

# A List of Commemorative Works Honoring the Mormon Battalion

Compiled by Cary B. Skidmore with editing assistance by Mary Ann Kirk  
Mormon Battalion Association  
February 2, 2026

## Introduction

The Mormon Battalion has been touted as the most commemorated unit in United States military history<sup>1</sup> and the most monumented story in Church History.<sup>2</sup> This paper seeks to build upon past efforts to create lists of the monuments and markers associated with this remarkable saga. Although this static list will soon become incomplete because tangible, durable remembrances continue to be erected, the Mormon Battalion Association hopes that it will serve a useful purpose in conveying the extent and variety of existing commemorative works. To this end, the information is presented in a simple narrative format rather than a spreadsheet or a database.

Some of the information on some of the plaques is out of date or inaccurate, based upon information available today. No effort is made in this document to explicitly identify or correct that information.

If detailed marker or monument information is available through The Historical Marker Database (HMDB) website, a hyperlink is provided in the respective footnote. The HMDB entries generally include a transcription of text, photos, and location details for the marker or monument.

In this document, the commemorative works are grouped by the boundaries of present-day states of the United States generally following the trail of the Battalion from enlistment in Iowa/Nebraska, to outfitting in Kansas, down the Santa Fe Trail through the Oklahoma Panhandle into New Mexico, across Arizona, and into California. After discharge from military service in present-day Los Angeles, veterans continued to make commemorated contributions along trails that led to Salt Lake City, Utah. Monuments specifically associated with detached service (two in Colorado and one in Utah) are also on the list.

Several commemorative works focus on an individual or a small group of individuals rather than the composite service of Battalion members as a unit during the enlistment period. The Battalion experience of these individuals is considered foundational to their subsequent contributions. Therefore, the commemorative works that acclaim their Battalion connections are included in this list.

## Iowa/Nebraska (6)

1. *Prairie Trails Museum of Wayne County*<sup>3</sup> (Corydon, Iowa): Although, the location is further east than any activity by the Mormon Battalion, a wall mural (“Westward Movement of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints”) in the museum shows the route of the main company of the Mormon Battalion from Winter Quarters (*sic*) to Fort Leavenworth, through Tucson and on to San Diego. A notional route from San Diego to Sutter’s Mill and then Salt Lake City is also depicted with the caption, “Despite the discovery of gold, de-activated soldiers of the

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<sup>1</sup> Sherman L. Fleek, USMA Command Historian, personal communication to Laura Kay Anderson, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Gary Boatright, Operations Manager, Church History Department, personal communication to C. Bradford Allen, 2019 - 2021.

<sup>3</sup> <https://prairietrilmuseum.wordpress.com/>

Mormon Battalion left Sutter’s Mill to join their families.”



2. *Mormon Battalion Mustering Grounds* (Council Bluffs, Iowa): This is an interpretive panel on a steel pedestal placed by the Church on the grounds of the Iowa School for the Deaf in 1986.<sup>4</sup>
3. *Kanesville Memorial* (Council Bluffs, Iowa): An outdoor memorial created by the Church on the grounds of the former Kanesville Tabernacle site opened on March 4, 2024.<sup>5</sup> The enlistment and farewell of the Mormon Battalion is one of three themes. This portion features 100 bronze footprints in a concrete sidewalk representing the farewell march of the soldiers while silhouettes of five women who stayed behind look on. Associated interpretive panels tell the stories of Drusilla Hendricks (her 16 year-old son, William Dorris Hendricks, was a private in Company D; her invalid husband, James, also stayed behind), Elizabeth Hyde (her husband, William Hyde, was a sergeant in Company B), Fanny Taggart (her husband, George Washington Taggart, was a musician in Company B), Sarah Allen (her husband, Ezra Hela Allen, was a musician in Company C and was killed at Tragedy Spring), and Sophronia Standage (husband, Henry Standage, was a private in Company E). All five of the soldiers from these families were discharged at Los Angeles. An interpretive panel at the end of the walk relates the reunion or fate of each soldier/family after discharge. A new acquisition inside the welcome center is a commemorative-size sculpture, “Duty Calls,” showing the Hyde family’s reaction to the

<sup>4</sup> <https://ensignpeakfoundation.org/mormon-battalion-mustering-grounds/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/learn/locations/kanesville-memorial?lang=eng&index=1>

enlistment call. The companion sculpture, “Duty Triumphs,” is on display in the foyer of the Mormon Battalion Historic Site in San Diego, California. The giant-size statues are on outdoor display at Mormon Battalion Plaza in Salt Lake City, Utah.

4. *Council Point* (Council Bluffs, Iowa): “It was at Council Point in 1846 that Brigham Young appointed acting bishops to care for needy Latter-day Saints, especially the families left behind when the Mormon Battalion marched off to New Mexico and California in the Mexican War.” This plaque was placed by the Church in 1995.<sup>6</sup>



5. *Calling the Mormon Battalion* (Omaha, Nebraska): The Church created this exhibit for the Battalion story at the Mormon Trail Center at Winter Quarters.<sup>7</sup>
6. *Winter Quarters Temple* (Omaha, Nebraska): One of twelve pioneer scenes<sup>8</sup> depicted by glass art in the circular windows of the second floor waiting room is Brigham Young enlisting the Mormon Battalion.<sup>9</sup>

## Kansas/Oklahoma (10)

1. The visitor’s brochure, *The Mormon Battalion at Fort Leavenworth*<sup>10</sup>, lists 12 sites with some sort of connection to the Battalion story. The five listed below include explicit mention of the Battalion. All of these commemorative items are in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.
  - a. Frontier Army Museum<sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ensignpeakfoundation.org/council-point-iowa/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/learn/locations/mormon-trail-center-at-winter-quarters?lang=eng&index=11>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2003/07/pieces-of-history-pieces-of-light?lang=eng>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.thechurchnews.com/2001/3/17/23244749/windows-that-teach-truth>

