WELCOME TO THE 36TH ANNUAL HISTORIC HOMES TOUR: STREET STORIES

For 35 consecutive years, the Poudre Landmarks Foundation has hosted Fort Collins' Annual Historic Homes Tour, showcasing the most exquisitely maintained historical properties in Northern Colorado. 2020 has been a challenging year for events, to say the least! We at Poudre

Landmarks Foundation are dedicated to bringing the history of Fort Collins to our amazing community. We are also dedicated to the safety and health of our community, so this year brings some changes to our format to ensure social distancing while still providing a look at the architecture, history, and stories of Fort Collins.

The past few months have been difficult for all of us both professionally and personally. The rate of change we are all feeling in our daily lives throughout this COVID-19 crisis is like nothing any of us has felt before. Our hearts go out to all who have been affected by the outbreak. We know how important it is to stay connected to each other as we navigate and plan toward a successful future which brought us to this alternative program.

We believe it is our role and responsibility during this time to prioritize two things: the health and well-being of our many volunteers, sponsors, visitors and community while also playing a role in supporting local health officials to contain the spread of the virus. To that end we have made the difficult decision to suspend our largest





sponsorship and fundraising event, the 36th

Annual Historic Homes Tour and replace it with "Street Stories" - a self-guided tour of historic locations in and around Old Town Fort Collins.

HOW DO I USE THIS BOOKLET?

This is a free "unchaperoned" event which can be done at your own pace and with whomever is in your social

circle. This activity is not only fun for all ages, but you'll learn about the history, architecture, and some colorful facts/stories about properties you pass every day. To make it more of an adventure, we've also included a scavenger hunt-- the grand prize winner will receive a party for 25 hosted at the Avery House (post Covid-19, of course).

SCAVENGER HUNT

We've included some clues to find and questions to answer as you tour the historical locations. These clues are marked with a magnifying glass: to participate in the Scavenger Hunt, fill out the attached Scavenger Hunt form and bring it to the Avery Carriage House at 108 N. Meldrum St., and place it in the drop box! Additional answers to trivia questions are revealed in the articles!

A NOTE ON SOCIAL DISTANCING

Some buildings and businesses on this self-guided tour may be closed to the public, either as ongoing policy or due to social distancing. Please respect those properties that are not open, and enjoy and patronize those that are. Support local business on the tour or otherwise whenever possible!

THE OLD FIREHOUSE

232 Walnut St. 1882, Commercial Victorian Vernacular



Completed in 1882, the "Old Firehouse" was also at various times a police station, the city jail, and city offices. Situated next to the site of the old City Hall (now a parking lot), it currently houses Happy Lucky's Tea House and Old Firehouse Books, and is reputed to have multiple ghosts.

In the late 19th century an assortment of brigands and neer-do-wells occupied the jail and solitary confinement cell in the cellar. One of the latter, named Jack Williams is reputed to have died of neglect in solitary when officials simply forgot to check in on him for a few weeks, much less provide him with food and water. When a jailer finally looked in on him, it was too late. Jack Cassidy, a gambler from the 1880s, died in solitary too, but allegedly from a panic attack. Maybe the ghost of Jack Williams had something to do with that.

One of the most unseemly demises occurred when a man named James Howes was held for publicly murdering his wife in broad daylight during an alcohol-fueled rage near what is now the Elizabeth Hotel. This was such an affront to the righteous citizens of Fort Collins, that they took the matter into their own hands, forced their way into the jail, removed Mr. Howes, and lynched him right then and there. This was not our finest hour, and was a large part of the reason that Fort Collins was a dry city for so many years.

Fast forward to the 1950s, when the first of two new city halls was built on LaPorte Ave., and the Old Firehouse building became city Firehouse No. 1, which was "modernized" in 1958. Unfortunately, "modernization" included removing the characteristic bell tower and covering the brick facade in sheet metal, rendering it unrecognizable as the "Old Firehouse." After the Fire Department moved out, a hardware store occupied the premises, until it was sold again.

In one of the most fortuitous happenstances in all of the history of Fort Collins, the building was purchased in the early 1980s and restored to its original splendor by Ted and Karene Wills. Absent their foresight, we would not be able to visually link our beloved firehouse with Main Street USA in Disneyland. (Thanks to former Fort Collins resident, Harper Goff, who proposed the design to Disney based on his childhood memories).

So stop by, enjoy the architecture, have some tea, and buy a book or two. Maybe even a Disney book. -Bill Whitley



THE SILVER GRILL

218 Walnut St.

1890, Commercial Victorian Vernacular



2015, Meg Dunn. Image Courtesy of Fort Collins History Connectio

Who in Fort Collins hasn't heard the story of the hungry sign painter who, in exchange for a pork chop lunch, renamed "Uneeda Lunch" to Silver Grill, and painted the name on the front window? That must have made for a busy afternoon, but it is also interesting to note that the building which currently houses the Silver Grill has had more businesses in its history than any other building in Fort Collins.

There are a couple of reasons for that: one is that the Silver Grill is the oldest restaurant in Northern Colorado, and the other is that it's comprised of five conjoined buildings, the oldest of which dates back to 1890. The Silver Grill now runs from 210 to 218 Walnut St., and the buildings have housed a bicycle sales & repair shop, a paint and wallpaper shop, clothes cleaners, coal & feed sales, a shoemaker, a shoe repair shop, cigar makers, a furrier, a jeweler, an electrical services business, a glass shop, and city Fire Department offices. There have also been plumbing & heating services, real estate agents, music sales, an appliance repair

shop, typewriter sales & repair, TV and electronics sales, a bagel shop, blacksmith shops, barber shops, a piano tuner, a harness shop, sewing machine sales, a hand tool shop, financial services, a beer hall, several bars, multiple other cafés & coffee shops, and a bakery.

The Silver Grill can trace its history back to 1912 with Uneeda Lunch at 212 Walnut St., but the current establishment dates to 1933, when Leonidas (Flossie) Widger leased the building at 218 Walnut St. for his restaurant. Flossie sold it to his son and a partner in 1949, who ran it until John Arnolfo purchased it with a partner in 1979. There is one possibly apocryphal story—printed in a book on urban tunnels in Colorado—which states that prisoners in the city jail (3 buildings east) were chained together and marched through a tunnel to take their daily meals at Silver Grill.

