

Orem

Historic Homes

And Sites of Interest



Orem
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and Sites of Interest**

INTRODUCTION

This guide to Orem’s historic architecture is meant to provide educational information on many of the city’s historically significant buildings. Basic requirements for historical buildings are that they be at least 50 years old, and that they retain their historical integrity. Because of space limitations we cannot include information on all of Orem’s historical buildings. However, we have included all buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as many of the more significant buildings listed in the Orem Historic Building Register. We have also included information of some of the City’s more important buildings which are no longer standing, but for which monuments have been placed.

We hope that through using the guide your knowledge and interest in Orem’s historic architecture will increase and will help you appreciate the history of our community. We also hope it will encourage you to preserve our most visible historical resources, the buildings in which we live, work and learn.

For more information you can go to the Historical Sites page of the City of Orem website at:

http://orem.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=373&Itemid=347

To view digitized versions of the National Register of Historic Places nomination forms for specific buildings you can go to this site:

<http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreghome.do?searchtype=natreghome>

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Orem's Historical and Architectural Development

Orem's settlement history is somewhat unique in the State of Utah. Although full-time occupation of what was then known as "Provo Bench" did not occur until 1877, the first attempts at settling the Bench occurred in the late 1850s. However, lack of a major water supply prevented this until a small canal was completed that brought water to the parched land in 1864. Soon, more canals were dug and settlers from Provo and Pleasant Grove were planting crops—first alfalfa, then berries, and then fruit trees. The fruit trees particularly thrived and soon orchards and small farms were springing up everywhere. However, few architectural examples remain from this early era of settlement.

State Street was a section of the major traffic route to the south and helped the fruit industry early on. However, it was not until a rail line was established through the area that business really thrived. Walter C. Orem owned the company that built the line, and so to honor him "Orem" was chosen for the name of the developing community which incorporated as a town in 1919. During this developing era, small farmhouses constructed in Vernacular Classical and Victorian styles typical of the rest of the state were the norm. Few commercial buildings were constructed as farming was the primary occupation.

It would take more than two decades before Orem would become a city in 1941, on the eve of WWII. At about this time the farming community would add an industrial component to its economy with the construction of what would become Geneva Steel. The architectural transition is apparent in the types of buildings, particularly homes that were constructed during this era. Bungalows, which became the house of choice in the late 1910s and 1920s transitioned to period cottages that hinted at historic European styles. However, the leaner times following the Great Depression and lasting up through the War influenced architectural styles. Fewer materials were available so houses were much simpler and cheaper to build. WWII-era cottages were the typical house built during the 1940s and early 1950s. Orem's only National Register historic district—Christeele Acres—was constructed in 1943 and features typical examples of this type.

Following WWII the economy began to pick up again as many returning GIs took jobs at Geneva. Commercial development increased and more substantial commercial buildings were constructed in Orem. Prosperity brought with it larger homes in newer styles that continued to reflect simplicity in their architecture. The ranch house was the vogue choice, and practically the only choice in the 1950s. Ranch subdivisions sprouted up in many areas of Orem during this decade as the population rapidly increased. Many of these neighborhoods are still historically intact and reflect the end of the historic era.



396 West 1600 North

Cullimore, William J. and Lizzie, House

The William and Lizzie Cullimore house, built ca.1907, is a one-story brick bungalow on a raised lime mortar and fieldstone foundation. As a mercantile owner, William Cullimore was one of only a handful of residents on the Provo Bench who did not raise fruit or produce for a living. This house, is a good example of a small Prairie School-style bungalow, quite common in the state, and throughout the country during the first two decades of the 20th century, represents a style that came slowly to the Provo Bench and seems appropriate for a business owner living in a newly prospering community.



206 West 1600 North

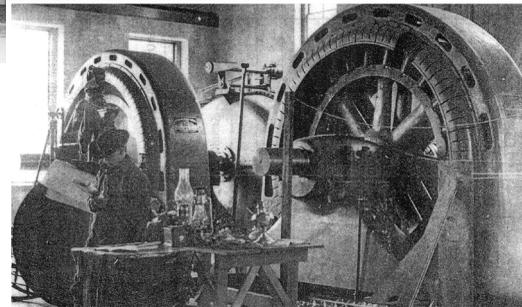
Baxter, David and Drusilla, House

The David and Drusilla Baxter house, built ca.1895, is a one and one-half story, brick Victorian Eclectic central-block-with-projecting-bays house on a stone foundation. The house has many of the elements of the Victorian Eclectic pioneer houses in the area, including: decorative brickwork, Classical-style porch columns, and arched window openings. The house represents a transition from the unadorned vernacular houses of the early settlers to the more stylish Victorian homes. By the turn of the century, prosperity was beginning to take a foothold on the Bench which can be observed in the increased numbers of larger, more stylistically embellished buildings. The Baxter house is a good example of the architecture common during this period on the Provo Bench.



9

1600 East 800 North
Olmsted Power Plant



In 1830 Michael Faraday of England discovered that when a coil of wire was moved near a magnet, the magnet induced a current of electricity in the wire. Faraday's experiments resulted in the dynamo which generates electricity.

Anxious to capitalize on this exciting new power source, investors throughout the world began to develop and build these dynamo machines. Installation of the electric lines began which would transform the world from a labor-intensive planet to one in which electrical energy could multiply the efforts of people by thousands of times.

One of the early leaders in that effort in the United States was the Telluride Power Company. They selected a site at 1600 East 800 North, alongside the Provo River, to build one of the first power plants in America. Their Olmsted Power Plant became operational in 1904, supplying surrounding areas up to fifty miles away with electric power.

One of the unique features of the Olmsted Power Plant was that it used some of the most knowledgeable engineers in the country to establish on-the-job training programs for its employees. At the time, Olmsted offered one of only two competent training programs in electrical engineering in the entire United States, with the other one offered at Ohio State University.

In 1912, with less than 1,000 residents living on the Orem Bench, poles were erected to carry electric wires which were supplied with power generated at the Olmsted Power Plant.

Also in 1912, Utah Power and Light Company purchased the Telluride Power Company, which included the Olmsted Power Plant. This plant is still a fully-operational power plant. Also on the property are a few Craftsman-style residences, the 1937 "Home of Ideas" (a model home built to showcase the future of electricity use), and a large building constructed for educational use.



10

753 North 100 West
Washburn, Alvin and Grace, House

The Alvin Verd and Grace M. Washburn house, built ca. 1938, is a one story Pueblo Revival cottage with stucco walls on a concrete foundation. The house was converted from a single-family dwelling to a duplex with the excavation of a full basement apartment around 1980.

The Washburn family owned an early service station and opened the first car dealership in Orem, a measure of prosperity that may have influenced their decision to build a house in an uncommon style for the area. As a one-story Pueblo Revival cottage with International Style and Art Modern influences, the house is unique in the community. It is significant as a well-preserved and rare example of these styles in Orem.



