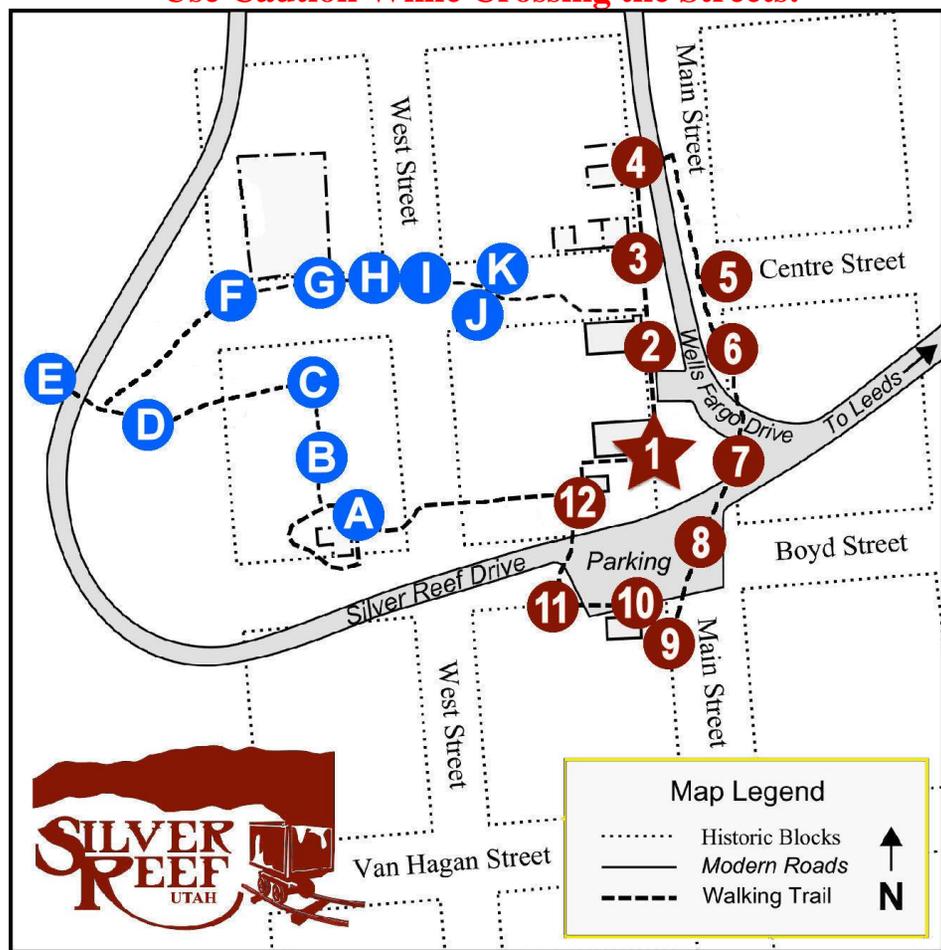


Silver Reef Trail Guide

Our two interpretive trails take you on a journey of discovery through Silver Reef by sharing its rich history and interesting stories.

Please help us preserve what is left of the town by not walking into, or climbing onto the ruins. Also, please stay on the rock-lined trails, leaving the artifacts and desert wildlife where you find them.

Use Caution While Crossing the Streets!



Enjoy your tour, and thank you for coming!

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Main Street Trail (Stations 1–12)

1. Wells, Fargo & Co. Express Station: The Museum is currently located in this building. It features exhibits on mining and frontier life, as well as tours of the Museum & Mine Exhibit. Completed in 1878, this is one of the oldest Wells Fargo Express Stations in the country. Here silver bullion from the mines was guarded and shipped out. The building also served as a stagecoach stop and housed a dry goods store.

2. Cosmopolitan Restaurant: Reputed to serve the best hash in the territory, this popular restaurant was owned by Margaret Grambs, a native of Bavaria. It was dismantled in 1895 when Mrs. Grambs moved to Salt Lake City. The current building is a reconstruction.

3. Harrison House: This hotel was called the Waldorf Astoria of Utah Territory! A large, two-story structure, it held a five-star restaurant (featuring a grand piano) on the lower level, furniture and general merchandise stores on the main floor, and guest rooms on the upper floor – for a total of 45 rooms. After being destroyed by fire in 1879, the hotel was completely rebuilt and refurbished.

4. Main Street Businesses: Silver Reef's mile-long Main Street was lined with various shops, saloons, offices, and other places of business. The tall walls in front of you once had elegant arched doorways.

5. Silver Reef Jail: This small jailhouse has traveled the county and has now come back home. Once a lodging for thieves, drunkards, and even a murderer, it conveniently stood behind the Elk Horn Saloon which was sometimes used as a courtroom. When the town was abandoned, the jail was hauled off to Leeds and then to Washington City, serving at various times as an ice house, granary, and tack house. It finally returned to Silver Reef in 2017.

6. Elkhorn Saloon: One of more than a dozen saloons in town, the Elkhorn was operated by George Miller, an immigrant from Germany. One day the town marshal and a miner had a heated dispute in the saloon, stepped out the door and shot each other dead -- about on the spot where you are standing.

