

Time Travel on South Temple

A tour for kids 9-12 with an adult

One hundred years ago, South Temple was Salt Lake City's most fashionable street. Many of Utah's wealthiest families built beautiful mansions with lovely gardens along South Temple. The street glittered with the grand parties and elegant dinners of Utah's high society.

Wouldn't it be exciting to visit a South Temple family from the early 1900s and ask them what life was like back then? The people who lived on South Temple 100 years ago are no longer here, but some of the buildings they built are. If you ask these buildings the right questions, they can transport you back in time.

We are used to seeing many buildings every day. But have you ever really looked at a building? Have you wondered why buildings look the way they do? Or what they are made of? Or how they were used a long time ago?

These are the kind of questions you need to ask to begin traveling through time. Keep them in mind as you walk through South Temple's history.

If you would like a guided time travel trip, take a tour of the Salt Lake City and County Building or the Kearns Mansion (Utah Governor's Mansion) on your own or with your class. Call Utah Heritage Foundation at (801) 533-0858 for information on free public and school tours.



The Cathedral of the Madeleine

331 E. South Temple

Built 1899-1909

*Open to the public M-F, 7:30 am-9 pm, Sat. & Sun., 7:30 am-7 pm.
Guided tours available Fridays at 1 pm and Sundays at 1:30 pm.*

Peering down at you from The Cathedral of the Madeleine's tall towers are eight, long-necked monsters. These strange creatures carved in stone are called "gargoyles." People have been putting gargoyles on cathedrals since the Middle Ages about 1000 years ago. Some gargoyles worked as drain pipes. Others were carved to tell religious stories or frighten away evil spirits. Eventually, gargoyles became a tradition and were put on cathedrals and other buildings as decorations.



Look for a large round window above the entrance to The Cathedral of the Madeleine. **What does the pattern of the stone lines, or tracery, in the window remind you of?** This kind of window is called a "rose window" because it is shaped like a flower. Be sure to go inside the cathedral and see the brilliant stained glass in the rose window.

The Cathedral of the Madeleine took many years to complete. Finishing the massive, gray sandstone exterior took ten years. Fine craftsmen spent another three years creating the beautiful wood carvings and murals on the interior.

Compared to the cathedrals constructed in Europe during the Middle Ages, The Cathedral of the Madeleine was built very quickly. Because of wars, plagues, and lack of money, some of the great cathedrals of the Middle Ages were under construction for more than 100 years!

First Presbyterian Church

12 C Street

Built 1903-1905

The First Presbyterian Church would look familiar to a person who lived in Carlisle, England, in the Middle Ages. Architect Walter Ware had just returned from England when he designed this church. His plan was based on the beautiful cathedral he had seen in Carlisle. Both churches are made of red sandstone

and have large square towers with tops like the battlements on a castle. They also have graceful, pointed arch windows and tall, knobby pinnacles.



Young people are an important part of the history of First Presbyterian Church. Members of the church's Junior Christian Endeavor Society made the first donation for the construction of this building. After this gift of \$10, they raised another \$100 by saving the nickels and dimes they usually spent on candy. (How many dimes are in \$100?)

The church building was planned with children in mind. It had 30 Sunday school rooms for children's activities. The historic photo shows one of the church's many children's events, a pretend wedding held in 1905. The Sunday school children got to dress up like a real wedding party. The Sunday school rooms were decorated with yellow flowers and there was even an orchestra to play the wedding march.

First Presbyterian Church is still a place for children's activities today. In addition to the children who go to church here, Girl and Boy Scout troops, a children's choir, a kids' basketball team, and a daycare center all have a home in this beautiful building.

Enos e' Mary Wall Mansion

411 E. South Temple

Original House-1881

Enlarged and Remodeled-1908-1914

Hidden inside this historic mansion is an even older house. One of Salt Lake City's early mayors, James Sharp, built a house here in 1881. Enos and Mary Wall bought this property in 1905. The Walls were very rich. Enos Wall made a fortune helping to start the Utah Copper Company, which later became Kennecott Utah Copper. The Walls wanted a house that would reflect their wealthy lifestyle. They hired a famous architect to remodel and enlarge Mayor Sharp's house to create this beautiful mansion. You can see the mansion being built around the older house in the historic photo.

