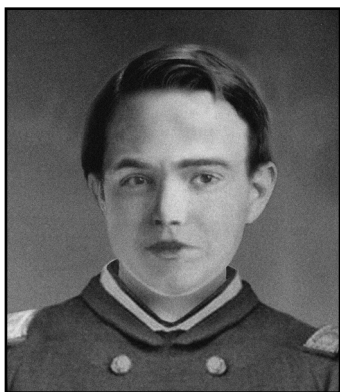


SELF-GUIDED TOURS
HISTORIC
CASPER, WYOMING



Photo by: Chuck Morrison Collection, Casper College Western History Center

PRODUCED BY
CASPER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE,
THE CITY OF CASPER, THE WYOMING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
AND THE CASPER AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU



Picture credit: Michael W. Streed

LT. CASPAR COLLINS



Named after Lt. Caspar Collins, due to a clerical error misspelling of Casper that has stuck ever since. It was originally comprised of twelve blocks and eight streets laid in a grid extending North from the Wyoming Central Railroad tracks (located just South of what is now Midwest Ave.) and bounded by a prominent bend in the North Platte River and David Streets to the West, Durbin Street to the East, and Fourth Street (Now East "A" Street) to the North.



INTRODUCTION



The Casper area has been a natural travel corridor for more than 10,000 years. Strategically located along the Rocky Mountains and the North Platte River the area was used by native Americans, trappers, explorers and pioneers headed West.

On June 8, 1888, John Merritt and C.W. Eads established the town of Casper at the intersection of McKinley and A Streets. Men, women and children, hearing of the railroad's extension to Casper, soon joined Merritt and Eads. Temporary structures of plain, rough boards or tents housed about a dozen businesses. Flooring in the tents and most of the buildings was earth with the sagebrush and cactus cleared off. The residents of Casper, about 100, celebrated when the first passenger train arrived June 15, 1888. Casper was incorporated on May 6, 1889, fourteen months before Wyoming became a State.

Many of the buildings you see today were built in the early 1900's and the 1920's. During the 1920 oil boom, new buildings were constructed and additional floors were added to existing buildings. Nearly every storefront had clerestory windows (high windows near the top of the first floor ceiling) designed to provide light to the front of the store. Concern about heat loss caused most of them to be removed or covered in later years. The elegance of many buildings comes in the corbeling of the brick, patterns made by projecting some bricks from the flat wall surface. Others are enhanced by carvings of classical Greek or Roman details. The cornice, the topmost band around the building, may be ornately patterned or sculptured.

For your convenience, this brochure is divided into three tours: a walking tour of downtown Casper, a tour of the South Wolcott Historic District and a tour of historic buildings, markers and monuments.

If you have questions or would like further information, contact the City of Casper, Community Development Department, 200 North David Street, Casper, Wyoming, phone 307-235-8241.

Third Edition, 2022

WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN CASPER

Approximate walking time: Two Hours

Begin your tour on Center Street at the City Parking Garage. We suggest that you view these buildings from both sides of the street. A map at the center of this book will help you locate these buildings.

1. **241 SOUTH CENTER**

The building you see today was constructed in 1921 by the Tripeny brothers, John and William, as a drug store and a jewelry store. The second story was added to accommodate the increased demand for office space. The soda fountain was a popular attraction for servicemen stationed at the air base during World War II.

The building was remodeled several times. During the last remodeling the tile of the original floor and entrance was exposed. The railing by the windows is the hand rail from the balcony of the 1921 building. The front windows, including the clerestory windows, are original.



Photo by: DeLuxe Studios (Tom Carrigen). Tripeny Collection, Casper College Western History Center

2. **245 SOUTH CENTER**

This building was constructed between 1898 and 1912. One occupant, Kistler's Tent & Awning, made sheepwagon covers, sheepherder's tents, and other specialties. The sewing machines were set on the floor upstairs where canvas could be spread to make the big sheepwagon covers. A huge painted sign advertising Kistler's products can still be seen on the south side of the building when observed from Midwest Avenue.

