

# Self-Guided Tour

# Downtown Cañon City



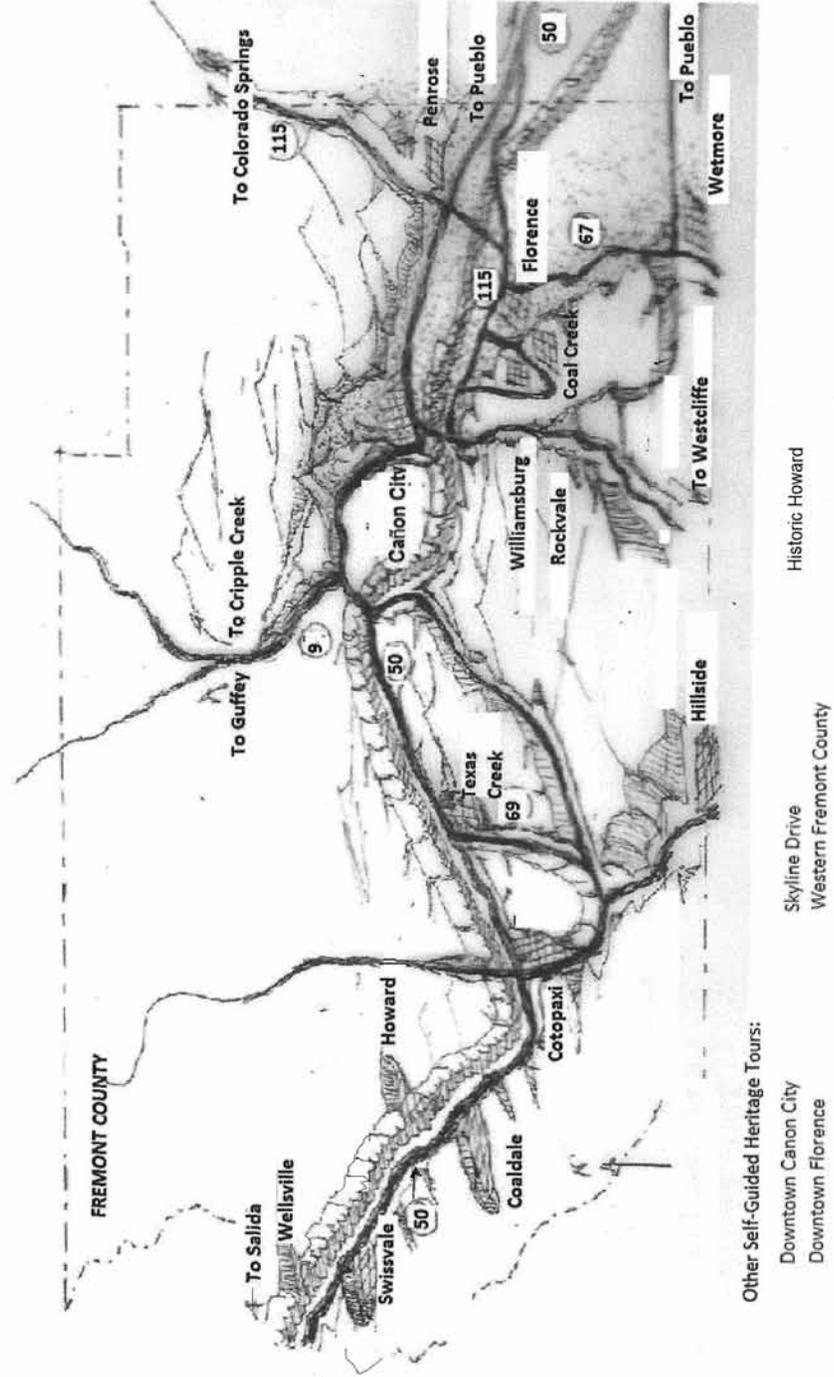
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# FREMONT COUNTY HERITAGE TOURS

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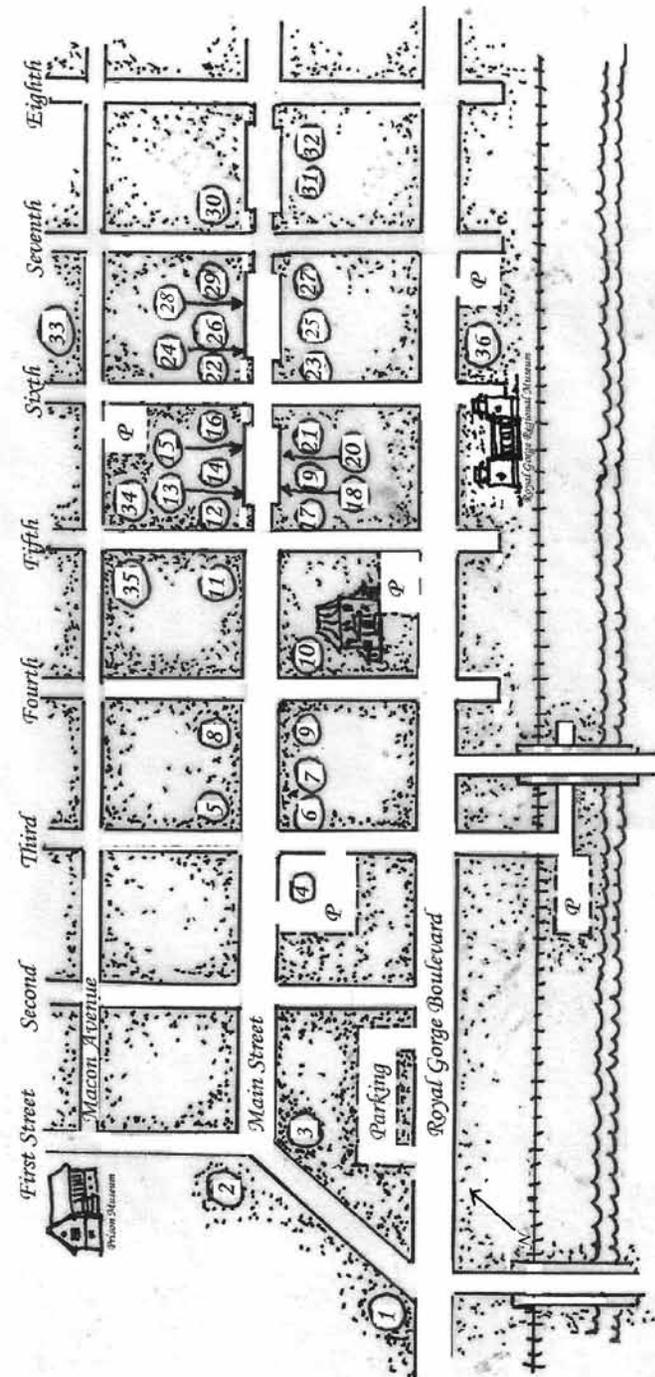
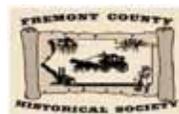
**Allow about three hours** for the Cañon City Self-Guided Heritage Tour. This is one of a series of free Self-Guided Heritage tours developed by the Fremont County Heritage Commission and Fremont County Tourism Council, with support of a grant from the Colorado Tourism Office, to encourage heritage tourism in our area. The Fremont County Historical Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization, is a partner in this effort.

