



# Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area



**2006-2016**

*A decade of partnership and accomplishment*



# **Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area**

*115 West Main  
Mt. Pleasant, Utah 84647  
Phone (435) 462-2456 Ext. 104  
Fax: (435) 462-3199  
Email: [montebona@mtpleasantcity.com](mailto:montebona@mtpleasantcity.com)  
Monte R. Bona – Director*

*Milo Medley  
Chairman*

*Gary Anderson  
Vice Chairman*

*Roger Chamberlain  
Secretary*

*Kevin Christensen  
Rosie Connor  
Adus Dorsey II  
David Grow  
Kelly Stowell  
Lori Talbot  
Susan Wood*



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*Current-day cowboys in silhouette as they care for livestock. A major theme in Mormon pioneer history is how settlers interacted with the harsh, yet beautiful, landscape of what is now the Heritage Area.*

**“They, the builders of the nation,  
Blazing trails along the way;  
Stepping stones for generations  
Were their deeds of ev’ry day.  
Building new and firm foundations,  
Pushing on the wild frontier,  
Forging onward, ever onward,  
Blessed, honored pioneer!”**

*- Mormon hymn written in 1892 honoring  
pioneers of the previous generation*





## **Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area:**

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# **Foreword**

# The MPNHA Story



*A group of current-day residents reenact the quilt walk, the incident in 1863 where seven men, laying quilts end to end to keep from sinking into the snow, walked 40 miles over a mountain to the nearest town. By doing so, they were able to get provisions and save the settlement of Panguitch from starvation. The Quilt Walk Monument in Panguitch, a project supported by MPNHA, memorializes the story.*

## The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area wants to tell a story.

It is the story of people who, led by faith and driven by determination, braved a frontier and carved out a new home in the wilderness. It is the story of the cooperation, industry, ingenuity, sweat-of-brow and the occasional miracle that enabled them to do so.

It's the story of the hardships and privations they endured; how they persevered through them; how they managed to create lives of joy, goodness and hope; and how they ultimately saw the realization of those hopes.

Take the historical example of a band of men from the town of Panguitch, where a hard winter threatened starvation for settlers. Deep snow would have prevented a mission of men from crossing the mountain to another town for life-saving food and supplies. The

resourceful men placed quilts end-to-end, upon which they could walk without sinking into the snow.

Likewise, consider the 250 men, women and children (and more than 1,000 head of livestock) who had been snowed in near the town of Escalante. Their only option was to travel down a red-rock bluff at a 45-degree angle for 2,000 feet, passing through a "Hole in the Rock," in order to fulfill their faith-inspired calling to settle what is now San Juan County.

The Mormon pioneer story captures what is good about America. It's a story that the late Senator Robert Bennett of Utah described as "one of the most compelling and captivating in our nation's history."

The visitor to the corridor along U.S. Highway 89 in central and southern Utah learns how the pioneers interacted with each other; how they interacted with the land, which offered ineffable beauty and abundant

resources but was resistant to being tamed; and how they interacted with Native Americans who preceded them and with non-Mormons who joined them later.

Taking a page out of the book the pioneers wrote, the MPNHA achieves success through collaboration and cooperation. It achieves its goals by helping others achieve theirs.

The MPNHA partners with modern pioneers who see the value of their heritage and are dedicated to preserving it. They have the vision; they develop the ideas; they make the plans; they do the work. Local community chapters and entities preserve, promote, develop and interpret the heritage of their own communities. The MPNHA simply provides help and resources as it can, and encourages broader partnerships when beneficial.

Just as progress and a better life were goals of the early pioneers, so today the MPNHA and its partners—by leveraging their resources—encourage economic progress in communities along the Heritage Highway corridor.

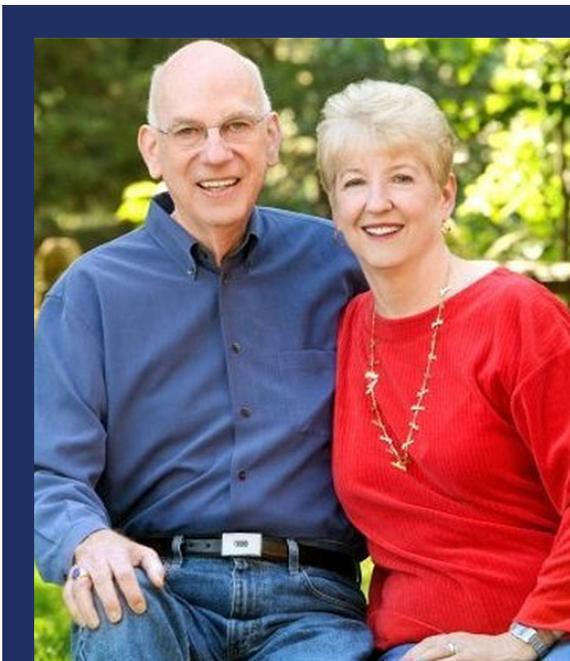
The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area pro-



*A mural by Lynn Griffin of Escalante, Garfield County, depicts pioneers struggling through a "hole in the rock" in order to descend a 2,000-foot cliff and reach the Colorado River. The mural is located at the Hole-in-the-Rock Heritage Center in Escalante, a project supported by MPNHA.*

motes progress—economically, culturally and civically. The stories told by the MPNHA connect us to our past and provide values that carry into the future.

The MPNHA is proud to present this 10-year review of what we—not only the MPNHA but also the partners who collaborate with the MPNHA—have been able to accomplish in our first decade.



*The late Senator Bob Bennett of Utah and his wife, Joyce. Senator Bennett, who shepherded the bill to create the MPHNA through the U.S. Senate, was an articulate spokesman for the value of preserving and disseminating the stories of the Mormon pioneers. In 2017, Joyce Bennett accepted a Utah Best-of-State Award on behalf of the MPNHA.*

**“Spanning 250 miles, from the small town of Fairview, Utah, southward to our border with Arizona, the area encompassed by the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area includes outstanding examples of historical, cultural, and natural resources shaped by Mormon pioneers. The story of the Mormon pioneers is one of the most compelling and captivating in our nation’s history. After traveling 1,400 miles from Illinois either by wagon or by pulling a handcart, the pioneers came to the Great Salt Lake Valley. Along the way, the pioneers experienced many hardships...**

**“The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area will serve as special recognition to the people and places that have contributed greatly to our nation’s development.”**

—The late U.S. Senator Robert Bennett

**“Tell the story of the Mormon pioneers in order to instill pride in our communities and motivate people to build on their heritage and plan for the future by remembering the past.”**

*—MPNHA vision as stated in its management plan.*



*A group of historical documents represents an effort sponsored by the MPNHA to digitize journals, written personal histories, and other historical records to preserve the information from generation to generation. The MPNHA has helped individuals and organizations fulfill dreams and passions of making sure their heritage is remembered and celebrated.*



## **Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area:**

*A decade of partnership and accomplishment*

# **Part I**



# Background and Description of MPNHA

## Introduction:

*For more than 10 years, the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area has been making significant, sometimes essential, contributions to the preservation and interpretation of the history of south-central Utah along historic U.S. 89, known in Utah as the "Heritage Highway," and Utah State Routes 12 and 24, the "Boulder Loop." In so doing, it has aided both the economic and cultural development of the area. It has helped individuals and organizations fulfill dreams and passions of making sure the heritage of the area is remembered and celebrated.*

*For those who reside here, as well as for visitors, the MPNHA's efforts have instilled honor for, and connection to, the past: The rugged and sturdy pioneers who settled a largely untraversed land; the unforgiving landscape they encountered—staggeringly beautiful even in its defiance of such settlement; and the institutions the pioneers created to ensure the propagation of industry, education, culture and religion.*

*The MPNHA has inspired respect for the native peoples who for centuries maintained a reverence for the land, and who sometimes helped, sometimes hindered, the newcomers as they learned to survive in the newest of the New World.*



*One focus of the MPNHA has been telling the story of the interaction between Mormon pioneers with native peoples. This photograph, taken during the John Wesley Powell Expedition (1872-75), was displayed as part of an exhibit sponsored by MPNHA in Mt. Carmel, Kane County.*

*Just as the Mormon pioneers made the desert to blossom as an improbable rose, the MPNHA has, in its first decade, had laudable success in achieving the vision to which it aspires, as stated in its management plan:*

*Tell the story of the Mormon pioneers in order to instill pride in our communities and motivate people to build on their heritage and plan for the future by remembering the past.*

## Themes, Vision, Mission and Goals Of The MPNHA:

As one surveys history, three **THEMES** emerge from the forces that shaped the pioneer experience and legacy:

- Interaction with the landscape
- Interaction with other people (“non”-Mormons and indigenous peoples)
- Interaction with the institutions they created

Those themes guide the MPNHA’s **VISION**, which looks toward a greater appreciation among our citizens and visitors of how the Mormon pioneer colonization contributed to development of the American West and indeed America itself.

To bring that vision to fruition, the MPNHA adopted as its **MISSION** preserving, interpreting, promoting and enhancing the Utah pioneer heritage. We work to increase tourism, encourage economic development, revitalize communities, provide heritage educational opportunities, and improve the quality of life throughout the Heritage Area and its heritage districts.

