



A Stroll Through History



Historic St. George Downtown Walking Tour





Begin your adventure at the Pioneer Center of the Arts, where you will find the Watermaster standing watch over the city. From there, spend some time strolling the streets of the Historic District, where many historic public buildings and private homes stand as reminders of a bygone era.

- * Guides on site.
- (NP) Not open to the public.

1. St. George Social Hall & Opera House

These buildings served as the cultural center of St. George from 1875 until 1935. A mechanical floor was built in the Opera House, which allowed the slope of the floor to be adjusted to provide for excellent views of the stage. The community would gather to enjoy local plays, touring performers, melodramas and musicals. The significance of the buildings was recognized by the community, who supported the effort to retain the historical center and restoration of the Pioneer Center for the Arts was completed in 1996.



2. St. George Art Museum

The building that now houses the Art Museum was at one time a warehouse used by U&I Sugar Co. to store sugar beet seeds. During the restoration process, efforts to retain the original architectural details were incorporated, which captures the essence of pioneer times. The Art Museum is the crown jewel of the Pioneer Center for the Arts.



3. Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum *

Built in 1938, this building was financed by Mrs. Hortense McQuarrie for the express purpose of preserving pioneer relics. The Museum is maintained by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Tours welcome.



4. Old Courthouse *

Construction of the courthouse began in 1866 and was completed in 1876. Constructed with locally manufactured brick and mortar, the building has many interesting and unique architectural features, including 18-inch thick interior doors, old chandeliers, a security vault, and the exterior cornices and cupola. Serving many purposes, the building housed the jail in the basement, the county offices on the first floor, and the large room on the second floor served as a courtroom and a schoolroom. The building is still in use, which is a testament of the skill and care used in its construction. Tours are available.



5. Old County News Building

The building that housed the Washington County News was originally a saloon in Silver Reef in the 1880's. After the mining boom ended, the building was moved to its present location in St. George. 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 and is a reminder of the areas days in the wild west.

6. The Hardy House

Built in 1871 by Sheriff Augustus Hardy, this house was slightly remodeled by a bullet during one wild west incident where a group of vigilantes broke into the house, took the keys to the jail, removed an unpopular prisoner and promptly hung him. During the sequence of events, a stray bullet hit the door of the home. The bullet hole is still visible today in the door.

7. Gardener's Club Hall

Built by the members of the Gardener's Club, this building served as a meeting place for horticulturists and social events. It is one of the oldest public buildings still in use in St. George.

8. Old Jail House (NP)

The one-room jail was constructed from the black lava rock hauled in from the foothills surrounding the city. The structure was built by Sheriff Hardy around 1880, and still retains the original iron bars in the windows.



9. The Grundy House (NP)

While a smaller home built in 1890 once occupied the site of the Grundy House, the current home was built in 1901. Emma Packer Morris contracted to have the home built of adobe, then faced the exterior with red brick. The design is classic Victorian, with large panel windows and ornate wood trim. The home was passed on to Isadore Grundy, Mrs. Morris' daughter, and has been known as the Grundy House since that time.

10. Gardner House (NP)

The first ladies' co-op was founded here by Mary Ann Gardner, the third wife of Robert Gardener, the first mayor of St. George. Built in 1896 the home is a good representation of the Victorian style that was popular at the time. When the co-op disbanded, Mary Ann established a millinery shop here.

11. Brigham Young's Winter Home *

Brigham Young became St. George's first "snowbird", leaving the cold behind to spend the winters in the temperate climate of St. George. The original part of this home was begun in 1869 and completed in 1871. The front addition, which comprises the main part of the house, was completed in 1873. Made from adobe, plaster and local rock, the two-story home shows the ingenuity of pioneer builders. Rather than importing costly hardwood, carpenters painted the pine that was available with simulated woodgrains. Examples of this remarkable effort can still be seen on some of the tables, floors, and window-sills in the home. Some of the original furniture, including pieces handmade by Brigham Young, are displayed in the home. The home is open to the public, and tours are available daily.



12. Erastus Whitehead Home (Ava House Bed & Breakfast)

Built in the early 1880's by George Whitehead for his younger brother, Erastus, and his wife Josephine. The home sits on a lava rock foundation and is built of handmade adobe bricks. Local legend has it that the spirit of Lillian Whitehead, who died at the age of six at the home, still resides there.

13. Whitehead Home (NP)

George Whitehead built this home in 1883. As his family expanded, so did the home. There are two staircases running in opposite directions with a common landing. Originally built without any plumbing, George ran a pipe from the irrigation ditch to a bathroom so the family could have (cold) baths inside.

14. Woolley-Foster Home (Seven Wives Inn)

Built in the 1870's by Edwin G. Woolley, this home was one of the finest in St. George. The attic is believed to have been used to hide polygamist fugitives many times in the early history of the city. The home survived many incarnations, including becoming a college dorm, before being saved from demolition by Colonel Elvin Maughn. Now restored and renovated, this beautiful Victorian home is today a popular Bed & Breakfast.



