

# LINDON

HISTORIC SITES



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The Lindon City area was settled in 1861. Many of the first homes were built along an old wagon route between Pleasant Grove and Orem. This line of homes along the route became known as Stringtown. Mail for Pleasant Grove and Stringtown was dropped off under an old linden tree growing in the area. This tree provided the inspiration for the town's name. In 1889 the town applied for a post office and it was approved under the name of "Lindon." It is believed that a spelling error was made through the post office application process. The town became incorporated in 1924 and the current spelling, Lindon, was approved at the time of incorporation. The articles of incorporation, which also described the town limits, noted that the population was "458 souls," with 169 electors. It encompassed approximately three and one-half square miles. It appears that Lindon was incorporated as a means to acquire a bond to finance a culinary water system.

By 1950, the population had increased to 801 persons. By the 1960 Census, the population had increased to 1,150. In 2005, the population was estimated at 9,761.

It is hoped that this historical guide will help to remind us of the pioneers who settled this area and their dedication in making Lindon a thriving, beautiful place to live. Some of the buildings in this guide are no longer standing; however, visiting these sites may allow us to visualize the places of residence, work, and worship of our honored Lindon settlers.

For further written information on the history of Lindon, please contact the Lindon City Center at 785-5043.



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## Gillman Farm

584 West Gillman Lane



In 1863, James Henry Gillman purchased 10 acres of land from James Cullimore and established this farm. Gillman built a house on the property for his wife and family, and after his death, his son John Chesterton Gillman moved back home with his own family. The original house burned down in 1902.

In 1903–04 John Gillman hauled soil and rocks with a team of horses to fill in a hollow near the original site in order to build a new two-room brick house. Later, two more rooms and a large pantry were added.

In 1941 John's son Alvin "Snow" Gillman and his wife, Louie Thorne Gillman, bought the property. Snow



and Louie also owned the old Lindon titling office, and when they moved to the Gillman farm, Snow disassembled the barn and granaries and rebuilt them on the farm, where they stand today. At the same time, the Gillmans began remodeling the house, but had to wait until after the end of World War II to finish the plumbing.

The farm has been owned and worked by four generations of the Gillman family and continues in use today. It also was recognized recently by the State of Utah as a Century Farm.



## The Robison Home

395 North State Street



This home was originally built by Lewis Seth Robison, a lawyer, teacher, farmer, manufacturer. Born in Illinois, he studied law and passed the bar in that state before moving to Utah when he was in his early twenties. Law presented scant opportunities in rural Utah in that period, a few years after the end of the civil war. He married Mary Melissa Driggs in Salt Lake City in 1873.

Robison had the honeycomb limestone brick hauled from American Fork Canyon and cut on-site. Other historical structures in Lindon employ the same materials.

The cider mill was located between the house and the barn, an area now covered by the north parking lot.



Before the turn of the century, a barrel of apple cider was considered a necessity. Families drank sweet cider during the winter and used the remainder for vinegar in the summer. Without a water source, the mill had to be powered by a horse and mule team hitched to the main cog. Crushed apples were shoveled by hand onto a roller press, and the juice was allowed to drip directly into barrels.

The cider could be potent—long-time residents recall with amusement the time a cow became “drunk” from feasting on leftover pulp.

## Cullimore Mercantile

398 North State Street



In the 1890s Orville Cobbley established a small butcher shop and store here. Later the business was purchased by James Cobbley, who expanded the building and also used the shop as the first post office for Lindon.

Around 1900, Albert L. Cullimore purchased the property and built a larger store, using the first building as a warehouse; thus the business became known as the Cullimore Mercantile.

It is told by long-time residents of Lindon that because both James Cobbley and Albert Cullimore were LDS bishops in Lindon for some time, the local children



grew up thinking that the bishop had to own the store.

The store provided everything the early town might have needed—from machinery to medicine, hardware to clothing, to staples such as flour, onions, and beans. Local farmers brought fresh produce to trade; housewives bartered with eggs, butter, or cream for household necessities. Children hoped for an extra egg to spend on candy dispensed from shiny glass jars.

The Cullimore Mercantile was sold in 1937; the building was eventually vacated.



## William Kirk Home

291 West 400 North



William Kirk and his sons were well-to-do sheepmen in Lindon who flourished in the late nineteenth century. In the 1880s, Kirk built the original house in the late-Victorian gothic style, with a gabled roof, stained-glass windows, porch pillars, and decorative woodwork, as seen in the photograph above.

With its immaculate grounds, tree-lined pathways, and beautiful gardens, the Kirk home became the showplace of the community. The house and grounds seemed to spark the imagination of the local youth, who, it is told, often



daydreamed of its gracious living and fantasized of exploring the attics for hidden treasure.

