

History

Providence was first settled in 1859 by Ira Rice, a sixty-five-year-old War of 1812 veteran from Massachusetts, and Hopkin Mathews, accompanied by his teenage daughter Elizabeth. They were joined by the Bowen, Busenbark, Campbell, Clark, Clifford, Dees, Dunn, Durfey, Gates, Hall, Lane, Maddison, Rammell, Thompson, Williams, Wright, Gassman, Lau, and Theurer families. Obedient to the instructions given the pioneers by Brigham Young to build their homes close together and to create closely knit towns surrounded by their

fields, the Providence settlers planned their town as they camped at The Big Spring.

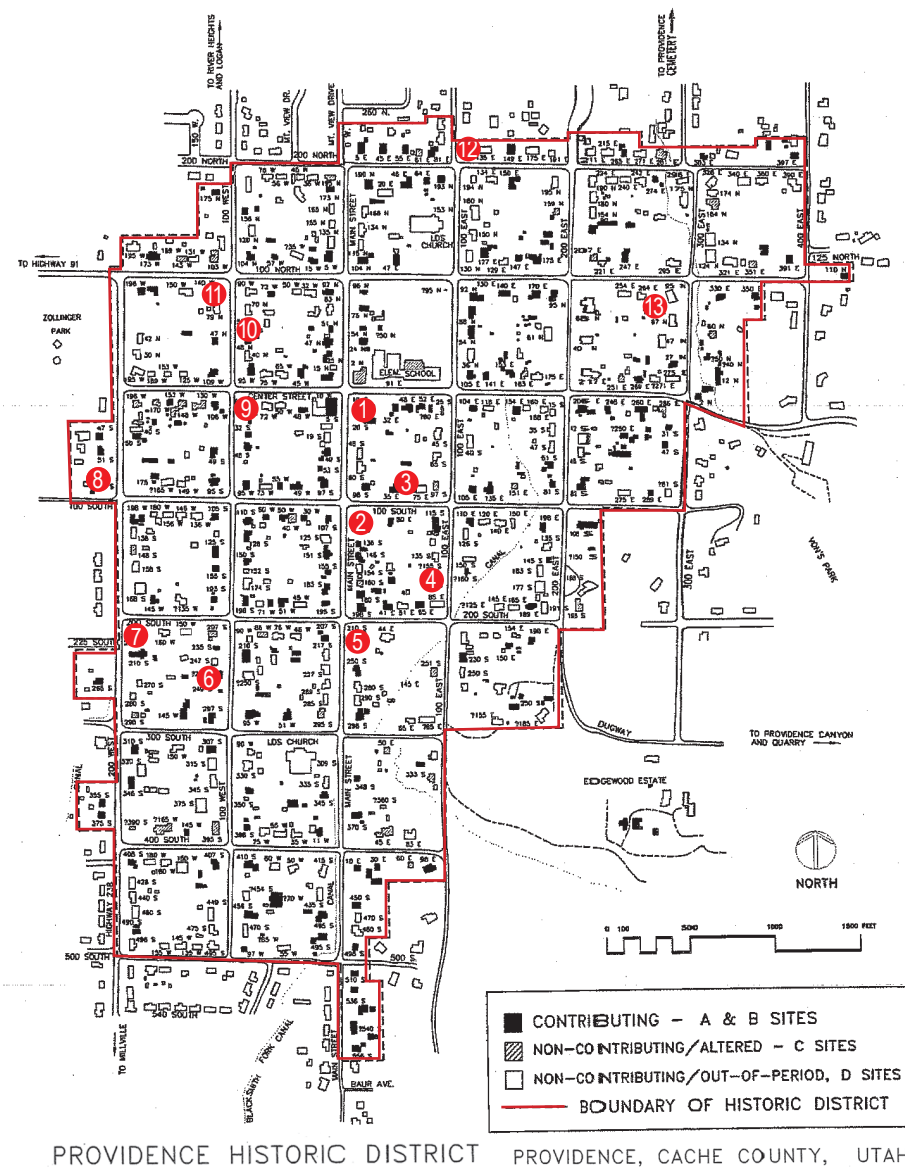
During the first few weeks, until logs could be hauled from the canyons, home to each pioneer was the wagon box in which he had come to the valley. The wagon-box served as an all-purpose room – living room, bedroom and closet, while the kitchen, a stone fireplace, was laid out on the ground.

