



# Historic Salt Lake City Apartments of the Early 20th Century

By Lisa-Michele Church



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Salt Lake City contains many beautiful examples of early twentieth-century apartment buildings constructed to house a growing urban population. Given whimsical names such as the Piccadilly, the Peter Pan, and the Waldorf, these buildings beckoned to Utahns who were interested in a new approach to residential life.

Salt Lake City's early apartments were constructed in two phases, with one boom from 1904 until World War I and then another flurry from the 1920s until World War II. During the Depression, funding for new construction evaporated and, after the war, many people wanted to live in suburban houses.

Today, most of these grand old buildings are being used as low-income housing or as condominiums. Still, some are beautifully preserved with unique architectural features. The historic apartment buildings are

a vivid demonstration of the boldness and style with which Salt Lake City entered the twentieth century.

The following walking tour will cover a few blocks and take from fifteen to thirty minutes, during which you will see many architectural treasures.

For full-color images and additional information on the architecture and social history of these buildings, and to download this brochure, see [history.utah.gov/SLCaps-gallery](http://history.utah.gov/SLCaps-gallery). See also the winter 2016 issue of the *Utah Historical Quarterly*.

*Begin your tour at the southwest corner  
of 100 South and 300 East.*

*Continue walking south on 300 East.*

A

### *Pauline*

278 East 100 South (1904)

A walk-up design with eight units and one of the first apartments built in Salt Lake City. Note the sandstone foundation, yellow brick arches, iron railings, and double columns.



B

### *Embassy Arms*

120 South 300 East (1926)

A double-loaded corridor plan with thirty-one units. Note the wonderful sign, arched windows, French doors, and balconies.



*Cross 300 East to the east side of  
the street*

C

### *Embassy*

130 South 300 East (1926)

D

Both Embassy buildings were built by Bessie P. Downing and her husband, Hardy, who lived on the property. They also built the similarly styled Downing at 136 South 300 East.



E

### *Los Gables/Caledonian*

135 South 300 East (1929)

The largest early building, with eighty units. Note the timbering accents, extensive stone work, Moorish arches, gargoyles, and casement windows.



*As you reach the southeast corner of 100 South and 300 East, turn right and walk east on 100 South.*

F

### *Piccardy*

115 South 300 East (1930)

A double-loaded corridor plan with Jacobethan Revival styling and forty units—some of which had Murphy beds in glazed French door closets. Note the twisting columns, leaded glass windows, roofline accents, and acanthus leaf trim.



G

### *Lorna Doone*

320 East 100 South (1928)

Built at a cost of \$80,000, with thirty-three units. Note the elaborate gargoyles and archways, as well as the brick work and glass entrance.





*As you reach 400 East, turn north  
and walk on the east side of 400  
East toward South Temple.*

H

### *Annie Laurie*

326 East 100 South (1928)

Built as a sister to Lorna, with thirty units and a spacious lawn between the buildings. Both buildings shared interior block parking for tenants.



I

### *Chateau Normandie*

63 South 400 East (1931)

A rare example of a walk-up design built late in the era, with crenelated bays and half-timbering accents. Look into the entry hall to see beautiful tile work; note the casement windows, original light fixtures, and stately trees.



*From the Stratton, return to 100 South and walk east on 100 south to 555 East.*

J

## *Stratton*

49 South 400 East (1927)

Note the arches over the balcony windows and the ornamentation on the roofline. The entrance has unique detailing and arched windows.



K

## *Armista*

555 East 100 South (1927)

Built by Herrick and Company, with thirty units; later called the Waldorf. Note the stone entrance and original lamp posts. When the Armista was new, its units rented for forty dollars a month.





*Continue walking east on 100 South.*

*Turn south on 600 East and cross  
to the southwest corner of the  
intersection*

L

### *Elise*

561 East 100 South (1914)

Eight walk-up units. Note the different iron railings on balconies, the colonial styling, and the massive cornice. The elaborate double center windows, the stone nameplate, and the oak door are all unusual features.



M

### *Cornell*

101 South 600 East (1910)

Another early example of twelve walk-up units, built at a cost of \$25,000. Note the Colonial Revival style and balconies with columns.



Walk west on 100 South.

N

### *Trenton*

544 East 100 South (1927)

Though the sign is weathered, it is still lovely. The building has thirty units in a double-loaded corridor plan.



O

### *Bell Wines*

530 East 100 South (1927)

Built by Stanley Wines and Hazel Bell, a husband and wife who combined their surnames. Note the tall portico and pillars, echoing a southern mansion, with a large center courtyard. It has stone quoins at the building corners, and the neon sign is still lit.



*As you reach the intersection of 500 East and 100 South you can walk back down 100 South to the tour's starting point or explore these other downtown buildings:*

**Ruby:** 435 East 200 South (1912)  
**Westcliff:** 419 East 200 South (1927)  
**Bigelow:** 223 South 400 East (1930)  
**Sampson and Altadena:** 276 East 300 South & 310 South 300 East (1906)  
**Woodruff:** 235 South 200 East (1908)  
**Peter Pan:** 445 East 300 South (1927)  
**Barbara Worth:** 326 East South Temple (1931)  
**Premier:** 27 South 800 East (1931)  
**Spencer Stewart:** 740 East 300 South (1926)  
**Marquette:** 569 East 300 South (1909)

### *Avenues Area*

**Castle Heights:** 141 East First Avenue (1931)  
**Hillcrest, New Hillcrest, Buckingham, Kensington, Covey:** between South Temple & First and Second avenues (1915-1916)  
**Caithness:** 86 B Street (1908)  
**Villa Andrea:** First Avenue (1927)

### *University Area*

**Mayflower:** 1283 East South Temple (1927)  
**Federal Heights:** 1321 East South Temple (1930)  
**Knickerbocker:** 1280 East South Temple (1914)

### *For Further Reading*

Carter, Thomas, and Peter Goss, *Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847–1940: A Guide*. Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1988. Updated version available at [history.utah.gov/utahs-historic-architecture](http://history.utah.gov/utahs-historic-architecture).

Groth, Paul. *Living Downtown: The History of Residential Hotels in the United States*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994.

McCormick, John S. *The Gathering Place: An Illustrated History of Salt Lake City*. Signature Books: Salt Lake City, 2000.

Roper, Roger. "Homemakers in Transition: Women in Salt Lake City Apartments, 1910–1940." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 67, no. 4 (1999): 349–66.

*Historic Apartment Buildings*  
Walking Tour Map

