



COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS

WALKING TOURS

Route 6: Antczak Park

Distance: 3 miles

Online Map: cottonwood-heights-walking-tours-chcity.hub.arcgis.com



Much of this area was formerly known as “Poverty Flats.” It was originally a large sandbar that extended from the mountains on the east to about 1400 East, high above the Little Cottonwood Creek. In the early 1900s settlers moved here permanently, digging wells and extending the Brown and Sandford Ditch to provide irrigation. They were able to grow beautiful orchards and gardens. The neighborhood name was later changed to Butlerville.

The land in this area was once the ancestral home of the Paiute, Goshute, Ute and Shoshone peoples. Walkara or Wakara was the most prominent chief of the Timpanogos Ute Tribe when the Latter-day Saints arrived in 1847. They were a horse riding tribe and active traders.

The increase in the Mormon population in the Salt Lake Valley caused friction with the American Indians, as both groups vied for the same water and other resources. This led to the 1853 Wakara War, which was mostly sporadic skirmishes extending across Sevier, Sanpete, Utah and Salt Lake Counties. Fighting with Wakara and others in his tribe became such a concern that Brigham Young ordered all the communities to build forts. Between 1853 and 1854, a wall was built on a 10 acre plot donated by Jehu Cox to protect the small town of Union. The walls were twelve feet high and six feet thick at the base. Inside were 23 homes and a school. Eventually the need for the fort faded and the walls came down. North of this neighborhood, the fort is now the Shops at Fort Union Shopping Center.

1. Freeman and Brown Homesteads

Look north. The land belonged to an African American named Daniel Freeman, the first African American to be born a “free man” in Utah. He received a 160 acre Homestead Grant patent in 1878.

Look south. The land was owned by Harriett F. Brown, one of five women to obtain a land grant

patent in our city. Her husband abandoned her and their seven children. She moved her family several times before settling in Butlerville where she applied for a Homestead Grant in 1879. She died the following year and her children received the patent.

2. Antczak Park

Antczak Park was built in 1977. It was named for Don Antczak, who had been a member of the Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Board, a city Trustee, and a member of the City Council.

3. Vance Homestead

Look west. The land to 1400 East was the 160 acre homestead patented in 1882 to Joseph Vance and his wife Lydia Alice Van Valkenberg. Others also lived on this piece of land. When Vance received his patent, he then deeded land back to those who had settled on his property. Almost all of his property was at the end of the large sand bar that made up most of Poverty Flats. A sand and gravel pit later occupied the end of that sand bar where Target and other shops are now located.

4. Johnson Home

The house at 1786 East 7200 South was built in 1928 by Orson and Leota Johnson. It is an English Style Period Cottage, a design popular in the 1920s and ‘30s. Johnson was a solicitor for a monument company. He and his wife had six children and owned the house until about 1950.

5. Crestwood Park

This is a walking path entrance to Crestwood Park, a 55 acre preserve. See Walk 7.

6. Greenwood Homestead

This was part of Foster Greenwood’s 120 acre homestead which he obtained in 1884. He owned the land from here and east to Highland Drive on both sides of the road.

#6 Antczak Park

- 1 Freeman and Brown Homesteads
- 2 Antczak Park
- 3 Vance Homestead
- 4 Johnson Home
- 5 Crestwood Park
- 6 Greenwood Homestead

