

HUNTINGTON CITY



Huntington LDS Tabernacle



Old Tithing Granary



Old Tithing Office



Huntington Main Street - early days



Fields and mountains during earthquake



Huntington City Hall



The discovery of the Mammoth



Huntington Main Street - early days parade



Huntington Main Street



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In 1911 a new hall was erected, serving the citizens of Huntington for 48 years.



In June 1877, a company of men from the Thistle Valley set out to explore the land to the east of the Wasatch Mountains. They followed an old soldier road down the White River to the Green River. As their primary mission was to explore the headwaters of the San Rafael River, they headed west up the San Rafael and eventually reached the mouth of the Buckhorn Draw.

After exploring all three creeks, they arrived at the mouth of Huntington Canyon. Upon arriving they found men already there with a herd of horses so they returned to Fairview. Then on October 15, 1877 some of the explorers and their families returned. They built dugouts on the Huntington Creek; there they spent the winter. In the fall of 1880 the townsite of Huntington was surveyed and marked off into blocks, then a number was put on a piece of paper in a hat and the men drew for lots.

The first livestock present in the area were horses in 1875. Then in 1876 cattle and sheep were brought in; some were purchased in California and trailed to Huntington and some cattle were brought in Salt Lake City. This was the beginning of the livestock grazing in the Huntington area and it has continued to the present day.

Most of the canyons and local landmarks in the area received their names from the stockmen of the area. An example of this was the Depression Hole located eight miles northwest of Huntington. A trail was constructed in the early spring of 1932 by a group of stockmen from Huntington and used to drive cattle there during the depression. It was a drought year and in the fall there were five head of cattle still in the canyon. They became wild and when attempts were made to get the cows out they ran, slipped and fell off a ledge and were killed. Due to the steepness of the canyon and lack of water, this trail was short lived and was abandoned after the first year of use.

In 1885 the Huntington Canal Company was organized and a board of Directors was formed. In the year of 1885 the Huntington Canal was started. In 1909 the construction of another canal was attempted known as the Enterprise Canal, lying between the farms on the southwest of Huntington and the foothills of east mountain, and area of many hundred acres. The ground through which the canal was attempted proved to be too soft; the banks of the ditch caved in so much that it was too expensive and the project was abandoned.

The first public structure to be erected in Huntington was a 40 ft by 60 ft meeting house located at the corner of Main and Center street in the summer of 1880. The building was constructed from logs brought from Meeting House Canyon in Huntington Canyon. It had a dirt roof and a board floor. The benches were made of split logs. Doors and glass windows came from Sanpete County. It was officially opened on December 31, 1880, on New Years Eve. They had a dance that night.

Later they added to the building and built a stage where they held the first Huntington Dramatic Club. It served the community until it was destroyed by fire in 1918.



A church was built in 1896 on the west side of Main Street just a short distance north of the old log meeting house. This was 75 ft by 45 ft and two stories high with a large balcony on the inside of the building which circled the south, east, and north sides and was supported by twelve large pillars. There was also a Relief Society Hall built, which was used as a theatre for the drama club. The old folks fat party was organized and they held banquets cooked by a committee and served to the older people. Sometimes these banquets were held up Huntington Canyon and this is how Old Folks Flat got its name. It was a favorite camping place.

Between 1918 and 1940 city meetings were held for a brick building in back of the old Hunting Elementary school on Main Street.

In 1941 a new city hall was erected, serving the citizens of Huntington for 48 years.

At a meeting held in the legislation conference room of the State Capitol in Salt Lake City, funding was secured for a new city building and in April 1998 work began on the new city building. The building was completed and dedicated on Saturday, October 17, 1998.

Special Events:

