



Gateway-Railroad District Tour

In 1870, the first trains rolled through Salt Lake City. The arrival of the railroad opened a world of opportunities for local entrepreneurs, travelers, and immigrants seeking work and a new home. The working-class residential neighborhoods which the rail lines ran through were soon transformed into the gateway to Salt Lake City.

The buildings featured in this tour catered to the businesses and people whose lives centered on the railroad. During the 1880s and 1890s, a variety of wholesale and light manufacturing enterprises constructed buildings along the tracks to take advantage of the improved distribution the railroad offered. In the early 20th century, large warehouses sprang up on the rail lines as Salt Lake City's economy boomed. Two major railroad depots and a variety of hotels were constructed to accommodate the needs of travelers.

During these decades, substantial numbers of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe and Asia arrived in Salt Lake City. Greek, Italian, and Japanese neighborhoods formed near the railyards where many immigrants worked. Several buildings which document the immigrant experience remain in the area.

Salt Lake City's railroad district does not contain the examples of high style architecture found in its central business district. The simpler industrial and commercial buildings in the area, however, offer exciting possibilities for adaptive use. Today, this area is undergoing a renaissance as the historic railroad district once again becomes the "Gateway" to Salt Lake City.

Your walk through the Gateway-Railroad District will take about one hour. The tour ends on 200 South and 200 West, just one-half block west of the starting point at the Patrick Dry Goods Company Building. Enjoy the tour!





1 *Decker-Patrick Company Patrick Dry Goods Company Building*

1913-1914, *Headlund and Kent, SLC*

163 West 200 South

This building has housed the same business since its construction in 1914. The Decker-Patrick Company, which advertised itself as “Wholesale dealers in dry goods, notions, and men’s and women’s furnishings,” later changed its name to the Patrick Dry Goods Company. This name still appears on the building today.

The Patrick Dry Goods Company Building is an attractive example of late Commercial style architecture. The heavy projecting cornice, variety of window types, recessed central window bays, and sharp contrast between the white trim and red brick give the building’s facade an active appearance.

2 *Hotel Victor*

1910, *David C. Dart, SLC*

155 West 200 South

The Hotel Victor is one of a dozen hotels built in southern and western downtown Salt Lake City about the same time the city’s two major railroad depots were completed. These hotels provided accommodations for the growing number of travelers arriving in Salt Lake City by train. Some hotels also served as housing for the city’s burgeoning population which grew from 50,000 in 1900 to nearly 120,000 in 1920.

Katherine Belcher constructed this building, originally known as the Hotel Robert, in 1910. The second and third floors of the building served as a hotel until the 1960s. Early on, a saloon operated by Italian immigrants Alphonso Scovelli and Joseph Fratello occupied the first floor. In the mid-1920s, the Denver Fire-Clay Company, which manufactured fire brick and high temperature cement, moved into the building.

The window bays of the Hotel Victor are offset with frames of grayish raised brick. Each bay also features a decorative panel of inlaid tile. The projecting cornice is supported by large, paired brackets and adorned with a Greek key design.



Bertolini Block

1891-1892, William Carroll, SLC

3

145 West 200 South

The Bertolini Block is one of the few physical reminders of the distinct immigrant communities which flourished in Salt Lake City in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Ignazio Bertolini, an Italian-American real estate developer, constructed the building in 1891-1892 as an office and residence. Over the years, the main floor housed a variety of Italian, Greek, Russian, and Japanese businesses, including several restaurants, barbers, groceries, and an organ grinder.

The Bertolini Block is a good example of the type of small commercial buildings constructed in Salt Lake City in the late-19th century. The assortment of materials used on the building's detailed facade give it a textured feel. Look for a variety of brick patterns, carved stone, a tin cornice, and cast iron columns.

Turn right just east of the Bertolini Block and follow the Pierpont Walkway to Pierpont Avenue. The word "heart" is engraved along the walkway in 20 languages.

Oregon Shortline Railroad, Salt Lake High School, Utah National Guard Armory Building

1897-98, Carl M. Neuhausen, SLC

4

122 West Pierpont Avenue

The Oregon Shortline Railroad Company built this complex of buildings in stages. In 1897, the railroad began construction on the lower eastern section to house its offices. Shortly thereafter, the railroad entered into an agreement with the Salt Lake School Board to construct a small annex and a larger two-story building to the west for use by a high school. Occupied by Salt Lake High School in the fall of 1898, this was the first building in Utah specifically constructed to house a high school.

Neither the railroad nor Salt Lake High School lasted long at this location. The Oregon Shortline was bought out by Union Pacific in 1901 and vacated the building that year. The high school left in 1902. Between 1905 and 1940, the Utah National Guard leased the building for use as an armory. Boxer Jack Dempsey practiced in the building during this period.

The Oregon Shortline Railroad Building was the first major work of important Utah architect Carl Neuhausen. (See NDH Tour building description 9.)





