

*Get to Know*

## LOGAN'S HISTORIC MAIN STREET

A 45 MINUTE SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

*Cache Valley Visitors Bureau*

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

*Cache*  *Valley*  
*Logan, Utah!*



*Logan was not the first White settlement in Northern Utah's Cache Valley, but because of its strategic location and ample water it grew rapidly after its founding in 1859 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 once was 650 feet deep above Logan's Main Street.*

## 1 | CACHE COUNTY COURTHOUSE 195 North Main Street



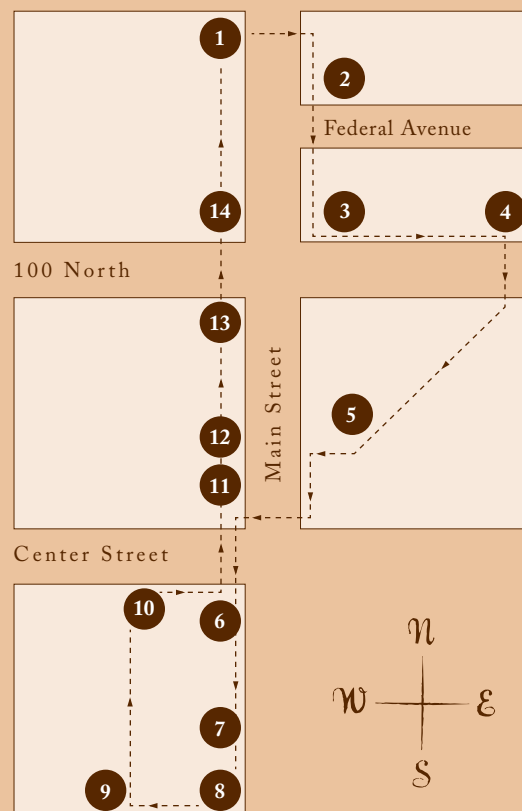
*The Courthouse was renovated in 2005.*

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

### 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.*

### WALKING TOUR MAP OF LOGAN'S HISTORIC 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*

Also, the American West Heritage Center on U.S. Hwy. 89-91 south of Logan allows you to step back through 100 years of American West history. It features the Jensen Historical Farm, a 1917 working farm and many hands-on activities and exhibits.





The ostensible reason for 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 Z.C.M.I. 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. The bank was acquired later by a larger bank based in Salt Lake City.

14

## CACHE VALLEY BANK (LOGAN HALL)

101 North Main Street



*An example of sensitive restoration.*

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, while residents met in willow boweries in the summer months. It, like many Main Street buildings, has served a variety of functions.

These are some bits and pieces of an interesting history that still can be felt and sometimes seen on Logan's Main Street. Hopefully you can understand this community a little better. There are a number of homes in the residential district that also have stories to tell.

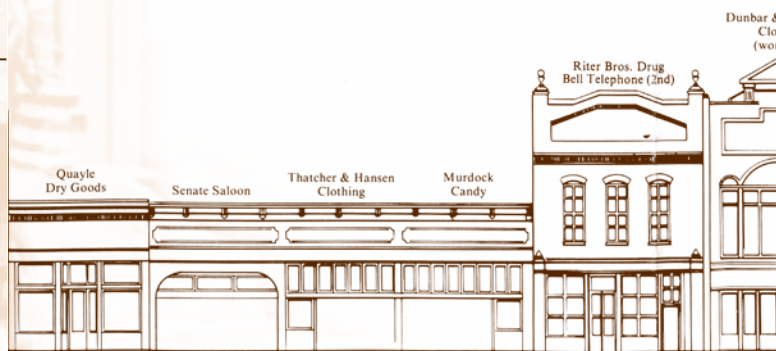
Company of Logan and renovated in 2005. This building is the oldest county building in Utah still being used for its original purpose. The county jail was in the basement at first, but was later moved to a different location. Even before the construction of the present building, the old county office was here. It was in a small room in this structure that a man was imprisoned 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 the shooting of the sheriff's nephew just west of Social Hall while a Valentine's dance was in progress. The individual involved in the shooting 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.





