

NEWS

A pioneer history: Here's how to take a historic tour of downtown St. George

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Downtown St. George is photographed from The Advenire, a hotel located at the corner of St. George Blvd. and Main St.
Chris Caldwell / The Spectrum & Daily News

Looking for a fun way to get outside and learn a little along the way?

The Washington County Historical Society has scheduled four historic district walking tours in downtown St. George starting this coming weekend.

The free tour begins Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Pioneer Courthouse, 97 East St. George Blvd., at 11 a.m., and will be led by long-time resident and prominent physician Craig Booth. Participants are asked to wear walking shoes, a jacket for cool weather, and a mask for Covid compliance, according to organizers.

Then participants should be prepared to learn unique pieces of history about various historic buildings along the tour.

They include the Pioneer Courthouse, which was constructed in 1870 and served as the county's main public facility until 1960.

Tour participants will also gain insights on the Pickett Lumber Building, 67 East St. George Blvd., which was once used as a lumber yard furniture business and carpentry shop in early St. George.

M&S Turquoise, 41 and 53 East St. George Blvd., fills orders for wholesale jewelry gift shops.

Milne Jewelry, 43 East St. George Blvd., is one of the oldest businesses still operating in St. George since 1951.

The Silver Reef Saloon/Washington County News Building, 24 East St. George Blvd., was originally a saloon in Silver Reef. The County News operated from 1900 to 1988. It was later used as a print shop by Classic Printing.

The old J.C. Penney's Building, 5 East St. George Blvd., was a major retail store that eventually expanded to include the Sprouse Reitz building.

St. George Fire Station No. 2 (now Zion Brewery Station II), 150 North Main, was constructed in 1918 and served as a fire station until about 2019.

The Mary Ann Gardner House, 158 North Main, was the first ladies co-op founded the house's name sake.

The last building on the hour-long tour is the Daughters of Utah Pioneer Museum, built in 1938, which houses pioneer relics. The tour will end at the Pioneer Courthouse parking lot.

Succeeding tours of the downtown historic district will be held on March 13, April 10, and May 8.