

Script for **Pioneer Square Tour**

Introduction

The Mormon colonists who settled St. George laid out the town on a grid based on LDS leader Joseph Smith's Plat of Zion. Individual home lots were clustered in the town center, surrounded by fields held in common by the villagers. The blocks in the historic heart of St. George are 528 feet square, with an area of 6.4 acres, and major streets are 90 feet wide. Each block was originally divided into 8 lots, 132 by 264 feet, with an area of 8/10 of an acre. In addition to a house, each town lot contained gardens and orchards for food production, and pastures, pens, and corrals for domestic animals, along with outbuildings such as barns and granaries.

J.C. Penney's Building, 5 East St. George Blvd.

Currently occupied by **Urban Renewal** (consignment store) and is owned by Jenny and Eric Larsen. The J.C. Penney's Store was owned by Hyrum "Hy" Thomas and by the 1980s, had expanded to include the Sprouse Reitz building.

Urban Renewal was started by Jenny Larsen and her mother Joyce. After Jenny and Eric Larsen got married, Eric bought out Joyce.

Jenny and Eric Larsen also own **Having Been Ness**, a clothing consignment store, next door at 5 East St. George Blvd., Suite B. They also own **AO (Autobiography of Objects)**, 23 East St. George Blvd., which sells new clothing and home decor.

Urban Renewal store employee Callista Roberts said she was told that when J.C. Penney's was in operation, store employees in the upstairs north business part of the store would use a cable relay system to send paper messages to the upstairs south part of the business office.



JCPenney building, today's Urban Renewal

St. George Fire Station No. 2 (now Zion Brewery Station II), 150 North Main

Received a bar license in August 2019 from the state liquor commission, making the business the first stand-alone bar open to the public in the city. The former fire station was built in 1918. Subsequent phases of the brewery will include a larger bar, pool hall and upstairs lounge, followed by a new brewery in the main fire bay. St. George boasts two state-run liquor stores and dozens of restaurants where customers can get a drink if they also order food. There is a bar inside the Hilton Hotel, while the One and Only tavern serves beer, not wine or spirits. St. George has three other liquor establishments within its limits, but those require a membership to either the Elks, a fraternal organization, or the Bloomington and Entrada golf and country clubs.



St George Fire Station #2, today's Zion Brewery Station

Mary Ann Gardner House, 158 North Main

The first ladies co-op was founded here by Mary Ann Gardner, the third wife of Robert Gardener, the first mayor of St. George. He was also a bishop in the LDS Church. Built in 1896, the home is a good representation of the Victorian style that was popular at the time. When the co-op disbanded, Mary Ann established a millinery shop here. **The Beauty Lab**, a cosmetology salon, currently occupies the building.



Mary Ann Gardner House

Daughters of Utah Pioneer Museum, 143 North 100 East

Built in 1938, this building was financed by Mrs. Hortense McQuarrie Odum for the express purpose of preserving pioneer relics. The McQuarrie Memorial Hall was completed in 1938 and dedicated on June 17 of that year. The Museum is maintained by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Tours are available on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.



Pioneer Courthouse, 97 East St. George Blvd.

St. George was designated the seat of Washington County on Jan. 14, 1863 when the Utah Legislature unexpectedly moved the county seat from Washington City.

Construction of the courthouse began in 1867 and was completed in 1870. Built with locally manufactured brick and mortar, the building has many interesting and unique architectural features, including 18-inch thick interior doors, old chandeliers, a vault, and the exterior cornices and cupola and painting of Zion National Park and the Grand Canyon. Serving many purposes the building housed the jail in the basement, the county offices on the first floor, and the large room on the second floor served as a courtroom and a schoolroom. The building is still in use, which is a testament of the skill and care used in its construction. Architect Miles Romney, who worked on the Temple, Tabernacle, and Brigham Young's Winter Home, also assisted in the design of this building. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Sept. 22, 1970, the building housed the St. George Chamber of Commerce until 2016. The upper floor is used for lectures and other meetings. Tours are available.