Cross Center Street, turn right (north)

From the time Casper was founded until the mid-twentieth century the west side of this block was the only area of town where liquor was sold. Consequently, ladies never walked the length of this block. In 1891, Town Marshal William Hodge shot and killed a cowboy who insulted the wife of J.B. Okie, a prominent rancher. The Okies were unaware that "social custom" prohibited ladies from frequenting the area. The cowboy, who had imbibed far too much liquor, roared out of the local saloon swearing in front of Mrs. Okie, who was offended.

Marshall Hodge ordered the cowboy to stop, but his command went unheeded. The marshal fired warning shots into the air and the ground. A bullet ricocheted off a stone, lodging in the heart of the unlucky cowboy who, having mounted his horse, fell dead to the ground.

3. 256 SOUTH CENTER §

Two frame buildings were joined in 1918 to make Middleton's Pool Hall. Except during Prohibition, liquor sales and billiards have been the main business at this site. In 1941, the building's best-known occupant, the Wonder Bar, began business here. The tavern's motto, "A stranger is a friend we haven't met," described the atmosphere of this lively place frequented by many famous people: Ernest Hemingway, Dizzy Dean, Ty Cobb, Rex Allen, and Ken Curtis (Festus, of Gunsmoke).

In 1954, baseball star Dizzy Dean stopped at the world-famous Wonder Bar while on a Wyoming hunting trip. News quickly spread through town that the famed St. Louis Cardinal pitcher was seated at the bar. Children gathered at the bar entrance, eager to catch a glimpse of their hero. Upon hearing about these young fans, Dean gave a waitress \$20 and asked her to go and purchase as many baseballs as possible. In 1954, baseballs could be bought for only a few cents each. He autographed the balls, and handed them out to the adoring crowd.

4. 246 SOUTH CENTER §

Constructed in 1913, this building was originally four buildings. Renovations in 1929 and 1980 have eradicated evidence of this. Note the six small attic windows included in the frieze of the building.

5. 240 SOUTH CENTER §

The original brick building was constructed in 1907. The beautiful blue, yellow and white tiles on the front of the building were salvaged from a dismantled theater in Colorado and added in 1924.

After purchasing the building in 1950, Ivor and Elizabeth Bowen discovered a room under the original sidewalks that held evidence of bootlegging activities carried out during Prohibition--gallon jugs, corks, etc. That area was filled and sealed off when the 1974 street and sewer improvements were made.

6. 200 SOUTH CENTER



Frances Seely Webb, Casper College Western History Center

The Grand Central Hotel stood on this corner and was the heart of downtown Casper for many years. Built in 1894, the hotel had a huge balcony where people would gather to socialize, conduct business, listen to the band that played across the street or watch the movements of the townsfolk, freighters and cowboys.

At the announcement of a successful new oil well, crowds would gather on Second Street buying and selling stocks. Holding large amounts of cash in their hands, waving them aloft, they called bids for a favorite stock. The street often became impassable to traffic because of the crowds trading and watching the market. The site is now the Petroleum Building.



Turn left at the corner, proceed West

7. 125 WEST 2ND STREET

This building was constructed in 1899. In the late 1930's the Knights of Columbus held meetings upstairs. Remnants of their history were discovered during a 1982 renovation, including a 1910 Liberty Head coin and several ribboned medals which were found in the floor boards.



Casper Area Chamber of Commerce Collection,
Casper College Western History Center

8. 129 WEST 2ND STREET

This business operates in two buildings. The easternmost building was built before 1912 and has housed a grocery store, harness shop, office and restaurant. The west building was constructed in 1915 for the Trail Bar, a gathering place for ranch hands and shearers. A safe dated 1855 and a mirror from the Trail Bar are in the restaurant.

9. 139 WEST 2ND STREET ⌘

Originally this was the site of the J.T. McGrath Blacksmith Shop which made a popular style of sheepwagon used throughout the West. An



example can be seen at the Fort Caspar Museum. The present building was constructed in 1917 to house Shockley's Car Garage. An elevator carried cars to the body shop on the third floor. In 1976, the building was remodeled for business offices.

