

Scope of Southwestern Heritage Center (DRAFT)

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The Cedar City area is awash in history. A majority of the citizens in the community and in Iron County are interested in documenting, sharing, and using local history to guide better decision making going forward. The Piute Indian tribe lived in the area for centuries. Their culture was relative static until the explorers arrived 250 years ago and until the pioneers arrived 170 years ago. The Piute, and other American Indian Tribes in the area had no concept of land ownership, nor the process for innovation and continuous improvement which the pioneers brought with them. The changes started when the Dominguez-Escalante expedition came through Cedar Valley and Iron Springs in 1776, the same year the U.S. Declaration of Independence was signed. Since then, 18 different significant historical trails were built through Iron Springs, where the **Southwestern Heritage Center** will be located.

National Historic Trails are trails that have a historical significance to the nation, and can only be designated by an act of Congress. There are currently 19 National Historic Trails in the United States. In 1968, the National Trails System Act, which is intended to provide for the outdoor recreation needs of the public, opened the door to federal involvement in all types of trails. Today, the Bureau of Land Management, along with the National Park Service and National Forest Service, are responsible for the administration and management of National Historic Trails. These trails have become a valuable educational and recreational asset for residents and visitors alike.

Of specific interest to the **Southwestern Heritage Center** is The Old Spanish National Historic Trail, which supported six decades of international trade between Mexico and the United States. In 2002 this trail was designated by Congress as part of the National Trails System. There are 15 segments of this trail in Iron County. Sheep, hides, and woolen products from New Mexico were traded for mules and horses from California. The Old Spanish Trail Association [OSTA] has the following Mission Statement:

“To study, preserve and protect, interpret and educate, and promote respectful use of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and closely related historic routes. OSTA promotes public awareness of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and its multicultural heritage by encouraging research and publication and partnering with governments and private organizations.”

Historical Trail Elements include: Historical Markers; Inscription; Silhouettes; Directional Signage; Petroglyphs; Pictographs; Interpretations; Campgrounds; Trail Museums; Existing Trail Trace or Swale; Multi-Use Trails; Waysides; Trailheads & Hiking Trails; Equestrian Trails; Parking & Day Use; Reenactments; OHV [Off Highway Vehicles] High Desert Trails; OHV Staging Areas; Railroads, etc. The **Southwest Heritage Center** will promote each of these activities for each of the historical trails.

Sons of Utah Pioneers (SUP) Cedar City Chapter Board unanimously voted interest in the **Southwest Heritage Center** plans. The mission of the National SUP Organization is:

“Come to know our fathers, and turn our hearts to them. Preserve the memory and heritage of the early pioneers of the Utah Territory and the western United States. Honor present-day pioneers worldwide who exemplify these same qualities of character. Teach these same qualities to the youth who will be tomorrow’s pioneers.”

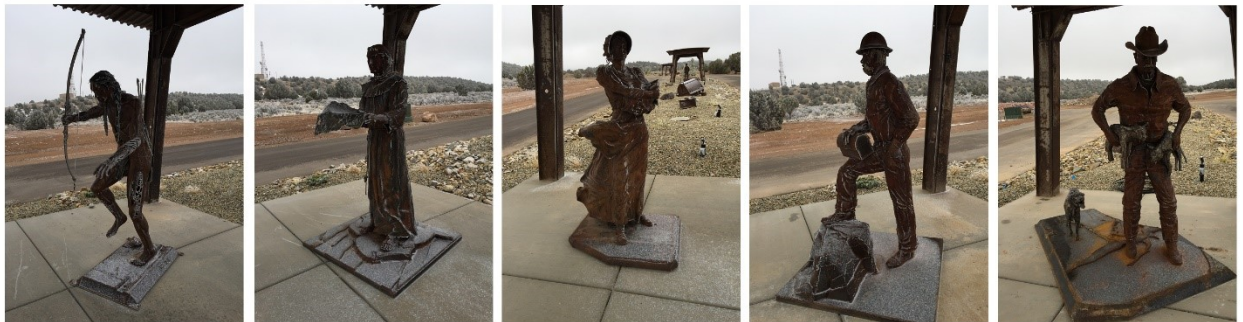
The Vision Statement of the Cedar City Chapter of SUP is: “Extending the Utah Pioneer Heritage into the Present and the Future.” The Mission Statement is:

