

Cedar City Chapter of Sons of the Utah Pioneers



SUP Monument Mod-1 Town of Modena

QR to get to this Location:



QR to List of SUP Monuments: QR to get to this page:



Longitude: -113.923611; Latitude: 37.798611; Elevation 5460'; Approximately 55 mile west of Cedar City, Utah off Hwy 56, Modena, Utah.



Union Pacific water tower Modena, Utah

The settlement was established as a railroad town in 1899 by the Utah and Nevada Railway. By 1905 it was on the Los Angeles Modena Utah and Salt Lake Railroad route between Salt Lake City and Southern California.

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Water was found at nearby Desert Spring, made this a natural location for a stop to refill steam engines. Recognizing that Modena was the closest rail hub to St. George, Pioche and other towns in southern Utah and Nevada, Brigham J. Lund, E.M. Brown, and Jose Price arrived and started a business providing goods to these towns. By 1903, Lund bought out the others and incorporated B.J Lund and Co.



Lund and Co General Store



The exact source on how the name of the town Modena was named is hard to pin down. Some say that an Italian laborer named the railroad camp after Modena, Italy. Another says that a Chinese cook during the serving of dinner would call out periodically, “Mo’ dinna, mo’ dinna”

Despite its importance Modena remained small, and didn’t even gain electricity until the 1940’s. As with many railroad towns, the advent of the diesel locomotive made Modena unnecessary as a water stop. The depot subsequently closed, and the town declined. Today, a small handful of residents remain and around a dozen historic building and homes still stand.