every place HAS A STORY
the history of the rio grande depot district

the hub
2004_05
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH HONORS THINK TANK
People travel to wonder at the height of the mountains, at the huge waves of the seas, at the long course of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars, and yet they pass by themselves without wondering.

ST. AUGUSTINE
immigrants & the American dream

As in other parts of the country, immigrants have played and continue to play a defining role in the culture of Utah. Given their prominence in what is now the Intermodal Hub area, their stories are important to the story of the district, their lives sown into the fabric of this place. Unfortunately we do not know all their stories. Undoubtedly some never found what they were seeking. Some lived in the shanties and worked long arduous hours on the railroad or in the factories. Certainly some died in these conditions. Yet there were many others who suffered, persisted, and then thrived in this place. Their stories speak about hope for a better way of life and fulfillment of the American Dream.
prehistory_1847

Modern-day Salt Lake City

A  Temple Square
B  Salt Palace
C  Pioneer Park
D  Rio Grande Depot
E  study blocks
F  Intermodal Hub

1  South Temple excavation, '98
2  Fremont remnants found
3  alluvial fan

THE HUB

14
fremont culture and pre-pioneer era

1 far left: excavation of an ancient Fremont village on South Temple Street during light rail construction in 1998

bottom: pottery shards and arrowheads found at South Temple site

3 an example of an alluvial fan
Humans inhabited the Great Salt Lake region long before it was settled by explorers, traders, trappers, and pioneers. In fact, the prehistory of humans in Utah dates as far back as 10,000 BC and stretches to as recent as 1300 AD. Beneath the soil is evidence of the prehistoric societies that existed in Salt Lake City and throughout Utah in the years before the arrival of the first Europeans. The area which now is to the east of the Intermodal Hub formed an important part of one of those communities, that of the Salt Lake City Fremont.

Long before railroads or industry, it was the geology of the area that drew the first humans to it. The area, along with much of the rest of downtown Salt Lake City, is part of an alluvial fan that provides exceptionally high-quality soil for agriculture. According to explorer John C. Fremont, “In this eastern part of the basin, containing Sevier, Utah, and the Great Salt Lakes, and the rivers and creeks falling into them, we know there is good soil and good grass, adapted to civilized settlements” (Fremont, 1988).

Thus it was a site well-suited to the agricultural civilization of the Fremont (the natives assigned Fremont’s name) who settled in this area from 900 to 1300 AD. Remnants of their society have recently been found at two sites in Salt Lake City: along South Temple and one block east of Pioneer Park (see page 14). Excavations at these sites have uncovered pieces of pottery, arrowheads, and other items. These artifacts allow us to reconstruct much about this early civilization, but the bulk of their history remains untold. What we do know is that the story of this area in the last 150 years forms only a small part of the lost but larger tale of over 10,000 years of human habitation.

The story of this area in the last 150 years forms only a small part of the lost but larger tale of over 10,000 years of human habitation.
Antonio Ferro: Pasta King of the Mountain West

BY MIRIAM B. MURPHY

At the turn of the century Antonio Ferro opened a small store on West Second South in Salt Lake City where he sold groceries and tobacco products. In March 1905 the budding entrepreneur married Giovannina Calfa and soon thereafter launched the Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company. Eventually marketed under the “Queen’s Taste” label, no less than 45 different varieties of pasta products would be manufactured by Ferro and his associates. It seems that long before pasta dishes became trendy items on restaurant menus in Utah, the state had a pasta king.

Ferro was born in southern Italy on October 22, 1872, to Carmine and Angela Perri Ferro. The family owned a large farm. He attended the local schools and later a normal school, but in 1894 he left Italy for America. Like many of his countrymen he found work in mining, first in Pennsylvania and then in Colorado and Mercur, Utah. After working for more than a year and a half in Mercur, he left the mines and moved permanently to Salt Lake City. He managed the macaroni factory until his retirement in 1942 due to failing health. He died on August 29, 1944. Ferro was active in the Commercial Club, the Utah Manufacturers Association, several fraternal organizations—including the Sons of Italy—and the Catholic Church.

