

LEHI HOTEL

Constructed: 1887

Address: 394 West Main

Present owners: Carl/Dimple Mellor

As early as 1884, school teacher Sarah Ann Smith, plural wife of blacksmith Joseph J. Smith, operated the Lehi House in her home (still standing at 390 West Main). In October of 1887 she began construction of a large two-story adobe hotel at 394 West Main (where formerly the John Woodhouse Store had been located). The Lehi Hotel was nearly completed by 22 November 1887, when the *Deseret News* pronounced it the “largest [hotel] in the north end of this county.” An 1890 Sanborn Map of the hotel, which was then immediately east of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad depot, shows a downstairs dining room, office, and kitchen to the north. The second story, connected by an inside stairway, housed the sleeping rooms.

Leverett W. Brown bought the hotel in March of 1891 from Sarah Smith and her daughter Florence. The name was changed to Brown’s Hotel. The 12 June 1891 *Lehi Banner* noted that Mrs. U.S. Grant (no relation to the former U.S. President who had died in 1885), had established the Lehi Cafe in the east half of the hotel building. According to Mrs. Grant, she had the “finest confectionery and choicest cigars constantly on hand.” The lady also claimed the “finest ice cream in the city. also fruit, nuts, figs, etc.”

The place was robbed on the evening of 27 August 1891. Burglars broke in during the night and pilfered two gold watches, two pairs of shoes, two pocket knives, and one coat from sleeping patrons. The thieves were never apprehended and the event startled townspeople. “Such a thing has not happened before for some time,” reported the 28 August 1891 *Lehi Banner*, Lehi has been comparatively free from such characters.”

In October of that year, ex-Rio Grande agent B.W. Smith and U.S. Grant assumed management and changed the name to Hotel Lehi. In addition to a large sample room in the building where druggists could display their goods while staying in the hotel, the Alhambra Saloon was also established on the premises. Evidently Smith and Grant did not get along well. The 4 December 1891 *Banner*

carried a notice of the dissolution of their two-month partnership. Smith henceforth became sole proprietor of the hotel, while Grant became owner of the Alhambra Saloon next door.

Though the registry of the establishment is lost, the *Lehi Banner* often listed guests who were staying in the hotel. The 6 november 1891 list includes twenty-five patrons described with a certain cosmopolitan flavor. The 7 July 1892 paper detailing the “heterogenous arrival of the distinguished guests at the Hotel Lehi on the 4th of July” copied the hotel register verbatim: John Smith, Denmark; Fran Salzner, Germany, France; W.I. Webb, L.S.B.; Andrew Fjeld, Norway; Jas. Kirkham, Goshen; G.A. Smith, San Pete; Jas. Dorton, Rush Valley; Wm. Goates, Denmark; D. Jones, Minneapolis; M.A. Thodes, Clipperville; Wm. H. Vaughn, Pontown; J.F. Russen and wife, Ohio; General Bismark, Russia; Geo Goates, Lehi Band; S.J. Taylor, Nevada; J.W. Goates, Austria; T. F. Trane, China; J.B. Smuin, Japan; J.H. Kirkham, Hong Kong; Jas. Kirkham, St. Petersburg; J.H. Potts, Australia; Isaac Alapeka, Sanguish Islands; J E. Robinson, San Woun; Jos. Russen, Berlin; Wm. J. Taylor, Moscow; Wm. Vaughn, Dublin; C.H. Gray, Isle of Man; I.E. Wines, Pekin, China; Jas. W. Goates, Lehi; H.J. Stewart, Pottsville, Ohio; J.H. Fox, North of England; John I. Thomas, Lehi; A. Walsh, Eureka; C.M. Green, Fish Springs; J.J. Thomas and family, Lehi; J.S. Hacking and party, Cedar Fort; Wm. Bryant, Lehi; Chris Madsen, Spanish Fork; Jessie Woolf, Zion; J.A. Fenton, R.G.W.

Nearly all the names listed were local men. Evidently either the hotel management was attempting a publicity coup or the local fellows were having a grand time with world geography.

The Hotel Lehi eventually returned to Leverett Brown’s management. In the spring of 1896, Dr. J.N. Christiansen, a dentist, had his office on the premises. The place was periodically an inn until 1929, however, when Mamie Smuin thomas purchased it from Rachel L. Brown for a residence.

In 1997 Carl and Dimple Mellor purchased the property from the Lyall and Audrey Wilson estate. Plans are under way to convert the building into a bread and breakfast facility.