Allegedly, only one prisoner had ever escaped, but there is no record of whether or not he left a tip. While there are indications of a possible connecting tunnel, there is no remaining evidence that it actually connects. Interestingly, present owner John Arnolfo once spoke with an employee of a previous incarnation of the Silver Grill, who claimed to have served prisoners as recently as the late 1940s. John is the person responsible for the expansion and remodeling of the Silver Grill, extending it to the southwest over a period of twenty years. The delightful Silver Grill staff have been serving wonderful breakfasts, lunches, and brunches for years, but the Grill is most famous for its cinnamon rolls (although personally, I am partial to the pecan rolls). -Bill Whitley

How many functioning doors does the Silver Grill have on its front facade (facing Walnut St.)?

OLD FORT COLLINS HIGH SCHOOL

1400 Remington St. 1925, Neoclassical



Image Courteey of Fort Collins History Connection

The stately Fort Collins High School was built in 1925 to house the increasing student population. It was designed in the Neoclassical style, with three-story columns, a front pediment, and sandstone trim on the red brick building. Inside, the school had all the modern amenities – a gymnasium, a theater and state of the art classrooms.

-R. Stitzel

High schools, a relatively new concept nationwide, were considered experimental in the 19th century. For most of that century, students who wanted more than an 8th-grade education had only the choice of continuing on to college. This was true at the State Agricultural College in Fort Collins, where students as young as 16 enrolled to receive what today amounts to high-school level

instruction.

In 1889, a progressive group of men on the local school board, led by attorney Jay Boughton, decided it was time for a high school here. The project went forward with Miss Kate M. Alling appointed principal at a salary of \$70 a month. Reports Dr. Robert Pike in his history of Fort Collins High School (FCHS), the curriculum was limited to English, arithmetic, bookkeeping, American history and drawing in the first year. By the fourth year, English literature, astronomy, trigonometry and chemistry were being offered, along with political economy.

Classes were first held at Franklin Elementary School, at the corner of Howes Street and Mountain Avenue, convening on the second floor of the school with enrollment of 40 students. Two rooms were allocated for the school, one for grades 9 and 10 and one for grades 11 and 12—all the students studied the same subjects at the same time.

Not long after the high school started, enrollment had grown enough to justify a separate building, which was constructed on Meldrum Street (where Lincoln Center is now) for \$35,000 in 1902. The new school featured steam heat, slate blackboards, an assembly room, a library and a recitation room, along with science laboratories, separate lunch rooms for boys and girls, and a basement apartment for the janitor.

By the 1920s, two additions had been made to the school and it still overflowed with students. Once again, the school board determined that it was time for a new building. This required passage of a bond to buy a site and construct the building. It was a tough sell, but in 1923 the proposal passed

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and the town was on the way to a new high school, way out south on Remington Street. "Too far away," said critics, but the site was a bargain thanks to L.C. Moore, an advocate for the new building, who donated land to the school district and sold the block west of the site to be used as a park.

A stately brick structure that was to welcome students for seven decades, FCHS opened for business in the fall of 1925. Among the remarks made by school superintendent A.H. Dunn during the laying of the cornerstone were these words: "America trusts her children...in that faith we lay this cornerstone today, believing that we are thus laying strong and deep the only adequate foundations of an enduring democracy."

-Barbara Fleming

Q

How many windows are in the tower?

1883 FORT COLLINS WATER WORKS

2005 N. Overland Trail 1883, Gothic Revival



PLF Staff

On September 20th 1882 the citizens of Fort Collins approved an \$85,000 bond to build a water delivery system for the City of Fort Collins. This was a substantial amount of money in 1882.

(According to inflation calculators, that \$85,000 would be over \$2,000,000 in 2020.) So what motivated this community of less than 1400 people to make such an investment? The answer was fire. Without a piped water delivery system in the community the means of firefighting was bucket brigades which were seldom effective. The plan to pay back the bond was to get the citizens to pay for water piped to their homes and businesses. Up to this point water for consumption was obtained by dipping a bucket in the town ditch, the river or buying water from a water wagon that traveled through town, somewhat like a modern ice cream truck.

Bids to build the Water Works were taken in October of 1882 and work commenced the first week of November. What happened in the next seven months was nothing short of amazing.

During those seven months (without the aid of machinery):

- •More than a mile of supply canal was dug from the Poudre River along with settling ponds and a reservoir at the Water Works site.
- •The Water Works Gothic Revival pump house was built.
- Two Holly-Gaskill Duplex pumps were installed.Two mechanical turbines to power the pumps were installed.
- •Ten inch wrought iron pipe was laid from the Water Works to Fort Collins along with the installation of branches, mains and hydrants through the city.

•A house was built for the superintendent and his family.

By June 1883 the work was completed and the city had a working water delivery system. A demonstration of the new system connected six fire hoses to hydrants with enough water and pressure to supply them all with streams that reached roughly a hundred feet into the air.

One is inclined to ask why the Water Works was constructed so far from town when the river runs right through Fort Collins? The answer is two-fold. One; the site sits higher than the city and by virtue of gravity the system gained about thirty five pounds of pressure. Second, the community of Laporte was upstream of Fort Collins and the city wanted to take water upstream of contamination. With the Water Works so far from town a means of communication with the site was needed and, initially, a signaling system somewhat akin to a telegraph was established from town to communicate with the Superintendent. In 1887 a phone line was installed from city hall to the Water Works.

By the early 1900s, despite upgrades and expansion in 1894 and 1895, demand for water by population growth and industry started to exceed the capacity of the facility. In 1905 a new Water Works was completed up Poudre Canyon to replace the 1883 facility. Again, the desire to obtain uncontaminated water and to take advantage of gravity dictated the location of the new facility. The new Water Works supplied the city without the need for pumps to create adequate pressure. In 1906 the 1883 Water Works was idled. Today it serves as a water history museum. Poudre Landmarks Foundation and their auxiliary the Friends of the Water Works maintain the site and provide tours and special events May through October.

-Dick Spiess

THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY

201 Peterson St. (Now the Carnegie Creative Center) 1912, Richardsonian Romanesque



Roll back the clock to the 1800s and consider this: most books were held in private libraries by those who could afford them. In some areas subscription libraries were available, for an annual fee and with a limited choice of books (after all, ladies, the majority of readers, could not be exposed to anything offensive). These libraries were open only to those who could pay the fee.

As the new century approached the concept of public libraries supported by taxpayers and free to all took hold. In 1899 the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was instrumental in forming a public library association here. The WCTU collected about 800 books, many of them donated by the Rev. George Falconer of Unity Church. At first, the library was housed on the second floor of the Welch Block on College Avenue.

