



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