

Script for **Ancestor Square Walking 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.



George's Corner, 2 West St. George Boulevard

Owned and managed by Randall and Nicki Pace Richards, the restaurant opened about 2010. The restaurant's website states that George Pace owned and operated the **Big Hand Cafe**, which stood on this same corner, during the 1930s and 40s. The *Big Hand Cafe* was the center of town, the gathering spot, the place where news was shared. It quickly became a St. George icon and a stopping place for tourists as they traveled through Southern Utah. The Greyhound bus would make its one stop in town at the *Big Hand* and each time it pulled in, the waitresses would holler "bus in", and they would get ready to serve the hungry travelers. Best remembered for its sign of a big hand outlined with blinking lights pointing to the front door and the lit up words "*Especially Good Food*". It was easy to find - it was located at the only stop light in town. It was one of the

first buildings to be “air cooled”, which was much desired in the hot summers of Southern Utah.



George's Corner Restaurant celebrates the history of St. George and honors the great men and women who moved to this barren land and made it into a home. As the old sign promised, the restaurant serves “*Especially Good Food.*”



Lunatic Fringe hair salon, 2 West St. George Blvd.

Owned by Andrea Lang-Daymaker. Lunatic Fringe St. George has an innovative and well-educated group of stylists with a strong emphasis on continued education.



The Augustus and Elizabeth Hardy House, 46 West St. George Boulevard

Built in 1871 by Sheriff Augustus Hardy, this house was slightly remodeled by a bullet during one wild west incident where a group of vigilantes broke into the house, took the keys to the jail at the Pioneer Courthouse, removed a prisoner accused of murder and promptly hung him. During the sequence of events, a stray bullet hit the door of the home. The bullet hole is still visible today in the door.

The house Hardy built for his family had the usual basalt foundation of rocks hauled from the black hill and double thick adobe walls. Although the house contained only two rooms downstairs and a half story upstairs for sleeping quarters, it had some claims to gentility. "Dixie Dormer" windows, very popular in St. George at the time, graced the upstairs, and the lintel over the front door was decorated in a pattern much in vogue in Salt Lake City. The rocks used in building the tabernacle were all dressed by hand so naturally they were not all perfect. When the head mason declared them unfit for the Lord's house, they were given to the faithful for their personal use. Sheriff Hardy received some of these stones, called "spalls" using them in the construction of his home. He also built a small rock house for use as a temporary jail in the rear near his home.

The Hardy House is currently occupied by **Rize Management**. James and Lyndi Rose are the owners of some of the real estate at Ancestor Square.



Gardner's Club Hall, 50 West St. George Boulevard

This building is one of the oldest public buildings still in use in St. George. Built in 1863, members of the Gardeners' Club made their own adobes and took their own teams and wagons to the Pine Valley sawmill to secure the lumber to build the small structure for their meeting place. The builder published a newspaper, *The Pomologist and Gardeners*, to encourage horticulture, and the club staged displays of agricultural products, giving ribbons to the winners, in what must have been the forerunner of the county fair. Eventually, the building was deeded to James Pace and then to Sheriff Hardy, in whose family it remained until the Pace family secured it again and began restoring that corner of Ancestor Square. The *Gardener's Club Hall* is currently

occupied by **Groupie Love** owned by Mary Callohan and her daughter, who make and sell jewelry from guitar picks. The company has a large online presence.



Old Jail House (in dispute)

This black lava rock structure was reportedly used as a one-room jail. The structure was built by Sheriff Hardy around 1880, and still retains the original iron bars in the windows. Retired St. George Police Deputy Chief Kelly Larson states that this building was never used as a jail.



The Sandstone Building (*The Old Sheriff's Office*)

It is difficult to establish an exact date of construction of this building. It is one of a half-dozen structures built in St. George from leftover rock from the Tabernacle in the 1860s. It is thought that George Brooks built this building as he did his own house up on Main Street. The building was scheduled for demolition during the construction of Ancestor Square, but it was determined that the structure was historic and so Ancestor Square was designed so as to save this sandstone gem. It is assumed that Sheriff A.P. Hardy used this building as his office and that it was built for that purpose since the old jailhouse was later constructed next to it.



