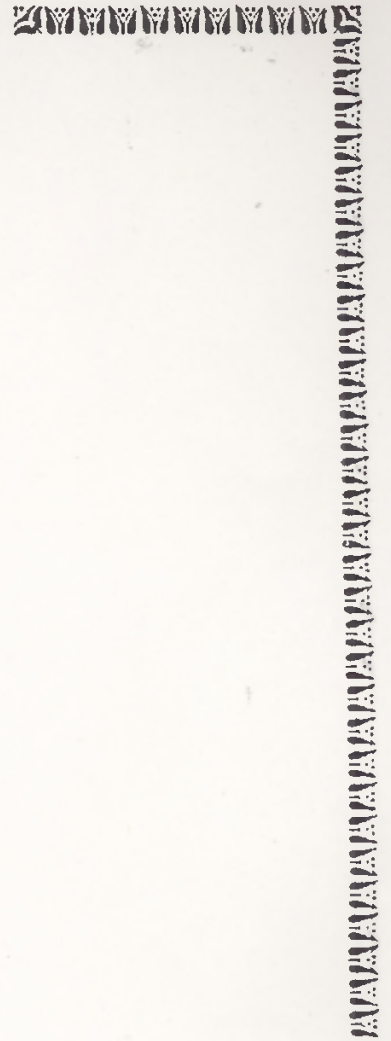


SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR  
OF  
TOQUERVILLE, UTAH



## Historic Buildings Along Toquer Boulevard (Toquerville, Utah)

### Introduction

Toquerville was settled in 1858 by eight Mormon pioneer families sent from New Harmony, Utah. For the most part, the men in the families had participated in the Mountain Meadows Massacre of September 1857 where 120 adults from a Missouri-Arkansas wagon train were slain by white men and Indians. Perhaps the pioneer families were looking for sanctuary. Prior to white settlement, the Toquerville area had been occupied by Paiute Indians who grew corn, squash, and beans along the flats of Ash Creek, the stream which flows through the village.

The first pioneer homes were either dugouts located along the stream bank or wagonboxes. Such primitive abodes were replaced early by log houses and then gradually better homes from vernacular materials were constructed. The most commonly used substances for building were adobe bricks, limestone, and lava rocks. These latter homes are the ones observed today along the main street (Toquer Boulevard) and all those listed in this brochure are over 100 years old. Fortunately, few of the older homes have been demolished although some have been remodeled and added upon. None are lavish; they represent the modest homes of a poor community in the settlement period.

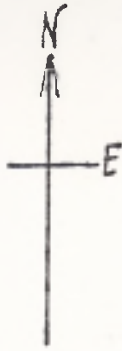
Many of the leading men involved in the development of Iron, Kane, and Washington Counties located here. Included were John Steele, Augustus Dodge, William Bringham, Sr., Joshua T. Willis, John Nebeker, George Spilsbury, Appleton Harmon, Isaac Duffin, Charles Stapley, Jr., John Conrad Naegle, and John Menzies Macfarlane.

Inasmuch as the adjacent land does not lend itself to agriculture, the town has grown very little and has retained the simple, quiet, and tranquil atmosphere of the early pioneer community. The population in 1864 was 41 families, (259 souls) and it remains about the same today. The pace is slow and no one is in a hurry. Each morning, people gather at the post office to exchange gossip and news of the day. Civic announcements are tacked on the bulletin board in the post office yard.

