

NOTICE OF MEETING
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF ST. GEORGE
WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of St. George, Washington County, Utah, will hold a regular meeting at 43 East St. George Blvd, **November 15, 2023**, commencing at **12:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Bob Nicholson, Member
Susan Crook, Member
Allan Carter, Member
Scott Messel, Member

EXCUSED: Bette Arial, Member
Rick Atkin, Chair
Cortney Haslam, Member

CITY STAFF: Carol Winner, Planner III
Daniel Baldwin, Attorney
Brenda Hatch, Development Services Office Supervisor

called the meeting to order.

1. DISCUSSION ITEM

Tour the County News Building at 43 East St George Blvd. This building is already a registered historical building. The applicants would like input on rehabilitation and ideas on what to do with the building.

Randall Richards – We are at the Classic Printing Building which has a long history. In the first 40 ft was the Silver Reef Saloon. In 1860 or there about it was moved from Silver Reef to this spot. It was one of the first buildings standing on this lot. We have pictures of it with horse drawn carriages and horses in front. The reason there are so many photographs of this building is because in it, it has the Washington County News. Before that I believe it was the Washington County Union and there are a few issues of that newspaper left around. We have all the printed volumes of the newspapers from 1915 to about 1968. In this section of the building there are some cabinets from the Silver Reef Saloon, there are pine boards there and some roof damage. Our goal and our responsibility is to preserve what is here.

Discussion on what is contained in the cabinets such as different documents used in government, old photographs, as well as issues of the newspapers.

Randall Richards – Moving further back in the building, the cabinets here are full of handset type. There is the press that they would print on here as well. The two machines over there are linotype machines. We also have all the files of the workorders they did here. This table is marble, you had to have a flat surface to make sure everything was flush and then use these rawhide hammers. Over there is what was

called a hot lead press. That is when it was started that you would buy a 1-inch column in the newspaper. I don't know what to do with all the linotype, the reason they didn't melt it down is because they would reuse it. Those are all plate shavers. It's really unusual that there are two linotype machines. This one is older than the other. This part of the building is all adobe, it just melts. This was another era of typesetting, it's not like a typewriter but the typesetter would know how to use it. After you were done using it you could melt it back down.

Randall showed how a guillotine press worked.

Bob Nicholson – So have people seen all of this?

Randall Richards – No, but I wanted ideas from all of you what to do with all of this. Let me ask you a question, when was the last time you went to the Daughters of the Pioneers museum? People don't go.

Allan Carter – Have you contacted USA Today since they own the Spectrum?

Randall Richards – We haven't, but you know how they are about newspapers, they don't care. That's what they did to the Washington County News, Scripps Publishing. They came in to every small town in America and just bought them out and printed a boring newspaper. And now newspapers are online.

Allan Carter – I thought maybe give them a chance to repent.

Scott Messel – How structurally sound is it?

Randall Richards – Some people think we could put steel columns in here and do a restaurant or bar in here and there is a story here, that's what is important.

Randall continued to show all of the items kept in the building such as work orders, and items that were printed there as well as equipment used to print the items.

Susan Crook – The difficult task is going to be to take inventory, again that is a school type project. You could get masters, PHD type people working on some sort of inventory. To me this is an academic problem as much as something that is going to cost money. To try and find that professor or that department that gets that spark, that says wow.

Randall Richards – But a lot of people get that stuff and put it in an archive, and it's never seen again.

Susan Crook – But you do an agreement about how things are managed.

Allan Carter – Not to throw religion in it, but you could probably pick up somebody from the Joseph Smith's papers project. It's so similar in so many ways.

Susan Crook – Yes, that's a possibility, I say look wherever you can with the resources because this is a treasure.

Brady Fronk – The other thing that is going to be an issue is that binder over there of Governments of Zion Natural History Association. We don't know if there is draft BLM documents in here or church documents.

2. **MINUTES**

Consider approval of the October 18, 2023, meeting minutes.

MOTION: Allan Carter made a motion to recommend approval of the October minutes.

SECOND: Scott Messel

AYES: (5)

Bob Nicholson, Member

Scott Messel, Member

Susan Crook, Member

Allan Carter, Member

NAYS: (0)

Motion Carries

ADJOURN