

CACHE VALLEY VISITORS BUREAU

Get to Know

LOGAN'S HISTORIC MAIN STREET

A 45-MINUTE SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR



Logan was founded in 1859 but it was not the first settlement in Northern Utah's Cache Valley. Because of its strategic location and ample water, it grew rapidly into a bustling city and a business, educational, political and religious center. The Shoshone Indians called the region "the house of the Great Spirit" long before fur trappers came seeking beaver pelts in the early 1800s. Early maps called it Willow Valley and the mouth of the canyon east of here was called Logan's Hole (Ephraim Logan was a trapper). The Logan River flows from the canyon, but at one point during the Pleistocene period it was a tributary to the mighty Lake Bonneville, which was once 650 feet deep above Logan's Main Street. Logan is the county seat for Cache County. The city's dirt streets and log cabins have long since changed to pavement and imposing brick structures.

1 | CACHE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

199 North Main Street



The Cache County Courthouse was built in 1883 at a cost of \$17,814.79 by the United Order Manufacturing and Building

The Courthouse was renovated in 2005.

HISTORIC MAIN STREET CIRCA 1900

As you stand in front of the Tabernacle (Site No. 5), facing Main Street, you can compare the drawing below showing the street as it appeared in 1900.



Company of Logan and renovated in 2005. This building is the oldest county building in Utah still being used for its original purpose. The county jail was in the basement at first, but was later moved to a different location. Even before the construction of the present building, the old county office was here. Charlie Benson was imprisoned in a small room in this structure before he was lynched in 1873. Startling as this may sound, Logan was part of the Wild West where vigilantes, ruffians, cattle rustlers and stage coach robbers were part of everyday life. This particular incident took place after Charlie shot the sheriff's nephew just west of Social Hall while a Valentine's dance was in progress. He hid out for three days but was found and returned to the county office. He was hung from the courthouse signpost by an angry group of men. Repercussions were felt for years and the *Deseret News* summed up the feelings: "From all we can hear we must believe him to be a murderer and his life virtually forfeited to the law, but that did not empower irresponsible and unauthorized persons to inflict punishment upon him without due process of law, even when that punishment was undoubtedly deserved."

2 | CACHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (HALL OF JUSTICE)

160 North Main Street

The Cache Chamber of Commerce building was originally known as the Federal Building, which is why the road directly south of the building is called Federal Avenue. The building was first built for U.S. government functions and also served as the post office. The building was then used as the district court and the county clerk's office. In early days it was the entrance to Tithing Square, which included a barn and stock shed, a corral and feed lot, hay stacks, granaries, root cellars,



Originally known as the Federal Building.

had a tithing house that was the center of community economic life throughout the 1860s. Church members were expected to contribute 10 percent of their increase to the Church, whether it was eggs, livestock, produce, etc. Cash was rare and most of the tithing came in the form of goods. The donations were then used to provide for the poor and needy. Tithing Square was the central agency for receipt and expenditure of these goods.

A glimpse of what the Valley was like in the early days of settlement can be found in the Cache Pioneer Museum of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers located in the Chamber of Commerce building. Over the years, people have donated items of interest to the museum with hope that succeeding generations may gain some appreciation for the struggles and successes of the early settlers. At this historic spot you can imagine yourself stepping back 150 years in time.

a tool shed, workshop, lumberyard and tithing store. Each Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) settlement in the Valley

3

ZIONS BANK (LDS TITHING SQUARE)

102 North Main Street



The Tithing Office faced Tabernacle Square in 1904.

Traveling south along Main Street you will come to what is now the Zions Bank building. This used to be the corner of Tithing Square and has a very interesting sculptural depiction above the door of the bank.

