

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