**Questions, comments and suggestions are welcome** and may be conveyed to [info@fremontheritage.com](mailto:info@fremontheritage.com) or sent to Fremont County Heritage Commission, 615 Macon Ave, Cañon City, Colorado, 81212. These and other tours being developed may be downloaded at [www.fremontheritage.com](http://www.fremontheritage.com) or found in racks at Chambers of Commerce and Museums throughout Fremont County. Additional information beyond the scope of this booklet may also be found at these locations along with other tours and information.

**This Self-Guided Tour was researched** and compiled by volunteers who include Jennie Bowie, Wayne Davis, Ruth Disher, Margaret Gilland, Barbara Hobson, Doni Lacey, Cindisue Schreck, Margaret Stiles Storm, Lisa M. Studts, and Mildred M. Wintz. Material was placed in final written form by Margaret Stiles Storm and edited by Jim Nelson; illustrations by Mildred Wintz, layout by Larry Hill for the Fremont County Heritage Commission.

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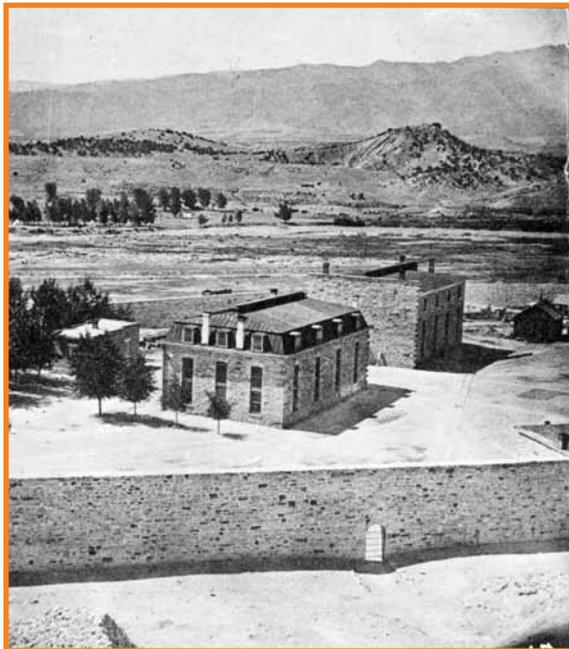


**CC-01 Colorado Territorial Prison, 1871 – 1876**  
**Colorado State Penitentiary 1877 – 1979**  
**Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility, 1979**

Construction began in 1868 on the Colorado Territorial Prison after enabling legislation in June, 1867 by the 39th US Congress which authorized six such facilities to curb lawlessness in the west. The Seventh Assembly of the Colorado Territorial Assembly conferred the prison's location on Cañon City in January, 1868 due to the influence of Cañon City legislator Thomas H. Macon who gained prominence by backing Denver over Golden as the site for the state Capital. This was the first of the six penitentiaries authorized by Congress to be constructed.

Built of native stone quarried on-site, the original building opened in June, 1871 on land donated by Jothan A. Draper. The 2½-story building contained 42 cells. A stone wall, quarried on site, was added in 1875 due to escapes; it was four feet thick and 20 feet in height enclosing 5 acres of prison property around the compound.

The prison was officially transferred to Territorial authorities in



April, 1874. When Colorado became a state in 1876, the facility became the Colorado State Penitentiary. By 1881 another 48-cell building had been added along with shops in which prisoners worked and support facilities. Located as it is at the end of Main Street, the prison became an integral part of the community with inmates

working off-site at brickyards and other establishments in town, as well as quarrying stone that was sold for area buildings.

**CC-02 Deputy Warden's House, 105 Main**

The 1860s Fremont House once stood at this location. A hotel with a post office, school and general store in the basement, it was the leading hotel in Cañon City by 1870. The building was torn down in the early 1890s to make room for the Deputy Warden's house in 1901 when the prison expanded. Using prison labor and local materials, the house cost only \$7,500 to build and was heated by steam from the prison boilers. Its modern design included electricity as well as hot and cold running water. Prison officials occupied the house for seventy years before it was turned into offices.

The architect for the Queen Anne style residence was Charles C. Rittenhouse (1852-1937), who was responsible for numerous buildings in Cañon City. While there are other two-story masonry homes exhibiting Queen Anne details here, none possess the unusual combination of elements found on this residence – especially the large tower. Two notable examples are located at 929 Greenwood and 412 North 15th Street, also designed by Rittenhouse.

The Deputy Warden's House was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. In 2007, the Department of Corrections moved staff out of the house and it has been vacant since. A historic structure assessment completed in 2003 identified almost a half million dollars in necessary rehabilitation work. DOC has no funding appropriated to complete this needed work, nor plans to reoccupy the space, so the Deputy Warden's House has continued to languish – vacant and unmaintained. In 2011 it was added to Colorado Preservation, Inc.'s listing of endangered places.

**CC-03 Cañon City State Armory, 110 Main Street**

The Cañon City Armory is the longest continuously used Armory in Colorado. Built with prison labor for \$30,000 in 1922 the Ar

mory's dual purpose has been both in support of the National Guard and as a center for community activities, recreation and entertainment.

This Late 19th and 20th Century Mediterranean Revival building was built with local brick and cement from the nearby Portland Cement Company. Due to problems with groundwater, the basement is extra deep to reach bedrock and is of unusually heavy concrete and reinforced steel construction. Denver architect John James Huddart (1856-1930) produced a standard designed for a dozen State Armories in Colorado and eight county courthouses during his career. The Mediterranean-influenced building is a style rarely seen in Fremont County.