Turn left on David Street and proceed South

10. 323 SOUTH DAVID STREET ⌘

Built between 1912 and 1918, this building was home to Dave Davidson, one of the biggest bootleggers in the country. He was legendary for being a sly bootlegger. One story says that to keep the revenuers from finding his still, he herded sheep behind his truck so they would eat any corn that fell. While they were eating the evidence, the sheep hooves would erase the tire tracks leading to the still.

11. 331-335 DAVID STREET ⌘

The Marshall Apartment building was constructed in 1923 as housing for downtown workers. Constructed of steel, concrete and brick, it was one of the first fireproof buildings in town.



Natrona County Pioneer Association Collection,
Casper College Western History Center

Cross David Street and turn right (North)

12. 302 SOUTH DAVID STREET. ⌘



Photo by Bell, Courtesy of Martha Horn,
Casper College Western History Center

This Late Gothic Revival building was constructed in 1921 to house the Casper Fire Station and Municipal Garage. It is made of concrete and brick with terra cotta

ornamentation. The frieze above the arches spells out "Casper Fire Department Station 1" and the terra cotta shield with the construction date is at the center of the parapet on the facade. Casper invested \$85,000 in new fire fighting equipment and construction of this fire station. The City was changing from a small town with a volunteer fire department to a booming population center with a paid fire protection staff. The building was renovated into office space in 2004.

The Casper Fire Station I was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in November 1993.

Head East on 2nd Street, back to downtown

13. **130-120 WEST 2ND STREET** }

In the early 1900's this site was the Grand Central Stables. The stables disappeared by 1924 when the present building was constructed by Fred Cottman, a local businessman and rancher.



The facade frame is imported Italian marble inlaid with glazed concrete flowers. The canopy on the front of the building is wood covered with copper that has developed a dark patina though the years. Inside, the high ceilings and balconies are still in existence.

Listed on the National Register in 2015, the older part of the building has undergone some changes, but the newer part, at 136 S. Wolcott, was listed on the National Register in 2009. The lead architect was Leon Goodrich.

14. **110 WEST 2ND STREET, 166, 152**

AND 156 SOUTH CENTER }

In 1888 the first business lot to be sold in Casper was the northwest corner of 2nd and Center Streets where the C. H. Townsend business block is located. Groceries, grain and stock feed were sold at the original small frame building. The employees of the store slept in the building, and for the first few years their beds were surrounded with sacks of grain to protect them from bullets that were often carelessly fired by cowboys who had come in from the range to celebrate.



Photo by Wiswall, Frances Seely Webb Collection, Casper College Western History Center

In 1903 a new building of brick masonry was completed and served as the Stockmen's National Bank and a dry goods store. In 1934 the building was expanded and covered with a limestone veneer reflecting the architectural style of the day. As a part of the project, the bank lobby was redecorated with ornate plaster castings of the same architectural style as the exterior.

A fire in 1985 almost destroyed the entire building. During reconstruction, the plaster castings were removed and installed in the building lobbies to preserve the feel of the old building. The Stockmen's National Bank name is still visible over the corner door at 2nd and Center.

Turn left at the corner and proceed North on Center Street

15. 136-134 SOUTH CENTER §



Photo by Wiswall. Frances Seely Webb Collection, Casper College Western History Center

Constructed in 1890, this building was the first brick building in Casper and the first Town Hall. The cupola, a small dome on the roof, held a bell that rang fire alarms in the early days and gave the name to the Bell Movie Theater that occupied the building beginning in 1908. That bell is now in the Fort Caspar Museum.

Cross First Street and proceed West

16. 120 W. FIRST STREET §

This building is called the Century Building because of its location in the 100 block of three streets--Market, Center and First Streets. It was built in 1909 on the edge of town known as the Sandbar. Before the North Platte River was dammed, it would swell to the steps of the building and men and boys would fish off the porch.