Pizza and Pasta Factory, 2 West St. George Blvd., Suite 8

On a chilly night in the 1970's, Bill Kringlen and a group of friends desperately sought out a pizza parlor to dine at during one of their regular ski trips to Southern Utah. After searching for quite some time and coming up empty, they finally discovered there weren't any pizza parlors in the area. The group of friends decided to do something about it. It was in that moment that the idea for The Pizza Factory was born. The original Pizza Factory opened in 1979 in St. George and is now famous for pizza and twisted bread sticks served in a vase on a stick. Owned by Bill Randall.

Pizza Factory.

Linx Commercial Real Estate, 2 West St. George Blvd. Suite 10

Owned by Tom Callister and Travis Parry.

Painted Pony Restaurant, 2 West St. George Blvd., Suite 22

also owned by Randall and Nicki Pace Richards. According to its website, The Painted Pony brings a touch of Southwestern class – and intriguing flavors – to St. George. The restaurant, tucked away in Ancestor Square, is exceptionally clean and cozy, with contemporary Southwestern art, fresh flowers, and — in the evening — a top notch romantic atmosphere with subdued lighting and patio dining. **Benja's Thai and Sushi**, 2 West St. George Blvd., Suite 12

Owned by Benja Peterson. According to its website, it is a warmly decorated venue serving Thai classics, unique rolls & all-you-can-eat sushi in relaxed digs.

In the **Ancestor Square Tower**, by January 2020 will be the following businesses:

- a. **Berkshire Hathaway, a real estate franchise**
- b. **Be Hot Yoga**
- c. **White Space Studios**

Cafe Feel Love coffee shop, 2 West St. George Blvd., Suite 38



Opened Oct. 24 and is owned and operated by Jasher and Lisa Feellove. The building is owned by Stephen Wade. Inside the restaurant, Lisa and Jasher Feellove note that the metal beams and adobe are original to the building. As they started tearing down walls, they found original wallpaper. The restaurant was extended about 10 feet northward where the parking lot once occupied space. Eighty percent of the walls were once covered by sheetrock. A contractor was hired to seal and harden the adobe. The restaurant once housed **Basila's Restaurant** and later **Panama Grill**. The Feellove's also own a Cafe Feel Love coffee shop at 558 East Riverside Suite 208, and in Springdale, Utah. They also own **Be Hot Yoga**, which will be housed in Ancestor Square Towers.



Morris-Grundy Home *151 North Main Street*

This home was built in 1901 by 70-year-old widow and England native Emma Packer Morris. It is constructed of hand-made adobe and faced with red fired brick, which was a popular material at that time. The design is classic Victorian, and large panel windows and expansive wood trim are indications that no expense was spared. The mulberry trees growing around the house date back to 1890 when a smaller home occupied the site. The home passed to one of Emma's eleven children, her daughter Isadore Grundy. The building has been used as a retail space housing **Jake's Old House/Life Is Good Shop** and **Desert Artisan Gifts**, featuring 36 local artists' creations. Currently occupied by **Summit Sotheby's International Realty**.

Samuel and Esther Miles Jr. Home, *173 North Main*

This home was built between 1876 and 1883. Because of the different colors of the adobe, the home was probably built in two phases, either by Henry W. Lawrence or Samuel Miles, Jr. Born in 1853, Samuel Miles III married Esther Louisa Worthen on 6 December 1875 and they raised four of their five children. Daughter Esther died in the home at age 2. Samuel was a harness maker, farmer, superintendent of the Sunday School, Justice of the Peace, and was a city councilman in 1896. Daughter Esther died at age 2 in the home, as did Esther who died suddenly of heart failure. The property was continuously occupied by the immediate family of Samuel Miles III, for a period of 116 years. After Samuel's death in 1921 from face cancer, the home was occupied by daughter, Louisa Miles Judd, and her husband, George, until her death in 1978 at age 100. It was deeded to Esther Judd Wasden, a great granddaughter to Samuel Miles III on July 17, 1978. Currently occupied by **The Mission Gallery** for about 15 years. The building is owned by Brooks Pace. Jane Bell Meyer is the owner of Mission Gallery, according to employee Carol Jensen.