Our mission is accomplished through the specific **GOALS** the MPNHA sets for itself and partners:

### Education and Interpretation

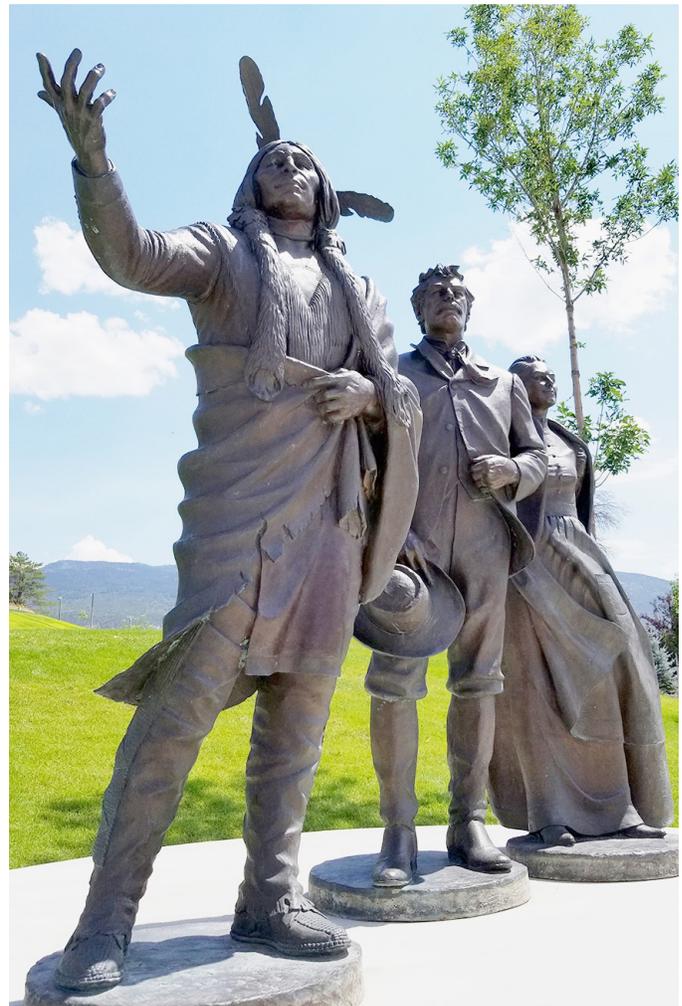
- Support community efforts to appreciate and tell the story of the pioneers, their settlements and their interactions.
- Assist existing attractions and institutions in communicating the breadth of the area’s story.
- Place resources in a regional context.

### Revitalization

- Identify and document significant Mormon pioneer heritage resources.
- Provide recognition and support to communities in each of the MPNHA’s heritage districts as they preserve heritage resources.

### Tourism and Economic Development

- Reinforce existing attractions and cultural in-



A statue at the Manti Pioneer Heritage Gardens at the foot of the Manti Temple represents cooperation between the pioneers and the Native Americans, who were familiar with the area for centuries before the pioneers arrived at their new wilderness home.

stitutions, helping these organizations communicate the story of the region.

- Develop connections between attractions and assist visitors in experiencing these settings and venues.
- Increase cultural and heritage tourism, creating economic benefits throughout the region.

### Quality of Life

- Set an agenda with a long-term vision and short-term goals that will bring positive benefits.

# Background and Description of MPNHA

- Achieve tangible, quantifiable outcomes that build support and constituency.
- Operate efficiently and effectively, with the flexibility to respond to unforeseen opportunities and situations.
- Encourage communities and organizations to set their own priorities and to define their place within the MPNHA framework.

## The Prehistory Of The MPNHA

While the purpose of this report is to declare the successes of the MPNHA during its first 10 years, the history of the Heritage Area goes back further. In fact, the development of the MPNHA spans more than 30 years, representing a singular achievement

in a multi-state area in heritage tourism, historical preservation and economic development.

In the early 1990s, a few dozen people came together with the goal of fostering economic development by marketing the

area's pioneer heritage. They created the Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance. That group still exists now as the governing board of the MPNHA.

In 2000, the Alliance set its sights on getting the U.S. Highway 89 corridor designated as a National Heritage Area. From 2000 to 2004, Alliance leaders, particularly Monte Bona, now executive director of the MPNHA, began meeting with county commissions, city councils and civic groups to listen to their ideas and seek their buy-in.

It wasn't always easy. An organization opposing the Heritage Area on the grounds it would open the way for federal intervention in local affairs started its own round of visits. Ultimately, Alliance leaders

made the case that under federal heritage-area law, planning and governance of the Heritage Area would remain with local people.

In 2004, the Alliance persuaded the Utah Legislature to designate Heritage Highway 89 as an official state area. With the state's support, a bill sponsored by Senator Robert Bennett creating the Heritage Area moved successfully through the United States Congress.

## A Dream Realized: Just The Beginning

After years of lobbying by Central Utah supporters and their congressional delegations, Congress approved the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area on July 24 (Utah's Pioneer Day) in 2006, allowing the "special recognition" Senator Bennett spoke of to proceed in earnest.

One of the first steps was the development of a management plan to steer the direction of the MPNHA, a plan that would have to be approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Between 2006 and 2009, Utah State University, in cooperation with MPNHA, "inventoried" more than 1,000 historical and cultural resources in the Heritage Area that tell the Mormon pioneer story. Those were where much of the energy and many of the resources of the MPNHA would be directed, as outlined in the management plan.

The 589-page management plan was approved by U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar March 2, 2010.

The MPNHA began receiving appropriations from Congress and began supporting projects, including some that people had been talking about for years.

The goals outlined by the management plan included education and interpretation goals, revitalization goals, tourism and economic-development goals, and quality of life goals.

Overarching all efforts was the desire to bring these goals to pass in a way that would bring positive benefits across the region and to achieve tangible, quantifiable outcomes.

**"Congress finds that the historical, cultural and natural historic legacies of Mormon colonization and settlement are nationally significant."**

- Preamble to bill establishing the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area

## Make-Up Of The MPNHA

The physical boundary of the MPNHA, one of 49 national heritage areas in the United States, extends 250 miles from the Utah/Arizona border north along the U.S. Highway 89 corridor, through Fairview in Central Utah, to the junction with U.S. Highway 6 near Spanish Fork, Utah. It also includes sections of State Road 12 (designated a Scenic Byway and All-American Highway) and State Road 24. The two roads form a loop with endpoints on Highway 89 ; thus their nickname, "Boulder Loop."

Based on the latest estimates, the population of the Heritage Area is 65,355.

As delineated in the MPNHA management plan, the Heritage Area encompasses five heritage districts, each of which has its own distinguishing characteristics and cultural identity. They are:

- Little Denmark
- Sevier Valley
- Headwaters
- Under the Rim
- Boulder Loop

The Heritage Area covers six Utah counties: Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne, Garfield and Kane.

Within those, are 57 cities and towns; 30 unincorporated communities; and 29 ghost towns, many deserted pioneer settlements.

### Sanpete County

**Cities/Towns:** Fountain Green, Fairview, Moroni, Mt. Pleasant, Spring City, Wales, Ephraim, Fayette, Manti, Gunnison, Centerfield, Sterling, Mayfield

**Unincorporated:** Indianola, Milburn, Chester, Freedom, Jerusalem, Axtell

**Ghost Towns:** Clarion, Dover, Manasseh, Pettyville

### Sevier County

**Cities/Towns:** Salina, Sigurd, Glenwood, Richfield, Elsinore, Monroe, Joseph, Koosharem, Annabella, Aurora, Central Valley, Elsinore, Glenwood, Redmond, Sevier, Venice

**Unincorporated:** Austin, Burrville, Cove, Jensen, Nibley, Vermillion

**Ghost Towns:** Prattville, Brigham River, Bullion Canyon, Gooseberry

### Piute County

**Cities/Towns:** Circleville, Marysvale, Junction, Kingston

**Unincorporated:** Greenwich, Pittsburg, Thompsonville, Angle

**Ghost Towns:** Alunite, Kimberly

### Wayne County

**Cities/Towns:** Loa, Bicknell, Teasdale, Lyman, Torrey, Hanksville

**Unincorporated:** Fremont, Teasdale, Caineville, Grover

**Ghost Towns:** Fruita, Gile, Aldrige, Caineville, Eagle City, Notom

### Garfield County

**Cities/Towns:** Antimony, Bryce, Bryce Canyon City, Henrieville, Ticaboo, Panguitch, Hatch, Tropic, Cannonville, Henrieville, Boulder, Escalante

**Unincorporated:** Butlerville, Castle, Eggnog, Ruby's Inn, Spry

**Ghost Towns:** Asay, Clifton, Georgetown, Hillsdale, Osiris, Widtsoe

### Kane County

**Cities/Towns:** Kanab, Alton, Big Water, Glendale, Orderville, Bullfrog

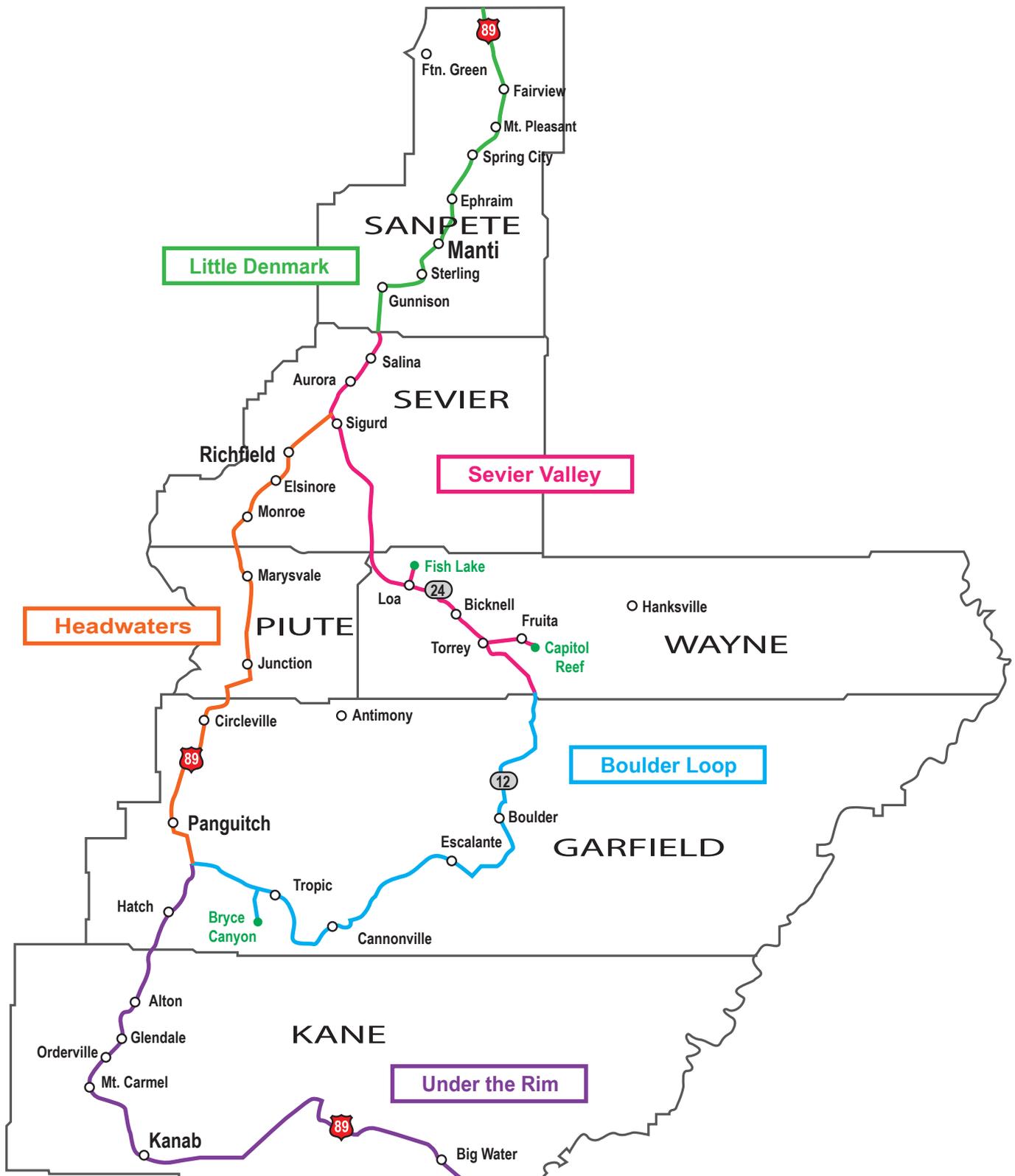
**Unincorporated:** Duck Creek Village, Mount Carmel, Factory Farm, Fort Meek, Fort Wahweap