Soon afterward, Mayor Frank Baker appointed a board of directors and the city took ownership of the public library. The collection grew. Around

1901, industrial magnate Andrew Carnegie had begun sharing his wealth for the public good. One of his philanthropies was to endow public libraries. The recipient municipality was required to provide the land and maintain the building and grounds; Carnegie would pay for the building.

A group of dedicated citizens set out to obtain a Carnegie library in Fort Collins. Some sources assert that one of the reasons the ascetic Scotsman approved the petition was that Fort Collins was dry, with many churches. In any event, he did approve, financing construction with \$12,000. The façade of sandstone came from the quarry at Stout. The building housed almost 4,000 volumes when completed in 1904.

After a new library opened in 1977 on the east side of Lincoln Park, the Carnegie became the Fort Collins Museum, until a new museum opened on Mason Court; today it is home to a city arts center. But anyone who frequented that old library surely has memories: of the high-backed overstuffed chairs in the reading room, of the ramp that led up to the bookshelves, of the sturdy wooden study tables and of the code of silence. A free public library, open to all.

On the grounds in front of the Carnegie sits a sandstone watering trough, which had been at the intersection of College and Mountain avenues from 1897, when sculptor Ole Helgerson carved it from a five-ton block of stone quarried at Stout, to 1907 when it was relocated. Mounted on a grey stone base, it slaked the thirst of hundreds of animals until installation of the streetcar system necessitated its removal. So habituated were some horses to the trough that one befuddled horse broke away from the trader who was delivering him to fruitlessly circle the place where the trough

had been. "Poor old horse!" decried a newspaper article. "He would have felt young again if he could have had one drink from that old fountain." -Barbara Fleming

BLACK'S GLASS

360 Jefferson St. ca. 1949, Quonset Hut



Built during World War II as short term housing or for storage, Quonset huts (named for the Rhode Island town where they were manufactured) dotted the landscape all over the country after the war, for they were sturdy metal structures with years of life remaining in them, and they helped meet the need for short-term housing of returning veterans. Over 170,000 of these buildings were available as war surplus in the late 1940s, and a goodly number of them found their way to Fort Collins—among their uses being to house veterans going to school on the GI Bill.

Harvey Johnson purchased this one, and set up in business as a farm implement merchant, selling tractors, loaders and other equipment and providing a repair service as well. Johnson, whose company was in business from 1949 to 1976, became a prominent figure in Fort Collins, serving

as director and president of the Water Supply and Management Company and as mayor from 1962-67, as well as starting the Farm Bureau Insurance Company and creating the Fort Collins Water Board. Over time the building has been modified significantly, with added windows and additions to the original structure, but the bones are clearly visible.

A variety of businesses occupied the building following Johnson's company. Black's Glass acquired it in 1997. One of the longest-standing businesses in Fort Collins, Black's Glass began in 1908, started by Wils M. Black and remaining in the Black family until 1957. Before locating on Jefferson Street, the company had several different outlets on Linden Street.

Keen-eyed observers can find a few other Quonset huts in Fort Collins, including others on Jefferson Street and showing up here and there around the older part of town. Although many resemble the one housing Black's Glass, others have different shapes. These durable buildings seem to hold up well—seven decades and counting.

-Barbara Fleming

BRAIDEN HALL, CSU

University Ave., CSU Campus (Now Student Services Building) 1948, Art Moderne

Back in the late 1940s, when an influx of World War II veterans began coming to the college on the GI Bill, housing was in short supply. While repurposed Quonset huts helped house families, single men had no place to live on campus. So in 1948, Braiden Hall was built as the first men's dormitory, and therein lies a tale.



More than one tale, actually, for the story of the new dormitory is that of the man for whom it was named, Wade Braiden, and of the architect who designed it, Eugene Groves. Through this building their stories intersect.

Wade Braiden was the son of William and Josephine Braiden. Born in Colorado in 1908, he planned to follow his father into ranching, an enterprise which had proved highly successful for William. A generous man who believed in higher education, William often granted loans to ambitious students to help them attend college, so of course his son, Wade, would go to college, and of course he would attend Colorado Agricultural College (CAC). Sadly, Wade's future plans were cut short when he contracted pneumonia for which, in the time before antibiotics, there was no cure. Sometime later his grieving father and his stepmother, Maude, donated \$20,000 for construction of a men's dormitory on the college campus. Up to this time, students had to arrange for their own housing.

Enter Groves. A successful Denver architect, who had settled there in 1914, Groves was innovative



in his use of materials and varied architectural styles. He developed a long-standing relationship with CAC, for which he designed and built numerous structures including Ammons Hall, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. In his buildings Groves used concrete in unusual ways, constructing several concrete houses in Denver using a building technique he patented. This system utilized pre-cast concrete studs and beams supporting concrete slab floors and concrete stucco over wire mesh walls. In 1936 Groves established the Concreter Corporation to erect buildings using his system. One house in Denver even had concrete kitchen cabinets, counter tops and breakfast-nook seats.

During the Great Depression, Groves benefited from government programs, completing many designs through the Public Works Program and the Works Progress Administration. When the commission for Braiden Hall came to him a decade later, he was near the end of his long career. Braiden Hall featured half floors, narrow stairwells, and staircases that led nowhere. The students housed there found it cold, dark and uncomfortable; the building had only a brief tenure as a dormitory. Now it is the Students Services building. A newer dormitory, continuing to commemorate Wade Braiden, was built in more conventional style.

Unsubstantiated rumors floated about that the old hall was haunted; perhaps such conjectures came about due to its unique design. Today, it sits sedately among several other Groves buildings and many newer structures, intriguing the curious with its history.

-Barbara Fleming

Built in 1948 as the first men's dormitory. Became Student Services building in 1963.

EL BURRITO

404 Linden St. 1947/1960, Spanish Revival



Nestled amidst a grain elevator-cum-restaurant, a feed store and busy railroad tracks, sited near the Poudre River in an area that once housed the horses and soldiers of the original fort, El Burrito has been a town landmark for six decades. Though the building is undistinguished, the Mexican restaurant operated by the Godinez family is well known, favored among locals for its food and ambiance.

In 1947 Solome "Sam" Vigil built a modest stuccoed structure to house a bar, Sam's Place, which Sam operated until he died in 1960, whereupon Jesse and Dorothy Godinez and Jesse's brother, Willie, bought the building, modified and expanded it, and opened El Burrito. The Godinez family had a secret for success—the matriarch, Augustina Godinez, who worked her magic in the kitchen and brought a steady stream of customers despite the rather offbeat location across the river from downtown.