The Cañon City National Guard has been called out on several occasions related to the State Penitentiary, including the infamous 1929 riot and 1947 prison escape.



The building has been used as a backdrop for filming, including the 1948 film Cañon City about the 1947 prison escape. The Cañon City Tiger Basketball team played here until the early-1960s and it has served as the location for everything from dances to KKK lectures to 4-H Club craft and poultry shows.

#### **CC-04 Clock Tower, Fremont County 1881 Courthouse Southwest Corner of Main & Third Streets**

This Edward Howard & Co. Clock was saved when the old Fremont County Courthouse at Fourth Street & Macon was razed in 1965. The Clock Tower was rebuilt and the clock repaired and reinstalled on this site in 2005 after a lengthy, and sometimes challenging, community process to find a prominent and suitable location.

The history of the 1881 Fremont County Courthouse was no less fraught. Originally constructed on the 100 Block of Macon Avenue, the building began sinking within a few months of its much acclaimed completion. After five years of battling unstable soil and unable to prevent structural problems, the building was carefully dismantled, moved and reassembled on a new site at Fourth Street and Macon.



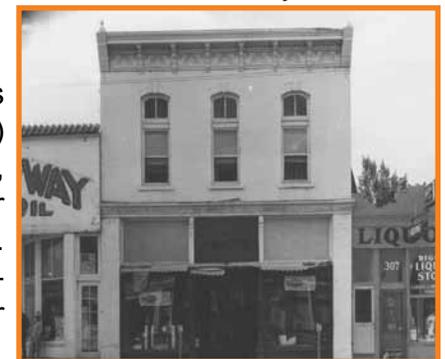
The reconstructed Courthouse served Fremont County's needs at that location for over 70 years from January, 1888 until 1961 when the current Fremont County Administrative Building was built on the 600 Block of Macon.

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#### **CC-05 Murray's Saloon, 305 Main Street**

Downtown Cañon City has a number of historic buildings, but perhaps none as important to our history as Murray's Saloon. The saloon was built sometime in the 1860s in an Italianate architectural style. The public hall on the second floor was used by local government leaders as their official meeting place, in addition to serving as the Courtroom for Federal District Judge Moses Hallett. In 1872, the decision that Cañon City should incorporate was made here.

While government entities (as well as a couple of churches) conducted their affairs upstairs, Bernard Murray ran his popular saloon and billiard room below. Sometimes the noise downstairs made it difficult to hear upstairs.



### **CC-06 Moose Lodge Building, 306-308 Main Street**

This brick 2-story commercial structure, built 1886-90, features simple metal cornice & parapet and continuous stone string course which outline the upper portion of the second story bays. The stone came from the Kerr Stone Quarry in Howard, 45 miles west of Cañon City, while the brick was made at The Diamond Fire Brick Company. The lower portion has been altered.

The Royal Order of Moose Lodge began in 1910 and was housed upstairs at 308 ½ Main until 1978 when they moved to 702 Royal Gorge Boulevard. Lithia Bottling Co. was on the street level in the 1920s. They bottled natural spring water, “reported to be beneficial to the human body.” Later the water was tested and found to be radioactive.

### **CC-07 Taggart Building, 320 Main Street**

The brick/cast iron cornice features lintels & a gabled central portion framing the building’s name. Six second-story bays are highlighted by segmental pediments of cast iron. Original stone was from the Kerr Stone Quarry while the brick came from The Diamond Fire Brick Company.

H.S. Taggart came to Cañon City for his health. He bought the two buildings at 318 & 320 Main, operating a dry goods store for a short time. He had the buildings torn down and built the Taggart Building in 1883, adding a cast iron cornice with his name just below a gabled central pediment. The decoration and six windows on the second floor can still be seen today but metal siding obscures the store front.

In 1908 Frank (Peanut) Bunten operated a bicycle and auto repair service. Silent movie star Tom Mix rented a car to go drinking in Florence. When his wife followed, Mix ditched the car and Peanut sent another to get Tom’s wife off his trail.

### **CC-08 Strathmore Hotel, 325 - 331 Main Street**

W.H. McClure ordered the 1874 construction of the three-story, Italianate-style hotel. Bricks for his McClure House came from

our local Catlin Brickyard. The Fremont County Bank shared the first floor with an ornate lobby and dining hall. Sixty-six nice guest rooms filled the second floor. The basement contained a barber shop and other stores.



McClure lost the hotel in the 1870s economic downturn. By 1900 the building had gone through many owners when English investors renovated and named it the Strathmore.

In 1980, a section of brick fell from the west wing wall. Later, a gust of wind caused bricks on the building’s north wall to fall. The City Building Inspector ordered the west wing evacuated and closed 4th Street. The top two floors of that section were then removed and the first floor re-roofed. McClure’s Saloon celebrated 130 years here in 2014.

### **CC-09 Raynolds - McGee Block, 330 Main Street**



Construction of the Raynolds – McGee Block began in 1882. Frederick A. Raynolds owned the east half for the Fremont County Bank, while William B. McGee’s west half held the Handy & McGee Mercantile Company. Both owned the stairway leading to the second floor and eleven apartments.

McAdams and Oplinger were the contractors for the Gothic Revival building's stonework. Quarried limestone from the prison was used for the foundation. Exterior walls are pink stone from Castle Rock, in a broken ashlar style. Other stone came from south of Cañon City and Four Mile Creek. The corner entrance had Royal Gorge granite steps and a stone arch supported by Vermont granite columns.

A 70-foot tower inscribed with "Raynolds Bank" rose above the entrance. By 1926 the tower was considered out of style and removed, only to be replaced in 1982.

**CC-10 Clelland Block, 404 Main Street and Clelland/Peabody House, 403 Royal Gorge Blvd.  
(403 Water Street Orig.)**

The Peabody House was once the center of social and political life in Cañon City. Of the French Second Empire Style, it boasted 14 rooms, wood floors throughout, twin grand staircases, 2 bathrooms, fireplaces in every room, a tin roof and twin parlors. The two-story had a mansard roof with bracketed cornice and both floors had central projecting bays. Brick from The Diamond Fire Brick Company and stone from Kerr Stone Quarry was used in construction. The house was built on the original Rudd Homestead (Rudd was a Fremont County pioneer) by James C. Clelland in 1881.