He and his wife had three children.

A detailed report of the factory published in the Utah Payroll Builder in 1927 provides information on the scope of the business and the factory’s operation. Ferro’s company employed about 25 workers and had a daily capacity of six tons of various macaroni products, although at the time produced only five tons. The factory reportedly furnished “most of the macaroni supplied to Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Nevada,” with large quantities also shipped to Colorado, California, Oregon, Washington, and Montana. “Queen’s Taste” products were also marketed in British Columbia for a number of years until the Canadian government began to tax imported wheat products.

The 45 varieties of pasta produced at the plant ranged from acino-pepe to ziti and came in shapes resembling shells, stars, oats, and letters of the alphabet as well as various sizes and cuts of tubular, flat, and an array of spaghetti-like types. The Payroll Builder writer seemed dazzled by the thought that the five tons of macaroni products manufactured daily would, if made into one long piece of the common tubular variety, “reach farther than from Logan to Provo.” The guide at the factory said that Utah’s Greeks especially liked the small orzo pasta while Italians preferred spaghetti.

The Western Macaroni factory used Utah eggs and Turkey Red flour made from wheat produced on Utah and Idaho dry farms, but 80 percent of the flour came from the harder durum wheat grown in Minnesota. The large mixers in the factory used 300 pounds of flour at a time. The stiff dough or paste moved from mixer to kneading machine to pressing machines where the various types of pasta were extruded. Racks of pasta were then taken to one of the many drying rooms for 36 to 40 hours. The drying process, critical to quality of the finished product, was monitored by hydrometers and supervised day and night by a worker who used dampers and fans to control the speed of drying so that the pasta would be neither tough nor brittle. Packers placed the finished product into packages, boxes, and barrels for shipping to stores, hotels, and restaurants in the city and throughout the intermountain area.

In calling his product “Queen’s Taste,” Ferro was clearly exercising his prerogative as the pasta king of the Mountain West (Murphy, 1996).
Before there were east or west sides, railroads, or factories, what would become the Hub district was an integrated part of what one historian has called “an isolated but well-organized, relatively self-sufficient, ecclesiastical commonwealth built on irrigated agriculture and village industry.”
1 Isaac Duffin
2 Women in Zion Utah was one of the first to give property rights to married women. Most original female plot owners were polygamous wives.
3 Lewis Hardy
4 Thomas J. Thurston
5 Old Fort The pioneers did not settle in the plots indicated on this map immediately after arriving in the valley. Instead, they built a fort on what is today Pioneer Park. Surrounded by an eight-foot adobe brick wall, by fall 1847 the fort contained 450 cabins like the one drawn below. After the first winter, permanent dwellings were built across town, but the fort continued to serve as a temporary home for some new immigrants.
6 subdivided plots Brigham Young initially implored the Saints not to subdivide their land, but to keep one family per lot to allow room for everyone to grow their own food. As the map indicates, the injunction was observed sporadically.

the first years: an agrarian community

3 Nauvoo Legion Band. Lewis Hardy was an original member.

5 Cabin at Old Fort, winter 1847

4 Modern-day Morgan County
Obviously, for the various Native American tribes, explorers, trappers, and frontiersmen who traversed and settled in the region prior to 1847, the Hub district did not exist as an entity; it was just part of a seamless natural landscape.

In 1847, however, the Hub blocks (blocks 46 & 63) were drawn into existence as a part of the settlement founded by the Mormon pioneers. For them, the area formed part of the end of a long journey. Driven out of their homes by religious persecution, they set out across the plains to find a spot to set up a new City of God in the wilderness. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, which Brigham Young declared as “the place” for their new settlement. Two months after arrival, they surveyed the land and divvied up plots, assigning equal shares at random to most settlers. This was in accord with the communitarian and agricultural vision of the City of God that was first set forth by their prophet and founder, Joseph Smith. Within the next few years, those chosen for settlement in blocks 46 and 63 gradually moved out of their makeshift log cabins at the Old Fort, now Pioneer Park, and constructed permanent dwellings on the lots assigned to them.