Augustina left an enduring legacy, enabling the family to continue serving the dishes she had

made popular and helping the restaurant thrive even as the area surrounding it is slowly becoming gentrified, altering its original slow-paced character. El Burrito has been a Fort Collins staple for decades; long may it continue.

-Barbara Fleming



What anniversary is noted on the El Burrito sign?

MUNICIPAL LIGHT AND POWER

430 N. College Ave. (Now CSU Powerhouse Energy Campus) 1935, Art Deco

In 1887 William Miner, a local sheep farmer, along with three other local residents, incorporated the Fort Collins Light and Power Company to bring electricity to our town. Soon a power plant was erected at the northwest corner of Mason and Mountain. Some streets were lit with bright arc lights, and a few homeowners subscribed. Reorganized in 1888 as the Fort Collins Electric Company, the firm prospered and a new generator was installed in 1900. Then it became Larimer Light and Power, providing power except on Sunday from sunrise to sunset. Wires were tacked onto walls with staples.

In 1908, Northern Colorado Power, based in Lafayette, purchased the company, closing the Fort Collins plant. Northern Colorado Power became the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCO). By this time, incandescent bulbs were in wide use; urban homes had electricity. The problem was that the supplier of electricity was a private company which could charge whatever rates it chose, with no regulation. By the 1920s a group of local citizens began working toward a city-managed municipal power supply.



Taxes, of course, were the big drawback. But the stock market crash in October, 1929, spurred supporters to continue their efforts. The Rural Electrification Association (REA) established in 1933 offered a definitive example of power delivery and made it clear that electricity was no longer a mere luxury for those who could afford it.

In the 1930s, Fort Collins needed a reliable source of income to sustain itself, preferably without raising taxes. One answer was a municipal power plant. Thus began a dispute of several years' duration, first a request for Public Service to lower its electric rates. This was done, but not to the city commissioners' satisfaction and not leading to an income increase. An election in 1932 confirmed voters' approval of bonds to finance the venture. But PSCO was reluctant to yield control; the matter ended up in court, with the decision ultimately favoring the city.

By 1935, the new power plant, an Art Deco structure, was at last a reality, thanks in part to the



Works Progress Administration. The city had achieved a long-sought goal--municipal supply of power to the residents.

Prominent on the grounds of the building, now in use as the Colorado State University Powerhouse Energy Campus, is an elaborate fountain once destined for Denver's City Park. Purchased by the City of Fort Collins for our City Park, it was instead installed on the old power plant grounds. The large terracotta fountain, featuring stylized gryphons and elaborate carvings, was restored in 2014.

-Barbara Fleming

FC POST OFFICE, MUSEUM OF ART

201 S. College Ave. 1912, Renaissance Revival

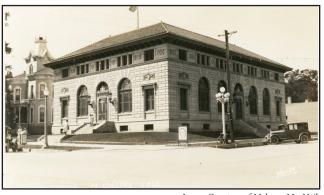


Image Courtesy of Malcom MacNeil

Imagine mailing letters at the newspaper office, or collecting your letters at the drugstore! Before 1912, managing the post office was a part-time job, and whoever got the job just moved the post office into their business! Joseph Mason, one of the earliest settlers here, applied to the federal government for a post office in 1865 and located it inside his sutler's store. After Mason it moved many times, depending on the postmaster. In 1910, Fort Collins boasted a population of 8,000 and was ready for their first federal building, a post office. Started in 1911 and completed in 1912, the federal government invested nearly \$100,000 in land and materials for the elegant building on the corner of College Avenue and Oak Street. The Italian Renaissance building was nearly 20,000 square feet, made with Alabama marble, custom carving and a striking red tiled roof. This graceful and dignified building was a symbol of the prosperous, growing town. By 1972, Fort Collins had nearly 45,000 people and had outgrown the old building. The new post office was built on Howes Street, a plain, gray concrete block built in the Brutalist style—a far cry from the light and elegant arched windows and beautiful carvings featured on the 1912 structure. Edith (Pegg) Bair worked for the post office from 1907, when it was housed in part of the Poudre Valley Bank on Linden Street (now Nature's Own), until 1923. She loved the new building:

"Everyone was so proud of our new post office, because it was made of the best materials, the nicest things; marble and granite. I remember the lights on the outside, a lamp on the side of the doors, the north door and the east door. And we were so proud of those big lamps because at that time they cost a lot of money, \$250.00 apiece. And they were beautiful lamps. And everything about it - the plate glass windows, and all of the furniture, it was a beautiful building." -R. Stitzel

How many steps are there to the front \door?

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY

1900 W. Mountain Ave. 1887



Image Courtesy of Fort Collins History Connection

Silent sentinels of the deceased, cemeteries tell stories of lives long past. Cemeteries in our town have themselves a storied history. The very first cemetery in Fort Collins was established in 1864 when Camp Collins relocated after a flood and sought a place to bury the fallen. The commander chose a site on high ground southwest of the military post. Today, the former post office building, built in 1912, sits there at the southwest corner of College Avenue and Oak Street.

The fort was decommissioned in 1867 but the cemetery was not abandoned until 1873 when the new town was laid out. The new cemetery site, Mountain Home, was east of the platted town, in the vicinity of what is now Eastdale Drive. Some remains were moved there. However, by the 1880s the population had grown enough that a larger, more rural setting was considered better suited for burials. One more time, an old cemetery was forsaken. (Early in this century, construction workers on Eastdale Drive discovered human bones, presumed to be those of soldiers, which were respectfully collected and reburied at Grandview Cemetery.)

Grand View (sic) cemetery, established on land purchased from Thomas Connolly for \$50 per acre, opened in 1887 on 40 acres along West Mountain Avenue. Three-month-old Felix Scoville was the first person to be interred there, in an unmarked grave. Gradually, Grand View became Grandview; during the flu epidemic of 1918-19, more lots were required so the cemetery was expanded. A commemorative booklet written in 2005 states that the cemetery held more than 25,000 burials and 34,000 grave sites.

The grounds are landscaped with more than 600 trees, a wide variety of bushes, and many types of flowers. Designed in a circular pattern, the cemetery is divided into sections, some of which have memorial statues. In section five, visitors will find a statue of a Union soldier, put up in 1905. In 1909, a statue honoring volunteer firemen was erected nearby.

