



# Main Street Tour

Today Main Street is the heart of Salt Lake City's central business district, but it was not always so. The original plans for Salt Lake City did not include a business district. Leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints planned to create a self-sufficient, cooperative, agricultural society which would not need one. Main Street's original name, East Temple Street, is a reminder that religious, not commercial, motives drove the settlement of the city.

By 1850, small stores began to spring up along Main Street to serve the needs of the local farmers and tradesmen, as well as travelers passing through the town. Only one building from this early period of Main Street's development remains today.

The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 ended Salt Lake City's isolation from the rest of the country and initiated the economic and social transformation of the state. The railroad made it both possible and profitable to develop Utah's rich mineral resources. Immigrants from all over the world flooded to Utah to work in silver, copper, and coal mines. Along with the mines came commercial banks and other businesses to support Utah's growing extractive industries.

Walking along Main Street, you can see the transformation set in motion by the railroad in the city's historic buildings. At the northern end of the street are buildings that reflect the early Mormon vision of a local, self-sufficient economy. As you walk south, you will see buildings constructed with the wealth that flowed out of Utah's mines and connected the state to the national and international economy.

**Your walk through Main Street's history will take about one hour. The tour ends at 300 South. You can ride the light rail or a free bus to return to the starting point at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. Enjoy the tour!**

**A special tour of Main Street for kids 9-12 begins on page 20.**



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## *Hotel Utah, Joseph Smith Memorial Building*

*1909-1911,  
Parkinson &  
Bergstrom,  
Los Angeles*



### **15 East South Temple**

*Interior open to public Monday-Saturday, 9:00am-9:00pm  
Roof-top restaurant, Family Search Center*

Constructed on the site of the old Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints tithing office, the Hotel Utah was the “Grande Dame” of hotels in the Intermountain West. The church was the chief stockholder in the venture. For most of the 20th century the Hotel Utah hosted Utah’s most distinguished visitors and was a focal point of local social activity. As one historian wrote, “Everything that was anything was held there.”

The exterior of the Hotel Utah is sheathed with decorative glazed bricks and terra-cotta. The building is a lavish example of Second Renaissance Revival style architecture—with a Utah touch. Note the huge brick and plaster beehive cupola atop the hotel. The beehive, of course, is Utah’s state symbol.

In 1987, the church decided to close the Hotel Utah and renovate the building to house church offices and meeting spaces. Today the hotel is known as the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. Step inside the elaborately decorated lobby and ride the elevator to the tenth floor observation area and roof-top restaurant. Or explore your own family history in the world’s largest genealogical database at the Family Search Center located on the ground floor.

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## *ZCMI Facade*

*1876 (center section), William H. Folsom and Obed Taylor, SLC;  
1880 (south wing); 1901 (north wing), S.T. Whitaker, SLC/Ogden*

### **50 South Main Street**

In 1876, this site became the home of the Zion’s Cooperative Mercantile Institution (ZCMI). Today all that remains of the original building is its cast iron facade, the largest of its kind in Utah. Perhaps best described as an “architectural sculpture,” the historic ZCMI facade now serves as the entrance to a new building constructed in 1976.

ZCMI’s origins lie in the Mormon settlers’ quest for a perfect society. Self-sufficiency and cooperation were key tenants of their utopian vision. The anticipated



completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, however, promised to bring many non-Mormon merchants to Utah who would not abide by these ideals. In response, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints President Brigham Young formed a cooperative merchandising organization dedicated to supporting home manufacturing in 1868.

Church leaders strongly encouraged church members to boycott non-Mormon merchants and shop exclusively at ZCMI. Initially, ZCMI drove many non-Mormon merchants out of business. Neither ZCMI nor church leaders, however, could stem the tide of change that came to Utah once it was connected to the rest of the country by rail lines.

### *Deseret Building* *First Security Bank*

*1919, Lewis Telle Cannon and John Fetzer, SLC*

**79 South Main Street**

A bank has stood on this corner since 1875 when the Deseret National Bank first built on the site. In 1919, the bank replaced its original building with the present Deseret Building. First Security Bank took over Deseret National in 1932 and eventually made this building its headquarters.

