



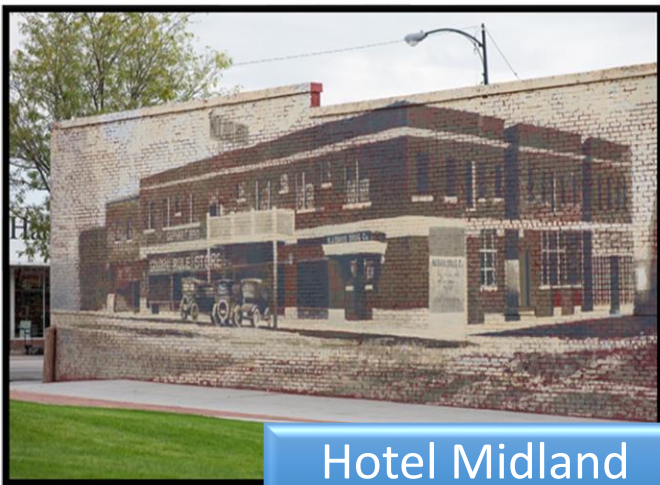
***Tremonton City Best of State:
Visual Arts - Public Art Application***



Driving the Golden Spike



BRHS Sports



Hotel Midland



NASA Space Program

Best of State: Visual Arts - Public Art Application

Nominee's Background: Tremonton City is located in the Bear River Valley, a rural area located 18 miles north of Brigham City. Tremonton City's current population is approximately 8,000 and is the commercial and employment center for the northern region of Box Elder County.

Tremonton City has had wall murals adorning its streetscape since the 1970's. As published in an article featuring Tremonton City's public art written by Tim Gurrister of the Ogden Standard Examiner there was a mystery muralist from the 1970s credited with creating the first landscape murals on buildings around Tremonton. It is legend that the mystery muralist supposedly used his hair to make his paint brush bristles. Although most of these murals have been painted over by building owners, there is still a mural in great condition that can be seen on an old weigh station building in Tremonton.

From these humble and legendary public art beginnings, Tremonton City has worked to amass a collection of public art. In 2013 the city made an inventory of current public art created a Mural Program to attract people to the downtown area of Tremonton. Within a two-year period, the City had commissioned 5 wall murals adding to its collection. The City's Mural/Public Art program is as strong as ever having completed 8 murals over the last 7 years with 2 more murals and 2 sculptures planned to add to its public art collection. Tremonton City believes that it has bettered the community through the commissioning of public art.

Achievement in the field of endeavor: Tremonton City's Main Street and Downtown area has been in decline for many years and when the American Institute of Architects' Sustainable Design Assistance Team (SDAT) facilitated a public visioning and planning process to revitalize Tremonton City's Main Street and Downtown area, the existing wall murals painted by the mystery muralist and Jason Nessen a local artist were identified as a community asset. The City has created a plan to use public art to accomplish the following objectives:

- o Art. Provide art to the Downtown and Main Street Areas, to add a vibrant character and appearance to Tremonton City that draws people to the Downtown and Main Street Areas and will leave the viewers of the art feeling inspired;
- o Culture & Community Pride. Provide culture to the Main Street and Downtown Areas through selecting image that are the subject of the wall murals that reflect and promote historic and cultural identity, which is inspiring, and uniquely Tremonton City or the region that will leave residents and visitors with a sense of community pride. (Please see supplemental materials via website. Describes murals that have already been created, plus proposed images and narratives for future murals).
- o Welfare. Improve the welfare of the community by encouraging individuals to come to the Downtown and Main Street Areas to view the art and to walk Main Street where they can easily become customers to local businesses thereby increasing the local economy; and
- o Community Betterment. Improve the physical appearance of the Downtown and Main Street Areas by adding visual appeal to what are architectural boring buildings and thereby approving the streetscape from what would otherwise be a monotonous building façade. (Please see the attached supplemental materials- Before & After).

