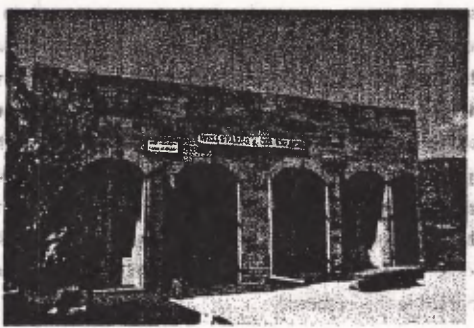


HISTORICAL SITES OF SILVER REEF LEEDS HARRISBURG

The rip-roaring mining town of Old Silver Reef, with its population of miners and camp followers of every description, was located right next to the quiet farming village of Leeds. In reality, there were few problems between the two towns; in fact Silver Reef provided a ready market for Leeds produce and a much needed income for Leeds families.



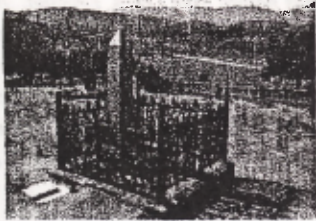
Leeds, Utah, was named after Leeds, England. Benjamin Stringham was the local Presiding Elder as the valley was being settled, and many of the settlers wanted to call the town "Bennington" in his honor. Stringham requested that the town be named after Leeds, England, where he had served as a Mormon missionary. The town was officially named Leeds on May 9, 1869.

A DRIVING TOUR OF LEEDS, UTAH AREA HISTORICAL SITES

Please respect private property and home occupants' right to privacy. Homes should be viewed from the roadway.

1. Old Silver Reef - Wells Fargo Office and Rice Bank Building - Silver Reef is one of the few places where silver ore has ever been discovered in sandstone. Silver was first discovered here in the mid 1870's, and Silver Reef soon became a true wild west mining boomtown with saloons, stores, restaurants and hard working miners, as well as gamblers, claim-jumpers and other types who arrived in Silver Reef planning to get rich quick. By the 1880's, one thousand people lived in Silver Reef. About 1890 the mines began to play out, and by 1903 old Silver Reef was deserted. The Wells Fargo Office (1877) is now a gallery and museum and the Rice Bank Building (rebuilt in 1991) is a gift shop. Be sure to visit the old powder house located behind the Wells Fargo Office. Inside is a model replica of old Silver Reef.

2. Silver Reef Cemeteries - Bonanza Flat Rd. (dirt). These ghost town cemeteries have been restored in a community project spearheaded by the Leeds Lions Club. In the Catholic Cemetery, look for the grave of Henry Clark who was killed on Dec. 1, 1878, in a shooting at a Silver Reef Saloon. In the Protestant Cemetery look for the grave of Michael Carbis, a mine shift boss who was killed by a disgruntled ex-employee. This killing led to a lynching from the jail in St. George. Over 60 unidentified persons, whose names and gravemarkers have been lost are buried in this cemetery.



3. Leeds Town Hall 218 N. Main - This building has led at least three lives. It was built at Silver Reef in 1880 as the Silver Reef School and was used until the silver mines closed and Silver Reef was abandoned. In the early 1900's, the building was moved to its present location where it served as the Leeds School until the mid 1950's. Since that time it has been remodeled and used as a community center and Leeds Town Hall.

4. Peach Pit Pavilion - Located on East Babylon Road - Currently Leeds Town Park and a place to stop and rest. This was originally where produce, especially peaches, from around the Leeds area was gathered and sorted before being taken to the cannery. The cannery no longer is standing but was located about one block north of the pavilion.

5. Alma Angell/ William Sullivan Home - 155 N. Main - This building is vacant with no window glass but it is private property. Built in 1868 and called the "Rock Room" by old time Leeds residents. It was used as a residence until about 1946. A great old home to photograph, but please "no trespassing".