<sup>10</sup> <https://home.army.mil/leavenworth/4614/9755/6852/PAO-Mormon-Battalion-Brochure.pdf>

- i. The video (approximately 16 minutes), *The March of the Mormon Battalion*, produced in 1986, is available for viewing by request.<sup>12</sup>
    - ii. The exhibit, *1846-Mexican American War and Westward Expansion*, includes a reference to the Mormon Battalion.
  - b. *The Mormon Battalion at Fort Leavenworth*: This is an interpretive panel on a stone pedestal placed by the Church and the Kansas State Historical Society in 1981.
  - c. *West End Parade; PRIVATE, Mormon Infantry Battalion, 1846*: This interpretive panel on a stone pedestal includes an artistic rendering of a battalion soldier in personal clothing with military accoutrements.
  - d. *Grove of the Regiments*: Included in this series of monuments, dedicated July 4, 1976, is a bronze plaque affixed to a stone pedestal commemorating "Volunteer Units." The Mormon Battalion is included in the list.
  - e. *JAMES ALLEN, LT COL, MORMON BN*: This grave marker recognizes the military recruiting officer and first commander of the Battalion.
2. *The Mormon Battalion at Council Grove, Kansas*: This is an interpretive panel on a stone pedestal placed by the Church and the Kansas State Historical Society in 1982. It is located on the grounds of the restored Kaw Mission.
  3. *The Mormon Battalion at McPherson, Kansas*: This is an interpretive panel placed by the Church and the Kansas State Historical Society in 1982.<sup>13</sup>
  4. *The Mormon Battalion at Larned, Kansas*: This is an interpretive panel on a brick pedestal placed by the Church and the Kansas State Historical Society on the grounds of the Santa Fe Trail Center in 1982.<sup>14</sup>
  5. *The Mormon Battalion at Cimarron Springs (Wagon Bed Springs)* (Hugoton, Kansas): This monument is comprised of a metal plaque mounted to a brick pillar. It was erected in 1982 by the Church and the Kansas State Historical Society.<sup>15</sup>
  6. *The Mormon Battalion in the Oklahoma Panhandle* (Boise City, Oklahoma): This is an interpretive panel on a brick pedestal placed by the Church and the Oklahoma State Historical Society in 1983.<sup>16</sup>

## Colorado (2)

1. *The Mormon Battalion* (Pueblo, Colorado): This is a bronze plaque on the face of a large stone obelisk erected in 1946 by the State Historical Society of Colorado from the Mrs. J. N. Hall Foundation and the Colorado members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and by citizens of Pueblo.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> <https://history.army.mil/Army-Museum-Enterprise/Find-an-Army-Museum/Frontier-Army-Museum/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEXW9MPQ1e8>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=80663>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=95885>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=175836>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=55260>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=96068>

2. *Cherry Creek Camp* (Parker, Colorado): This interpretive panel with extensive text is mounted on the face of a stone monument placed by Daughters of Utah Pioneers in 2010.<sup>18</sup> It commemorates the experience of the detached soldiers who wintered near modern-day Pueblo, Colorado and then traveled north to what would become known as the Mormon Trail.

## New Mexico (6)

1. *The Mormon Battalion* (Algodones, New Mexico): This is a very tall stone obelisk with a wagon wheel representation on the top and a bronze plaque on the face. Sponsored by the Committee for the Erection of the Mormon Battalion Monument in New Mexico and the Utah Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association, it was “Built through the donations of many friends” and erected June 16, 1940.<sup>19</sup>
2. *Mormon Battalion Historical Marker* (Hillsboro, New Mexico): This is a bronze placard affixed to one face of a concrete pyramid dedicated March 12, 1988. No sponsoring organization is listed. The plaque was reported as removed (vandalized) in September 2024.<sup>20</sup>
3. *Foster’s Hole* (Hillsboro, New Mexico): This marker is an engraved aluminum plate affixed to natural stone in 1993.
4. *First Road to Southern California* (Deming, New Mexico): This is a bronze plaque mounted in concrete on top of a stone base erected by Butterfield Trail Chapter D.A.R. - Deming, N.M. in 1933.<sup>21</sup>
5. *Cooke’s Wagon Road* (Deming, New Mexico): This is an Official Scenic Historic Marker, metal sign mounted to wooden frame.<sup>22</sup>
6. *Historical Marker No. 7, U.S. Mormon Battalion Trail, History of Trek through Mountains* (Animas, New Mexico): Large wooden sign hung between two stone pillars, erected in 1986.<sup>23</sup>

## Arizona (31)

1. *Mormon Battalion Passed Here in 1846* (Douglas, Arizona): The text for this marker is scribed into a concrete pillar. It was erected by LDS scouts in 1933.<sup>24</sup>
2. *Mormon Battalion, LDS Church* (Douglas, Arizona): This trail marker is comprised of a white concrete pillar, triangular in cross-section, standing on a circular pedestal with a black inset and gold text that provides historic significance for the location (“San Bernardino Ranch Rest Camp Dec 5 1846”). This was erected in 1960 by Troop 27.<sup>25</sup>
3. *Mormon Battalion, LDS Church* (Douglas, Arizona): Similar to others in the area, this trail marker is comprised of a concrete pillar, triangular in cross-section, standing on a circular pedestal. However, this one appears in earth tones rather than white. Also, the background for

