



**Daughters of the America Revolution
P. O. Box 911131
St. George, UT 84791**

**Daughters of Utah Pioneers
145 North 100 East
St. George, UT 84770**

July 18, 2021

Daughters of the American Revolution National Society

Re: DAR Historic Preservation Award – Washington County Historical Society

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Daughters of Utah McQuarrie Memorial Museum, I wish to nominate The Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) for the Daughters of American Revolution Historic Preservation Award.

In December 2019, the WCHS opened the Pioneer Courthouse in St. George to provide an opportunity for visitors to have a taste of the area's history. The building was completed in 1870 and is one of the oldest standing buildings in the county. While it fully operated as a courthouse until 1960, after it closed, it remained empty for over twenty years until the St. George Chamber of Commerce occupied it for the next 30 years. Again, it became empty, virtually abandoned, until the WCHS reached agreement with other Historical Groups, including the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, to convince the City of St. George to allow occupancy and promote the building as a historical landmark, offering tours and education to the public – local and visitors from all over the world.

Even though COVID-19 greatly impacted the attendance the first year in operation, the Courthouse was able to remain open and has increasingly been able to attract visitors. Monthly lectures and musical programs are being held, as well the summer Historic St. George Live Tours.

Displays are available throughout the building, and often changed. One display is devoted to honoring an early pioneer family of the area.

In a rapidly growing community, the history will be forgotten unless active steps are taken to promote it. The Pioneer Courthouse provides the opportunity, and the WCHS devotes its resources to supporting the promotion.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Orton".

Teresa Orton
Museum Director
McQuarrie Memorial Museum