In an effort to promote public art and to revitalize downtown the City has been working furiously to create a sufficient number of works of art to attract residents and visitors to the downtown area. The City has amassed a collection of public art concentrated in the Downtown and Main Street Areas that has made a more vibrant streetscape. The City has commissioned 14 works of art which include three bronze statues in the Downtown Area. Since 2014 the City has commissioned 8 wall murals with an additional wall mural and two sculptures planned for completion in 2021. The city also has plans to commission another mural to be completed in the spring of 2022. To further promote public art the City has created a Walking Art Tour Pamphlet to identify the location and provides a narrative associated with each public art piece. (Please see the attached supplemental material- Walk Tour Pamphlet).

Process. Tremonton City is committed to continuing its efforts to produce more public art. To this end Tremonton City has created repository of images for the subject of public art. Tremonton City, in conjunction with Artist, select images that can correctly project onto walls; specifically, the City and Artist are matching images and walls that have similar height and width characteristics that are free from obstructions such as windows in prominent areas of where the image will be painted onto the wall.

Investors in Public Art. As a rural community, Tremonton City has limited funds necessary to commission public art. To overcome this obstacle City Officials have identified and petitioned other entities to partner in the creation of public art through donations or granted funds. Tremonton City believes that in part the fact that it has been able to creating funding partnerships with the Utah Division of Arts & Museum; Union Pacific Foundation; Rocky Mountain Power Foundation; Box Elder County Tourism Tax Advisory Board; Orbital ATK on others gives credence to its program to create public art

Recognition. In addition to the numerous praises that City officials have received in conversations with the public and positive feedback on social media. The achievement of Tremonton City in bringing public art to Northern Utah has been recognized many times over by evidence of the numerous articles published in the Ogden Standard Examiner. Within the first two-year period of Mural Program, the Ogden Standard has published five articles, including one featured in their magazine entitled Wastach View. Local newspaper "The Tremonton Leader" and "Cache Valley Daily" have written several articles on Tremonton's Public Art. Another article was featured in the July 2018 Utah Life Magazine. PBS has also featured Tremonton's public art collection in a new television series "This is Utah". KSL news was in attendance for the unveiling of latest mural titled "the Candy Bomber". Box Elder Discovery Area Guides will also include an article on Tremonton's Public Art Program. These articles are included in the supplemental material. Tremonton City has won the Best of State in Public Art for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Tremonton City also won the "BOSS" Best of State Statue for Arts and Entertainment in 2020.

Innovation or creativity in approaches, technique, methods, or process:

Technique and Methods. The credit for the creativity in approach and technique of the public art belongs to the artists. In the recent past Tremonton City has commissioned artist Erik Burke, Rachel Wadsworth and Jason Nessen to create the public art.

Erik Burke found his passion for art spray painting train cars in his hometown while in his youth. Deciding he would rather get paid for his art over paying for it through community service and fines, Erik started painting wall murals instead of train cars. Using high quality imported spray paint, Erik is able to quickly create a masterpiece that will last for years to come.

Rachel Wadsworth has created a space shuttle mural where in the space shuttle appears to be literally blasting off the wall due to the shaping of the metal. Additionally, Ms. Wadsworth experimented with a process to texture the space shuttle's exhaust clouds wherein light reflects and moves across the surface of the metal giving the appearance that the exhaust is moving.

Jason Nessen's creativity comes from using a common product of regular, outdoor latex house paint to create amazing works of art that are in a larger than life scale. To Jason the City is his canvas and his ability to create murals captivates the community over the months that it takes to paint the murals. People go out of their way to see the progress of completion as the murals are being painted.

Contribution to improving the quality of life in Utah: As noted above, the overarching goal of the public art program is to make Main Street and Downtown more vibrant in both appearance and feeling through public art. It is generally believed that transforming an otherwise monotonous cinder block wall with a mural has resulted in the following self-evident accomplishments: 1) add a vibrant character and appearance to Tremonton City; and 2) add culture through the selection of images that are the subject of the wall murals that reflect and promote historic and cultural identity which is uniquely Tremonton City or the region.

As described elsewhere in this application, the City hopes that the wall murals will encourage individuals to come to the Main Street and Downtown Areas to view the art and to walk Main Street where they can easily become customers of local business in an effort to increase the local economy.