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=97420>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=150860>, <https://ensignpeakfoundation.org/mormon-battalion-monument-new-mexico/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=38297>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=38302>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=38236>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=91987>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=40693>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=28300>

the text is brass colored rather than black. Located in the Veterans Memorial Park, the text reads “LONGEST INFANTRY MARCH ON RECORD, December 6, 1846.” It was erected in 1960 by Troop 25.<sup>26</sup>

4. *Mormon Battalion, LDS Church* (Douglas, Arizona): This trail marker represents the campsite location on December 7, 1846. It is comprised of a white concrete pillar, triangular in cross-section, standing on a circular pedestal with a black inset with text that provides historic significance for the location (“Smith grave two miles south”). This was erected in 1960 by Troop 34.<sup>27</sup> “Smith” refers to Elisha Smith, a teamster/officer servant for Captain Davis, not a Battalion soldier. He was the last man to die on the trail to California with the main command.
5. *Mormon Battalion, Elisha Smith* (Paul Spur, Arizona): This trail marker represents the campsite location on December 8, 1846. It is a concrete grave marker, rectangular in cross-section and erected in 1960, for a teamster who accompanied the Battalion.<sup>28</sup>
6. *Mormon Battalion, First Crossing of the San Pedro River* (Palominas, Arizona): This trail marker represents the campsite location on December 9, 1846. Similar to others in the area, it is comprised of a white concrete pillar, triangular in cross section. Different from the others, the plaque on the original marker, erected in 1960 by Troop 14, was replaced with a new one by Matt Szymeczek of Troop 436. The refurbished marker was dedicated on May 13, 2000, by the Sierra Vista Stake of the Church.<sup>29</sup> The marker is located on LDS camp property.
7. *Mormon Battalion Campsite Dec. 11, 1846* (Sierra Vista, Arizona): This trail marker is comprised of a white concrete pillar, triangular in cross-section, standing on a circular pedestal with a black inset and text that provides historic significance for the location (“herd of wild horses and bulls”). This was erected in 1960 by Troop 21.<sup>30</sup>
8. *Mormon Battalion, LDS Church* (Sierra Vista, Arizona): This trail marker represents the campsite location on December 12, 1846. It is comprised of a white concrete pillar, triangular in cross-section, standing on a circular pedestal with a black inset and text that provides historic significance for the location (“battle of the bulls”). This was erected in 1960 by Post 16.<sup>31</sup> A recent restoration effort was led by David Barnhill.
9. *Mormon Battalion, LDS Church* (Saint David, Arizona): This trail marker is comprised of a white concrete pillar, triangular in cross-section, standing on a circular pedestal with a black inset and text that provides historic significance for the location (“camp Dec 13, 1846, Capt P.C. Merrill returned to San Pedro 1877”). This was erected in 1960 by Troop 21.<sup>32</sup>
10. *Mormon Battalion* (Saint David, Arizona): This plaque was erected on the grounds of “new” LDS Church building. It summarizes the overall story of the Mormon Battalion and provides details of nearby events during the march. It also relates this information: “Nearly thirty years after coming through St. David, Philemon C. Merrill, a captain in the Mormon Battalion later returned to this valley with eight other families to settle St. David in 1877.”

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<sup>26</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=28299>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=28294>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=28294>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=150957>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=27884>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=27882>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=27880>

11. *1846 Mormon Battalion 1996* (Benson, Arizona): This plaque was erected on the grounds of the LDS Church building. It summarizes the overall story of the Mormon Battalion and provides details of nearby events during the march. It also relates this information: “Later, under President Brigham Young’s colonization plan, a group of Mormon colonists returned to this San Pedro Valley, arriving November 29, 1877.”
12. *Mormon Battle of the Bulls* (Benson, Arizona): This is a large mural painted onto the wall of R&R Pizza in April 2019. See photo below.



13. *Mormon Battalion, LDS Church* (Benson, Arizona): This trail marker represents the campsite location on December 14, 1846. It is comprised of a white concrete pillar, triangular in cross-section, standing on a circular pedestal with a black inset and text that provides historic significance for the location (“last camp on San Pedro”). This was erected in 1960 by Post 34.<sup>33</sup>
14. *The Mormon Battalion* (Tucson, Arizona): The monument is of concrete construction with a bronze plaque. It credits the Mormon Battalion with raising the first American flag in Tucson. It is located in the north end of Armory Park.<sup>34</sup> “Erection supervised by M-Men and Gleaner Girls of the Central Arizona District of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. June 13, 1937.”<sup>35</sup> Note that there is another monument, less than a mile away, that commemorates “the raising of the first American flag within the walled city of Tucson” on December 16, 1846. This one was erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1929.<sup>36</sup> Since it does not explicitly mention the Mormon Battalion, it is not included as a listed monument in this paper.
15. *Exchange at the Presidio, The Mormon Battalion Enters Tucson, 16 December 1846* (Tucson, Arizona): This is a major monument with a large memorial sculpture and extensive

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=27878>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks/Armory-Park>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=27281>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=74174>

interpretation in a prominent downtown location. The Tucson Mormon Battalion Monument Foundation was founded in 1987 to sponsor the building of the monument which was dedicated on December 14, 1996.<sup>37</sup>