Clelland owned three business blocks, 402-404-406 Main. He was active in real estate, grocery and merchandising, banks, railroad-ing and public utilities. He was a Democratic



representative in the Colorado Territorial Council in 1877 and then representing Cañon City in the Senate's 14th district in the first Colorado State legislature. He and his wife Frances (1860-1945) lived here until his death in 1892. It was then bought by his son-in-law James Peabody and Clelland's widow Frances moved to a smaller home. Peabody had married Clelland's daughter, Frances Lillian Clelland in 1878; three children were born to their marriage - James, Cora and Jessie Annie.

Peabody arrived in Cañon City in 1875 and went to work for Clelland as a bookkeeper in Clelland's Mercantile Store at 402 Main which he purchased in 1882. Peabody became President of the 1st National Bank and in following years he started the fire department, served as mayor of Cañon City, organized the water department and the light and power department. He was a 33rd Degree Mason.

In 1901 Peabody, a Republican, was elected Governor. His term of office was marred by labor unrest at Cripple Creek, Clear Creek and Telluride, as well as Victor and Las Animas. Peabody called in the National Guard to keep the peace and settle numerous strikes, earning the ire of union members.

The election of 1904 saw Peabody defeated by Democrat Alva Adams, who was more sympathetic to unions. The election was contested, however, and the predominately Republican legislature declared Peabody the winner, on the condition that he resign immediately. He was succeeded by Republican Lieutenant Governor Jesse F. McDonald and Colorado earned the dubious distinction of having three different governors in one day.

Peabody died in 1917 at age 65 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Mrs. Peabody sold the house, which was later converted into apartments and a motel. By 1968 the home was run-down and unused except as a rooming house and secondhand store. In 1993 a \$350,000 restoration was partially completed, aided by 12 grants from Boettcher, Coors, El Pomar and Gates foundations. The Cañon City Chamber of Commerce became the occupant and continues restoration.



**CC-11 The Apex Building, 425, 427, 429 & 431 Main Street**

The Apex Building was constructed in 1901 at a cost of \$35,000. It was designed for wealthy mine owner Lyman Robison by architects Marean & Norton of Denver in the American Movements/ Commercial Style popular at the time. Robison named this building after one of his Leadville mines.

The Apex Building has been home to many businesses. On the corner, Seeley Drug (1902-1914) was one of the first to have a marble-topped soda fountain, making it a popular gathering place. Then came Singer Drug (1914-1935) and Helm Drug (1936-1972), continuing the tradition.

**CC-12 F.L. Smith Building, 501-503 Main Street**

Owner Frank L. Smith hired noted local architect C.C Rittenhouse to design this majestic two-story commercial structure in Classic Revival style with a splash of Beau Arts. Smith moved his dry goods store to the building in 1901. Emmerson Furniture followed in 1924, then McMarr's, a unit of Safeway, in 1933.



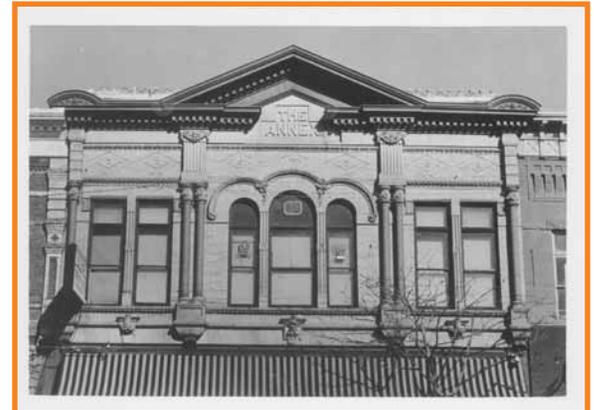
The fine lodge room on the second floor housed a number of groups

through the years including the Elks, Ku Klux Klan (1920s), Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), Friends in Council, Women's Relief Corps, Knights of Pythias, Maccabees, Modern Woodmen of the World, Royal Neighbors and Gate City Circle. The second floor entrance is on the 5th Street side near the alley.

Today the building's west wall is home to a mural showing two downtown Cañon City buildings that were torn down in the late 1890s.

**CC-13 The Annex Building, 505-507 Main Street**

The Annex Building has a long and distinguished history of fancy department stores, restaurants, grand dances, theatre performances and live music. The Building was the third commercial building in Cañon City built by mining magnate Lyman Robison, a man of means and judgment who invested in the future of Cañon City.



The 1903 Annex Building is a late 19/20th Century Revival/ Classical Revival style designed by architect Charles C. Rittenhouse with construction by Fred Kober. It features crenellated stone masonry along the top of the façade; ornate cornice with metal arched and triangular pediments, block modillions and a tympanum pediment with the name "The Annex." The second story is divided into three bays, framed by polished gray granite engaged columns atop paneled pedestals with fan-shaped stone bases and metal pendants. The center bay has triple round arched windows with tooled stone arched lintels and stone molding with foliate ornaments. It is of brick and light-gray stone, with the stone from the Kerr Stone Quarry at Howard. The six columns are dark gray granite from Quincy, Massachusetts.

The first business to open in 1903 was The Bethel Co., a clothing store. In 1916 The Golden Rule Store (a J.C. Penney affiliate) replaced the clothing store. Western Auto Supply operated here in the 1940s, then Gambles sold hardware, appliances and furniture for thirty years until 1978.

The Annex Hall on the second floor featured hanging lights from the luxurious Olin Hotel in Denver and the handsome back bar from the historic Chesterfield Club in the Stringtown area of Rockvale, one of Fremont County's coal camps. The Annex Hall has long been a popular area dance hall. In 2000 attempts were made to restore The Annex Hall back to its former grandeur. Bricked over windows were opened and painted over skylights cleaned.

#### **CC-14 The Sulphide Building, 509-511 Main Street**

Known as the Handy & McGee Block, this building was erected by William B. McGee & N. F. Handy in 1891 to house their wholesale and retail grocery business. The architect was D.A. Bradbury who used the 19/20th Century American Movements/ Commercial Style. Red stone, golden pressed brick, and metal cornice were the materials used. McGee came to Colorado from Massachusetts hoping to cure his asthma. Handy, also from Massachusetts, came to Cañon City in 1882 as a youth of 18 due to his health. Handy and McGee were the Fremont County agents for John Deere plows and agricultural implements.

