Five one-hour walking tours of historic architecture

Special tour for kids ages 9 to 12
Acknowledgements

This publication was produced by Utah Heritage Foundation. Established in 1966, Utah Heritage Foundation was the first statewide preservation organization in the western United States. The foundation’s mission is to preserve, protect, and promote Utah’s historic built environment through public education, advocacy and active preservation.

Utah Heritage Foundation fulfills its mission through a wide range of programs and activities which reach communities throughout the state, including: the annual Historic Homes Tour, tours and classroom programs for school groups, the Heritage Awards program, our quarterly news magazine, the Revolving Fund Loan Program, and stewardship of the historic Memorial House in Memory Grove Park. As a private, non-profit, membership-based organization, the foundation is supported mainly by private resources, including memberships, gifts, grants, and proceeds from special events.

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Special thanks to Alan Barnett, Randall Dixon, and Roger Roper for sharing their extensive knowledge of Salt Lake City’s historic buildings and their research expertise.

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(Except photos noted Utah Historical Society, and page 17, building 12, page 38 building 6. Photos on page 38, building 5 and page 39, building 7 by Nona McAlpin. Photo on page 44 by Bill Braak.)

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The story of Salt Lake City’s settlement is a unique chapter in the history of the American West. The people who founded the city in 1847 were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, more commonly known as Mormons. Unlike the farmers, miners, and merchants who created other western cities, Mormon settlers came to the Salt Lake Valley as a centrally-organized group dedicated to a communal, religious goal—establishing the Kingdom of God on earth.

The location of Temple Square at the geographic heart of Salt Lake City is perhaps the strongest physical evidence of the Mormon settlers’ utopian vision. Church President Brigham Young designated the site for the Salt Lake Temple four days after arriving in the valley. Temple Square became the reference point for the city’s street grid. For example, 900 South Street is nine blocks south of the temple. While the buildings of Temple Square are not included in this guide, tours of the square are available daily every 15 minutes from 9:00 am to 8:30 pm.

In 1869, the transcontinental railroad connected Utah to the rest of the nation bringing new people, new opportunities, and new conflicts to Salt Lake City. A flood of non-Mormon immigrants arrived in Utah to develop the state’s rich mineral resources.
The wealth flowing out of Utah’s mines and the tension between the Mormon and non-Mormon communities reshaped Salt Lake City in the late nineteenth century.

The story of Salt Lake City's settlement and growth is written in the historic buildings of its downtown. This guide offers five walking tours exploring over 100 years of history and architecture in Salt Lake City:

- **North Downtown Heritage Tour**
  - NDH  pp. 3-10

- **Main Street Tour**
  - MS  pp. 11-19

- **Time Travel on Main Street**
  - A tour for kids 9-12
  - KIDS  pp. 20-27

- **Exchange Place & Market Street Tour**
  - EX  pp. 28-34

- **Gateway-Railroad District Tour**
  - GRD  pp. 35-44

Each tour is designed to last approximately an hour. Tour sites and routes are indicated on the map that folds out from the back cover.

Tour entries read as follows:

- **Map number**
- **Historic Site Name, Current Site Name**
- **Date of Construction, Architect or Architectural Firm, City of Architect’s or Firm’s Practice**
- **Street Address**
- **Days & times site accessible to the public**

Enjoy your walk through Salt Lake City’s history!
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North Downtown Heritage Tour

The early history of Salt Lake City is dominated by the story of its Mormon settlers. These settlers came to Utah as a centrally-organized group dedicated to establishing their vision of a perfect society—the Kingdom of God on earth. Accordingly, there was no distinction between religious and secular life in early Salt Lake City. Leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints directed the community’s economic life, shaped its social life, and even molded its family life.

The north end of Salt Lake City’s downtown is a good place to view buildings and sites that reflect the city’s early Mormon heritage. Church leaders, cultural institutions, business enterprises, and church offices tended to cluster near Temple Square, the geographic heart of the Mormon utopia.

Within 20 years of Salt Lake City’s founding, the community began to diversify. The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 made it much easier for immigrants from around the world to reach Utah. Not all the people who settled in Salt Lake City fit the Mormon vision of members of a perfect society. Nor did these new immigrants always share the Mormon community’s goals. This tour also highlights some of the buildings and sites that represent Salt Lake City’s growth and diversification after its settlement period.

Your walk through north downtown’s history will take about one hour. The tour ends on Main Street just one half block south of the starting point at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. Enjoy the tour!

Hotel Utah, Joseph Smith Memorial Building
1909-1911, Parkinson & Bergstrom, Los Angeles

15 East South Temple

Interior open to public Monday-Saturday, 9:00am-9:00pm
Roof-top restaurant, Family Search Center

Constructed on the site of the old Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints tithing office, the Hotel Utah was the “Grande Dame” of hotels in the Intermountain West. The church was the chief stockholder in the venture. For most of the 20th century the Hotel Utah hosted Utah’s most distinguished visitors and was a focal point of local social activity. As one historian wrote, “Everything that was anything was held there.”

The exterior of the Hotel Utah is sheathed with decorative glazed bricks and terra-cotta. The building is a lavish example of Second Renaissance Revival style architecture—with a Utah touch. Note the huge brick and plaster beehive cupola atop the hotel. The beehive, of course, is Utah’s state symbol.

In 1987, the church decided to close the Hotel Utah and renovate the building to house church offices and meeting spaces. Today the hotel is known as the Joseph Smith Memorial Building.

If you have time, step inside the elaborately decorated lobby.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints constructed this building between 1914 and 1917 to serve as its headquarters. Prior to its completion, the office of the church president was located just to the east between Brigham Young’s Lion House and Beehive House. (See building descriptions 3 & 4.) Today this building continues to house the offices of the church First Presidency and other church leaders.

The Church Administration Building is an excellent example of Neoclassical style architecture. The 24 Ionic pilasters which surround the exterior are made of solid granite and weigh approximately eight tons each. This granite, as well as that which covers the rest of the steel and concrete structure, was taken from the same quarry as the stone used to build the Salt Lake Temple.

The building’s architects, Joseph Don Carlos Young and Don Carlos Young, were the son and grandson, respectively, of Brigham Young. Joseph was the church’s official architect from the late 1880s until 1935.

The Lion House
1854-1856, Truman O. Angell, SLC

63 East South Temple

Restaurant open to the public Monday-Saturday, 11:00 am-2:00 pm, and Thursday-Saturday, 5:00-8:30 pm. No tours available.

The Lion House takes its name from the carved lion on top of the portico. The house was constructed with adobe blocks, a common building material during Utah’s settlement period. Brigham Young, second president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, built the Lion House for some of his wives and children. Based on the Old Testament principle of polygamy, early leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints encouraged church members to marry plural wives. This practice was officially ended in 1890.