**Ghost Towns:** Paria, Adairville, Clarkdale/Skuttumpah, Johnson, Shirts Fort, Upper Kanab, White House

The MPNHA is also home to a number of national public-land areas:

- Manti-La Sal National Forest
- Fish Lake National Forest
- Dixie National Forest
- Capitol Reef National Park
- Zions Canyon National Park
- Bryce Canyon National Park
- Cedar Breaks National Monument
- Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument

# Background and Description of MPNHA



**“The strength of the MPNHA lies in the network of partnerships it has developed among heritage districts, counties, cities, and towns of the Area. Building from the grassroots up, the partners have been able, in a multitude of ways, to honor and highlight the culture the area’s early pioneers left behind.”**

- MPNHA Executive Director Monte Bona as quoted in nomination for Utah Best of State Award, 2017.

## **MPNHA Management And Partner Cooperation**

*The Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance is the coordinating entity of the MPNHA. It has a board of directors that consists of two members from each of the six counties. A representative from the Mormon Pioneer Heritage Institute, an organization based at a college within the Heritage Area, serves as an at-large member. The city of Mt. Pleasant serves as fiscal agent and provides office space.*

*The strength of the MPNHA lies in the network of partnerships it has developed among the districts, counties, communities and community-based organizations in the area. Working together, the partners have been able to leverage the MPNHA’s limited funds to provide seed money for projects throughout the corridor.*

*While the MPNHA brings together a multitude of communities and community organizations under one umbrella to achieve a set of common goals, the MPNHA has always operated in support of those entities’ right to set their own priorities and to define their place within the MPNHA framework.*

*Notably, under the legislation that established the MPNHA, every federal dollar given to local projects by the MPNHA must be matched by a local dollar. But in the case of MPNHA-supported projects, the match has actually been in the range of 20 local dollars for every federal dollar.*

*In the 10 years since Congress established the MPNHA, the Heritage Area has received \$2.2 million in federal funds. Using these funds as seed money, it has supported local projects valued at \$44.3 million. While the MPNHA contribution, in many instances, appears to be small, the projects would not have been possible without MPNHA support.*

*In summary, the MPNHA has proven to be a good steward of public money and an organization well worth the federal government’s investment.*



**“This is not just a heritage designation. It is an economic development designation. The goal of the (Heritage Highway) Alliance has always been to find a way to use our unique heritage as a development tool!”**

*- Sally East, former director of economic development for Sanpete County at the time that the bill to create MPNHA was introduced in Congress*



*During a dedication ceremony in May 2017, Alison Anderson, president of the Friends of Historic Spring City, introduces a few of the leaders who helped bring a 40-year effort to save the ornate Spring City School to fruition. Seventh from left, wearing a ball cap, is Monte Bona, MPNHA executive director. The school will house city offices, private businesses, a museum and space for meetings and receptions.*





**Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area:**  
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# Part II



# Achieving the Goals of the MPNHA

## Achieving Goals Through Partnership

As noted earlier (page 11), the Management Plan has four stated goals, or more accurately, categories of goals. In selecting the projects the Heritage Area will support, the Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance Board looks for endeavors that advance one or more of these goals:

- **Tourism and Economic Development**
  - Quality of Life
- **Education and Interpretation**
  - Revitalization

## Goal 1: Economic Development

Most MPNHA projects actually help achieve multiple MPNHA goals. For instance, nearly all of them serve “Tourism and Economic Development” by, if nothing else, the infusion of project funding into local economies, which translates into cash in the tills of businesses and pockets of workers.

As stated earlier, the MPNHA spent \$2.2 million in National Park Service funds throughout the area in its first 10 years. That’s a \$2.2 million value to communities, businesses, and residents, especially as the MPNHA encourages the use of local contractors, labor, and services whenever possible. And, as noted, the \$2.2 million has been seed money for \$44 million in total project expenditures.

The “economic multiplier” should also be considered. Money cycles over and over again through an economy, from one person’s pocketbook, to another business’s cash register, to the pocket of an employee, who then spends it at another business, and so on. Using an accepted economic-multiplier range of 1.3 to 1.6, the \$44.3 million spent on MPNHA-supported projects translates to roughly \$57 million to \$70 million.

Besides supporting projects, the MPNHA has bolstered local economies by stimulating heritage tourism. In its annual reports, the MPNHA has tracked the numbers of unique visitors to Heritage Area sites (separate and apart from visitors to the Area’s national parks and forests). For the last three years, that number has averaged around 185,000 visitors.

### Estimated economic infusion from MPNHA

<b>Total value of projects supported by MPNHA</b>	<b>\$44.3 million</b>
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<b>Total estimated tourism in MPNHA</b>	<b>\$22.5 million</b>
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<b>Total infusions</b>	<b>\$66.8 million</b>
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### Estimated economic impact of MPNHA (with multiplier effect)

<b>Estimated economic impact of MPNHA projects</b>	<b>\$70 million</b>
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<b>Estimated impact of MPNHA tourism</b>	<b>\$30 million</b>
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<b>Combined impact</b>	<b>\$100 million</b>
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Sources: MPNHA records, Utah Office of Tourism for the years 2006-2016

Based on Utah Office of Tourism estimates, those visitors have brought an average \$2.25 million into economies throughout the Area, per year. Those dollars, too, are subject to the economic multiplier effect, to the tune of \$2.9 million to \$3.6 per year. Over 10 years, a conservative estimate of economic benefit from tourism would be another \$30 million.

Thus, the federal government’s investment of \$2.2 million in MPNHA funding has been the catalyst for up to \$100 million in positive economic impact during the



The MPNHA encourages and supports community celebrations the length of the Heritage Area. One of the largest is the Mormon Miracle Pageant, which draws about 70,000 visitors per year to the Manti LDS Temple grounds for a locally produced drama portraying the lives of the first settlers to Sanpete County.

MPNHA's first decade.

## Goal 2: Quality Of Life

The contributions by MPNHA-supported projects — such as the restoration of historic structures, preservation of oral histories, development of interpretive kiosks and other travel information, support of community celebrations and promotion of educational and artistic events — translate into an enhanced quality of life for the Area's residents and visitors alike. The MPNHA has helped bring educational, recreational, cultural, even spiritual opportunities to the area. Not all of the MPNHA's contributions are financial. In nominating the MPNHA for a Utah Best-of-State Award, Suzanne Dean, publisher of the Sanpete Messenger, a community newspaper in the largest county in the Heritage Area, talked about the role of the Heritage Area in increasing resident awareness of their heritage.

*"Possibly the biggest, if least tangible, impact," she wrote, "has been making people living in the Heritage Area more conscious of and informed about the Mormon pioneers. That has made them more committed to preservation."*

*She offered a personal example.*

*Sometime before U.S. 89 was designated as a national Heritage Area, she found herself sitting on the porch of the Manti House Inn, a restored 19th Century hotel that is now a bed-and-breakfast, interviewing the director of the heritage areas program from the U.S. Department of Interior. The Manti House Inn is located on Main Street in Manti, Utah, fronting on U.S. 89.*

*"I looked out to U.S. 89 and suddenly tears came to my eyes," she wrote. "I told the lady from Washington, D.C., my ancestors had colonized in Panguitch and later in northern Arizona. 'I think my great-great-grandfather traveled down this very road on the way to Panguitch,' I told her. That awareness had emerged out of my association with Utah Heritage Highway 89, later*

# Achieving the Goals of the MPNHA



A woman in western dress is surrounded by mules at the Western Legends Roundup, an annual cultural event in Kanab that includes screenings of old-time western movies filmed in the Kane County.

to become the MPNHA.”

The following couple of pages identify MPNHA-supported events with quality-of-life implications in the last 10 years.

## Community celebrations

The MPNHA has supported and encouraged many annual community celebrations that highlight local history, heritage, and identity. These events can be a great source of local pride, and often the greatest displays of the pride MPNHA hopes to instill in accordance with its vision.

Such community celebrations include the following:

- The Quilt Walk celebration (Panguitch)
- Scandinavian Heritage Festival (Ephraim)
- Mormon Miracle Pageant (Manti)
- Butch Cassidy Days (Piute County)
- Jacob Hamblin Days (Kanab)
- Everett Ruess Days (Escalante)
- Local Fourth of July celebrations
- Local 24th of July celebrations (Utah’s “Pioneer Day,” which celebrates the day in 1847 when the first Mormon pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. Within a year, the pioneers began settling areas throughout the Mountain West, including south-central Utah.)