11

575 West 800 North
Dimick, Cecil I. and Mildred H., House

The Cecil and Mildred Dimick house, built in 1946, is a one story, stucco-covered, concrete block building on a concrete foundation. Designed in the Art Moderne style, this house is a good representation of the genre, particularly considering the agrarian landscape on which it was built. At one time surrounded by open farmland, the property is now situated in the midst of residential development. The Cecil I. and Mildred H. Dimick house is significant for its architecture as one of only six Modern classified houses in Orem, and as one of only three built in the Art Moderne style. The Art Modern style house is uncommon for Orem based on the fact that in the 1940s the community was still highly agrarian. Also because of the war-time economy, smaller, simpler tract-housing was being constructed with new types of material and construction methods being employed. Cecil, who was a school teacher, farmer, and an inspector at Geneva Steel, built this house while employed at the steel plant. The house represents the beginning of a shift from agriculture to industry when the U.S. Steel, Geneva Works Plant was being constructed, but in an uncommon form for Orem.



13

600 North State Street
McBride/Sims Garage

The McBride garage is a one-story, brick, one-part commercial building/garage. Built ca.1920, the garage follows a fairly conventional pattern for a one-part commercial block, and was probably one of the better constructed commercial buildings in Orem during that period.

This brick garage was a prominent fixture on Provo Bench's State Street (State Highway 91) when the automobile was just beginning to make its debut in the area. State Street, at the time, had very few commercial buildings, especially of brick construction. Most of them were small buildings, mainly fruit stands, of wood construction. The garage, apparently built by Sims McBride, is a good representation of the commercial changes occurring on the bench, particularly in transportation, which would bring greater prosperity to the area. Orem employed strip zoning rather than a downtown central core arrangement and this building reflects that pattern of development.



16

87 North 800 West
Jensen, Lars and Agnes, House

The Lars Rove and Agnes Work Smith Jensen house, built ca. 1885, is a one and one-half story hall-parlor with a cross-wing extending to the rear, and constructed of hewn log. There is no ornamentation on the house: its symmetrical facade is the only feature that defines it as a classical-style house. The house is significant for its association with the early settlement and the rise of agricultural production in the Orem area. The historic owners of the house, Lars and Agnes Jensen, owned a small farm and participated in Orem's early agricultural activity. The house is also significant as possibly the only surviving log residence in Orem. During the early settlement of the Provo Bench (now Orem), log buildings were fairly common, but no known examples, except for this house, have survived as residences and only a few as outbuildings.



17

870 W. Center Street
Stratton House/Orem City Hall

The James and Nina Stratton house/former Orem City Hall built ca. 1924 with large additions added in 1997 and again in 2007. In 1938, the Orem Town Board purchased the 37½-acre farm and home of the Strattons for use as the first Orem Town Hall for \$14,000. Thus, the new Town Hall was established as the center of town, and the numbering of the streets and houses was planned to start at that point. The building housed City offices, the Post Office, and City library until 1969 when the city, having outgrown its quarters, built a new City Center building on the same site. The building was sold for \$100.00 and moved approximately two miles west to its present site on August 10, 1970, where it was eventually converted into an office building.

Built by James Stratton, a prominent fruit grower, the house was one of the largest in the city at the time. It has many of the characteristics of the Prairie-School style popularized by Frank Lloyd Wright during the first two decades of this century. The Stratton house clearly symbolizes the prosperity that the fruit industry brought to Orem City during the first half of the twentieth century. This is the only civic structure remaining from the historic period and is reflective the way in which Orem developed as a city. When the 2007 addition was completed the original historic brick was covered.



23

196 West 400 South
Adams, George and Temperance, House

The George J. and Temperance May Evans Adams house built in 1895 and substantially enlarged in 1903, is a one-story Victorian Eclectic-style house. It was originally a classical hall-parlor house constructed of soft-fired brick with an adobe lining. The house was originally associated with five acres of farmland. A granary-creamery is on the property and was probably constructed the same time as the original house. The house is associated with the rise of agricultural production in the Orem area. The field, part of the original farmstead, and granary/creamery associated with the property contribute to the significance of the house. The Adams and Evans families were among Orem's first permanent residents and participated in the agricultural development of the community.



24

468 South Main Street
Clinger/Booth House

The Clinger/Booth house, built ca.1894, with major additions/alterations in 1935, began as a one and one-half story Victorian Eclectic-style brick and adobe crosswing on a stone foundation.

The house was constructed ca.1894 by George and Annie Clinger, and subsequently owned by Joseph and Charlotte Booth, both of whom were involved in the farming and fruit growing industries, the mainstay of the Provo Bench. The house which the Clingers built and the Booths later altered has many of the characteristics found in Victorian Eclectic architecture, including an asymmetrical facade, open floor plan, and the use of various architectural styles and details. The house symbolizes the prosperity of fruit growers, farmers, and associated businesses during the agricultural expansion era of the Provo Bench and the establishment of Orem City.



25

380 South Orem Boulevard
Timpanogos Cooperative Marketing Association Building

The Timpanogos Cooperative Marketing Association (TCMA) building was built in 1926 along the east side of the Salt Lake and Utah Electric Interurban Railroad as part of the railroad's Snow depot/station at 380 South Orem Boulevard. The TCMA Building is rectangular in shape, measuring sixty feet by one hundred feet in size. A six foot wide by fifty-one foot long open porch runs along the south elevation of the building. The building has been only minimally modified, is in good condition, and retains its general historic integrity. The Salt Lake and Utah rail lines were removed during the 1950s.



26

212 South State Street
Knight/Finch House

The Knight/Finch house, built ca.1909, is a one-and-one-half story, tan brick Victorian Eclectic-style house on a concrete foundation. Although once a part of an agricultural landscape, the building site is located on Orem City's chief commercial strip and is now surrounded by commercial buildings. The house was the residence of two farming families who were also prominent in the community: Newell J. Knight and Joseph H. Finch. The Knight/Finch house personifies many of the characteristics found in Victorian Eclectic architecture, including an asymmetrical facade and the use of various architectural styles and details. The Knight-Finch house, through its architectural detailing and size, symbolizes the prosperity of fruit growers and associated businesses during the agricultural expansion era of the Provo Bench.



27

440 South State Street
Cordner, William James and Edna, House

The William and Edna Cordner residence is a fairly common example of a one-and-one half story, brick, central-block-with-projecting-bays type house with Victorian Eclectic detailing. The house was constructed ca.1898 by William Cordner whose family was one of the first to settle on the Provo Bench. William was heavily involved in the fruit growing industry, the mainstay of the Provo Bench, while he lived here. At that time, State Street was lined with the farms and orchards of a prospering agrarian community. The house has many of the characteristics found in Victorian Eclectic architecture, including an asymmetrical facade, open floor plan, and the use of various architectural styles and details. The Cordner house symbolizes the prosperity of fruit growers, farmers, and associated businesses during the agricultural expansion era of the Provo Bench and its growth into a city.



415 South 400 East
Cordner, Alexander and Nellie P., House

The Alexander and Nellie Cordner house is a one and one-half story, brick central-block with projecting-bays type house on a concrete-covered stone foundation. Built ca.1909, the house is a good example of Victorian Eclecticism in the region. The Cordner house was one of the largest houses in this area at the time it was built. The house has many of the characteristics found in Victorian Eclectic architecture; including an asymmetrical facade, open floor plan, and the use of various architectural styles and details. The elaborate Victorian Eclectic detailing belies the prosperity of Cordner who, as a farmer, cattle rancher, real estate dealer, and landowner, was one of the prominent citizens of the community, and is reflective of the City's agricultural development and city growth.