The basement of the Lion House contained a dining room which could accommodate 70 people. On the main floor were sitting rooms and bedrooms for wives with children. The second floor contained 20 bedrooms for children and childless wives—one under each of the 20 steeply-pitched gables. Brigham Young died in the Lion House in 1877. Some of his wives and children continued to live in the house until the 1890s. Today the building contains as a reception center and restaurant.
The Beehive House
1853-1855, Truman O. Angell, SLC
67 East South Temple

30-minute guided tours available every 15 minutes
Monday-Saturday, 9:30 am-4:30 pm, and Sunday, 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

Completed one year prior to the Lion House, the Beehive House served as Brigham Young’s residence, offices, and reception area for official visitors. At this time, Young was both president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Utah’s territorial governor.

The Beehive House was designed by Young’s brother-in-law, Truman Angell. Angell was also the architect for the Lion House and the Salt Lake Temple. The Greek Revival, stuccoed adobe Beehive House features a two-story veranda, an observatory, and a cupola topped with a beehive. Young’s son added a three-story wing to the north after he purchased the house in 1888.

In the early 1960s, the church restored the Beehive House to resemble its early appearance. Guided tours of the building are available daily.

If you have a moment, cross North Temple Street and read about the history of the Eagle Gate on the markers on the east side of State Street.

Alta Club Building
1897-1898, Frederick A. Hale, SLC; east wing, 1910
100 East South Temple

This building has housed the Alta Club for over 100 years. The exclusive club was founded in 1883 by prominent Utah businessmen. The original members were largely involved in the mining industry and all non-Mormons. The Alta Club’s official exclusion of Mormons reflects the deep divisions between Mormons and non-Mormons in late 19th-century Utah. After the turn of the century, the club gradually began to admit Mormons and helped promote accommodation between the two communities. The Alta Club now also welcomes women as members.

Well-known Salt Lake City architect Frederick Hale designed the Alta Club in the Italian Renaissance style. This style was popular for men’s clubs in the eastern United States at the turn of the century. The Alta Club’s Italian Renaissance elements include its horizontal emphasis, arched windows and doors, and recessed arced balconies.
Salt Lake City Public Library, Hansen Planetarium
1905, Hines & LaFarge, New York City, and Frederick A. Hale, SLC

15 South State
Hansen Planetarium open daily. Call (801) 538-2098 for hours of exhibits and star shows.

The local Ladies Literary Society can take credit for the construction of the Salt Lake City Public Library Building. These women promoted Utah’s first tax for the support of public libraries in 1898. They then convinced mining millionaire John Q. Packard to donate both the land and the capital for constructing the state’s first public library building.

Designed by the prestigious New York architectural firm of Hines and LaFarge, the Salt Lake City Public Library Building is a good example of the Beaux Arts style architecture. This style was popular for large public and commercial buildings at the turn of the century. It combines stately Classical elements, like columns and pediments, with exuberant decorative elements. Notice the library’s ornate stone gable which projects above the roofline, large brackets under the eaves, and decorative keystones above the columns of the two-story entrance pavilion.

Social Hall Site
Original building, 1852, Truman O. Angell, SLC; Glass monument, 1992

35 South State
Interior open to the public Monday-Saturday, 5:30 am-10:30 pm.

This glass enclosure marks the site of Social Hall, Utah’s first theater. Mormon settlers built the Social Hall in 1852, just five years after their arrival in the Salt Lake Valley. The simple Greek Revival adobe building was evidence of the strong tradition of communal entertainments, like theater and choral singing, in Mormon culture.

Although much grander theaters were soon built in Salt Lake City, the Social Hall continued to serve as a venue for community gatherings like dances and lectures. The building was demolished in 1922, but the story of the Social Hall does not end here.

In 1990, while excavating for an underground walkway beneath State Street, Zions Securities Corporation discovered the Social Hall’s original foundation. After an archaeological study of the site, the foundation was removed for the construction of the walkway and then reassembled. The glass structure on top of the foundation mirrors the original size and shape of Social Hall.

To see the Social Hall foundation and an exhibit about the building’s history, enter the glass structure and proceed to the basement level.
The Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Company finished the first two stories of this building in 1939. The additional four stories, which may have been part of the original design, were added in 1947 as the demand for telephones boomed after World War II. The building has been occupied by Mountain States and its telephone descendants since its construction.

The Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Building is one of the relatively rare examples of Art Deco style architecture in Utah. Shallow pilasters divide the facade into narrow bays and give the building a vertical emphasis. A wide band of low-relief ornament runs around the building just above the first story.

Note the plaque commemorating the Salt Lake Theatre on the southeast corner of this building. Built on this site in 1862, the theater was the largest building constructed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the time. The 1,500-seat theater boasted an elegant interior created by European craftsmen who had joined the church. Amateur acting groups flourished in Salt Lake City and many performed on the Salt Lake Theatre’s stage. After the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, nationally known actors and actresses enjoyed performing at the theater because of its high quality and the sophistication of local audiences. The theater was demolished in 1928.

The Orpheum Theatre represents a later phase of the performing arts in Utah—vaudeville. The theater is crowned by a twelve-foot statue of Venus, the symbol of the Orpheum vaudeville circuit. National vaudeville acts, ranging from comedy skits to scientific boxing bouts, performed on the theater’s elegant stage.

The Orpheum was designed by Carl Neuhausen, a German-born architect who planned several well-known Utah buildings, including The Cathedral of the Madeleine and the Thomas Kearns Mansion. The large carvings of male faces on the columns flanking the main entryway make this Second Renaissance Revival style building easily recognizable.

With the rising popularity of motion pictures, the Orpheum closed its doors as a vaudeville theater in 1918. It was reborn
shortly thereafter as a movie theater and operated under a variety of names. During the late 1920s and 1930s, the building was regarded as the most stylish movie house in town. In 1972, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints purchased the building, renamed it Promised Valley Playhouse, and restored it for stage performances. Currently the building is not being used for theatre productions.

Proceed west on Orpheum Avenue, located on the north side of the theater. Walk beneath the parking terrace to Plum Alley.

Plum Alley
65 East

Plum Alley was the heart of Salt Lake City’s Chinese community. In the early 20th century, Chinese groceries, merchants, laundries, and restaurants congregated along this street. Chinese immigrants first arrived in Utah in the late 1860s as laborers on the transcontinental railroad. Some of these laborers stayed in Utah to work in mining camps. By the early 1900s, most of Utah’s Chinese immigrants moved to urban areas where some were able to open small businesses.