The pioneer homes were simple structures built of logs with dirt roofs, floors of earth or rough hewn boards, and window openings covered

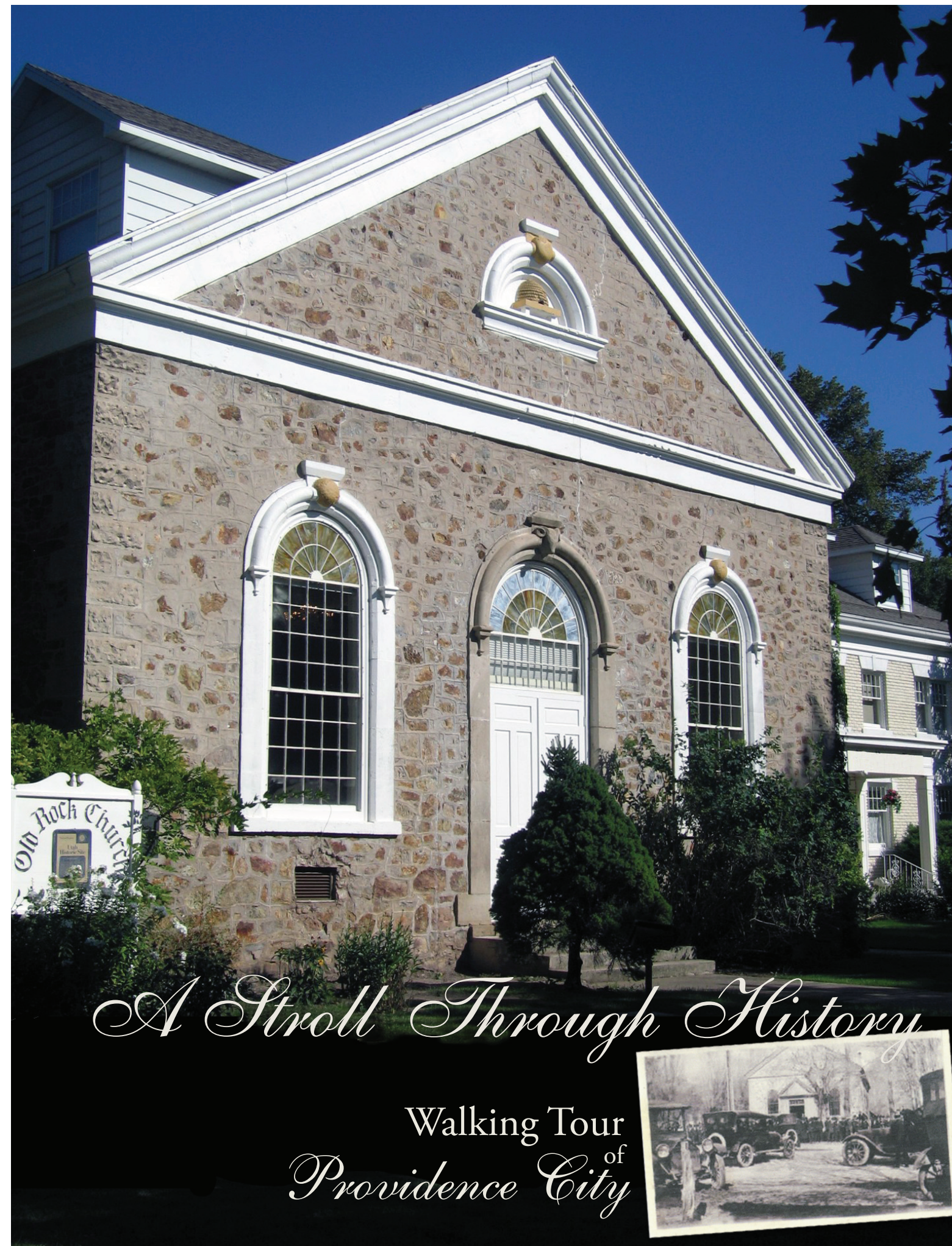
by pieces of cloth instead of scarce or unobtainable glass. Each home had a fireplace at one end where dry logs cheered the family on cold days and nights, and where the family meals simmered. Stoves and ranges, even of the old fashioned patterns, were luxuries beyond most pioneer family finances.

Providence

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10 South Main
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110 South Main
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Old Rock Church
10 South Main

The magnificent stone building featured on the cover is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its “Architectural and Historical significance and to encourage its preservation.” Its rich history goes back to the early settlement of Cache Valley. The first permanent European settlers arrived in the valley in 1856. Construction of the “Rock Meeting House” began in 1869. It was completed in 1871. The building has now affectionately come to be known as the “Old Rock Church.”

Anna Morris and Sophia Mathews House
110 South Main



This house, built in 1902, is a 1½-story Victorian frame house built on a stone foundation and sheathed in drop-novelty siding and fish-scale shingles. It is the finest example of the Eastlake style in Providence. This exuberant, decorative style was named for English architect Charles Locke Eastlake, who generated a new style of domestic architecture in America, featuring an abundance of wooden ornamentation. These elements included carved spindles, fan-shaped corner brackets, and lathe-turned columns, all of which are found on the Mathews House.

