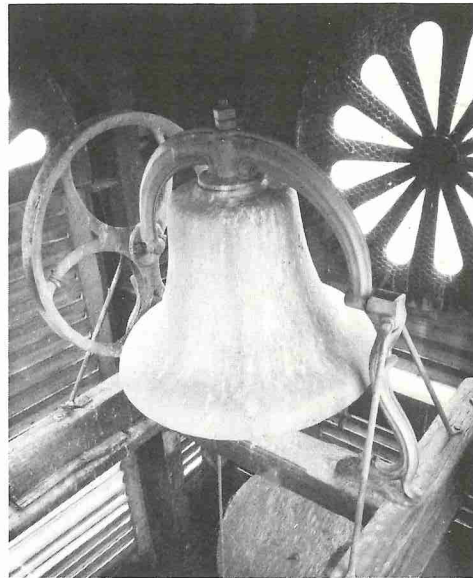
HEBER CITY: center of a large ranching and dairy area, the town lies in a particularly lovely valley.

Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, Main Street. Dedicated in 1889, this outstanding red sandstone structure played an important role socially, culturally and religiously. Distinctive architecture sets it apart as an example of early Mormon building in the valley. Now owned by Heber City.

Open summer months for summer stock productions. (N)

Heber Amusement Hall, 1st West and 1st North. With Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, a unit of the Heber City Town Square (also included Wasatch County Courthouse and Wasatch County Jail, now demolished). Built 1906-08 of red sandstone; an unusual feature is the spring-mounted dance floor. Now used as regional supply center for schools. (N)

MIDWAY: settled in 1859, named because it was midway between two other settlements. In the vicinity are numerous



Inside Wasatch Tabernacle Bell Tower

limestone craters formed by deposition from geysers or hot springs. Residents use the limestone, which cuts easily but "weathers out hard," for building.

Watkins-Coleman-Tatge Home, 5 East Main Street. Built in 1869 of hand-pressed adobe brick, decorated with hand-cut lacy bargeboards (finest example of style developed by John Watkins and Moroni Blood). Its symmetry was dictated by Watkins' desire to provide equally for his second and third polygamous wives. (N)

BRIGHTON: to reach Brighton from Midway, inquire for a dirt road past Wasatch Mountain State Park Golf Course which leads to Guardsmen's Pass; in mid-summer this drive is dusty but spectacular because of the wildflowers. Long used as a summer retreat by the original pioneers, it was here on July 24, 1857, during a celebration of their arrival in the valley, that the settlers learned of the approach of Johnston's Army. In 1870 William Stuart Brighton began mining in the area; in 1874 he and his wife constructed the original Brighton Hotel to house the miners passing back and forth between Park City and Alta.

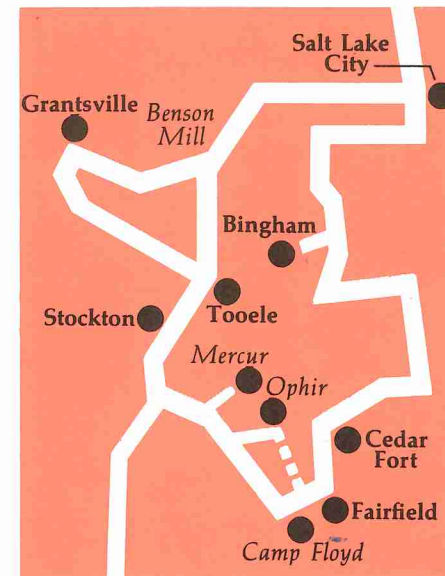
Oquirrh Circle Tour

Length of main tour from Salt Lake City: 160 miles roundtrip plus side trips

Time to allow: one to two days

Season: all year, weather permitting; unpaved road from Fairfield through Mercur closed in winter

Accommodations: Grantsville, Tooele



Many of the towns in this tour began as mining towns. Mining in Utah Territory developed independently, for the most part, of Mormon settlement; mining for precious metals in the early days was deliberately discouraged to insure Mormon isolation from the rest of the country.

