



Sandstone Building on Ancestor Square where tour will start. Photo: Loren Webb

Ancestor Square walking tour set for Saturday, March 13

Ancestor Square developer Brooks Pace will lead a walking tour of the Ancestor Square block, the second in a series of four downtown historic district walking tours sponsored by the Washington County Historical Society.

The free tour on Saturday, March 13, 2021, begins at 11 a.m. near the Sandstone Building in the Ancestor Square plaza area directly west of the Pizza Factory. RSVP on SignUpGenius at www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4eaba62fa0f8c07-ancestor or scan the QR code included with this article.



Tour participants with vehicles are encouraged to use the Ancestor Square parking lot, 2 West St. George Boulevard. Participants should wear walking shoes, bring a jacket for cool weather, and wear a mask for COVID compliance. Participants will learn unique bits of history about various historic buildings along the tour.

The buildings include *George's Corner* which opened in 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 1940s. The *Big Hand Cafe* was the center of town, the gathering spot, the place where news was shared.

Tour participants will also gain insights on 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 wildwest incident where a group of vigilantes broke into the house.

Gardner's Club Hall, 50 West St. George Boulevard, is one of the oldest public buildings still in use in St. George.

The *Old Jail House*, a black lava rock structure was reportedly used as a one-room jail but that story is disputed by a retired St. George Police deputy chief.

The *Sandstone Building* is one of a half-dozen structures built in St. George from leftover rock from the Tabernacle in the 1860s.

The *Pizza and Pasta Factory*, 2 West St. George Boulevard, was opened in 1979 in St. George and is now famous for pizza and twisted breadsticks served in a vase on a stick.

Cafe Feel Love Coffee Shop, 2 West St. George Boulevard, opened Oct. 24, 2020 in what once housed Basila's Restaurant and later Panama Grill. The metal beams and adobe are original to the building.

Morris-Grundy house, 151 North Main Street, was built in 1901 by 70-year-old widow and England native Emma Packer Morris.

The *Samuel and Esther Miles Jr. house*, 173 North Main, was built between 1876 and 1883. The building is currently occupied by The Mission Gallery.

Dr. William Randall and Pike house, 189 North Main, was built about 1915 by St. George Mayor Albert E. Miller for English native Dr. Pike, a graduate of Burlington (Vermont) Medical College.

The *Authentique Gallery of Art and Design*, 199 North Main, and *Illume Gallery of Fine Art*, 29 West 200 North, are both owned by Jane Bell Myer.

The *Brigham Young Winter house*, 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.

William Thompson/Adolphus and Mary Whitehead/Floyd C. Stevens house was built in 1871 by William H. Thompson. The home had thick 16-inch adobe walls and wood floors. It is currently known as the Thompson Mansion.

Edwin and Mary Woolley/Foster house, 217 North 100 West, was built in 1873 by next door neighbor George F. Whitehead for Edwin G. Woolley. The home was one of the finest in St. George. It is currently known as the Mulberry Inn and formerly Seven Wives Inn.

George and Esther Whitehead house, 241 North 100 West, is currently occupied by The Cottage bed and breakfast. George Whitehead built this home in 1883 for his bride, Esther Jane Morris.

Erastus "Ras" and Josephine Whitehead house, 278 North 100 West, was built in the early 1880s by George Whitehead for his younger brother, Erastus, and his wife, Josephine.

Israel and Anna Ivins house, 187 North 100 West, is currently occupied by Randall and Mellen attorneys at law. St. George's first practicing physician, Dr. Ivins, built and lived in this home.

Anthony and Elizabeth Ivins house, 165 North 100 West, 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.

Joe "Jode" Burgess house, 172 North 100 West, is currently occupied by Engel and Volkens Real Estate. This home is constructed of a lava block foundation, concrete block walls and wood frame.

Mose and Orpha Andrus house, 139 North 100 West. In 1892, Mose 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. It is currently occupied by *At the Crossroads (ATC)*, a co-ed young adult transitional living program.

Travel Lodge and Trafalga Restaurant, 76 West St. George Boulevard, opened sometime between 1961 and 1972. Until about 2019, 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.

Succeeding tours of the downtown historic district will be held on April 10th for the Green Gate Village Block and on May 8th for the Town Square Block.