Hopkin and Margaret Mathews House
55 East 100 South



This stucco-covered central-passage type 1½-story house was built circa 1882. The central passage type was common in the mid-to-late 19th century in Utah; however, this is an unusual example of the type built perpendicular to the street. It is possible

that the owner planned, but did not complete, a cross-wing to the house. The house combines two popular styles of the nineteenth century: the Italianate style, as seen in the projecting bay window on the south end, and the Gothic Revival style, illustrated by the steeply pitched dormers in the upper level. There is also a historic coop in the rear.

Benjamin R. Tibbitts House
157 South 100 East



This classically-symmetrical frame house was built circa 1885. The 1½-story house is covered in drop-novelty siding and has a historic rear addition on the southwest corner. The house type is a central passage and the style is Gothic Revival, based on the steep pitch of the upper-floor dormers. The facade is divided into five bays on the main floor and three bays on the upper level. The upper level features what is commonly known as an angel door. Angel doors are found on the second floors of many Utah houses, and occasionally they were built without corresponding balconies, hence the name “angel door.” It is believed the doors had a practical use for getting large furniture that would not fit through narrow 19th-century staircases into second-story rooms. The property also includes a hewn-log cabin, historic garage, and a wrought-iron fence.

Godfrey Fuhrman House
210 South Main



This house, built circa 1897, is a classically-symmetrical frame house on a stone foundation. Two unusual features of the house are the central dormer, and full-size windows in the end gables. The wrap-around porch with its hipped roof and Tuscan-style columns

may have been a later addition from the early 20th century. The house has been expanded to the rear on its gently sloped site.

Bartschi Blacksmith Shop
245 South 100 West



The Bartschi Blacksmith Shop is a one story commercial building built in two phases between 1890 and 1910. The older portion of the building is frame and originally covered in unpainted drop-novelty siding, which is

visible on the south elevation but obscured by mature bushes and clinging vines. Around 1910, the building was expanded to the north, a false-front completely obscuring the older portion. The surrounds of the openings feature courses of wood blocks cut to resemble traditional brick, creating Victorian-style segmental arched “brick” hoods. In 1883, Frederick Bartschi immigrated from Switzerland with his wife, Susanna Stauffer, and family. Frederick was a farmer who also did some blacksmithing; the oldest portion of the shop may have originally been used by him in the late 1880s. His son, John Bartschi, a full-time blacksmith and repairman, was responsible for enlarging the original building to its current size around 1910. John had great talent for inventing and repairing mechanical devices and machines of all kinds. Because his shop contained many useful and unique pieces of equipment made from scratch, many in the community considered it more of a machine shop than blacksmith shop. He was known for his craftsmanship and built the gates at the Edgewood Hall estate.

Lytton and Jerusha Mathews House
206 South 200 West



The Lytton and Jerusha Mathews House, built in 1907, is a one-story frame residence sheathed in drop-novelty siding. It is a simple rectangle measuring 18 by 32 feet. The entrance is located at the southeast corner, which has a small entrance foyer within a screened porch. The

north gable features alternating diamond and circular shingles and a diamond-shaped attic window. The south gable trim has similar shingles, but a small double-hung window. The wood has aged to a natural gray color and appears not to have been painted. Lytton Young Mathews was grandson of early Providence settlers Hopkin and Margaret Mathews. The next known occupants of the house were Joseph and Lulu Keefe, who purchased the property from the Mathews in 1922. In April 1948, the Keefes sold the property to its current owners, Delmer W. Braegger and his wife Jean, and their young family lived in the frame home during the construction of their new home on the south side of the property. The occupants of the Mathews House through the historic period represent the economic diversity of Providence. For example, Lytton Mathews was a descendant of the town’s first agricultural settlers. He worked in the local sugar factory, but moved his family to Wyoming to become a rancher. Joseph R. Keefe participated in the poultry industry in Providence, but also held an office job in his later years.

Henry and Eliza Zollinger House
87 South 200 West



The Henry and Eliza Zollinger House was built circa 1915, possibly in phases. The house is an unusual hybrid of the Victorian Eclectic and the Bungalow styles, built on a concrete foundation. The walls are built of striated red brick. The roof consists of a main

gable running east to west, a secondary (cross) gable to the north, and a one-story frame addition on the west elevation. Henry M. and Eliza S. Zollinger represent the second-generation of Providence residents. Like most Providence residents, they made their living from agriculture while making significant contributions to the civic and social development of the community.

