

HISTORICAL DOWNTOWN AND MAIN ST.

How Springville Came to Be

Oliver B. Huntington and Barney Ward arrived in this region in the Spring of 1849 to trade with the Utes. Huntington and Ward put hobbles on their bell mare to help contain the herd while they grazed. One morning they saw that their horses were nowhere in sight. The men eventually found the horses near Maple Canyon. They realized that during the horses' trek to the canyon, the hobble had fallen off the mare in the creek water. Because of this incident, the area was named Hobble Creek. Later, when the city charter was approved, the city was renamed Springville. On September 2, 1850, a large company of members from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints arrived in Salt Lake City. The company was led by 44-year-old Captain Aaron Johnson. This company consisted of 135 wagons and had been on the trail since June 7th. They had departed from Council Bluffs, Iowa. After their arrival in Salt Lake City, the then Church President, Brigham Young, asked Captain Johnson to take a small group of families to settle in a site that had previously been selected in south Utah Valley. On September 18th, 1850, the first settlers set up camp here. The settlers quickly constructed a fort near Hobble Creek near 2nd West and 2nd North. Each family was allocated an 18-foot-by-16-foot space. Springville City was founded on April 4th, 1853 and was first called Hobble Creek. It's first Mayor was Gideon D. wood.

Before the buildings were built on Main St., the land between each street was divided into quarter lots. Originally, those quarter lots were owned by individuals. By 1900, most of the owners of these lot subdivided the land and sold sections to others.

Public Library

45 S. Main St.

The first library in Springville was established in 1916. A public library was made in a room of the Mendenhall Bank through the efforts of the Springville women's clubs and the city council. Organizers gathered donations of books and magazines, and the library committee and members of the women's clubs took turns serving as librarian. When the possibility of a new facility arose through a grant by Andrew Carnegie, Springville City had to raise \$15,000 to buy property and supplement the building costs, as well as fund the operating costs of up to \$1000 a year. The new Springville Carnegie Library building was completed and opened in January of 1922. The library was one of 23 libraries in Utah funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and was one of the last of 14 Carnegie libraries in Utah to be added to the National Historic Register. A new library was built in 1965 as part of the new city civic center. The Springville Chamber of Commerce took over the Carnegie Building and since that time the Carnegie Library has served as a pioneer relic museum operated by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

Just after the opening of the new City Civic Center and Fire Station 41 in 2009, planning went underway for a New Library building. Input from citizens and city staff led to the decision to leave a strong core of government buildings along Main St. to provide a solid anchor for the downtown area. The new library was dedicated October 29th, 2011. In 2019, the library recorded 317,893 visitors with 667,272 books being checked out.

1. H&R Block

139 S. Main St.

In 1925, the Independent Print building was erected. The original land was purchased for \$1,950 by Augustus Johnson. Although it is not known what exactly was printed in this building, it has been

reported that he shared the building with the local cobbler until 1945. The building was leased to various other businesses such as a jeweler and radio and TV supply stores until 1971 when Dick and Wilma Nielson purchased the building and began the H&R Block in 1974.

2. Formerly Springville Herald Building

161 South Main

In 1936 Harrison Conover purchased Springville's newspaper, the Springville Herald. At the time, the newspaper was being published in another location. In 1944, Conover built this building for the purpose of printing the city's newspaper. Besides printing newspapers, his company, Art City Publishing, produced family and city history books and was the state's largest publisher of school yearbooks. The Springville Herald Newspaper stopped publishing in 2011 and the building has been vacant for most of the time since.

3. Mark Anthony Salon and Day Spa

197 S. Main St.

The Mendenhall Bank was established in 1908 by Thomas Lovell Mendenhall. In his early years, Mendenhall was a freighter and later became director and President of Deals Bros & Mendenhall Co. Upon his retirement, Mendenhall established the banking company with himself as President and his sons in operations. The building of the bank began in 1911 and later contained the Mendenhall Bank on the southwest corner of the building and the post office and telephone office occupied the north and east areas of the building. In 1933, the Mendenhall Bank name and building was acquired by the Springville Banking Co who retained ownership of the property until 1995. Various business such as Dr's offices, a camera shop and an upholstery shop have occupied the building since that time. The building has undergone renovations that have removed some of its historic structure, but current businesses have continued to keep it a lovely pillar in our community.