Imagine that one of the Walls' five daughters has invited you to a party at the mansion. The butler greets you at the front door and shows you the elevator that will

take you to the third floor. After twirling around the ballroom to music played by a live orchestra, you can try your hand at billiards in the game room. When you're tired, you can walk outside on the balcony above the front porch to enjoy the stars.

Today, the Wall Mansion is no longer a house. It has been adapted for use as a school by the LDS Business College. Just like people and animals, historic buildings can adapt to new situations. **Look for other buildings on South Temple that are used differently today than when they were first built.**

A. O. Whitmore Electric Automobiles Building **430 E. South Temple**

Built in 1910



Photo courtesy of Utah State Historical Society

Some people think we will all drive electric cars powered by batteries in the future. Electric cars are both a vision of the future and a part of South Temple's past. Alfred O. Whitmore constructed this building over 90 years ago as a factory, dealership, and service garage for the electric cars he designed. Whitmore became one of the largest manufacturers and dealers of electric cars in the West.

Whitmore located his business on South Temple Street near the wealthy families who could afford to purchase early automobiles. The garage was also convenient for South Temple drivers who needed to recharge the batteries of their electric car. You can see Whitmore standing next to an electric car in the historic photo.



Photo courtesy of Utah State Historical Society

Whitmore stopped making electric cars around 1920 because gasoline-powered cars were much more popular. **Do you think South Temple will have a service station for electric cars again someday?**

David & Mary Keith Mansion

529 E. South Temple

Built in 1900

This stately mansion was built by David and Mary Keith. David Keith, however, was not always rich. After his parents died when he was 14, Keith went to work as a miner to support himself. Many years later, Keith met Thomas Kearns working in a Park City silver mine. One day Kearns saw a vein of silver near a mine that was not being worked. Keith and Kearns decided to take a risk and lease the mine. Their hunch paid off! The two men became millionaires, life-long friends, business partners, and neighbors. *(Thomas Kearns' house is #7 on this tour.)*

The historic photo shows the Keith family in a carriage in front of their house. While you won't see fancy carriages driving on South Temple today, you can still see evidence of the horse-and-buggy days along the street. In front of the Keith Mansion next to the curb is a big stone block called a carriage step to help people get in and out of the high carriages. There is also a stone hitching post where the horses were tied.

To the east of the Keith Mansion is a carriage house. This is where the carriages were stored and the horses stabled. This carriage house also had room for a bowling alley, shooting gallery, and servants quarters. Just imagine if your garage were this big! **Be sure to look for other carriage steps and carriage houses on your South Temple tour.**



Ezra & Emily Thompson House

576 E. South Temple

Built in 1889

Ezra and Emily Thompson bought this red brick house in 1898. The next year, Ezra Thompson was elected mayor of Salt Lake City. He was a very successful mayor and served three terms in office. While Thompson



was mayor, South Temple was paved for the first time. You can see the original sandstone curb in front of the Thompson House. Sections of sandstone sidewalk remain in other places along the street.

Ezra Thompson bought an Owens Magnetic electric car in 1906. (He probably didn't buy it from his neighbor, A. O. Whitmore.) There were less than 100 cars in the whole state at that time! Thompson could drive for 50 miles before charging his batteries at the Whitmore garage down the street.

Look for a square tower on the northeast corner of the Thompson House. Corner towers like this are often called "turrets." **What kind of building does a turret remind you of? Find other houses with turrets on your South Temple tour.**

Thomas & Jennie Kearns Mansion (Utah Governor's Mansion)

603 E. South Temple

Built 1900-1902

Tours available April-November on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2-4 pm.

Have you ever had breakfast with the President of the United States? Four-year-old Helen Kearns did. When her father, Thomas Kearns, served as a U.S. Senator from Utah, he became friends with President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1903, President Roosevelt came to Salt Lake City and had breakfast at the Kearns Mansion. The mansion was draped in bunting and flags in honor of the President's visit, as you can see in the historic photo on the next page. Helen greeted President Roosevelt in French and presented him a bouquet of carnations.

