



Cedar City Chapter of Sons of the Utah Pioneers

DUP-309 CC-10 Hamilton Fort Monument location

QR to get to this Location:



QR to List of SUP Monuments:



QR to get to this page:



Longitude: -113.131944; Latitude: 37.628333; Elevation 5,670'; DUP-309_CC-10; Hamilton Fort



DUP-309 CC-10 Monument erected in 1965 Commemorating first families at Hamilton Fort



Close up on the Hamilton Fort Plaque

Cedar City Chapter of Sons of the Utah Pioneers

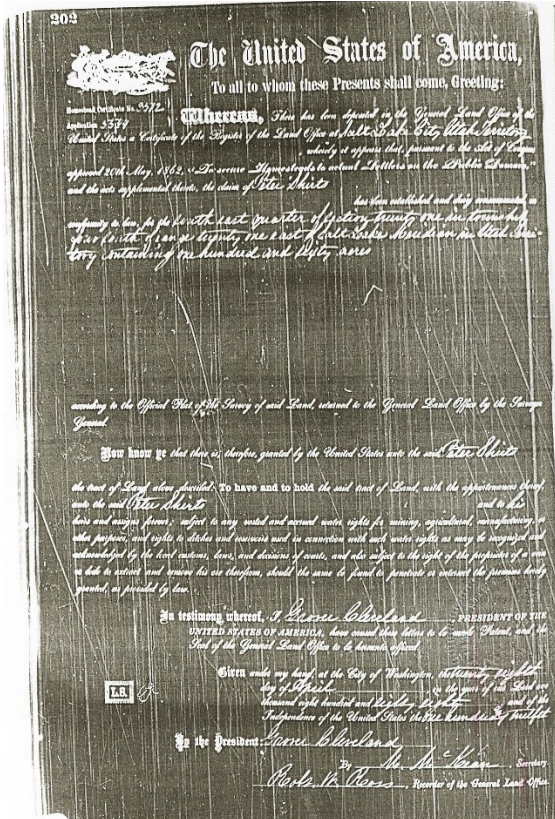


Daughters of Utah Pioneers #309 Erected 1965 Hamilton Fort

In 1852 Peter Shirts located a ranch on Sidon Creek, later known as Shirts Creek. He offered John Hamilton half the water to come and settle there. Hamilton came with his family and Peter Fife.

When Walker Indian War broke out, they moved to Cedar Cit but returned in 1855.

The three families built an adobe fort enclosing ¼ acre, 96 feet square, walls 3-feet thick, houses formed part of the wall. Soon Johathan Pugmire, Samuel White and others came. In 1869 a new location for Hamilton Fort was selected on the main thoroughfare.



570 South 580 West
Cedar City, Utah 84720
September 11, 1985

Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names
U.S. Geographic Survey
Washington, D.C. 20242

RE: Shurtz Canyon/ Shurtz Creek
NW¼ Sec 24 T37S R11W Salt Lake Meridian

This canyon/creek was first settled by Peter Shirts in 1852 and originally called "Shirts Creek". The settlement site was known by those who settled Cedar City, and the surrounding area, as "Shirts Settlement". It was also known as "Sidon", "Fort Walker", and currently "Hamilton's Fort." (Peter Shirts sold out to his friend, John Hamilton, who subsequently, re-named it).

It is now known as "Shirts Creek" on the U.S.G.S. maps, and from your Decision List Number 6803, there is an indication that consideration has been given to changing it back to "Shirts Creek". The reason for keeping the present spelling is not given. The conditions under which the name was changed from Shirts to Shurtz is, likewise, obscure to me. No one with the name of Shurtz lived in this area until after the turn of the century, and the original spelling in this area was "Shirts".

I am enclosing documentation to support the claim that this site was originally settled by Peter Shirts; that it was originally called "Shirts Creek"; and that Peter's last name was Shirts. The Documentation list is as follows:

1. Copy of 1851 census records showing Peter Shirts as number 63. This is a very poor copy, but can be read. Item two is included, therefore for clarification.
2. Copy of selected pages from the Utah Genealogical Magazine, April, 1937 showing Peter and family as listed on this census.
3. 1870 census with explanation by Wilbur Valentine of the National Records Service, showing Peter Shirts and family living at Iron City, Utah.
4. Copy from page of original Dead Book of Iron County, Utah showing Peter Shirts as a property owner on Center Creek (Parow) February 27, 1851.
5. Copy of page from the LDS "Journal History", 7 Dec 1852, showing Peter Shirts as a resident of Ft. Walker (Shirts Settlement) and giving him credit for discovering an ore body, later called the "Blow Out". See Item 15 for more details.
6. Copy from the LDS "Journal History" of 28 Feb 1853, showing Peter Shirts at Shirts Settlement (Fort Walker) on Shirts Creek.
7. A copy of page 134 of the book: "Mormon Chronicle", by Juanita Brooks placing Peter Shirts and family at Shirts Settlement.
8. Copy of a partial letter to Brigham Young from John D. Lee as appears in the LDS "Journal History" 6 Mar 1853, identifying Peter Shirts as a co-explorer of the Rio Virgin River.

Original ownership of Hamilton Fort, with letter seeking to return the proper name to Shirts Canyon



Shirts Canyon in the Winter