Before & After

Below are a few examples of a before and after images that show the Improve the physical appearance of the Downtown and Main Street Areas by adding visual appeal to what are architectural boring buildings and thereby approving the streetscape from what would otherwise be a monotonous building façade.





Public Art - Statues



Veterans Memorial –

Midland Square Veterans Memorial is part of Midland Square Park created in downtown Tremonton where the historic Midland Hotel once stood. The memorial was conceived by A. C. Christensen of Elwood, Utah, who supervised its construction. Mr. Christensen was a veteran of World War II, and spent three and a half years in a Japanese prison camp. The memorial consists of a block-shaped monument displaying portraits of the four Borgstrom brothers from nearby Thatcher, Utah who died within six months of each other in 1944, during World War II. Jackie Allred Hunlow sculpted the portraits. Overlooking the monument is a larger-than-life bronze statue of a soldier gazing at the four brothers. The statue stands 7-feet 7-inches tall and was sculpted by local artist Val Lewis. Surrounding the memorial are stainless steel plaques where the names of over 3,000 local veterans are etched according to the wars in which they served. The memorial was dedicated on August 18, 2001. Funding to construct the mural was provided by private donations



Shuman Bell–

Shuman Park Bell honors John Shuman, one of the first settlers of Tremonton, who in 1903, donated a portion of his homestead for the creation of a community park, known today as Shuman Park. It is also a place of honor for the Town Bell that tolled curfew to children for 25 years, and rang for special occasions or emergencies until being replaced by an electric siren in 1936. The Tremonton City Library, built in 1927, sits on the southwest portion of the park property where the bell and monument were erected on July 24, 1970. The bell and monument were relocated from the front of the library to its current location in July 2014.

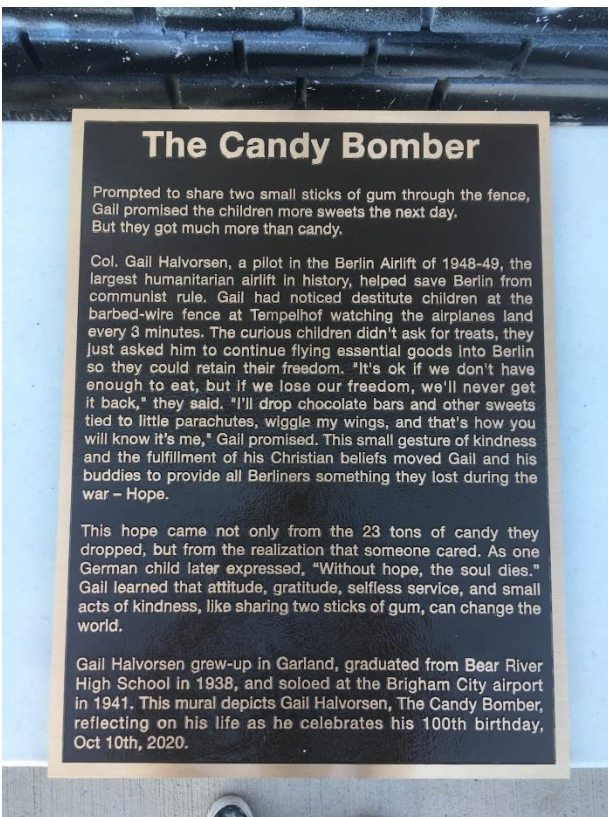
Library Statue-

Library Statue is where characters come to life as children read from the story of Peter Pan. The bronze statue was sculpted by local artist Val Lewis in 2007 and sits on Shuman Park property in front of the Library. Funding for the statue was provided by community donations.



