

## The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Ogden, Utah

Ogden is the oldest continuously-settled community in Utah. As early as the 1820s fur traders were trapping along the rivers that flow through the valley.

One trapper in the area, Miles Goodyear, opened a small trading post – Fort Buenaventura. Not intending to colonize the town, he became interested in selling his holdings when the Mormon pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. President Brigham Young, then worldwide leader of the Church, along with other Church leaders, wanted to establish a settlement along the Weber River. They sent Captain James Brown to negotiate with Goodyear, and in 1847 the land was purchased for \$1,950.

People began settling in the new community, known at times as Brown's Fort, Brown's Settlement, and Brownsville. In 1851 it became known as Ogden City, in honor of Peter Skene Ogden, one of the area's first trappers. This peaceful agricultural community soon developed into a bustling frontier town.

The Transcontinental Railroad brought settlers of diverse faiths and cultures to Ogden. The railroad also established Ogden as an ideal place for government installations during World War II, including the Army's Ogden Defense Depot, the Clearfield Naval Supply Center and Hill Air Force Base. Ogden continues to enjoy a diverse population of citizens with various religious and ethnic backgrounds.

The Ogden Utah Temple was originally dedicated in January 1972 by President Joseph Fielding Smith, then worldwide leader of the Church. Following this dedication, it became the Church's 14th operating temple worldwide and the fifth temple in Utah. It also was the first temple built in Utah since 1896, when Utah became a state.

On 17 February 2010, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced plans to renovate the Ogden Utah Temple and the nearby Tabernacle. The temple's entire exterior has been reshaped with new stone and art glass, and the temple entrance was moved from the west side to the east side, where it faces Washington Boulevard, one of the city's main streets. The renovation of the temple also includes reconfigured rooms and new energy-saving electrical, heating and plumbing systems. Other notable improvements include underground parking, new landscaping of the temple block and a major water feature.

The rededicated temple will serve Latter-day Saints in 76 stakes (a stake is a group of congregations, similar to a diocese) with some 600 wards (congregations) and 44 branches (small congregations). Public tours will run from 1 August through 6 September 2014. After a cultural celebration featuring music and dance on 20 September, the temple will be rededicated on Sunday, 21 September.