

RICHMOND, UTAH

History at a Glance



Brower Spring, now known as Robinson Spring, is where John Bair and other Pioneers first camped in the Fall of 1859.



John Bair was one of Richmond's founders. An Indian interpreter for Brigham Young, Bair was encouraged by Young to settle Richmond in 1859. He helped develop good relations with the native Shoshone tribe.

It is not known how Richmond received its name, but some believe it was in honor of LDS Church apostle Charles C. Rich. Others think that the name came from the deep rich mound of soil located on the alluvial fan made by the waters coming from Cherry Creek and City Creek; others believe that it was named after Richmond, Virginia, by "homesick" southern settlers. Richmond was incorporated as a city on February 26, 1868.



A log home in Richmond from the 1870s. The home used interlocked logs, milled boards and wooden shake shingles.



The influx of miners to Richmond in the 1860s was an economic boon to the community. Supplying prospectors spurred local industries such as blacksmiths, bakers, dairy farmers, and tailors. There were very

little precious metals to be found, but surrounding canyons did yield lead and coal.

The settlers began establishing farms and growing grains such as wheat, barley and oats. Hay and grains were also used to feed livestock during the winter. Sugar was hard to come by so a small amount of sorghum and sugar cane were planted to be processed into molasses.



The industrious pioneers worked hard to build a community. Within 5 years of the first settlements, Richmond's settlers had constructed a fort, irrigation canals, a sawmill, a gristmill, a school and a post office. The Gilt Edge Flour Mills (left) still flourishes today.



With the completion of the railroad at Promontory Point in 1869, a network of rail lines was added throughout Northern Utah, some running through Richmond. The Utah-Idaho Central Railroad, also known as the Interurban, linked communities from Ogden to Preston.

Richmond blossomed as manufacturing operations, retail businesses and agriculture began to propagate. There have been notable businesses throughout Richmond's history, such as Lower Foods, Nivison Drug, L.D.'s Cafe, Jed's Burger Barn/Big J's, Pepperridge Farm, Casper's Ice Cream and many others.



The Richmond Cooperative Mercantile Institution was established in 1882 and served the needs of the community until 1902.



As condensed, canned milk became popular in the early 1900s, the Utah Condensed Milk Company opened in Richmond, later becoming the Sego Milk Company.



With good land for grazing livestock, the dairy industry thrived. Cache Valley Dairy, in Richmond, was the first incorporated dairy in Utah.



The Holstein-Friesian, white with irregular black spots, is a superior breed of dairy cattle. To celebrate and encourage this quality breed, the first Black and White festival was held in 1912.



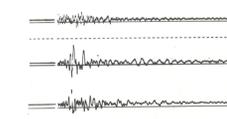
The Utah Plow Factory opened in 1896, one of the largest early businesses in Richmond. They produced plows, iron harrows, and bobsleds.



The age of the automobile also ushered in the age of the service station including Plant Service Station opening on July 1, 1925.



Before free public education, parents in Richmond paid tuition for their children to attend school. This was often cost prohibitive at \$1.50 per student, per term. The original school was a small log house with one room. In 1864, an adobe brick school was built that also acted as a community meeting hall. By 1889, the community had four designated schools. Richmond High School was built in 1911-1912 and North Cache High School (above) was built in 1920. Park School was rebuilt in 1994 and White Pine was built in 1999.



At 6:35 on the morning of August 30, 1962 an earthquake shook the Cache Valley and Richmond was at the center of the movement. The quake was a magnitude 5.7 on the Richter scale.



and deemed unsafe, the LDS Benson Stake Tabernacle being one of them.



It was recorded that out of the 239 homes in Richmond, only 37 were *not* damaged in the quake. The community came together to repair and rebuild.



Infrastructure improvements were made to accommodate growth. This 500,000 gallon water tank was built by the City in 1970. Flood control efforts and transportation improvements were also undertaken.



Courageous men and women from Richmond have defended America's freedom in every war since the Mexican War. The Richmond Veteran's Memorial was dedicated on June 1, 2002.



The first post office in Richmond was established in 1864 with Marriner Merrill serving as postmaster for 20 years. The current Richmond City post office is located on the corner of State and Main Streets.



In 2011, visioning meetings were held. This was an opportunity for citizens, City officials and community leaders to gather together to give their vision of what Richmond can be. A public survey was also developed to determine what priorities citizens held in improving their community. These meetings were instrumental in the development of this General Plan.

First Settlers 1859 → Building a Community 1860 → Railroad 1870 → Prosperity 1880 → Black & White 1912 → Shaken 1962 → Growth 1970 → Modern Richmond 2013



White settlers were greeted in Cache Valley by the Northwestern Shoshone Tribe. Chief Washakie frequently traveled in Cache Valley and befriended John Bair. Shoshone-Mormon relations were generally peaceful, but as more white settlers moved in, Shoshone grew more uneasy and the settlers grew more suspicious, resulting in some conflict.



Goudy Hogan and Marriner Merrill were among the first to move to Richmond in 1860. They both had a significant impact on Richmond's early development.



From its beginnings as a cattle show, the Black and White Festival has grown to include vendors, carnival rides, foot races and a parade. The Saturday evening horse pull now caps the week long event.



The 1970s were a time of significant population growth in Richmond. Existing city infrastructure was not able to support the increased population and improvements were deemed necessary.