Deseret National Bank played an important role in Utah history. First headed by Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints President Brigham Young, Deseret National was the only Mormon-controlled commercial bank in Utah for many years. As such, it supported the economic needs and social goals of the church. Deseret National remained the state's leading national bank well into the 20th century.

Like many early skyscrapers, the form of the Deseret Building can be compared to that of a classical column. The building has a three-story "pedestal," a simple eight-story "shaft," and an ornate three-story "capital." Look for the Indian heads and buffaloes in the medallions on the third level.



### *McCornick Block*

*1891-1893, Mendelson & Fisher, Omaha*

**74 South Main**

The McCornick Block represents a transition in Salt Lake City's commercial architecture from the two to four-story buildings of the 19th century to the skyscrapers of the 20th century. When it was completed in 1893, the seven-story McCornick Building towered over its neighbors. Six early model elevators enabled people to reach the dizzying heights of the seventh floor with ease.

This building originally featured a four-foot copper cornice and a columned entryway on the east. A keen observer will

note that the northernmost two bays are a later addition (1908), but conform to the building's original design.

William S. McCornick constructed this building to house the McCornick & Company Bank. McCornick made his fortune selling lumber for the construction of mine shafts in Nevada and was later involved in many of Utah's most prominent business ventures.

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### *Eagle Emporium, Zion's First National Bank Building*

*1864, William Paul, SLC*

**102 South Main**

Built in 1864, the Eagle Emporium Building is the oldest existing commercial building in downtown Salt Lake City. William Jennings, Utah's first millionaire, constructed the building to house his mercantile business. It is the city's only remaining commercial structure built prior to the completion of the transcontinental railroad.

The Eagle Emporium Building is also notable as the first home of ZCMI. At the request of Brigham Young, Jennings exchanged his emporium's inventory for stock in the new ZCMI in 1868. He also leased this building to the cooperative.

The building's long banking history began in 1890 when Utah National Bank occupied the building. The bank covered the building's original red sandstone facade with a veneer of terra-cotta in 1916.

The ornate clock in front of this building is one of the few remaining pieces of 19th-century street furniture in Salt Lake City's downtown. The clock was erected on this site in 1873 and was first powered by a water wheel.



6

### *Daft Block*

*1889, Harrison & Nichols, SLC*

**128 South Main**

The ornate Daft Block was completed in 1889 for Sarah Daft. Widowed in 1881, Sarah built the inheritance left by her husband into a sizeable fortune through wise investments in mining and real estate. At her death, her wealth endowed the Sarah Daft Retirement Home.

On the north side of the building you can still see the sign for the Daynes Jewelry Company which bought the Daft Block in 1908. The company's founder, John Daynes, was an expert jeweler and Brigham Young's watchmaker.

The designer of the Daft Block, E.L.T. Harrison of Harrison & Nichols, was an important early Utah architect. This is the best surviving example of his work. Harrison often created very elaborate facades. The bold design of the Daft Block features an unusual projecting two-story bay window and a profusion of carved stone and wood details.



## *Kearns Building* 7

*1911, Parkinson & Bergstrom, Los Angeles*

**136 South Main**

The Kearns Building, one early 20th-century journalist declared, was “the real capitol of Utah.” The building housed many influential businesses and trade associations as well as the office of one of Utah’s most influential men, Thomas Kearns.

When Thomas Kearns arrived in Utah in 1883, he was penniless. He worked in Park City silver mines for six years before leasing a rich vein of unclaimed silver ore. Kearns’ mining holdings soon made him a multi-millionaire. He served as a U.S. Senator from Utah and owned an interest in *The Salt Lake Tribune*. His “palatial residence” on South Temple Street is today Utah’s Governor’s Mansion.

The Kearns Building is the best preserved example of a Sullivanesque style skyscraper in the Intermountain West. The female faces on the second level of the building are said to resemble Kearns’ daughter, Helen.