## ▪ Rat-Fink “Big Daddy” Ed Roth Reunion (Manti) The Arts

The visual and performing arts can be just as important as architecture in preserving, displaying, and interpreting the history and heritage of an area. That’s especially true in the MPNHA, where the landscape played such a defining role. Visual art is especially valuable in capturing “nature’s tapestry” in which pioneers and others lived their lives.

Some of the artistic endeavors the MPNHA has proudly supported are:

- Western Legends Round-Up, Cowboy Lifestyle and Film Festival (Kanab)
- Little Hollywood Shootout “Guerilla”



**“Spring City has earned a reputation as an artist colony in Central Utah. Painters from throughout the state and region enjoy coming here to paint the beautiful landscapes, animals and pioneer architecture in this well preserved example of a pioneer township.”**

- Chris Anderson, president, Spring City Arts, an MPNHA partner organization. MPNHA provided support for a plein air art competition

### Film-making Competition (Kanab)

- Spring City Plein Air Art Competition and Artist's Studio Tour (Spring City)
- Escalante Canyons Arts Festival (Escalante)
- "Tribes of Utah" photography exhibit (Mt. Carmel)
- Kanab Writers Conference (formerly "Writers of the Purple Sage Writers Conference) (Kanab)
- "Soul of the Native American Artisan" visual-art exhibit (Richfield)

*Of particular note was a partnership with Emery Polelonema, a Native American public official, to showcase Navajo artist David K. John in a special two-day event, "The Soul of the Native American Artisan" at Richfield High School, located in the largest city in the Heritage Area.*

*The event included a display of John's paintings (which deal with the natural environment, animal life and Native American dwellings), public discussions led by Polelonema and an archaeologist, and a dance performance by Navajo youth living in Richfield.*

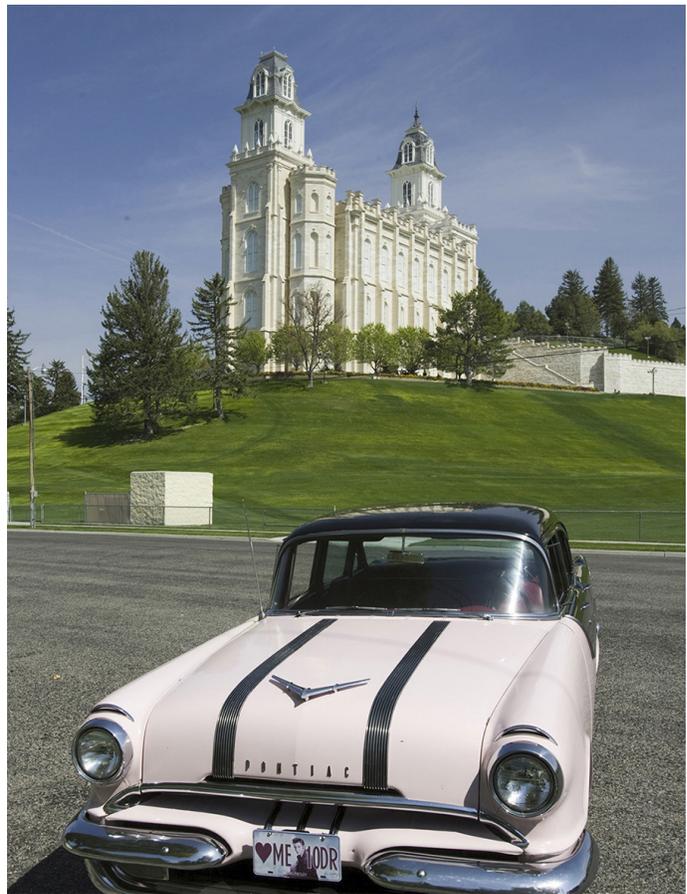
### Other events and initiatives

*The MPNHA has sponsored, co-sponsored, promoted, or otherwise supported several other events and initiatives with a heritage basis, or other quality-of-life or economic-development nexus:*

- "Descendants of Clarion" Reunion (Gunnison)
- Bike for the Cure (Sanpete County)
- Sanpete Classic Bicycle Race (Sanpete County)
- Celebration of Freedom and Western Lifestyle (Sevier County)
- Bicycle Barnstorming Tour (Central Utah via Utah Heritage Foundation)
- "Telling Our Stories" Museum Initiative (throughout Utah, via the Utah Humanities Council)
- Maude Adams Look-Alike Contest

### Goal 3: Education And Interpretation

*The MPNHA has fulfilled its education and inter-*



*A 1955 Pontiac affectionately dubbed "Love Me Tender" is parked in front of the Manti LDS Temple in Sanpete County during filming of a "Discovery Road" segment. In the documentary series, sponsored by the MPNHA, a host and co-host take leisurely drives through the Heritage Area to acquaint viewers with the history, culture and current residents of the area. The series has also explored the Mormon pioneer experience in the British Isles and along the Mormon trail between Illinois and Utah.*

*pretation goals by supporting local efforts to appreciate and tell the story of the pioneers, their settlements, their interactions with land and other peoples, and their feats and achievements.*

*For example, the MPNHA partnered with several groups along the corridor—Wayne County, Kanab City, the Fremont Camp of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, the Southern Utah Oral History Project (Escalante), and the Casino Star Theatre (Gunnison)—to digitize oral histories.*

*The MPNHA has developed and distributed educational materials including "The Zane Grey Primer" and "Legends, Lore and True Tales of Mormon Country," published by Avadia Publishing/The History Press, along with distributing a travel planner, marketing*

# Achieving the Goals of the MPNHA



Because of volunteer preservation efforts supported by MPNHA, Main Street in Panguitch looks a lot like it did 100 years ago.

materials and developing a website.

Following are highlights of some of the achievements of the MPNHA's first 10 years in the areas of education and interpretation:

- Sponsorship of a lecture series titled "The Famous and the Infamous." The lectures, presented by educators, were given in all six counties in the Heritage Area, and addressed characters such as Butch Cassidy, John D. Lee and Hyrum Bebee. The series received an award from the Utah Humanities Council. (Though the lecture series predates the official designation of the MPNHA, it is presented here as a precursor, of the MPNHA-sponsored "Discovery Road" television series.

- Production of a television series, "Discovery Road," which explores life, culture and events up and down U.S. "Heritage" Highway 89. There have been about 30 episodes to date. The show, with its re-broadcasts, has aired hundreds of times on Utah's PBS-affiliated educational channel and several local public-access cable channels. Copies of the tapes have been distributed to schools for use in Utah history classes.

The series depicts documentary film maker James Nelson and his co-host Maryda Gallo as they take leisurely drives along U.S. 89 in a 1955 Pontiac they call "Love me Tender." Along the way, they visit sites and talk with local people to capture the history and culture of the MPNHA.

A few of the outstanding episodes include "Stories from Highway 89 and the Boulder Loop," which features inspiring stories about Mormon pioneers, as well segments on Native Americans, outlaws, artists and movie stars who have affected the area; "Mormon Trail: The Black Experience," in which a young African-American, recently returned from his Mormon mission, travels the Mormon trail in search of his roots; and "Mormon Trail: The Forgotten Ones" in which contemporary Mormons search for traces of ancestors who died along the trail to the Salt Lake Valley. (See Appendix A for a complete list and description of episodes.)

- The creation and distribution of vinyl stickers that are placed in the windows of heritage and tourism businesses, identifying them as MPNHA partners or

heritage enthusiasts.

- Having an active presence at the 2000 Salt Lake Winter Olympics, with a booth at the games in Salt Lake City, and commissioning a song, “The Flame Within,” that celebrated the similarities between the Olympic spirit and the spirit that impelled Utah’s early pioneers.

- Development of a “travel planner” brochure, 50,000 copies of which were distributed by the Utah Travel Council to travel and tourism offices and sites throughout the Area.

- Designing and placing Heritage Area identification signs along U.S. 89 (Heritage Highway) and State Routes 12 and 24 (the Boulder Loop).

- Publication of a book, “Legends, Lore, and True Tales in Mormon Country,” a compilation of essays on local stories and folklore, written by writers living in the Heritage Area.

## Goal 4: Revitalization Projects

All of the above is in addition to perhaps the primary thrust of the MPNHA: Enabling local entities—individuals, governments, businesses or other organizations—to pursue the dreams and goals of completing projects to display and preserve their heritage.

The MPNHA uses the term “revitalization” to describe these projects, which bring to life the physical and, in a sense, spiritual relics of the past, perpetuating the legacies of ancestors who their descendants refuse to see forgotten.

One striking example was a reunion for descendants of the Sanpete County ghost town of Clarion, an ill-fated community of the Jewish Back-to-the-Soil movement around the turn of the 20th century.

After much effort and determination that some felt approached fool’s-errand stubbornness, and setback after setback, the settlers were forced to abandon the experimental town after five years.

Only the foundations of a building or two and the fenced-in gravestones of two of the town’s deceased remain to mark the site.

But the community’s relevance cannot be understated. The founder, Benjamin Brown, went on to form what would eventually become a large company, Inter-

**“Watch an old building with anxious care; guard it as best you may, at any cost, from every influence of dilapidation. Count its stones as you would jewels in a crown; set watches about it as if at the gates of a besieged city; bind it together with iron where it loosens; stay it with timber where it declines; . . . and do this tenderly, and reverently, and continually, and many a generation will still be born and pass away beneath its shadow.”**

- From “The Seven Lamps of Architecture,” by architect John Ruskin, 1880, and quoted in a speech at the dedication of the restored Historic Spring City School in Sanpete County, a project supported by MPNHA.

mountain Farmers Association (IFA), and his egg-farming venture was the precursor of the turkey industry, now known as Norbest, the largest non-government employer in Sanpete County.

To celebrate Clarion’s place in the area, the MPNHA partnered with Gunnison City, a local congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Utah Department of Community and Culture, Utah Pioneer Heritage Arts (a nonprofit), the Casino Star Theatre Foundation, and the I.J. and Jeanne Wagner Jewish Community Center in Salt Lake City to invite descendants “back to the soil” of Clarion.

