

## UPTOWN PEOPLE'S CO-OP COMPLEX

**Constructed:**                   **1878 (197 East State)**  
  **1882 (189 East State)**  
  **1890 (173 East State)**

**Present tenants: Lehi Barber Stylist (197 East State)**  
                          **Purple Pig Pizza (189 East State)**  
                          **Christensen's (173 East State)**

For more than half a century Lehi's uptown and downtown business districts were dominated by outlets of the People's Co-op. When they found out where the new Utah Southern Railroad depot would be built on State Street, Thomas and William W. Taylor, Thomas R. Cutler and others opened their People's Co-operative Mercantile Institution. Business commenced on 4 April 1872 in a fourteen-by-twenty-foot frame building at 206 East State.

Lehi remained the railroad's terminal point for one year. During this time the Co-op engaged in the forwarding business, owned a Bain Wagons agency, a farm machinery business, served as the shipping agent for the Copperopolis Smelter in Mammoth, as well as several lumber mills in American Fork Canyon.

The success of the Co-op was so great that a new two-story building, with basement, was completed across the street (173 East State) in 1878. The property of the People's Co-op ultimately caused the 1880 ruination of the Lehi Union Exchange, its principal competition downtown. The Co-op then obtained the former Exchange building on Main Street and renamed it *The Branch Store*.

In 1882 the firm built an \$8,500, thirty-by-sixty-foot stone addition onto the west of the 1878-built store. In 1890 a new brick building, to house the clothing and furnishings department, was built at 173 East State. In 1902 the largest co-op building of all was built at 151 East State.

In 1904 W.E. Racker bought *The Branch Store*. Although the Co-op continued to prosper, it failed during the Depression. The largest building (now Christensen's) has been detailed on page 74. In January of 1937 Afton Giles purchased the feed department at 189 East State. After he moved one door east

(197 East State) in 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Heber J. Webb opened a clothing store there.

The Webb's sold to Kirk Crabb in 1944. Then Lynn R. Webb established Webb's Furnishings, a family clothing store. Leroy and Edna Gammon bought the store in 1950 and renamed it Edna's Shop. Freida Peterson and Ruby Southwick opened S and P Apparel there in 1959. The building was vacant for years before Arnold Cardon established his insurance agency. In 1979 Peck's Building Supply opened The Light Works there. The Jerry Harris family later established the Purple Pig Pizza Parlor there.

In 1937 M.S. Lott established his plumbing business in the 1878-built store at 197 East State. Giles Feed Store moved there in 1939. In 1967 Wallace and Arlene Olsen purchased the building and established Outpost Antiques there. In 1985 Adventure Land Video became established in the place. In 1988 the building was extensively remodeled by owners Ronald and Kenneth Peck. Lehi Barber Stylist is there now.

In February 1938 Armond Webb, Leland Price and Lowell Brown, former PCI clerks, opened the People's Store in the 1890-built Co-op building at 173 East State. In the summer of 1944 Webb purchased nearly all the former Co-op property. He resold most of the buildings, but retained sole ownership of the People's Store (later Market). In 1947 the thirty-three foot wide building was lengthened to sixty-three feet. Five hundred frozen-food storage lockers were added for customer rental. The store was leased to Ralph Larsen in early 1959 and became Larsen's AG Market. When Larsen moved from the store it was purchased by Christensen's which also owns the larger building one door west. Until recently the firm operated Christensen's Wholesale Outlet there.

To highlight the history of its Lehi co-operative mercantiles, ZCMI recently placed a replica of the original "all-seeing eye" ZCMI moniker on the original Co-op complex. At the same time they placed one on downtown People's Co-op, now occupied by the Colonial House.