305 South 900 East
Cordner-Calder House

The Cordner/Calder house, probably built by William Cordner ca.1896 and added onto ca.1910, began as a one or one-and-one-half story, Victorian Eclectic-style, brick and adobe house on a stone foundation which subsequently acquired a full second story. The house was constructed by William J. & Edna Cordner and then owned by David G. and Sarah E. Calder for many years. Both of these families became prominent fruit growers on the Provo Bench and their participation and influence in the growth of Orem is reflected in this house.



417 South 800 East
Olsen, Lars and Christina, House

The Olsen house, built in 1887, is an adobe and stucco, double cross-wing house on a stone foundation. According to Greta Olsen Bandley, great-granddaughter of Lars, the north portion of the house was constructed first with the second crosswing and connecting portion being added ca.1894. Although the house started out as a small, hall-parlor building, with the increase in prosperity as a fruit grower, Olsen expanded the house to a double cross-wing a few years later. The various additions to the building reflect the periods of development as different family members took up residence in the house. The modest, yet expanded version of the house is symbolic of the early development and expansion of the fruit industry on the Provo Bench.



815 East 800 South
Carter/Terry/Call House

The Carter/Terry/Call house, built ca.1899, is a two story, pink brick Victorian Eclectic-style house with Classical details. This cross wing-type house is unusual with the hipped roofs, particularly for a period when the central-block-with-projecting-bays type house was the most common for larger buildings on the Provo Bench. Although probably built by Richard Carter, the most significant owner of the house was Otis L. Terry, the second Bishop of the Timpanogos Ward which then embodied almost the entire Provo Bench. The size and style of the house exemplify the importance of the bishop, who was not only a religious leader, but a civic leader in a growing settlement and is representative of the kinds of homes built by prominent members of the community during a period of agricultural growth.



343 East 720 South
Lewis, John S. and Izola, House

The John S. & Izola Lewis house is a brick English Cottage-style house on a raised concrete foundation with a full basement. Built in 1938, the house is a good example of a later, pre-war English Cottage-style building as manifested in the less-severe roof slopes, wider gables, and increasingly square footprint. The house was built by John Lewis, a prominent educator and administrator in the Orem public schools. The house symbolizes the prosperity of residents involved in a variety of other professions besides fruit growing during this era.



Roughly bounded by State Street, 900 South, 450 East, and 1010 South
Christeele Acres Historic District

The Christeele Acres Historic District is a residential subdivision built in 1943. The district consists of sixty-two single-family dwellings and three duplexes on sixty-five rectangular lots. The buildings are all one-story brick World War II-era cottages, similar in scale and materials. Built during World War II for defense workers, the design and construction of the houses were tightly controlled. The floor plans and stylistic elements were based on the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) "minimum house" prototypes developed in the 1930s. The majority of the dwellings have four principal rooms and approximately 700 square feet of living space. While World War II-era houses in general were stylistically plain, the homes in Christeele Acres display an unusually high degree of variety for the time period. Not including the duplexes, there are eight distinct facade treatments and several minor variations in floor plans. In addition, the houses were well constructed and demonstrate a high quality of materials and workmanship. With few exceptions the houses and yards have been maintained and are in good condition.



232 West 800 South
Skinner, Alfred and Rosy, House

The Alfred and Rosy Skinner house began as a square single-cell house constructed in 1905-06. It has a fieldstone and lime mortar foundation, kiln dried, common brick walls, a frame roof with machine-cut shingles, and a brick chimney and flue on the east elevation. The addition was an exact copy, matched in fenestration and building materials. Also, matching molding was installed around the eaves and gables on both the existing and new additions. Skinner, who was raised on the Provo Bench (Orem), moved away and then returned, as many did, to start a farm and raise produce. The increasing size of the house over the years symbolizes the increased prosperity Skinner saw as Orem became more and more important as a farming and orchard community.



95 East 1200 South
Gappmayer, Roy H. and Florence B., House

The Roy H. and Florence Gappmayer house is a brick English Tudor-style house on a raised concrete foundation. Built ca.1935 by Gappmayer, the house sits next to a garage/cellar, built ca.1927, which was used as the primary residence before the later building was constructed. At one time surrounded by farmland and orchards, most of the area has now been commercially or residentially developed. Roy Gappmayer's family moved to the Provo Bench at the turn of the century and became prominent fruit growers. Gappmayer was known throughout his life not only for his fine horticultural skills and fruit growing, but for his community involvement and service.



47

970 South 800 West, Utah Valley University
Bunnell, Stephen and Mary, House

This one story brick house was constructed in 1892 by Stephen I. and Mary Bunnell. It is a hall parlor house with an original rear lean-to and a 1910 bedroom addition off the north end of the lean-to. Once part of a sixty-acre farm and orchard, it is now situated on the Utah Valley University Campus. The Stephen and Mary Bunnell House, is significant in its representation of the way in which the city of Orem, Utah was originally settled and developed. Built prior to the organization of a township, the Bunnell house depicts the nature of the growth of the area. The area in which Orem evolved was originally farmland and the building of houses occurred in a scattered farm pattern. This settlement pattern varies from the town grid system laid out in most cities in Utah, a system that was based on the Plat of the City of Zion, the model for Mormon settlements. The Classically detailed Bunnell house is one of only six houses built in Orem prior to 1900 that remains. It is an excellent example of a settlement farmhouse that has maintained its integrity and contributes to the historic qualities of Orem.