4. Opera house/Memorial Hall

65 E. 200 S.

The Springville Opera House was erected in 1905 for \$35,000 and was said to be one of the "finest opera houses in Utah" as quoted by the Springville Herald of that era. The upper story was primarily used for theatrical purposes, and the facility brought many to perform in the city. The basement had a dance hall where community dances and high school proms were held. The basement was also used as a gym and it served as a basketball court for the Springville high school. In later years, the building was used to view motion picture shows. It was eventually sold to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to host socials and religious services, but was destroyed in 1927 by a fire. The building was considered a total loss. Only the four 2-story, outer brick walls of the building remained. Investigators believed the fire was started with young boys playing with matches near the stage. Today Memorial Hall (currently our Senior Citizens Center) has been built over the foundation of the Opera House.

Memorial Hall was dedicated on July 4, 1932. It was dedicated as a memorial to soldiers who lost their lives in World War I. It was built with labor donated by members of the American Legion. The Springville national guard unit used the hall from the time of the guard's reorganization in 1948 until the Armory was completed. The Memorial Hall also served veteran's groups and was used as a community center. In the 1950's the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints paid to remodel the front part of the building so it could be used as a recreation center for young basketball players.

5. Vaud Hanks & Sons

229 S. Main St

In 1890, John Deal purchased the land due to unfortunate circumstances from a single mother with two young children, Margaret Tuckett. John Deal and his partners, the Mendenhall brothers, had each saved up enough money at that time to start their own general merchandise store. The store proved successful and in 1909 an addition was built on the north side and a second addition was built onto that in 1925. Deal Bros and Mendenhall Co. owned the plot until 1969, with F. Calvin Packard as president. The Packard family and their investment company were deeded the buildings in 1969 and continued ownership until 1988. The family furniture business, Vaud Hanks & Sons has occupied the building since 1976.

6. Grace Bible Church

239 South Main

W.W. Clyde worked in engineering and construction and built this building around 1945 to provide himself with additional business opportunities. J.C. Penny occupied this store for 30 years. It currently is home to the Grace Bible Church.

7. Charisma Dance Studio

245 South Main Street

This lot was originally owned by George and Martha Harrison, who ran the Harrison Hotel from 1880 until the 1940's. George Harrison as a young child had lived with the local Indians for a time. He later and then joined the Army. He learned to cook and eventually became known throughout the west as George "Beefsteak" Harrison. W. W. Clyde purchased the property in 1941, demolished the hotel, and built a building almost identical building to the one south of it. Safeway initially occupied the new building, followed by Christensen's Department Store and currently it is the location of Charisma Dance Studio. Charisma Dance studio is also home to its own world-renowned dancer/choreographer Charity Anderson Reid, who placed 3rd with her partner, Andres Peñate on Season 2 of World of Dance.

8. Napa Auto Parts

265 W Main St.

These two adjoining lots have always been associated with the automotive industry. The now-vacant lot on 255 S. Main St. was once the Springville Garage, established in 1920 by Alber L. Thorpe. The garage was torn down in 2001 and the lot has remained vacant. It's neighboring building began housing the Automotive Products Corporation in 1935. In the 1940's, Sprouse-Reitz, a five and dime chain store occupied the building for the next 30 years, but in 2004 the building returned to selling automotive parts.

9. TLC Daycare

309 S Main St.

A new post office was dedicated in Springville on November 15, 1941, only three weeks before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It was the first federally constructed Post Office in the city. The first rural post route was established in Springville in December 1902. City founder, Aaron Johnson, was the first postmaster. The new building had granite entrance steps and a spacious lobby with five service windows and 168 lock boxes. It was 100,000 square feet and cost \$70,000 to build. This building is now on the National Register of Historic places and currently serves as a day care center.