16. *Mormon Battalion 1846* (Tucson, Arizona): A short walk from *Exchange at the Presidio* in a more obscure location is a very small stone (approximately 10 x 6 inches) with a brief tribute to the peaceful passage of the Battalion. No photo or hyperlink is currently available.
17. *No. 71 Mormon Battalion Trail* (Picacho, Arizona): This monument is comprised of a large stone pillar with a bronze plaque affixed to the front. Three replica rifles in tripod formation point heavenward and adorn the top of the pillar. It is located inside Picacho State Park. This monument marks the site of the Battalion encampment on December 17, 1846. Designated as an official marker of the Utah Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association, it was placed by "Aaronic Priesthood, Mesa Third Ward, Maricopa Stake" and erected May 15, 1937.<sup>38</sup>
18. *In Honor of Mormon Battalion* (Casa Grande, Arizona): There are two markers adjacent to one another at this location. One is a concrete pillar with a metal plaque affixed to the front face. The other is a wooden sign with pyrographic lettering mounted to two wooden posts. Both recognize the location as a campsite for the Battalion on December 20, 1846. The pillar was erected by Aaronic Priesthood, Mesa Third Ward and BSA Troop 57.<sup>39</sup>
19. *U.S. Mormon Battalion Trail* (Mobile, Arizona): This trail marker is designated "Mormon Battalion Christmas Camp" on Google Maps. Photos posted there by Liam Breakwell in April 2019 show a steel marker that is comprised of a post topped with a keystone-shaped frame around a white ox-skull silhouette. This marker is also described in a *Hike Arizona* website.<sup>40</sup>
20. *U.S. Mormon Battalion Trail* (Shawmut, Arizona): This location is designated as "Butterfield Pass" on Google Maps. Photos posted by Chris Bauer on Google Maps in 2020-2021 show two types of markers. 1) A fiberglass post with heading "Southern Overland Route" followed by a listing of seven trails that passed through the location including the Mormon Battalion. 2) A steel post topped with a keystone-shaped frame around a white ox-skull silhouette, anchored in a pedestal of cemented stones.
21. *Sonoran Desert National Monument* (Shawmut, Arizona): The visitor's guide states, "An important trail corridor crosses through the central part of the monument. Juan Bautista de Anza, the Mormon Battalion, and the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach among others traveled this trail, providing a rich and important legacy of the history of Arizona."<sup>41</sup> A four-wheel-drive route follows the trail corridor for approximately ten miles through the national monument. Mile markers for this trail include references to the Mormon Battalion.
22. *Seven Trails* (Shawmut, Arizona): This location includes a Southern Overland Route Marker and a Mormon Battalion trail marker that reads: "The Faith Continues: Alma 11<sup>th</sup> ward, Chandler, Arizona, Alma Stake, Troop 611, Team 611, Post 9611."
23. *Happy Camp Cistern/ Forty Mile Desert Tank* (Shawmut, Arizona): This marker is a steel post topped with a keystone-shaped frame around a white ox-skull silhouette, anchored in a pedestal

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<sup>37</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=73983>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=92383>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=27207>

<sup>40</sup> <https://hikearizona.com/decoder.php?ZTN=16452>

<sup>41</sup> [https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/SDNM\\_Brochure\\_Print.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/SDNM_Brochure_Print.pdf)

of cemented stones. The inscription reads: “1846-1848 US Mormon Battalion Trail-Kimball Stake Boy Scouts.” More information is provided through the *Hike Arizona* website.<sup>42</sup>

24. *The Mormon Battalion Trail* monument and *Mormon Battalion and Butterfield Trail* interpretive panel (Gila Bend, Arizona): These complementary commemorative works are near each other just over 3 miles north of Gila Bend on Old U.S. Highway 80. The interpretive panel was erected many years ago and relocated in 2016. The cement marker shown below was added at that time. The photo and information were provided by Denny Hoeh.



25. *Painted Rock Dam Road* (Gila Bend, Arizona): A steel post, topped with a metal ox-skull silhouette is located on the south side of the road approximately 9 miles north of Interstate Highway 8.

<sup>42</sup> <https://hikearizona.com/dexcoder.php?PID=1667855>

26. *Painted Rock Petroglyph Site Campground* (Gila Bend, Arizona): A colored storyboard at this site includes a brief account of the Mormon Battalion moving through this area. The Bureau of Land Management website for the campground includes this text: “In 1846, the Mormon Battalion passed through, following Philip St. George Cooke along some segments of this trail to help secure California from Mexico. This venture included road building tasks along the trail, assuring that future trips could accommodate wagons.”<sup>43</sup> Additional information is provided through the websites for *Ensign Peak Foundation*<sup>44</sup> and *Hike Arizona*.<sup>45</sup>
27. *Oatman Flat* (Gila Bend, Arizona): This location is also known as the site of the massacre of the Oatman family. Boy Scout Troop 57 (Yuma, Arizona) placed a wooden marker at the base of the cliff face. The text reads: “The Battalion carved a road out of the lava cliff face to gain access to the top of the mesa.” A second wooden marker is found on top of the mesa that provides directions for getting to the bottom of the mesa. “To access the [Mormon Battalion] location exit I-8 north on Agua Caliente Rd., in one mile turn east of Oatman Rd. (This is approximately 10 miles of dirt road and high clearance vehicles are recommended.)” Additional information is provided through the *Desert Mountaineer*<sup>46</sup> and *American Pioneer & Cemetery Research Project*<sup>47</sup> websites.
28. *U.S. Army Antelope Hill Campsite, Mormon Battalion Trail* (Roll, Arizona): This marker commemorates the Battalion campsite on January 4, 1847. A large pedestal of cemented stones supports a steel post topped with a keystone-shaped frame around a weathered ox skull silhouette.<sup>48</sup>
29. *Mormon Battalion Trail Marker* (Yuma, Arizona): A small pedestal of cemented stones supports a steel post topped with a keystone-shaped frame around a white ox skull silhouette. There is not any text on the trail marker, but the style of construction is very similar to other Mormon Battalion Trail Markers. It is located at 5401 S Highway 95.
30. *U.S. Army of the West, Mormon Battalion* (Yuma, Arizona): This is a major monument featuring a bronze statue of Philemon C. Merrill that was unveiled January 11, 2007. Around the base of the monument there are ten information plaques with half of them listing the officers, privates, women, and children associated with each Battalion company. Additional interpretive panels are nearby, also on the grounds of the West Wetlands Park. This monument was sponsored by the U.S. Army of the West – Mormon Battalion Foundation. Several businesses also donated time and materials. Labor for the grounds was contributed by local Boy Scout troops.<sup>49</sup>
31. *Mormon Battalion Crossing* (Yuma, Arizona): This monument features a large pedestal of cemented stones supporting a short steel post topped with a keystone-shaped frame around a weathered ox skull silhouette. Additionally, there is an interpretive panel mounted to one side of