Many of them came, stunned and humbly grateful for the honor being showed them. There were many tears. A small group of them gathered at the two gravestones and solemnly offered the “Kaddish,” the Jewish prayer for the dead. A woman at the top of a nearby knoll raised her head and stretched out her arms to feel the life of a gently blowing breeze. Another stooped and almost reverently selected a small stone from that same

# Achieving the Goals of the MPNHA

hill, putting it in her pocket as a keepsake.

Thus was life given back to, and received from, the ghost town of Clarion, even if only for one day.

Years later, the MPNHA assisted descendents in placing an interpretive kiosk describing the Clarion experiment on Gunnison City's Legacy Plaza.

This is revitalization.

## Historic preservation and interpretation

Over the course of its first 10 years, the MPNHA



Members of Sanpete County veteran organizations salute U.S. and Utah flags during dedication of the restored Spring City School.

has assisted with revitalization projects in more than 26 communities. It has disbursed more than 110 grants for the following:

- Restoring buildings
- Improving and beautifying Main Streets
- Creating or facilitating the creation of interpretive signs, murals, etc. at historical sites;
- Instilling patriotism and veneration for patriots through veterans' memorials;
- Encouraging recreation with equestrian arenas, trails, biking paths, etc.

Following is a description of two representative projects for each of the five districts in the Heritage Area. A complete list of projects by Heritage District, county and town is provided as Appendix B.

## Little Denmark (Sanpete County)

**Historic Spring City School:** Spring City in Sanpete County has one of the largest concentrations of pioneer-era structures in the Heritage Area, scores of which have been restored by local owners.

The gem of the town is the ornate Spring City School, where a 40-year restoration effort was completed in 2017. In the final years, the MPNHA joined private donors, a private foundation and the state of Utah in providing funding to complete the \$2 million restoration.

Built in 1899, the Spring City School originally consisted of eight elementary classrooms on two floors. The architect was Richard Watkins who designed other eminent buildings in Utah.

In the 1950s, the school district ceased using it as a school. In the late 1970s, the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers purchased it from the school district with the goal of saving it. A citizens group, Friends of Historic Spring City, was formed with the primary object of saving the school.

For the first 20 years, the focus was keeping water out and preventing the roof from collapsing. Ultimately, the roof was reframed and steel framing installed in the chimneys (a signature feature of the building). The walls were reinforced for seismic protection and interior of the building refinished and painted.

On May 26, 2017, about 300 people gathered on the lawn to dedicate what is now the Spring City Community Center. A veteran's organization unveiled the U.S. and state flags from a portico, another signature feature of the building design.

The school will house a pioneer museum, city offices, private offices and studios, and offer space for rent for conferences and receptions.

**Liberal Hall, Wasatch Academy:** Liberal Hall on Main Street in Mt. Pleasant, Sanpete County, was the birthplace of Wasatch Academy, a private boarding school and the oldest continuously operating secondary school in Utah.

The building was built in 1874 at the behest of the Rev. Duncan McMillan, who moved from the East for

his health and set out to develop a network of missionary schools in Utah. Presbyterian services were held in the building from 1875 until 1920, when fire damaged the structure.

The MPNHA joined Wasatch Academy and school alumni in providing funding for an extensive restoration that transformed the deteriorated building into a museum. The building houses artifacts of Wasatch Academy history and materials about all Presbyterian Churches in Southern Utah. Wasatch Academy also sponsors public lectures in the building.

In 2014, the Liberal Hall restoration received the "Outstanding Achievement Award" from the Utah Divi-



Construction is underway at the Track 89 Village at the base of the Big Rock Candy Mountain in Sevier County. With support from MPNHA, old railroad cabooses are being transformed into guest rooms.

sion of State History.

## Sevier Valley (Sevier County)

**Camp Salina:** The MPNHA joined with Salina City and private donors to restore what was once a Civilian Conservation Corps camp and, during World War II, a camp housing German prisoners of war.

The \$103,000 restoration transformed three camp buildings from glorified storage sheds to near-original condition.

The site became infamous when, on July 8, 1945, a U.S. soldier on guard duty opened fire with a machine gun on 43 tents where POWs were sleeping. Six POWs were killed and 23 wounded, three of whom later died. The soldier was later found to be insane and commit-

ted to a mental hospital.

"It's an important part of our history and it shouldn't be forgotten," Salina Mayor Sally Deaton says. While the shooter's actions were inhumane and tragic, she said, "what needs to be remembered about that night is that the citizens of Salina pulled together and carried the injured prisoners seven blocks to the hospital and cared for them there."

The camp is now a museum open to visitors six days per week.

**Candy Mountain Express Bike Trail and the Track 89 Caboose Village Resort:** The advent of the railroad was a significant benchmark in Mormon colonization of Central and Southern Utah. Towns were no longer isolated. Passenger travel and commerce among the Mormon towns, and between the settlements and Salt Lake City, increased.

The Candy Mountain Express Bike Trail and the Big Rock Candy Mountain Railroad Village, projects supported by Sevier County, the MPNHA and private developers, are designed to commemorate and interpret the local railroad history.

The railroad reached into Sevier County in the mid 1890s, when the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad (DR&G) extended its line from Manti, in Sanpete County, to Marysvale, in Piute County. By 1976, the line had been decommissioned.

The paved Candy Mountain Express Bike Trail runs about 17 miles from Elsinore (just off I-70) to the Big Rock Candy Mountain Resort at the south end of Sevier County. (The Big Rock Candy Mountain is a cluster of brightly colored hills. Residents gave the area the name in the late 1920s shortly after release of the bluegrass song of the same name.)

Much of the bike trail is along the one-time D&RG line. Along the way are historical markers describing the area's mining and railroad history. The trail passes through the 200-foot Eagle Tunnel, built in 1896. Other segments of the trail pass through colorful rock canyons and farm country.

Some visitors who biked part of the trail posted an online comment that included the following: "The surface was smooth and well-maintained. The scenery was awesome! This portion of trail goes along the very

# Achieving the Goals of the MPNHA



The MPNHA is joining with two Utah state agencies to fund restoration of this cabin in Piute County. The cabin was occupied by the parents and siblings of Robert LeRoy Parker, later known as Butch Cassidy. Many people believe he spent his boyhood years in the home. The site attracts up to 90 visitors per day.

green, swift-running Sevier River and through a canyon where the rocks were pinkish and purple...We stopped several times and just enjoyed the scenery. There were nice benches randomly placed. "

In 2016, two private entrepreneurs, one a retired railroad worker, began developing a railroad village at the base of the Big Rock Candy Mountain near the terminus of the one-time D&RG line. Seven old-time cabooses have been placed near the end the old railroad and turned into guest rooms. Plans call for additional cabooses, landscaping and parking.

## Headwaters (Piute, Garfield, and Wayne Counties)

**Butch Cassidy Cabin:** Three miles south of Circleville in Piute County on the west side of U.S. 89 is a

makeshift parking lot and a once-disheveled cabin that is now undergoing restoration.

The site attracts 60 to 90 visitors per day. Why? Because the cabin was once occupied by the family of Robert LeRoy Parker, also known as Butch Cassidy, the outlaw portrayed in the movie, "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

In 2016, the MPHNA joined with Utah State Parks and the Utah Office of Historic Preservation to fund a \$138,000 restoration of the structure.

"It's slowly degrading," Piute County Commissioner Darin Bushman said shortly after the Utah Legislature authorized funding to the state agencies for restoration. "It's not on a real foundation, and it's slowly tilting and listing."

An engineering consulting firm has developed the restoration plans, which will require taking apart and reassembling the cabin, piece by piece.

Fred Hayes, director of Utah State Parks, says his agency will develop information signs. The agency will do its best to give the various sides of the debate over whether Butch went to South America and died in a shootout or, as local residents and Cassidy relatives believe, made his way back from South American and quietly lived out the rest of his life near his original family home.

**Panguitch Main Street Program:** Panguitch, a town of about 1,600, was settled in 1864 by four Mormon families. The original settlers faced harsh winters and, at one point, starvation. Because of Indian troubles, they had to abandon the settlement in 1866, but other determined pioneers reestablished the town in 1871.

The architecture in Panguitch reflects both English and Dutch designs, the nationalities of the

**"For folks in Panguitch, history and heritage aren't ideals, they're realities...In fact, they probably wouldn't call it historic preservation—just simple common sense. That red-brick home is worth restoring because it's worth living in. That century-old storefront is worth rehabilitating because it's a good place to do business."**

- Article in Utah Heritage Foundation (a statewide nonprofit) newsletter article after Panguitch Main Street, an MPNHA partner organization, received a Heritage Award.



*Of the goal of "education and interpretation" dovetails with the goal of "revitalization." The MPNHA supported development of interpretive center in Escalante, Garfield County, to tell the story of Mormon pioneer passage through the "hole in the rock." Murals, information placards and a film make the story come alive. Plans call for construction of a museum.*

settlers. The pioneers extracted iron-rich clay from the surrounding landscape and made bricks for their homes. They trimmed the homes with handcrafted wood.

In 1997, residents organized Panguitch Main Street, a nonprofit dedicated to preservation of many of these structures. The MPNHA has collaborated with Panguitch City, businesses and property owners to provide financial support. In particular, the Heritage Area has supported restoration of a theater on Main Street.

Today, Panguitch boasts one of the tidiest and most authentic Main Streets in the Heritage Area. In 2006, the entire town was designated as an historic district and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. And in 2012, Mayor Lori Talbot accepted a Heritage Award from the Utah Heritage Foundation in behalf of Panguitch Main Street.