Fishing Statue at Midland Square

Public Art – Murals



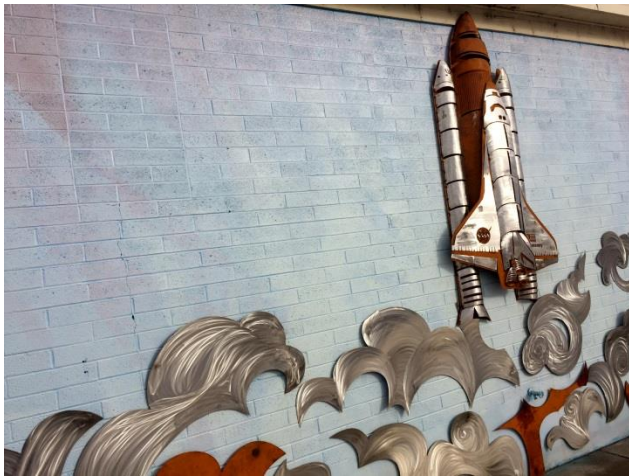
The Candy Bomber Mural –

COL. Gail Halvorsen A.K.A The Candy Bomber, brought hope to a city facing it's darkest hour. Growing up on a local farm and working in Tremonton while in his youth, Gail graduated from Bear River High School in 1938 and went to flight school at the Brigham City Airport. In 1942 he joined the Army Air Corp where, after WWII, the call came and he responded to fly supplies to West Berlin Allies after Soviet forces blockaded rail, road and water access. Gail piloted C-54s during the Berlin Airlift and founded "Operation Little Vittles" with no authorization from his superiors, but over the next year became a national hero. Operation Little Vittles dropped over 23 tons of candy to the residents of Berlin earning the nickname, "The Candy Bomber". This mural was painted by artist Erik Burke from Reno, NV. And unveiled with Gail present on his 100th Birthday.



1920's Downtown Welcome Mural –

Downtown Welcome Mural depicts Tremonton's Main street ca. 1920. The mural was created from a photograph provided to the City by Barry Cole in celebration of the Tremonton City Centennial in 2003. The mural was completed in 2014 by local artist Jason Nessen and funded in part by grants provided by Box Elder County Tourism Tax Advisory Board and by the Utah Division of Arts & Museums.



Space Shuttle Launch –

The booster rockets that propelled the space shuttle Columbia into space on April 12, 1981 were designed and manufactured in Box Elder County, Utah. The program began in 1972, and its final flight on July 8, 2011 was described as both inspiring and captivating. The shuttle program represents a significant achievement for the United States Space Program and the people of the Bear River Region who are a part of its history. Visitors can view an outdoor display of solid rocket motors at the Alliant Techsystems Inc. (ATK) launch facility, approximately 21 miles west of Tremonton. Created by Rachel Wadsworth and funded by Orbital ATK and Tremonton City.

Midland Hotel Mural-

Midland Hotel Mural gives the glimpse of a grand hotel and once city landmark built in 1914 by David Holmgren on the corner of Main Street and 100 West. The hotel was advertised by the phrase "Well Furnished Rooms & Meals à la Carte and of the Best." Mr. Holmgren also served as Mayor of Tremonton from 1924 to 1927. The Hotel and surrounding buildings were destroyed by a fire in the early morning hours of January 31, 1995 and Midland Square now stands in its place. The mural was created from a photograph by local artist, Jason Nessen





in 2003, and was funded in part by the David Holmgren Family and by Jay D. & Alice C. Harris.

Tremonton City Volunteer Fire Department-

CA.1920 - Photograph of a group of local residents and businessman as "Volunteer Firefighters." The Tremonton Volunteer Fire Department was officially organized by the City Council on April 4, 1938, including the purchase of an American-La France fire engine for \$7,078.17. Created by Jason Nessen and funded by Tremonton Fire Department Women's Auxiliary and Tremonton City.

Bear River High Sports Mural-

You probably know of someone (maybe yourself) who dreamed of playing sports for a high school, college or professional team. For many, this dream starts with playing sports at a city park. This mural proudly illustrates few of Tremonton's residents who had that dream. They played, competed and had fun at North Park as well as the other parks in Tremonton. The Ladies Bear River High School Softball team were 5-peat, 3A state



champions from 2008-2012.



1st Golden Spike Rodeo Mural-

1st Golden Spike Rodeo Mural is inspired by a photograph taken in 1925 of the first county rodeo; also believed to be the oldest and longest running rodeo in the State of Utah. The original location of the rodeo grounds was near 300 North and 400 West in Tremonton. The mural was painted by local artist, Jason Nessen in 2007, and funding was provided by a grant from the Box Elder County Tourism Tax Advisory Board.