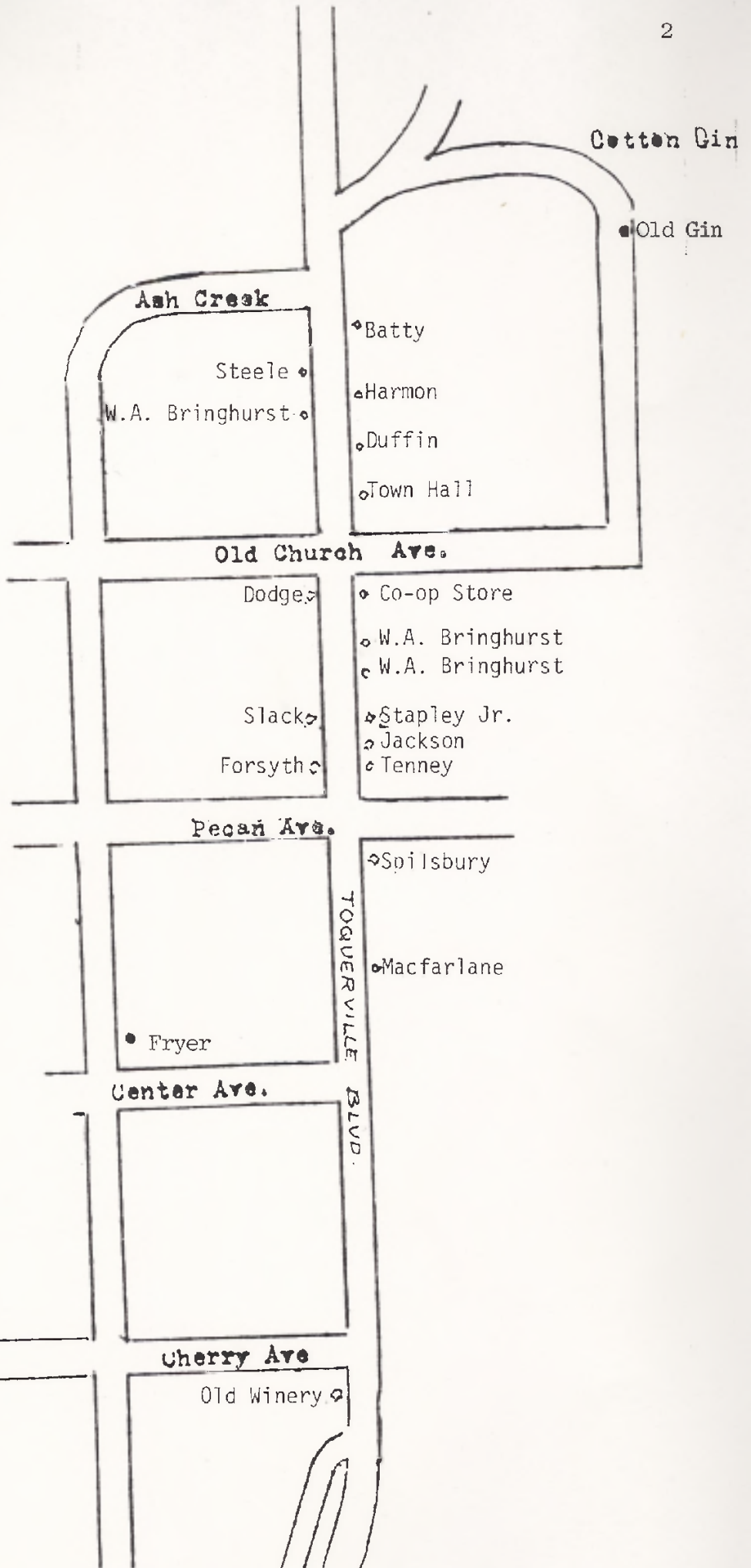
Cold, clear water runs down the ditches on each side of the street and nourishes the grapes, figs, peaches, apricots, pomegranites, and nut trees that flourish in the mild climate. As a beautification project, flowering pear trees were planted on the west side of the street to give shade and to hide the utility pole and wires. Many of the yards still grow the bulbs, roses, and bushes planted by their pioneer antecedents.

The town is proud of its heritage. It was settled as, and has remained, a Mormon community. Traditions and customs are typically L.D.S. and life patterns revolve around church activities. Enjoy us.