Samuel and Esther Miles home.

Dr. William Randall and Pike home, 189 North Main

*This home was built about 1915 by Mayor Albert E. Miller for English-native Dr. Pike, a graduate of Burlington (Vermont) Medical College. For twenty years Dr. Pike operated the St. George Drug Company. The home was constructed of adobe brick and has a heavy lava rock foundation. It has recently been restored and beautified. Currently, a sign on the south side of the building advertised it as "**Family Health Care Medical and Dental**," but no one was present when a Society member visited on Oct. 29, 2020. The site may be vacant.*

Authentique Gallery of Art and Design, 199 North Main

also owned by Jane Bell Meyer.



Illume Gallery of Fine Art, 29 West 200 North

also owned by Jane Bell Meyer.



Brigham Young Home, 67 West 200 North

Brigham Young became St. George's first "snowbird", leaving the cold behind to spend the winters in the temperate climate of St. George. President Young already owned a home in St. George at 111 West St. George Boulevard. It was inhabited by one of Brother Brigham's older wives, Aunt Lucy B. (Lucy Decker?) However, Brother Brigham knew that he would find no contentment in his winter sojourn if he could not be accompanied by his young wife, Amelia Folsom. He had promised Amelia, when she consented to marry him, that he would never ask her to live in the same house as any of his other wives. In typical Brigham Young efficiency, he settled on a solution acceptable to all. He would build a new home for Amelia which was close enough to Lucy B. (Lucy Decker?), that he could conveniently drop in on her every day. He purchased the lot at 155 West 200 North and called in his architect, Miles Romney, to build a comfortable house worthy of Amelia. Although Romney was busy with other public works, the Temple, the Tabernacle and the County Courthouse, he consented to design the house and oversaw the construction of the lower floor. He turned the rest of the work over to

his son, Miles P. Romney, who served as an apprentice to his father on the other buildings.

The original part of this home was begun in 1869 and completed in 1871. The front addition, which comprises the main part of the house, was completed in 1873. The house had a two-room basement or cellar, as they called it then built of red sandstone. The foundation was laid in a T-shape of black rock and the walls were constructed of locally manufactured adobes. The house contained an entry hall housing the stairway and opened into a formal parlor. Behind the parlor was a dining room, then a kitchen with a pantry to the left. The second floor had three bedrooms. The roof was gabled and covered with wood shingles and cornices were bracketed.

Made from adobe, plaster and local rock, the two-story home shows the ingenuity of pioneer builders. Rather than importing costly hardwood, carpenters painted the pine that was available with simulated wood grains. Examples of this remarkable effort can still be seen on some of the tables, floors, and windowsills in the home. Some of the original furniture, including pieces handmade by Brigham Young, are displayed in the home.

East of the home was a small, one-room structure where Brother Brigham had his office and his private telegraph equipment. Here Dixie's early 'snowbird' was able to supervise the building of the St. George Temple. However, many residents insisted it was the room for the butler Amelia brought down from Salt Lake City. The house served as Brigham Young's winter home until his death.

Brigham Young was born in 1801 and died in 1877. He was the second president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and led members of the church from Nauvoo, Illinois to the Salt Lake Valley in 1847. He led the church in its settlement of the West. For several years, President Brigham Young spent the winter months in this home in St. George, Utah. The Young family owned the home until 1882. It was subsequently owned by various private parties for nearly 80 years. In 1959, the home was given to the State of Utah to be operated as an historic site. It is presently owned by the LDS Church and the home is normally open to the public, but because of the COVID 19 pandemic, it is currently closed to the public.