48

1888 South Main Street
Davis, Joshua House

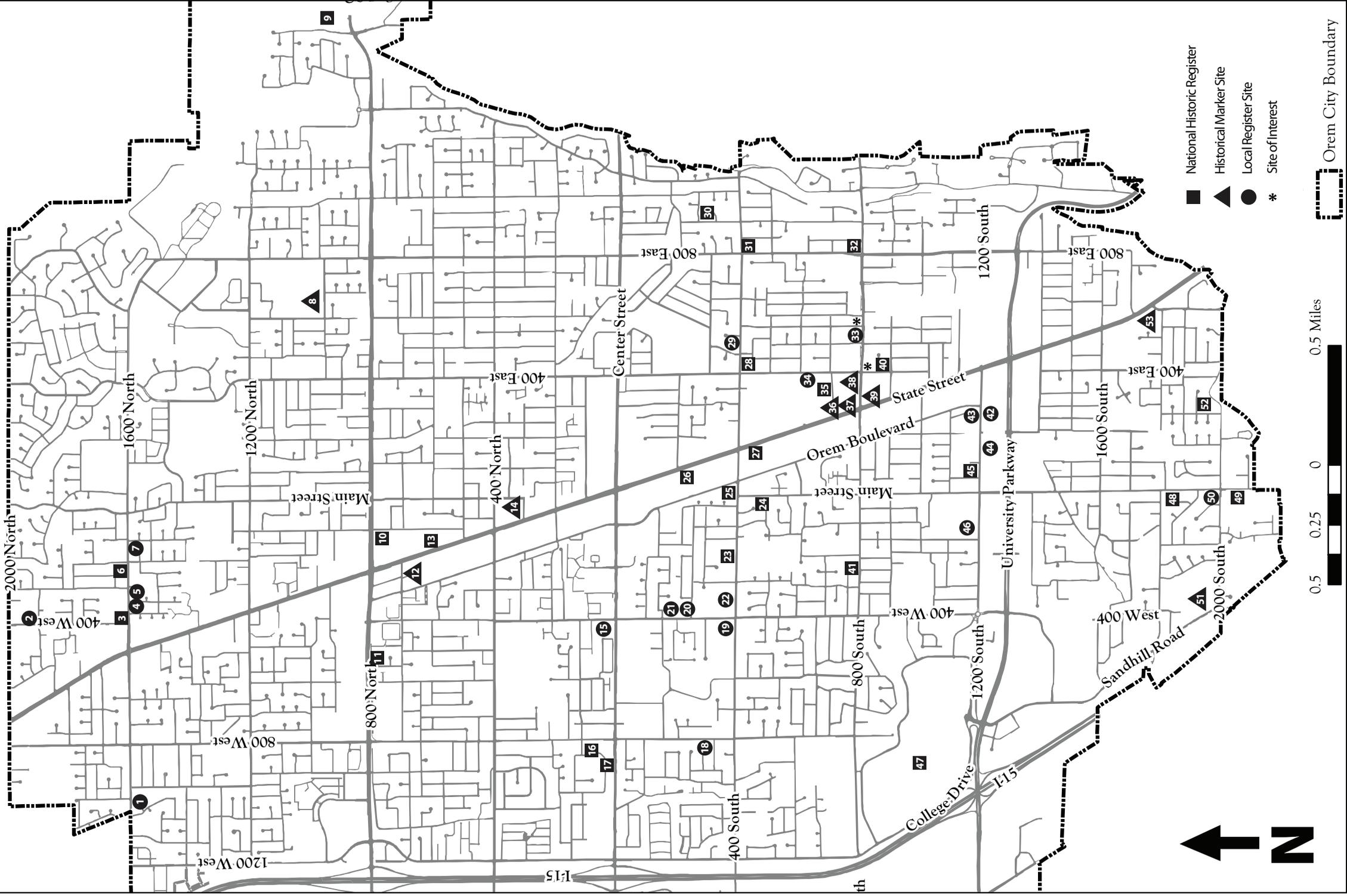
The Davis house, built in 1892-96, is a one-and-one-half story, brick, Victorian Eclectic cross-wing house and has a stone foundation. The house has many of the hallmarks of the Victorian Eclectic pioneer houses, including decorative brickwork, elaborately carved and turned woodwork, and arched window openings. The house represents the transition that was occurring on the bench with more ornamental Victorian styles replacing the austere, unembellished Classical forms. Although it was, regionally, a moderately-sized example, the Davis house was quite large, comparatively, for those who had settled on the Provo Bench. The size and architectural detailing of the house, plus the fact that Joshua Davis lived here with his children from three marriages, would suggest that as farmers and fruit growers, they prospered in the expanding agriculture industry during the early development of the Provo Bench.



Aerial View Orem. UVU Campus foreground, Mt. Timpanogos background. 1979

City of Orem

HISTORICAL SITES

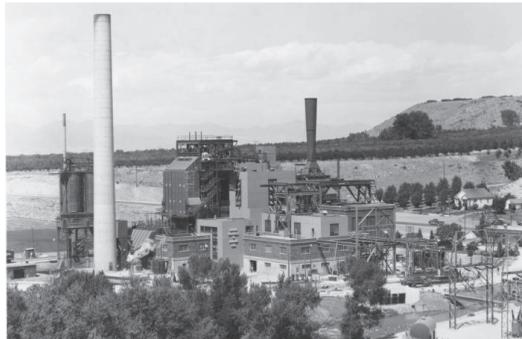




Salt Lake and Utah Railroad Stations in Orem, Utah



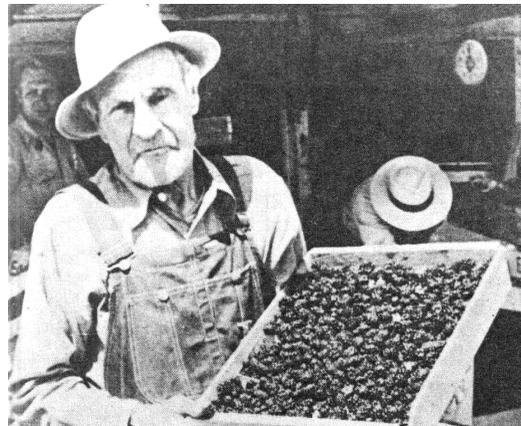
Walter C. Orem



Utah Power & Light, Orem Steam Plant, Aug. 10, 1950



Calder's Orem Service Staton. Culmers Company. September 24, 1929



Walkers Fruit Stand



49

2044 South Main Street
Davis/Ercanbrack Farmstead

The Davis/Ercanbrack Farmstead house, original portion built ca. mid-1870s, is a stucco and possibly log construction, classical-style, hall-parlor house with several historic additions. The original house still portrays some of the basic elements of the Classical movement, i.e. rectangular facade with symmetrically placed fenestration, although one window has been covered, modestly pitched gable roof with cornice, and little other adornment. This farmstead is an example of the very basic, vernacular dwellings that were constructed during the establishment of the Provo Bench. Although the house has been altered and added to many times over the years, its significance lies in the construction date of the house as probably the oldest surviving house in Orem. It and the other buildings on the site are significant as one of only a few remaining fruit orchards in a city which almost thoroughly depended on the fruit industry. This farmstead retains its association and feeling with the fruit industry of Orem and contributes to the historic qualities of the city.



52

275 East 2000 South
Stewart/Hills House

The Stewart/Hills house was built ca. 1915-1919 on a rise on the south edge of Orem overlooking the Provo valley. The house is a one-and-one-half story side-gabled Craftsman-style bungalow with a low-pitched, asphalt shingle-covered roof. Craftsman (or Arts and Crafts) designs were popular in Utah, particularly in residential projects, from 1900 to about 1915. The house is representative of a successful produce farmer in Orem during a period of growth and prosperity. Clinton Hills was raised on the Provo Bench and as an adult grew apples, cherries and strawberries on the farmlands surrounding the house. It is also significant as probably the most intact example of the four known remaining Arts and Crafts bungalows in Orem. Early houses in Orem were quite utilitarian, but as the community flourished national stylistic trends influenced the local architecture, including Victorianism and early twentieth-century styles such as the Arts and Crafts. Only a few Arts and Crafts Bungalows remain in Orem and this is the only known side-gable example.

HISTORICAL MARKER SITE



Canyon View Junior High School Campus **600 East 950 North** *Former Labor and Prisoner of War Camp*

One of the most unique chapters in the history of Orem relates to its agricultural economy. With a number of Orem's young men joining the Armed Forces in 1942 and 1943 the supply of labor in the community had dropped to where labor had to be imported to work the fields and for the harvest. As a result, the Utah Farm Labor Association in cooperation with the State of Utah built a labor camp at 1000 North 800 East on a five-acre site owned by James G. Stratton.

