

# MORMON PIONEER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA (MPNHA)

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RELEASE: Sept. 18, 2017



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## MPHNA: 10 Years and Going Strong

Having recently celebrated its 10th year, the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area has released a report which highlights many of the achievements of the heritage area and projects completed during its first decade.

Over the course of those 10 years, the MPNHA has had tremendous 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.”

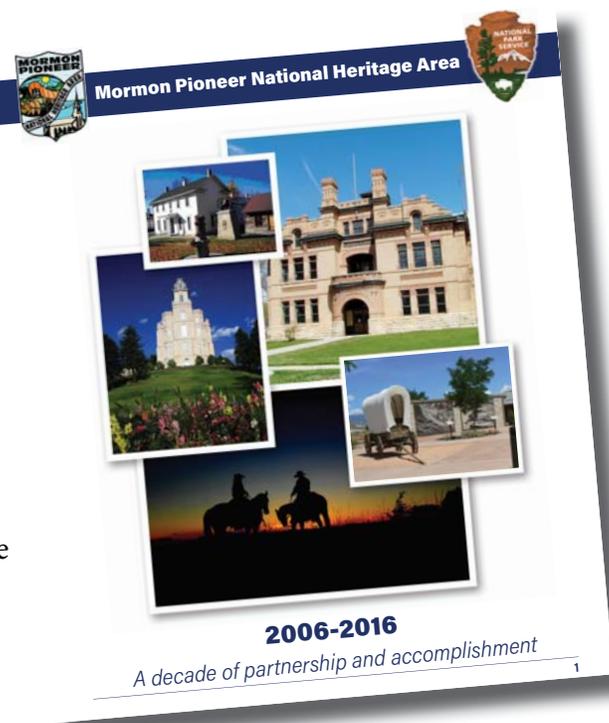
Much of that success can be attributed to the strong network of partnerships the MPNHA has developed among the five heritage areas, six counties and 42 cities and towns of the area. In the past decade, the MPNHA and its community partners have managed to leverage \$2.2 million in federal funds to seed projects valued at \$44.3 million. More than 67 restoration projects have been completed in 26 communities in the heritage area and several more are ongoing.

Building from the grassroots up, in a multitude of ways the partners have been able to honor and to highlight the culture the area's early pioneers left behind in what some have called the best example left in the United States of how the Mormons colonized the American West.

Along with the restoration of historic buildings across the heritage area, the MPNHA has breathed new life into local towns as part of main street revitalization efforts, supported community celebrations and provided educational opportunities, including the MPHNA's own TV show “Discovery Road” along with a book and other materials for members of local communities and visitors.

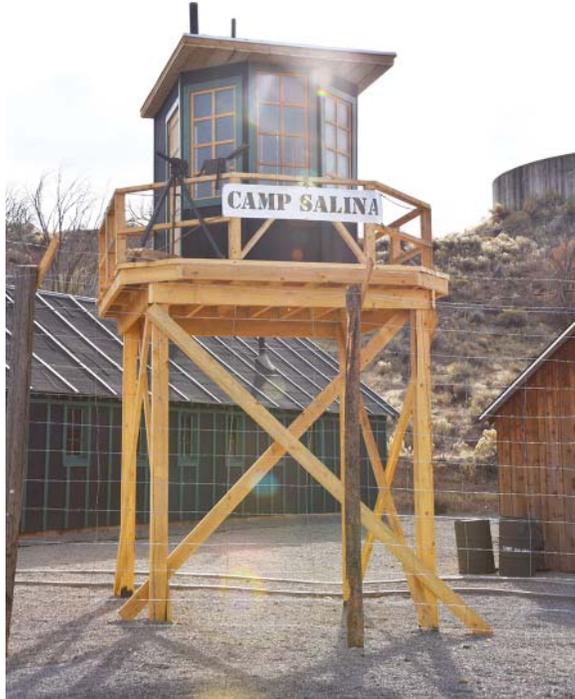
It has also contributed in the development of an agritourism/equestrian center, three veterans' memorials, trails and biking paths, three museums, commemorative kiosks and pavilions, a railroad village and interpretive visitor's centers.

Along with sharing with local residents and visitors the heritage left behind by the early settlers to the



area, the MPNHA has contributed to economic growth in the communities within its boundaries.

“When I think of the Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area, I think of how it has been a catalyst in towns that might otherwise be forgotten,” said Lori Nay, co-founder of the Casino Star Theatre Foundation which restored the historic building and community gathering place in Gunnison.



**A \$103,000 restoration grant transformed three camp buildings at the former Civilian Conservation Camp and WWII POW camp in Salina from glorified storage sheds to near-original condition.**

As it has done during its first 10 years, the MPNHA expects to move into its next decade with a continued dedication to bringing to life the rich heritage and tradition of the area and to drawing to the MPHNA the descendants of those early settlers and others who can appreciate the contributions of those pioneering communities and the culture they left behind.

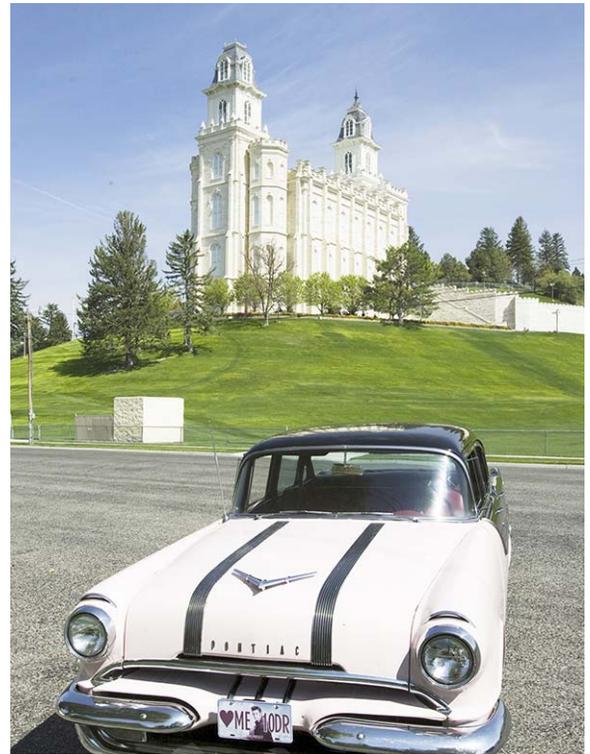
“It has been a tremendously fruitful first decade for the MPNHA and we’re looking forward with excitement and optimism toward the next 10 years,” MPNHA Executive Director Monte Bona said.

The MPNHA’s 10-year report can be found online at [mormonpioneerheritage.org](http://mormonpioneerheritage.org). For a physical copy, contact Bona at 801-699-5065.

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#### About the MPNHA:

*The Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area is a federally designated area of central and southern Utah running along the beautiful and historic U.S. Highway 89 — including the All-American Road Utah State Route 12, and Capitol Reef Scenic Byway Utah State Route 24, which both intersect with U.S. 89 and together form the MPNHA’s Boulder Loop. The area includes the counties of Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne, Garfield and Kane.*



**The MPNHA’s television series “Discovery Road” explores life and culture up and down U.S. “Heritage Highway with 30 episodes to date.**



**The Hole-in-the-Rock Heritage Center in Escalante honors early settlers who traversed a 45-degree downward slope through a “hole in the rock” with their wagons to reach the Colorado River and ultimately their new home in San Juan County.**