Later the property was purchased by Lester West. Influenced by the utilitarian post-war era, West remodeled the structure by removing the top story of the house and putting on a different style roof. Most of the exterior decorative work was also removed.

The house has been used over the years for a variety of purposes, including a boys' home. In 1996 the house was bought by Fireside Pizzeria and renovated into a restaurant.

## Alfred Harper House

125 West 400 North



Alfred Harper built this house in 1876 of honeycombed limestone quarried from nearby American Fork Canyon. It is said that he traded his homegrown vegetables and flowers for the rock. Before the building was completed, Harper had to leave his family and home to serve a three-year mission in New Zealand for the LDS church. On his return he finished the house and planted vines he'd brought from New Zealand. The vines eventually grew to surround the building.

Locals called it "The Big House," and it became a gathering place for community and church activities.



One of the most notable features of the property was a well, complete with bucket and dipper, that passers-by were welcome to use to quench their thirst. Church-goers, children, and even the occasional tramp made good use of the clear, cold water.

In 1987, the Harper House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The register recognizes the accomplishments of all peoples who have contributed to the history and heritage of the United States.



## Lindon Ward Chapel

400 North and Main Street



The Lindon Ward Chapel, originally built for the Pleasant Grove 2nd Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was dedicated by Reed Smoot of the Council of the Twelve Apostles in 1891.

Construction of the chapel was a community effort. The property was donated by Joseph Wm. Ash. Every able-bodied man and boy contributed labor to the construction. Horses hauled clay from the foothills and pulled the mill to make adobes for the walls of the chapel.

In December 1890, construction was far enough along for a dance to be held. Proceeds from the dance



were turned over to the building fund. Alfred E. Culmer, architect and project director, passed away before the final completion of the building. His funeral was the first to be held in the chapel.

The main hall contained two potbellied stoves—one in each corner. The benches ran the full width of the chapel with isles on each side. An upper gallery above the front door could be converted into a classroom by closing a set of curtains.

The chapel was torn down in 1941 with plans to build a new one. The iron fence on the north side of the property and several large pine trees remain.

# Lindon Elementary School

Main Street and Center Street



In 1900 the settlers of Lindon voted to erect a new school on the corner of what is now Main and Center, and a four-room school and well were built, at a combined cost of \$5,200. There was not any indoor plumbing; the students had access to outdoor privies. Wilford W. Warnick was the first principal of the school.

During the years between 1911 and 1935 an addition was built onto the school which included four more classrooms, a furnace room, and indoor restrooms. The children and teachers alike appreciated the new modern facilities.

In 1943 when Geneva Steel was established, the school population soared; hallways were converted into classrooms and some teachers had as many as 58 pupils.



On Christmas night in 1948, a fire began in the furnace room of the school and caused considerable damage. The destroyed areas were rebuilt in September 1949, with the addition of lavatories, a kitchen, and a lunch room.

In the summer of 1966 the old school was torn down, including the additions, and a new school was built to accommodate the growing population of Lindon. The new school cost \$510,000 and was dedicated November 6, 1967.

Lindon Elementary School and its grounds have truly been an asset to the community, serving our young people well over the years and helping them to make valuable contributions to our society.



# Geneva Resort

2130 West 600 South



The Geneva Resort was a favorite gathering place for young and old alike, not only from Utah Valley but from Salt Lake Valley as well. Captain John Dallin, who named the resort in honor of his daughter Geneva, began building it in 1890 and did not waste time getting it into operation. Dallin constructed a boat harbor, dug wells, and built a splendid dance pavilion, a hotel, and concession stands.

In 1907 the resort was upgraded to include picnic areas and baseball diamonds. Ferry boat rides and dances were held every Saturday night. The pavilion had open walls, with a space of about five feet between the walls



and roof, and the dance floor was built on big springs.

Flowering wells filled two pools with clear water, one cold and one heated by a big boiler. Ball games were played on Saturday afternoons by teams from surrounding towns. In the concession stands you could buy a hamburger for ten cents or root beer for five cents, and you could go swimming for twenty cents. Families would spend vacations at the resort even if they lived only a few miles away.

Many owners have come and gone and the building is now only a memory, but the times that families and friends spent here will never be forgotten.

## Joseph Wadley Farm 67 East 400 North



In 1869, Joseph Wadley, a Mormon convert from England, was granted legal title to farm 32 acres on this Lindon hill. A horticulturist by trade, Joseph cleared this land of sagebrush and rock, developed the irrigation system, and planted a large variety of shade and fruit trees that he had brought from his home in England.

In 1881 he began quarrying and hauling Tulfa rock from Pleasant Grove for construction of this home. It was designed after the traditional English country



manor, with formal English gardens in the front. The home was completed in 1882.

