

Historic St. George
Walking Tour
Pioneer Corner



Prepared by the Washington County Historical Society

Introduction

Settlers who arrived in St. George in 1861 laid out the town on a grid based on LDS leader Joseph Smith's Plat of Zion. Individual home lots were clustered in the town center, surrounded by fields held in common

by the villagers. The blocks in the historic heart of St. George are 528 feet square, with an area of 6.4 acres, and major streets are 90 feet wide. Each block was originally divided into eight lots. In addition to a house, each town lot contained gardens and orchards for food production, and pastures, pens, and corrals for domestic animals, along with outbuildings such as barns and granaries.



J.C. Penney's Building 5 East St. George Blvd.
Circa 1950s

An Urban Renewal store employee said that when J.C. Penney's was in operation, store employees working upstairs in the office used a cable relay system to send paper messages back and forth from the north and south areas of the building. The J.C. Penney's Store was owned by Hy Thomas and by the 1980s, had expanded to include the Sprouse Reitz building. Currently occupied by Urban Renewal (consignment store) by

owners by Jenny and Eric Larsen, who also run adjacent stores **Having Been Ness** and **AO**.



St. George Fire Station No. 2 (now Zion Brewery Station II)

150 North Main

Circa 1918

This former fire station was built in 1918 and housed the original fire department for many years. Today, the building houses Zion Brewery Station II, a brewery that offers a bar, pool hall and an upstairs lounge.



Mary Ann Gardner House *158 North Main*

Circa 1896

As the third plural wife of Robert Gardner, English-native Mary Ann Carr lived in a smaller home two blocks south until she separated from her husband when he moved to Pine Valley with three wives and their families. Mary Ann stayed in St. George with her eight children, but Robert gave her his big home across the street from the Tabernacle, as well as a lot, farming land, livestock, provisions, wood, hay, furniture, a stove, and a sewing machine. Mary Ann sold the big house and built this Victorian-style home in 1896, where she established a millinery shop and sold merchandise to members of Brigham Young's family. **The Beauty Lab**, a cosmetology salon, currently occupies the building.



Daughters of Utah Pioneer McQuarrie Memorial Museum

143 North 100 East

Circa 1938

Built in 1938, this museum was financed by Mrs. Hortense McQuarrie Odlum for the express purpose of preserving pioneer relics, such as the Nauvoo drum, a 150-year-old silk dress, and countless photos. The museum is maintained by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers who offer tours on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.



Pioneer Courthouse 97 East St. George Blvd.

Circa 1870

St. George was designated the seat of Washington County on 14 January 1863 when the Utah Legislature unexpectedly moved the county seat from Washington City. Construction of the courthouse began in 1867 and was completed in 1870. Built with locally manufactured brick and mortar, the courthouse has many interesting and unique architectural features, including 18-inch-thick walls, chandeliers, a vault, exterior cornices, a cupola, and original oil paintings of Zion National Park and the Grand Canyon. The building housed a jail in the basement, county offices on the first floor, and a courtroom on the upper floor. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places on 22 September 1970, the building housed the St. George Chamber of Commerce until 2016. Today the upper floor is used for lectures and meetings. Tours are available Monday, Friday and Saturday, 11-3pm.



Pickett Lumber Building 67 East St. George Blvd

Circa 1920s

This building originally housed the businesses of 1861 pioneer Horatio Pickett, the city's first mortician. His early St. George businesses also included a lumber yard, furniture and casket-making business, and carpentry shop. Horatio died from the Spanish Influenza during the worldwide pandemic of 1918. Grandson Elmer Pickett operated the company from the 1950s through 1970s.

Most of the main floor of the building has been occupied for 25 years by **Steamroller Copies**. Housed directly north are **OrangeTech** and **Copies4Sale**, both divisions of Steamroller Copies. Upstairs is **St. George Salon Studios** and sub-outlets that include: **Beauty by Emily Rose**, **Apex Barbering** and **Brilliant Edge Salon**. **Laser Mania Family Fun Center**, has been in operation for about 25 years, offering laser tech, miniature golf, 4D movie rides and bumper cars.



M&S Turquoise 41 and 53 East St. George Blvd.
Circa 1978

Opened in 1978 by Kent, Jim and Bret Sevy, M&S Turquoise supplies gift stores all over the United States, employing the expertise of hired independent contractor Herbert Tsoisie, a silversmith from the Navajo Reservation.



Milne Jewelers 43 East St. George Blvd.
Circa 1951

One of the oldest businesses still operating in St. George, owner and watchmaker Wes Milne opened the store on his 20th birthday. The jewelry store was originally in the old Washington County News building, then moved to its present location in 1954.

World Finance Loan and Tax Service 39 E. St. George Blvd.

Formerly Noble Finance. World Finance has been at this location for two years and is managed by Constance Stokes.

Reclaimed 37 East St. George Blvd.

When this was the location of Snow IGA Foodliner Store, deer meat was processed near the food lockers at the back of the store. Today, store owner of Reclaimed, Jennifer Hawkins, refurbishes vintage and antique furniture with chalk paint. Hawkins' mantra is: "It's a buy-and-throwaway economy, but we need to save what we have."



Washington County News Building 24 East St George Blvd. Circa 1880s

During the 1880s, the Washington County News building was a saloon in Silver Reef. After the mining boom ended, the building was moved to its present location on St. George Boulevard. The first editor of the *Washington County News* was John Wallis, who printed the paper until 1900. The building has housed many other businesses since that time, including Classic Printing, owned by Frank and Jim Mountford.

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