“We strive to keep the Utah pioneer legacy alive by:

- Remembering and preserving our history
- Inviting men of all heritages to join with us in working to create better communities
- Following our ancestor’s example of trail building and service
- Uniting people with their own ancestral heritages”

There are several other organizations interested in the **Southwest Heritage Center**, including:

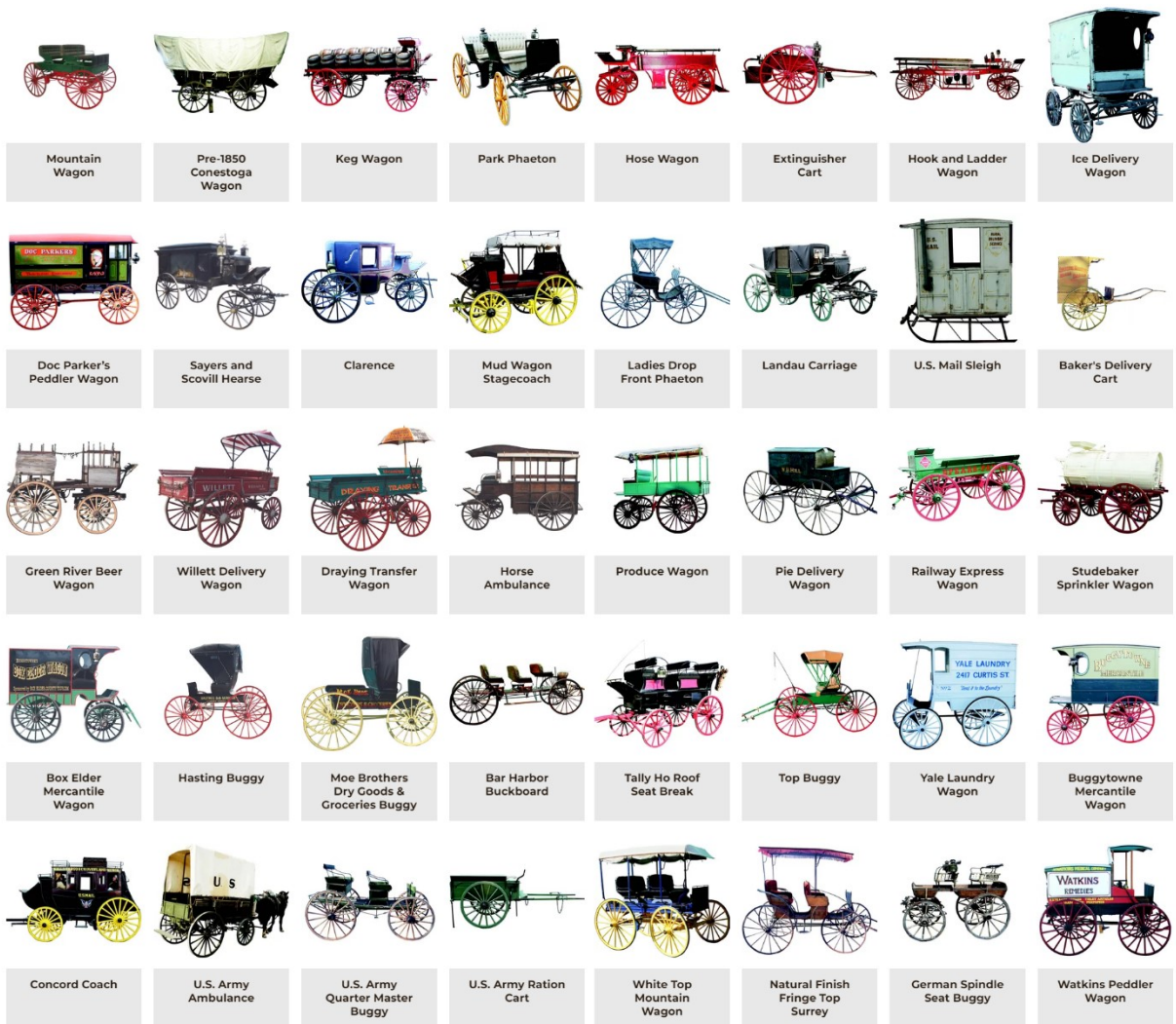
- The Southern Utah Rock Club (SURC), a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. The rock club meets monthly, with speakers, a show & tell, demonstrations, rock hounding trips, video presentations, lapidary instruction, mineral & gemstone identification, jewelry making classes, and an Annual Festival City Rock Show (see southernutahrockclub.org or www.facebook.com/groups/utahrocks). The SURC needs a new larger facility for saws, rock polishing tools, meetings, displays of rock collections for schools, tourists, and citizens, etc. SURC is connected to the William Wray Mineral Collection in Milford, 40 miles to the north. The Wray collection has more displayed minerals than any other museum except the museums in St. Petersburg, Russia and Vienna, Austria. It is a world class display, better than the Houston Rock and Gem Museum, with all of their oil and gas donors. We envision busses of tourists coming to Zion and Bryce Canyon being brought the **Southwest Heritage Center**, and then going to Milford to see the Wray Collection.
- Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUP), a sister organization to SUP. DUP has a museum in Cedar City. However, the facility is only large enough to show a small percentage of donated historical items. They would be interested in having a larger museum, synergistic with other museums.
- The Matheson Family, who have one of the best early western U.S. gun collections available. This collection needs a home and a place where people can visit and learn about early western U.S. guns. This material was displayed at the Iron Mission Museum (Now the Frontier Homestead Museum), prior to their mission being readjusted to be primarily a hands-on teaching museum. The Matheson Family have been looking for a permanent home for this material, most of which was collected by Alva Matheson. The commitment includes a willingness to sell mountain property to help fund building the **Southwest Heritage Center** and to help insure it stays a private organization.
- Iron Springs Adventure Resort. Frank Nichols and his family have spent decades developing the statues, trailer park, motel, conference center, and residential community plans that make up Iron Springs Adventure Resort. They want to have more visitors. Frank and Celeste Nichols are willing to give the power, water, gravel, land (zoned industrial), and a bunch of iron to build a framework for a 20,000 square foot facility to house the **Southwest Heritage Center** and other groups interested in and appropriate to being associated with the Southwest Heritage Center, including SUP, SURC, DUP, Matheson Family, and Eli Anderson's Wagon Land Adventures. There will be a green pasture across the railroad. There will be a horse road circling Iron Springs Bottoms, which can be used to take wagons out for rides. The idea is this can eventually be expanded to include stagecoach and other wagon rides to Cedar City and Enoch and Kanarrville and back. There will be a wildlife zone in the center of the Iron Springs Bottoms, which is right next to the location of the **Southwest Heritage Center**. Note, the location is in an Enterprise Zone, adjacent to an Inland Port, and all of these things will drive visitors to the **Southwest Heritage Center**.