Helen and her two brothers, Thomas, Jr. and Edmund, had many other adventures in the Kearns Mansion. With 32 rooms in the mansion, including a bowling



Photo courtesy of Utah State Historical Society

alley in the basement, they had plenty of room to play. They slid down the banister of the grand staircase and played tag in the ballroom. When their parents held grand parties in the evening, the children sneaked upstairs to watch the elegant dancers.

By 1937, all the Kearns children had grown up and moved away. Jennie Kearns decided to donate the Kearns Mansion to the State of Utah to be used as the governor's house. Before this, Utah did not have an official governor's residence. Governor Herbert Maw said the mansion was a tremendous boost to the image of the state.

A terrible fire swept through the Kearns Mansion in 1993. Luckily, no one was hurt. Craftsmen from around the county came to work on the restoration of the mansion. Today, it looks much as it did when Helen Kearns met President Roosevelt in 1903.

Matthew & Angelena Walker Mansion

610 E. South Temple

Built in 1904

Six-year-old Frances Glenn Walker was photographed striding up the steps of her new South Temple home with confidence. Her favorite room in the house was the huge music room. It had ceilings three stories high and a huge organ with 1,500 pipes. Many great musicians gave recitals here. Glenn Walker loved music and became a skilled pianist.



Photo courtesy of Utah State Historical Society



Photo courtesy of Utah State Historical Society

Later in her life, she helped found the Utah Symphony and Ballet West.

Glenn Walker's childhood was very different from her father's. When Matthew Walker was five, his family left England to come to Utah. Along the way, his father and three sisters died. Walker crossed the plains with his mother and three brothers in a wagon. Once in Utah, he helped his brothers set up a small store with a bank. After many years of hard work, Matthew Walker became president of the Walker Brothers Bank and one of the richest men in Utah.

The front, or facade, of the Walker Mansion has a balanced look. Ignore the office addition on the west of the mansion. Then imagine a line starting at the roof and going down to the ground that divides the mansion in half. Each half is a mirror reflection of the other! **What other buildings have you seen today that have balanced facades?**

Salt Lake Masonic Temple

650 E. South Temple

Built in 1927

Tours available on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons by calling in advance, (801) 363-2936.

The Masonic Temple is the meeting place of a club called the Masons. The word "mason" refers to a person who builds with brick or stone. The Masons began as a club for builders in the Middle Ages. Today the Masons sponsor many charitable activities, such as the Shriners Hospital which provides free care for crippled children.



The Masonic Temple is built in an architectural style called “Egyptian Revival.” This style became popular for a short time after the discovery of King Tutankhamen’s tomb in 1922. **Can you find these Egyptian symbols on the building?**

1. A double-headed, feathered serpent.

This serpent represents Horus, the Egyptian god of light or life.

2. Two sphinxes.

A sphinx is half human and half lion and represents mystery. What is on the globes the sphinxes are holding?

3. A scarab.

The scarab is a type of beetle that represented Atum, the Egyptian god of creation.

4. Columns with lotus capitals.

The lotus is a type of water lily. It has a flower that closes and sinks underwater at night. In the morning, the flower comes to the top of the water and re-opens. To the ancient Egyptians, the lotus flower was a symbol of rebirth.

Emanuel & Fanny Kahn Mansion

678 E. South Temple

Built in 1889

The Kahn Mansion is built in the Queen Anne style of architecture. Queen Anne buildings are very “busy.” They have many details and decorations that catch

your eye. Look at all the fancy wood carving on the porch of the Kahn House. Many people call this carving “gingerbread.” **Where else do you see carving or decorations on the Kahn Mansion?**

Queen Anne buildings always have an unbalanced front or facade. No matter how you try, you can’t draw a line dividing the Kahn Mansion into two mirror halves. What other buildings have you seen on South Temple today with unbalanced facades?

This house was the home of Emanuel and Fanny Kahn. Emanuel and his brother, Samuel, were some of the Jewish people to settle in Utah.

They started the Kahn Brothers store which became one of the largest grocery stores in Salt Lake City. **How is the Kahn Mansion used today?**