While not one of the fancier buildings downtown, it has some



distinctive architectural elements such as the decorative cornice which replaced the parapet in a 1901 remodel when the building was sold to Lyman Robison for \$19,000 and renamed "Sulphide Building," after another of Robison's mines. There is a band of foliate cutout sand-fluted brackets, decorative insets and a corbel table terminated by band pellet molding. The upper facade is divided into four bays by brick pilasters with stone trim and vertical grooves.

A series of grocery stores and meat markets operated here. The 1895 Sanborn map shows the YMCA and other offices on the second floor. The YMCA moved and the Cañon Business College occupied the second floor by 1930. The school eventually moved to bigger offices; and rooms have been home to doctors, lawyers, and other various professionals over the last few decades.

#### **CC-15 Central Block, 513-515 Main Street**

At a cost of \$19,000, T.B. Coulter commissioned architect C.C. Rittenhouse and builder A.C. Jensen to construct this Classical Structure with Beaux Arts influence in 1901. The Kerr Stone Quarry and The Diamond Fire Brick Company were providers for the one-story brick with white metal and wood trim building. Three bay windows with transoms and classical surround flank the center window.



Coulter came to Cañon City in 1896 as a fruit grower but became interested in real estate. He also owned the Arthur Block, the Emery Lot and Steinmeyer 1 of the Talbot Lot. Coulter was President of Citizens State Bank in 1905 and on the Board of Directors at Fremont County Bank in 1921. He served as Mayor from 1903-08. Mr. Coulter was "Dry" meaning he didn't drink alcohol.

### **CC-16 Arthur Block, 517-519 Main Street**

T.B. Coulter, at one time, owned the most desirable real estate in Cañon City. This 1895-1901 building was built to the specifications of architect C.C. Rittenhouse sponsored by Coulter and R.G. Arthur. It is a two-story cream brick done in the Renaissance style with four rectangular bays flanked by two headed bays. Upstairs, there were 16 rooms, both residential and businesses to rent. Most rooms or offices had sinks but the lavatory and bathroom was shared by residents of the Arthur and Record block buildings.

In 1905, Clyde Patton moved his jewelry business to the Arthur Block. Three generations of Pattons ran the business, closing in 1978 after 70 years. The clock in front of the store became the official time keeper for the town and local railroads.



### **CC-17 Burrage Building, 502 Main Street**

This two-story brick building was distinguished by an ornate cast-iron cornice and wide segmental arch windows accented by brickwork. Two rows of rough cut beige stone with glass block panels on either side marked the diagonal corner entrance. Locally made brick and native stone were used with cast-iron metal and glass. C.C. Rittenhouse was architect and civil engineer W.H. Burrage and his father Charles W. were the building contractors and first owners. Built in 1887-88, one hundred years later it was placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings in 1988.

The building has housed many businesses including the US

Post Office, First National Bank, an office of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad and a mortuary. Land developers C.R.C. Dye and Dall DeWeese had offices on the 5th Street side of the building. In 1990, Cañon City Western Wear moved in; their mascot, a life-sized horse, stands outside on the second story just above the old diagonal entrance.

### **CC-18 Burrage Block, 506 - 508 Main Street**

In 1899 – 1900, Mrs. Sarah J. Burrage (widow of Charles W. Burrage) commissioned architects Bradbury & Rittenhouse along with building contractor C.M. Ward to erect this structure for \$8-10,000. The Burrage Block is a two-story brick structure with segmental arched windows, dentils under the windowsills and an uneven roofline. The building also has a band of masonry stones just above the second story windows and large dentils under the cornice.

This commercial property housed W.H. Peabody's Drug Store and the Beecher's City Book Store. Peabody was the nephew of successful Cañon City businessman and governor of Colorado James H. Peabody. Harry N. Beecher sold books, art work, stationery, wallpaper, paints and glass; he also was a noted local writer.

### **CC-19 J. C. Penney Company, 510,- 516 Main**

The J.C. Penney building, built in 1928 at 510 Main Street, had hardwood floors and a modern restroom for its female clientele on the balcony level. Penny's took over 512 Main where an office for Wells Fargo Express Company and Dall DeWeese real estate, insurance and loans had operated in 1929. Expansion for much more floor space came in 1962 and 514 Main, the Hemmerle Building, and 516 Main, a saddle and harness shop and Western Union were demolished.

Penney's operated until 1992 when it closed, having served the community for 65 years. Emmerson Furniture occupied the building from December, 1992 until it closed in 2014.

### **CC-20 Felter Building, 518 – 520 Main Street**

Lyman W. Felter contracted this 1898 building at a cost of \$10,000. Architect was Hodges & Scott with builder C.M. Ward and stonework done by Kober & Sells.

This two-story brick building had a front of red stone with white stone near the roofline and a decorative tin metal eagle. Remodeled in 1983, it now has a lower façade faced with pink sandstone and the eagle is gone. The original stonework came from the local Harding Quarries, the brick walls from Cañon Brick & Tile Company.

Felter's first tenant was Dickinson's Grocery who had money troubles, so Felter moved his Gent's Furnishings into the 518 location in 1900, closing in 1972. Other later tenants were Tami's Café, My Brother's Place and the Fremont National Bank. The Felter families lived upstairs which was later occupied by the Mary Simmons Business School.

520 Main Street began as Watson & Combs Hardware in 1900, then a succession of hardware stores ending with Kissinger Hardware in 1964 when Rocco Freda's Men's Shop and Fashion Tailors became occupants.

### **CC-21 Fremont County National Bank, 522 – 532 Main**

A Classical Revival building is under the current façade. The design was in the Georgian style of architecture and is a red



brick structure partially covered by cream terracotta. There were two large terracotta fluted columns at the front entrance that measured 22 feet in height. Ralph Eck of Bankers Construction Company of Denver constructed

the 1921 building. The façade changed in 1975 by an all metal covering that hid all four walls. While the original building's architect is unknown, the succeeding ones were Marvin Knedler, Denver, for a 1964 expansion and Charles Y. Choi of Colorado Springs, for the 1973-74 and 1981 remodeling.