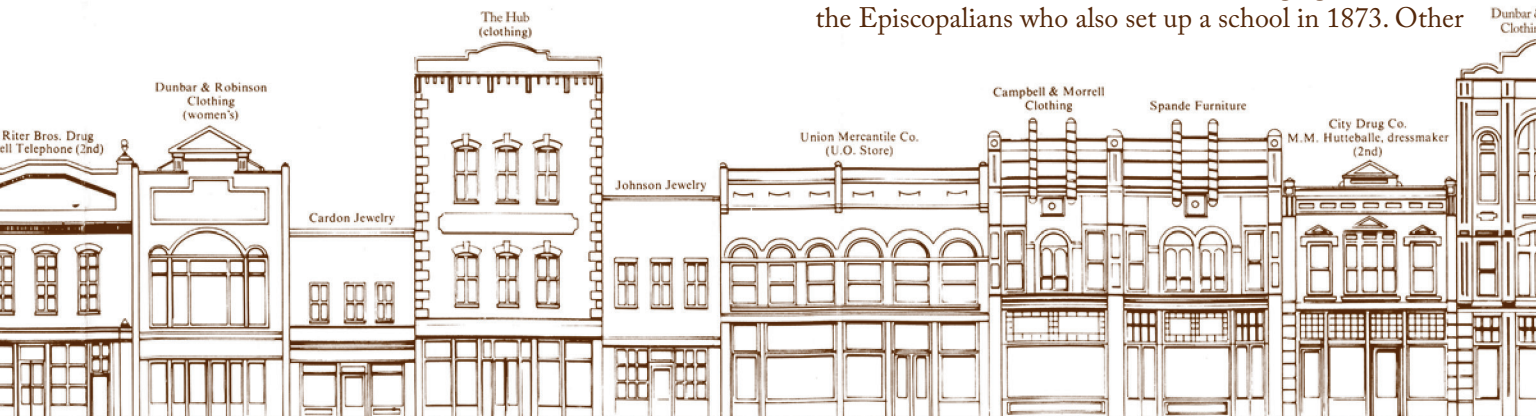
The trappers and Indians are typical of those early dwellers who cached (or hid/stored) furs and other items near riverbanks in what is now known as Cache Valley. Jedidiah Smith and Jim Bridger are two famous trappers who traversed the Valley and cached supplies after the rendezvous in the summer and filled their caches with beaver pelts in the winter. A rendezvous occurred when supply wagons from trading companies in the East arrived to refresh the trappers with goods, which they traded for their beaver pelts. A favorite spot for the trappers was along the Logan River, a few blocks south of here. Around the corner where the drive-up window is located was the Tithing Office.

4

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

69 East 100 North

One block east of the bank is St. John's Episcopal Church, which was renovated in 2004. Very few non-Mormon settlers lived in Logan in the first 10 years of its existence, but the first Protestants to establish a congregation were the Episcopalians who also set up a school in 1873. Other





The Church in 1915.

denominations including Methodists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians sent missionaries and schoolteachers after that. Two blocks east on the hill you can see the Logan Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which was completed in 1884 on the site where the Shoshone Indians performed healing ceremonies long before the arrival of the White man. While only worthy church members can enter the Temple for special worship services, the Logan LDS Tabernacle southwest of St. John's on Main Street is accessible to everyone.

5

LOGAN LDS TABERNACLE

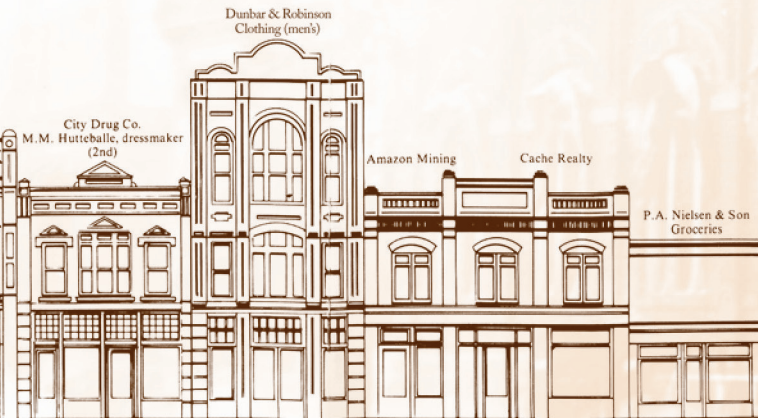
50 North Main Street



This picture looks east with the Temple in the background.

This auspicious building known as the Tabernacle has been recently renovated to reflect its original interior and colors. Construction of this structure began before construction of

the Temple, but was finished after the Temple was completed. It has been the site of many public and



church meetings. It was built primarily by volunteer labor over more than 25 years. A number of famous people have spoken from the pulpit including religious and political leaders. It is open to all and during the summer months hosts the free Noon Music at the Tabernacle concerts every weekday June-July. In the 1870s and 1880s the women's Relief Society took on various projects including silk culture, the manufacture of hats, basket-making, broom-making and sewing. One Sunday Priscilla Jacobs had to depart prematurely from a meeting in the Tabernacle when the silk worms she was keeping warm in a small bag around her neck started to hatch. She was followed closely out the door by the men who had agreed to gather mulberry leaves on which to feed the worms.