The first major occupants of the camp were displaced Japanese-Americans from the Topaz Relocation Camp. Some 200 or more of those people occupied the barracks and tent-top cabins which comprised the Orem camp. Many of them were employed by Orem and other Utah County farmers.

In the autumn of 1944 a number of Italian prisoners of war were brought to the camp to build a high wire fence and watchtowers, as the Japanese-Americans were relocated. The Italians were also employed in local farm work. With World War II winding down in Europe, the Italians were relocated and the camp became home to 340 German prisoners of war. They also found employment with local farmers, and some were able to establish lasting relationships with those farmers.

At the end of the war the German POWs were repatriated. As the need for farm laborers increased, Mexican nationals found their way to Utah, many of them being housed at the former prisoner-of-war camp. For the next 25 years they occupied the Orem Labor Camp until it was dismantled in 1970.

HISTORICAL MARKER SITE



700 North Orem Boulevard *Former Pleasant Grove Canning Co.*

The first major industry to locate in Orem was the Pleasant Grove Canning Company. The plant was built at 325 West 700 North, currently Orem Boulevard, in 1919. This provided close proximity to the railroad that was also located along what is now Orem Boulevard. The canning company was designed to provide an outlet for locally-grown fruits and vegetables. Canned products included tomatoes, apples, cherries and strawberries.

During the 1930s the Pleasant Grove Canning Company was a major economic outlet for farmers' produce at a time when there was little other industry around. In an average year, the cannery took the tomato crops produced on the Provo Bench and elsewhere, and processed up to 75,000 cases of tomato paste. The product was then sold to the Campbell Soup Company.

In 1972, the cannery was sold to Booth Distributing, Inc., a restaurant supply business, which used the building as a warehouse through the 1970s. Subsequent owners purchased the cannery but were unable to find a suitable commercial use for the building. The building fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1993.

HISTORICAL MARKER SITE



48 West 300 North
Site of Former Sharon School

Sharon School, Orem's second school, was constructed in 1894 to provide badly needed classroom space for grades one through eight. The school was named for Sharon, Vermont, the birthplace of Joseph Smith, the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was built on the northeast corner of 300 North State Street on a two-acre parcel donated by John S. Park. Initial financing came from Mr. Park and Elliott Newell, each of whom contributed \$100 toward the building. However, the original structure eventually was inadequate for the number of students and in 1909 an additional room was added to the east side of the school.

In cold weather the school was heated by a small stove in a corner of the room with fuel provided by the school district. Older male students took turns stoking the fire and retrieving the fuel from a large box at the back of the stove. On dark school days or during evening meetings a kerosene lamp on a corner shelf provided light.

Sharon School operated until the end of the 1954-55 school year when it was sold following the erection of a school also named Sharon School located at 500 North 400 East.

The building stood for several more years, being used for various purposes including as a dance studio and a preschool. It was demolished in 1990 and replaced by a commercial strip mall.

HISTORICAL MARKER SITE



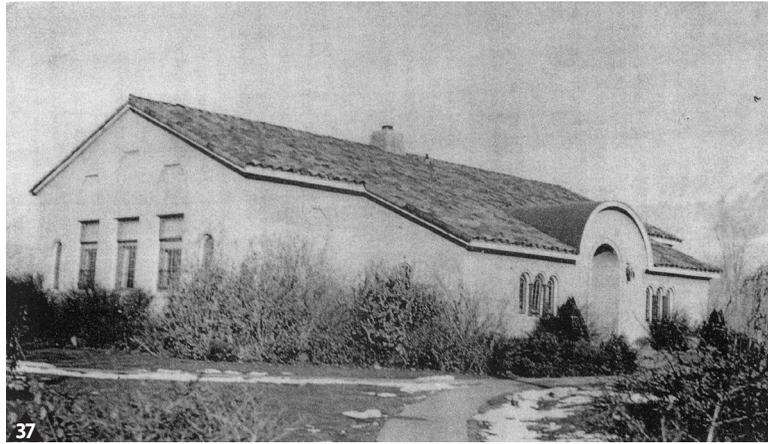
745 South State Street
SCERA Theater

Sharon's Cultural, Educational, Recreational Association (SCERA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the development and advancement of culture, youth training, education, recreation and affordable family entertainment. It was founded in 1933 by members of the Sharon LDS Stake, including Victor C. Anderson and Arthur V. Watkins.

The aftereffects of the Great Depression had robbed many of their lifetime investments in farms and homes. Spirits were low in the community, and worsened with the drowning of a small child in an unprotected canal. SCERA's new leaders met and determined to provide programs and facilities to "build the body, enrich the mind, touch the soul, and unify the family." To raise money, SCERA organized weekend movie showings at Lincoln High School, with families admitted for one dollar per month. As the community rallied behind the project, donations of materials were also collected and eventually made possible the Rosalawn Swimming Pool, located on the site of the parking lot east of the SCERA Center. A more modern swimming pool was built just north of the original in the 1960s.

Within a few years the original motion picture program grew in popularity enough to support the construction of a new building. The LDS Church donated land for the building with the stipulation that SCERA would not show movies on Sundays and would allow the church to use the auditorium for meetings. The new SCERA Theater was financed through \$25 bonds purchased by area families and a massive cooperative effort including donated labor and materials. Ground was broken on March 23, 1940. The 745-seat Show House opened on September 1, 1941, with a showing of "Shepherd of the Hills" starring John Wayne.

Since that time SCERA has continued its unique status by showing only G and PG-rated films. SCERA undertook an expansion of the building in 1995 to a full community center with multipurpose rooms, an art gallery, a second show house and a home for the Orem Heritage Museum. SCERA also owns and operates the SCERA Shell Outdoor Theater, a 4,000-capacity performing arts amphitheater. Today SCERA remains true to the vision of its founders.



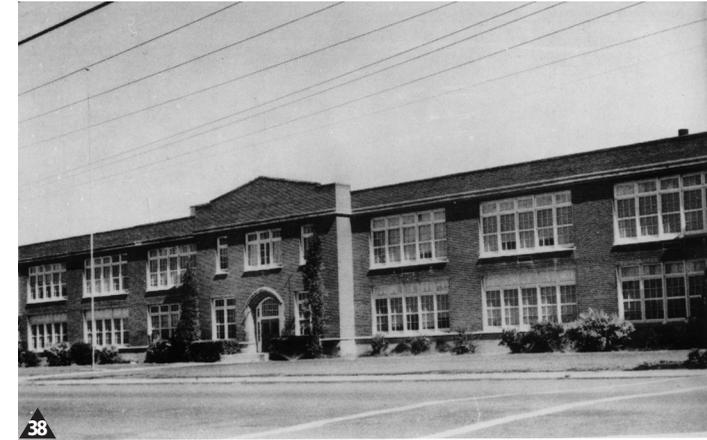
777 South State Street
Former Sharon L.D.S Seminary

Shortly after the Lincoln High School was built in 1921, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints established an LDS seminary program for the high school students in the nearby Timpanogos LDS meetinghouse. Young members of the Church and many of their friends attended the seminary classes there for a number of years.