Salt Lake City’s Chinese community never grew very large, in part because Chinese immigration to the United States was restricted in 1882. Although the city’s Chinese residents mostly lived in their own micro-community, they did participate in some local traditions. At least once, they entered a dragon float in the Pioneer Day parade which celebrates the arrival of Mormon settlers in the Salt Lake Valley. A 200-foot long Chinese dragon was a regular feature of Salt Lake City’s New Year’s Day parade in the 1890s.

Continue west on Orpheum Avenue to Regent Street.

Commercial Street, Regent Street
40 East

Commercial Street, today called Regent Street, was Salt Lake City’s red-light district from the 1870s to the late 1930s. Earlier this century, several dozen buildings along Commercial Street housed brothels and “cribs” for prostitutes. A legitimate business occupied the first floor of each building while “female boarders” lived on the upper floors.

As in other American cities at the time, Salt Lake City’s prostitutes operated with the tacit approval of local police. By 1908, each prostitute was required to register with the police and pay a monthly $10 “fine” which went into the city’s general fund.
The only remaining building from Commercial Street’s red-light days is located at the southern end of the block. The Leader Cigar Factory Building (165 South Regent Street) was constructed by Gustave S. Holmes, a director of the National Bank of the Republic, in 1893. The cigar factory operated from the first floor while a brothel occupied the second floor until at least the late 1910s.

Proceed north on Regent Street to 100 South and turn left.

Utah Commercial and Savings Bank Building
1889-1890, Richard K. A. Kletting, SLC
22 East 100 South
The Richardsonian Romanesque design of the Utah Commercial and Savings Bank gives this relatively narrow building a solid, heavy feel. The building’s foundation and facade are constructed of large blocks of rusticated, or rough cut, red sandstone. Smooth, carved, and scored stone elements add contrast to the design, but also contribute to the building’s appearance of strength. Notice the different treatment of the windows on each floor.

Francis Armstrong commissioned prominent Utah architect Richard Kletting to design the Utah Commercial Savings Bank. Armstrong was the founder of the bank and served as Salt Lake City’s mayor from 1888 to 1890. As president of the Utah Power Company, he purchased a street railway system from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and converted it to electric power. Thus in 1889 Salt Lake City became the first city west of Chicago to have electrically operated street cars.

Deseret Building, First Security Bank
1919, Lewis Telle Cannon and John Fetzer, SLC
79 South Main Street
A bank has stood on this corner since 1875 when the Deseret National Bank first built on the site. In 1919, the bank replaced its original building with the present Deseret Building. First Security Bank took over Deseret National in 1932 and eventually made this building its headquarters.

Deseret National Bank played an important role in Utah history. First headed by Brigham Young, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Deseret National was the only Mormon-controlled commercial bank in Utah for many years. As such, it supported the economic needs and social goals of the church.

Like many early skyscrapers, the form of the Deseret Building can be compared to that of a classical column. The building has a three-story “pedestal,” a simple eight-story “shaft,” and an ornate three-story “capital.” Look for the building’s original name carved above the west entrance.
Eagle Emporium, Zion’s First National Bank Building
1864, William Paul, SLC

102 South Main
Built in 1864, the Eagle Emporium Building is the oldest existing commercial building in downtown Salt Lake City. William Jennings, Utah’s first millionaire, constructed the building to house his mercantile business. It is the city’s only remaining commercial structure built prior to the completion of the transcontinental railroad. The Eagle Emporium Building is also notable as the first home of the Zion’s Cooperative Mercantile Institution. (See building description 15.) At Brigham Young’s request, Jennings exchanged his emporium’s inventory for stock in the new ZCMI and leased this building to the cooperative. In 1876, ZCMI moved to more spacious quarters at its present location to the north on Main Street.

The ornate clock in front of this building is one of the few remaining pieces of 19th century street furniture in Salt Lake City’s downtown. The clock was erected on this site in 1873 and was first powered by a water wheel.

ZCMI Facade
1876 (center section), William H. Folsom and Obed Taylor, SLC; 1880 (south wing); 1901 (north wing), S.T. Whitaker, SLC/Ogden

50 South Main Street
In 1876, this site became the home of the Zion’s Cooperative Mercantile Institution (ZCMI). Today all that remains of the original building is its cast iron facade, the largest of its kind in Utah. Perhaps best described as an “architectural sculpture,” the historic ZCMI facade now serves as the entrance to a new building constructed in 1976.

ZCMI’s origins lie in the Mormon settlers’ quest for a perfect society. Self-sufficiency and cooperation were key tenants of their utopian vision. The anticipated completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, however, promised to bring many non-Mormon merchants to Utah who would not abide by these ideals. In response, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints President Brigham Young formed a cooperative merchandising organization dedicated to supporting home manufacturing in 1868.

Church leaders strongly encouraged church members to boycott non-Mormon merchants and shop exclusively at ZCMI. Initially, ZCMI drove many non-Mormon merchants out of business. Neither ZCMI nor church leaders, however, could stem the tide of change that came to Utah once it was connected to the rest of the country by rail lines.
Main Street Tour

Today Main Street is the heart of Salt Lake City’s central business district, but it was not always so. The original plans for Salt Lake City did not include a business district. Leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints planned to create a self-sufficient, cooperative, agricultural society which would not need one. Main Street’s original name, East Temple Street, is a reminder that religious, not commercial, motives drove the settlement of the city.

By 1850, small stores began to spring up along Main Street to serve the needs of the local farmers and tradesmen, as well as travelers passing through the town. Only one building from this early period of Main Street’s development remains today.

The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 ended Salt Lake City’s isolation from the rest of the country and initiated the economic and social transformation of the state. The railroad made it both possible and profitable to develop Utah’s rich mineral resources. Immigrants from all over the world flooded to Utah to work in silver, copper, and coal mines. Along with the mines came commercial banks and other businesses to support Utah’s growing extractive industries.

Walking along Main Street, you can see the transformation set in motion by the railroad in the city’s historic buildings. At the northern end of the street are buildings that reflect the early Mormon vision of a local, self-sufficient economy. As you walk south, you will see buildings constructed with the wealth that flowed out of Utah’s mines and connected the state to the national and international economy.

Your walk through Main Street’s history will take about one hour. The tour ends at 300 South. You can ride the light rail or a free bus to return to the starting point at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. Enjoy the tour!

A special tour of Main Street for kids 9-12 begins on page 20.
Hotel Utah, Joseph Smith Memorial Building
1909-1911, Parkinson & Bergstrom, Los Angeles

15 East South Temple
Interior open to public Monday-Saturday, 9:00am-9:00pm
Roof-top restaurant, Family Search Center

Constructed on the site of the old Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints tithing office, the Hotel Utah was the “Grande Dame” of hotels in the Intermountain West. The church was the chief stockholder in the venture. For most of the 20th century the Hotel Utah hosted Utah’s most distinguished visitors and was a focal point of local social activity. As one historian wrote, “Everything that was anything was held there.”