## *Ezra Thompson, Salt Lake Tribune Building* 8

*1924, Pope & Burton, SLC*

**143 South Main**

The Ezra Thompson Building is one of the few buildings in downtown Salt Lake City with Art Deco features. Because Utah was particularly hard hit by the Great Depression, no major commercial buildings were constructed downtown during the 1930s and 1940s, the height of Art Deco’s popularity. The Thompson Building’s relatively plain facade, vertical emphasis, and terra cotta cornice reveal early Art Deco influence.

Wealthy mining and real estate entrepreneur Ezra Thompson constructed this building in 1924. *The Salt Lake Tribune* purchased it in 1937. Founded in 1870, the *Tribune* was a strident anti-Mormon newspaper. During the 1920s, however, the paper began to move toward a more moderate position advocating cooperation between religious groups. The *Tribune* continues to occupy the building today.

## 9 *First National Bank Building*

1872-5, Thomas J. Johnson, San Francisco/SLC; cast iron facade by Richard M. Upjohn, New York

### 163 South Main

The First National Bank Building features the oldest known cast iron facade in the Intermountain West. It was designed by Richard M. Upjohn of New York, one of America's most distinguished 19th-century architects. The building originally had a fourth story and a mansard roof which were destroyed by fire in 1875. Instead of rebuilding the upper floor, the building's owners constructed a new flat roof with a parapet wall over the third floor.

First National Bank was spectacularly profitable when it constructed this building in 1873. By the end of 1874, the bank had been liquidated. The depression of 1873 and liberal loaning policies were the main causes of the bank's demise. Its expensive new building, however, contributed to its financial woes. Originally estimated to cost \$80,000, the building ended up costing \$140,000.

## 10 *Salt Lake Herald Building*

1905, John C. Craig, Chicago/SLC

### 169 South Main

One of the best ornate tin cornices in Salt Lake City crowns the Herald Building. The elaborately decorated cornice is divided into two identical halves to accommodate the building's U-shaped plan. This plan is a bit unusual in that the "U" opens onto the street. Many 19th and early 20th-century buildings were constructed in a U-shape to allow light and air to reach interior offices. Most often, however, the opening of the "U" is on the rear or the side of the building.



*The Salt Lake Herald*, a staunchly pro-Mormon and pro-Democratic newspaper, constructed this building in 1905. After the *Herald* moved out in 1913, the Little Hotel occupied the building for many years. Lamb's Restaurant, a Salt Lake City icon, has been in business on the ground floor of the Herald Building since 1919.



## *Walker Bank Building* 11

1912, Eames & Young, St. Louis

**175 South Main**

When it was completed in 1912, the 16-story Walker Bank Building was the tallest building in the Intermountain West and a source of much pride to Salt Lake City. A three-story observatory crowned by eagles sits atop the building. The two stories beneath the observatory feature

elaborate classical ornamentation. Also note the projecting window bays which accentuate the building's corners.

Walker Bank was founded by the Walker brothers—Samuel, Joseph, David, and Matthew. The brothers immigrated to Utah on foot to join their fellow Mormons. They established a mercantile business in 1859. Although the Walker brothers became disaffected from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints over the issue of tithing, their mercantile business prospered and took on banking functions as well. Eventually the bank made the Walker brothers some of Utah's wealthiest men.

## *Continental Bank Building, Hotel Monaco* 12

1925-24, George W. Kelham, San Francisco, and Frederick A. Hale, SLC

**208 South Main**

While 13 stories tall, the Continental Bank Building's Main Street facade is only three bays wide. This narrowness gives the building a vertical emphasis. Its design combines Second Renaissance Revival elements on the first two floors and a plain treatment of the upper floors. Note the carved stone faces in the keystones above the arched windows and the simulation of a balcony with relief panels below the third story windows.