6. The Tithing Office - Located on the Northwest corner of Main and Center - Faithful Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) give one tenth of their income to the church. In early Leeds, this usually meant produce rather than cash. The tithing office and this rock wall surrounding it was built by Willard G. McMullin in 1891. This building was used as an office and a place to store "in-kind" donations. The LDS Church quit taking produce for tithing in the early part of this century and since that time the building has been used as a residence.

7. B. Y. McMullin Home - 10 South Main - Built in 1881. The house has rock walls 18 inches thick and ceilings 9 feet high. The house is still occupied by descendants of the original occupants. If the gallery is open, feel free to enter and browse.

8. Stirling Home - 15 South Main - Built in 1876 by William and Sarah Ann Stirling. One of the best preserved and finest examples of an early southern Utah residence. This home is still occupied by descendants of the original occupants.



9. Benjamin Stringham Home - 58 West Mulberry Road - This two-story home was built in 1870 for Benjamin Stringham, who was one of the first presiding elders of Leeds. Over the years this house has been occupied by many families and has had additions and modern conveniences added.

10. CCC Camp - Located on West Mulberry Lane - In 1933 the United States was in the grip of a great economic depression. President Franklin D. Roosevelt had been elected partly because of his promises to get the country moving again. One of his first acts after taking office was the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps which created jobs for thousands of young men and provided labor for public works projects. Nationally there were over 1,500 CCC Camps established. One of the best preserved remnants of a CCC camp is here in Leeds. This was camp #585 which housed over 250 workers. In addition to the buildings still standing, a large barracks area extended to the west past where the freeway now runs. The "CCC boys" from this camp built many of the roads, walls and fences in the nearby Dixie National Forest. Restoration and preservation of the Leeds CCC Camp is an ongoing project of the Leeds Area Historical Society.

11. Old Harrisburg - In the spring of 1861, Moses Harris and other settlers began building homes and clearing rocks from the land to begin farming in this area. By the mid 1870's, most settlers had abandoned Harrisburg and moved north to the Leeds area. The old Jolley house and the Leany house are both still visible in front of the present site of the Harrisburg Resort and RV Park. While here take time to visit the old pioneer cemetery, east of the resort against the hill. By driving under the freeway to the west, walls and foundations can also be viewed. One-half mile further on, standing next to the paved road leading to Red Cliffs Recreation Area is the Orson B. Adams home which was also part of old Harrisburg.

The rock wall fences on the hillsides around Leeds and Harrisburg were built by the original settlers to mark property boundaries. The walls also served as a place to put rocks as the land was cleared for farming.

12. Anasazi Site - At the Red Cliffs Recreation Area, right across from the campground host residence, a 3/4 mile trail leads to an Indian ruin which has been excavated and preserved by BLM archaeologists. Still visible are foundations of several rooms believed to be dwellings and excavations of two small round ceremonial Kivas. This location is estimated to have been occupied intermittently from about 600 AD to about 1050 AD by people we call Anasazi.

The Leeds area is known for mild winters - (snowfall is a rarity) and a long growing season (an average of 210 days between killing frosts). Summer high temperatures can go well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Winter night-time lows below 20 degrees Fahrenheit are unusual.

REFERENCES:

Leeds Historical Events In Bits & Pieces by Wilma Cox Beal. Published Aug. 1996 by Southwestern Printing & Publishing Co. Leeds, Utah

Saga of Three Towns by Marietta M. Mariger. Printed by the Washington Co. News. St. George, Utah

Silver, Saints and Sinners - A History of Old Silver Reef Utah by Paul Dean Proctor & Morris A. Shirts printed in 1991 by Paulmar Publishers, Inc. of Provo, Utah

PRODUCED BY: LEEDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WITH FUNDING PROVIDED BY A GRANT FROM THE
UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

This publication has been funded with the assistance of a matching grant-in-aid from the UTAH DIVISION OF STATE HISTORY and the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.