6

WELLS FARGO BANK (THATCHER OPERA HOUSE)

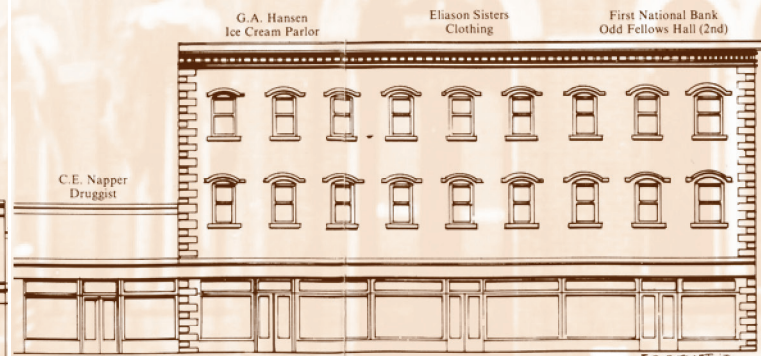
5 South Main Street



Fire destroyed the bank and opera house in 1912.

The street south of Tabernacle Square is now known as Center Street and it was the location of the first houses built in Logan. In June of 1859 a group of Mormon settlers started to construct a series of log cabins

facing each other in "fort style" along Center Street for two blocks on the west side of Main Street. By October the fort was three blocks long. These houses had dirt roofs and floors and some journal accounts recall taking umbrellas to bed to keep the mud and rain off.



Cache Valley Bank stands on the site of the Thatcher Brothers Bank and Opera House constructed in 1890. The Opera House could seat 800 people on the second level. Many professional and local groups performed there in theater and opera productions. Other types of entertainment as well as political and civic gatherings were held until the afternoon of April 17, 1912, when fire broke out in the basement and progressed until the building was completely destroyed. Live music and theatrical performances were wildly popular in Logan and the headline in the *Logan Journal* reflects the community's devastation. "Worst Fire in Cache Valley History," and in much smaller type was news of the sinking of the *Titanic*, with 1,300 passengers aboard.

Now managed by CacheARTS, successor to CAA, the theatre was renamed the Ellen Eccles Theatre and today features 1,100 seats and the area's only full-size stage with a working fly loft. Its ornate interior has been beautifully restored.

CacheARTS programs the CacheARTS Presents National Touring Season, which brings Broadway musicals, celebrated artists and acclaimed musicians from around the country to Cache Valley. The theatre also serves as a venue for several other arts organizations, including Music Theatre West, Cache Theatre Company and the Cache Valley Civic Ballet year-round, as well as various touring concerts, speaking tours and other events. In the summer, the Ellen Eccles Theatre is one of the theatres used by Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre, which presents world-class opera and musical theatre performances. Two valuable additions to the theatre are the adjacent Bullen Center and Thatcher-Young Mansion, which house an art gallery, artists in residence, ceramics studio, dance rooms and a variety of dance and theatre classes.

7 | ELLEN ECCLES THEATRE (CAPITOL THEATRE)

43 South Main Street

Craig Law



This 1923 theatre was reopened in 1993 after extensive renovation.

Early community leader and businessman George W. Thatcher and his associates believed Logan needed a grand theatre after the Thatcher Opera House

was lost to a fire. Eleven years later, in 1923, the Capitol Theatre was completed. At the time, it was considered one of the finest facilities of its kind. Used primarily as a movie house from the mid-1950s on, the building was eventually purchased by the City of Logan. Under the leadership of the nonprofit Capitol Arts Alliance (CAA), the theatre underwent a \$6.4 million renovation in 1993.

8 | BODRERO FRAMING AND DESIGN (UTAH-IDAHO CENTRAL RAILROAD)

75 South Main Street

Derrin Smith



Waiting for the train in 1919.

Continuing to the corner at Bodrero's Framing, you are standing at the location of the Utah-Idaho Central Railroad. The local rail line connected downtown



with the campus of Utah State Agricultural College (now Utah State University) and was also connected with lines to the south in Ogden and to the north in Preston, Idaho. From 1914 to the mid-1920s the railroad prospered, but it succumbed to an agricultural depression and the increased use of trucks and automobiles. It was finally abandoned in 1946. From this corner look across the street to the south (130 South Main) where you can see the site of the Cache Knitting Mills, which was the site of the United Order Foundry Machine and Wagon Manufacturing Company in 1876.

