



Historic Committee

October 17, 2023

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Committee Mission

The mission of the Cottonwood Heights Historic Committee is to support and facilitate the city's intention to identify, preserve, protect and enhance historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts lying within the city limits.

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About the Committee

Chair

Jim Kichas (2017-present)

Vice Chair

Ken Verdoia (2019-present)

Secretary

Carol Woodside (2013-present)

Committee Members

Beverly Beckstead (2019-present)

Don Cannon (2021-present)

Gayle Conger (2007-present)

Jerry Christensen (2019-present)

Jessica Despain (2021-present)

Bruce Lubeck (2022-present)

Mark Lentz (2023-present)

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Current Committee Work: Digital Archives

Cottonwood Heights Digital Archives
Preserving and sharing the history of the City between the Canyons

About us
Cottonwood Heights' unique historical heritage is one of our city's most important assets. In order to maintain and promote that history, the city of Cottonwood Heights has established a historic committee that serves to identify, preserve, protect and enhance the buildings, artifacts, documents, and stories that inform our community's collective history. This digital archives serves as a central place for community members to learn more about our shared history and deepen your sense of place.

Top level collections

- Community Reminisces Collection**
A collection of reminiscences from residents of the areas that are now within the boundaries of Cottonwood Heights City.
- Historic Maps Collection**
A collection of historic maps detailing different areas in Cottonwood Heights.
- Historic Preservation Collection**
A collection of records that relate to the surveying and preservation of historic homes and buildings in Cottonwood Heights.
- Historical Photographs Collection**
Historic photos of the people and places in Cottonwood Heights.
- Oral Histories Collection**
Oral histories with community members and local leaders of Cottonwood Heights.
- Places in Cottonwood Heights Collection**
A collection of community histories and other resources that document areas that are now in the city boundaries of Cottonwood Heights City.
- School History Collection**
A collection of photos and documents that highlight the history of schools that have existed within the boundaries of Cottonwood Heights City.

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Current Committee Work: Historic Preservation

Selective Reconnaissance Level Survey 2016



Final Report & Appendices

May 30, 2016

prepared for the
Cottonwood Heights Historic Committee

prepared by
Korral Broschinsky
Preservation Documentation Resource



THE MORI HOUSE/THE TASHIRO HOUSE

Near this spot in 1919, Japanese emigrants Tsunetaro and Tsune Mori leased and then bought 19.5 acres of land for a home and a small family farm in what was then known as Butlerville. The ownership was unique in the era, as several western states had enacted laws prohibiting Asian emigrants from owning property. While not in force at the time, Utah would briefly enact a similar law during World War II.

The Mori 1,096-square foot home was constructed in 1919 and remodeled in 1939. The family created a thriving farm, producing sugar beets, peas, and strawberries. The area became known for its annual strawberry crop and remained productive for nearly 50 years.

One of the Mori family's six children, daughter Kiyo, married Akira "Korky" Tashiro, and in 1954 they built a 768-square foot bungalow next to the Mori home. It had few decorative elements and was a good example of the post-1930s depression and World War II-era Minimal Traditional style.

The Mori and Tashiro homes stood side by side well into the 21st century. While the physical structures are now gone, the Mori and Tashiro families' legacies of determination, diligence, and resilience – along with their substantial contributions to the Butlerville community – remain.



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Current Committee Work: Oral Histories



Transcript: Interview with Mayor Michael J. Peterson

Interviewer: This oral history interview is being recorded in the City Council Chambers of the Cottonwood Heights City Hall in Cottonwood Heights, Utah on November 16, 2021.

Conducting the interview for the Cottonwood Heights Historic Committee is committee member, Ken Verdoia.

Michael J. Peterson, Mayor City of Cottonwood Heights.

Ken Verdoia: Mayor, thanks so much.

Mayor Peterson: You're Welcome.

Ken: Mayor, your connection with this community predates it being a city and actually goes back in your own life, to your early childhood memories. Tell me about your family connection with this community, where you went to school, and how you grew up, just some recollections in that area.

Mayor Mike Peterson: Excited to do it. That is why I love the community so much and why my roots are so deep. My family moved here in 1954. I was in kindergarten or first grade, lived on Virginia Hills Drive, which is at the top of what was then called Butler Hill, the first street just east of the old chapel there. Then I went to the old Butler Elementary School and spent many years here at that time, then moved and came back, years later. My whole life, raising my family and everything is right here in Cottonwood Heights.

Ken: So, you're a first-hand observer of the way this community has evolved from those post-war boom years, when the first housing was being put in, but it still very much had an open fields sense, in a lot of respects, for the community, that was known variously as Cottonwood Heights or Butlerville.

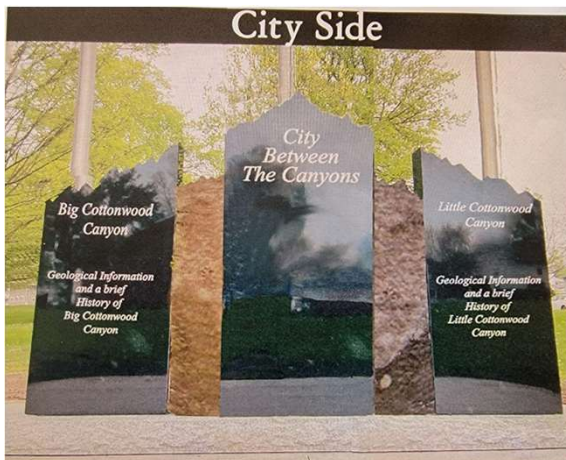
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Current Committee Work: Exhibits



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Current Committee Work: Veterans Monument



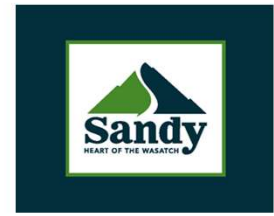
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Committee Goals: Broadening Scope & Collections



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Committee Goals: Connection and Leadership



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Thank You!