Brigham and Amelia Young winter home.

William Thompson/Adolphus and Mary Whitehead/Floyd C. Stevens Home, 212 North 100 West

Built in 1871 by William H. Thompson, the home had thick 16-inch adobe walls and wood floors. Thompson sold the home in 1876 to Adolphus R. and Mary Whitehead who owned the home for approximately 30 years. In the basement, there is an old wood/coal burning furnace with holes in the floor used to distribute heat throughout the house. The mulberry tree in front of the house is said to be the oldest tree in St. George. In 1905, Mary Whitehead deeded the home to her children. Subsequent owners included Floyd C. Stevens and his wife, Leola, who owned the house from 1943 to 2001. Michael Madsen bought the house in 2006 and owned it as of 2015. The home has been restored and now serves as rental suites. Currently the **Thompson Mansion**.



Thompson home.

Edwin and Mary Woolley/Foster Home, 217 North 100 West

Built in 1873 by next door neighbor George F. Whitehead for Edwin G. Woolley, this home was one of the finest in St George. The woodwork and glass in the 15-room house was of the finest quality, and many of the early furnishings were shipped from England. Edwin Gordon Woolley was a carpenter, a judge, and a member of the prosperous mercantile firm of Woolley, Lund, and Judd (later the St. George Cooperative Mercantile). He was a man of education and had a taste for the finer things in life. He was described in his day as a true aristocrat.

The attic is believed to have been used to hide polygamist fugitives many times in the early history of the city. In 1907, Mr. Woolley moved his family to Salt Lake City and sold the home to Charles Franklin and Pamela Foster. The Fosters had nine daughters, one son, two orphaned nieces, and an orphan boy in the family. Therefore, they finished the garret for more bedrooms. The Fosters had the finances and taste not only to improve the house, but to make additions, such as: the master bedroom, one of the first five bathrooms in town (having indoor plumbing was a big event for the family), and a fine piano from the east.

The house remained in the Foster family until 1952. During that time it was the scene of much of the social and cultural life of pioneer Dixie. A short time after moving into this lovely home, the Fosters' 24-year-old daughter died, and her funeral was held in the parlor. Charles Franklin Foster was a pioneer stockman, merchant and banker.

Tom and Olive Truman bought the home from the Fosters in 1952 for a rest home. It also once served Dixie College as a dormitory. The home gradually fell into disrepair and was even saved from demolition by Colonel Elvin Maughn. Now restored and renovated, this beautiful Victorian home is today a popular bed and breakfast. Currently occupied by **Mulberry Inn** and formerly *Seven Wives Inn*.



Ed and Mary Woolley home.

George and Esther Whitehead home, 241 North 100 West

Currently occupied by **The Cottage** bed and breakfast. George Whitehead built this home in 1883 for his bride, Esther Jane Morris. As his family expanded, so did the home. There are two staircases running in opposite directions with a common landing. It

also included two bedrooms upstairs, one basement room, a kitchen, a dining room, a bath, and bedrooms with big walk-in closets that were unusual in that day. Originally built without any plumbing, George ran a pipe from the irrigation ditch to a bathroom so the family could have (cold) baths inside. The Whiteheads lived there until George died at the age of 98. Edna Whitehead Cloward, a daughter, owned the home until 1965. It is currently part of the **Mulberry Inn**.



George and Esther Whitehead home.

Erastus “Ras” and Josephine Whitehead home, 278 North 100 West

Built in the early 1880s by George Whitehead for his younger brother, Erastus, and his wife Josephine. The home sits on a lava rock foundation and is built of handmade adobe bricks. Erastus and Josephine Nixon Whitehead raised their seven children in this home. Erastus and his father owned the A.R. Whitehead and Sons Mercantile store on Tabernacle Street which was a very successful business. Erastus died in 1906 at the age of 34.

