16. Central City

One of Salt Lake City’s oldest neighborhoods, the Central City Historic District is associated with Joseph Smith’s original City plan. His “Plat for the City of Zion” designated ten-acre blocks which remain intact in Central City. That said, the district contains the most varied and complex land-use patterns in Salt Lake City. Central City’s eclectic mix of historic architecture includes unique examples of building styles from many periods. Some of the City’s original adobe vernacular homes survive here. Yet Central City streets also contain fast-food restaurants, office buildings and retail centers.

Within the Central City Neighborhood are a number of commercial buildings. Many of these have been built within the past thirty years, especially those along sections of 400 South. However, there are still a number of corner commercial buildings constructed in the early 20th century. Most of these are modest one-part commercial blocks with minimal architectural detailing.

As a dense inner city neighborhood, Central City has always been beset by land-use conflicts. Its large blocks led to haphazard, incompatible development as early as 1900, and the area has been subject to the problems associated with absentee ownership for decades.

400 South has developed as a major commercial corridor. In addition, the area incorporates a mix of transportation options. Elements of connection include the Trax light rail system, street system, bus transit system, bicycle system and pedestrian system. The City has undertaken a number of actions to encourage transit oriented development that integrates land use and transportation to help create vibrant and sustainable development in this area.

The commercial building at 802 South 600 East is one of several located at prominent corner locations in the Central City neighborhood.