Existing Statues: Indian, Father Escalante, first pioneer woman at Iron Springs, Iron miner, and Sheep Rancher.

- Wagon Land Adventure Foundation (<http://www.wagonland1996.wixsite.com/mysite>) currently located in Tremonton, Utah will be the initial focal point of the **Southwest Heritage Center**. Eli Anderson has spent 50 years restoring and building original wagons to preserve the history of the west. This world class exhibition is not getting viewed much. Eli has agreed to move his collection to Iron Springs Adventure Resort and the **Southwest Heritage Center**, because he believes the collection will be more viewed and

appreciated in Iron County. The central part of the **Southwest Heritage Center** will be dedicated to storage, viewing, and taking these wagons and carriages on trail rides. The following image captures less than 10% of the collection:



We believe this collection deserves to and needs to be available for the public to see and to use.

The **Southwest Heritage Center** will develop a business model to turn their new facility into a positive cash flow entity, based on entry fees, coach and wagon and horse and mule rides, rentals for movie props, motor home and motel stays, the gun museum, shooting range experience with various guns, pioneer historical museums, rock hounding trips, gemstone and jewelry cutting and polishing, lectures, conferences, reunions, etc. The central barn will house the carriages and wagons. There will be rooms around the outside of the barn for SUP, DUP, SURC, the Matheson Gun Collection, various trail organizations, and other groups which into the mission of the **Southwest Heritage Center**. Thank you for your interest in and support of this project.