On the other hand, Colonel Patrick E. Connor, perverse and anti-Mormon commander of Federal troops dispatched to Salt Lake in 1862, deliberately encouraged his troops to prospect for ores—he wanted a rush of outsiders to this area to dilute the strength of the Mormons. Most of his men had been recruited from the California gold fields, and their searches resulted in a series of important strikes.

Most mining towns were molded by their canyon terrain into patterns very different from the Mormon "City of Zion."

BINGHAM: Tom and Sanford Bingham, ranchers, discovered the first ore in this area, but it was George Ogilvie, an apostate Mormon logging in the canyon, who brought it to Col. Connor's attention in 1850. It was not until 1870, when the railroad came through, that large-scale development of the lode began. Since 1959 the mining company has been removing business and inhabitants from the dangers of blasting, and most of the town is gone; the open-pit mine is open to sightseers.

FAIRFIELD: site of Camp Floyd, where Johnston's Army was quartered in 1858 (troops were withdrawn after the start of the Civil War), and one of the stops along the Pony Express trail.

Stagecoach Inn, built in 1858 by John Carson, used as an inn for travelers and by General Johnston during his stay in the area. Although Fairfield was a boisterous town, Carson refused to accept rowdy clientele. The inn finally closed in 1947, was restored in 1962 by Utah Parks and Recreation Commission. **Open** year-round; ask for Mrs. Erickson across the street. (N)

District School and Gymnasium, 59 North Church Street. Built in the early 1900's, these structures represent one of the few remaining rural district school buildings. Gymnasium has unusual curved decorative sheet metal ceiling. Now vacant. (S)

CAMP FLOYD: across the creek from the town of Fairfield, occupied 1858-61. Once the largest military establishment west of the Mississippi, it included 300-400 permanent buildings, mostly adobe. Camp Floyd marked the beginning of the end of Mormon isolation, and its political and economic impact on the Territory was extensive. Little remains today but the cemetery and the restored Army commissary. (S)

MERCUR: a Bavarian, Arie Panedo, located a gold-bearing claim in 1869 and named it Mercur for the streaks of mercury sulfide associated with the gold ores. Mining techniques were improved and by 1912 the town had a population of

12,000; but the ore deposits were worked out and a series of disastrous fires reduced Mercur to a ghost town by 1925. Today some of the old frame houses and mine foundations can be seen.

OPHIR: named by Col. Connor's soldiers for the fabulous mines of King Solomon, "Ophir has risen from the sick bed so often, the very buildings seem bored with constant resurrection." Frame structures of every period mark the dates of Ophir's revivals.

Ophir Town Hall and Fire Station, Main Street. Built in 1870, it remains as a rare example of Ophir's civic buildings during the boom days of the time. (S)

STOCKTON: named for Stockton, California, by Col. Connor, who constructed Utah's first smelter here in 1864.

TOOELE: settled in 1849. During the Civil War, many Easterners, to avoid being drafted into the army, went to California "for their health;" from these travelers, residents of Tooele obtained horses, sheep and goats.

Tooele County Courthouse, Vine Street, east of State Route 36. Built in 1867 of red sandstone, it is one of the few remaining century-old civic buildings in the state. It was used extensively for dramatic and entertainment functions as well as civic events until 1941. Now maintained by the DUP. (S)

GRANTSVILLE:

Alex Johnson Home, corner of Hale and Main Street. Built in 1899, is one of the more handsome houses in Grantsville. The outside walls are burned brick (shipped from California, each brick wrapped in paper, because postal rates were less than freighting rates), the interior walls are adobe brick. Small building to the west is a two-story summer sleeping house.

E. T. BENSON MILL: on U.S. 40 near Stansbury Park, Mill Junction. Built by Phineas R. Wright for E. T. Benson and John Rowberry during 1840-50. The mill used water from springs for power and gained a reputation as an "honest and well-run establishment." Now owned by Terracor Corp. (S)



E. T. Benson Mill