This was a well known bed and breakfast called ‘*An Olde Penny Farthing Inn*.’ When the property was sold the new owners of the bed and breakfast renamed it to the ‘*Ava House and Spa*.’ As of 2014, the property has again been sold and the house has again been renamed. It is undergoing an extensive renovation and when finished it will be known as the ‘*Whitehead House*’ and will be rented as a vacation rental.

Ras and Josephine Whitehead home.

Israel and Anna Ivins Home, 187 North 100 West

Currently occupied by **Thompson, Randall and Mellen attorneys at law**. St. George's first practicing physician, Dr. Ivins built and lived in this home. A small shop at the rear of the home served as an apothecary shop where he dispensed remedies. In 1888 he treated an entire Indian camp for measles. He also helped form the first city government and was one of the original surveyors for the town. When federal marshals came into town to arrest polygamists, Israel would go to his hideout in the hills and wait until he saw the "all clear" signal of a white sheet hung in the upstairs window by one of his plural wives. Dr. Ivins is the father of Apostle Anthony W. Ivins.



Israel and Ann Ivins home.

Anthony and Elizabeth Ivins home, 165 North 100 West

This home was built in 1875 by Anthony W. Ivins. In 1894, when the LDS Church called him to assist in its colonizing project in Mexico, he sold his home to Thomas Gardner. In 1934, the home passed into the hands of Gardner's son, Wayne, and his wife, Bessie. In more than a hundred years it has been owned by only two families.

The original settlers learned that the alkali in the soil would quickly dissolve foundations made of sandstone so this house had a wide foundation and a basement of black basalt from the Black Ridge. The eight rooms on the ground floor were built of double thick adobe bricks; when the Gardners were doing some remodeling, they found that part of the work was done with a thickness of four adobe bricks. The original lumber and flooring are still in the northern and southern parts of the building, as are the square nails used when the house was originally built. The original house had a front porch and a rear sleeping deck, both of which have since been removed. When the Gardners dispensed with the front porch, they used the extended foundation to enlarge the living room.

One of the distinctive features of the home is its setting. Brigham Young insisted that local homes be built close to the street so that there would be room in the rear for vegetable gardens. For some unknown reason, when Ivins built his home on the south side of this father's lot, he built it deep in the lot.

A prominent public figure, Anthony Ivins spent 34 of his 82 years in St. George. He married Elizabeth Ashby Snow, daughter of Erastus and Elizabeth R. Snow. He was an active member of the LDS Church, serving three missions in the Southwestern United States and Mexico. He was also a member of the St. George High Council, Stake Presidency and then became second and later first counselor to Heber J. Grant in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints. Besides his many ecclesiastical positions, he held many civil and political offices, serving as St. George City Precinct police officer, St. George City Councilor, St. George City Attorney, deputy sheriff of Washington County, Washington County Prosecuting Attorney, assessor and collector for Washington County, and in 1888, he helped organize the "Sagebrush Democrats" in an attempt to move Utah away from the People's Party (Mormon) and Liberal (non-Mormon) parties toward national parties. He was mayor of St. George from 1890 to 1894. He later was elected to represent Washington County at the Utah Territorial Constitutional Convention. He served two terms in the Utah Legislature. He gained widespread popularity among Democrats and Republicans for his straight-forward manner and candor.

In 1896, the Democratic Party wanted him to run for Congress or Governor, but he had accepted a church calling to go on a mission (his third) to Mexico which required him to sell his livestock, ranch property and water rights on the Arizona Strip. During this time, he performed between 50 and 60 post Manifesto plural marriages under the direction of LDS leaders in Salt Lake City. Ivins was called to the LDS Quorum of the Twelve (Apostles) in 1907.

Ivins (and Mexican Mormons) had supported Porfirio Diaz before the Mexican Revolution of 1910. Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa seized Ciudad Juarez in 1911. In 1912, over 4,000 Mormons fled north of the border and most never returned to Mexico. That same year, Ivins placed the responsibility of finding refuge for Mormon colonists on Orson Pratt Brown.