Joseph and his family resided here until his death in 1904. His son, Joseph Daniel Wadley, purchased this farm in 1907. He in turn sold the property to his son, Joseph Daniel Wadley, Jr., in 1925.

In 1988, a grandson purchased the home and restored it to its original state. He also added several more rooms at the back of the home.



## Amusement Hall 150 North State Street



The Lindon Amusement Hall once occupied this site. Constructed in 1900, it was built in a shape resembling a "T," with overall dimensions of 70 feet by 30 feet. The exterior walls were made of rustic lumber, and the interior was lined with ceiling lumber.

On the east end, a stage was situated about three feet above the hall floor. The curtain was canvas, hand-painted with an outdoor scene of a girl sitting beside a standing boy playing a violin. The curtain would roll up on a large roller and lights would rise up through holes



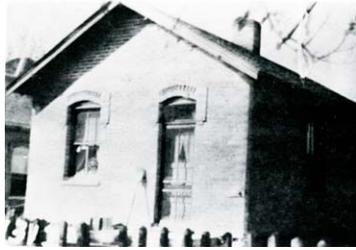
in the floor, giving the effect of floodlights. The hall was the setting for three-act plays, one produced each month of the winter. Silent films were shown on Thursdays, and often three dances were held per week.

Even though the hall was not elaborate, it was a place for people from all over Utah County to gather and have good time.

Around 1940, the hall was converted into a cannery. Many different types of produce were canned, tomatoes being the most common.

## Bishop's Storehouse and Tithing Barn

319 North 135 West



When the Lindon Ward was organized in 1890, its boundaries went north to Pleasant Grove, south to Provo Canyon road, east to the mountains, and west to Utah Lake. A chapel was built in Lindon, and soon after, an acre of ground was purchased at approximately 319 North 135 West. A brick bishop's office was built there along with a large hay barn, a granary, a potato cellar, and a corn crib. A small granary was also built to store wheat that was collected by the Relief Society sisters. When farmers paid their tithing with commodities, those commodities were stored in the barn, a practice typical of the way tithing was paid in the early days of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Some of the tithing produce was



used to pay the school teachers' wages; it was said that "they were paid out of the wheelbarrow instead of the bank." Later the property and buildings were sold to Alvin (Snow) and Louie Gillman, where they began raising their family. In July 1941, Snow's mother could no longer keep up her ten-acre farm, and Snow made a deal with her to trade places, since he had 18 acres that sat adjacent to hers.

Snow disassembled the barn and moved every board with a wagon and a team of horses to the Snow's new home at 584 West Gillman Lane, where he built it back just as it had been, using the same poles and lumber. Later he added two lean-tos to the north and south sides of the barn. The Gillman Farm is a historic landmark of Lindon.



## Rodeback Home

540 West Lakeview Road



The original portion of this home represents a stylistic transition from pioneer to Victorian eclectic. It was built as one room about 1890 by Charles Levant Rodeback. The house was then sold to Andrew and Emma Swenson in 1907. Andrew was a custodian at the local elementary school. Plumbing and electricity were not installed until the 1950s.

In later years, two of the boys in the family took over both the home and the job as custodian at the school. They remained bachelors and lived here until their



deaths in about 1989. The house was purchased and restoration was begun in 1991 by Hailey and Christopher Liechty. In 2002 a new home was built which incorporated the old house, and restoration of the original portion was completed.

The addition was designed by South African architect Gerald Meyer, who moved to Utah during the project. One goal of this project was to show how historic buildings can be lovingly preserved while making them useful in a modern world.

## Dittmore Home 325 North State Street



In 1868 Henry Dittmore, a German immigrant, and his wife, Rachel Smuin Dittmore, moved from the Salt Lake valley and settled on seven acres at this site. The first home was log with a dirt floor and dirt roof and a fireplace for cooking and warmth. Because the house was on the main road south from Pleasant Grove, many travelers and horse teams were given shelter and hospitality for the night.

In 1876 the Dittmores dug a cellar and rocked up the sides, then the log house was moved over the cellar, and the dirt roof was replaced by one made of shingles. The family had five children by then, and they were glad to have more room. As time passed more rooms were added to the house. Two large adobe rooms were built on the



side near the road, with adobe made from mud from Utah Lake. Each room had its own fireplace.

Rachel and Henry raised nine children to maturity in this home. After they died, one of their daughters, Ellen, and her husband, Andrew A.

Johnson, bought the property in 1909. They paid \$3,000 dollars for the home and seven acres. They raised five children here. In 1950 Andrew and his second wife, Gladys, moved to Pleasant Grove. The house was rented after that, sometimes to strangers, but more often children and grandchildren lived there, especially as newlyweds. Some friends jokingly referred to the house as the "Honeymoon Cottage," and the family still fondly looks on it as such to this day.



