

Good evening everyone. I hope everybody got a chance to vote today. It's an amazing thing to get to see democracy in action. However, today I'm here to speak about another historic tradition. I had the pleasure to learn recently that the month of May is recognized as National Historic Preservation Month. In honor of this holiday, I'm going to speak about one of Summit's own preservation feats: the restoration of the city's water trough.

Built by Summit native and distinguished architect Benjamin Wade, this 8-foot tall fountain of Maine granite slab has stood as a centerpiece in Summit's Union Place for decades. For the horses that would frequent the Summit streets back 1906, this water trough was both a delight and a necessity. As evident from the picture, taken in 1936 I believe, city dwellers enjoyed the fountain as well.

However, this 17,000 pound monument was eventually dismantled in 1958 due to high maintenance costs. The seven pieces of the trough were stored in the city's garage for over 40 years. That is, until the 1990s when a campaign to restore the trough gained momentum. Ten years and \$20,000 dollars later, the trough was reassembled, cleaned, and reinstated with running water lines. The refurbishment of the trough was part of a \$4.7 million dollar downtown revitalization project, spearheaded in 2001 under councilwoman P. Kelly Hatfield.

Thanks to the efforts of Hatfield, along with the Town Improvement Association, Summit Historical Society, and a plethora of other benefactors, the trough and its fountain are running better than ever. Anyone who ever finds themselves in Union Place should take a minute to sit down, observe the flowing water from the trough's signature pair of bronze dolphins, and thank Summit's historical organizations for their commitment to preservation and posterity. Thank you.