7. Dance Halls: This is the approximate location of the Metropolitan Dance Hall. There were a few such "hurdy-gurdy" houses in town where wild-hearted women could meet wild-hearted men. In the 1880s the building was purchased by James Louder and turned into a general store.

8. Kiosk: Here you can read the details of the supposed impossibility of finding silver in sandstone. And you can learn about the challenges of extracting, mining and marketing the ore. The sight tubes point to more distant mine locations, historic cemeteries, and other points of interest.

9. Chinatown: The area of town south of where you are standing was referred to as Chinatown in the 1870's. Up to 200 Chinese lived here. Though they were not miners, they worked at a variety of essential support jobs.

10. Rice Bank: John H. Rice moved from Pioche, NV, in the 1870's to establish a bank in Silver Reef. After the town folded, this building, like the Wells Fargo building, became a private residence. In the 1950's Ann Bassett lived here. In her younger days, she was dubbed "Queen of the Rustlers" and many books link her romantically to Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. The current building is a reconstruction on the original foundation.

11. St. John's Church Memorial: The rough-and-tumble miners were disinclined to take kindly the admonitions of priests and pastors. But Father Lawrence Scanlan, who had won their respect in Pioche, NV, came to Silver Reef and established a church, hospital, and school just south of this memorial.

12. Cassidy Powder House: This is a reconstruction of a building used for storing explosives. (Windows were added for lighting and would not have been in the original.) Here you will find a diorama of the original town, models of mining mills and other structures, and an audio narrative history of Silver Reef.

West and Centre Streets Trail (Stations A-K)

A. Lubbock Home: This home was originally owned by Capt. Henry S. Lubbock who ran the Christy Mill. His wealth could pay for the fine stone work. The house is remembered as being most beautifully built and surrounded by trees and flower gardens. After the heyday of Silver Reef, William and Daisy Hartman Nicholls and their family lived here. The volunteer trees around this ruin are called Chinese Sumac in the U.S and Tree of Heaven in China. They are possibly descendants of those first brought here by Chinese workers.

B. Emily Stewart House: In the 1880 Census, Emily Perkel Stewart is listed as living here with her 3 children while her husband, Urban Jacobs Stewart, was mining up north in Beaver County. The children probably attended the nearby Silver Reef public school. Later, in 1887, Urban was reported to have accidentally killed Abe Polleys in a drunken fight over a chair taken from the Elkhorn Saloon.

C. West Street Homes: Little other than their names is known about most of the first settlers on West Street. The 1880 Census, however, suggests that these houses were in the preferred location for some of the town's most notable citizens including Dr. Mantor, Dr. Cooper, and mine foreman Michael Carbis.

D. Tailings Pile: Bulk waste from the uranium mill was deposited here. Note the green and blue copper-rich minerals, malachite and azurite, deposited on these rocks through the milling process before they were discarded. Please leave them where you find them so others may enjoy.

E. Barbee Walker Mine & Mill Overlook: An informational plaque here describes the Barbee Walker Mine & Mill whose ruins are visible across the gulch. You are standing near the remains of a flotation mill built by Western Gold and Uranium, Inc. in 1956. This mill was in production for about 3 years and processed thousands of tons of ore and tailings from the old silver mines.

F. Settling Pond: In order to operate, the uranium mill needed fresh water, a scarce commodity. The depression in front of you is the former settling pond that held and recycled water for the uranium milling process.

G. Schoolhouse: This important building was erected in 1881 and the first teacher, Miss Carrie Walker, was paid \$75/month. In the 1890's the schoolhouse was cut in half, moved to Leeds, and reassembled to serve as the town school until 1956. Since the 1970's the building has functioned as the Town Hall and can still be seen on Leeds' Main Street. The rock walls you see more or less surround the area where the old school yard was located.

H. Maggie Grundy House: The ruins in front of you show the approximate location of the Maggie Grundy house. In 1887, Margaret "Maggie" Morgan married Roy Grundy, a teamster in Silver Reef, and this was their home for a time. The metal, glass and ceramic pieces you may see on the ground are artifacts from houses like theirs. Please leave these traces of the old town where they lie.

I. West Street Waterway: The ditch in front of you is roughly where the old Harrisburg Ditch ran. It brought water into the town and below for both irrigation and culinary use. When the Great Fire of 1879 burned down much of Main Street, residents dipped water from here to fight the flames.

J. Johnson Drug Store: Joseph Ellis Johnson opened a drug store here in 1876. He was an apothecary by practice and grew, in his garden and nursery in St. George, many of the medicinal herbs that he sold. Today he is considered one of the area's pioneer healers. The Great Fire of 1879 destroyed the drug store but it was quickly rebuilt on a larger scale.

K. Silver Reef Miner Printing Office: Producer of ads, news about the mining industry, and jabs at various religions, this newspaper was a source of both information and entertainment. By today's standards, its most notable editor, James Louder, was decidedly politically incorrect. In addition to being an editor, Louder worked in real estate, was a store owner, postmaster, lawyer, and a judge.

For more information go to:

www.SilverReefUtah.org

The Museum & Interpretive Trails are supported by admission fees, gift shop sales, contributions, memberships, and the Washington County Arts & Parks Tax.

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