FRONTIER TOWN & WINDMILL

The frontier town consists of the Livery Stable, General Mercantile, and Opera House.

Liverys were also called boarding stables, since horse owners could also pay to have a horse housed and fed. In some cases a livery would offer wagons, horses, and teams for hire. Many liverys also sold wood, coal, grain and hay.

Mercantile stores sold all sorts of merchandise, from food and clothing to tools and special order items. Many special order items were placed with catalog warehouses such as Sears Roebuck and Company and Montgomery Ward.

Before most western migration, opera houses were often licensed by the wealthy. In the 19th century, they became more publicly supported. Plays, dances, meetings, concerts and vaudeville performances were held. Opera was seen as a higher art from than theatre, so the same change was used to make the theater more cultured, though in same opera houses, operas were never performed.

Windmill were often among a farmer’s most prized possessions. The water pumped by windmills was used to cool, bath, drink, water crops and animals, wash clothes, and more.

FARM ANIMALS

In addition to being a living history museum we are a working farm with a number of animals waiting to greet you when you visit. There is a good chance that you will be greeted by a cow, horse, donkey, pig, chickens, goats, bison, and peacocks during your visit.
VISITING THE HERITAGE CENTER
Located at the foot of the breathtaking Wolfville mountains, just 90 minutes north of St. John Lake City and 10 minutes south of Logan, UT. nestled along the scenic route via Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway to Jackson, Wyoming, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton National Park.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE
Enjoy discounts and special rates for various events throughout the year for you and your family members. Whether you are looking to purchase an individual, family, or grandparent membership we have a plan for you! Visit our website for more information on plans and rates.

VISIT AWHC.ORG TO SEE MORE INFORMATION!
We offer several fun events and programming options year round including but not limited to pony and train rides, tea parties, handcrafts, live music, programs, corporate events, weddings, family reunions, campsite rental, bison tours, group tours and more! Be sure to visit our website to learn more about how you can experience it firsthand!

THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WEST HERITAGE CENTER
The American West Heritage Center (AWHC) is a 250-acre living history museum and working farm dedicated to telling the story of the American West – from early Native American tribes to daily life on a 1917 farm.

The AWHC history can be traced back to two separate organizations: the Festival of the American West and the Man and His Bread Museum.

In 1965, the festival started their annual celebration at Utah State University. In 1969, Ronald V. Jensen donated the money to purchase land for the Man and His Bread Museum, then the land was dedicated in 1971 as a museum site. In 1976, the Ronald V. Jensen Historical Farm was developed and donated to Utah State University. In 1995, the Festival of the American West and the Ronald V. Jensen Historical Farm merged to form a separate 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the American West Heritage Center.

As a non-profit foundation, we take pride in knowing that we make learning history exciting and available for all to experience. We safeguard traditions through festivals and events, demonstrations and classes, summer camps, historical building preservation, museum exhibits, and management of the historical farmland. Best of all, we have fun doing it. The beauty of the Wolfville mountains serves as a timeless backdrop, uniting the past and present together.

1917 FARM
The farm-site consists of the farmhouse, summer kitchen, farm shop, outhouse, chicken coop, wood shed, granary, smokehouse, garden, root cellar, horse barn, and the Martin Ford Ox Barn.

The original portions of the farmhouse was a log cabin built in Byrugsa in the 1870’s. The summer kitchen building was an original log cabin brought in from Logan. It was built in 1867 by P.M. Peterson and is considered one of the oldest standing buildings in Cache Valley.

The granary is made of block and beam with a small pantry section.

The Acorn Barn is an original structure on the farm site. It was built between 1817 and 1818 by the Wyatt family. Horses were vital for farm work. The Martin Ford Ox Barn is a mortise and tenon building in the intermountain barn style, and is built with pegs instead of nails.

For more information visit awhc.org/1917farm

MOUNTAIN MEN TRADING POST
Northern Cache Valley was visited by mountain men as early as 1818, but by 1825, Cache Valley was a popular destination for many fur trading companies. They explored everything from the Bear Lake to the Salt Lake. By 1825, most of the beaver in the lower streams had been trapped, and by Christmas of that year, most men were pushed out by to the heavy snow. Other trapping expeditions into Cache Valley occurred from 1822-1833.

For more information visit awhc.org/mountain-men-trading-post

POINTER SETTLEMENT
The pioneer site focuses on the story of pioneer men, women, and children who entered in the intermountain west during the years 1845-1869. The current Pioneer site contains four structures, the Homestead’s Cabin, the Nibley Family dun, the Marten cabin, and the outdoor kitchen and cooking area.

The Homestead’s Cabin represents the requirements of the Homestead Act of 1862. Most cabins had a dirt floor, a plank door on iron hinges and windows made with greased paper window panes.

The dun was a two-story log building with doors wide open on the ends and a trap door. It was built by P.M. Peterson in 1857 and is considered one of the oldest standing buildings in Cache Valley.

The Nibley Family dun was built by the Nibley family. It is a replica of a cabin that stood in Wolfville in 1864, when he was 11 years old. He recorded and described the exact dimensions and how the dun was made. The eight member Nibley family lived in the dun from 1864-1862.

The Marten Cabin was built around 1860 in Mendon Utah, by Irish immigrant Michael Murphy. In 1893, it was purchased by John and Susanlee Nibley and removed from the original location to the Lodge’s property. The log cabin was added onto and the Nibley family lived there with their ten children.

In 2015, the cabin was rediscovered by Vicki Doittle, a direct descendant of the Nibley Family. When the Doittle’s went to the home town, they found the cabin and it was donated to the American West Heritage Center Pioneer Site.

Most aspects of the cabin are original to the property, even if they are not original to the cabin. All of the extra wood was milled from large pine trees near the house and were used to make the upper portion of the cabin, the steps, shingles, and frame in the windows. The windows are original from the home.

For more information visit awhc.org/pioneer-settlement

WOODWRIGHT SHOP & MILLINERY
The woodwright shop, millinery, and frontier town are typically only open during our festivals held throughout the year but are an important part of the history of the American West.

Woodwright shop were used by craftsmen to make cabinets, furniture, joinery, to turn and carve wood.

Millinery is the designing, making, and selling of hats shirts, coats, underwear, neckerchiefs, and cloaks. Milliners prepared ready-made clothing for everyone.