



HURRICANE CLIFFS

One of several descriptions of the Temple Trail is found in a monument located in Hurricane, Utah and gives the following description: "The Temple Trail, which has two parts, was used to bring lumber from two mills at Nixon Springs on the south face of Mount Trumbull to St. George. Forty-five volunteers constructed the roadways during April and May of 1874. The saw mills operated during the warmer months only. Much of the production went along the main trail that drops down over the Hurricane Cliffs about 20 miles south of Hurricane. During winter months, lumber was taken to Antelope Springs and hauled to St. George when winter snows stopped saw mill work. This lumber was brought through the Hurricane cliffs about 12 miles from Hurricane through a dugway that was also used by the Honeymoon Trail."

The upper trail ran north past Antelope Springs along the top of Hurricane Mesa from Mount Trumbull to the mile-long dugway shared by the Temple Trail with a later Honeymoon Trail. Fresh boards were hauled from the mills to Antelope Springs during the summer months and then from the springs to St. George during the winter. According to the description in Historical Markers on Waymaking.com this was a dirt wagon road, rough, and in places rock was laid by hand to "build up the roadway which would support the heavy logging wagons." Those driving the wagons had to deal with washes, canyons, and sandy areas in addition to the steep dugways off the side of the Hurricane Cliffs. According to James B. Bleak the trail was completed by May 16, 1874.

A second route, as displayed on this map, used by the logging wagons ran along the "so-called Black Rock Road" that drops down off the Hurricane Cliff through a treacherous dugway and at the bottom it turns north. It runs along the bottom of the cliffs and merges with the upper trail (mentioned above) that descended through a northern dugway from the top of the Cliffs to the bottom and then both trails ran in a northwesterly direction past Fort Pearce and on to the temple. Both these roads to Trumbull and back required a maintenance crew to make repairs and keep them passable.

The Hurricane Cliffs have been a barrier to human travel from time immemorial. Before the temple trail indigenous people had hunting and

food gathering trails and the Spanish Fathers Dominguez and Escalante traveled through this country in 1776. Concurrently with the building of the temple and the Settling of the St. George area Indian missionaries notably Jacob Hamblin and his colleagues and Navajo raiders seeking livestock from the settlements trailed through this rugged country. After the temple was completed the Honeymoon trail was established.