Our city's current post office is located on 75 E. Center St.

10. Pier 49 Pizza

296 S. Main St.

James Caffrey and Samuel Davis purchased the property in 1890 and began construction on their retail furniture store that same year. In 1914, the Robinsons Brothers Music Co. took over the building and continued to sell furniture alongside their musical merchandise. Then in 1921, England immigrant, Laura Senior purchased the building and began a billiard hall there. The building was expanded in the late 1920's to accommodate a hotel and café. This would be the third hotel in Springville, alongside the Harrison Hotel and Kearns Hotel. The Senior Family operated the Hotel and Café for many years. In 1995, the then vacant building was purchased and underwent a two-year restoration that allowed the most current business to occupy the building, Pier 49 Pizza.

11-13. Mountain Rock Music

290 S. Main St.

James Caffrey also owned this lot and the neighboring lots. Alma H. Child purchased the properties from Caffrey in 1901 and built the buildings on this block between 1913 and 1923. Child's family came from Yorkshire England, and he was a skilled stone mason. It isn't known what the original use of the building was on 290 S. but records indicate all the buildings were used in most part for Child's mason businesses. Various businesses and owners have occupied these buildings over the years. Mountain Music is the current business at 290 S. Main St, **Clint's Reptile Room** is now at 284 S. Main St, **Blue Valley Insurance** occupies the upper floor at 276 S. Main St and the first floor is at 278 S. Main St is currently vacant.

14. Brown Art Galley

274 S. Main St.

Hiram Straw, born in Springville, built the building in 1900. He sold the property, known as Straw Block to Thomas Child (Father of Alma H. Child) in 1903 and at some point, Child added on a second story addition. The building housed a baker, a cobbler and other businesses over the years. The building was intended to match the Moroni Miner Block to its neighborly north.

15. Bill Brown Realty and All State Insurance

262 S. Main and 264 S. Main.

Moroni Miner, born in Kirtland Ohio, purchased the original property and developed "Miners Block" in 1892. The property was then sold to Hiram Straw in 1899, who then sold the building to Thomas Child in 1903. Miners Block was once a meat market, a candy shop and a bakery among other things. Both the Straw Block and Miners Block were acquired by Ellen R & Maud Peterson and owned by them until 1977.

16. Rivoli Theater

254 S. Main St.

In 1927, Emil Ostlund, born in Sweden, build the Rivoli Theater in Springville. It opened on December 29th, 1927 and was the city's first movie theater. The first film that was shown was East Side, West Side. In the summer of 1928, Mr. Ostlund upgraded the theater and added a sound system as the movie industry began releasing "talking" movies. The theater initially held 300 people. In 1939, due to its success, the theater was expanded to accommodate 700 attendees and remodeled with an art deco façade on its exterior. It was called "one of the finest pictures how housed south of Salt Lake City ". In 1940, the Springville Herald announced a major event in the theater's history. It was a rare treat for one

of the smallest cities in the nation at the time to show "Gone with the Wind". Emil Ostlund also served as Mayor of Springville during the 1940's. In 1967 after being closed for several years, the theater reopened as the Villa Theater and was purchased by the City of Springville in 2008.

17. Pontis Architecture

248 S. Main St.

Young and single, Nettie Kerr purchased this property from Simeion Blanchard in 1891. She built and ran her own millinery business there until 1897. She married John S. Groesbeck in 1893 and the building remained in the Groesbeck family until the late 1990's. A tailor, billiard hall, café and photography shop have all at some point occupied this building.

18. Jive Dance Studio

244 S. Main St.

This smaller building was built sometime between 1898 and 1908. Originally owned by Gideon S. Wood, it was a grocery store in the beginning. In later years the building hosted a barber/beauty shop as well as an electrical shop and numerous variations of a craft store.

19. Retreat Salon

238 S. Main St.

This building was built sometime in the 1890's. In 1902, Marion F. Miner, son of Moroni Miner, bought the property and within 25 years of ownership, expanded the building twice, upgrading it to the building it is today. It initially operated as a restaurant and Miners Meat and Grocery. In the late 1940's, the building was sold and for the next 30 years was known as Haymond's Drug. In the 1970's it became Rex Drug and today it is the Retreat Salon.

