

The Utah Idaho Central Railroad (U.I.C.)

Providence's early connections to the U.I.C. brought permanent change to the community. Through its operation and service, the railroad contributed to the growth and development of the town, its businesses, and its individuals who worked for and dreamed of a better future for the city. As transportation service for freight and passengers declined the railroad could no longer maintain its lines, fund its employees, or pay taxes and interest on business loans. The memory of the train and its impact continues to live on within the community of Providence, Utah. Located at Zollinger Park 61 North 200 West near the Pavillion.



The Limestone Quarry

"The whole thing was a horse killer and a wagon smasher."

Among the lesser known activities of the early settlers of Providence was prospecting and mining. Rudolph Hochstrasser and John Heyrend scoured the hills for 50 years, for lead, zinc, and coal with some success.

About 1903 Elias Peter (Pete) Hansen discovered an out cropping of high grade limestone about three miles up Providence Canyon. Recognizing the value of limestone as a purifier in the use of production of sugar, Pete filed a claim, and began selling limestone to the newly organized Amalgamated Sugar Company. The lime stone rocks came from the quarry up Providence canyon. The plaque is located on 400 South at the Jays Well Park.

Blacksmiths were kept busy

With the quarry in operation, the Blacksmiths of Providence were kept busy repairing the wagons and taking care of the horses that pulled them. In fact, it was often said that the Blacksmiths were the only ones that made money back in those days. The wagon wheel came from a wagon that was used to haul the limestone from Providence Canyon. It was made by John Bartchi one of the Blacksmiths that worked in Providence. The plaque is located on 400 South at the Jays Well Park



Honoring Providence Elementary School History

Providence was founded in 1859 by pioneers belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Because they had a firm belief that "the Glory of God is Intelligence," education was always a priority. The first public building had to be one large enough for church meetings on Sunday and a school on weekdays. Throughout the history of Providence, education has continued to play a pivotal role in community life. The plaque is located at the Providence Elementary School by the bell tower.



Providence Cattle Corral Park

The cattle industry began in Cache Valley in 1855 when Brigham Young, Heber C Kimball, and others brought their horned stock and range cattle here for the summer to graze. They established the Elkhorn Ranch across the Blacksmith Fork River west of Providence. The permanent cattle industry began in Providence in 1859 when the first settlers crossed the Wellsville Mountains with their wagons and small herds of cattle to settle in Providence. Located at Cattle Corral Park on 100 South between 100 and 200 East.

Providence Water In April of 1859

In April of 1859, the first white settlers to arrive in the Providence area naturally set up camp near a water source. These settlers chose a perennial stream called Spring Creek (the source of the stream being a large spring). The settlement originally took its name from the stream but in the autumn of 1859 two visiting Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints renamed the village Providence. Around twenty houses were built that fall. Initially, "modest diversion ditches" brought the waters of Spring Creek closer to homes for livestock, farming, and family use." Located at the Cattle Corral Park on 100 South between 100 and 200 East.



Providence Pavilion

The first and only private building erected for public entertainment in Providence was the Pavilion built in 1905 by a stock company. Most social events were held in the Rock Church or the school until 1905 when a group of stock holders got together and made plans for a larger, more useable facility to meet the cultural and sporting needs of the community.

The plaque is located on the corner of Center Street and Main across the street from the Old Rock Church.



Mercantile Stores Established

Early Providence merchants were the Rice Brothers. Their stock consisted of a few groceries, some dry goods, and a little hardware.

Samuel Hargraves operated a private store in 1865 which later was taken over by the Providence Co-op. The Co-op was organized in 1869, with shares at a value of \$10 each. The officers included a President, a board of directors and a business manager.

The plaque is located on the corner of Center Street and Main across the street from the Old Rock Church.