Previously the Palace Livery Station operated at 532 Main Street began by Augustus Sartor in 1871-72 as a livery barn, staging and freighting. In a photograph of the Palace Livery, the building is brick, two-story, with five windows in front plus a very large entrance door. Demolition of the building and two others came after 50 years of usage to make way for the erection of the Fremont County National Bank in July, 1920.

Frederic A., Joshua and Jefferson Reynolds were the owners of the first Fremont County Bank, built in 1921. The Board of Directors in April, 1921 included J.H. Harrison, T.B. Coulter, D.N. Cooper, G.R. Tanner, Dr. W.T. Little and President George E. Rockafellow. The Fremont County National Bank was one of the oldest financial institutions in Colorado. In December of 2005, Wells Fargo acquired the Fremont Bank, ending 131 years of its home-town banking.

### **CC-22 Palace Drug Store, 601-603 Main Street**

Palace Drug has been a prominent fixture on this site in downtown Cañon City for over 100 years. Built in 1902 for T.B. Coulter, this commercial building replaced a rundown wooden structure. The new brick structure at 601 Main was the home of Cañon Savings Bank until it failed in 1907 and Mitchell & Egbers Palace Drug Store moved in. The store had a laboratory in the back and a salesroom in the basement.



When the drug store remodeled in 1913,

the owners moved the entrance from the corner of the store to the middle of the south side and added a public drinking fountain on the corner.

Next-door at 603 Main, Smith Mercantile gave way to Cañon Grocery by 1908. Haven's clothing store opened in 1969 as a high quality women's ready-to-wear clothing business and later added a men's department.

### **CC-23 Masonic Lodge Building, 602 Main Street**

In 1881, Mount Moriah Lodge 15, Ancient Free & Accepted, built a two-story plus basement building on this corner lot. It was a 3 bay, flat-roofed brick building with the Lodge Hall on the 2nd floor and commercial space on the ground floor. Both floors of the original building were extended to the alley in 1910. The current Art Deco facade style with small square glazed-tile panel centered between two upstairs double hung windows was laid over the original walls when large cracks appeared in 1931. Two glass block pillars flank the upstairs door at the first floor. The stone was from Kerr Stone Quarry in Howard and the multicolored brick with inset tile panel came from The Diamond Fire Brick Company. The building is still owned by the Lodge.

### **CC-24 Harding Building, 605 Main Street**

Built in 1908-1914, this two-story brick building is early 20th Century Style revival with an echo of Victorian period. A metal entablature with ornate scroll-like medallions decorates the top lines of the building. Kerr Stone Quarry furnished the stone and The Diamond Fire Brick Company brick was used.

Owner, T.M. Harding, operated Harding Hardware from 1909-1949 with his brother L.L. Harding. T.M. Harding came to Colorado for his health. Besides owning Harding Hardware, T.M. Harding was a member of the Board of Trustees 1880-1881. He died in 1913 and his son T.M. Harding, Jr. operated the store until it closed in 1949.

T.M. Harding's wife, Minnie was known for her civic efforts. She

established the "Minnie Harding Education Loan for Women", helping hundreds of women get a college education.

### **CC-25 Skyline Theatre, 606 Main Street**

The Jones Theatre was designed by architect G.C. Hawkey. L.A. "Busy" Jones and Sons built it in 1917. The theatre seated about 1,000 including a balcony with lighted steps. The woodwork was white enamel and mahogany. Walls had a Tiffany finish and were painted shades of pink and green.

In 1925, B. P. McCormick purchased the Jones Theatre and renamed it the Skyline, McCormick and his sons Harold and George ran the theatre, among several others, for 65 years. In 1993, Skyline Theatre re-opened under the management of Chuck and Marianne James who purchased the building from Harold McCormick in 2001 and began to remodel, aiming for the look and feel of the old theatre with some modern conveniences. They found old-fashioned wooden-back seats which were fitted with cushions and 1938 standard aisle lights. A Dolby Digital Surround Sound system and fiber optic ceiling lights were installed.



Roy and Kate Voss purchased the theatre in 2004 and daughter Linda Epperson has it today

continuing a family operation with the aid of a recent Kickstarter campaign needed to fund a new projection system.

### **CC-26 Harrison Building, 609 – 615 Main Street**

John Henry Harrison contracted with A.C. Jensen to build the expansive and impressive Harrison Block during 1901-1908 at a cost of \$14,000. It has an inferred medieval period, slightly Gothic look and is a two-story brick structure, about 88 feet long

with a depth of 80 feet. Constructed of cream brick with cast iron pillars and lintels, six pillars rise from the front ground level to the cornices, dividing the building into four stores and one central entrance to the upper floor. Each pillar is capped with pointed stones. Of the thirteen second-story windows, one is round and central to the building. Vertical brickwork is above the windows below the roof line. During a renovation, the first floor was fitted with metal siding and shake roof and now a rectangular stained glass window is above the entry to 613 for the upper floor.

Harrison became one of the most tenacious of businessmen. He built three buildings on Main Street: 322-324, 609-615, and 714-720. Although he tried running several stores, land development was his forte. His name graces subdivisions, street names and buildings. He donated land for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, helped organize the Cañon City Land & Improvement Company and the Cañon City Hydraulic and Irrigation Ditch Company. Harrison planted many acres of his land in orchards. Not just an entrepreneur, he served the community in other ways including county commissioner, treasurer, city council member and Mayor.

The Harrison Building replaced the Sing Lee Chinese Laundry with the new building housing many businesses in its four store-fronts. The upper floor has seen doctor's and lawyer's offices. Before his death, J. Harrison Hawthorne, grandson of J. H. Harrison, had his law offices here.

### **CC-27 Bengley Building, 622-624 Main**

Frank H. Bengley had this 19th Century stucco over original brick façade building constructed in the 1880's. It has stucco with a cast iron cornice, 6 segmental arch windows, keystones and lintels accenting the windows. As with many of Cañon City's downtown buildings, the stone came from the Kerr Stone Quarry in Howard and the brick from The Diamond Fire Brick Company. Frank H. Bengley made his money in silver mining and financed the building before the silver crash in 1890's. He and his wife lived in luxury accommodations upstairs. Rooms were rented and this once was called the Colorado Hotel.

F.H. Bengley served as Fremont County sheriff from 1873-1877; he was a partner in the Cañon City Building and Loan Association. During the Civil War, he served as a "Pikes Peaker," in the first Colorado Volunteer Infantry.

