

MORMON PIONEER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA (MPNHA)

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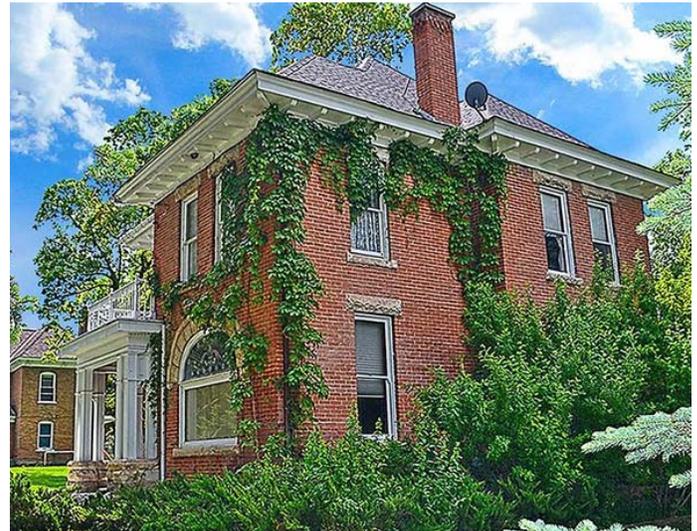
Wasatch Academy receives Utah Heritage Award

Wasatch Academy located in Mt. Pleasant, Sanpete County, within the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area, will receive a Utah Heritage Award tonight (April 6) for its work restoring Pierce Hall, one of the early buildings on the preparatory school campus.

The award will be presented to Wasatch Academy Head of School Joseph Loftin at the annual meeting and award ceremony of Preservation Utah at the Falls Event Center, Trolley Square, Salt Lake City. Preservation Utah is a nonprofit organization that promotes historic preservation statewide.

Built in the 1890s, Pierce Hall was originally an elegant private home. Later, Wasatch acquired it and, for many years, used it as a faculty residence. For a time, the building served as the school museum. The school recently restored the structure for use as a guest house. This year, because of an overflow of students, it is being used as a girls dormitory.

The building has been named for the late Martin and Beverly Pierce. Martin Pierce graduated from Wasatch in 1943. The Pierces and their children have been long-time supporters of Wasatch and provided funding for the restoration.



Pierce Hall, originally a private home, now serves as a guest house and dormitory for the school.

“No two people were more dedicated to the preservation of the great legacy of Wasatch Academy than Martin and Beverly Pierce. I am thrilled that an historic building now bears their name and has been elegantly restored in our effort to honor the school’s history and perpetuate the Wasatch Academy mission for generations to come,” Loftin said.

“It’s a gorgeous brick building with woodwork throughout the interior,” Nancy Hewitt, alumni director at Wasatch, says. “When it was remodeled, we kept in mind the elegance of the original building and tried to preserve the original finishes.” The upgrade also included new plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems.

According to Alison Flanders, public outreach director for Preservation Utah, recipients of the Utah Heritage Award are nominated by the public for their efforts in preserving historic structures or furthering the preservation movement in the state. Nominations are judged by a jury of architects, preservationists and planning professionals from throughout the state.

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The Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area is a federally designated area of central and southern Utah running along the beautiful and historic U.S. Highway 89 — including the All-American Road Utah State Route 12, and Capitol Reef Scenic Byway Utah State Route 24, which both intersect with U.S. 89 and together form the MPNHA’s Boulder Loop. The area includes the counties of Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne, Garfield and Kane.