The exterior of the Hotel Utah is sheathed with decorative glazed bricks and terra-cotta. The building is a lavish example of Second Renaissance Revival style architecture—with a Utah touch. Note the huge brick and plaster beehive cupola atop the hotel. The beehive, of course, is Utah’s state symbol.

In 1987, the church decided to close the Hotel Utah and renovate the building to house church offices and meeting spaces. Today the hotel is known as the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. Step inside the elaborately decorated lobby and ride the elevator to the tenth floor observation area and roof-top restaurant. Or explore your own family history in the world’s largest genealogical database at the Family Search Center located on the ground floor.

ZCMI Facade
1876 (center section), William H. Folsom and Obed Taylor, SLC; 1880 (south wing); 1901 (north wing), S.T. Whitaker, SLC/Ogden

50 South Main Street
In 1876, this site became the home of the Zion’s Cooperative Mercantile Institution (ZCMI). Today all that remains of the original building is its cast iron facade, the largest of its kind in Utah. Perhaps best described as an “architectural sculpture,” the historic ZCMI facade now serves as the entrance to a new building constructed in 1976.

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**Deseret Building**

**First Security Bank**

1919, Lewis Telle Cannon and John Fetzer, SLC

79 South Main Street

A bank has stood on this corner since 1875 when the Deseret National Bank first built on the site. In 1919, the bank replaced its original building with the present Deseret Building. First Security Bank took over Deseret National in 1932 and eventually made this building its headquarters.

Deseret National Bank played an important role in Utah history. First headed by Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints President Brigham Young, Deseret National was the only Mormon-controlled commercial bank in Utah for many years. As such, it supported the economic needs and social goals of the church. Deseret National remained the state’s leading national bank well into the 20th century.

Like many early skyscrapers, the form of the Deseret Building can be compared to that of a classical column. The building has a three-story “pedestal,” a simple eight-story “shaft,” and an ornate three-story “capital.” Look for the Indian heads and buffaloes in the medallions on the third level.

**McCornick Block**

1891-1893, Mendelsson & Fisher, Omaha

74 South Main

The McCornick Block represents a transition in Salt Lake City’s commercial architecture from the two to four-story buildings of the 19th century to the skyscrapers of the 20th century. When it was completed in 1893, the seven-story McCornick Building towered over its neighbors. Six early model elevators enabled people to reach the dizzying heights of the seventh floor with ease.

This building originally featured a four-foot copper cornice and a columned entryway on the east. A keen observer will
note that the northernmost two bays are a later addition (1908), but conform to the building’s original design.

William S. McCormick constructed this building to house the McCormick & Company Bank. McCormick made his fortune selling lumber for the construction of mine shafts in Nevada and was later involved in many of Utah’s most prominent business ventures.

Built in 1864, the Eagle Emporium Building is the oldest existing commercial building in downtown Salt Lake City. William Jennings, Utah’s first millionaire, constructed the building to house his mercantile business. It is the city’s only remaining commercial structure built prior to the completion of the transcontinental railroad.

The Eagle Emporium Building is also notable as the first home of ZCMI. At the request of Brigham Young, Jennings exchanged his emporium’s inventory for stock in the new ZCMI in 1868. He also leased this building to the cooperative.

The building’s long banking history began in 1890 when Utah National Bank occupied the building. The bank covered the building’s original red sandstone facade with a veneer of terra-cotta in 1916.

The ornate clock in front of this building is one of the few remaining pieces of 19th-century street furniture in Salt Lake City’s downtown. The clock was erected on this site in 1873 and was first powered by a water wheel.

The ornate Daft Block was completed in 1889 for Sarah Daft. Widowed in 1881, Sarah built the inheritance left by her husband into a sizeable fortune through wise investments in mining and real estate. At her death, her wealth endowed the Sarah Daft Retirement Home.

On the north side of the building you can still see the sign for the Daynes Jewelry Company which bought the Daft Block in 1908. The company’s founder, John Daynes, was an expert jeweler and Brigham Young’s watchmaker.
The designer of the Daft Block, E.L.T. Harrison of Harrison & Nichols, was an important early Utah architect. This is the best surviving example of his work. Harrison often created very elaborate facades. The bold design of the Daft Block features an unusual projecting two-story bay window and a profusion of carved stone and wood details.

**Kearns Building**
1911, Parkinson & Bergstrom, Los Angeles
136 South Main

The Kearns Building, one early 20th-century journalist declared, was “the real capitol of Utah.” The building housed many influential businesses and trade associations as well as the office of one of Utah’s most influential men, Thomas Kearns.

When Thomas Kearns arrived in Utah in 1883, he was penniless. He worked in Park City silver mines for six years before leasing a rich vein of unclaimed silver ore. Kearns’ mining holdings soon made him a multi-millionaire. He served as a U.S. Senator from Utah and owned an interest in *The Salt Lake Tribune*. His “palatial residence” on South Temple Street is today Utah’s Governor’s Mansion.

The Kearns Building is the best preserved example of a Sullivanesque style skyscraper in the Intermountain West. The female faces on the second level of the building are said to resemble Kearns’ daughter, Helen.

**Ezra Thompson, Salt Lake Tribune Building**
1924, Pope & Burton, SLC
143 South Main

The Ezra Thompson Building is one of the few buildings in downtown Salt Lake City with Art Deco features. Because Utah was particularly hard hit by the Great Depression, no major commercial buildings were constructed downtown during the 1930s and 1940s, the height of Art Deco’s popularity. The Thompson Building’s relatively plain facade, vertical emphasis, and terra cotta cornice reveal early Art Deco influence.

Wealthy mining and real estate entrepreneur Ezra Thompson constructed this building in 1924. *The Salt Lake Tribune* purchased it in 1937. Founded in 1870, the *Tribune* was a strident anti-Mormon newspaper. During the 1920s, however, the paper began to move toward a more moderate position advocating cooperation between religious groups. The *Tribune* continues to occupy the building today.
First National Bank Building
1872-3, Thomas J. Johnson, San Francisco/SLC; cast iron facade by Richard M. Upjohn, New York

163 South Main

The First National Bank Building features the oldest known cast iron facade in the Intermountain West. It was designed by Richard M. Upjohn of New York, one of America’s most distinguished 19th-century architects. The building originally had a fourth story and a mansard roof which were destroyed by fire in 1875. Instead of rebuilding the upper floor, the building’s owners constructed a new flat roof with a parapet wall over the third floor.

First National Bank was spectacularly profitable when it constructed this building in 1873. By the end of 1874, the bank had been liquidated. The depression of 1873 and liberal loaning policies were the main causes of the bank’s demise. Its expensive new building, however, contributed to its financial woes. Originally estimated to cost $80,000, the building ended up costing $140,000.