In 1929 or 1930, due to the growing popularity of the seminary program, the decision was made to construct a new seminary building on a plot just west of Lincoln High School. The building was also to provide offices for the Sharon LDS Stake Presidency.

The Sharon Stake seminary building was completed less than two years later and dedicated by Elder David O. McKay of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the LDS Church on May 20, 1931. The facility was used as a seminary for the next 25 years. In 1956 the new Orem High School was completed, but the Sharon Seminary continued to be used by Lincoln Junior High School students for several more years.

Today, the former Sharon State Seminary Building is owned and occupied by the Orem Commission for Economic Development, and is meeting an important need in the community, financially mentoring new businesses.



311 East 800 South
Site of Former Lincoln School

Until 1912, only grades one through eight were being taught in schools in Orem. If further education was desired, students had to travel to Pleasant Grove or Provo. Many children were denied schooling because family finances would not allow for the added expense.

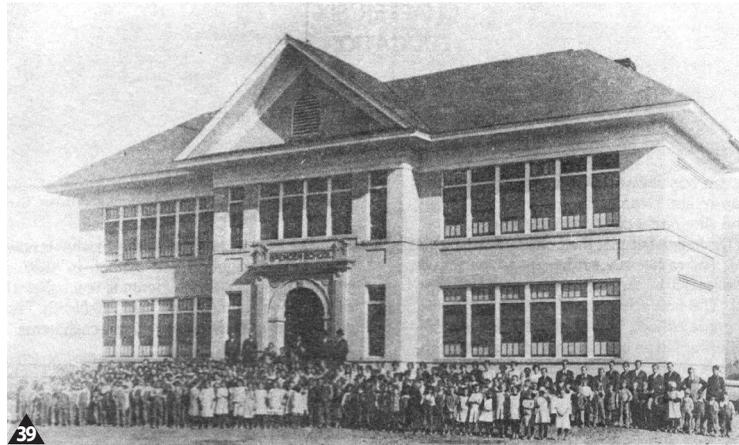
In 1913, one hundred thirty-eight citizens, taxpayers and parents of Lincoln School District wrote a letter to the Alpine School board requesting that the future needs of the young and growing community be addressed. Three years later, the Alpine School Board authorized the teaching of ninth and tenth grade classes in the two rear rooms of the Spencer School located at 811 South State Street.

In 1921 a new school was completed across the street from the Spencer School. Ora Cunningham was named as principal of the combined high school and junior high school facility which took the name "Lincoln High School." Grades nine through twelve were taught there. Because some students had been attending eleventh grade at other schools the previous year, there were eight students in Lincoln's first graduating class in 1922.

Over the years, there were several additions to the original building including an east wing, a music room, an activity and physical education room, and Industrial Arts annex and finally the lunch room and additional classrooms, which were built on the east side.

When Orem High School was completed in 1956, Lincoln High School transitioned back to a junior high. In 1962-63, when Orem Junior High School was built, half the students went there. In 1975-76 Lincoln Junior High School was vacated. The building had been condemned a fire hazard. Lincoln was closed and demolished with the exception of the Industrial Arts annex, which is still standing.

HISTORICAL MARKER SITE



340 East 800 South
Site of the Former Spencer Elementary School

In February 1883 three acres of land on the southeast corner of 800 South Street were bought by the Provo Bench School District No. 18 for \$48.00. The residents built a log room 20 by 30 feet in size, with a large wood-burning stove in the center. Long rustic benches seating twelve students were placed on two rows on either side of the stove.

In 1890 Edward Partridge built a brick addition to the log structure, providing one large classroom and a hall. In 1900, when the Lincoln School District was organized on the Provo Bench, the old log school room was torn down and additions were made to the brick room.

In 1912 a new two-story eight-room school building was built and was used almost continuously for the next eighty years, both for grade school and high school classes. It was sold and torn down in 1991 when the Spa Fitness Center was developed on the property.

HISTORICAL MARKER SITE



1931 South Sandhill Road
Nielsen's Grove

Nielsen's Grove is possibly the earliest designed park in the state of Utah. Jorgen C. Nielsen, a Denmark native, immigrated to the Provo area in 1863 after joining the LDS Church. Records indicate he and his wife, Annie Byer, moved to the Lakeview area in 1876. He purchased the Grove property from Harold B. Skinner in 1882.

Nielsen had a background in horticulture, having been trained by his uncle who served as a florist and gardener for King Christian IX of Denmark. Using a natural spring for a pond as the central feature of the grove, Nielsen designed and planted an elaborate park and amusement area, attracting many people. It is believed that Jorgen Nielsen performed most of the work on the grove himself, assisted by special trades when they were necessary.

Surrounding the pond were silver leaf poplar and mulberry trees, and shrubbery. Trellis structures, planted with grape vines and climbing roses, covered at least ten picnic areas. The grove was ornamented with four marble statues, allegedly carved by an itinerant stone carver. Three of those statues are presently on exhibit at the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum in Provo. A covered bowery with a dance floor was among the structures in the grove. A big attraction was a twelve-seat, center-pivot, human-powered swing.

The park was in existence as late as 1910 but due to the seepage from irrigation on the bench above and to the east, the land increasingly became swampy. The Grove became neglected and was abandoned. Later, what was left of the park was torn down and the land was used to grow wheat during World War I; drain tiles were installed to control the seepage from the bench above.

A popular recreational area for many years, the site was purchased by the City of Orem in 1995 for park development. In 2002 and 2003 the park was re-created to match many of the original features of the original park including a museum that was built to match the layout of Nielsen's original house. The museum provides information not only on Jorgen Nielsen and Nielsen's Grove, but also on the history of Orem itself.

HISTORICAL MARKER SITE



1786 South State Street
Former Daniel Thomas Home/Prehistoric Mammoth Remains

The expansion of Orem's culinary water system required the digging of trenches the length and breadth of the town, as new residents moved into the community and built homes throughout what was once a sagebrush-covered wasteland. However, some of the farm homes which had been built prior to Orem's incorporation in 1919 were not connected to the culinary water system for more than 40 years. One of those was the home of Daniel Thomas. Encouraging residents to avail themselves of culinary water, Orem offered to connect them to the water mains, if homeowners would provide the plumbing out to the street. One crisp November day in 1937, Thomas was digging his water trench when he unearthed what appeared to be a large tooth. Further excavations by University of Utah archaeologists revealed the remains of a hairy mammoth, the Ice Age precursor to the modern elephant. In a full-blown archaeological dig, according to local newspapers, there was found a complete skeleton of a mammoth that lived in the Great Basin millennia ago.

Spectators were attracted to the Thomas property to observe the scientists at work and to view the remains of the extinct animal. Thomas took delight in showing off the mammoth bones to the crowds coming to the dig. The archaeologists wrapped each bone in burlap as it was exhumed from the ground.

The strain of digging the water trench brought on a stroke and Thomas died in January 1938 – two months after finding the mammoth tooth. The Thomas home was razed in May 1993 and replaced with a commercial building. Today the bones taken from this Orem homestead reside in a private collection at the University of Utah's museum of Natural History. The skull is on public display in the museum, mounted on a block within easy reach of visitors who can touch a fascinating piece of Orem's prehistory.