## **Boulder Loop (Garfield And Wayne Counties)**

**Hole-in-the-Rock Heritage Center:** *One of the most dramatic stories in Mormon colonization of the West is about the 250 pioneers who passed through what they called the Hole in the Rock in order to descend to the shore of the Colorado River, cross the river and settle near the Four Corners area of Utah.*

*In 1879, John Taylor, an early president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, directed settlers living in St. George, Parowan and Cedar City in southwestern Utah to travel east to settle what is now San Juan County in the southeastern corner of the state.*

*It took the pioneers, traveling in 80 covered wagons with 1,000 head of livestock, six months to travel 200 miles across the rugged terrain. They reached the bank of the Colorado only to find they were at the top of a 1,200-foot cliff.*

*They identified a crevice down the cliff, but it was too narrow for the wagons. So they spent six weeks enlarging it with hammers, chisels and blasting powder. Even then, many in the party were skeptical about whether they could make it through the pass, but they decided to leave the decision to their leader and the Lord. Ultimately, they managed to traverse a 45-degree downward slope through the "hole in the rock" to the river.*

*For nearly 20 years, residents in Escalante, the last town where the pioneers camped before descending the vertical river bank, have dreamed of creating an interpretive center and museum honoring the hole-in-the-rock party and other pioneers.*

*The MPNHA, LDS church and Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) partnered to help make the dream come true. The church donated a nine-acre site. The Heritage Area and UDOT helped fund improvements including a pavilion, murals by an Escalante artist, interpretive signs, a fire pit, restrooms and a parking area. That first phase was completed in 2012.*

*Plans for Phase Two call for adding a museum building. The MPNHA has provided funding toward architectural design. The center is just off State Road 12, a national scenic byway.*

*A visitor from New Jersey wrote, "We saw this little museum (referring to the interpretive center) and decided to stop. It was excellent. It gave us some history on the pioneers, and Mormon struggles and hardships settling the West...The super nice older couple there (the caretakers) were full of information, and the film was very educational...The lady said her family was part of the original settlers to the area. History was brought alive for us."*

# Achieving the Goals of the MPNHA



Built in 1850, this tithing office in Loa was the drop point for in-kind contributions to the LDS church. It is one of 10 remaining tithing offices built in the Greek Revival style. The MPNHA helped support preservation of the building.



A rider heads out on one of the loops in the Jacob Hamlin Heritage Bike Trail (also seen below) in Kanab, Kane County, a development project supported by MPNHA. Local volunteers have plans for an extensive network of bike trails in the colorful rock country outside the city.



**Wayne County Daughters of the Utah Pioneers (DUP) Building:** Built in 1897, the Wayne County DUP Building was originally the Loa Tithing Office. From 1850 to 1920, tithing offices supported the LDS church system of in-kind tithing, especially in cash-poor agricultural communities. They were centers of local trade and welfare assistance, as well as locations where church members could donate agricultural products and other goods to support the church.

The Loa building is architecturally significant as one of 10 tithing offices in the Mountain West designed in the Greek Revival style.

The building remained in church ownership until 1972, when it was sold to the local DUP for meetings and display of pioneer artifacts. In recent years, the structure has deteriorated. MPNHA funding has played a major role in restoring the building. Visitors can call a published telephone number to arrange a tour.

## Under The Rim (Kane County)

**Jacob Hamlin Heritage Park and Bike Trails:** Jacob Hamlin was one of the most influential early settlers in Southern Utah. A sign in front of his home in Kanab, Kane County, describes him as a "pioneer explorer, missionary trailblazer and Indian peacemaker."

Kelly Stowell,, director of the Center for Education, Business and the Arts in Kanab, says, "He essentially shaped life in Southern Utah affecting our lives today."

His name is honored by a city park and now by two single-track mountain bike loops through colorful rock cliffs just outside Kanab. The MPHNA has supported development of both the park and bike loops. Plans are afoot to build a much larger bike trail system around Kanab.

The park has a picnic pavilion, additional picnic areas, fire pits, a playground and swimming pool. There is also a concessions building with kitchen equipment that can be rented for events.

In the past few years, determined volunteers have built the Roadrunner and Raven bike loops

northeast of the park. Roadrunner is a 0.8-mile track for beginner to intermediate riders. Raven is 1.1 miles and is rated "upper-intermediate."

As of the end of 2016, the final 100 yards of the Raven trail needed to be completed. Riders can ride in either a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction around both loops. The loops intersect, so a rider can shift from one track to the other.

A Utah mountain biking website describes the current trails as "well designed and beautifully constructed," adding, "A lot of TLC went into this trail. Enjoy the views of Kanab...as you climb through sparse bitterbrush, pinon and juniper."

### **Kanab Heritage House Museum:**

The Kanab Heritage House is an elaborate Victorian home built in 1894 using native brick and featuring a sandstone foundation.

Between 1894 and 1974, only three families, all prominent in the community, lived in the house. In 1974, after a public vote, Kanab City acquired what had become a deteriorated mansion. In 1975, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

A local physician led a long-running volunteer effort to painstakingly restore the house to its original splendor. The early 20th Century stove, dressers, beds and photos on the wall are all as authentic as possible. The MPNHA has supported ongoing preservation.

The house now has an on-site guide and is open for free tours five afternoons per week. A visitor in early 2017 wrote, "You see everything from the cellar all the way up to the top of the tower. Great way to visit history and appreciate the early pioneers of the area."



Between 1894 and 1974, this Victorian home housed three distinguished families in Kanab. Then the house went vacant and started to deteriorate. Kanab citizens voted for the city to purchase it. Since then, with support from MPNHA among many funders, it has been painstakingly restored and is now a living museum. The city provides an on-site guide five afternoons per week.



**Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area:**  
*A decade of partnership and accomplishment*

# Part III



# Forging Ahead



Joyce Bennett, widow of the late Utah Senator Robert Bennett accepts a Utah Best of State Award for heritage tourism for MPNHA in 2017. Her husband sponsored the bill in Congress that created the MPNHA.

## **Economic, Cultural, Aesthetic and Psychological Benefits**

*In May of 2017, the Mormon National Pioneer Heritage Area won a Utah Best of State award in the category of heritage tourism.*

*While this award was received in the MPNHA's eleventh year, it is indicative of the aspirations, efforts, accomplishments, and impacts of the previous ten. Those accomplishments have benefited the counties and communities within Heritage Area boundaries economically, culturally, aesthetically and psychologically.*

*Take the city of Gunnison in Sanpete County (MPNHA's Little Denmark district) as one example.*

*In 2010, the MPNHA granted \$25,000 toward the renovation of the Casino Star Theatre, a striking example of ornate, Beaux-arts architecture and a landmark on the city's Main Street. At the time, the city was trying to recover from a devastating underground gasoline leak that, while it had been going on for years, had only recently been discovered. The city was depressed economically and run-down aesthetically.*

*As the face lift of the theatre neared completion, it spurred other Main Street business owners to take the initiative to improve their properties. The city, in partnership with businesses, implemented a facade-renovation program. The entire city was reinvigorated in what the mayor called a "snowball effect."*

*The mayor estimated that about \$300,000 was in-*

# Forging Ahead



**“The Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area was there Day One with good advice and some seed money. The seed money was most important because it got you to the next level of funding. You’ve got to have the seed money to apply for the larger grants. When I think of the Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area, I think of how it has been a catalyst for economic growth in towns that might otherwise be forgotten.”**

*- Lori Nay, co-founder, Casino Star Theatre Foundation, the nonprofit that restored the Casino Star Theatre in Gunnison. She was also mayor of the city when restoration got started.*



vested in the Main Street improvements. That brought increased business to the small city economy and also instilled community pride in the residents.

The Casino Star Theatre's owners said the MPNHA contribution came at a time when it absolutely made the difference between either moving forward with the restoration project, or not—possibly for good. Though relatively small in the overall scope, the MPNHA's help was pivotal.

The MPNHA is pleased to have made that kind of a difference — not just in Gunnison but in communities all along the more than 400 miles of routes that serve as the geographical "roots" of the MPNHA.

## Recognition Of Success

The MPNHA and its leadership have been recognized on several occasions:

- In 2003, the National Association of Development Organizations gave the U.S. Heritage Highway 89 Alliance its Innovation Award for its "creative approach to regional planning and organization." The award recognized the consensus-building (i.e., partnership) efforts of the Heritage Highway 89 Alliance as a precursor to National Heritage Area designation.

- In 2011, a project championed by the MPNHA received the Rural Honors Award at the annual Utah Rural Summit. The Big Rock Candy Mountain project in the MPNHA's Sevier Valley district was recognized for improvement and development of a tourism resort and recreation facilities built around the scenic beauty and railroad and mining heritage of the district. A partnership of nine individuals and entities, public and private, fueled the effort. The award was given in recognition of those partnerships.

- In 2010, the Six-County Association of Governments gave Monte Bona its Regional Recognition Award for the development of the MPNHA. The citation credited the organization with contributing to economic growth and job creation in the six-county area. (Four counties in the regional association of governments — Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, and Wayne — are in the MPNHA).



Monte Bona, executive director of MPNHA, with Kaitlin Paxton, attendant in the Utah Days of '47 royalty, after Bona was named a Pioneer of Progress in 2015. The Days of '47 is a nonprofit organization based in Salt Lake City that sponsors an annual celebration of the day the Mormon pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. The organization gives several awards each year to modern "pioneers."

- In 2012, The Utah State Division of History bestowed its Outstanding Contribution Award on MPNHA Executive Director Monte Bona in recognition of his outstanding efforts in preserving the history of Sanpete County.

- In 2012, Panguitch Main Street, a nonprofit organization and MPNHA partner, received the Heritage Award from the Utah Heritage Foundation, a statewide preservation organization. The Panguitch group was lauded for its success in preserving pioneer-era homes and commercial buildings on the town's Main Street.

- In 2013, Preservation Utah presented MPNHA Executive Director Monte Bona with its Heritage Award for "having a vision that utilizes historic preservation and (for) working tirelessly throughout Central Utah to save historic buildings."

- Wasatch Academy has received awards for three projects in partnership with the MPNHA, with a total value of \$3.9 million.