15. Israel Ivins Home (NP)

St. George's first practicing physician, Dr. Ivins built and lived in this home. A small shop at the rear of the home served as an apothecary shop where he dispensed remedies.

16. Anthony Ivins Home (NP)

A prominent public figure, Anthony Ivins was mayor of St. George from 1890 to 1894. He later was elected to represent Washington County at the Utah Territorial Constitutional Convention.

17. Moses Andrus Home (NP)

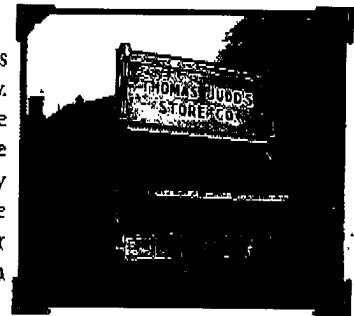
The rock foundation of this home was built by Moses Andrus, then left to "cure" for a year before finishing the home. It is believed that this is the reason there have never been any cracks in the foundation.

18. North Main Street

Many of the buildings on North Main have historical significance. The building at 21 North Main was once the Bishops Storehouse and was built in 1887. At the southeast corner of the street, a memorial plaza sits where Erastus Snow's "Big House" once stood. Walk the plaza and read the many plaques mounted on sandstone that contain more historical details on the buildings in the Historic District.

19. Judd's Store

The home behind the store was built in 1879 by William Bentley. Richard Bentley added the store at a later date. In 1911, the store was purchased by the Judd Family and became a general mercantile and "sweet shop". Still open for business, visitors can enjoy lunch in the nostalgic setting.



20. Green Gate Village

The Green Gate Village is a unique collection of eight pioneer and early Victorian St. George homes (circa 1862-1881), some which are on the National Register of Historic Places. Self-guided tours of the grounds are available daily.

21. B.F. Pendleton Home (NP)

Benjamin F. Pendleton, the community blacksmith, built this house from adobe blocks. Since he only possessed three molds, he made the bricks three at a time. After much labor and toil, he finally accumulated enough brick to build the structure.

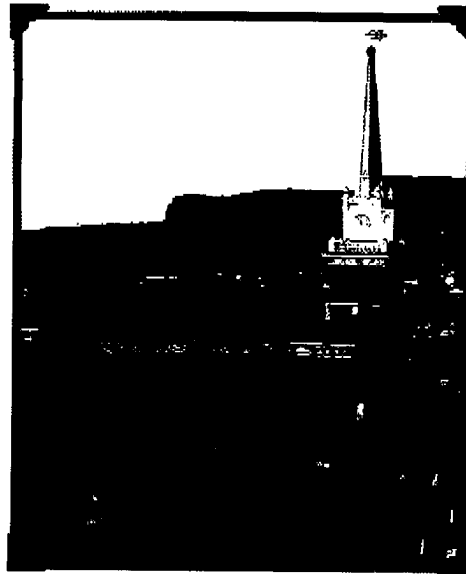
22. Woodward School (NP)

The early settlers placed a high value on education; a wagon box beneath a cottonwood was the first school facility. In 1898, construction on Woodward School began. It was named after George Woodward, a childless resident who donated a substantial sum of money for the hardware and glass.



23. Mormon Tabernacle *

This building is a tribute to the industry of the early settlers. Under construction for 13 years prior to completion, the building is built on 3-foot thick basement walls and has hand quarried sandstone walls that still show the individual chisel marks made by craftsmen. The 52-foot trusses were cut and hand-hewn in Pine Valley, then hauled into town on wagons. The twin spiral staircases were meticulously hand-carved, complete with balustrades and railing. The clock was made in London, and shipped to St. George via New York. The Tabernacle is still used for meetings and concerts. Tours are available.



24. Electric Theater

The Electric Theater opened in St. George in 1911. The walls are 3-foot thick adobe and it was the first air conditioned building in the city. Still in operation, the building became a venue for live performances and a talent academy. Many of the buildings adjacent to the Theater date back to the late 1800's.

25. Historic Town Square

The historic Town Square occupies a corner of land known as the "Parade Grounds". This is where soldiers returning from war were honored for their service. The most prominent feature of the square is the 45-foot Heritage Tower, which has four stained glass inserts depicting moments from the areas history. As you walk around the Square, you can see other features that highlight the heritage and history of the area.



26. St. George Art Center

The St. George Stake Academy was founded in 1888 and moved into this building in 1911. Both Dixie High School and Dixie College were housed here until the early 1960's when new campuses for both schools were built.



The Historic Downtown St. George Walking Tour is published by St. George Area Convention & Tourism. For more information, call 800-869-6635, or visit www.AtoZion.com.

