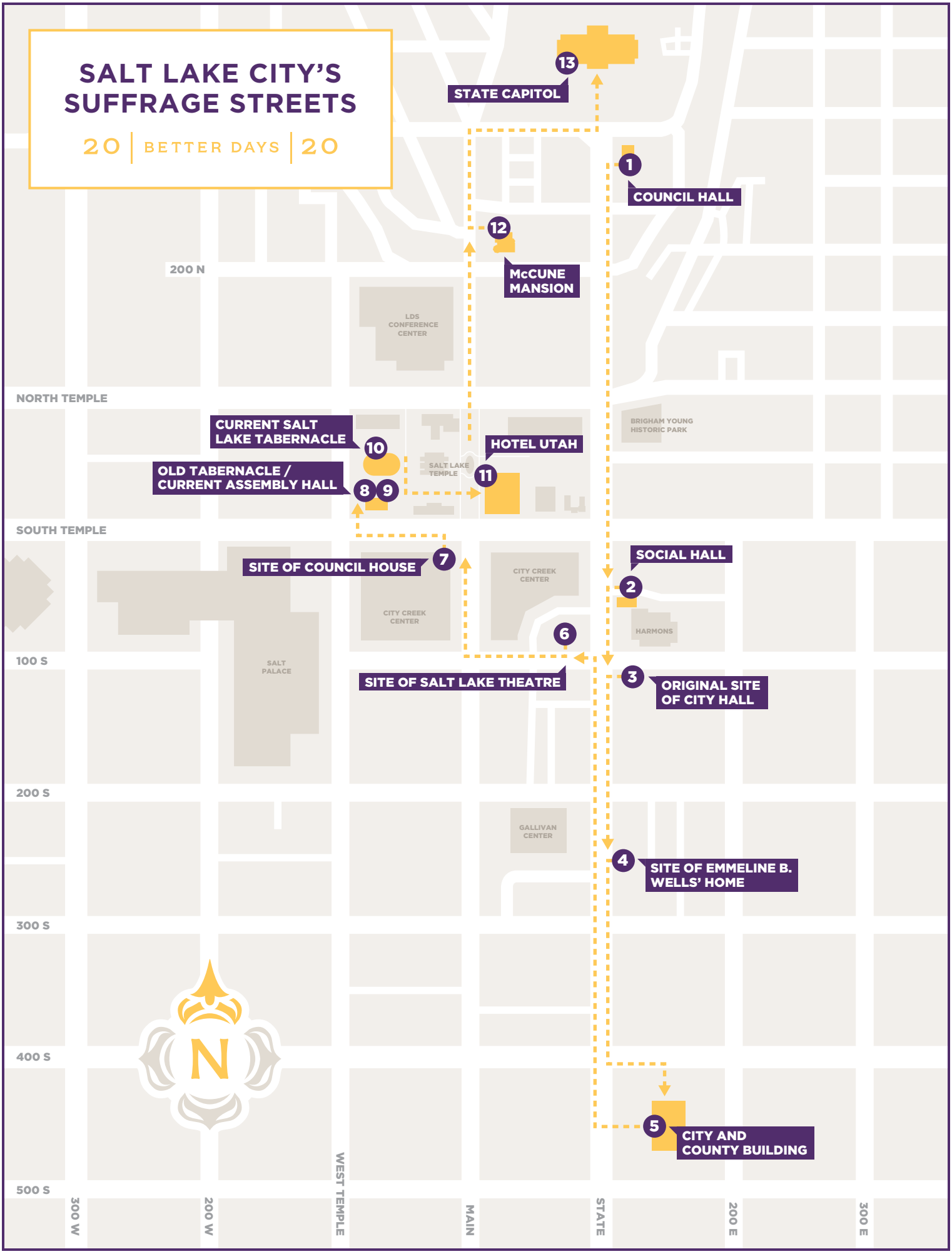
SALT LAKE CITY'S SUFFRAGE STREETS

20 | BETTER DAYS | 20



SUFFRAGE STREETS' LOCATIONS

COUNCIL HALL

300 North State Street
Originally at 120 E. 100 S.

Completed in 1866; moved to this location in 1961 — The Utah Territorial Legislature voted here on February 10, 1870 to extend voting rights to women, making Utah second only to Wyoming to grant women's suffrage. Four days later, school teacher Seraph Young and 24 other women cast their ballots in a municipal election in this same building. Since Wyoming did not hold an election until September 1870, these 25 women were the first women to vote in the modern nation.

SOCIAL HALL

51 S. State Street

Completed in 1852; demolished in 1922 — The Social Hall served as a community building for plays, dances, and suffrage meetings. Sarah M. Kimball was elected president of the Utah Woman Suffrage Association here in 1890. In the 1990s, a glass frame was built around the building's stone foundation. The glass frame houses the Social Hall Heritage Museum (downstairs) and is the same shape and size of the original Social Hall.