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<sup>43</sup> <https://www.blm.gov/visit/painted-rock-petroglyph-campground>

<sup>44</sup> <https://ensignpeakfoundation.org/painted-rock-petroglyph-site-maricopa-county-az/>

<sup>45</sup> <https://hikearizona.com/decoder.php?ZTN=787>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.desertmountaineer.com/2018/11/18/oatman/>

<sup>47</sup> [https://www.apcrp.org/OATMAN\\_FOURR/1\\_Oatman\\_Massacre\\_-\\_Fourr\\_Cem\\_120612\\_1.htm](https://www.apcrp.org/OATMAN_FOURR/1_Oatman_Massacre_-_Fourr_Cem_120612_1.htm)

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=175089>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=22686>

the pedestal and protected by a metal cover. This monument was erected in 1992 by B.C. Smith and members of Boy Scout Troop 97 as an Eagle Scout service project.<sup>50</sup>

### California (33)

1. *January 14, 1847* (Calexico, California): This trail marker has etched in stone a brief quotation of Henry G. Boyle regarding their desperate dehydration. It is located approximately 10 miles west of Calexico along California Highway 98.
2. *Mormon Battalion* (El Centro, California): This monument is at a rest stop along Interstate 8 approximately 5 miles west of El Centro, California. The inscription reads as follows: "On Friday January 15, 1847 the Mormon Battalion, a volunteer unit of the Army of the West, crossed Interstate Highway 8 approximately seven miles west of this point. Lieutenant Colonel Philip St. George Cooke commanded this battalion when the United States was at war with Mexico. They made their historic march from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to San Diego on the Pacific Coast, this being regarded as the world's greatest march of infantry of over 2,000 miles. The first wheels that traversed this area, now Imperial County, California, were by the battalion supply wagons opening the first southern route/west." It was erected as marker number 1 in 1978 by El Centro Company of the California Division of the Mormon Battalion, Inc.<sup>51</sup>
3. *Palm Spring* (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California): A bronze plaque mounted to the face of a stone monument describes the site as a "palm-studded desert resting place" for the Mormon Battalion and others. This is California Registered Historical Landmark No. 639. It was placed by the California State Park Commission in cooperation with the Fremont-Kearny Historians of Old San Diego on October 6, 1958.<sup>52</sup>
4. *Butterfield Overland Mail Route* (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California): A bronze plaque mounted to the face of a stone monument describes the site as a pass used by the Mormon Battalion and others. In later years it was called "Foot and Walker Pass." It is California Registered Historical Landmark No. 647. The plaque was placed by the California State Park Commission in cooperation with the Sierra Club of California, San Diego Chapter, on October 6, 1958.<sup>53</sup>
5. *Box Canyon* (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California): A bronze plaque mounted to the face of a stone monument includes this text, "January 19, 1847, the Mormon Battalion, under command of Lt-Col. Philip St. G. Cooke, using hand tools hewed a passage through the rocky walls of the narrow gorge for their wagons and opened the first road to California." This is California Registered Historical Landmark No. 472. It was placed by San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the Historical Markers Committee in 1953.<sup>54</sup>
6. *Warner Ranch House* (Warner Springs, California): A bronze plaque mounted to the face of a stone monument includes these words: "Mormon Battalion [passed here] in 1847." This is

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<sup>50</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=62011>

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=191654>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=51578>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=145313>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=51580>

California Registered Historical Landmark No. 311, erected in 1964.<sup>55</sup> It was placed by San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the Historical Markers Committee.

7. *U.S. Mormon Battalion Trail – Temecula Valley* (Aguanga, California): This monument was the Eagle Scout project of Johnathon McKay Crane in March 1996.<sup>56</sup>
8. *The Mormon Battalion, Longest Infantry March in United States History, Entered the Temecula Valley on January 25, 1847* (Temecula, California): This fairly elaborate monument (cemented stone and brick with detailed bronze plaque) was donated by members of the Murrieta Stake. It sits outside the fence on the grounds of the church building at 44745 La Paz Road.<sup>57</sup> There is also a painting in the foyer of the building representing the battalion's arrival and amicable meeting with the members of the Pechanga tribe. It was placed in the building in 1997.
9. *Mission San Luis Rey* (Oceanside, California) is host to three commemorative works.
  - a. *Soldier Barracks* is the most prominent of the three. The extensive ruins of adobe structures that formerly housed Battalion soldiers are directly in front of the principal Mission building. Information about the historical usage of the barracks is included in visitor information.<sup>58</sup> Additionally, there is a monument near the barracks that was sponsored by people from eight local stakes of the Church and dedicated on January 25, 1997. The square monument has the appearance of being built from adobe bricks. Informative plaques are mounted to each of the faces.<sup>59</sup>
  - b. *Mormon Battalion Soldier* sculpted by Edward J. Fraughton was presented to the mission on January 25, 1997, by the Carlsbad Stake in commemoration of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the arrival of the Battalion at the mission. It is on display inside a glass case in the museum. This was the prototype for the larger sculpture in Presidio Park, San Diego.
  - c. *Mexican Government and American Military Occupation* is the title of a display in the museum that includes this tribute: "The famed Mormon Battalion set up camp in front of the Mission on January 27, 1847, only to stay for a few days before continuing their march on to San Diego. They returned in February and stayed through the summer, proceeding to clean up the property and make necessary repairs for living quarters."
10. *Mormon Battalion Historic Site* (San Diego, California): Located near Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, the story of the Mormon Battalion is cleverly told by guides in period costume using videos, focused room settings, artifacts, and activities. The site was originally dedicated in 1973 and rededicated March 26, 2010, after extensive reconfiguration. Prominently displayed on the grounds is the 2009 bronze sculpture of a Battalion veteran by Russell "Rusty" Bowers. Details in the accoutrements, clothing, and body language convey a powerful sense of the Battalion experience. Bowers called the soldier "Levi" after his Battalion ancestor, Levi McCullough.