Salt Lake Herald Building
1905, John C. Craig, Chicago/SLC

169 South Main

One of the best ornate tin cornices in Salt Lake City crowns the Herald Building. The elaborately decorated cornice is divided into two identical halves to accommodate the building’s U-shaped plan. This plan is a bit unusual in that the “U” opens onto the street. Many 19th and early 20th-century buildings were constructed in a U-shape to allow light and air to reach interior offices. Most often, however, the opening of the “U” is on the rear or the side of the building.

The Salt Lake Herald, a staunchly pro-Mormon and pro-Democratic newspaper, constructed this building in 1905. After the Herald moved out in 1913, the Little Hotel occupied the building for many years. Lamb’s Restaurant, a Salt Lake City icon, has been in business on the ground floor of the Herald Building since 1919.
When it was completed in 1912, the 16-story Walker Bank Building was the tallest building in the Intermountain West and a source of much pride to Salt Lake City. A three-story observatory crowned by eagles sits atop the building. The two stories beneath the observatory feature elaborate classical ornamentation. Also note the projecting window bays which accentuate the building’s corners.

Walker Bank was founded by the Walker brothers—Samuel, Joseph, David, and Matthew. The brothers immigrated to Utah on foot to join their fellow Mormons. They established a mercantile business in 1859. Although the Walker brothers became disaffected from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints over the issue of tithing, their mercantile business prospered and took on banking functions as well. Eventually the bank made the Walker brothers some of Utah’s wealthiest men.

While 13 stories tall, the Continental Bank Building’s Main Street facade is only three bays wide. This narrowness gives the building a vertical emphasis. Its design combines Second Renaissance Revival elements on the first two floors and a plain treatment of the upper floors. Note the carved stone faces in the keystones above the arched windows and the simulation of a balcony with relief panels below the third story windows.

This corner was originally occupied by the White House, an early Salt Lake City hotel. The National Bank of the Republic, one of several banks that merged to form Continental Bank, had offices on the ground floor of the hotel. Continental Bank completed the present building in 1924. In 1999 the building was renovated to house the Hotel Monaco.
Karrick Block
1887, Richard K. A. Kletting, SLC
236 South Main

The Karrick Block (on right of picture) is the oldest existing work of one of Utah’s most prominent architects, Richard Kletting. Kletting is best known for designing the State Capitol Building. The Karrick Block was one of his first commercial works in Utah. Its facade features ornate carved stone, attenuated cast-iron columns on the third story, and a galvanized iron cornice.

Lewis Karrick constructed this building in 1887. Karrick founded the National Bank of the Republic and was a well-known local politician. Robert & Neldon Drugs occupied the first floor, while a gambling hall and apartments for eight prostitutes were located on the second floor.

Lollin Block
1894, Richard K. A. Kletting, SLC
238 South Main

The Lollin Block, built in 1894, is also the work of Richard Kletting. One local historian suggests that the ornate facade of the Karrick block reflects Kletting’s efforts to gain local acceptance by “showing off” his highly refined skills. The Lollin Block reflects Kletting’s favored bent for Classical motifs.

Classical elements of the building’s design include the Roman arches, dentil moldings, and egg-and-dart window trim. To make the building appear more expensive and substantial, gray plaster was applied over its brick superstructure and scored to look like cut stone.

John Lollin owned the Lollin Saloon at 129 Main Street. He constructed this building as an investment property with an apartment on the third floor for his family.

David Keith Building
1902, Frederick A. Hale, SLC
242 South Main

This building was constructed in 1902 for David Keith. Keith was another of Utah’s mining magnates and a close friend of Thomas Kearns. (See building description 7.) The two men developed one of the world’s most lucrative silver mines, the Silver King in Park City.

This building housed another of Keith’s business interests, the Keith-O’Brien Department Store. A 1906 ad described the mercantile as “The store that forced prices down, and yet the most beautiful store in all the West.”
The Keith Building was designed by Frederick Hale, a well-known Salt Lake City architect. Hale worked primarily in the Classical styles. While the Keith Building features some Classical motifs, such as pilasters, round arches, and cartouches, it is much less ornate than most of Hale’s designs.

**Clift Building**
*1919-1920, James Leslie Chesebro, SLC*

10 West 300 South (northwest corner of Main and 300 South)

Virtue Clift constructed this building in 1920 in honor of her late husband Francis D. Clift. Francis was a merchant, mining entrepreneur, and real estate developer. Upon his death, Virtue inherited his large fortune.

The Clift Building originally housed the United Cigar Stores Company, the Shuback Optical Company, Western Union Telegraph, and the Kinema Theater. The theater continued to operate here until 1968.

The Clift Building is one of Salt Lake City’s largest terra-cotta faced buildings. The upper floor of this eclectic building is the most decorative. Note the protruding bay windows with Greek pediments at the corners and the bracketed cornice.

**Judge Building**
*1907, David C. Dart, SLC*

8 East 300 South (southeast corner of Main and 300 South)

Like the Clift Building, the Judge Building was built by a business-savvy widow. Mary Judge was married to John Judge, a partner with Thomas Kearns and David Keith in developing the Silver King Mine in Park City. After John’s premature death from miner’s consumption, Mary multiplied her fortune with investments in Salt Lake City real estate and Nevada mines.

In addition to proving herself a capable businesswoman, Mary Judge donated generously to a variety of charitable causes. She endowed the Judge Miner’s Hospital, which became Judge Memorial High School, and contributed to the construction of The Cathedral of the Madeleine.

The Judge Building was originally known as the Railroad Exchange Building. By 1909, 22 railroad companies had their Salt Lake offices here. The Commercial style building features a copper cornice, colorful ceramic tile triangles, and swags of carved stone fruit above the seventh-story windows.
Do you ever wish you could talk to someone who lived over 100 years ago and ask them what life was like back then? The people who lived 100 years ago are no longer here. But some of the buildings they built are. If you ask these buildings the right questions, they can transport you back in time.

We are used to seeing many buildings every day. But have you ever really looked at a building? Have you wondered why buildings look the way they do? Or what they are made of? Or who planned and built them? Or how they were used a long time ago?

These are the kind of questions you need to ask to begin traveling through time. Keep them in mind as you walk through Main Street’s history today.

Your walk through Main Street’s history will take about 40 minutes. The tour ends at 200 South. You can ride the light rail or a free bus to return to the starting point at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. Enjoy the tour!
Imagine you are visiting Salt Lake City in the 1930s and staying in the city’s finest hotel. Where are you staying? Right here, at the elegant Hotel Utah! You will enjoy the hotel’s beautiful lobby and the view of the city from the roof-top restaurant. You might even meet a famous politician or a movie star who is also staying in the hotel.

