

Historic Buildings Along Toquer Boulevard (Toquerville, Utah)

Introduction

Toquerville was settled in 1858 by eight Mormon pioneer families sent from New Harmony, Utah. For the most part, the men in the families had participated in the Mountain Meadows Massacre of September 1857 where 120 adults from a Missouri-Arkansas wagon train were slain by white men and Indians. Perhaps the pioneer families were looking for sanctuary. Prior to white settlement, the Toquerville area had been occupied by Paiute Indians who grew corn, squash, and beans along the flats of Ash Creek, the stream which flows through the village.

The first pioneer homes were either dugouts located along the stream bank or wagonboxes. Such primitive abodes were replaced early by log houses and then gradually better homes from vernacular materials were constructed. The most commonly used substances for building were adobe bricks, limestone, and lava rocks. These latter homes are the ones observed today along the main street (Toquer Boulevard) and all those listed in this brochure are over 100 years old. Fortunately, few of the older homes have been demolished although some have been remodeled and added upon. None are lavish; they represent the modest homes of a poor community in the settlement period.

Many of the leading men involved in the development of Iron, Kane, and Washington Counties located here. Included were John Steele, Augustus Dodge, William Bringham, Sr., Joshua T. Willis, John Nebeker, George Spilsbury, Appleton Harmon, Isaac Duffin, Charles Stapley, Jr., John Conrad Naegle, and John Menzies Macfarlane.

Inasmuch as the adjacent land does not lend itself to agriculture, the town has grown very little and has retained the simple, quiet, and tranquil atmosphere of the early pioneer community. The population in 1864 was 41 families, (259 souls) and it remains about the same today. The pace is slow and no one is in a hurry. Each morning, people gather at the post office to exchange gossip and news of the day. Civic announcements are tacked on the bulletin board in the post office yard.

Cold, clear water runs down the ditches on each side of the street and nourishes the grapes, figs, peaches, apricots, pomegranites, and nut trees that flourish in the mild climate. As a beautification project, flowering pear trees were planted on the west side of the street to give shade and to hide the utility pole and wires. Many of the yards still grow the bulbs, roses, and bushes planted by their pioneer antecedents.

The town is proud of its heritage. It was settled as, and has remained, a Mormon community. Traditions and customs are typically L.D.S. and life patterns revolve around church activities. Enjoy us.

Wes Larsen



Cotton Gin

Ash Creek

◊ Steele
◊ W.A. Bringham

◊ Mitty
◊ Harmon
◊ Duffin
◊ Town Hall

Old Church Ave.

◊ Dodge

◊ Co-op Store

◊ W. Bringham
◊ W.A. Bringham

◊ Slack

◊ Stapley Jr.
◊ Jackson
◊ Tenney

Pecan Ave.

◊ Spilsbury

◊ MacFarlane

TOQUERVILLE

TOQUERVILLE BLVD.

Center Ave.

Cherry Ave

◊ Old Winery



The John Batty House
268 North Toquer Blvd.

This home, built by John Batty (Beatty) and Mary Ann Duffin Batty, is now owned by Lewis Wynn and Rhea Osborne. Constructed about 1880, the house has been modernized and renovated.

John Batty was a Toquerville postmaster, farmer, and storekeeper, serving as superintendent and later owner of the Toquerville Co-op Store. He served as choir leader and ward clerk for 32 years and superintendent of the ward Sunday School for 31 years.