Return to Center Street and continue North

17. 200 NORTH CENTER §

This handsome building is the third courthouse built in Casper. A project of the Public Works Administration organized under Franklin D. Roosevelt, the building was completed in 1940. It is constructed of carved limestone and includes a frieze representing the heritage of Casper. The bronze statue from the second courthouse and many historic photographs of Casper are on display in the lobby.



Casper Journal Collection, Casper College Western History Center

Cross Center Street

18. PIONEER PLAZA §

The Pioneer monument was erected in 1911 to commemorate the pioneers who traversed the Oregon Trail. It was originally placed at the Chicago Northwestern Railroad depot. The monument was moved to its present location in 1952 when Pioneer Plaza was constructed.

Proceed South on Center Street

19. 115-117 N. CENTER

Built in 1923, the Townsend Hotel is the only remaining “Grand Hotel” in Casper. The beautiful cornice, the carved columns beside the entrance and the panel of highly stylized flowers and urns are characteristics of the grand hotels of the “Roaring 20’s.”

The Townsend Hotel has been converted into a new courthouse and justice center.



Frances Seely Webb Collection, Casper College Western History Center

The Townsend Hotel was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in November, 1983.

20. 105 N. CENTER

The Masonic Temple was built in 1914. Masonic symbols are engraved in the arched door and the words “Masonic Temple” are inscribed upon the cornice. In 1916, a famous daredevil tightrope walker walked between the roof of the temple to a building across the street.



Frances Seely Webb Collection, Casper College Western History Center

The Masonic Temple was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in August, 2005.

21. 119 S. CENTER

The America Theatre was built in 1918. Originally the America featured live stage shows and was the first theatre in Casper to show motion pictures.

The Building on the corner was burned and demolished and is now the First Interstate Plaza.



Casper Area Chamber of Commerce, Casper College Western History Center

22. 133 S. CENTER

The original building was home to the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) between 1901 and 1918.



Known for opening the first library in Casper in 1902, the WCTU also poured all the liquor found in town into the Platte River during Prohibition.

The present building was constructed around 1920 and housed the second Harry Yesness Store. Harry Yesness was a vaudeville entertainer

who came to Casper to perform for the Elks Club. When he found out how expensive it was to have his suit pressed, he sold his possessions, bought the suit pressing business and stayed in Casper. Yesness was known as the "man in the barrel." During an Elks' Club initiation, Yesness had to walk down the street wearing nothing but a barrel. For years a water fountain shaped like a man in a barrel sat in front of the store. The water fountain is currently on display at Fort Caspar Museum.

23. 137-141 S. CENTER

This five-story ornate building, constructed in 1917, is one of the few commercial downtown buildings to maintain its architectural integrity. The scalloped top trim and terra cotta tiles keep the neoclassical design intact. During Casper's oil boom this site was the hub of activities for visiting oil dignitaries.



Casper Area Chamber of Commerce, Casper College Western History Center

In November, 1993 the Consolidated Royalty Building was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

24. 143-147 S. CENTER

Smaller and less ornate than other downtown commercial buildings, the Campbell Building was constructed in 1914.

25. 102 EAST 2ND STREET

Built in 1921, the Rialto Theatre's elegant interior made it the preeminent theatre for first run films. Admission for adults was 40 cents and a dime for children. In 1928, the Rialto Theatre was the first Casper theatre to feature a Vitaphone sound system which signaled the end to the silent film. This building has decorative cornices with consoles holding concrete wreaths.

The Rialto Theatre was added to the National Register of Historic Places in February, 1993.