Driving the Golden Spike-

Andrew J. Russell's "East and West Shaking Hands at Laying of Last Rail." Commonly known as "The Champagne Photo." The National Park Service maintains the Golden Spike National Historic Site, approximately 27 miles west of Tremonton. Created by artist Jason Nessen and funded by Union Pacific Railroad Foundation and Tremonton City.



Jeppsen Family Collage Mural

Jeppsen Family Collage Mural was commissioned by the Darrell Jeppsen family in 2008. It depicts the life of an influential Garland/Tremonton family and long time owners of several area businesses, some of which are still in operation today. The mural was painted by local artist Jason Nessen.



Home Mural

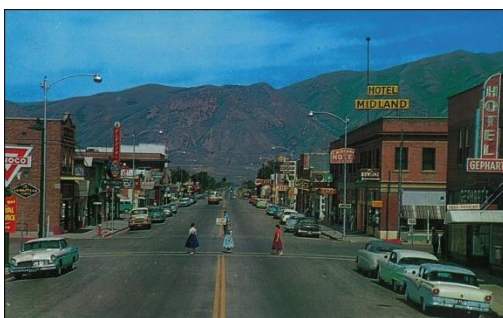
Home Mural was commissioned by Bear River Valley Realty, a local Real Estate firm. The mural was painted by local artist, Jason Nessen in 2007. *Note how the actual building windows are incorporated into the mural.

Mountain Mural

Mountain Mural painted on the side of the scale house at a site of one of the first grain mills in Tremonton. To read about how this Mural may have appeared at this location, see "Teton Murals."

Mountain Mural 2

Mountain Mural 2 existed on an older building that once housed the City Fire Department and City Offices from the 1930's through the early 1970's. The building is now used for storage by a local business. See "Teton Murals" to read about how this mural may have appeared at this location.



1960's Main Street Welcome Mural

Tremonton City's most recent mural completed October of 2018. A postcard showing life on main street in the 1960s inspired this welcome mural on the West end of downtown. The vantage point of the mural is the same as looking down main street. The mural shows the old business that used to be on main street including the Midland Hotel that burned down in 1995. Notice the similarities and differences to the downtown landscape from the style of cars to the trees that now line Main Street.





The First Grand Entry -

Located on a wall facing Main Street at the Box Elder County Fairgrounds you will see a Mural called "First Grand Entry" recognizing those that participated in the first Golden Spike Rodeo, the oldest rodeo in Utah. Many local community members have ancestors in the photo. Some of the favorite characters included is the man standing on his horse and the man laying down with his Donkey.

This mural was painted by Jason Nessen from a historic photograph of the event.

Image Narratives and Future Mural Projects

The following are examples of subject images that reflect and promote historic and cultural identity which is uniquely Tremonton City or the region (Bear River Valley and/or Box Elder County). Additionally, a narrative accompanies the image that explains the inspiring stories and/or significance of the images.

The walking art tour pamphlet provides a narrative that explains the story associated with the image. It is here that the combination of a larger than life image of the wall mural and the well written narrative explaining the story associated with the wall mural will provide an inspiring experience for those that participate in the walking art tour.

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge- Bird Migration Flyway



The silhouette of birds in flight is a possible subject of a wall mural that showcases the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, which is a unique wildlife resource of Box Elder County. The Refuge is 76,000 acres in size, which provides habitat for over 250 species of birds. The narrative on the Walking Art Tour Pamphlet would explain that spring, summer, and fall are great times to visit the Refuge and that there is a stunning Wildlife Education Center and that educational field trips, tours and events are offered by Refuge staff. Additionally for the sportsperson, hunting and fishing are available during State season and the auto tour route is open during daylight hours year round. The Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, in Box Elder County, is truly an oasis for peace, tranquility, and serenity that will leave visitors feeling inspired.

Marlon Shirley- The Worlds Fastest Amputee



Below is a summary of Marlon Shirley from the Foundation for a Better Life, who featured Marlon on a billboard about overcoming.