### **CC-28 The Rex Theatre/My Brother's Place Tavern, 625 Main Street**

This two-story commercial building was built at 625 Main between 1886 and 1890. There are three double-hung sash windows on the second floor, partially outlined by a continuous stone lintel. An ornate, wedge-shaped, neon marquee projects above the entrance which has a center ticket booth flanked by doors. The 1890 Sanborn map showed a grocery store in this space, as did the 1895 map. By 1901 this space was a sample room, used by traveling salesmen to display their wares. By 1908 a dry goods store was located here. The maps show the second floor was originally connected to the adjoining St. Cloud Hotel and contained hotel rooms.

George McCormick, whose family ran a chain of movie theatres in Colorado and New Mexico, transformed this building into the Rex Theatre in the 1930s. The McCormick family was heavily involved in the early movie business here. George's father B.P. purchased the Skyline Theatre at 606 Main in 1925 having entered the movie business in 1916 with the Rialto in nearby Florence. By 1926 he was a charter member of the Motion Picture Theatre Owner's Association. The Rex opened as the third Main Street theatre in Cañon City with a 1935 showing of *Redheads on Parade*, a musical comedy, with tickets selling for twenty-five cents. The Rex flourished for many years before closing in 1957. In 1986 brothers Mike Javernick and Jim Embleton moved My Brother's Place bar, named for a fictitious bar that Mike saw in a beer commercial, from across the street, to the old Rex theatre. They enlisted the help of bar patrons for the price of a mason jar of beer and moved the bar plank by plank. Mike operated the bar successfully for over 25 years before selling to Alan and Dawn Schmittel in 2008.

### CC-29 St. Cloud Hotel, 627-631 Main Street

The St. Cloud Hotel was originally built in Silver Cliff in 1883, but could not make a profit there. Owner J. P. DeWoody and his moving crew were set to dismantle the hotel and move it to Cañon City in February, 1886 until the Custer County Treasurer intervened. After dealing with some unpaid taxes, the move was completed later that spring.

Using the pieces and parts from Silver Cliff, the hotel was rebuilt here, adding a mansard roof. The new hotel boasted an elevator, a bar, a billiard room, call buzzers in every room and hot and cold baths. By 1888, the hotel had electric lighting and an outside telephone connection.

This impressive Second Empire structure has also been called the Hotel Denton, Miller Hotel and Hotel Cañon before returning to St. Cloud Hotel in 1987. Remodeling projects have added bathtubs and flush toilets in each room. The number of rooms in the hotel decreased from 100 rooms when it opened in 1886 to just 35 rooms by 1998.

Many businesses have been housed in the building's commercial spaces. Some of these include the Ku Klux Klan in 1925, both Continental and National Trailways Bus Systems, Havens Men's Shop and Ladies Ready to Wear. The superb menu in the hotel's dining room attracted many banquets, including the Cañon City High School prom.



During the height of Cañon City's run as a silent movie production location, the hotel inadvertently became the set for filming when a 1914 fire broke out in the building. The headline of *The Cañon City Record* on June 25, 1914 read "\$10,000 Fire at Hotel Denton Monday Morning." The sub headline was "Guests Escape in Night Clothes – Thrilling Rescues and Brave Deeds of Fire Fighting Staged." The article read like a script for a suspenseful comedy. The film crews had quickly staged rescues of "fainting maidens" while smoke poured from the structure.

Actors who stayed there through the years include Tom Mix, Jack Donahoo, Scott Brady, Burt Lancaster, Slim Pickins, and Charles Bronson.

Although vacant for a number of years work is underway to revive the St. Cloud so it can continue as a vital part of downtown for decades to come.

### CC-30 Standard Oil Station, 701 Main Street



This building was built around 1930 to replace a smaller gas station constructed on the site in 1923. While Vickers Petroleum owned and operated the earlier gas station, the new one belonged to Standard Oil Company.

With the Spanish clay tiled visors at the roofline, the building looked more like a Spanish Colonial Revival house than a gas station. In 1931, Howard Mann became the manager of the two-bay service station. The Standard Oil Dealers magazine *The Merchandiser* featured Howard Mann and his service station in 1953. The article stated that the station is "directly across the street from Cañon City's best hotel (then the Hotel Cañon now the St. Cloud), and next door to one of the town's best eating places (Biddy's Drive In)." Mann's sons ran the business after his death, retiring in 1986. From 1987 until 1991 the Meat Shop operated here.

### **CC-31 I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows), 710 - 712 Main Street**

Cañon City Lodge No. 7, I.O.O.F., was one of the earliest Odd Fellows chapters in Colorado. In 1914, architect Jacob B. Gile was hired to design a new lodge using Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements/



Commercial Style to produce a structure worthy of housing the Odd Fellows and their auxiliary, Harmony Rebekah Lodge No. 98. Both Lodges moved into the second floor in 1915 and remain there today.

One of the most notable businesses on the first floor was the Thomas Hardware Company. Young brothers Ray and Mike Thomas operated for 21 years in the I.O.O.F. building. Fremont County had 8,000 coal miners in the early years and many bought carbide for their miners' lamps at Thomas Hardware. Coal stoves were also big sellers. Thomas Hardware outgrew the building in 1937 and moved on.

### **CC-32 Acme Block, 722-724 Main Street**

In 1904, the Harding Brothers had C.C. Rittenhouse design the Acme Block for an estimated \$12,000 construction cost.

It was a 19th Century commercial structure with the front of the building done in cut red sandstone from the Harding Quarries west of Cañon City. The rest of the building is brick. Iron pillars were made by Hassell Iron Works of Colorado Springs. The second level had 3 suites of 5 rooms and one of 4 rooms. The rooms were "elegantly furnished and contain every modern convenience of sanitation and comfort."

Lebbeus L. Harding Jr. and Theodore Marsh Harding were brothers who came to Cañon City in the 1870's and opened a hardware store on Main Street. Leb Harding was a real estate developer. T.M. also owned the quarries.

The building has housed offices and businesses of doctors, dentists, photographers, land developers, insurance agencies, furniture suppliers, auto supplies, recreation and bicycles. Some of the more notable include: Dall DeWeese, developer of Lincoln Park, the DeWeese Dye Ditch and the DeWeese Reservoir. Charles Fredrickson was an oil man and the insurance businessman. One oil well produced nothing but hot water. That "well" supplied hot water to the local swimming pool for many years. John Skoglund Sr. came from Sweden. He started a business supplying local gas stations for Texas, Shell and Phillips oil companies.