Among the luminaries buried there are Ansel Watrous, journalist and historian; Elizabeth "Auntie" Stone, considered by many the first Anglo woman to settle here; Eva Howe, brutally murdered by her inebriated husband in 1888; Luella Rhodes, builder of the first brick house in Fort Collins (long gone); Agnes Mason Giddings, the first Anglo child born here; Agnes Zimmerman, daughter of pioneer John Zimmerman and keeper of the Keystone Hotel in Poudre Canyon; Bert Christman, artist and airman killed in 1942 on a daring air raid; and Lee Martinez, Hispanic leader for whom a park is named—along with many other early residents of Fort Collins, each with a colorful history.

"Walk gently through Fort Collins' past," says the booklet. Strolling around the peaceful grounds,

one can view headstone after headstone that hints of a life well lived and a story waiting to be told, lives ended but not forgotten.

-Barbara Fleming

EMMA MALABY'S STORE

313 N. Meldrum St. ca. 1900 Victorian Vernacular

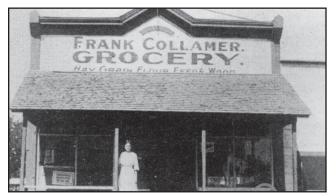


Image Courtesy of Fort Collins History Connection

A passerby might be a bit taken aback, walking along North Meldrum Street, to come upon a building that looks out of time and place, a boarded-up false-front white structure with the name "Emma Malaby Grocery" painted on the front. Yet there it is, at 313 North Meldrum, and it has a tale to tell.

The store once sat at 146 North College Avenue. Before Frank Collamer purchased it, the building had housed a photo studio and a millinery. In 1906, Collamer moved the store to its present location. The move itself was dramatic—the building was hefted onto rollers, a cable was wrapped around it, and a horse was hitched to the front. The horse, which must have been a sturdy beast indeed, pulled the structure several blocks to its new home. The bank which had purchased the

site on North College had wanted only the land, not the building, thus the move.

In Collamer's new store, which opened in 1907, a customer could find hay, feed and firewood along with such staples as flour, sugar and coffee. Collamer did not believe in offering credit. Cashand-carry was his motto, in effect also at his store at 801 Cherry Street (now gone). He apparently decided he wanted to operate only one establishment, however, and he sold the Meldrum Street store to a partnership called Robinson and Grate. The new owners, however, did take credit. Collamer promptly bought back his store, returning to his cash-and-carry policy. In 1919, his daughter, Emma, married to Henry Malaby, bought the store from her father.

Emma's store was in business until 1943. There a customer could find a five-cent loaf of bread, milk for a nickel a quart, and freshly ground coffee for 25 cents a pound — cash and carry, in the family tradition. It was probably also a neighborhood gathering place as such family grocery stores often were, with its wood stove in the middle of the floor and the owner ready to chat with anyone who entered.

Today the building remains in the Collamer family: a descendant, James Burrill, owns the building and some surrounding properties and lives on the same street. He dreams of turning the store into a museum but at present this remains a dream. So for now, the building stands as a reminder of a slower time long past, a neighborly time decades before grocery chains, packaged foods and credit cards.

-Barbara Fleming

P

INDUSTRIAL ARTS BUILDING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

213 W. Laurel St. (Now Industrial Arts Building, CSU) 1885, Richardsonian Romanesque

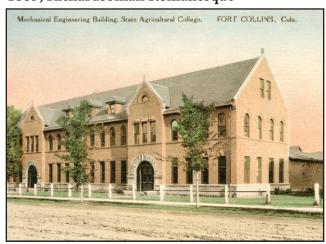


Image Courtesy of Malcom MacNeil

Let the Mechanical Engineering building be your time machine! Start on Laurel Street, and look at the tall front of the building. Then, close your eyes for a moment before you stroll down Rembrandt Drive on the east side of the building. (Watch out for recent construction!) You have gone back to 1885: this beautiful façade was the original front of the Industrial Arts building, typically the first sight many people had of the Agricultural College of Colorado.

In 1885, you find that Laurel Street is unpaved dirt, dotted with small houses and fields. Just to your east, you see a small grass field with a net for tennis. The Colorado Central Railroad runs on the other side of the field, bringing passengers and freight to the tiny town.

The Agricultural College consists of only a handful of buildings clustered nearby where all classes are taught for the 67 students, only 24 of whom are women. Of course, you see no dormitories, for many of the students are the sons and daughters of farmers and ranchers; they live with their families in town or on nearby farms. All students take the same classes each semester. They must also work at least two hours a week for the college: building fences, caring for the college crops and livestock, or maintaining the laboratories and classrooms.

The idea of the college began only 15 years before in 1870. Investment of money and work finally opened the doors to the first five students only six years before, in 1879. The college offered basic courses in mathematics, composition and science but emphasized agriculture. The mechanical classes taught basic skills to use agricultural machinery. Just two years ago in 1883, Professor James W. Lawrence, a new arrival, expanded the basic mechanics courses to mechanical engineering, physics and higher mathematics. He expanded the classrooms and laboratories to build and develop machinery.

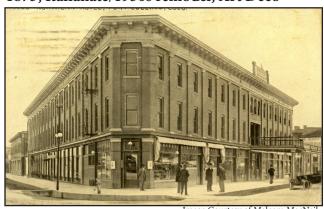
Close your eyes briefly again and step forward in time. The building before you has been remodeled. The importance of Professor James Lawrence's mechanical department has changed the Agricultural College of Colorado to Colorado Agricultural & Mechanical College by 1935. Another blink of your eyes, and in 1957 you find the name changed again to Colorado State University. As you return to the 21st century, you find CSU as a sprawling campus, teaching tens of

thousands of students, its name nationally known as a top engineering school. But you remember this now-hidden façade and how Professor Lawrence helped with the transformation of the small college.

-R. Stitzel

THE NORTHERN HOTEL

172 N. College Ave. 1873, Italianate/1930s remodel, Art Deco



mage Courtesy of Malcom MacNeil

Perhaps more history of Fort Collins abides in the walls and bones of the Northern Hotel than in any other downtown structure. Step into its elegant lobby with the wide, sweeping staircase and hear the echoes of history.

1873—Fort Collins does not have much to commend it—noted traveler Isabella Bird describes the town as "revolting...with coarse speech, coarse food, coarse everything," swarming with locusts and black flies. Marcus Coon, seeing a brighter future, builds the Agricultural Hotel on Mason Street.