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<sup>55</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=51084>

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=238755>

<sup>57</sup> See number 42 on the map at this website: <https://temeculahistory.org/plaques-and-markers#pam>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.sanluisrey.org/museum/self-guided-tour>

<sup>59</sup> <https://ensignpeakfoundation.org/old-mission-san-luis-rey-california/>

11. *First San Diego Courthouse* (Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, California): This replica building serves as a museum that honors the Battalion as the builders of the “first fired-brick structure in San Diego.” Pieces of the original brick are on display.
12. *Presidio Park* (San Diego, California): Eight commemorative works are on outdoor display at the site of historic Fort Stockton.
  - a. “*Charlie*” is the full-size statue of a Mormon Battalion soldier sculpted by Edward J. Fraughton. It was his first commissioned sculpture, and it has become an iconic figure. The statue is placed at the highest point in San Diego.<sup>60</sup>
  - b. *The 500 Volunteer Soldiers of the Mormon Battalion* is a bronze plaque on the ground near the statue that summarizes the Battalion story. The bottom text states, “Erected as a gift to the city of San Diego during its 200 year anniversary by the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, November 22, 1969.”
  - c. *Services of the Mormon Battalion* was originally a bronze plaque on the ground.<sup>61</sup> Now it is an etched granite plaque on the ground with the original text.
  - d. *The Mormon Battalion at San Diego* is a companion etched granite plaque on the ground.
  - e. *No. 7 Dedicated in Commemoration of the Heroic Sacrifice and History-Making Achievements of the Mormon Battalion* is also an etched granite plaque on the ground.<sup>62</sup>
  - f. *The Grand March* is a large petrachrome mural depicting a scene from the Battalion march. It was created in 1940 with funding from the WPA Federal Art Program. The petrachrome style of art existed for only a few years.<sup>63</sup> Thankfully, it has proven very durable and resilient against the tag art that defaces the mural from time to time.
  - g. *Women of the Mormon Battalion* is a granite pillar with bronze plaques mounted on front and back. It was erected in 1959 by Daughters of Utah Pioneers and is their plaque No. 257. The plaque on the front of the monument describes the experience of the women. The plaque on the back is entitled, “They Accompanied The Mormon Battalion” and it lists the names of many women and the number of children with them.<sup>64</sup>
  - h. *Fort Stockton* is a bronze plaque mounted to a cemented stone pillar. It is California registered landmark No. 54. The text includes these words, “The Mormon Battalion stayed here later that year [1847].” The monument was first registered December 6, 1932. The plaque was placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the San Diego City Department of Parks and Recreation and Squibob Chapter, E Clampus Vitus, August 3, 1991.
13. *San Diego Mission de Alcalá* (San Diego, California): A new exhibit commemorating the Mormon Battalion was installed in the museum at this site on May 29, 2024. The story of the development of this new commemorative work is reported in the September-October 2024

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<sup>60</sup> Personal communication, June 2021.

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=51990>

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=51992>

<sup>63</sup> <https://livingnewdeal.org/tag/petrachrome/>

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=82280>

issue of the Mormon Battalion Association. An original brick fired by Battalion soldiers is included in this exhibit.

14. *In Memory of the Mormon Battalion...* (San Diego, California): Among the headstones of military veterans at Rosecrans National Cemetery is a memorial to Albert Dunham and Lydia Hunter<sup>65</sup> who died in San Diego after the Battalion's arrival. The memorial also gives a tribute to all participants in the Mormon Battalion experience.
15. *The Mormon Battalion of the United State Army, 1846-47* (San Juan Capistrano, California): In August 2021, a new commemorative work honoring the Mormon Battalion was unveiled on the grounds of the San Juan Capistrano stake center (29273 Stallion Ridge). It is comprised of a large mural with informative bronze plaques mounted to walls on each end. See photo of the mural below.