### **CC-33 Fremont County Courthouse, 1961-1999 Fremont County Administration Building, since 1999, 615 Macon Avenue**

Groundbreaking ceremonies occurred December 30, 1958 and the building was completed in August, 1961 with move-in on September 5, 1961. The property had been the site of the landmark 1880 Washington School until it was acquired by the County in January, 1952. The building was used as the Courthouse until 1999, when a new courts' building was constructed on Justice



Center Road by the Jail. The remodeled courtroom now serves as a meeting room.

Thomas Nixon and Lincoln Jones of the Nixon and Jones Architectural Firm of Denver were project architects. Ross E. Cox was General Contractor; McMartin and Belco, mechanical and electrical; Roy Sturbaum, excavation.

Built at a cost of \$800,000 for the Fremont County Building Authority, who leased the building to the County, it was paid off early on April 24, 1984. The building has a number of distinctive architectural features including:

- Copper eave panels along the roof and eight massive copper panels on the south-facing building's front
- Ten foot high hand carved wooden doors
- Quarried limestone conglomerate exterior panels and
- Polished limestone conglomerate interior panels, both from the Cowan Quarry just west of town
- Walnut and birch wood paneling and trim
- Cantilevered stairs that seem to float above the terrazzo floors as they climb the three-story naturally lighted atrium, complimented by wooden handrails
- A glass walled meeting room that floats above the atrium
- Glass fronted offices that add to the openness of the atrium and use of interior copper panels
- Design elements drawn from the surrounding mountains and enhanced by the openness and natural light of the interior.

The Nixon and Jones Architectural Firm was awarded the 1962 Chase Brass and Copper Architectural Achievement Award. The award cited their use of embossed copper panels bonded to pre-cast concrete panels. The design and huge size of the panels was a first in the industry.

Building caretakers, Nancy and Eddie Starika, occupied an apartment located in the lower level. They raised a family there and tended the needs of the building for 31 years until retiring in 1990.



### **CC-34 Cañon City Public Library, 516 Macon Ave**

The Cañon City Ladies Library Association organized in 1886 to start a public library. They began raising funds and collecting books, and soon opened a reading room with a lending library of 200 donated books on Main Street.

By 1901 the library had grown to 4,000 books and more space was needed. The ladies wrote to Andrew Carnegie, the Pittsburgh steel millionaire who was helping to establish libraries around the nation.

Carnegie agreed to help, and the cornerstone was laid on Macon in 1902. Architect Charles C. Rittenhouse, contractor U.S. Okey, and stonemason Fred Kober built the structure in the Classical/Revival style. They used reddish and buff colored sandstone from the local Harding Quarry. The flooring was ceramic tile and the library furnishings and furniture were oak. The Ladies Library Association turned the library over to the City of Cañon City when it was completed.

By 2005, the library was crowded and needed repair to both the original Carnegie and a 12,000 foot addition built in 1982. An extensive 2014 renovation project included restoring the reading room to its original appearance, opening a 1902 time capsule in December and placing a new time capsule in the cornerstone in February, 2015.

### **CC-35 Maupin Building/Post Office Block, 113-123 N. 5th Street**

Joseph Hickam Maupin hired architect George W. Roe from Pueblo to design this two-story building with a flat asphalt roof and overhanging cornice with modillions and molding. The first story has metal lintel decorated with rosettes; east façade has nine windows on the upper story; west wall has multiple rooftop chimneys with stone caps. An angled corner has “Maupin” inscribed at frieze level and a stepped parapet inscribed with “Post Office Block.”

Maupin built the southern portion of the brick and stone commercial building in 1903. A prominent, well-respected trial lawyer, he was active in the Democratic Party. Maupin served as Mayor of Cañon City in 1888 and 1889 and was Colorado’s Attorney General from 1890-1892. He and his wife, the former Lily McClure, had no children.

Constructed on the site of the old Episcopal Church, the building had three stores on the ground floor and five suites of four rooms each on the second floor. It had electricity, gas and was heated with hot water. Called “The Clipper Block” because the Clipper Printing Company was located there, the first story also held a tailor shop and the power company.

In 1906 construction began of a northern extension along Fifth Street to the corner of Macon, then west on Macon with the main entrance at the corner of 5th and Macon. The Post Office moved into its new quarters in 1907 and remained there until 1931. The upstairs rooms were known as the “Post Office Apartments.”

In 1997 Bill and Becky Lowe spent an estimated \$100,000 remodeling the Maupin Building. They found that the building had been constructed with four layers of brick so it was very quiet inside. In honor of General Maupin, the Lowes placed a plaque at the entrance to the second-floor apartments with his picture and a brief history of his accomplishments.

### **CC-36 Cañon City Municipal Building, 1927-2004 Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center, 612 Royal Gorge Boulevard**

The two-story Cañon City Municipal Building was constructed in 1927 with a terra cotta portico entry supported by four reeded piers in the early 20th Century Moderne Style. Tapestry brick by Jewett Firebrick Company, foundation and wall construction of Kerr Quarry stone and concrete made it as fireproof as possible. Designed by Denver Architect Eugene Groves, the original cost was \$60,000; while the 2004 renovation to accommodate the Museum and History Center amounted to \$1.2 million.



As part of the original proposal, Dall DeWeese (nationally known hunter, world traveler and land developer) pushed to have a museum on the top floor to display his collection of game trophies. After approval, the City paid DeWeese \$150.00 a month to supervise the construction and the landscaping around the property. The fireplace in the DeWeese Gallery was constructed from petrified bones of animals from 40-50 million years ago.

The top floor also houses the Amick Gallery. Western artist Robert W. Amick was born on a ranch near Cañon City in 1879. He went to Yale Law School, then art school in New York. He painted the Priceless Mural on the entire North Wall and has other work exhibited. Amick died in 1969.

Until 2004, the building was the City Hall, Council Chambers, Police Department, Municipal Court and Jail as well as the Chamber of Commerce office. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

The Museum displays area history including Dinosaur fossils from nearby Garden Park under an agreement with BLM. The History Center provides access to historical documents and other items of local historical interest.