



WELLS FARGO SILVER REEF MUSEUM

Completed in 1877, this historic building with its ornate arches and fortress style metal doors continues to welcome visitors as it has for the past 133 years. Wells Fargo occupied the north side of the building where they ran the Freight & Stage Coach offices as well as the Bank. The south side was home to the Wooley Lund & Judd Mercantile. The building was beautifully brought back to life in the early 1980's when it was carefully restored along with several other buildings in town.



Silver Reef is one of only two places on earth where Silver has been found and mined in Sandstone. The Boom began on the Reef in 1875 and lasted through 1889. One mine remained open until 1908. There are between 400 & 500 shafts that led into the mines. All have been grated over or permanently closed.



Photos and artifacts in the museum show what life was like in the old town. The population was made up of residents from over 18 countries and 29 US States. Besides miners, there were other professions in town, this is a partial list

- 1 Jeweler
- 1 Photographer
- 3 Attorneys
- 3 Shoe / Boot maker
- 4 Barbers
- 4 Physicians
- 4 Stone Masons
- 6 Assayers
- 9 Grocers
- 14 Mining Engineers
- 15 Saloon Keepers
- 17 Blacksmiths
- 19 Teamsters
- 27 Merchants (dry goods, clothiers, hardware etc)



A beautiful reproduction bar inside the museum pays homage to the six saloons that once stood in town. The antique liquor bottles were all found in Silver Reef

Among the many original features and details that are part of the old building, are the vault and safe. Visitors can walk into the old Barrel Vault which protected the silver bullion from robberies. From the vault the silver was loaded onto the Stage Coach or Freight Wagon. The silver was then hauled about 75 miles where it would be put on the train that would carry it to its final destination. Just outside the museum sit the stone stairs which were used for the loading and unloading of freight and passengers



Personal items on display include clothing, boots, shoes, watches, shaving kits and hat pins.

There is a fun display of vintage and antique house wares and domestic items.

A large display of wood-working tools, mining tools and equipment fill other displays.

One large case is dedicated to antique firearms. Many were found and unearthed in the old town site; others were handed down through old Silver Reef families

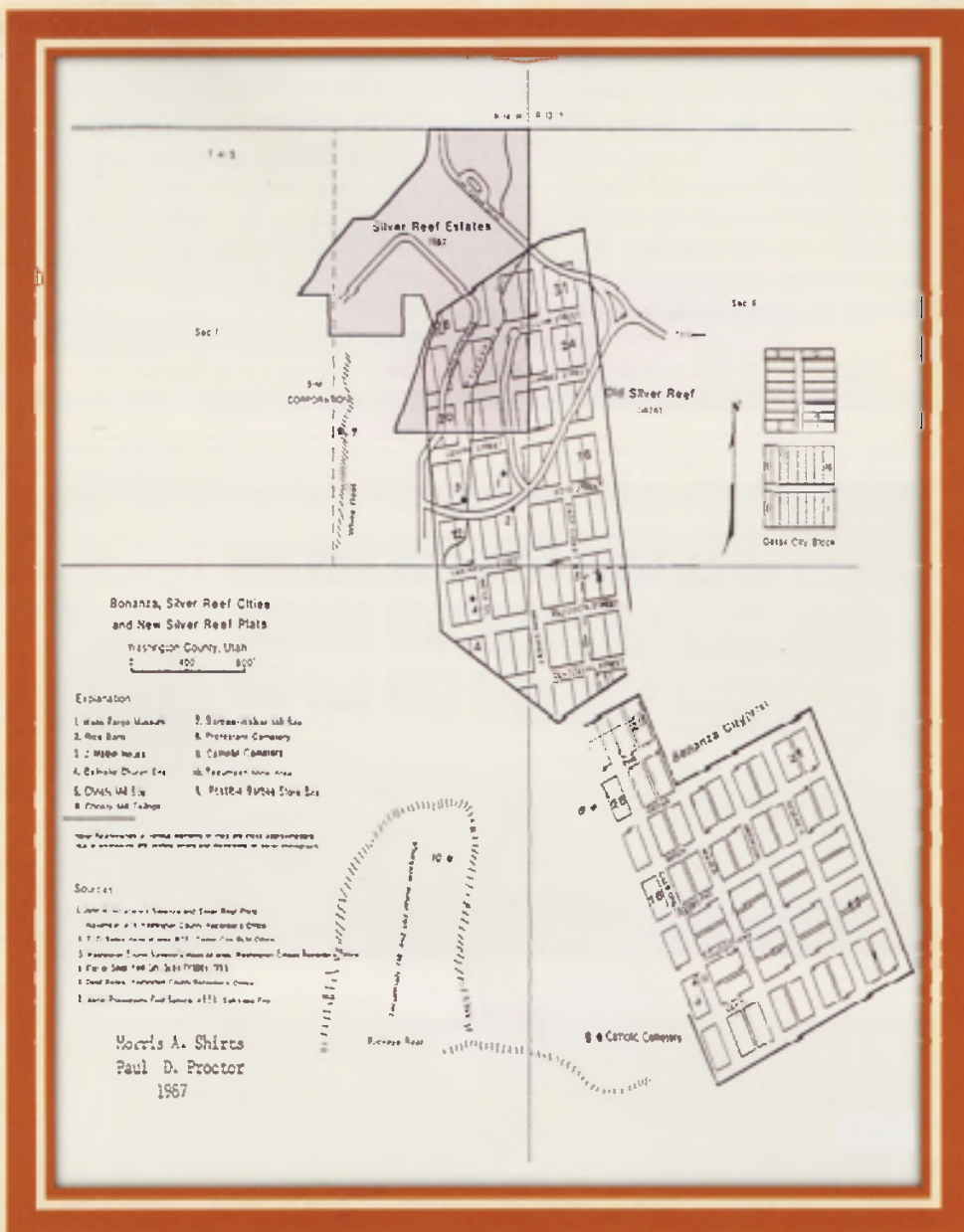
Proudly hanging on the walls of the museum is our new photo display. Close to 100 photographs have been restored and framed and now tell the story of old Silver Reef. Reproduced from antique photos, visitors may visually walk down the streets and past some of the businesses and homes that lined them. You can become acquainted with a few of the miners and inspect the five mills that processed the silver. You will run into everyday townsfolk and their families dressed in their finest clothes, so they would look their best when their photo was taken. There are even a few of the more colorful characters looking down at you from the walls.