This corner was originally occupied by the White House, an early Salt Lake City hotel. The National Bank of the Republic, one of several banks that merged to form Continental Bank, had offices on the ground floor of the hotel. Continental Bank completed the present building in 1924. In 1999 the building was renovated to house the Hotel Monaco.



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### ***Karrick Block***

1887, Richard K. A. Kletting, SLC

#### **236 South Main**

The Karrick Block (*on right of picture*) is the oldest existing work of one of Utah's most prominent architects, Richard Kletting. Kletting is best known for designing the State Capitol Building. The

Karrick Block was one of his first commercial works in Utah. Its facade features ornate carved stone, attenuated cast-iron columns on the third story, and a galvanized iron cornice.

Lewis Karrick constructed this building in 1887. Karrick founded the National Bank of the Republic and was a well-known local politician. Robert & Neldon Drugs occupied the building until 1905. Later a jewelry store occupied the first floor, while a gambling hall and apartments for eight prostitutes were located on the second floor.

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### ***Lollin Block***

1894, Richard K. A. Kletting, SLC

#### **238 South Main**

The Lollin Block, built in 1894, is also the work of Richard Kletting. One local historian suggests that the ornate facade of the Karrick block reflects Kletting's efforts to gain local acceptance by "showing off" his highly refined skills. The Lollin Block reflects Kletting's favored bent for Classical motifs.



Classical elements of the building's design include the Roman arches, dentil moldings, and egg-and-dart window trim. To make the building appear more expensive and substantial, gray plaster was applied over its brick superstructure and scored to look like cut stone.

John Lollin owned the Lollin Saloon at 129 Main Street. He constructed this building as an investment property with an apartment on the third floor for his family.

15

### ***David Keith Building***

1902, Frederick A. Hale, SLC

#### **242 South Main**

This building was constructed in 1902 for David Keith. Keith was another of Utah's mining magnates and a close friend of Thomas Kearns. (*See building description 7.*) The two men developed one of the world's most lucrative silver mines, the Silver King in Park City.

This building housed another of Keith's business interests, the Keith-O'Brien Department Store. A 1906 ad described the mercantile as "The store that forced prices down, and yet the most beautiful store in all the West."

The Keith Building was designed by Frederick Hale, a well-known Salt Lake City architect. Hale worked primarily in the Classical styles. While the Keith Building features some Classical motifs, such as pilasters, round arches, and cartouches, it is much less ornate than most of Hale's designs.

## *Clift Building* 16

*1919-1920, James Leslie Chesebro, SLC*

**10 West 300 South** (northwest corner of Main and 300 South)

Virtue Clift constructed this building in 1920 in honor of her late husband Francis D. Clift. Francis was a merchant, mining entrepreneur, and real estate developer. Upon his death, Virtue inherited his large fortune.

The Clift Building originally housed the United Cigar Stores Company, the Shuback Optical Company, Western Union Telegraph, and the Kinema Theater. The theater continued to operate here until 1968.

The Clift Building is one of Salt Lake City's largest terra-cotta faced buildings. The upper floor of this eclectic building is the most decorative. Note the protruding bay windows with Greek pediments at the corners and the bracketed cornice.

## *Judge Building* 17

*1907, David C. Dart, SLC*

**8 East 300 South** (southeast corner of Main and 300 South)

Like the Clift Building, the Judge Building was built by a business-savvy widow. Mary Judge was married to John Judge, a partner with Thomas Kearns and David Keith in developing the Silver King Mine in Park City. After John's premature death from miner's consumption, Mary multiplied her fortune with investments in Salt Lake City real estate and Nevada mines.

In addition to proving herself a capable businesswoman, Mary Judge donated generously to a variety of charitable causes. She endowed the Judge Miner's Hospital, which became Judge Memorial High School, and contributed to the construction of The Cathedral of the Madeleine.

The Judge Building was originally known as the Railroad Exchange Building. By 1909, 22 railroad companies had their Salt Lake offices here. The Commercial style building features a copper cornice, colorful ceramic tile triangles, and swags of carved stone fruit above the seventh-story windows.