16. *Mormon Battalion Marker* (Mission Viejo, California): In Sycamore Park, a cemented stone pillar supports a bronze plaque on top that honors the contributions of the Mormon Battalion.<sup>66</sup>
17. *Fort Moore Pioneer Memorial* (Los Angeles, California): This is a very elaborate memorial with terra cotta panel sculptures and inscriptions, a majestic pylon sixty-eight feet in height, a seventy-three-foot flagpole, and an eighty-foot-wide waterfall. The memorial was originally

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<sup>65</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9103905/lydia-ann-hunter>

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=50351>

- dedicated July 3, 1958 and rededicated on July 3, 2019.<sup>67</sup> The Mormon Battalion is honored for helping to build the fort and raising the flag for the first time in Los Angeles on July 4, 1847.<sup>68</sup>
18. *Lytle Creek Canyon* (San Bernardino County, California): This non-descript marker includes a sign with informative text that begins: “Lytle Creek Canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains has a long and interesting history. It is named for Andrew Lytle, who served as a company commander in the famed Mormon Battalion during the Mexican War.” This monument was erected in 2013 by the Billy Holcomb Chapter No. 1069 of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus in cooperation with the United States Forest Service.<sup>69</sup>
  19. *Mormon Battalion Monument* (Tuttletown, Tuolumne County, California): This monument is comprised of stonework surrounding a granite plaque with inscribed text.<sup>70</sup> It was dedicated by Sonora First and Second Wards in 1995 and refurbished in March 2022.<sup>71</sup>
  20. *Mormon Island* (Mormon Island Wetlands State Park, California): A bronze plaque mounted to a boulder describes the experience of discharged Mormon Battalion soldiers in this area in 1848.<sup>72</sup> The monument is marker No. 240 for Daughters of Utah Pioneers. The monument was erected in 1957.
  21. *Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park* (Coloma, California): The visitors guide quotes from Henry Bigler’s diary and states that members of the U.S. Army Mormon Battalion were among the laborers at the mill site where gold was discovered.<sup>73</sup> A plaque at Mormon Cabin also gives a tribute to Battalion soldiers.
  22. *Tragedy Spring* (Tragedy Spring, California): This is a bronze plaque mounted to a large boulder. It was erected in 1967. It is Daughters of Utah Pioneers marker No. 338.<sup>74</sup>
  23. *Mormon-Carson Pass Emigrant Trail* (El Dorado National Forest, California): A plaque mounted to a boulder honors the Battalion contribution in building this trail.<sup>75</sup> This is site No. 52 of the Oregon-California Trails Association. It was dedicated on July 30, 1994. The National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers also have their logo on this plaque.
  24. *Melissa Coray Peak* (Kirkwood, California): “The United States Board of Geographic Names in October 1994 named the 9,763-foot peak located southeast of Kirkwood Ski Resort in honor of Melissa Coray and the ‘thousands of emigrant women who endured similar hardships in settling the West.’ Sgt. William Coray and his wife Melissa were among the 46 battalion members [veterans] who blazed the ‘highway’ through Carson Pass.”<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Marilyn W. Mills and Paul A. Hoffman, *The History of The Hill, Fort Moore, and Fort Moore Pioneer Memorial*, ©2019

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=128896>

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=78514>

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=6842>

<sup>71</sup> Personal communication, April 2, 2022.

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=261795>

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/484/files/MarshallGoldFinalWebLayout2017.pdf>

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=21273>

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=10824>

<sup>76</sup> <https://tahoeculture.com/melissa-coray-peak-on-the-mormon-emigrant-trail/>

## Idaho/Utah (15)

1. A trail marker near City of Rocks, Idaho was verified and photographed. The text reads: "In 1848 Battalion members traveling eastward from California, left the California Trail near here to rejoin their families in Utah, thus opening the Salt Lake Cutoff. Eagle Project 1998 EDW."
2. *Parting of the Ways: California Road at Raft River* (Declo, Idaho): This marker mentions the returning Mormon Battalion briefly with this text: "When the California Trail meant the Salt Lake Cutoff, many pioneers took that trail into the Salt Lake Valley. Returning members of the Mormon Battalion, traveling east, pioneered a route to Salt Lake." It was erected in 2001 by Daughters of Utah Pioneers (marker number 520).<sup>77</sup> The marker is 2 miles south of the I-86 Raft River Exit (#15).
3. *Captain Jefferson Hunt, Soldier, Pioneer, Churchman* (Downey, Idaho): This monument is a tall obelisk with a bronze plaque that includes these words as part of the inscription: "Charles Jefferson Hunt served in the Mormon Battalion as Captain of Company "A" and as assistant executive officer. In its historic march from Council Bluffs, Iowa to San Diego, California, 1846 - 47. His service won the commendation of all who served with him." It was erected in 1950 by descendants of Captain Hunt and the Utah Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association (marker number 119).<sup>78</sup>
4. *Captain James Brown* (Ogden, Utah): This monument includes a statue and two bronze plaques that detail his extensive involvement with the Mormon Battalion. It is located among other monuments in Ogden Park. This monument was erected July 29, 1947, by descendants of Captain James Brown, Citizens of Weber County, and Utah Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association (marker number 112).<sup>79</sup>
5. *The Old Emigrant Road* (Syracuse, Utah): This stone monument has a plaque with this relevant text: "This Old Emigrant Road was...first used by Captain Samuel Hensley with ten men, August 1848. Upon his advice, Mormon Battalion members returning from California also traveled this road. This contingent of forty-five men and one woman, with seventeen wagons took this trail on their way to Salt Lake City." The plaque (No. 450) was erected in 1989 by "Rachel Layton Warren Camp – Iris Camp."<sup>80</sup>
6. *Broad Hollow* (Morgan, Utah): In July 2025, Kevin and Denny Henson located a large stone monument near the entrance to East Canyon State Park which is of relevance to the story of the Mormon Battalion detached service. The large plaque on the monument is titled "Broad Hollow" and refers to the Donner Party and the Mormon Pioneers. A smaller plaque at the bottom of the monument includes this text: "In memory of the sick detachment of the U.S. Mormon Battalion which traveled north from Pueblo, Colorado to Ft. Laramie, Wyoming and then followed the Pioneer Trail into the Salt Lake Valley, July 1847. Erected by Scout Troop 152, Syracuse, Utah/June 22, 1985, Under the direction of U.S. Mormon Battalion, Inc."