HISTORICAL SITE OF INTEREST



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549 E. 800 South
Philo Edwards House

Built circa 1929 by the Loveless family, this four room Craftsman style home had a large front porch and featured four rooms under a squared roof. It was purchased about 1931 by Philo Edwards. Mr. Edwards did some remodeling and additions including adding more rooms and changing the outside to Colonial Revival styling. Surrounding the home were acres of raspberries, and fruit trees.

The Edward's family included 14 children, either by birth or adoption, however no more than 12 ever lived in the home at one time. One of those children was National College Football Hall of Fame member and former Brigham Young University football coach LaVell Edwards. This was his boyhood home and he attended school and graduated from Lincoln High School while living in this home. In the fall of 2008 it provided a back drop for a portion of a one-hour television life sketch on LaVell. The show aired on the Mountain West television station during the football season. LaVell's father Philo was notable in his own right. For more than 25 years he served as the LDS Stake President of the area and hosted many Apostles and leaders of the LDS Church in his home.



*

440 East 800 South
Timpanogos Chapel

The Timpanogos LDS Chapel is the oldest church building in Orem. It was built following the organization of the Timpanogos Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1895 on property donated by Thomas J. Patten, Sr. Before it was completely finished, it was used by the Timpanogos Drama Club for play presentations. The proceeds from the plays helped pay for completing the chapel. It was completed in 1898 and served for many years as a community center for social and civic functions as well as for church meetings. The Timpanogos chapel replaced a combination Church meetinghouse and school located just to the west of this building. The original log cabin schoolhouse continued to be used as a school building until 1900 when it was torn down and replaced by the Spencer School located further to the west of this chapel.

This church has been remodeled several times but is still in use by the LDS Church for church meetings.



987 West 1600 North

Siebach, Marlin H. & Brenda J., House

The Marlin H. and Brenda J. Siebach house (not the original owners), built in ca. 1917, is a Vernacular Arts and Crafts brick front-gabled single story bungalow located on the south side of 1600 North. The bungalow was the most popular house type in Utah in the first quarter of the twentieth century. The Vernacular Arts and Crafts style elements can be seen in the exposed framing members as well as the color and texture of the cladding. In 1979, the Siebachs bought the house and moved it to this site from its previous location. The house was originally located at 1600 North and State Street in Orem.



1938 North 400 West

Walker, John Y. & Chastina H., House

The John Y. and Chastina H. Walker house is a small rectangular, one-story brick Victorian Eclectic house with a gabled roof running east/west. Its original red brick walls are covered in stucco. In 1893, John Y. Walker bought 20 acres of land and built the house around 1900. John was appointed to fill his brother's unexpired term as county commissioner. He served as county commissioner and was a prominent local citizen. This property remained in the Walker family until it was sold in 1940. Additions were made to the house in the early 1940s and the 1950s.



297 West 1600 North

Gillman, James W. & Estella Walker, House

The James W. and Estella Walker Gillman house, built ca. 1909, is a single-story, brick central-block-with-projecting-bay house located on the south side of 1600 North in Orem. The central section has a pyramidal roof with a gabled projecting bay to the north. Victorian Eclectic styling elements can be seen in the segmental arch window heads composed of two rows of header bricks over all of the windows. James W. Gillman built the house in 1909, following his marriage the previous year to Estella Walker in Salt Lake City. James W. was a leader in civic affairs as well as of his church. He served as mayor of Orem for nineteen years and also as County Commissioner. During his years as mayor street signs and lights were installed along State Street, and sources of culinary water were established for the city. He was also president for many years of the Provo Reservoir Company.



263 West 1600 North

Gillman, Charles R. & Hazel F., House

The Charles R. and Hazel F. Gillman house is a single-story brick hall-parlor house built ca. 1908. It had two major additions, ca. 1935 and ca. 1975. The original house has Victorian Eclectic style details such as relieving arches over all of the windows, a transom over the large single pane fixed window on the gable end, and wooden sash double-hung windows on the east elevation. James H. Gillman purchased ten acres of land in 1905 and three years later transferred the title of a portion of that land, which now contains the house, to his son, Charles R. Gillman. Charles built the house ca. 1908-9. Charles was educated in the Orem schools and had a reputation throughout the Western states as a fruit grower. He owned and operated a store in Orem for many years and served as chief deputy county assessor. Charles Gillman was also active in politics and was a Democratic precinct chairman in Orem for several years.



107 West 1600 North

Clark, Joseph B. & Louisa Person, House

The Joseph B. and Louisa Pearson Clark house is a one-and-a-half story brick masonry Victorian Eclectic-style, cross-wing type house built ca. 1903 and with several later additions to the rear. It was covered in stucco in the 1950s yet keeps some of its Victorian eclectic styling elements such as the raking cornice with cornice returns, a frieze board, and a transom over the large fixed pane window. In 1898 Joseph's parents deeded twenty-eight acres to him. Joseph most likely built the house in 1903. Joseph had many different occupations during his life. He hauled rock for the building of the Salt Lake City LDS Temple; he farmed and raised stock on the Provo Bench, and later raised thoroughbred racing and saddle horses. Together with his father and brothers he owned one of the first general merchandise stores in Orem. He erected a dance hall that was later used as the high school gymnasium. The Clarks sold the property in 1906.



63 North 400 West

Barrett, Thomas, Farmstead

In 1886 Thomas Barrett received a patent on 160 acres on the Provo Bench. He planted orchards and went into the fruit business with his sons. When this house was completed in 1887, Thomas, his wife Sarah, and seven of their nine living children moved into it. Although the original portion of this ca. 1887 Victorian Eclectic Cross-wing remains fairly well intact, it has had several additions that have nearly doubled the size of the original house. The exterior of the home is stucco which was applied over the original brick by the Larsens who owned the home from 1944 to 1969. Many of the original windows, including original glass remain intact. The original moldings under the eaves and detailing on the porch are all intact and in excellent condition.



318 South 800 West

Wilkinson, Joseph A., House

This 1903 Victorian Eclectic cross-wing is constructed of orange brick with darker brick used as decorative accents on the house. The darker brick is used in the segmental arches above the windows. The house was built by Joseph A. Wilkinson. His immigrant mother, Mary Ellen Wilkinson, had a homestead claim on this property after the death of her husband, Moses in 1899. Joseph was twenty-five years old at the time he started building this house. His daughter Rose remembered her father having a strong duty to his family which is why he started building the house for his mother and his eight siblings. In the early 1900s, Orem was predominantly farm land from which residents made a living. Joseph Wilkinson spent most of his life farming the land next to this house and growing crops such as apples, raspberries, cherries and other fruits.



426 West 400 South

Christensen, John E. & Caroline F., House

The Christensen's residence fronts the intersection of 400 West and 400 South, with its front porch facing the intersection. The Christensen twenty acre farm was behind these two buildings. This ca. 1909-1912 house has a low hipped central block with three projecting bays, two gabled and one with a half-hipped roof, and combines Victorian eclecticism with Craftsman details. From 1906, when the twenty acre farm was first purchased, until 1937 when Christensen died, the industrious Dane built and maintained what was described as one of the finest, most well cared-for, and most successful farms on the Provo Bench. This architect-designed farmhouse is an expression of the relative prosperity gained by a handful of large fruit farmers shortly before and after the turn-of-the-century on the Provo Bench. The house remained in the Christensen family until 1990, when the present owners purchased the house.