1877—Somewhat more settled and civilized, the town boasts electricity, a railroad line and a soon-to-open college. Englishman David Harris



purchases Coon's hotel, moves part of it to the triangular corner of College and Walnut where the true-north town meets the older riverside settlement, names it the Commercial Hotel, adds rooms, and charges \$2 a night, \$5 a week. The small rooms contain only a bed, a chair, a chamber pot and a stand for water. Guests are either men or respectable couples. Women don't travel alone.

Harris replaces the wooden building with the brick one that still stands. Though it remains open, the hotel faces stiff competition. Fort Collins is growing. The seat of Larimer County, it is becoming a commercial and industrial center. 1904—The hopeful spirit of the new century energizes the town, home of a new sugar-beet factory and a thriving sheep ranching enterprise. A consortium of businessmen buys the hotel, renames it the Northern, and develops an "elegant, imposing, first class" establishment, according to newspaper accounts. Wonder of wonders, each room has a telephone. Some rooms even have private baths.

Across the decades, the hotel sees the town through the War to End All Wars, a devastating flu epidemic, the exuberant twenties, an oil boom that goes bust, and the Great Depression.

1940—Ace Gillette opens a restaurant on the first floor with a large ceiling dome in the center.

Rumor has it that city leaders don't like the dome because it echoes comments they don't want overheard. The dome will be hidden for years.

Post World War II—After frequently housing soldiers during the war, the hotel continues in its sedate way, its distinctive Art Deco façade marking

the northern end of downtown. But the old lady begins to show her age. Over the years, Gillette's restaurant closes, the type of hotel guests and tenants changes, and, along with the rest of downtown, the trend is downward. Then, in 1975, a devastating fire traps and kills a 90-year-old man on the fourth floor. Another resident is jailed on suspicion of arson. The "pearl of northern Colorado" has lost its luster.

2001—Resurrected and remodeled, the Northern becomes low-income housing for senior citizens. New tenants occupy the ground floor. Restored to its "Art Deco glory," as author Tom Noel noted, the stately old building is now an outstanding downtown landmark. This beautiful, venerable structure has come full circle from its glory days.

-Barbara Fleming

THE OPERA HOUSE

123 N. College Ave. 1880, Italianate

Had you been a resident of Fort Collins in the last two decades of the nineteenth century, you might have seen a wide variety of performances at the new opera house, built with great fanfare in 1880—in part to establish that the thriving agricultural community was more than a cow town. We had culture.

Stone arches and pillars gave the entrance elegance and dignity. The auditorium featured several rows of seats on a level floor and more seats on a gradual incline, plus four boxes. Painted backdrops for the stage included forest and palace scenes along with kitchen and garden ones and more, eleven in all. There was even a prison scene.

So what might you have seen on the stage? For one, Muscular Muldoon wrestled with two other men in the Graeco-Roman style. A magician performed sleight-of-hand tricks, and one performer offered varied impersonations. "The Wizard of the World" brought original illusions to town. Plays were put on as well—Shakespeare's Richard the Third and Much Ado About Nothing. One of the most popular was Uncle Tom's Cabin, even though the Civil War had been over for some time



Image Courtesy of Fort Collins History Connection

Lecturers also spoke; one of them, O.S. Fowler, who was distinguished as the author of a book about the benefits of octagon-shaped houses, claimed to have established a relationship between body shape and character. His topic was phrenology, the study of the shape of the head to discover mental capacity as well as character. Other lecturers came too; one could choose to be advised about the importance of temperance (the town was not dry until the late 1890s) or to be enlightened about a variety of other topics current at the time. Occasionally politicians took the stage, and Carrie Chapman Catt spoke on behalf of women's suffrage.

Perhaps you would have gone to a sumptuous feast there, held for some special occasion, or enjoyed stereopticon views of national parks and other landscapes. Audiences were once treated to a spelling bee sponsored by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The building was the site of early high school and college graduations. Sometimes, local talent trod the boards.

Not only did the opera house host performances, it was the scene of dances—an 1898 masked ball, for one, with participants dressed up as Gilbert and Sullivan characters, Native Americans and the Statue of Liberty, among other colorful individuals, real or imagined. By the second decade of the new century movie theaters had brought an end to the varied and lively opera house era—but what fun it must have been while it lasted.

-Barbara Fleming

RANCH-WAY FEEDS, LINDEN MILLS

546 Willow St. Circa 1890

When Elizabeth "Auntie" Stone and Henry Clay Peterson decided to build a flour mill in the late 1860s, Fort Collins was not yet an established town; it was still the remnants of the military camp that had been decommissioned in 1867, and it was a long way from anywhere, with no access to a railway line. To encourage local farmers to stay around and grow wheat, Stone knew a mill needed to be accessible. The enterprising pioneer convinced Peterson to join with her in the enterprise. Set upon and robbed of \$5,000 when he went to Chicago to buy supplies, Peterson returned to Fort Collins, the partners raised more

money, and by 1869 the mill was operational, powered by water from the fast-flowing Poudre River

Through decades of ups and downs the mill somehow stayed in business, going from water power to electric power, rebuilding after disastrous fires, and changing owners several times. Linden



ca 2010s, Matthew Gale. Image Courtesy of Fort Collins History Connection

Mills became Lindell Mills at some point.

Times changed; farmers had access to rail lines and competitive mills, and other crops became more prevalent. In 1948 the mill ceased to mill grain and began making livestock feed. Since 1968, Ranch-Way Feeds manufactures and supplies animal feeds and equipment to local farmers, ranchers and pet owners, a sturdy reminder of a different time.

-Barbara Fleming

The Ranch-Way Feeds buildings on Willow are the oldest established business in Fort Collins.