Adolph and Louisa Baer House
94 West Center



Adolph was the first postmaster of Providence and built a special room on the southeast corner of his house to serve as the post office, so the original construction is probably between 1885 and 1890. The house has been expanded multiple times, but

all within the historic period. The house is built on a stone foundation encased in concrete (circa 1915). The brick masonry is laid in common bond with headers every sixth course. The only exterior modification is the wrought-iron rail around the small balcony, which early photographs show as being wooden. The balcony door is in the center of the west elevation, under a central gable and features a half-glass “angel” door. The door and windows feature corbelled brick hoods. The bungalow porch wraps around the east side. The east half of the north porch was enclosed in brick in 1896. The lathe-turned posts may also date from that period. Adolph Baer assisted in the construction of the Logan Temple, Logan Tabernacle and the Providence School, so he may have built the house himself. He planted numerous orchards and his trees were the first to successfully produce peaches in Providence. The Adolph Baer family is representative of the many contributions to the community made by its Swiss immigrants.

John and Barbara Theurer House
52 North 100 West



The John and Barbara Theurer House is a 1½-story classical structure with a central passage plan. Tax records indicate it was built in 1887, but the actual construction is probably closer to 1880. There is a one-story frame addition on the rear elevation,

which appears to have been built in phases between 1900 and 1930. The house is built on a rubble foundation; the yellowish brick is laid in common bond with headers every sixth course. It has a more solid course of brick as a header for each door and window opening. The house is classically symmetrical, but features the steeply-pitched gables over the upper windows characteristic of the Gothic Revival style. The interior has been upgraded recently, but retains its Victorian feel. John Theurer served as a school trustee, water master, sexton and constable. The Theurer House and its early residents represent the transition of Providence from a settlement outpost to a stable farming community by the early twentieth century.

John Francis Maddison House
104 West 100 North



The John Francis Maddison House is a two-story, classical and Greek revival style double-cell house with an original lean-to. The house was constructed of stone around 1875 and covered with stucco in the early twentieth century. The small stucco-cov-

ered structure with a pyramid roof was added circa 1925 for the home’s first bathroom. The larger frame building was a summer kitchen built circa 1890. John, who also went by Frank, came to Providence in the spring of 1859. In October 1860 he married Emily Hemming, the first school teacher in Providence. She was the mother of five sons, all of whom died in infancy. On April 10, 1876, Frank married a second wife, Emma Dell. Emma had six children, of whom only two lived to maturity. Emma died on March 9, 1884, and Emily raised her young children, Walter and Emily, also known as Lillie. She also raised Frank’s neice, Emma Florence. Emily is credited with being the first professional candy maker in Cache Valley. She sold several varieties of stick and hard candy to the Providence Co-op Store and the Zion’s Mercantile Cooperative Institution in Logan. Frank became the town’s first Justice of the Peace in 1872.

Gottlieb and Katherine Gessel House
105 East 200 North



The Gottlieb and Katherine Gessel House is a 1½-story foursquare within the Victorian Eclectic style built by Gottlieb around 1897. The house has a truncated pyramidal roof with dormers on each of the four elevations. It is built on a rubble foundation with four courses

of red brick at the water table. The main yellowish brick is laid in a running bond, with red brick used for accents at the window hood moldings. The sills on the primary elevations are stone, with rowlock brick on the secondary elevations. Gottlieb and Katharine immigrated to Providence from Germany with their children in 1880 where he continued his profession of brick making. He found clay just north of the town limits. Later, at least three of his sons worked with him in the business. The first brick made by Gottlieb was used to build the John Theurer and Ernest Kendrick homes, and the titling office. As Gottlieb’s reputation grew, he furnished bricks for many larger structures: the Logan Sugar Factory, the Borden Milk Plant, several Utah State Agricultural College buildings, and many LDS church buildings. The Gessel House is an excellent example of the craftsmanship of Gottlieb Gessel.

Margaret Mathews Rice Cabin
274 East 100 North



The Margaret Mathews Rice cabin was built circa 1870. Secondary sources for the early history of Providence indicate the cabin has been at its current location since 1871, but conflicting information suggests the log cabin may have been moved there around 1890. The cabin is a 1½-story single

cell dwelling constructed of saw-cut logs with dovetail notching. Wood strips on the façade suggest that the owner planned to attach siding to the building but historic photographs indicate this was never accomplished. There are two original windows and a door on both the east and west elevations. The south elevation has an addition built circa 1910, possibly a screened porch that was later enclosed (circa 1925). The gable trim of the rear addition is square butt shingles. The house has not been occupied since the 1950s and is currently used as a playhouse and for storage.