The names of the original settlers of these blocks are recorded on the map reproduced on page 18, which is from a larger map created by Jesse Fox in the early 1850s for Brigham Young (Bradley, 2004). A few of these individuals went on to make names for themselves as famous pioneers in other parts of the state. In 1850, Lewis Hardy, originally assigned a plot on 300 South between 400 and 500 West, became the leader of the first pioneer group to settle in Weber County and founded the town of Uintah (Stuart, 2005). Thomas J. Thurston, assigned two plots on the corner of 300 South and 500 West, built the first route through Weber Canyon and settled in what would become the town of Littleton, in Morgan County (Morgan County, 2005).

Others never went on to great fame, but what remains of their stories paints a descriptive portrait of life for these early settlers. Isaac Duffin, a brick maker, was only 21 when he made the trek to Salt Lake City with his 19-year-old wife Mary. They were assigned two plots of land on the corner of 600 West and 300 South and had two children by the time of the 1850 census. A story we can only guess at is that of Amy Clothier, the only woman assigned a plot in this area. Since very few single women were among the original settlers, this likely indicates that she was a polygamous wife given the responsibility of running one of her husband’s households. The other residents listed in the 1850 census were also young, most with children, and most were farmers or laborers of one kind or another. A majority of these settlers stayed in their original assigned plots until at

### 1847-1869

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1804</td>
<td>Successful trial of world’s first steam railway locomotive in Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Mexico wins independence from Spain and claims Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>Captain John Bartleson leads first wagon train of settlers across Utah to California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>Captain John Bartleson leads first wagon train of settlers across Utah to California</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The names of Salt Lake City’s west side streets have shifted one block to the east since the date of the original survey. What was 400 West Street in the time of Brigham Young is 500 West today. For clarity, this text uses the current street names.
least 1867, when the first city directory was published, hinting at a firm attachment to the place or a strong sense of community (Travis, 1995).

The physical and cultural center of life for the early settlers in Salt Lake City was Temple Square. Today’s Hub district, five blocks from this center, was on the periphery of the community, on the boundary marking the end of urban development and the beginning of rural farmland. This marginal location was to have profound effects on the area as the city developed. Even at the onset, most high-ranking church leaders chose plots close to the temple grounds, leaving the outskirts to the rank and file. Likewise, the location next to the farmland encouraged a far higher percentage of the settlers on the periphery to engage in agriculture. The distinctions between farm and town and between Mormons and “Gentiles” (non-Mormon) increased as Gentile retailers set up shops along Main Street (often called Whiskey Avenue during this period) and brought with them different economic and social customs. These distinctions aside, the edge zone was part of a continuum with the rest of the newly-formed Salt Lake City, sharing in its generally Anglo-American population, agriculture-based economy, and above all, Mormon religion, which was still the center of life in the valley.

Salt Lake City’s design was modeled loosely on Joseph Smith’s “Plat of the City of Zion” (right). The city plan formed a concrete expression of Mormon ideals: a well ordered, community-oriented life centered on God, as signified by the Temple Block at the heart of the city.

The city was divided into ten-acre blocks, each consisting of eight 1.25 acre lots, with one house in the center of each lot. The streets were each 132 feet wide, allowing an ox cart to turn around. The lots were distributed at random among most church members.

The orientation of the lots alternated from east-west (like block 63) to north-south (like block 46). Traces of this pattern can still be seen in the layout of the area today.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1843</th>
<th>1844</th>
<th>1847</th>
<th>1848</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John C. Fremont and Kit Carson explore the Great Basin</td>
<td>24 July The first party of Mormon pioneers arrives in the Salt Lake Valley</td>
<td>August One month after the pioneers' arrival, the first survey lays out the 119 blocks of Plat A, much of today’s downtown</td>
<td>The end of the Mexican-American War results in the annexation of Utah as a part of the United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

27 June Joseph Smith assassinated at Carthage, Illinois