5

Peery Hotel

1910, Charles B. Onderdonk, SLC

110 West 300 South

Built just two and one-half blocks east of the Denver & Rio Grande Depot, the Peery Hotel was favorably located for taking advantage of Salt Lake City's rail traffic. The building has functioned continuously as a hotel since its construction by David H. and Joseph S. Peery in 1910. In 1947, the Peery brothers sold the building to veteran hotelier Harry K. Miles who changed its name to the Miles Hotel. Since a new owner purchased the building in the late-1970s, the hotel has once again operated under its historic name.

The E-shaped plan of the upper two levels of this three-story building provides natural light to all the hotel rooms. This plan is accentuated visually by the brick quoins at the corner of each wing. The hotel's major decorative feature is its tin cornice with paired brackets and egg-and-dart molding.

6

Garden Hotel, Squatters Pub Brewery

1909, Ware & Treganza, SLC

147 West 300 South

Joseph Baumgartner built the Garden Hotel in 1909. A native of Austria, Baumgartner worked as a tailor upon arriving in Salt Lake City in 1877. He later pursued a career in real estate and owned this building until his death in 1940. The Garden Hotel Building functioned as a hotel until 1979. Vacant for much of the 1980s, the building was purchased by the Salt Lake Brewing Company in 1988. The brewing company renovated the building and opened Squatters Pub Brewery here in 1989.

Ware & Treganza, one of Salt Lake City's most successful architectural firms, designed this simple commercial building. While best known for its Craftsman and Prairie Style works, the firm also designed a number of the less stylized commercial and industrial buildings in Salt Lake City's warehouse district.



J. G. McDonald Chocolate Company Broadway Lofts

7

1901, John A. Headlund, SLC; 1914 addition, Headlund & Kent, SLC

159 West 300 South

The chocolates once produced in this building won over 40 gold medals for excellence in international competitions. The J. G. McDonald Chocolate Company specialized in boxed chocolates and a chocolate drink intended to replace the “injurious use of tea and coffee.” At its peak, the company employed over 400 people.

The J. G. McDonald Chocolate Company constructed this building in 1901 as its headquarters. Originally, the building was three stories tall. A fourth story and a partial fifth story

featuring an elaborate roof garden with trees, flowers, and rare birds were added in 1914. Look for the letter “M” in brick relief on the corners of the fourth story.

As the company continued to grow, three large additions were made to the rear of the building. The fifth story, however, was later removed. It was reconstructed in 1999 when the building was converted to condominiums.



Broadway Hotel

8

1912, B.O. Mecklenburg, SLC

222 West 300 South

The Broadway Hotel is another of the dozen hotels built in downtown Salt Lake City shortly after the completion of the city’s two major rail depots. The Broadway was constructed in 1912 by two brothers active in real estate development, Samuel and David Spitz. The building is most notable today for the portico on its southeast corner. This portico marks the entrance of the building and offers shelter to patrons standing on the sidewalk outside. Few such porticos now survive in Salt Lake City.

As you continue west on 300 South, note the small one-story apartments in Wayne and Delmar Courts tucked behind the La France Apartments on the north side of the street. Built in circa 1905, they were among Salt Lake City’s first apartments.

9 *Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral*

1924, Pope & Burton, SLC, and N.A. Doka, Chicago

279 South 300 West



To arrange a tour of the cathedral, call (801) 328-9681. To arrange a tour of the Hellenic Cultural Museum, call (801) 359-4163.

The beautiful Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral is evidence of the size and religious devotion of Salt Lake City's Greek immigrant community. In the early 20th century, Greeks were the largest immigrant group in Utah. Greek labor agents, or padrones, recruited their countrymen to work for the state's growing railroads and booming mines.

In Salt Lake City, Greek immigrants congregated in a "Greek Town" centered on 200 South between 400 and 600 West. Over 60 Greek businesses, including coffee houses, newspapers, groceries, and boarding houses, were listed on these two blocks in 1911. The history of Utah's vibrant Greek community is documented in the Hellenic Cultural Museum in the basement of the cathedral.

Completed in 1924, the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral replaced an earlier, smaller church building. The cathedral is an excellent example of Byzantine Revival style architecture. A large gold dome crowns the building. Two gold-domed bell towers with decorative blue and gold tile frame the arcaded entryway. The tile roof, patterned brick, and elaborate capitals are also typical of the Byzantine Revival style.

10 *Firestone Tire & Rubber Company Building*

1925, Scott & Welch, SLC

308 West 300 South

The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company constructed this building in 1925 as automobiles became a regular feature of Salt Lake City life. Firestone leased the eastern one-story section of the building to a service station. The company used the western two-story section as a warehouse, repair shop, and retail outlet for its tires. The building was rehabilitated in 1998 to house condos on the second floor and commercial space on the first floor.

The Salt Lake architectural firm of Scott & Welch designed the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company Building.



Their design successfully incorporates modest classical details, such as the pilasters topped by Tuscan capitals dividing the bays, into this simple, industrial structure. Other well-known works of Scott & Welch include South High School and the Masonic Temple in Salt Lake City, and the company town of Copperton near the Kennecott Copper Mine.

From the corner of 300 South and 300 West you can see the historic Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Depot. Today the depot houses the Utah State Historical Society. A free exhibit on Utah history is open in the depot Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm; Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm.