In 2014, the Wasatch Academy received a Heritage Award for Stabilization, Renovation or Rehabilitation, from the Utah Heritage Foundation, for its efforts

# Forging Ahead

The 2016 Utah State Historical Preservation's officers wrote:

**“This year, 2016, marks the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, which created a national historic preservation agenda and specific roles for the federal government, the states, and eventually local governments in promoting the preservation of historic buildings and archaeological sites. ...This local-government emphasis laid the groundwork for regional efforts that envisioned broader, regional preservation of not just buildings but entire communities, their economies, and lifeways. The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area is the offspring of that expansive, multi-year effort.**

**“No other county in Utah can match Sanpete County for its coordinated historic preservation efforts over the last 20+ years. Individual communities in the county have been pursuing their own preservation agendas since the 1970s, and many of them became “partners in preservation” with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Park Service... but the creation of the Sanpete Heritage Council in the mid-1990s brought communities throughout the county together to develop broader goals and coordinate projects to maximize their effectiveness. This council evolved into the Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance, which is now the coordinating body for the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area.”**

*to restore its original schoolhouse for use as a museum and research facility;*

*In 2016, the school received another Heritage Award, this time for Adaptive Use, for the school's restoration of a historic presbyterian church for use a music conservatory.*

*This year, the school received a a Utah Heritage Award from Preservation Utah, for work done in 2016 to restore a historic home, later a faculty residence, for use as a guest house and dormitory.*

*•In 2015, The Days of '47 Committee in Salt Lake City, the group that drives the annual celebration of the arrival of Mormon pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley, named MPNHA Executive Director Monte Bona a “Pioneer of Progress” in its Historic and Creative Arts category.*

*Also in 2016, the MPNHA received a particular recognition and distinction, though not an official award, from the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, an arm of the Utah Department of Heritage and Arts, Division of State History. A report published by the state's Historic Preservation officers contained a statement which is herein quoted (left).*

*The recognition serves to point out the reason the MPNHA does what it does. It's useful to remember that the MPNHA—including its forerunners, the Heritage Highway 89 Alliance and the Sanpete Heritage Council—was born in Sanpete County.*

*A stellar example of the kind of thing that led the state history officers to write as they did is the Old Spring City School. As described in Part Two, Spring City in Sanpete County is the home of a historic and architecturally significant elementary school built in 1899. In the 1970s, the building had devolved to where it was being used for manufacturing camper shells. Townspeople began to clamor for tearing the old building down, but the local chapter of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers purchased the building to save it.*

*Nearly 40 years later, the Spring City Council was set to vote on a \$647,000 funding package to restore the building. The meeting was packed. Prior to the vote, the mayor asked, somewhat timidly, “Is there anybody opposed to this?” There was dead silence: Everyone in the room was there to support the restoration effort.*

*It is worth mentioning that Spring City is listed, in its entirety, on the national historic register. The MP-NHA assisted the Spring City Old School restoration project financially and logistically.*

*The newly restored building, we are proud to report, was rededicated on May 26, 2017. The keynote speaker at a large and celebratory ceremony was Utah Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox, himself a native of the Sanpete County city of Fairview, a few miles away. Though Cox spoke specifically to Spring City and Sanpete County residents, he gave voice to the feeling that drives heritage preservation: "We're Sanpeters. We are who we are because of where we grew up. That's why you're here today, because Sanpete is part of you."*

*That's also why the MPNHA is here today, as it has been for more than ten years now, and as it hopes to be in the future: Our history and heritage is a part of us, both collectively and as individuals, and to know it is to better know ourselves.*

## **Looking Forward: The Next 10 Years And Beyond**

*The pioneers who settled what is now the MP-NHA were always driven by hope and a vision of the future. So it is with the Heritage Area.*

*For overall direction, the MPNHA will continue to look to its management plan and work toward the goals described therein. We will continue to operate according to our partnership philosophy, which means helping counties, cities, towns, nonprofit groups, businesses and private individuals get projects off the ground that fit Heritage Area goals.*

*We will continue to tell the story of the Mormon pioneers of south-central Utah with passion and impact, including continuing to promote development of interpretive sites, and preservation of landmarks and historic buildings.*



*Crowd gathers at a dedication marking a nearly 40-year effort to save and restore the Historic Spring City School. MPNHA participation in the final phase helped get the project completed.*

# Acknowledgments

## Project Funding Partners

*The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area wishes to thank as well as congratulate our funding partners. Without them, of course, much of what the MPNHA has achieved would never have been possible. Some of these partners were responsible for conceiving the projects the MPNHA supported in its first 10 years; others were of immense importance in making it possible to see these projects through to completion. From start to finish, the MPNHA is proud to have been associated with them, and looks forward to continued partnerships with them and others not just for one more decade, but for many decades to come.*

*The MPNHA gives special thanks, and encourages its other partners to join in doing the same, to the National Park Service, which is the federal arm through which the MPNHA receives the funds that it then passes on to the projects driven by local entities.*

*The MPNHA key funding partners over the last 10 years are:*

**American Jewish Preservation Society**  
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**Bicknell Theater**  
**Big Rock Candy Mountain Resort**  
**Carol Theater**  
**Casino Star Theatre Foundation**  
**Centerfield City**  
**Center for Education, Business and the Arts (Kanab)**  
**Central Utah Pioneer Heritage Association**  
**Daughters of Utah Pioneers (various chapters)**  
**Deer Creek Mining & Preservation Society**  
**Ephraim City**  
**Fairview City**  
**Fountain Green Town**  
**Fremont DUP**  
**Friends of Historic Spring City**  
**Garfield County**  
**George S. and Dolores Dore' Eccles Foundation**  
**Gunnison City**  
**Hanksville Town**  
**Hole-In-The Rock Escalante Heritage Center**  
**Kanab City**  
**Kane County**  
**Little Hollywood Museum**  
**Loa Town**  
**Manti City**  
**Manti-La-Sal National Forest**  
**Marysvale Heritage Rag Museum**  
**Marysvale Town**  
**Monroe Preservation Society**  
**Monroe Town**  
**Mormon Pioneer Heritage Institute**  
**Mt. Carmel Town**

**Mt. Pleasant CDRA**  
**Mt. Pleasant City**  
**National Park Service**  
**National Park Service Rivers and Trails**  
**Orderville Town**  
**Paiute ATV Trail Committee**  
**Panguitch City**  
**Panguitch Main Street Program**  
**Piute County**  
**Preserve America**  
**Salina City**  
**Sanpete County**  
**Sanpete County Travel and Heritage Council**  
**Scenic Canyons Preservation Society**  
**Sevier County**  
**Snow College**  
**Southern Utah Oral History Project**  
**Spring City**  
**Spring City Victory Hall**  
**Teasdale Town**  
**Torrey Town**  
**Track 89 Caboose & Railroad Village**  
**U.S. Dept. of Agriculture-Rural Development**  
**U.S. Dept. of Energy**  
**Utah Department of Community and Culture**  
**Utah Department of Transportation**  
**Utah Division of State History**  
**Utah Division of State Parks**  
**Utah State Office of Historic Preservation**  
**Utah Humanities Council**  
**Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation**  
**Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board**  
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- *John Hales*



**Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area:**

*A decade of partnership and accomplishment*

**Appendix A:**  
***“Discovery Road”***  
***Episodes***

# Appendix A

## **“Passing Along Utah’s History”**

The story of Wasatch Academy and its Presbyterian founder Duncan McMillan, who clashed with Brigham Young over education ideals, is profiled. The tour group also visits an ill-fated settlement called Clarion, Utah.

## **“The Apostle & The Outlaw”**

This episode features a mysterious story about Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. It’s an intriguing event surrounding the life of a man named Hyrum Beebe, who claimed to be the real Sundance Kid. It also features a segment on Mormon Church apostle Orson Hyde.

## **“Manti, Utah”**

This episode explores how the Manti temple was built and what challenges had to be overcome before the doors were opened in 1888. Stories about hardship and accomplishment are blended with heartwarming personal histories born on the Manti Temple Hill.

## **“Stories from Highway 89 and the Boulder Loop”**

Travel the Mormon Pioneer National heritage Area (MPNHA) in this fascinating one-hour program. Inspiring stories of the Old West along with segments about Native Americans, outlaws, artists and movie stars are included in the program. The stories are all part of the legacy of the Mormon experience in the American west.

## **“Utah’s Blackhawk War: Cultures in Conflict”**

As the American Civil War came to a close, the Territory of Utah erupted with violence as Ute Indians and Mormon settlers clashed over the same land. Men, women and children on both sides of the conflict were subject to raids, treachery, betrayal, kidnapping and murder.

## **“Kane County”**

The crew takes a seat in a 1963 Ford Fairlane for an adventure in Kane County, Utah. They find a compelling story on canvas and pedestal. They learn about the explorer Jacob Hamblin and discover a public auction of wild horses and burros. Another story featured in this episode is a profile of one of the few small town newspapers still in full operation in America.

## **“The Heritage Experience”**

Journey through the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area with a busload of visitors to Utah are from other heritage areas around America. These history experts are part of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA)

## **“Mormon Trail: Black Experience”**

A journey along the historic Mormon Trail with a returned Mormon missionary in search of his roots; Marcus Ewell discovers his family history includes an ancestor who served in the Mormon Battalion and another who traveled the trail.

## **“Mormon Trail: The Forgotten Ones”**

Discovery Road returns to the historic Mormon Trail to search for traces of family members who did not make it all the way to Zion. The story unfolds with treks to major stops on the trail for initial information.

## **“Mormon Trail: The Disabled Ones”**

Travel down the historic Mormon Trail to uncover one of the more inspiring chapters of Mormon Trail history ever. Historians share with our documentary team the little known stories about people on the trail who had challenges beyond the mountains, rivers, weather and long distances.

## **“Wasatch Academy”**

The incredible story of Wasatch Academy is rolled out during a visit to the Mt. Pleasant, Utah

campus amid the 2014 Founders Day celebration. Crew members tour the school grounds and meet old timers who attended the school half-a-century ago.

### **“The Making Of Old Time Radio”**

Raising the curtain on how the local arts community in Spring City, Utah makes Radio Theater happens every week during the summer months. Dedicated writers, actors and theater people are followed as they script together an upcoming “live” show. Using the historic Victory Hall in Spring City the group prepares musicians, story tellers, stage hands and technicians for the radio show.

### **“Scandinavian Show”**

This episode gives the viewer a seat on a tour bus as it traverses through the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area. The show follows a group of tour guide operators as they experience Scandinavian Days and all that goes into that annual celebration.

### **“Don’t Let Them Be Forgotten”**

Discovery Road introduces viewers to the Blackham family as they unravel their own past in England. Leaving the cotton mill factories meant the Utah family had to find a new place to call home. In central Utah’s Sanpete Valley Discovery Road trains the camera lens on Blackham family reunions and gatherings.