9

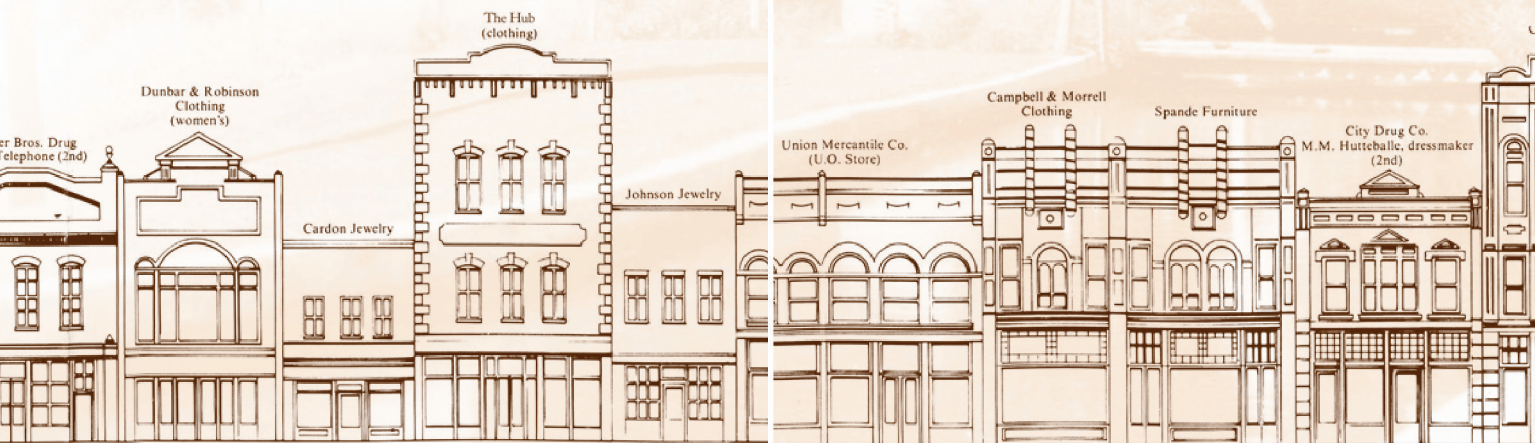
THATCHER MILL 35 West 100 South



This and other historic canals provide water for irrigation.

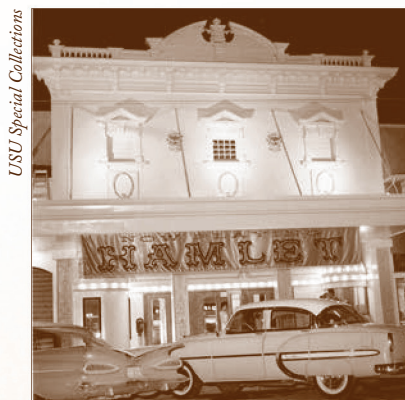
Turning to the west you will pass a large Victorian house that was once the home of George W. Thatcher and later his brother-in-

law Brigham Young, Jr. The apartment complex on the left was built on the remains of the Thatcher Milling and Elevator Company, which in 1888 had the capacity to mill 1,100 bushels of grain per day.



10

CAINE LYRIC THEATRE 28 West Center Street



Home of Logan's friendly theatre ghost.

The Caine Lyric Theatre on Center Street was originally built by the Thatcher family in 1913. It is purported to be the residence of a friendly ghost who is partial to Shakespeare. The theatre is operated by Utah State University and

during the summer is home to the Lyric Rep Theatre Company. The ghost, who appears on the edge of the balcony in Elizabethan garb wearing a fool's cap, has been heard laughing during rehearsals of *Hamlet*. Before returning to Main Street you may want to head across the street to 75 West Center to the Bluebird Candy Company, which has been making traditional handmade chocolates since 1914. This was originally the location of the Palace Hotel and the stagecoach and livery stable that serviced downtown. The Budge building on the corner of Center and Main was once the home of the Budge Clinic and Walgreen Drug.

11

COPPIN'S HALLMARK/THE BLUEBIRD (J.R. EDWARDS SALOON)

15 North Main Street

USU Special Collections



One of several saloons from years past.

Look above Coppin's Hallmark to see the name of J.R. Edwards preserved in stone above the second-story windows. Here in 1895, at what was Logan's finest saloon and billiard hall, the president of the Agricultural College of Utah confronted proprietor Edwards because students from his college were frequenting the premises.

After an exchange of stinging letters, President Joshua Paul took action and after entering the hall was struck on the back of the head by J.R. Edwards. After being fined \$5 for assault, Edwards did post notices to exclude minors and President Paul returned to his more academic duties on College Hill.

Logan is the county seat because it grew more rapidly than other towns in the area. The city's dirt streets and log cabins have changed to pavement and imposing brick structures.

12

BLUEBIRD RESTAURANT

19 North Main Street

USU Special Collections



Step into the past for dinner.

The Bluebird Restaurant next door first began in 1914 and has been in its present location since 1923. Stepping inside takes you back to that era with its imported marble soda fountain. The Bluebird has been a gathering place for generations of Logan residents and a source of memories for those who return after years away.