In 1993, the Hotel Utah became the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. It is named after the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The building now contains offices, a theater, and a family history library. You can still see the beautiful decorations in the lobby and dine in the roof-top restaurant from the days of the Hotel Utah.

Pretend you are going to draw the Hotel Utah. Where will you start? The Hotel Utah is a big, complex building. But if you look closely, you’ll see its design is made of many simple shapes, like squares, rectangles, circles, and triangles. How many shapes can you see? Do the shapes make any patterns? When you get home, try drawing a building in your neighborhood using only simple shapes.

Look for simple shapes!
ZCMI Facade

Built in 1876 (center section), 1880 (south wing), 1901 (north wing)

50 S. Main Street

Now you see it, now you don’t! The cast iron front, or facade, of the historic ZCMI store is still here, but the rest of the store is gone. The old store was torn down in 1976. The cast iron facade was taken down, repaired, and put up in front of the new store. You can see how the old store looked in the historic photo.

Cast iron was a popular material for building facades in the 1800s. Cast iron is stronger than brick. Therefore, you can have more windows and doors in a cast iron wall than a brick one without the wall falling down. Notice how much of the ZCMI facade was open space for windows. Cast iron was replaced by an even stronger material, steel, in the 1900s.

ZCMI is an abbreviation for the Zion’s Cooperative Mercantile Institution. This store was founded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1868 to encourage Mormons to buy locally made products. It was in operation at this location from 1876 to 2000. There were ZCMI stores in many towns settled by Mormons in Utah and Idaho.

McCornick Block

Built 1891-1895

74 South Main Street

If you were walking down Main Street in 1893, you would notice the McCornick Block right away. Most buildings on Main Street at this time were between two and four stories tall. The seven-story McCornick Block towered over its neighbors. It was a “pioneer skyscraper” in Salt Lake City. Twenty years later, though, there were buildings twice as high as the McCornick Block on Main Street.
What good is a skyscraper if you have to climb the stairs to your office on the top floor every day? Electric elevators, invented in 1889, whisked people to the tops of skyscrapers with ease. The McCornick Block had six of the first elevators in Salt Lake City. An addition was made to the McCornick Block in 1908. Can you find it by comparing the historic photo of the building to the building today? In what other ways has the McCornick Block changed?

First Security Bank Building
Built in 1919
79 South Main Street

Today this building is known as the First Security Bank Building. But this wasn’t always its name. Look on the west side of the building to find what it was called when it was first built. Also find the Indian head and buffalo head decorations. Now that you’ve looked at the First Security Bank Building up close, take a step back and look at the whole building. What does its shape remind you of?

Architects faced a challenge when they first began designing skyscrapers. Skyscrapers were a new kind of building that no one had designed before. What should they look like? Some architects decided that the column would be a good model for the design of skyscrapers. Look at the sketch of the column and compare it to the First Security Bank Building. How are they similar? Can you find any columns on the First Security Bank Building?

Look for another skyscraper built in the form of a column on this tour.
Zion’s First National Bank Building
Built in 1864

102 South Main

The Zion’s Bank Building is the oldest building still standing on Main Street. It transports us back to a time when the buildings on Main Street were only one or two stories tall. You can see the Zion’s Bank Building on the far right of this photo of Main Street taken in the 1870s. How has Main Street changed?

This building has changed, too. When William Jennings constructed this building for his Eagle Emporium store in 1864, it had red sandstone walls. Just a few years later, the building became the home of the very first ZCMI store. ZCMI moved to its new building up the street in 1876.

In 1890, the building became a bank. In 1916, the bank covered the building’s sandstone walls with white terra-cotta that looks like marble. Why would a bank want its building to have walls that look like marble?

Clock
Erected in 1873

100 South and Main Street

This beautiful clock has been marking time on this corner for more than 125 years. Imagine all the changes it has seen! The clock was made in Connecticut and installed here in 1873. At first, a water wheel under the street powered the clock. Later, four large springs which had to be wound every five days made the clock run. In 1912, it was connected to an electric clock system inside the bank.
The clock is one of the only pieces of historic “street furniture” on Main Street. Objects on the street that aren’t buildings, like lights, benches, bike racks, and bus stop shelters, are called street furniture. Street furniture can help give a street its own special character. What street furniture do you see on Main Street? What kind of street furniture does your neighborhood have?

Kearns Building
Built in 1911
136 South Main Street

One of Utah’s wealthiest mining men constructed this building. Thomas Kearns wasn’t always rich, though. He came to Utah in 1883 to work in the silver mines in Park City. After six years in the mines, he struck it rich! Kearns found an unclaimed vein of silver and soon became a multi-millionaire. He invested some of his wealth in projects, like the Kearns Building, that helped Salt Lake City grow.

The front of the Kearns Building is pretending to be something it’s not. It looks like it is covered in white stone, but it is really covered in terra-cotta. Terra-cotta is made of baked clay. Sometimes it is left a red clay color. Sometimes it is glazed a different color to look like stone or marble.

Why use terra-cotta instead of stone? Terra-cotta is less expensive, lighter, and less likely to be soiled by pollution than stone. It is also easier to mold terra-cotta into different shapes for decorations than it is to carve stone. Look for the terra-cotta figures of a woman’s face on the Kearns Building. The face is said to resemble Thomas Kearns’ daughter, Helen.

Because of all its advantages, terra-cotta became a very popular building material. What other buildings covered in terra-cotta have you seen today?

*Hint: They are white.*
The man who constructed this building was a friend of Salt Lake City’s children. Russell Lord Tracy owned a bank called the Tracy Loan and Trust Company. He used some of his money to found the Tracy Wigwam Boy Scout Camp in Millcreek Canyon and the Tracy Aviary in Liberty Park. Many thousands of children have enjoyed Tracy’s gifts to the community.

How would you describe the Tracy Loan and Trust Company Building? Just as there are different styles of clothing and hair, there are different styles of buildings. This building’s style is called “Classical Revival.” It borrows ideas from the “classical” buildings of ancient Greece and Rome.

For example, this building has two large columns on either side of its front door. On top of the columns sits a long band of stone called an “entablature.” There are columns and entablatures like these on buildings over 2500 years old in Greece. Now that’s historic architecture!

It is 1919. You are walking down Main Street and getting hungry. Why not stop for a sandwich at the new Lamb’s Restaurant? That’s right! Lamb’s Restaurant has been in business in this building since 1919. (How many years is that?) Before Lamb’s Restaurant, this building was the home of a newspaper called The Salt Lake Herald.

The front of the Salt Lake Herald Building is divided in two halves. Architects call this design a “U-shaped” plan.
What would happen if you filled in the space in the middle of the U? The U-shaped plan allows more rooms in the building to have windows that let in sunlight and air. If you had an office in this building, would you want one with or without a window?