20. Warrior's Way

236 S. Main St.

Established in the early 1900's, the Palfreyman family owned and operated a meat and grocery store there for almost 30 years. It became Bradford 's Market and Grocery later on and has changed hands numerous times throughout the years. It has remained a martial arts studio for the last 10 years.

21. UPS

224 S. Main St.

Built in the early 1900's and originally owned by Claus Tranchell, it began as a grocery store under the ownership of Thomas Edward Child in 1910. It changed hands and was Crandall's Department Store from the 1930's until the 50's. Various businesses have come and gone since that time but it has been UPS since 2003.

22. Dukes Jewelers

220 S. Main St.

Built in the early 1900's, the original purpose for the building is unknown. By 1931 it was a restaurant and later an upholstery store. In 1948 the original location of Dukes Jewelers was opened nearby. By 1960, Dukes Jewelry had reestablished itself here on 220 S. Main St.

23. S.O.S. Drug Store

214 S. Main St.

In 1909, Swedish emigrant Claus Tranchell constructed this building. It has been a pharmacy since the

very beginning. Originally Tranchell's pharmacy operated from inside the Springville Banking Company building nearby. In 1911, Dr. Wightman bought and operated the pharmacy until 1977. Several pharmacies worked from this same building at different time periods; Tripp Pharmacy in the 1930's-40's, Haymond Drug in the 1940's, Daniel's Drug and then eventually S.O.S. drug in the 1950's. It's been noted that S.O.S. has stood for Shelly, Olsen and Shelly, originating from Woody and Ila Shelly who were once owners. Garret Crane now owns and operates the historic Pharmacy and has retained its name, S.O. S. Drug.

24. Springville Bank

202 S. Main and 200 South

The Springville Bank was built in 1892. It was established in 1891 by Milan Packard, Romanzo A. Deal, L.D. Deal, Thomas Mendenhall and H.T. Reynolds; but moved to its current location in 1892. Its original design was as a Victorian Eclectic building with a turret and it became the first most formal bank of the community. In 1940 –1942, the building was updated, and the turret was removed with the brick block covered in veneer. The building continues to operate as a bank under the name of Central Bank.

On Saturday June 28th, 1898 at 10:00am, two outsiders robbed the bank. One of the robbers was C.L "Gunplay" Maxwell who was a wanted member of the Robbers Roost band. Maxwell never revealed the name of his accomplice who was killed during the pursuit to apprehend the robbers and recover over \$3,000 in stolen gold, silver and currency. Local hero's included store owner H.T Reynolds and blacksmith Joseph Allen. A group of men pursued the robbers on horseback up to the mouth of Hobble Creek Canyon. Allen was shot in the leg but returned a fatal shot that killed the unnamed robber. Allen was generously rewarded for capturing Maxwell but eventually lost his injured leg.

25. The Reynolds building

200 S. Main St.

In 1892 several large buildings were constructed due to economic boom that the Denver and Rio Grande railroads brought into Springville. Springville had at least 6 other mercantile stores in the city, however, the H.T. Reynolds building was the largest mercantile store south of Salt Lake City. It has 3 stories and in its former time, it carried a wide variety of commodities including clothes, dry goods, fabric, china and furniture among other things. The third floor was a large open space that was used as a community gathering space that held dances, family reunions, and other social activities. In 1903-1904 Springville city installed its own power plant at hobble Creek Canyon. The H.T. Reynolds building along with the City Hall were the first places to be lighted with electricity. In 2008, Trivani International extensively renovated the building and it currently has offices upstairs and the delicious Magelby's restaurant downstairs.

26. Tatton Baird

52 W. 200 South

Built between 1890 and 1896, by Julia Huntington, this building originally operated as a store. Arthur B. Gore who operated a pressing company, bought the building in 1928 and continued to use it for his dry-cleaning business until he sold it after a fire in 1934. The building has been used for everything from a Realty business to a pizza parlor. It is currently home to Tatton Baird (Chandler Baird Scott, business owner) who hand makes beautiful traditional headwear.

