

Manti City Walking Tour

Manti, home of the Mormon Miracle Pageant, is a city of great historical relevance. First settled in 1849, it still has more than 100 buildings that were built by pioneer craftsmen, more than any other city in Utah. Many of these buildings predate the civil war. Because the majority of the builders were stone masons, most of the structures are built of oolite limestone quarried from the hills behind the temple. Open to the public.**

1. Manti Temple

The most impressive of these old buildings, the Manti Temple, stands at the north entrance to the city and serves as the backdrop for the Mormon Miracle Pageant.



2. Manti City Cemetery, across from temple **



Many of Manti's earliest settlers are buried in this cemetery. Most of the older graves are in the central part. The leader of the first settlers, Isaac Morley, is buried here, as

is William Fowler, author of the well-known hymn "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet". You will find many gravestones of babies and young children. There are graves of pioneers who were killed by Indians and even of Indians.

3. Pioneer Dugout, 400 North 300 East **

The dugout was built in 1999 to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Manti City. It represents over 20 primitive dwellings, dug into the neighboring cliffs, where the Manti settlers spent their first year. (A key to the dugout can be obtained at the Temple Motel across the street.)



4-Manti House Inn, 401 North Main Street

Built in the 1860s by Andrew Van Buren, the Manti House Inn was originally a two-room house. Later, it was expanded to the east. The LDS Church purchased the property in 1884 and the larger north section was added. Each of the additions were architecturally compatible to the previous work. Named the "Temple Hotel," many prominent Mormon Church leaders stayed here. The building now serves as the Manti House Inn restaurant and bed and breakfast.



5. Shomaker House, 194 W. 400 N.

This house was the first home in Manti to have electricity. It was built in the early 1850s by Ezra Shomaker. The east addition was added around 1900. Shomaker



served as Manti mayor twice. The house was recently rescued from demolition and is being restored by Shannon and Jim Miller.

6. Anthony Bessey home, 400 North 300 West



Built in 1858, it was one of the first homes built outside the fort that protected the pioneers from marauding Indians. This house is remarkably preserved and almost unaltered. It is built in the square cabin-type style found throughout Mormon settlements.

Bessey was a cabinet maker, shoemaker and farmer, as well as a civic and church leader.

7. James Cook home, 203 W. 300 N

The James Cook House is distinctive for its hipped roof and Gothic facade. Its builder, James Cook was born in Shropshire, England in 1816. He arrived in Manti in 1854 with only 10 cents in his pocket. He was a wheelwright who later became a successful farmer with 30 acres of land.



8. John Crawford home, 200 W. 300 N.



A two-story house believed to have been built by John Crawford in 1874. It is intact with the exception of the removal of its original full-width front porch. Note that the stone below the porch line is lighter than the less protected oolite above. The second story doorway, which now has nowhere to go, once opened onto a porch. Crawford made adobe bricks for the original tabernacle in Salt Lake City. He came to Manti in 1853 and operated a sawmill in Manti Canyon.

9. Black/Tuttle/Folsom home, 290 N. 200 W.

Built in three stages between the 1850's and 1880's, this oolite limestone house is a fine example of early vernacular masonry in Manti. The exposed beams, primitive stone cutting, early



six-over-six double-hung windows, porch, log roof framing, and low ceilings in the oldest part of the home, all illustrate pioneer construction methods in the 1850's. The north addition, which was

added in the 1880's, brought high ceilings, plaster centerpieces, and decorative trim. Thought to have been originally owned by William Black, the house was later bought by Luther T. Tuttle who was a two-term mayor of Manti and served on the city council as well as four terms as a territorial legislator. He was also a leading merchant and was founder of the Manti Savings Bank. The home was sold in 1880 to William H. Folsom who was an architect for the Manti Temple. Folsom added the north wing. This addition had a "polygamy hideout" under the stairs. It was used when the federal marshals came looking for polygamists. Despite his clever hiding place, Folsom was eventually captured and forced to sell the home to pay the fine for his conviction.

10. John Patten House, 95 W. 300 N. **

Built in 1854, this home was lived in continuously until 1975 when it became a museum maintained by the Manti Daughters of Utah Pioneers. The main portion on the house represents the earliest and most primitive form of stone masonry construction in pioneer Utah. The walls were laid in coursed rubble using crude mud mortar.



11. Beach Log Cabin. **



Also on the Patten House property is the Beach Log cabin. Nathaniel S. Beach built this pioneer cabin, one of the first erected in Manti, inside the old log fort about 1853. It has been moved twice, finally

resting in its current place by the Patten House. At one time the cabin was used as a school room with Alvira Collidge as the teacher. Both buildings are open to visitors by appointment.

12. Historic Manti City Hall, 191 N. Main **

This classic early Italianate building, designed by A. E. Merriam, was built between 1873 and 1882 as the city could afford it. The final cost was \$1,100. It housed the Manti City offices and City Council continually until 1985, after which it gradually fell into disuse. In 2002 an army of volunteers, headed by Vern Buchanan, began restoration work.