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<sup>77</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=123843>

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=48986>

<sup>79</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=149971>

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=124032>

7. *Thomas L. Kane* (Salt Lake City, Utah): Mounted on the base of the statue of Thomas L. Kane on the grounds of the Utah Capitol building are two bronze plaques that describe Kane's connections to the Battalion and contributions of the Battalion.<sup>81</sup>
8. *Salt Lake Cutoff* (Uddy Hot Springs, Utah): Photographed by Curt Whiteford on November 5, 2023. See photo below.



9. *The Constitution Revered* (Salt Lake City, Utah): This monument quotes from Brigham Young's farewell address to the Battalion at Council Bluffs, Iowa. It was erected by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers – Central Company in 1976. It is marker No. 392.<sup>82</sup>
10. *Mormon Battalion Monument* (Salt Lake City, Utah): Also, on the grounds of the Utah State Capitol, this is the most massive monument to the Mormon Battalion. The rose-pink granite rises to 100 feet. Bronze sculptures depict various aspects of the Battalion experience. Additionally, there are two bronze plaques. One lists all the members of the battalion and the other gives tribute to their accomplishments. "This monument was erected by authorization of the state of Utah as the results of a movement begun in 1905 by the 'Daughters of the Mormon Battalion.' The funds came from thousands of contributors, the total of which was duplicated by an appropriation by the legislature of Utah. The monument was completed, unveiled, and dedicated on May 30, 1927."<sup>83</sup> To our knowledge, this is the earliest date for a commemorative work honoring the Battalion that is extant today.

<sup>81</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=167225>

<sup>82</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=132154>

<sup>83</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=35195>

11. *Mormon Battalion Plaza* (Salt Lake City, Utah): This emotionally moving collection of commemorative works is located just before the entrance to This Is The Place Heritage Park.<sup>84</sup> The three principal sculptures are named, “Duty Calls,” “Answering The Call,” and “Duty Triumphs.” Two other pieces at the back of the plaza are captioned, “Faith as a Gale Wind Going West,” and “With Toil and Courage, Until We Meet Again.” Mormon Battalion Plaza was dedicated August 21, 2010.
12. *First Encampment Park* (Salt Lake City, Utah): Extensive information is provided on three stone markers. Text that includes references to the Mormon Battalion is as follows: “On July 22, 1847, the main body of the Mormon Pioneer Company, along with a few of the Mormon Battalion sick detachment and some of the Mississippi saints, camped near this location...When the main body of the Pioneer Company camped here July 22, 1847, other members of the Company were in various locations. A group of pioneers and two Mormon Battalion men (James Oakley and George S. Clark) were delayed by Colorado tick fever and entered the valley two days later, July 24...Four men had been sent to guide the valley members of the Mormon Battalion Sick Detachment and a group of Mississippi Mormons who had wintered at Fort Pueblo, Colorado, Amasa M. Lyman and Roswell Stevens of the Pioneer Company, John H. Tippetts and Thomas Wolsey of the Mormon Battalion.” The park was dedicated by Elder M. Russell Ballard, July 22, 1997, exactly 150 years after the arrival of the pioneers there.<sup>85</sup>
13. *Union Cemetery* (Cottonwood Heights, Utah): This monument was erected as part of an Eagle Scout project. The inscription on the face reads, “In memory of the brave men and women of the Mormon Battalion who died along the trail from Iowa to California in 1846 – 1848, and lie in unknown graves.”<sup>86</sup> The back side lists the names and ranks of 21 men who died “along the trail.”
14. *First Settlers of Draper* (Draper, Utah): A full-size statue of Ebenezer and Phebe Brown rests on a stone base. The inscription on plaque at base of statue reads as follows: “Ebenezer Brown, 1801-1878, Phebe Draper Palmer Brown, 1797-1879, They arrived in 1849 after serving as members of the Mormon Battalion. This park was part of their original homestead and site of the Draper Fort.” This monument was erected in 2001.<sup>87</sup>
15. *Malinda Allison Hunt Kelley Covington Statue* (Washington, Utah): This statue was unveiled in Veterans Park on April 24, 2023. Malinda accompanied her husband, Milton Kelley, who served as an officer servant for Jefferson Hunt. They traveled to Pueblo with the first detachment. There Milton died and Malinda gave birth to a child. Arriving in Salt Lake as a widow, she married Robert Covington who became a prominent businessman in Washington County, Utah. The statue portrays her as a laundress even though she did not serve officially in that capacity.

## Summary

We have listed 103 commemorative works that explicitly honor the Mormon Battalion. The earliest one was dedicated in 1927 and the most recent one in 2024. Some are massive in size while others are barely noticeable. Some are in large metropolitan areas while others are in extremely remote areas. Sponsoring

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<sup>84</sup> <https://www.thisistheplace.org/the-mormon-battalion/#prev>

<sup>85</sup> <https://utahhistoricalmarkers.org/c/slc/first-encampment-park/>

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/109287/union-cemetery/photo>

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=224744>

organizations vary from local Boy Scout troops, Church units, and historical societies to state and even national organizations. Some were funded and erected by ad hoc committees formed for the sole purpose of creating a monument. Some work was commissioned of professionals and other labor was donated. The Mormon Battalion was enlisted nearly 180 years ago. We find it remarkable that so many commemorative works were erected over a period of 97 years. This fact, in and of itself, is a monument to the enduring legacy of the Mormon Battalion.