THE TROLLEY BARN

330 N. Howes St. 1907, Mission Revival



The Trolley Barn was built in 1907 to house the brand-new Woeber streetcars run by the Denver & Interurban system. (Streetcars were called "trolleys" because the streetcars got electrical power via a little wheel or trolley wheel that rolled along an overhead power wire.) The building is a simple Mission style brick style with a curved front parapet, unusual in Fort Collins. The enormous doors on the west side allowed streetcars to come and go. The City of Fort Collins took over streetcar operations in 1919 and replaced the Woeber cars with the small, light Birney Safety Car streetcars, a modern marvel that one motorman could operate easily. After the streetcar system ended in 1951, the city used the car barn for storage of impounded vehicles, old buses, and other miscellany. In 2008, the Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society (FCMRS), which had already restored and operated Fort Collins Car 21, began using the barn for a trolley again: they had bought the former Fort Collins Car 25 and moved it into the barn for restoration. The slow restoration was finally complete in 2020. Car 25 moved to a

barn on the active trolley tracks that go down West Mountain Avenue. This now lets the FCMRS operate two original streetcars, 21 and 25. The city continues to use the original car barn for storage. The people of Fort Collins loved their streetcars. They took the streetcars to work, to classes at Colorado Agricultural & Mechanical College (before it became CSU), to high school, to shop downtown, to picnic at Lindenmeier Lake, or to swim in Sheldon Lake at City Park.

In the early days, many people worked downtown and brought their dogs on the streetcar with them. In these early years most streets were dirt, not paved. The dogs brought with them lots of dirt, mud and chaos that made the motormen frustrated. The city solved the problem by charging the dogs full price – a nickel each. People then left their dogs at home.

The strangest four-legged passenger, however, came on J. O. "Jess" Beeler's shift in the early 1920s. He opened the door, and a huge bear climbed on board! It shuffled down the aisle and sat in a seat. The man behind the bear paid for two fares. Beeler told the man the bear had to get off. The man replied, "Go ahead and put him off." Perhaps wisely, Beeler decided the bear could stay. The bear and its handler rode to City Park, where they rejoined a carnival that had set up there. More information about the Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society on their website,

fortcollinstrolley.org

-R.Stitzel

THE AVERY BLOCK

100 N College Ave.

1897, Vernacular (late 19th Century Commercial Building with Gothic Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque Features)



Image Courtesy of Malcom MacNeil

This wonderful, many-sided building facing multiple streets, avenues and courts, and with such a varied facade, is named for the man who commissioned it in the last decade of the 1800's. Construction began in 1896 and the building proudly declares the year of its completion - 1897 - carved into the stonework above its southwest entry. (This feature is not unlike the carving of the year above the doorway of Avery's own home, west of this location). The population in Fort Collins at that time was close to 2000, and rapidly increasing.

Designed by local architect Montezuma Fuller, the variation along its facade, including varied building materials, window shapes and cornice ornamentation - and even the height of the cornice - gives the impression of multiple buildings. Likewise, a mixture of building styles, all popular at the time of construction, have been utilized. The heavy masonry walls, flat roof, decorative parapets and cornice, and large display windows for store fronts are typical of commercial building

styles at that time. The heavy stonework combined with brick, to provide contrast, the asymmetrical exterior, and arched windows reveal Gothic Revival influences. The southeast corner of the building particularly stands out: the heavy, rough texture of the locally quarried sandstone, the round arches above the doorway and window above that, and the stout columns, are typical of Richardsonian Romanesque style, again, popular in the late eighteenth century. The head of a stone lion watches over all who enter and exit here, and the inscription 'BANK' into the pediment above the roof line, reminds us that this was the location of Franklin Avery's First National Bank.

The building originally housed the bank along with places for an additional ten stores which included P. Bernard's shoe store, The Golden Rule Dry Goods and Clothing store and Galbraith's New Grocery store. Interestingly, Sanborn maps indicate the bank occupied a somewhat triangular floorpan on the interior of the building. Avery's bank was located here for just eleven years, until 1908, when construction was completed on a grander, larger building on the southeast corner of College and Mountain Avenues, which, sadly, was demolished in 1961.

Newspaper evidence suggests the building began its life as a single story; if this is true, it did not remain so for long, soon housing professional offices for various doctors, dentists and lawyers on its upper level. Montezuma Fuller, too, had his office here. Franklin's Avery's own son-in-law, Newton Crose, also shared a legal office, here. Time has almost erased that this was the site of a horrific tragedy for the Avery family in 1914, when Crose was shot dead in his office, seemingly over a

property deed. In the court case that followed, Fuller testified as to the layout of the building. Newspaper reports in the following years remarked upon how this brutal murder 'paralyzed' the town. Newton's marriage to Franklin's daughter, Louise (Mettie), had taken place in the Avery home in 1906. Less than eight years later, his heavily attended funeral would be held there, before he was laid to rest in Grandview Cemetery.

-J. Chamberlain

THE 1879 AVERY HOUSE

328 W. Mountain Ave. 1879, Gothic Cottage



Franklin Avery came from New York to Northern Colorado in 1870. After laying out Fort Collins' wide streets and beginning his banking career, he and new wife Sara began building their "cottage" for \$3000. As they added three children to their family, they also added to the house several times, notably the Queen Anne tower on the east side. After 83 years and three generations, the last of the Avery family moved on. In 1974 the City of Fort Collins purchased the home for \$79,000. Poudre Landmarks Foundation managed the restoration, and the Friends of the Avery House continue to care for the home and make it accessible to the

public. The Carriage House was added to the District in 1988. The property has been designated as a local, State and National Historic Landmark.

EDWARDS HOUSE

402 W. Mountain Ave. 1904, Neoclassical Denver Foursquare



The Edwards House was built in 1904 for Alfred Augustus Edwards at a cost of \$6,000. Alfred was involved in irrigation and served as president of the State Board of Agriculture, Larimer County treasurer, and city alderman.

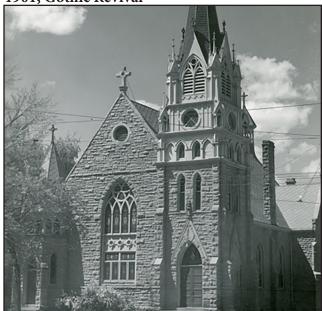
In 1883, Alfred married Phoebe Edson, the sister of Sara Avery, and they had three children, James, Walter, and Ruth. Sara's husband, Franklin Avery, built the Avery House, which is directly to the east of the Edwards House. In 1898, Alfred bought a lot from the Avery family and in 1904, hired architect Montezuma Fuller to build a family



The style of the Edwards House is a neo-classical, "Denver" foursquare that was popular at the turn of the century, featuring a main floor divided into four rooms.

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

300 W Mountain Ave. 1901, Gothic Revival



Fort Collins' Catholic population has had a place to formally worship since 1879. From that time until 1900, the church was located on Riverside Avenue, in what had been Fort Collins first formal schoolhouse. By 1899, the population had grown to about 3000 inhabitants, with some 1000 Catholics, and the newly arrived Father G.J. LaJeunesse raised funds to purchase land at the northwest corner of West Mountain and Howes, to build a larger church.