Interior restoration is now complete. A visitor's center and a small museum are located on the main floor. A social hall is located upstairs.

13. Sanpete County Courthouse, 160 N. Main **

Directly across the street west from the Old City Hall is the Sanpete County Courthouse. It is built of the same oolite stone as older buildings in Manti, but by 1935, when it was built, building techniques had changed and the stone was cut



in larger blocks and finished with a smooth surface. It was built under the federal emergency public works program and is

an example of the beautiful work some of those programs fostered. Note the stone monument on the northeast corner of the lot. It marks a corner of one of the forts that were built in the city to protect the pioneers from marauding Indians. There is another such monument on the northeast corner of the Bishop's Storehouse lot.

14. Bishop's Storehouse, 100 North Main

Almost every Mormon settlement had a bishop's storehouse. Church members tithed ten percent of their income. Usually they paid with "in-kind" donations such as eggs, flour, and beef. In turn, those in need went to the bishop at the storehouse to receive necessary items. Built in 1905, the yellow brick building has two front doors under the portico and a cupola resembling a beehive on the roof. The building is still in use today as a distribution point for goods to needy members of the LDS Church.



15. Frederick Walter Cox home, 98 N. 100 W.

Frederick Walter Cox arrived in Manti in the fall of 1852 with his three wives and 12 children. Their first home had only two rooms and was located in the Little Fort. They stayed there



nine years. They started their "dream home" in 1854, but it took them seven years to complete it. The main floor was divided into four rooms, each with an outside entrance, giving each wife her own door. There were 12 rooms in all

with 5 fireplaces and a large basement.

16. Cox/Shomaker/Parry home, 50 N. 100 W.

Two houses down from the Frederick Cox house, is another Cox house. This one was built about 1858 and is still much the same as when it was built, with the original woodwork, windows, stonework and basement.

The oolite stone walls are 20-24" thick. The interior walls are also stone and all floor joists and roof beams are of red pine logs. Three prominent Manti families lived here.



An early Mormon colonizer, Orville Sutherland Cox, first owned the house. Jezereel Shomaker, an early mayor of Manti, bought it in 1861. Then, in 1879 Edward Parry, a stone mason from Wales moved into the house to supervise the stonework on the Manti Temple. The Parry family lived in the home for 80 years. They planted the large tree still growing in front.

17. Simmons Hardware, 1 North Main **

Built in 1874, this country hardware store is operated by third and fourth generation owners. It retains much of the old flavor of by-gone days that is lost in today's big super stores. Go in and get what ever you need from Don, Stan or Jared.



18. Manti City Library, 5 S. Main **

Be sure to stop in at the beautiful Carnegie Public Library, built in 1910. The library began in 1901 as a project of the Manti Ladies Literary Club. The club, organized in 1895, still functions today.



19. Manti Tabernacle, 100 S. Main **



The tabernacle was designed by temple architect, William Folsom, and built in 1878-82. This church building now accommodates three LDS wards. The monumental 55 by 90 main chapel has a 30 foot high ceiling and a tall central tower topped by a Victorian steeple. All of the window and door bays are tall and round-arched. The corner pinnacles have a Gothic flair. The stonework

ranges from rough to smooth cut, squared blocks. The modern addition on the west of the building has been designed to blend cohesively with the original to give a pleasing overall effect.

20. Yardley Inn and Spa, 190 So. 200 .W

This home was built in 1910 by the Parry family. They were noted thespians, artists and musicians. They brought the first live theater to Manti. The extension on the east has been tastefully added to accommodate the inn and spa. The home is extensively furnished in period furniture.



21. Crawford/Dyreng home, 202 S. Main

The Victorian influenced home was built in 1894 for James Crawford. It includes an oak staircase, stained glass and etched windows and carved fireplaces. Each room has an outside door with its own private balcony. Crawford was a successful sheep rancher and hired the work done for ten cents an hour. A man and his team were paid \$2 for a ten-hour day. Behind the house is a well-preserved



barn and carriage house. The home has been in the Dyreng family since the 1930s.

22. Kenneth Bench home, 286 S. Main

Originally built in 1860, it was later added on to and turned into the Bench Hostel. It is now owned by Doug and Donna Birk.



23. Jorgan Madsen home, 501 S. Main



This house has been owned by the Madsen family since it was built in the late 1880s. Jorgan's great-granddaughter Cynthia and her husband Mark Olson live here now.

24. L. R. Anderson home, 524 S. Main

Built in 1896, this home has been carefully restored by Ron and Ellie Sessions.



25. Alfred Billings/Hougaard house, 95 E. 300 N.



Built in 1860, this pioneer home is now owned by John and Karen Russell. Is has been restored and is practically unaltered from the original building.

26. Titus Billings home, 301 N. 100 E.

Built in 1860, this pioneer home is owned by Jim and Shannon Miller. Is has been restored and is practically unaltered from the original building.





MAP OF HOME TOUR