### **“Music is the Reason”**

This episode of Discovery Road introduces viewers to the little known story of Wales, Utah and how it connects musically to the country of Wales. The intriguing documentary reveals how coal and music defined a people and how that history is viewed today. The Mormon religion made inroads in Wales but it was not easy as the program demonstrates.

### **“Butch Cassidy, Wales & Outlaw Ways”**

The connection between outlaw Butch Cassidy and a family in Wales that immigrated to Utah; The family in Wales learns about the western bandit and realizes they have an amazing connection to the American West. The documentary also visits with rel-

atives of Butch Cassidy in Utah who maintain he died in the United States and not the way it is portrayed in the movies.

### **“Sheep Count”**

Discovery Road visits the farms, ranches and mountains of central Utah in search of the sheep story. The program opens with a look at how the sheep industry in Utah got its footing and then soared to the top level more than a century ago. Real sheep operations are visited by the producers as lambing season arrives and the families go to work caring for the new arrivals.

### **“Paradise on the Prairie”**

A story about the ill-fated Jewish Colony in Clarion, Utah; interviews with descendants of the Jewish Colony reveal the family story for viewers. Discovery Road also interviewed the Academy Award winning producer Gerald Molen. Molen received an Oscar as Producer for Schindler’s List, the epic movie about Polish-Jews saved from the holocaust.

### **“The Unknown” episode**

This episode interviews the descendants of those who left Jewish Colony and reveals the family story for viewers. The writer of “Jewtah” discusses why he is telling the story of the colony that no longer exists.

### **“The Snow College Story”**

Discovery Road shows how a small college in small town America can have a big impact on Utah and the world. Looking at history the college has an impressive story of how it all got started in Ephraim, Utah.

### **“Road Stops & Stop Signs”**

Pay a visit to small town America with stops in Spring City, Duck Creek Village, and Alton, Utah. The show also takes viewers to the library to check out a few yarns about the historic corridor along highway 89.

# Appendix A

## **“A Gift for the Road”**

This episode tells the story of how the historic corridor in central Utah became a National Heritage Area and the man most responsible for making it happen. That man is the late Senator Bob Bennett. Bennett pushed forward key legislation that led to the creation of the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA). The MPNHA has worked for ten years to preserve and protect history, culture and heritage through its many programs and projects. The episode not only salutes Bennett for his work but offers insight to the late Senator’s intriguing family story of heritage.

## **“An American 4th”**

The patriotic story of life in small town America on the 4th of July; the town featured in this show is Moroni, Utah. This half-hour documentary is the inspiring story of Moroni on July 4, 2001.



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# **Appendix B:**

## ***Revitalization Projects***

# Appendix B

## Little Denmark

### Sanpete County

Sanpete Trails Project: Improvement of trails in coordination with Manti-La-Sal National Forest to promote outdoor recreation

### Fairview

Fairview Social Hall: Restoration of historic community building

### Centerfield

Centerfield Rock Church: Exterior stone work and interior restoration

### Ephraim

Ephraim Co-op/Granary Project: Restoration work including exterior masonry, foundation repairs, awnings, granary door replacements and rain gutter work and adjacent Fort Ephraim historic plaque

Ephraim Carnegie Library: Restoration

### Snow College (Ephraim)

Mormon Pioneer Heritage Institute: Development of library space for the Mormon Pioneer Heritage Institute at the Karen H. Huntsman Library

Alpine Station: Restoration of the Great Basin Experiment Station

### Spring City

Old Spring City Monument: Restoration and improvement a historical monument adjacent to a spring used by Indians for centuries, new sidewalk, stone bench, historical signs

Victory Hall: Restoration of a historic building including electrical, mechanical upgrades, wall ceiling and woodwork preservation

Spring City School: Restoration of historic school

Historic homes/art: Grants to restore historic homes used by artists for their art galleries

## Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Pleasant Carnegie Library: Restoration

Mt. Pleasant Railroad Depot: Restoration of 1890s Rio Grande Depot: two new restrooms, exterior and interior paint, ramp and railing repairs from depot to adjacent cabooses, furnace upgrade

Wasatch Block Building Restoration: Rehabilitation of building old ZCMI building, now used for affordable housing

City Hall and Armory: Rehabilitation work

## Wasatch Academy (Mt. Pleasant)

Historic administration building: As part of restoration, building area basement and two floors, totaling 5,580 square feet

Liberal Hall: Restoration of building including interior and exterior work; steeple rebuild

Pierce Hall: Miscellaneous repairs to the existing red brick building exterior, wood soffit and fascia

Presbyterian Church: Preservation and restoration of historic Presbyterian church as music conservatory

Historic City Hall and Armory: Restoration and installation of historic doors on City Hall and armory interior painting

Agritourism/Equestrian Center: Development of an arena, stalls and 60-acre cross country equestrian venue that emphasizes dressage and cross country jumping

## Manti

American Legion Building: Restoration, including exterior restoration and steeple rehabilitation, of historic building that was once a Presbyterian church.

Pioneer Heritage Gardens: Construction of gardens, reflection pool, amphitheater, and heritage kiosks telling the Mormon-pioneer story.

Historic Manti City Hall: Restoration of oolite-stone exterior.

Manti Carnegie Library: Restoration of exterior.

DUP School House: Restoration of historic Daughter of the Utah Pioneers schoolhouse.

Manti Senior Citizens Center: Removal of aluminum siding to expose original stone exterior and windows; rehabilitation of stone and grout.

### **Fountain Green**

Historic Dance Hall: Rehabilitation of historic dance hall, including interior enhancements and sound system.

### **Gunnison**

Historic Casino Star Theatre: Renovation including restoration of the façade base and marquee work, enhancement of lighting and sound system.

Gunnison Veterans Memorial: Streetscape which honors veterans from the Blackhawk War to World Wars I and II through current conflicts.

Legacy Wall and Clarion Kiosk: "Clarion: a Jewish Back-to-the-Soil Community" historic marker on Gunnison's Legacy Plaza.

### **Centerfield**

Old Rock Church: Restoration of exterior stonework and interior of historic LDS church building for use as a community center.

Historic Centerfield Social Hall: Restoration of historic town hall and social hall.

## **Sevier Valley (Sevier County)**

### **Sevier County**

Candy Mountain Whistle Stop Trailhead: Development of an interpretive center to display the importance of the railroad to the area. Paving of a parking lot and an access road to the Sevier River Bridge and Candy Mountain Bike Trail; restrooms; park area' and landscaping.

### **Monroe**

Carol Theater: Renovation of historic theatre.

Hot springs: Improvement of road to Monroe Hot Springs.

Lizzie & Charlie's Rug Factory: Preservation of building and rug-weaving looms at a historic rug factory, for exhibition and demonstration to field trips and heritage tours of pioneer rug-making methods.

### **Salina**

CCC/POW Camp: Restoration and development of Civilian Conservation Corps Prisoner of War camp.

Miss Mary's Historic School: Restoration of exterior and interior to preserve a historic Presbyterian school.

Veteran's memorial: Installment of a new memorial to honor the area's veterans from the Black Hawk War to World Wars I and II and later conflicts.

## **Headwaters (Piute, Garfield, and Wayne counties)**

### **Piute County**

Piute ATV Trail: Trail improvements.

Butch Cassidy Cabin: Restoration and maintenance-repairs of a cabin that was the birthplace of Butch Cassidy, installment of a walking-tour structure, and the extension of a trail to the Butch Cassidy cabin, with interpretive signage along the trail.

Butch Cassidy Days Pageant/Performance: Support of musical production that tells the story of the historical role Butch Cassidy played in Piute County.

### **Marysvale**

Historic Mining Park: Aid in the development of an interpretive, interactive gold-mining park.

Heritage Rag Museum: Purchase of era-relevant rug-weaving looms to enhance the museum's ability to serve as a museum in the heritage tourism sector.

Old Rock School building: Restoration of exterior or façade.

Old Winkelman Town: Development of infrastructure to accommodate growing numbers of tourists to Deer Creek Ghost Town.

### **Hanksville**

Historic Rock Community Hall: Restoration of historic building.

### **Panguitch**

Panguitch Fairgrounds: Restorative repairs at a historic fairgrounds.

# Appendix B

Quilt Walk Memorial: Construction of monument to honor Panguitch pioneers

Gem Theater: Restoration of and enhancements to a historic movie theater on a Main Street which, in its entirety, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Boulder Loop (Garfield and Wayne Counties)**

### **Bicknell**

Bicknell Theater: Restoration and renovation of historic theater for public use and community activities.

Wayne County Bike Path: Development of a new bike path to encourage appreciation for the area's historic landscape.

### **Torrey**

Wayne County Visitor Center: Replacement of 600-foot visitor's center. The new center includes restrooms, picnic tables and other amenities.

Wayne County Cemetery: Restoration of cemetery, including gravestone markers and monuments of pioneers buried there.

### **Escalante**

Hole-in-the-Rock Interpretive Center: Architectural work and other work toward the continued development of the interpretive center.

### **Loa**

Wayne County Historic Veteran's Memorial: Development of a new veteran's memorial project.

Wayne County DUP Building: Preservation work of Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum and the historic Mormon Tithing Office building.

### **Teasdale**

DUP Building: Restoration of Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum building

## **Under The Rim (Kane County)**

### **Kanab**

Kanab Heritage House: Renovation and restoration of a house listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and used as a heritage-tourism site and for special events.

Jacob Hamblin Park Biking Trail: Development of a bike trail carrying the name of renowned colonizing pioneer Jacob Hamblin

Little Hollywood Museum: Development of the Little Hollywood Museum

Kanab Pavilion: Development of the Heritage Performances Pavilion, an outdoor performing arts center, on the site of a former performing arts area, and using materials from a historic gazebo once used as a performance venue.

Zane Grey Memorial: Support of the creation of a memorial placed on Kanab's Little Hollywood Walk of Fame to honor famed Western novelist and sometime Kanab resident Zane Grey.

### **Orderville Town**

Land of Destiny: Development of "Land of our Destiny" Pavilion

### **Mt. Carmel**

Mt. Carmel Church: Restoration of historic church building, including total interior renovation, site improvements and exterior façade restoration.