Turn left and proceed East on 2nd Street



Casper Area Chamber of Commerce, Casper College Western History Center

26. 124-128 EAST 2ND STREET

This building was constructed in 1912 and housed a dry goods and clothing store and later a movie theatre. In 1919, Claude Ayres drove through Casper on his way to Republic, Washington. Quoting from his journal:

“arrived Casper... much building... six houses in one block...walked around town, wonderful town... one and a half million payroll...ALIVE... found chance for jewelry with fine drug store. ”

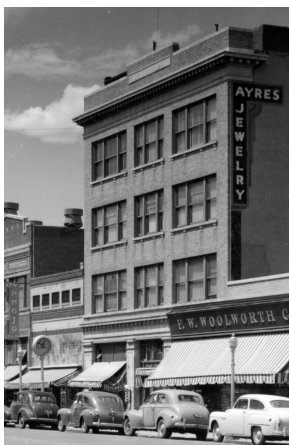


Photo by Carrigen, Art Randall Collection, Casper College Western History Center

Mr. Ayres was so impressed by Casper that he soon returned and settled here. The Ayres' clock on the sidewalk is a downtown landmark.

27. 136 S. WOLCOTT STREET

Current Odd Fellows building. Listed - 2009.

28. 134-136 EAST 2ND STREET



Frances Seely Webb Collection,
Casper College Western History Center

The Odd Fellow Building, constructed in 1896 at a cost of \$10,000, is the oldest commercial structure in downtown. This building was the social center of Casper and served as a meeting

place for all clubs and organizations for many years.

Electric lighting was installed in 1900 and the emblem for the Odd Fellows, three intertwined rings, was added to the cornice of the building in 1918.

In 1902, Sheriff W. C. Ricker, Noble Grand of Casper Odd Fellow Lodge No. 22, was murdered in the line of duty. His killer, Charles Woodard, was taken from his jail cell forty minutes after midnight and hanged by a vigilante committee from the gallows erected for his legal hanging.

Cross Wolcott Street and turn left, proceed North

29. MORAD BUILDING PLAQUE

A plaque on the gate of the Kerr Federal Building is a reminder of the building that was formerly here that, for 68 years, housed the office of Dr. Neele Morad, an early and influential Casper physician. The plaque describes and pictures Dr. Morad and the building. Morad Park, west of Casper along the North Platte River, honors Dr. Morad.

30. 111 SOUTH WOLCOTT

The Ewing T. Kerr Federal Building and United States Court House is a Classical Revival style office building with a hip roof clad with slate tiles. The building is trimmed with Wyoming sandstone from a quarry in Rawlins. One of Casper's few major construction projects in the early 1930's, this building provided much needed employment to local workers during the early years of the Great Depression. Excavation was completed with mule teams and scrapers. Wheeled pushcarts were used to transport and pour concrete within the building and manual hoists moved materials to the upper floors. Throughout its lifetime, this solid structure housed the Post Office and various government offices.



Ruth Scott Hocker Collection,
Casper College Western History Center

The Ewing T. Kerr Federal Building and United States Courthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in December 1998.

31. 159 NORTH WOLCOTT STREET

The North half of the building was designed and constructed in 1948-49 to house the Casper regional office for the Ohio Oil Company. In 1955-56 the almost identical T-shaped South half of the building was added,



Photo by Ken, Casper Area Chamber of Commerce Collection, Casper College Western History Center

completing the basic U-shape of the building. The open area of the U-shape provides natural light to the interior offices. Its most distinctive feature is its regularly spaced rows of brick pilasters that is characteristic of the Art Deco architectural style.

The Ohio Oil Company Building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 2001.

Walk South back to 2nd Street and turn left (East)

32. 234 EAST 1ST STREET

The Wyoming National Bank moved into its new building at 141 N. Wolcott in 1964, its 50th anniversary. The unusual building was designed by Denver architect Charles Deaton, renowned for his modern designs. The tower was designed by Casper architect Harold Stromberg and added in 1968. Originally, it displayed the time and temperature on an electronic sign. The building is being authentically restored by Dr. Joseph McGinley for his medical clinic and, hopefully, will soon be eligible for a National Register nomination.

33. 302 EAST 2ND STREET



Frances Seely Webb Collection, Casper College Western History Center

The Methodist Church has occupied this site since 1893 when the First Methodist Episcopal Church was housed in a frame building. A long, narrow, white clapboard structure shared this pasture with an encampment of Indians. As the town grew, the congregation flourished and in 1907 a second building was constructed. The present building was constructed in 1950.