“Marlon Shirley saw his fair share of struggles as a young boy, living with his mother who was gone a lot and moved frequently to keep trouble from catching up with her. Shirley was five years old when, living with other children on the streets of Las Vegas, he was picked up by social services. He was placed at an orphanage where he began the "pinball life of an institutional orphan.”

His life in the children’s home would literally leave a lasting mark. In 1984, the caretaker of the orphanage was letting the kids jump on and off a riding lawnmower while he mowed the lawn around the facility. Shirley slipped, and the lawnmower ran over his leg. Shirley later woke up with an amputation above the ankle, his foot gone forever.

Shirley bounced around to various foster homes over the years until he was adopted by a family from Tremonton, Utah in 1987. He took the Shirleys’ last name and feels blessed to have been found by them.

Shirley struggled through high school, trying to overcome the habits and tendencies of his past—of simply trying to survive. Midway through his senior year in 1997, close to flunking out and humiliated, Shirley decided he had had enough. Determined to do something with his life, he signed up to participate in the Simplot Games in Idaho, the largest open high school indoor track meet west of the Mississippi. He hoped to be offered a college scholarship, but the odds were against him. Shirley had little track experience. Moreover, he was hobbling on crutches, because he had fractured a bone in his leg while dunking a basketball a few weeks earlier.

Something in Shirley drove him to put all his effort into the track meet. He entered the high jump competition, where he hopped over on his good leg and dove headfirst over the bar. He cleared 6’6”, a height which would set a Paralympic world record. A month later, Shirley competed in the Disabled Sports USA track meet in California, where he left \$13,000 richer. Later in high school he had more surgeries and a second, higher amputation to the same leg following a football injury.

Despite having an upbringing that might have broken many people, Shirley has not only found a way to prevail, but has found the drive to become a world-class athlete. He owns two world records, in the 100-meter dash and the long jump. In 2000, at the Paralympic Games in Sydney he won the 100m dash and took silver in the high jump. He was the first and only lower leg amputee to break the 11-second mark in the 100m dash, setting a time of 10.91 seconds in 2007.

At the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Marlon Shirley won the Paralympic 100-meter gold medal for the second time. He has been called “the world’s fastest amputee.” Shirley said, "It's something I train for every single day. It's almost just like an automatic movement of my body springing down the track. We all have our own type of disabilities—mine just happens to be physical, and you can see it very easily when I run. But you can't tell it by the time I get done racing."

Shirley's prosthetic foot is made of carbon fiber titanium, materials developed in the aerospace industry. He has tested the limits of what a prosthetic foot can do—and the limits of the human spirit. Most importantly, Shirley never allowed his physical difference to limit his accomplishments. "I remember running around on crutches just like I'd run around if I had another foot," he said. "I definitely never looked at myself any differently than anyone else."

That determination was tried in 2008 when he headed to the Beijing Paralympics following a year marred by knee infections and surgeries. He took to the track for the 100m finals, determined to defend his gold-medal title. But midway down the track, his Achilles tendon tore, and he fell to the ground in agony. Refusing to leave the race uncompleted, Shirley rose and finished the race, crossing the finish line to the roar of a cheering crowd, standing unified in recognition of Shirley as an astonishing champion.

Today, as a 10-time World Champion and Paralympic champion, Shirley is a spokesperson for the Paralympic Movement and other sponsors. He is also a motivational speaker, bringing to others his inspirational message that there is nothing we cannot achieve—provided we have the determination and the belief in ourselves to overcome our challenges.”

Overcoming. Pass It On!

This billboard about overcoming features Marlon Shirley; athlete, Paralympic Champion.

Pass It On®

Chief Sagwitch – Northern Western Shoshone Band Chieftain



Born in 1822, a son of Pin-in-netse and Woo-roats-rats-in-gwipe, and distinguished early on as one able to negotiate and speak on behalf of his people. His name, Sagwitch, means “speaker” and “orator.”