27. The Kearns Hotel and Aaron Johnson Home

94 W. 200 South

The building was started in 1892 and was completed around 1900 by the Johnson family. When the major railroads made their way to Springville, a new depot was constructed on 200 South. This home was conveniently located near the depot and in 1909 it was converted to an important hotel for the city. It was opened and operated by Moses (son of City Founder Aaron Johnson) and Ann Kearns Johnson. It was known as the Johnson Hotel until 1910, and then changed to the Kearns Hotel. The Johnson Hotel was one of only three hotels in Springville in 1900's. The Kearns family operated it during 1910–37. The original building was added to between 1908 and 1925, according to the National Register of Historic Places. It has been known at times as the Johnson Hotel, the Kearns Hotel, the Manitou Hotel, and the Valley Tavern Hotel. It remained vacant from 1980-1990 and after some renovations eventually reopened as the Johnson/Kearns Hotel Bed and Breakfast, but has since closed and is for sale.

28. Civic Center

110 S. Main St.

The original Springville City Hall was built in 1880. It was built with funds raised from the city calf pasture. Its construction was celebrated with a dance on Christmas Eve. At the time, it was located in the center of the city square and was built with funds raised from selling the city calf pasture. The building was demolished and replaced with the new civic center in 1960.

In 1965, an “ultra-modern” New Civic Center building was unveiled that housed the fire and police departments, dispatch, and a jail. The fire quarters included a garage that was built to accommodate six trucks and a residence for the firefighters. The fire and police department each had 3 phones. The building was touted to be completely fireproof, being constructed of cement and steel with glazed tile wall. The jail featured the latest in design and included 2 cells with a larger room that could accommodate 6 inmates. The building had a 35-foot tower for a radio siren and communication system. A library and city offices opened up just before the 4th of July of that year. The Springville Playhouse (originally called the Little Theatre) moved into a small theater in the basement. It used this facility for over 45 years. The building was dedicated on November 1965 and cost 504,056\$. The Mayor at the time was Paul Haymond and the city had about 10,000 citizens. Unfortunately, with the development of this new facility, the old City Hall building was demolished.

In 1980, the Public Safety facilities were expanded as the population of the city had grown to approximately 30,000 citizens. Planning for even more new facilities due to the city's growth, the City Council began saving in the late 1990's. In 2009, the new City Civic Center and Fire Station 41 were dedicated. The buildings were built with no increased in taxes or fees to the community. The building houses the city administrative offices, the courthouse, information technology, and other departments and services necessary to run the city. In the fall of 2011, the previous civic center was demolished.

29. Springville Fire Department

75 W. Center

The Fire department was founded in 1909. The first professional fire vehicle, a 1922 pumper, is put into use by the fire department. A new fire station is built in 1925, as many businesses had been unfortunately impacted by fires. The new fire station was a major safety upgrade that included a two-bay station. In 1937 the fire department purchased a 1937 La France fire engine and equipment for 7,000\$. In 2009 Fire Station 41-the new center of fire safety operation-opens with a fire-hose cutting ceremony. A second fire station also opens near Hobble Creek Canyon in the fall of the same year.

In 1971, several downtown businesses have façade makeovers that use bright colored or shingled awnings. City leaders endorse the new “contemporary village” look. In 1973 a major fire destroys four buildings on Main street.

A fire that was called “one of the worst in Springville History” destroyed four building that house five businesses. –the Western Auto store, Norman’s upholstery, Ye old Mill Health Food Store, Castleton’s Phot studio and the Utah state liquor agency. The fires located between 100 and 200 S out on the west side of Main street, caused damages estimated at \$170,000. Other fire departments were called into help alongside the Springville fire department. Reports indicated that the fire likely began in the Western Auto Store and that fighting the fire was complicated by the new façade makeover that in recent years had been constructed.