During the election of 1916, the Democratic Party experienced one of its largest political victories in Washington County. Ivins play a large part in those victories. He supported federal appropriations to establish the Shivwits Paiute Indian Reservation and legislation creating the National Park Service.

In 1921, he was chosen second counselor to LDS President Heber J. Grant and serves in that capacity until 1925, then became first counselor to Heber J. Grant to 1934.

In 1924-25, settlers living on the Santa Clara Bench in Southern Utah asked that their new town be called “Ivins” after Anthony W. Ivins. He subsequently gave \$100,000 toward their new LDS chapel.

Ivins died Sept. 23, 1934 in Salt Lake City. In 1970, Ivins was elected to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Okla.



Anthony and Elizabeth Ivins home.

Joe ‘Jode’ Burgess Home, 172 North 100 West

Currently occupied by **Engel and Volkers Real Estate**. This home is constructed of a lava block foundation, concrete block walls and wood frame. The formed cement blocks became popular in the early part of the 20th century when the stonemasons, who had brought their trade from the old country, started becoming extinct. The forms were made so the blocks had the exterior texture of hand cut sandstone blocks. There were 14 rooms in the original house. Joe “Jode” Burgess built this house in 1916 (another

account says 1911). He hauled lava rock from the nearby Black Hill for the foundation stones and constructed the home out of formed cement blocks made of Canfield Lime. The lumber used was from the family sawmill in Pine Valley.



Jode Burgess home.

Moses and Orpha Andrus Home, 139 North 100 West

In 1892, Moses Andrus finished the rock foundation of this home, then left it to “cure” for a year, a reason why the foundation is void of cracks. In May 1893, Moses moved in with his bride, Orpha Morris, the daughter of a pioneer merchant. Built by brother-in-law, George F. Whitehead, the ground floor consisted of four spacious rooms: living room, dining room, kitchen, and bedroom. The upstairs rooms were the same size. Orpha gave birth to nine children in the home, three of whom died at birth.

The Andrus family owned the home for over 50 years until Moses died in the home at age 72. Totally blind at death, Moses Andrus was a pioneer cattleman, the son of James Andrus, also a pioneer cattle baron and civic leader.

The home was sold and restored as a business establishment, Color Country Homes, who believed the home was haunted by the ghost of Moses Andrus himself. Currently occupied by **At the Crossroads (ATC)** a co-ed young adult transitional living program, the Crossroads offers residential housing with full range of individual, group and family therapy, life skills coaching and psychiatric services, according to its website.



Moses and Orpha Andrus home.

Travel Lodge and Trafalga Restaurant, 76 West St. George Boulevard

The restaurant opened some time between 1961 and 1972, according to the Washington County Historical Society website.

WCHS board member Susan Crook worked at the Trafalga Restaurant next to the Travelodge Motel when she was a student at Dixie Junior College during the 1971-72 school year. She lived in the Dixiana Dorm and rode her orange Schwinn bike to work. Trafalga Restaurant uniforms were baby blue polyester pantsuits with a smock top that had two pockets in front for keeping menu pads, pens and tips. The head waitress, Kitty, had a blonde beehive hairdo. The night cook, Wayne, was a chain smoker who played classical music on the grand piano in the banquet room during his break, laying his cigarette at the end of the keyboard. The restaurant was the bus stop, so waitresses had to hustle to take orders and serve the passengers so the bus could leave on time. The song, "Thank God and Greyhound You're Gone," by Roy Clark was popular on country radio and among the Trafalga staff back then. Apparently, the county jail didn't have a kitchen to prepare meals for the prisoners, so they brought them to the Trafalga to eat. Crook's roommate Bev would sweet talk the cook into letting them take home crackers and slices of ham and cheese.

"We were starving students, after all!" she said.

Until about a year ago, the **Inn of St. George** occupied the original Travel Lodge motel while the **St. George Bicycle Collective** occupied the former Trafalga Restaurant. Both businesses vacated the premises at the request of city officials who have other development plans for the property.



George Bicycle Collective



Travel Lodge.