275 South 400 West
Carroll, George F., House

George F. Carroll bought this home in 1914. The home was originally built on a 16.5 acre lot and included a catalog ordered Montgomery Ward kit house north of the original house (now at 247 South). In 1928, the original house caught fire and was a total loss. The same year, this bungalow home was built in its place for \$7,000. This home is interesting because of the Colonial Revival bungalow architecture and the use of multi-colored brick. The new house had hardwood floors and was connected to the city water system. The house still remains in the Carroll name as of 2001.



247 South 400 West
Heaton, Susan, House

The Susan Heaton house is a Craftsman influenced kit house that was ordered from Montgomery Ward and was assembled for Susan Clarissa Heaton in 1916 on land, which had been purchased by her son-in-law, George F. Carroll in 1914. The same year Susan's daughter, Clarissa, married George F. Carroll and moved her family to Orem and Susan joined them. In 1916, Susan ordered this prefabricated house from the Montgomery Ward catalog and the kit house arrived by inter-urban rail at Snow Station and was put together by Montgomery Ward employees. The Heaton house was a relatively small and simple example of a kit house, but its appearance in the small agricultural town of Orem was an unprecedented event. Montgomery Ward discontinued kit houses in 1931 as sales declined during the depression.



352 West 400 South
Farley, Theodore, Jr., Farmstead

This 1931 bungalow is constructed of very dark "purple" brick. The original portion of the house has a large pyramidal roof which extends over the front porch with large brick piers supporting the porch roof. Directly above the center of the porch is a gabled dormer. In 1905 Theodore Farley Jr. married Vilate Loveless who was a native of the Provo Bench. They worked together to build a little two room house on their new farm. In addition to farming Mr. Farley enjoyed participating in the Dramatic Club with his wife. The Farleys were gifted singers and enjoyed performing in the community and at church functions.



497 East 400 South
Cordner, Jesse W., House

Jesse W. Cordner was born in 1895 and was the grandson of Thomas and Mary Ann Cordner who were the first residents of the Provo Bench to spend an entire winter on the bench instead of in Provo. In 1915, Jesse's father purchased 21 acres which he sold to Jesse in 1919. The Cordners planned to build a new home and had driven all over trying to find an example of a house that they liked. They found one in American Fork and were able to borrow the plans from the owner. Jesse built this house in 1938 with the help of sub-contractors. The total cost to build the home was \$3,000.00. The exterior of this 1938 period cottage type is constructed of multi-colored brick, predominantly dark red. The English Cottage style includes a steeply pitched, gabled roof. This architecture was unique to the time period.



33

509 East 800 South
Loveless, James A., House

This 1909 central-block-with-projecting-bay type is an eclectic mixture of the Victorian eclectic and Arts and Crafts styles. From the placement and style of the doors and windows on the main floor, it appears that this house was originally a one story cross-wing. The windows and doors on the main level all have segmental arches above with the exception of the window on the first floor of the projecting bay. The roof and the second story windows all have arts and crafts detailing. In 1909, James and his wife Clara built their house on land that had been deeded to them by James' father. James was one of the five men who presented a petition for the formation of a new city. He was asked to serve on the board of trustees, but was removed when the newly organized board split over the decision whether to bond for water or not. Many of those community members living south of 800 South strongly opposed the bond issue. James and Clara sold this home to their youngest son in 1943 and the house remained in the family name until 1998.



34

624 South 400 East
Cranney, W. Doyle & Nettie Marie Peterson, House

The W. Doyle and Nettie Marie Peterson Cranney house is a brick, single story World War II-era cottage built in 1941 in the Minimal Traditional style. This style was popular in Utah from 1935 to 1950, and this particular example is, to some extent based on the earlier English cottage style. The Cranney house is in a cross-wing form with a prominent projecting front-facing cross gable. Dr. Wyndon Doyle Cranney, a physician in Orem, bought the house in 1949 when the family moved from Ephraim to Orem. He lived in the house for thirty-five years with his wife Nettie Marie and their children. The title to the house remained in the family until 1983.



42

204 East 1200 South
Gappmayer, Lewis & Isabel, House

The Lewis & Isabel Gappmayer house is one of few remaining farm houses on 1200 South. Built in 1921, a year after Lewis married Isabel Billings, this one-story brick Craftsman-style bungalow originally was constructed on a larger parcel of land. The orchards surrounding the house are gone, but the house remains a reminder of the agricultural landscape of the early Provo Bench area. The house is still owned by descendants of Lewis and Isabel.



43

205 East 1200 South
Snow, John C. & Sarah E., House

The John C. and Sarah E. Snow house was built in 1902 and is a one-story three bay frame hall-parlor type with an off-set internal brick chimney and a lean-to addition to the rear. Its Vernacular Classical styling is evident in its rectangular shape with a centrally placed door and a smooth symmetrical façade as well as the raking cornice and corner boards. Classical styling was found in Utah houses from early pioneer times up until 1890. John C. Snow purchased 80 acres of land in 1885. He was a carpenter in Provo and most likely built the house.



144 East 1200 South

Gappmayer, Bartl & Mary Nelson, House

The Gappmayer house is a two-story, foursquare type building with a combination of Late-Victorian and Neoclassical Stylistic details. The house was built around 1907 and is a rare example in Orem of the two-story foursquare house. This type of house was popular in Utah from about 1900 until about 1915, when it fell out of favor. It is rare perhaps because its size made it prohibitively expensive for the farmers of modest means who made up most of the residents of the Provo Bench. Bartl and Mary Gappmayer were farmers who moved to the Provo Bench from Heber City, Utah. They built the house in 1907 and then sold the property in 1915. Their children later retained title to the property from their uncle. Lewis and Isabella Gappmayer later moved into the house with their four children.



106 West 1200 South

Skinner, Samuel Nephi & Sarah Sixsmith, House

The Samuel Nephi & Sarah Sixsmith Skinner house consists of the Vernacular Classical style brick hall-parlor house and a series of additions to the north and west. Samuel N. Skinner patented the one hundred sixty acre quarter section of land in 1882 from the U.S. Government presumably containing the house that he built earlier. Samuel and Sarah were among the early settlers in Orem, moving to the Provo Bench in 1877-8 when this house was built. Classical styling is found in Utah houses from early pioneer times to 1890.



26 West 2000 South

Davis, Norman T. & Lucy E., House

The Norman T. and Lucy E. Davis house was built in 1905 and is a one and a half story brick cross wing Victorian Eclectic ornamentation. The foundation is stone and the windows have two courses of rowlock brick in relieving arches. The Davis family has owned land in the vicinity since Albert M. Davis took the first patent in 1883. Albert Davis deeded a portion to Norman, his half-brother. Norman and Lucy's first house was adobe and was later replaced by this brick house. Norman Davis was a "mixed" farmer according to the census enumeration for 1910. This house is associated with the development of the south end of Orem. Through the years, the farm has been part of the Lakeview community and the original Davis Family homestead.