*Originally known as the Federal Building.*

The building then served 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, haystacks, granaries, root cellars, a tool shed, workshop, lumberyard, and tithing store. Each Mormon settlement in the Valley had a tithing house that was the center of community economic life throughout the 1860s. The inhabitants were expected to contribute 10 percent of their increase to the Church. Tithing Square was the central agency for receipt and expenditure in the form of produce, livestock, and sometimes cash.

A flavor of what the Valley was like in the early days of settlement can be found in the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum located in what used to be the courtroom in the Chamber of Commerce building. Over the years people have donated items of interest to the museum in hope that succeeding generations may gain appreciation for the struggles and successes of the early settlers. The museum is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day or by special appointment. You can imagine yourself stepping back 100 years in time at this historic spot.



12

## BLUEBIRD RESTAURANT

*19 North Main Street*



*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 and early pictures of Logan mounted on its walls. 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*



*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 Z.C.M.I. 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.



11

## COPPIN'S HALLMARK (J.R. EDWARDS SALOON)

15 North Main Street

USU Special Collections



One of several saloons from years past.

At the location of Coppin's Hallmark look up at 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 one J.R. Edwards. After being fined \$5 for assault, Edwards did post notices to exclude minors and President Paul returned to his more mundane 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.*

3

## ZIONS BANK (LDS TITHING SQUARE)

102 North Main Street

USU Special Collections



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.

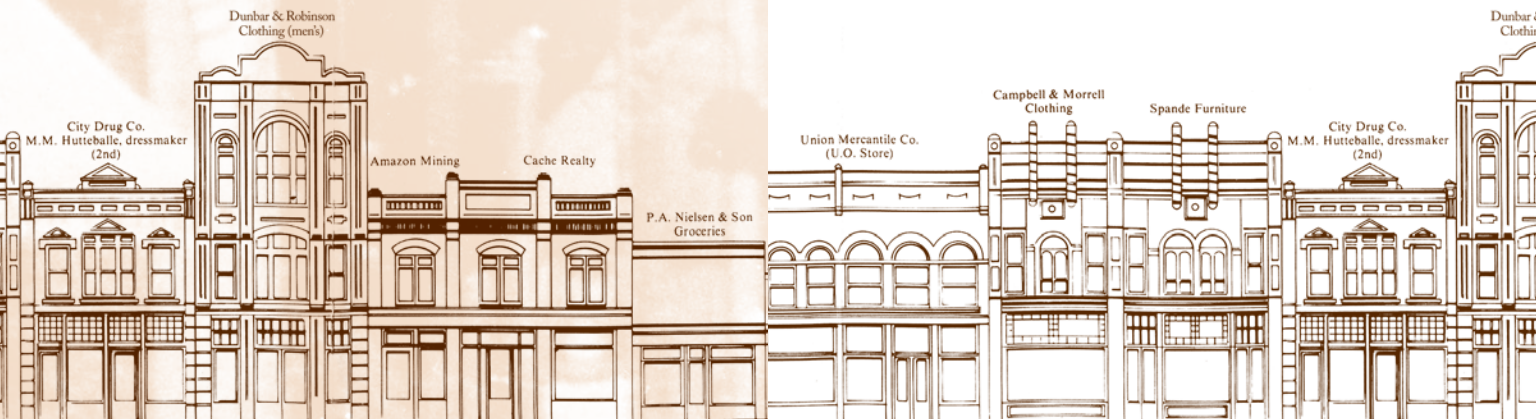
The trappers and Indians are typical of those early dwellers who cached furs and other items near riverbanks in what is permanently known as Cache Valley. Jedediah Smith and Jim Bridger are two of the more famous trappers who traversed the Valley caching supplies after the rendezvous in the summer and exchanging them with beaver pelts in the winter. 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 denominations including







The church in 1915.

Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians sent missionaries and schoolteachers after that. Two blocks east you can see the Mormon Temple, which was completed in 1884 on the site where the Shoshone performed healing ceremonies long before the arrival of the White man. While only worthy Mormon church members can enter the Temple, the Logan Tabernacle southwest of St. John's is accessible to everyone.

5

## LDS TABERNACLE 50 North Main Street



This picture looks east with the Temple in the background.

before construction of the Temple began but was finished after the completion of the Temple. It has

This auspicious building known as the Tabernacle was renovated to reflect its original interior and colors. Construction of this structure commenced

10

## CAINE LYRIC THEATRE 28 West Center Street



Home of Logan's friendly theatre ghost.

The third building to the east along Center Street is the Caine Lyric Theatre 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 was refurbished and a

new wing was added in 2001. The theatre is operated by Utah State University and during the summer is home to the Old Lyric Repertory 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 back down to 75 West Center Street 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. Returning to the Wells Fargo Bank corner, cross Center Street and pass the Budge corner, once the home of the Budge Clinic and Walgreen Drug.





Railroad. It was a local rail line connecting 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 where you can see the site of the Cache Knitting Mills, which in 1876 was the site of the United Order Foundry Machine and Wagon Manufacturing Company.

9

## THATCHER MILL

35 West 100 South



*This and other canals provide water for irrigation.*

Turning to the west you will pass a large brown Victorian house with white trim that once was the home of George W. Thatcher and Brigham

Young, Jr. This house was renovated in 2001 and is home to the Alliance for the Varied Arts. On the left you can see what remains of the Thatcher Milling and Elevator Company, which in 1888 had the capacity to mill 1,100 bushels of grain per day. By turning right on the drive into the mid-block parking lot you will pass by the rear of the Eccles Theatre and through the drive-in for Wells Fargo Bank.

been the site of many public and church meetings over the years. It was built primarily by volunteer labor over more than 25 years. A number of famous people have spoken from the pulpit including both religious and political leaders. It was also the place where other exciting cultural events took place. 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 first started to construct a series of log cabins facing each other in "fort style" along Center Street for two blocks, west of Main Street. By



October the fort was three blocks long. These houses had dirt roofs and floors and there are some accounts that recall taking umbrellas to bed to keep the rain off. The Wells Fargo 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 of the building. Many professional and local groups performed there in theater and opera productions. Many other types of entertainment as well as political and civic gatherings continued here until the afternoon of April 17, 1912, when fire broke out in the basement and progressed until it destroyed the structure. The headline in the *Logan Journal* was “Worst Fire in Cache Valley History,” and in much smaller type was news of the sinking of the *Titanic*, with 1,300 people aboard.

7

## ELLEN ECCLES THEATRE (CAPITOL THEATRE)

43 South Main Street



*This 1923 theatre was reopened in 1993 after extensive renovation.*

bank. In its day it was one of the finest facilities of its kind. Since the mid-1950s it had been used primarily

George W. Thatcher and some associates decided that Logan needed a grand theatre and some 11 years later the Capitol Theatre was completed just south of the

for movies, but it was purchased by the city. Under the direction of the Capitol Arts Alliance, a nonprofit corporation, the theatre underwent a \$6.4 million renovation in 1993 and is being managed by the Cache Valley Center for the Arts for the benefit of the entire region. Now known as the Ellen Eccles Theatre, it boasts the only full-size stage and fly loft in the area and the ornate interior has been restored in a spectacular fashion that amazes visitors from near and far. Besides presenting a wide variety of musical and theatrical performances year-round that have revived memories of earlier days, the theatre is now the home of Utah Festival Opera, which presents a series of world-class operas during the summer months. Two valuable additions to the theatre are the Bullen Center and Thatcher-Young Mansion, which house an art gallery, artist in residence, ceramics studio, dance rooms, and a variety of dance and theatre classes.

8

## FUHRIMAN'S FRAMING & FINE ART (UTAH-IDAHO CENTRAL RAILROAD)

75 South Main Street



*Waiting for the train in 1919.*

Continuing to the corner where Fuhriman's Gallery is now located, you are standing at the location of the Utah-Idaho Central