Pioneer Washington County Courthouse

Pickett Lumber Building, 67 East St. George Blvd

Horatio Pickett operated the lumber yard, furniture business, and carpentry shop in early St. George. Elmer Pickett operated the company in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Most of the building is now occupied by **Steamroller Copies**, which is owned by Stefanie and Josh Bevans. The business has been at this location for about 25 years. **OrangeTech/Copies4Sale** are both divisions of Steamroller Copies and have been housed directly to the north of Steamroller Copies, and have been in operation for a year and a half. **OrangeTech** is managed by Kevin Delanne, while **Copies4Sale** is managed by John Pratt.

Upstairs in the former Pickett Lumber Building is **St. George Salon Studios** which apparently has suboutlets that include: **Beauty by Emily Rose, Apex Barbering and Brilliant Edge Salon.**

In the northern part of the former Pickett Lumber Building is **Laser Mania Family Fun Center**, owned by Jarret Waite, which has been in operation for about 25 years. It offers laser tech, miniature golf, 4D movie rides and bumper cars, according to employee Ryan Adams.



Pickett Lumber Building, now Steamrollers

M&S Turquoise, 41 and 53 East St. George Blvd.

Owned by Kent, Jim and Bret Sevy was started in 1978, according to Kent Sevy. It fills orders for wholesale jewelry gift shops at the 53 East St. George Blvd. store. The 41 East St. George Blvd. is a retail store. M&S Turquoise was started by Wes Milne and Mark Sevy. Mark Sevy had earlier worked for Zales Jewelers and before that he sold jewelry door to door. Mark bought the Liberty Hotel, originally located directly across the street to the south of where M&S Turquoise is located and Mark Sevy moved from Las Vegas to St. George. Wes Milne, Kent's uncle, started Milne's Jewelry, now located next to M&S Turquoise. Helping to build up M&S Turquoise's inventory was a Native American who began working for Milne. They also set up a wholesale jewelry store at Ruby's Inn near Bryce Canyon National Park. Eventually, M&S Turquoise hired independent contractor Herbert Tsosie, a silversmith from the Navajo Reservation. Others such as Henry Begay, and Terry and Cecil Tsosie also became independent contractors helping to produce custom jewelry. Today, M&S Turquoise supplies gift stores all over the United States.



M&S Turquoise

Milne Jewelers, 43 East St. George Blvd.

One of the oldest businesses still operating in St. George since opening in 1951 by owner Wes Milne. Milne passed away on Aug. 2, 2020. The current owner of the store is Mickelle Patience, a granddaughter of Wes Milne. She said Wes Milne opened the store on his 20th birthday and started as a watchmaker. He opened the jewelry store where the Washington County News building is situated, then moved to the present location in 1954. Mickelle Patience has been associated with the store for 31 years.



Milne Jewelry

World Finance Loan and Tax Service, 39 E. St. George Blvd.

Formerly Noble Finance. World Finance has been at this location for two years and is managed by Constance Stokes.

Reclaimed, 37 East St. George Blvd.

Sells vintage and antique furniture and refinishes furniture as well as teaches chalk paint workshops. The store is owned by Jennifer Hawkins, who has been at this location since 2014. Her website is reclaimedstgeorge.com Hawkins says 'It's a buy and throwaway economy, but we need to save what we have.'

The store is located where the original Snow IGA Foodliner Store once operated. Hawkins recalls that Snow owner Brent Snow told her he remembers processing deer meat in the rear of the food store where it kept food lockers.

Washington County News Building, 24 East St George Blvd

The Washington County News building was originally a saloon in Silver Reef in the 1880s. After the mining boom ended, the building was moved to its present location in St. George. The first editor of the Washington County News was John Wallis, who printed the paper until 1900. The building has housed many other businesses since that time, including Classic Printing, owned by Frank and Jim Mountford.





Saloon in Silver Reef moved to St George and turned into Washington County News.