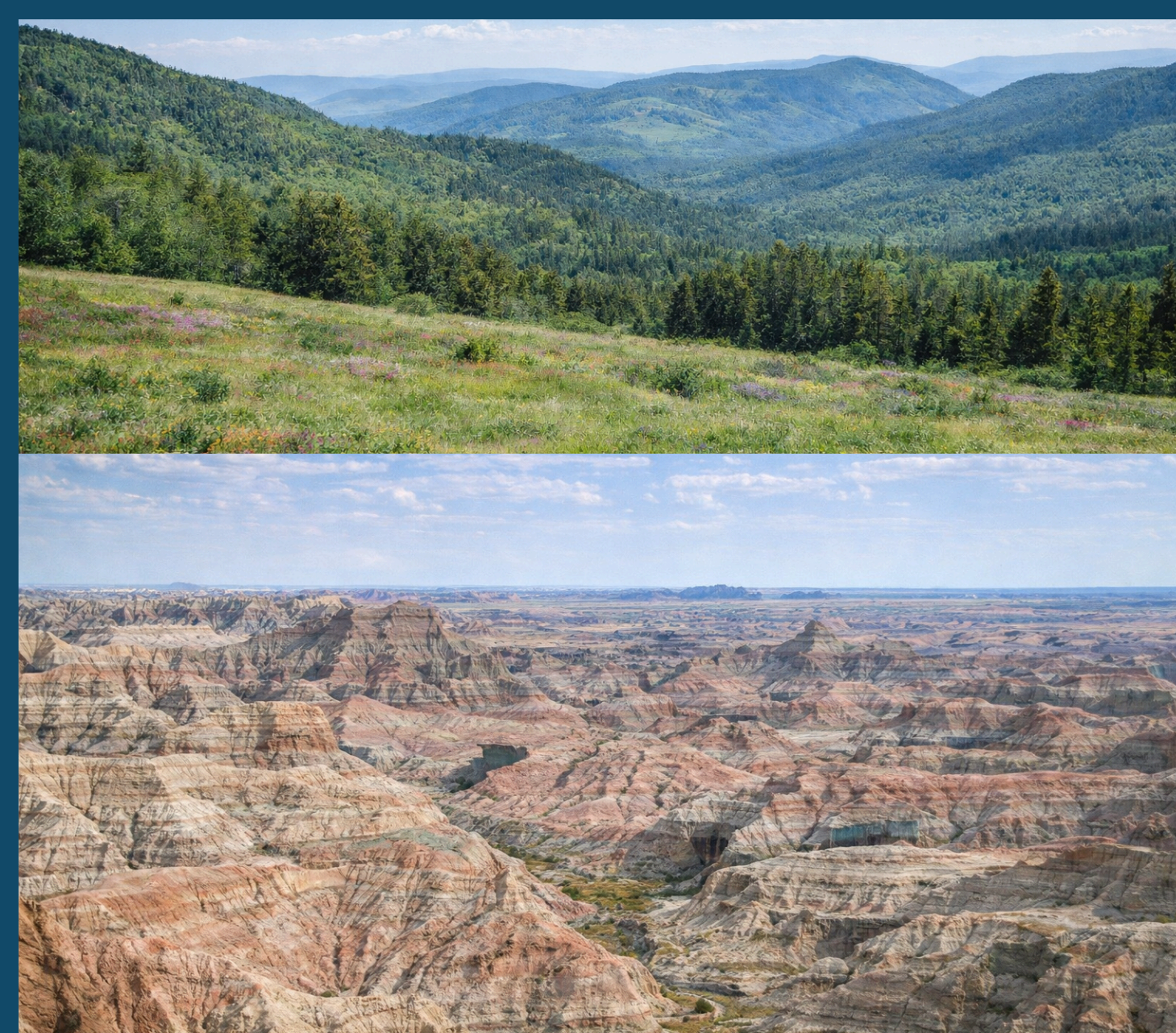
The Discovery of the Huntington Mammoth on August 8, 1988 in upper Huntington Canyon. In addition to being one of the most complete mammoth skeletons ever recovered, the Huntington Mammoth had the distinction of being found at a higher elevation than any previous specimen. The mammoth, a bull, was approximately 60 years old at the time of its death.

On August 14, 1988 at 2:00pm in the afternoon, Huntington witnessed a 5.3 earthquake. At 9:08pm Huntington witnessed a second earthquake.

Photos courtesy of Layne Miller
Sign Restored by Huntington 2nd Ward Young Men '26

Emery County bordered by the Green River on the east and the Wasatch Plateau on the west. The San Rafael Swell forms the core of the county. People here still have a strong sense of their history and many can relate stories of their ancestors who settled this country over one hundred years ago. You can learn about that history at the Museum of the San Rafael and the Pioneer Museum in Castle Dale or the John Wesley Powell River Museum in Green River. Visit the Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry east of Cleveland to learn more about the dinosaurs that roamed this area.

The Manti Forest on the Wasatch Plateau provides beautiful scenery, outstanding fishing, comfortable campgrounds, and a variety of recreational activities, and opportunities. A favorite spot for fishing and boating is at Joe's Valley up Cottonwood Creek west of Orangeville while Huntington Creek is famous for its fly fishing. Information can be obtained at the District Ranger Station on Canyon Road in Ferron, the Stuart Guard Station in Huntington Canyon, or the Museum of the San Rafael in Castle Dale.



The Bureau of Land Management manages the public lands east of the Wasatch Plateau. The San Rafael Swell dominates this area with such features as The Wedge, Ghost Rocks, Saddlehorse Canyon, Window Blind Peak, the Black Box, and the Head of Sinbad. Information about these lands is available at the Museum of the San Rafael in Castle Dale or the Visitor Information Centers at the John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River and the CEU Museum in Price.

There are four Utah State Parks in the area that provide recreational opportunities for camping, fishing, hiking, boating, and other activities. Reservation information for Huntington State Park, Millsite State Park up Ferron Canyon, Green River State Park, and Goblin Valley State Park is available by calling 1 (800) 322-3770. Golfers will enjoy the unique features at Millsite Golf Course next to the Millsite State Park and golfing on the river at Green River State Park.

Please preserve and protect the cultural, historic, and natural resources of Emery County.