Many buildings built in the late 1800s and early 1900s have a U-shaped plan. The Salt Lake Herald Building is a bit unusual because the U opens onto the street. Look back at the Kearns Building. It also has a U-shaped plan, but the U opens to the side of the building. In other buildings, the U opens to the rear.

Walker Bank Building

**Built in 1912**

**175 South Main Street**

The construction of the Walker Bank Building was exciting news in 1912. This new 16-story building was the tallest building in the Intermountain West. The people of Salt Lake City saw the Walker Bank Building as a sign that their city would be great. A newspaper story about the building called it a “monument to the progress and future of Salt Lake.” Do people still get excited about new buildings today? Why or why not? Think of an example.

The Walker Bank Building looks like it is wearing a hat. If you step back and look at the whole building, you can see a small, three-story section sitting in the middle of the roof. This “hat” is not simply for decoration. It contains part of the mechanical system that runs the building’s elevators.

Does the shape of the Walker Bank Building remind you of any other buildings you have seen on the tour?

You have reached the end of your time travel tour on Main Street. Next time you visit a historic building, make it into a time machine by asking the kinds of questions you explored today. If you would like a guided time travel trip, take a tour of the Salt Lake City & County Building or the Kearns (Governor’s) Mansion on your own or with your class. Call Utah Heritage Foundation at (801) 533-0858 for free public tour and school tour information.
During the late-19th and early-20th centuries, Salt Lake City was sharply divided into Mormon and non-Mormon communities. Mormons and non-Mormons tended to live in different neighborhoods and had separate school systems, commercial organizations, and social groups. The two communities did not even celebrate national holidays, like the Fourth of July, together.

The divide between Mormons and non-Mormons shaped the development of Salt Lake City’s downtown. By the late-19th century, Mormon-owned businesses were clustered at the north end of downtown near Temple Square. Non-Mormon-owned businesses tended to locate south of 200 South Street.

This division was even more firmly stamped on the face of the city in the early 20th century by Samuel Newhouse. Newhouse was perhaps the wealthiest of Utah’s mining magnates. He made his fortune in the copper mines which eventually became Utah Kennecott Copper Company.

Although not a native of Salt Lake City, Newhouse became one of the city's most enthusiastic boosters. Beginning in 1907, Newhouse personally undertook a campaign to shift the city’s business center from the north end of Main Street near South Temple to the south end near 400 South.

Within eight years of beginning his building program, Newhouse had overextended his financial resources and was bankrupt. Despite its disastrous personal consequences for Newhouse, his crusade did result in the construction of some of Salt Lake City’s most attractive buildings. This tour includes the buildings of Newhouse’s Exchange Place empire and those of other non-Mormon groups and businessmen who shared his goals.

Your walk through Exchange Place and Market Street will take about one hour. The tour ends on Main Street just one block west of the starting point at the Salt Lake City & County Building. Enjoy the tour!
The Salt Lake City & County Building is one of Salt Lake City's most beloved landmarks. The building is Utah's finest example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. Numerous detailed carvings, including Indian chiefs, Spanish explorers, and the faces of the first Mormon women to arrive in the Salt Lake Valley, decorate the building's exterior. Columbia, a female personification of the United States, crowns the clock tower.

The story of this building's construction reveals the divisions between Salt Lake City's Mormon and non-Mormon communities in the 19th century. In 1890, construction of a building to house city and county offices began on the corner of 100 South and State Street, just two blocks from Temple Square. The elections of 1890, however, brought to power Salt Lake City's first non-Mormon mayor and city council. The new city administration halted construction at the north downtown site. Within a year it approved plans for the current building at the southern, non-Mormon end of downtown.

During the late 1980s, Salt Lake City undertook a major renovation of the City & County Building. The building now sits on 440 base isolators which will allow the building to move as a whole during an earthquake. Workers cut the massive structure from its foundation and lifted it, in stages, onto the isolators. The City & County Building was the first building in the world to be retrofitted with base isolators.
Federation of Labor Hall, Hotel Plandome
1903, Richard K. A. Kletting, SLC
69 East 400 South

The elaborate flower details on its molded cornice and lion heads peering from atop its pilasters give the Federation of Labor Hall a fanciful feel. The building was designed by prominent Utah architect Richard Kletting. Kletting is best known for designing the Utah State Capitol Building. Jewish immigrant and local brewer Albert Fisher constructed this building in 1903 to house the Utah Federation of Labor and its associated unions. The second and third floors of the building originally featured lodge rooms and a spacious auditorium.

In 1913, Fisher decided to remodel the building as a hotel. The north side of the building still bears a painted sign for the Hotel Plandome. The “European” attraction advertised here may be the hotel’s “specialty of serving breakfast for the convenience of its guests.”

Newhouse Realty Building
1913-1914, Headlund & Kent, SLC
44-56 and 62-64 Exchange Place

The one-story Newhouse Realty Building represents the last gasp of Samuel Newhouse’s building project. It occupies the site of a theater-hotel project that was commenced but never got beyond foundation work. Within a year after the completion of this much more modest building, Newhouse was bankrupt. Note the letter “N” engraved on the upper molding of the building.

Commercial Club Building
1908-1910, Ware & Treganza, SLC
32 Exchange Place

Samuel Newhouse donated this site to the Commercial Club as part of his plan to strengthen the non-Mormon south downtown. An ancestor of the Chamber of Commerce, the Commercial Club was organized by Salt Lake City businessmen in 1902 to attract new businesses to the city. The club constructed this building as a luxurious gathering place for its members. The building once contained a swimming pool, banquet room, private dining rooms, and game rooms. Its polychromatic terra-cotta, inlaid mosaic tiles, and copper cornice make the Commercial Club one of the most colorful buildings in the city. The loggia on the sixth floor and balconies on the third floor of the north and east sides are typical of the Second Renaissance Revival style. Prestigious Salt Lake City architects Walter Ware and Alberto Treganza modeled this building after the New York City Athletic Club.
Salt Lake Stock and Mining Exchange
1908-1909, John C. Craig, Chicago/SLC

39 Exchange Place

Exchange Place takes its name from this Neoclassical building. As part of his efforts to make south downtown the financial center of Salt Lake City, Samuel Newhouse donated this site to the Salt Lake Mining and Stock Exchange in 1908. Organized in 1888, the exchange provided the mechanism for raising capital to develop Utah’s lucrative mines.

During the uranium boom of the 1950s, the Salt Lake Mining and Stock Exchange was particularly busy. A mania for buying penny stocks to finance the development of uranium mines swept the country. With hundreds of these mines located in Utah, the Salt Lake Mining and Stock Exchange became the nation’s center for the trading of uranium stocks. Because of the speculative nature of the uranium trade, one historian described Salt Lake City in the 1950s as “the gambling capital of the world.” Today the building houses professional offices.