Sagwitch and other Shoshone leaders were introduced with tensions as both Shoshone and the new European American settlers competed for subsistence on many of the same scarce resources. As chieftain and orator for his people, Sagwitch brokered peaceful arrangements with Latter-day Saints, and the two groups enjoyed an amicable, though sometimes strained, relationship.

Some did not share Sagwitch’s commitment to peaceful coexistence, and skirmishes erupted across the region.³ United States Army colonel Patrick Edward Connor, stationed at Camp Douglas on the east side of Salt Lake City, decided a preemptive strike on the Shoshone winter encampment near current-day Preston, Idaho, could curtail ongoing raiding and violence. On January 29, 1863, he dispatched a regiment to engage the Shoshone in battle. The ambush, known at the time as the Battle of Bear River, came to be known as the Bear River Massacre. One of the deadliest atrocities in the history of the Western United States, this attack on Sagwitch’s community by United States Army troops left around 400 Shoshone adults, children, and infants dead. Sagwitch was injured but survived the massacre after having 2 horses shot out from under him. Three of his sons and a daughter also survived, however, his wife and two stepsons were killed.

Surviving Shoshones—some 160 of them, Connor reported—were left to fend for themselves without food or shelter when the military quit the field with their plunder, including about 175 horses. In the months following the massacre, Sagwitch and as many of the scattered Northwestern Shoshones as he could gather raided throughout northern Utah Territory, stealing stock and killing several settlers.

Seeking an end to hostilities, James Doty, Utah territorial governor and superintendent of Indian affairs, sought out Sagwitch and other Shoshone leaders. On July 30, Doty informed the Army: “A treaty of peace was this day concluded...with the bands of the Shoshones, of which Pocatello, San Pitch, and Sagwitch [*sic*] are the principal chiefs. This information is given that these Shoshones may not be injured when met by troops, if they are at the time behaving themselves well.”

While agreeing to the treaty’s terms, Sagwitch did not sign the agreement, as he was recovering from a bullet wound. Army troops had shot him while he was held captive and on his way to finalizing the treaty. Though wounded, Sagwitch lived to lead the desperate survivors.

“I have been intimately acquainted with the white man from my childhood, and I appeal to any white man, when have I played false with him? Whom have I killed or even threatened to kill? I have ever been an advocate for peace. I abhor war to-day. I want peace. I sue for peace to-day. I want to be at peace with all men . . . The white man roams the mountains all over, hunting for the gold and silver that belong to the Indian until he sells the land. When have I interfered with him? The railroads pass through my country and have scared the game all away. Still I have made no objection to this, nor do I want to. I want all men to have the privilage of doing as they like, undisturbed, and make all the money they can, and all I want is peace and to be allowed to make a farm in a small, very small, portion of the country I have always lived in and still want to live in.”

Sagwitch, August 31, 1875

Over the next decade, Sagwitch’s people struggled, as promised annuities proved insufficient or absent. Mormons continued to settle on traditional tribal lands, the Transcontinental Railroad bisected the Northwestern Shoshone homeland and confusion between Indian agencies in Utah and Idaho Territories complicated life for the wandering bands.

Sagwitch determined that the Mormons, while destroying the Shoshones’ traditional way of life, offered the only hope for a future.

As a result of some striking spiritual experiences, Sagwitch and his band were baptized Mormons. Sagwitch was ordained to the Melchisadek Priesthood and became the first Native American to be sealed to his wife in the Endowment House. His son became the first Native American ordained as a Bishop. Sagwitch's enduring relationship with the LDS Church led to the founding of the Washakie Indian colony in northern Utah and to a legacy among his descendants of community and religious activism." Spring of 1873 saw hundreds of Northwestern Shoshones join the Mormons in mass baptismal ceremonies. Most assimilated into Mormon society.

Sagwitch died in 1887 and was buried in Washakie. One of his sons, Pisappíh Tímpin-poo (also known as Frank Warner), was likely the first American Indian to serve as a proselytizing missionary. Another son, Yeager, spoke at general conference in 1926 in the Shoshone language, the first conference address given in a language other than English. Sagwitch’s grandson, Moroni Timbimboo, was the first American Indian to be called as a bishop. He led the Washakie Ward from 1939 to 1945.