Wes Larsen



TOQUERVILLE



Ash Creek

Cotton Gin

Old Gin

Steele  
W.A. Bringhurst

Batty  
Harmon  
Duffin  
Town Hall

Old Church Ave.

Dodge  
Slack  
Forsyth

Co-op Store  
W.A. Bringhurst  
W.A. Bringhurst  
Stapley Jr.  
Jackson  
Tenney

Pecan Ave.

Fryer

Spilsbury  
Macfarlane

TOQUERVILLE BLVD.

Center Ave.

Cherry Ave

Old Winery



The Nebeker Cotton Gin  
67 East Cotton Gin Drive

In the fall of 1861, John Nebeker moved with a portion of his family to Toquerville where he raised cotton and built and operated this cotton gin, the first in Utah. Prior to this time, the people had to pick the seeds out of the cotton balls by hand. As Toquerville farmers raised about 100 acres of cotton each year, the gin turned out to be a substantial labor saving device.

Nebeker was associated with Apostle Erastus Snow in the settlement of Southern Utah, including what is now a part of Nevada. From 1870 to 1872 he acted as Probate Judge of Kane County, Utah with Toquerville as the County Seat. It was at this time that all of the properties in Toquerville were deeded to John Nebeker by the President of the United States and, in turn, deeded to the respective occupants. This insured local title and explains why the name, "John Nebeker" is on all the abstract deeds.

Locally, the Nebeker Cotton Gin is referred to as "The Old Gin House."



The John Batty House  
268 North Toquer Blvd.

This home, built by John Batty (Beatty) and Mary Ann Duffin Batty, is now owned by Lewis Wynn and Rhea Osborne. Constructed about 1880, the house has been modernized and renovated.

John Batty was a Toquerville postmaster, farmer, and storekeeper, serving as superintendent and later owner of the Toquerville Co-op Store. He served as choir leader and ward clerk for 32 years and superintendent of the ward Sunday School for 31 years.



Appleton Milo Harmon, Mill Builder  
248 North Toquer Blvd.

Appleton and his wife Elmeda were members of the first company to enter Salt Lake Valley. He was Captain of the Tenth Ten.

Among his accomplishments as a mill builder were: a sawmill up Emigration Canyon in Salt Lake City; a sawmill in the east Pine Valley Mountains; a gristmill, cotton gin, furniture shop, and blacksmith shop in Toquerville; the cotton mill in Washington, Utah; a sawmill in Holden.

Harmon was builder of the world's first odometer (1847). He was president and manager of Toquerville's first co-op Store.

This house, built in 1864, is now owned by Lois Meyers. It has been extensively renovated with added bedrooms and an upstairs studio.



Isaac Duffin, Road Builder  
234 North Toquer Blvd.

Duffin engineered the construction of the first road up City Creek Canyon in Salt Lake City.

Then he was hand-picked by President Brigham Young to engineer road building in Dixie. The first of his road projects was the one along the east side of Ash Creek Gorge opposite the then existing road on the west side of the creek. This was a difficult piece of road construction considering the implements on hand to do the job. After long weeks of tedious, patient labor, the road was completed and used as the main highway of travel from southern Utah to the north. Isaac also built the road known as the "New Twist," leading from Toquerville to the settlements on the upper Virgin River--Virgin City, Grafton, Rockville, and Springdale.

In addition to his work of roadbuilding, Isaac engaged in merchandising, mining, stock raising, farming, and buying and selling agricultural products to Pioche, a mining camp in Nevada. At times he would have as many as three wagons loaded with produce for the market. He operated the "Duffin Mine", a silver mine located five miles southwest from Toquerville near the Virgin River.

The Duffin house in Toquerville is reported to have contained two stills, one in the basement and one on the ground level, and produced a beverage for local consumption called "White Lightning."

Isaac and Mary Fielding Duffin were the parents of ten children.