Free Farmers' Market Artspace

1910, Samuel T. Whitaker, SLC/Ogden

325 West Pierpont Avenue

The historic name of this long commercial building is ironic since local farmers would not use it. In the early 20th century, farmers sold produce from carts on the streets of Salt Lake City. In 1910, the Eccles-Browning Investment Company constructed this building and proposed that the city compel farmers to sell produce here rather than on the streets.

The farmers, however, refused and formed their own farmers' market a few blocks to the south and east.

The Free Farmers' Market Building thus became the home of a variety of wholesale grocery and produce firms. Loading docks run the full length of both sides of the building. The front (northern) docks were used by trucks while the back docks were for the trains that ran on a railroad spur directly behind the building.

In the mid-1980s, Artspace began the rehabilitation of the Free Farmers' Market. Today the building houses 23 residences, 30 studios, office space for non-profit organizations, stores, and professional offices. The Artspace project was a pioneer in the revitalization of Salt Lake City's Gateway district.



Henderson Block 12

1897-99, Walter E. Ware, SLC

375 West 200 South

The Henderson Block was the first produce warehouse to be constructed along Salt Lake City's rail lines. This strategic location helped Wilber S. Henderson transform his produce business into one of the largest wholesale grocery companies in the state. As the business expanded, so did the building. Large one-story brick and concrete additions were made to the east and south of the building in 1932.



The Henderson Block is unusually decorative compared to most brick warehouses in the city. The first story is built of rusticated sandstone and features four imposing Roman arches. Sandstone is also used on the beltcourses between stories and in the window sills and lintels. The tin cornice of the Henderson Block is elaborate. Look for the crown molding, brackets, dentils, and wide frieze decorated with leaves.

13 *N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company* *Salt Lake Stamp Company* *Dakota Lofts*

1925, Scott & Welch, SLC

380 West 200 South

Local architects Scott & Welch utilized the concrete structural system of this industrial building to create an attractive design. The exposed concrete members form a grid pattern on the exterior of the building. On the main facade, the vertical concrete supports also function as ornamental pilasters. Note the geometric tile details at the top of the pilasters.

The N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company, which made heating and plumbing supplies, constructed this building in 1923. The Salt Lake Stamp Company purchased the building in 1959. Incorporated in 1904, Salt Lake Stamp has a long history in this city. Look for their advertisements painted on the sides of older buildings as you travel about town.

In 1998, the building was converted to condominiums. The triangular penthouse, exterior steel supports, and glass-framed balconies were added as part of this project.



Kahn Brothers Grocery Building 14 *Westgate Fine Arts Center*

1901, architect unknown

342 West 200 South

Aaron Keyser constructed this building in 1901. A prominent real estate developer, Keyser also built the warehouses immediately to the east at 312-328 West 200 South and the small warehouse across the street at 357 West 200 South. Keyser leased this building to Emmanuel Kahn for his grocery business. Kahn, who arrived in Utah in 1867, was among the first Jewish settlers in the state.

In 1913, the Kahn Grocery Company moved to a new location and the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company occupied the building. This company remained here until its new warehouse at 380 West 200 South was complete in 1923. (See building description 13.) Keyser then leased the building to the federal government for use as a post office.

The Kahn Brothers Grocery Building retains its original storefront window and entrance design. A cornice incorporating signage divides the street level from the upper story. Note the five small arched windows on either side of the building.

Crane Building 15

1910, Ware & Treganza, SLC

307 West 200 South

The Crane Company constructed this building in 1910 to house the Salt Lake City branch of its internationally-known valve, engine, plumbing fixture, and heating system business. The highly innovative Crane Company pioneered many advances in these fields. The company opened its Salt Lake branch in 1902, just a few years before many of the city's first skyscrapers were constructed. Consequently, many of Salt Lake City's most significant buildings were fitted with Crane supplies.

Historically, the Crane Company used the first floor of this building for offices and a machine shop and the upper floors for warehouse space. As with other Crane Company buildings across the country, the company's name is prominently featured in raised pediments and

on a large neon sign on the

roof. The Crane

Building is

relatively

simple in style

with modest

ornamentation

around the

north entry

and along the

cornice.



16 *Sweet Candy Company Building*

1910-1911, Ware & Treganza, SLC

224 South 200 West

The Sweet Candy Company produced mouth-watering confections in this building from 1911 to 1998. Leon Sweet founded the company in Portland, Oregon, in 1892. He moved to Utah in 1900 and constructed this building in 1911. The Sweet Candy Company produced a variety of confections, including taffy, jelly beans, chocolates, lemon drops, and rock candy. Although operating at a new location, the Sweet Candy Company is still owned by the Sweet family today.

The simple, functional design of the Sweet Candy Company Building incorporates modest details on the pilasters dividing the bays and a dentil molding atop the fourth story windows. The large windows ensure plenty of light reaches the interior of the building. In 1920, the Sweets expanded the building south by four bays in the same style as the original.

In 2000, Tomax Corporation renovated the building to house the headquarters of its web-based software business. Tomax preserved artifacts from the building's candy-making days, including a large copper candy kettle, in the basement.