Boston and Newhouse Buildings
1907-1909, Henry Ives Cobb, Chicago/New York

9 Exchange Place, 10 Exchange Place

Samuel Newhouse began his south downtown empire by financing the construction of these two buildings. He named the Boston Building, to the north, after his Boston Consolidated Mine. The Newhouse Building, to the south, he named after himself, of course. Newhouse intended to construct a similar pair of buildings at the east end of Exchange Place, but went bankrupt before he could undertake this project.

The Boston and Newhouse Buildings are considered Utah’s first “skyscrapers.” In an attempt to bring some of the sophistication and prestige of the East to Salt Lake City, Newhouse hired famous Chicago/New York architect Henry Ives Cobb to design these towers.

Take a moment to look at the elaborate stone ornamentation on these buildings from the west side of Main Street. Notice how Cobb incorporates similar elements on each building, but varies their location and prevalence to give each building a distinct appearance.
Prominent Utah businessman Orange J. Salisbury shared Samuel Newhouse’s goal of shifting the center of Salt Lake City’s business district to the south end of downtown. He financed the construction of several commercial buildings in Salt Lake City, including the Felt Building.

Designed by Richard Kletting, the Felt Building is an early example of Sullivanesque architecture in Utah. It also features the first terra-cotta facade in the state. What the Felt Building lacks in color, it makes up in exuberant detail. Note the relief portraits of classical Greek figures in the round arches, dentilled cornice, foliated frieze, and decorative capitals atop the pilasters between the bays.

Salt Lake City Federal Building and Post Office
Frank E. Moss Federal Courthouse
1902-1905, 1911-12, James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the Treasury; 1931-1932, James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect of the Treasury
350 South Main Street

After Utah became a state in 1896, the federal government began planning the construction of a building to house federal offices in Salt Lake City. The Treasury Department considered two sites for the building. One site, located across from Temple Square, was offered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The second site, near 400 South on Main Street, was offered by the Walker brothers, local bankers who had become disaffected from the church.

After vocal opposition from many of Salt Lake City’s leading non-Mormon businessmen to the church site, the federal government purchased the Walker brothers’ site. Completed in 1905, the Federal Building became the anchor of the growing non-Mormon south downtown business district.

This building functioned for many years as a combination post office, courthouse, and federal building. It was one of the earliest Neoclassical style buildings in the state. This style was popular for monumental buildings like banks, churches, courthouses, and post offices in the early decades of the 20th century.

Odd Fellows Hall
1891, George F. Costerisan, SLC
39 Market Street

The International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) was one of the many secret fraternal organizations popular in 19th-century America. These organizations engaged in a variety of social and charitable activities. They also offered “fraternal insurance” programs to assist members and their families in case of an illness or death.
It is no accident that the Utah Odd Fellows decided to build their hall here. Like most 19th-century fraternal organizations, the Odd Fellows excluded Mormons and Catholics from membership. The largely Protestant and Jewish members of the Utah Odd Fellows felt most comfortable in the emerging non-Mormon enclave at the south end of downtown. The Odd Fellows Hall is one of the best examples of Richardsonian Romanesque commercial architecture remaining in Utah. A variety of brick patterns give the facade a textured appearance. Look for the inscriptions “I.O.O.F” and “1891” in the elevated center portion of the parapet. Also note the carving of the all-seeing eye, an Odd Fellows symbol, above the main entry.

**New York Hotel**

*1906, Richard K. A. Kletting, SLC*

48 Market Street

Like the Felt Building, the New York Hotel was financed by Orange J. Salisbury. Salisbury intended the New York to be a luxury hotel. The building was considered completely modern, with both steam heat and electric lights in every room. Hotel advertisements assured all guests of excellent service.

The New York Hotel was designed to accommodate shops on the first floor and 75 rooms on the upper two floors. It features an attractive entrance canopy supported by cast iron columns on high sandstone bases. Also note the curvilinear gable where the building’s name appears in large block letters.

In the mid-1970s, the New York Hotel was renovated to house a restaurant and office space. The pioneering project was one of the first in Salt Lake City to adapt an historic building for a new use. Its success brought new life to the building and a declining area of downtown.

**Shubrick Apartment Hotel**

*1912, John C. Craig, Chicago/SLC*

72 West 400 South

When it was completed in 1912, *The Salt Lake Tribune* judged the Shubrick “the most modern apartment hotel thus far constructed in Utah.” The building contained a variety of innovative features, including a summer roof garden, a basement laundry, and a lobby designed to serve as a social hall for residents. In addition, all rooms were illuminated with both electric and natural light.
Since its completion, the Shubrick has served as a hotel and apartment building, with storefronts on the ground level. The main entry to this U-shaped building is through the central courtyard on 400 South. Note the pergola roof which now encloses the roof garden at the second story level on the central section.

**New Grand Hotel**  
1910, John C. Craig, Chicago/SLC

**369 South Main Street**

Colorful, inlaid tiles and a wide, bracketed cornice adorn the New Grand Hotel. The south side of the building features a beautiful cast iron and colored glass canopy above a basement entrance. This canopy has sheltered the patrons of the clubs, like the Grand Billiard Parlor and the Chi Chi Dancing Club, housed here since the building’s completion. The Manhattan Club has been in operation at this location since 1951.

John Daly built the New Grand Hotel in 1910. Like Samuel Newhouse, Daly was a mining magnate. He owned several lucrative silver mines in Park City, including the Daly-West. Daly was influential in Salt Lake City’s non-Mormon business community and twice served as president of the exclusive Alta Club. (See NDH Tour building description 5.)

**First Security Bank Building**  
1955, W. Sarmiento, St. Louis, and Slack Winburn, SLC

**405 South Main Street**

Completed in 1955, the First Security Bank Building was the first major addition to Salt Lake City’s downtown skyline in nearly 30 years. The economic collapse of the Great Depression and the need to direct construction materials toward military efforts during World War II virtually halted all downtown building projects. After decades of scarcity, Salt Lake City residents saw the First Security Bank as a sign of renewed prosperity.


First Security Bank President George S. Eccles hoped the building would become the “center of an expanded downtown.” Salt Lake City’s downtown, however, did not continue the southward march it began in the 19th century. Like in many American cities, new businesses began to locate in the suburbs rather than downtown during the 1950s and 1960s.
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.
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.

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.)
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.

Garden Hotel, Squatters Pub Brewery
1909, Ware & Treganza, SLC

147 West 300 South

Joseph Baumgarter built the Garden Hotel in 1909. A native of Austria, Baumgarter 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
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
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.
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1924, Pope & Burton, SLC, and N.A. Dokas, 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.

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
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.

N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company  
Salt Lake Stamp Company  
Dakota Lofts
1923, 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.
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.

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.
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.