## Railroad Depot 265 North State Street



The building on this site was once the Lindon depot of the Salt Lake & Utah Railroad, also called the Orem Line or the "Interurban." Beginning in 1915, 20 or more trains a day stopped here to service passengers going from Payson to Salt Lake City. The passengers often traveled just for fun, such as to ball games, fairs, or dances. Students could ride to Brigham Young University for only 1.5 cents per mile.

The trains were powered by electricity and traveled at speeds up to 65 miles per hour. The passenger cars



were 61 feet long and weighed 43 tons, each having plush seats for 66 passengers.

The Salt Lake & Utah Railroad was said to be one of the finest interurban railroads in the United States, and the Lindon depot was known as being one of the nicest stations on the line, with its spotless wooden floors and hardwood benches.

After 22 years of operation, the railroad finally closed the line and the depot due to the increase in the numbers of fast cars and freight trucks on the new smooth highways.

## Fage Home

400 North 566 East



George Jacob Slaugh homesteaded 160 acres in Lindon. He gave 10 acres to Frederick William Fage and his wife Mary B. Slaugh Fage

Frederick Fage and his father-in-law started building this house in 1899. They traded fruit for lumber from Heber City, and George Slaugh provided a pug mill to make the adobe and the regular bricks. The whole family and many neighbors helped with building the house, but Frederick did all the woodwork. The beautiful staircase, which is still standing, is his masterpiece.

Frederick and Mary moved into the home in 1901 with six girls and later had a boy, George Frederick Fage. George took over the farm at the age of seventeen when his father died. Later George married Olive Bird, and



they took care of his mother until she passed away. Prior to the death of his mother, George and Olive purchased the farm. George and Olive raised three children all born in the Fage home.

Their son Paul B. Fage and his wife Diane moved into the old home in 1978, becoming the third generation of Fages to live in the home.

Paul and Diane raised six children in the home and still reside there, considering the house a wonderful heritage. The house has four large bedrooms, a dining room, parlor, a porch and a cellar for storage. The pantry was made into a bathroom and a furnace was installed in 1956.

The home now sits on one and one half acres along with a barn and two chicken coops.



## Harris Home

310 North State Street



This is one of the original "Stringtown" homes built along State Street around 1865. The builder and original owners are unknown. The house was owned by Harriet and Joseph Harris during the first half of this century and this small home was often the site of dances and other social events.

At one time the house was slated for demolition. The bulldozers were on the site. Pam Dain, a Lindon resident with an interest in historic architecture and antiques, was driving her school bus (with no children



aboard) when she saw the demolition crew at the home. She pulled the bus between the house and bulldozers and asked the operators to wait until she could make a few phone calls. Pam single-handedly saved one of Lindon's few remaining examples of architecture of the earliest period of Lindon's history.

The home was eventually dismantled and the stones were used to construct the pioneer home that sits in Pioneer Park at 150 South 500 East.

## Walker's Service Station

370 North State Street



The first service station in Lindon was built by Bill Cobbley. In 1930 he sold it to Richard L. Walker, who remodeled the building, added a retail location for groceries and hardware, and renamed the business "Walker's Service." Richard's son Ivan became heavily involved in the family business in the early 1950s and has guided the company's growth ever since. Beginning in the early 1970s, Ivan began adding additional service station locations. As



time passed, carwash bays and convenience stores became an integral part of the business. Recently, the development of fast-food franchises in conjunction with the stores has been highly successful. At the present time there are 20 Walker's locations in 17 communities throughout Utah. The Walker's mission is to provide quality gasoline at competitive prices, fast friendly services, and a good future for its employees.



## Wright Home

778 West Lakeview Road



Hyrum Wright worked as an apprentice bricklayer as a young man, and in 1900 built this five-bedroom, two-story farmhouse to house his family. Several Wright children were born in the first floor bedroom of this home, which was also called the birthing room.

The home was originally without electricity, so when electric lines were first brought into Lindon about 1906, Mr. Wright happily installed electricity in the house. Heat was provided by several small wood stoves, each of which attached to one of four tall chimneys (now missing). Originally water was obtained from a pump in the front yard.



The Wright farm produced sugar beets for the nearby sugar factory, and the Wrights also raised chickens, milk cows, fruit and hazelnut trees, and vegetables. Barns containing farming equipment and animals stood in back of the house.

The spacious home was available for many community gatherings, and most Lindon funerals were held in the large front parlor (lower left). In later years, the Wright land was used as a nursery, and the trees still standing in the old lakefront Lindon Park were donated for that use by Mr. Wright.

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