This photo project was made possible by a grant from the Utah Humanities Council and the Utah Office of Museum Services.



Off the Southwest corner of the Wells Fargo building sits a restored Powder-house. Originally dynamite would have been stored inside. Today it gives visitors a glimpse back in time, featuring a large diorama of the main blocks of town. Also on display are models of the Mills that processed the ore, and a re-creation of the Catholic Church.

The Wells Fargo Silver Reef Museum sits on 17 acres that make up the Wells Fargo Silver Reef Monument. Visitors are welcome to wander the old town site. In the late 1880's when the town shut down, most of the buildings were torn down, loaded on wagons and taken by their owners to the next place they would call home. Many of the remaining structures were carefully moved to surrounding communities. However, the foundations and partial ruins still sit amongst the sage brush close to the museum. The area is closed to treasure hunting and metal detecting, so please take all the photos you like, but leave everything else as you find it.



This map shows the layout of Silver Reef in 1879, with an overlay of the Reef as it is today.

Antique and vintage maps are prominently displayed for the enjoyment of visitors. Oversize maps hanging in the museum and Powder-house, show details, locations and depths of the silver mines. Most of these areas may only be accessed by 4 wheel drive, hiking or mountain bike. Please be respectful of private property. Stay on roadways and for the privacy of our neighbors stay out of private dead end neighborhoods.

Other maps show the geologic layers and ages of the sediments that make up the unique structure of the Reefs.

Wells Fargo Silver Reef Museum
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Hours 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

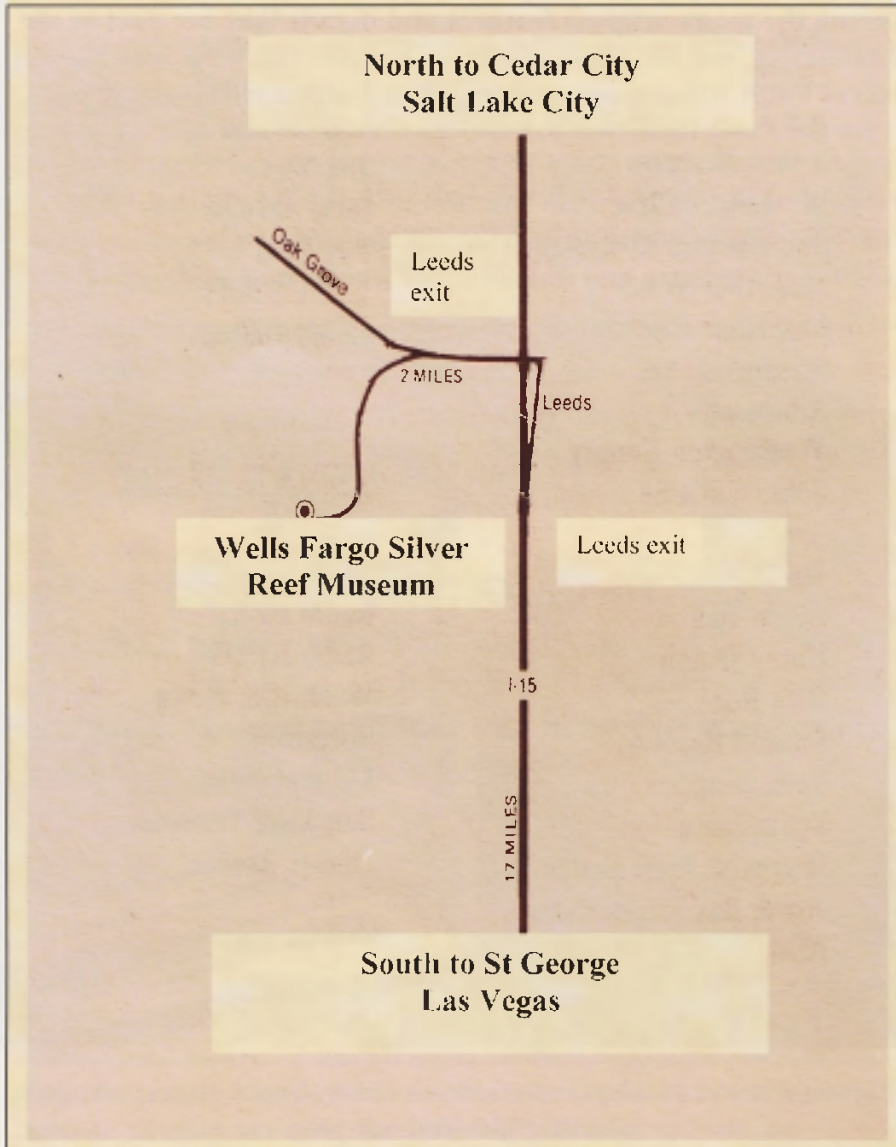
www.silverreef.org

Or by appointment.

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