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## ORSON HYDE HOME HEADS SPRING CITY HERITAGE DAY TOUR

SPRING CITY, Sanpete County—The official residence of Orson Hyde, a famous early Mormon apostle known for dedicating Jerusalem for the return of the Jews, heads the list of 17 restored homes, religious and commercial structures open for public tours during Spring City Heritage Day on Saturday.

The entire center portion of Spring City is a national historic district, and scores of buildings constructed between 1850 and 1910 have been restored, allowing the visitor to travel back in time to one of the best-preserved examples of 19th-century Mormon settlements in the West.

Every Saturday before Memorial Day, Friends of Historic Spring City, the local historic preservation group, sponsors Heritage Day, which in addition to the historic building tour, includes a community breakfast and lunch, and art and antiques sale.

Hyde served in the Quorum of the Twelve for more than 40 years, including 28 years as president of the quorum. But he didn't always toe the line perfectly.

In 1838, he and another apostle left the church, complaining that a company of Mormons known as the Danites had taken an oath to support church leaders right or wrong, and that Joseph Smith "professes to his people to intend to taking the U.S. and ultimately the whole world."

The next year, Hyde returned to the church, repented and was readmitted to the Quorum of the Twelve. But after Joseph Smith's death, Brigham Young ruled that when Hyde left the church, he gave up his seniority. When he returned, he started as the newest member of the Twelve. The ruling resulted in John Taylor, rather than Hyde, ascending to president of the LDS Church.

After serving missions all over the world, including Jerusalem, Hyde was called to direct colonization of Sanpete and Sevier counties. He settled in Spring City with Mary Ann Price, one of his eight wives. He died in 1878 at 72 and is buried in a prominently marked grave in the Spring City Cemetery, which is located on S.R. 117, one of the roads leading from U.S. 89 into Spring City.

The Hyde house, on Main Street in Spring City, is a two-story, hall-parlor-style stone structure influenced by Greek Revival architecture. There are two original limestone outbuildings and part of an original barn on the property.

Bruce and Bonnie Barker of Bountiful spent from 2003 to 2005 restoring the house. They also collected Orson Hyde memorabilia, which is displayed there.

The restoration included removing a lean-to addition and the back portion of the roof. All wood that could be salvageable was reused in the project. The house was replastered, and stone throughout was water-cleaned, re-pointed and scored. New windows and doors were replicated

and installed where the old ones were missing. The wood floors were refinished, and inappropriate hardware was replaced with antique pieces.

Besides being an historic district, Spring City has become an artist haven. Scores of artists live or maintain studios in the town, and some of their art will be offered at the art and antiques sale. The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Victorian-style Spring City School, 45 S. 100 East. Proceeds from Spring City Heritage Day go toward the ongoing effort to restore the school.

The home tour itself runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can purchase tickets and pick up tour maps at the Spring City School. Cost of the tour is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12.

A video about Spring City history will be shown throughout the day at the Jacob Johnson barn, 390 S. 100 West. The barn, one of the largest remaining stone barns in Utah, has been restored as a community meeting center.

The complete tour list is attached. For more information visit [www.sanpetecounty.org](http://www.sanpetecounty.org).

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