Construction commenced that year with stone obtained from three nearby quarries.

The cornerstone was laid in March 1900, and the church's dedication took place in August 1901. Total costs were \$12,000.00. The rectory to the west of the church was added in 1907.

In 1909, Father LaJeunesse wrote about his undertaking to build this new church and rectory: "With very limited means I endeavored ten years ago to erect in Fort Collins a Church building which would be at once a joy to the Catholics and a credit to the city . [...] In my opinion what advertises a town best is its public and business edifices."

The building style is Gothic Revival, popular for church buildings at that time, and exemplified by the asymmetrical exterior, the many pointed arched leaded glass windows, the steep gabled roof line, and multiple towers. The absence of other high-level adornment is a vernacular adaptation of the Gothic Revival style. Early images of the church reveal some differences to the building we see today: there was no central entrance covered by a portico, but rather a doorway into each of the east and west towers. Early images also show there has been a subsequent significant extension on the north side of the church and removal of an open-sided cupola (lantern) that was on the north end of the original roof. The church's website tells us that a former parishioner recalled "... that Father LaJeunesse asked Mr. Avery, who owned the home on the west corner of the block, to donate money for a bell for the Church tower. Mr. Avery's response went something like this "...he would pay \$50.00 to not put in a bell."

In 1917, Father LaJeunesse purchased land from Franklin Avery on the north corner of the block

with plans to construct the Spanish Colonial style school building that was completed in 1925.

-Jodie Chamberlain

source: https://www.stjosephfc.org/history/build-ing-of-new-church/

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 Whedbee St. 1883, Gothic Revival (Now Grace Presbyterian)



By 1900, around 100,000 Volga Germans had emigrated to the United States and Canada, settling mainly on the Great Plains. By World War I, that number had grown to half a million.

Many immigrants came to Northern Colorado, the Volga Germans constituting the largest ethnic group in the Front Range north of Denver. Most of the men were involved in farming and the sugar beet industry.

The Evangelical church began in Germany amongst Christians who were weary of the disputes between Lutheran and Reformed doctrines. The Evangelical church placed a greater emphasis on piety and volunteer ministry. In 1903 the German Protestant Congregational Church was formed, known today as Plymouth Congregational Church. Over time, a small group

split off to form the Evangelical Congregational Immanuel Church, later rejoining the German Congregational Church Protestant the Immanuel Evangelical Church. In 1913, the small congregation bought this 1887 building from the First Presbyterian Church (which had built a new sanctuary at Remington and Olive). In the early years of the congregation, pastors came and went in rapid succession, staying only six months to three years. Eventually however, the Rev. David Maul arrived and established a respected music program, setting the stage for the deep love of music that has become a central part of the identity of Immanuel ever since.

The congregation fluctuated over the years, growing when Russian-German families moved in but shrinking when the men left to find less demanding jobs than the farming and factory jobs in this area. Times worsened for the families after WWI when anti-German sentiment grew. The Great Depression also seriously impacted the church's finances. And when the denomination canceled their building loan which the church couldn't pay back, this hastened the decline of the congregation.

In 1936, Immanuel merged with another church and established a new denomination called Immanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church.

-J Carter

HERITAGE PARK

(Behind North Aztlan Rec Ctr)

Today the Old Fort Collins Heritage Park, beside the Poudre River, shows no sign of the Army post built here in 1864 that gave rise to the city that now surrounds it.

Camp Collins was originally commissioned in the summer of 1862 and situated there by the Poudre River to protect travelers on the Overland-Cherokee Trail. Two years later, a flood destroyed the camp in Laporte. The commanding officer Lt. Colonel William Collins, requested the camp be moved to a better location a few miles down the river. That location was in the vicinity of modernday Willow Street, a site selected by James Mason who ran a successful general store at the camp. The new Camp Collins was officially established on August 20, 1864 and was a peaceful outpost on the plains. The fort never needed a stockade wall for protection from attacks or raids. It was occupied by a succession of troops, and during the Civil War, Company F of the 11th Ohio Cavalry was stationed here on the bend in the river for two years. Log cabins and small businesses quickly surrounded it as settlers found the location near the foothills to their liking. The site included a 300-ft. square parade ground, barracks and a mess hall for enlisted men, officers' quarters, guard houses, stables, storehouses, and a small infirmary. The subsiding of conflicts with Native tribes and their complete removal after 1865 from the Colorado Territory increasingly made the fort irrelevant. After the Civil War, the renowned Union General William Tecumseh Sherman was directed by the War Department under President Andrew Johnson to personally inspect each of the forts along the Overland Trail. The general ordered Camp Collins decommissioned in 1867. Yet the early homesteaders on the south bank of the Poudre wished to preserve the location and their livelihood. The infant town became known as Fort Collins. Even though the original Army camp was never designated a fort, the name stuck. The Territorial Legislature designated the town as the location for the Agricultural College in 1870. The

land officially remained in government hands until the military reservation was relinquished by order of President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872.

Little by little, the fort's buildings were dismantled and the materials used for new buildings until there remained no evidence of its origins as a military outpost. One of the original structures of the fort was preserved in its original state and carefully relocated three times. It was moved to its final resting spot in 1976 in the fenced Heritage Courtyard by the historic Carnegie Library and can be visited there.

The vicinity of the old fort is now home to a variety of businesses like Ranchway Feeds on Willow (Fort Collins' oldest mill, since 1868) and the El Burrito Restaurant on Linden, opened in 1960 by Jesse Godinez. The newest structure is the Northside Aztlan Community Center.

-J Carter

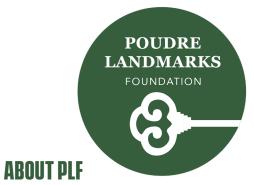
THE PLF WOULD LIKE TO THANK

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The mission of the Poudre Landmarks Foundation is to preserve, restore, protect, and interpret the architectural and cultural heritage of the Fort Collins area and envisions a community that understands, appreciates, and values its past. PLF manages two historic properties owned by the City of Fort Collins: The 1879 Avery House and the 1883 Water Works.

Our yearly event schedule is created using constituent feedback, past experience, coupled with organizational capacity. Our event offerings have grown in scope and depth over the years. PLF has more than 200 volunteers and year after year we look for new ways to reach out and share the gift of history with the Fort Collins community. The PLF is a nonprofit organization. To learn how to support us, please visit our website.

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