*****The following stores are not numbered on the map.*****

Christophers’s Herb Shop

188 S. Main St.

This building was an expansion of the booming H.T. Reynold store. It closed alongside the main building in 1926. Like many of the other buildings on Main St., it has housed numerous businesses throughout the years. For many years it was Anderson’s furniture store. We’re happy to have Christopher's Herb Shop and Gingers Café now occupy this historic building.

Funfinity

164 S. Main St.

Beginning as a general merchandise store in the 1890’s, it transitioned to a Drug Store. Before the local Pharmacy, Springville residents purchased their drugs from settlers who brought their drugs down from Salt Lake City. Thomas R. Kelly purchased the store in 1901 and during his ownership, he and the second drug store were fined 500\$ twice for selling liquor which was prohibited at that time. In 1924 a fire destroyed the Drug Store. It became Christensen’s Drug Store for many years and then later, became Copies Plus Printing, later Fat Jack’s Pizza and is currently, the treasure trove Funfinity.

China Café

160 S. Main

Before it was China Café, it was Francis’ Café. Built around 1945, Francis Marion Hazel purchased the property from the previous owner, Richard Davis Sutton. Hazel m moved to Springville in 1933 and started as a waiter in a coffee shop. After four years, he opened his own business called Francis’ Lunch. He fulfilled a goal of opening his own café and Francis’ Café remained open until 1980, making him Springville City’s longest active businessman. It currently operates as China Café.

Main Street

The Orem Interurban (often called “The Orem”) was an electric train that ran 67 miles from Salt Lake City to Payson. The project was named for the financier and builder, the A.J. Orem Company. In 1915, the tracks for the train were placed right down the middle of Springville’s Main Street, and by July 18, twenty trains a day ran to the city. Springville housed one of the four electrical substations for the rail. The emergence of the automobile and the Great Depression caused significant cuts to the line. The last interurban lines operated until just after World War II. In 1919-1920, Main Street becomes a hard surfaced highway and is paved on each side of the Orem Interurban. 1927m Springville passes its first ordinance regulating vehicle speeds to 20 mph in the city and 15 mph in intersections.

Main Street is also part of Highway 89. Because the highway links seven National Parks across the Mountain West, it is sometimes called the National Park Highway. In 1934, U.S. 89 became a border-to-border route extending from Mexico to Canada. Today the highway runs from Flagstaff Arizona to the southern entrance of Yellowstone National Park. From the north entrance of Yellowstone, it continues through Montana and ends at the Canadian border.

Railroad

Three S Springville men, Milan Packard, M.P. Crandall and Nephi Packard, began the Utah and Pleasant Valley Railroad. These 3 men were also investors in the Pleasant Valley Coal Company and wanted to run a rail route that would reach their mining deposits. In the summer of 1878 the track of the railroad was laid up to then State St (now Main St.) and the first train of flat cars came up to the corner of City Square. In 1879 Charles W. Scofield purchased the line from financial distress and the railroad was in operation from Pleasant Valley to Springville. The train was made up of twelve five-ton, wooden cars that held sixty tons of coal per trip.

In 1881, the first fifty miles of the Denver and Rio Grande Wester (D&RGW) tracks stretches from Salt Lake City to Springville. A historic unplanned stop by United States President, Harry S. Truman on Tuesday September 21, 1948 garnered much attention from Springville citizens. It was the second Presidential visit in the City's history. (President Benjamin Harrison in 1891 was the first visit). Springville citizens honored President Truman and his family after a 5-minute speech, with a homegrown bouquet of celery!