13

PERRY, MALMBERG, & PERRY (LOGAN'S BRANCH OF ZCMI)

99 North Main Street

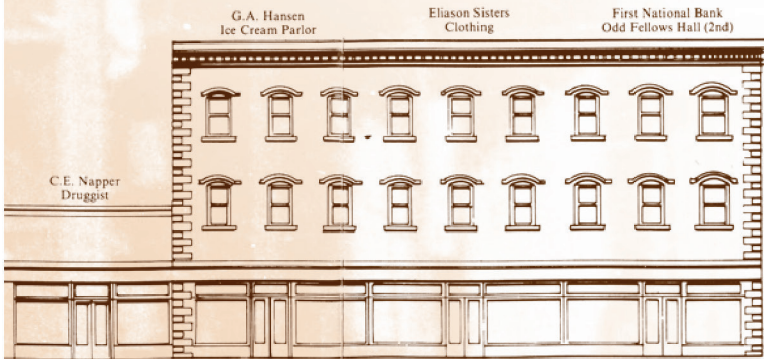
USU Special Collections



Look south to compare with today's skyline.

Proceeding along Main Street you will pass other historic locations, but none more historic than the building housing

Perry, Malmberg, & Perry. This once was the location of the Cache Valley branch of ZCMI. This abbreviation stands for Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institution, which was started by Brigham Young in the late 1860s and spread to Cache Valley in 1872. The establishment of the cooperative movement was to protect the



local economy from outside influences brought in by the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The plan, as introduced, called for the formation of a giant wholesale store in Salt Lake City, with retail cooperatives in outlying settlements. The Latter-day Saints (Mormons) were expected to patronize only these church-sponsored outlets and in turn, the retail stores would only deal with the Salt Lake wholesale store. This form of merchandising declined in the 1880s and finally the Logan ZCMI. disbanded in 1900. The building suffered a major fire and survived to house First National Bank of Logan on the north and Woolworth's on the south side.

14 | CACHE VALLEY BANK (LOGAN HALL)

101 North Main Street

USU Special Collections



An example of sensitive restoration.

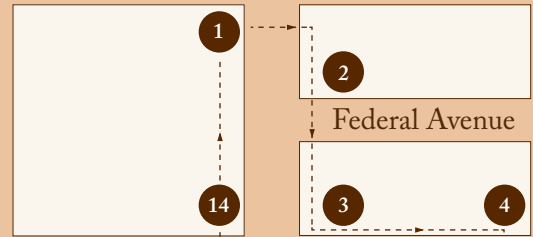
Across the street where Cache Valley Bank is located was originally Logan's Social Hall, the site of numerous dances and other

community activities in the early days. Then it served as a hotel and a drugstore. In the 1860s the site was used for large religious gatherings in the winter when weather kept residents from meeting in outdoor willow boweries. Like many Main Street buildings, it has served a variety of functions.

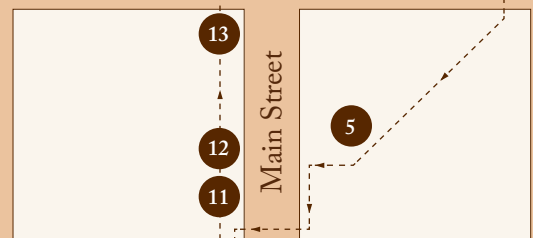
Our interesting history can still be felt and seen on Logan's Main Street. There are a number of homes in the residential district that also have stories to tell. Don't miss the American West Heritage Center on U.S. Hwy. 89-91 south of Logan where you can step back through 100 years of American West history. It features interactive experiences with mountain men, pioneers and a 1917 working farm. Visit arwhc.org.

WALKING TOUR MAP OF LOGAN'S HISTORIC MAIN STREET

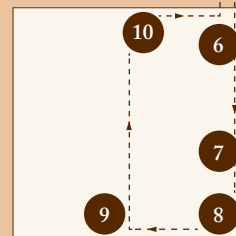
200 North



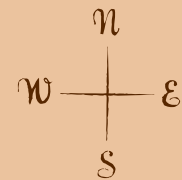
100 North



Center Street



Main Street



You may start your walking tour at Site 1 (Cache County Courthouse) or at any other site. The tour should take you 45 minutes not counting browsing and window shopping. Logan's historic Main Street was first surveyed in the 1860s.



Cache Valley Visitors Bureau
ExploreLogan.com

Written by Gary N. Anderson

Thanks to Utah State University Special Collections
and the Cache County Historical Commission.