The house was later owned by Carlus and Rosa Savage Lea Master. Rosa's grandfather, Alexander Neibaur, was the first Jew to join the L.D.S. Church. He spoke seven languages fluently and taught Hebrew and German to the Prophet Joseph Smith. He composed the hymn "O Thou Glorious Day of Promise." Rosa was the first Deseret Industry head seamstress and was famous for her Sunday missionary dinners.

The property is now owned by Jay and Stella Waite.



The Old Co-op Store  
198 North Toquer Blvd.

This store building was the John Beatty Co-op Store. Prior to that time it was a one-room schoolhouse. Its history has been varied and it was also known as the Parry Pool Hall, the Harry and Rowena Slack Store, and the LeRoy and Geneva Stapley Store.

When the people of Toquerville concluded to build a co-operative store, Appleton Harmon furnished the lumber for it and was overseer of the building of it. Harmon was made President of the venture and it flourished and finally passed out of existence as all co-operatives did.

In a letter to her sister in Eddyville, Iowa, March 8, 1871, Elmeda Harmon wrote, "Appleton has gone to the city for goods for the store. You spoke about Appleton having a store. He buys and freights from the city. The store belongs to the people, so you see we get enough store pay to make us all comfortable. There are only about 50 families here and they are all poor. They have to put in shares and get a store that way....Everybody has sorrow and trouble but we must make the best of it."

The structure is owned by Ronald and Patricia Watson.





William A. and Suzanne Steele Bringhurst  
188 North Toquer Blvd.

William A. Bringhurst was a pioneer of 1847 and among the first settlers of Parowan, Utah. Brigham Young soon called him to be President of the Las Vegas Mission and he was assigned to build a fort there and trade with the Indians. He came to Toquerville as a cabinet maker and wheelwright. William was superintendent of the Co-op Store and served as Bishop of Toquerville Ward for 36 years.

This home was built for his second wife, Suzanne Steele Bringhurst.

The property was later sold to Arch P. and Maude McArthur Spilsbury. A.P. Spilsbury was Toquerville's 3rd Bishop, 1912-14.

Wilford and Afton Hokanson are the present owners.



William A. and Mary Stapley Bringhurst  
178 North Toquer Blvd.

The home portion of this building was built by Brigham Young Lamb for Bishop William and Mary Stapley Bringhurst. Mary was Bishop Bringhurst's third and youngest wife. Hardware on the doors is stamped with the year '1865' and the wood graining in the living room is the same as in the St. George Temple. It has a beam ceiling. Also, the house served as the telegraph office. Jane Spilsbury, the first telegraph operator at Pipe Springs, was trained in the Toquerville office. It is reported that Zane Grey rented one of the back rooms and here wrote "Riders of the Purple Sage." The so-called "purple sage" is a prominent plant in this vicinity. William Bringhurst was the youngest member of the troops in the Blackhawk War. He was so small that messages were tied to his saddle horn to be delivered by him.

In 1907, Martin Slack and his four sons built the store portion of the house. Adobe bricks for the structure were made on Tom Willis' place up Toquerville Canyon. Total cost of the addition was \$250 and this cost was taken out in script (trade).

The first pecan tree planted in Utah grows in the front yard of this house.

Reuben Clinger is the owner of the house and adjacent property.



Charles Stapley, Jr.  
152 North Toquer Blvd.

Charles Stapley, Jr. was born November 28, 1824 at Kent, England. He married Sarah Parkinson in 1854 and the couple came to Utah in 1858 with the Sterling Driggs Company. He brought the first alfalfa to Utah as seed from Australia in the spring of 1858.

He served as a missionary in Australia, 1853-54; Bishop's counselor, 1860-1901; assistant Sunday School superintendent; choir leader; Justice of the Peace; constable.

Built in 1865, this home served as a hotel and a store. It is a well preserved, 1 1/2 story plastered hall and parlor house.

Present owners are Dr. and Mrs. Dixon Woodbury.