As a new era of transportation took over, the train depot was dismantled in 1964 and 1-15 was opened in 1966,

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24. Central Bank
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23. SOS Drug
214 S Main

22. Duke's Jewelers
220 S Main

21. UPS Store
224 S Main

20. Warrior Way
236 S Main

19. The Retreat
238 S Main

18. Jive Dance
244 S Main

17. Pontis Architecture
248 S Main

16. Rivoli Theater
254 S Main

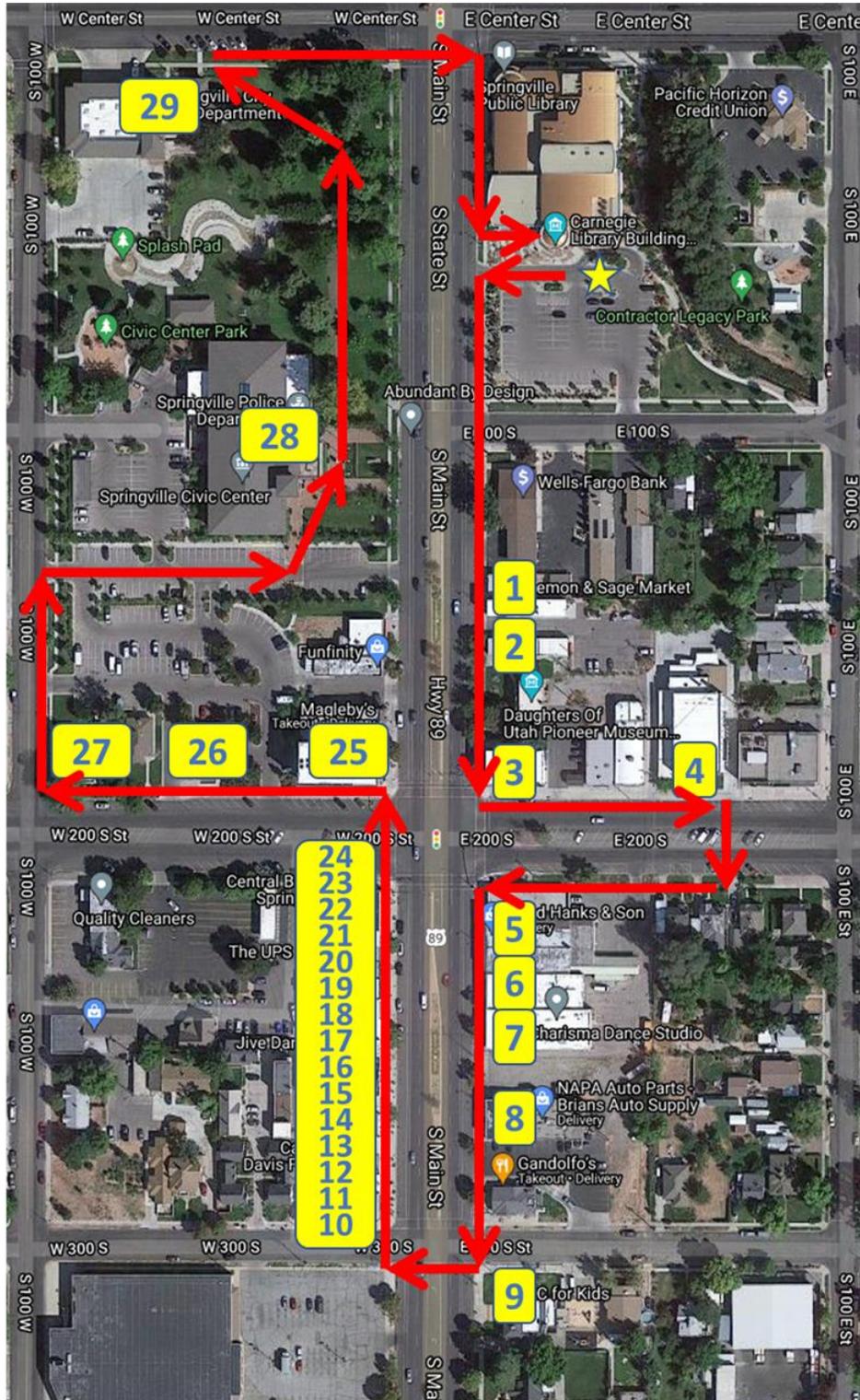
15. Allstate Insurance
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14. Brown Art Gallery
274 S Main

13. Blue Valley Insurance
276 S Main

12. Clint's Reptile Room
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Springville Main St. Historical Tour



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