SITE OF WELLS' HOME

243 S. State Street

Lived here from 1856-88 — Leading suffragist and LDS Relief Society General President Emmeline B. Wells lived in a home here while she was the editor of the *Woman's Exponent* and organized and participated in many territorial and national suffrage events. She also managed the Relief Society's grain-saving project, eventually selling 200,000 bushels of wheat to the U.S. government during World War I.

CITY & COUNTY BUILDING

451 S. Washington Square (State Street)

Completed in 1894 — Utah held its 1895 State Constitutional Convention in this building. Women lobbied and convinced the all-male delegates to include in the new constitution a clause guaranteeing women's right to vote and hold public office. Utah voters overwhelmingly approved the constitution, Congress ratified it, and President Cleveland signed it on January 4, 1896, making Utah the third state to grant women suffrage. That year, Martha Hughes Cannon ran for state senate and became the first female state senator in the U.S.

SALT LAKE THEATRE

NW corner of State Street and 100 South

Completed in 1862; demolished in 1928 — In March of 1886, Mary Isabella Horne organized a meeting of 2,000 people to hear her and other suffragists speak against the impending Edmunds-Tucker anti-polygamy bill, which would rescind Utah women's voting rights. Despite mass protest, the bill passed in 1887. In September 1888, national suffrage leaders Clara Bewick Colby and Elizabeth Lyle Saxon spoke here before large audiences. This legitimized Utah's relationship with the national movement and provided impetus for the formation of the Utah Woman Suffrage Association.

COUNCIL HOUSE

SW Corner of Main Street and South Temple

Built in 1850; destroyed by fire in 1883 — The Council House (or State House) was the first public building in Utah. For a time, it housed the offices of the *Woman's Exponent*, a women-produced newspaper that ran for 40 years and voiced strong support of women's suffrage. Meetings with local and national suffrage leaders were held here, where Emmeline B. Wells was the primary editor and Martha Hughes Cannon worked as a typesetter to earn money for medical school.

OLD SALT LAKE TABERNACLE

site of the current Assembly Hall

Completed in 1857; demolished in 1877 — On January 13, 1870, more than 5,000 LDS women gathered in a "Great Indignation Meeting" here to protest federal anti-polygamy legislation, marking their entrance into public life and demonstrating a willingness to defend their beliefs. This was a major catalyst for the February 1870 Woman Suffrage Bill. Soon after, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, the president and vice president of the National Woman Suffrage Association, held a five-hour meeting with 300 women here to celebrate Utah's progress for women.

ASSEMBLY HALL

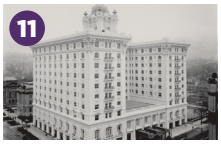
50 W. North Temple

Completed in 1882 — On January 10, 1889, Emily S. Richards and Margaret N. Caine organized a women's meeting here to create the Utah Woman Suffrage Association, a local branch of Susan B. Anthony's National Woman Suffrage Association.

SALT LAKE TABERNACLE

50 W. North Temple

Completed in 1867 — Susan B. Anthony attended a dedicatory ceremony of the new (and current) Tabernacle. This visit marked the beginning of a warm relationship between Anthony and Utah suffragists like Emmeline B. Wells. In May 1895, Anthony and the Reverend Anna Howard Shaw spoke in the Tabernacle as part of the Rocky Mountain Woman Suffrage Convention.



HOTEL UTAH

15 E. South Temple, currently the Joseph Smith Memorial Building

Operated as hotel from 1911–1987 — In 1915, Utah suffragists and leaders of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage paraded in automobiles up Main Street to the Hotel Utah, where they met with Utah Senator Reed Smoot. This event was one of many held as part of suffragist Alice Paul's Western States tour to promote the national women's suffrage amendment. From 1916-21, Emmeline Wells lived in room 834. U.S. President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson visited her here to thank her for her advocacy and WWI relief efforts.

MCCUNE MANSION

200 N. Main Street

Completed in 1900 — The McCune Mansion, on the National Register of Historic Places, was built for Alfred and Elizabeth McCune. Like her close friend and leading Utah suffragist Susa Young Gates, Elizabeth actively supported women's rights. After Utah achieved suffrage, she focused on national and international efforts, hosting many significant gatherings in her home. She attended the 1889 International Congress of Women in London, where she was voted patron of the organization and entertained by Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle.

UTAH STATE CAPITOL

350 N. State Street

Completed in 1916 — A ceremony celebrating the ratification of the 19th Amendment was held on the Capitol steps on August 30, 1920. It houses the offices of Governor Olene Walker, Utah's first female governor and lieutenant governor; and the offices and courtroom of Chief Justice Christine Durham, Utah's first female supreme court judge and chief justice. It is also home to memorials to Utah's suffragists: a bronze statue of Martha Hughes Cannon (first female state senator), a bust of Emmeline B. Wells (Utah's leading suffragist), and a mural of Utah women voting in 1870. Capitol docents can direct visitors to these memorials.