34. 232 EAST 2ND STREET

Originally constructed as two buildings, the Smith Building and the Becklinger Building, were joined in 1977.



Chuck Morrison Collection, Casper College Western History Center

The smaller Smith Building to the east was once occupied by the Natrona Butter Company. Milk wagons brought milk daily from the surrounding area. Many Casper residents can remember the large milk cooler in the alley behind the store. This building was constructed of locally made bricks with walls that are 18" thick and can be viewed from inside the building. The original floor is still in the building.

The cornerstone for the Becklinger Building was laid in 1922. Carved columns and urns embellish the face of this building.

35. 229 EAST 2ND STREET

This building was constructed in 1917 to house the Mountain States Telephone Company. In 1917 the telephone company had 634 customers, six years later there were 4,606 subscribers.



David Collection,
Casper College Western History Center

36. 216 EAST 2ND STREET

The Tribune Building was constructed in 1920 by J.E. Hanway to house the Casper Tribune Herald. You can see the words "Hanway" and "Tribune" carved into the building. The building is an Italianate Commercial style popular during that era. Elements of the Italianate Style include an ornate protruding cornice supported by scrolled brackets and other connected geometric designs.

Before television and radio, the area in front of the Tribune Building was roped off and residents would "watch" the World Series. Commentary from the Associated Press was read and a magnetic board showed play-by-play action for baseball fans.

The Tribune Building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in February 1993.

37. 202 EAST 2ND STREET }

The Wyoming Building, constructed in 1920, was the first large downtown office building. It was renovated into apartments in 2007.



Photo by Bell, Blackmore Collection, Casper College Western History Center

38. 137 EAST 2ND STREET }

This building was constructed between 1914 and 1917. Originally featuring sky lights, mosaic tile floor covering



and beautiful solid-oak doors and trim, it has been renovated significantly over the years.

39. 125 EAST 2ND STREET }

The first business in this 1910 building was an Undertaker's Parlor and furniture store. It was not uncommon for the two enterprises to be located in the same building because caskets were considered a regular item of furniture. While the exterior is somewhat altered, the quality of the original workmanship is clearly evident in this four-story building.

40. 119-117 EAST 2ND STREET

This building was constructed before 1912 and was renovated in 1955 after a fire destroyed the building to the west. During the cleanup, vibration from the jackhammers and bulldozers caused some of the brick face of this building and a wall in the basement to collapse. The plain brick face popular at that time replaced the ornate brickwork of the original facade. Designs which were in the original brick facade are repeated in the interior and can still be seen in wooden panels and the ceilings of the showcase windows.

SOUTH WOLCOTT

HISTORICAL DISTRICT

The South Wolcott Historic District encompasses one of the oldest residential neighborhoods in Casper. Its earliest house dates to 1905, however, the majority were built between 1910 and 1924.

The area indicated on the map below extends from the 900-1200 blocks of South Center to the same area of South Wolcott, South Durbin and South Beech Streets. There are also contributing residences from Kimball to East Tenth through East Thirteenth Streets.

Four main architectural styles commonly used in the early 1900's are: Colonial Revival, Tudor, American Foursquare/Prairie and the Craftsman/Bungalow. Each of these styles has distinctive features with a variety of optional ornamentation depending on the builder's desires. A description of each style's features and an example of the style follows. Exploring the South Wolcott Historic District is encouraged; however, please respect the privacy of its residents.

SOUTH WOLCOTT HISTORICAL DISTRICT MAP

- The shaded area on the map indicates the entire area of the historic district.
- Buildings shown in black represent those that contribute to the historic district.
- Other buildings within the historic district are considered “non-contributing,” meaning they:
 1. They were built outside the period of historic significance (1905-1938)
 2. They do not represent the architectural style indicative of the overall district.





COLONIAL REVIVAL



This style of building became popular in the late nineteenth century. The basic structural characteristics include:

- An accentuated front door with a decorative crown supported by pilasters, or which may be extended forward to form an entry porch.
- Symmetrical balance of windows on facade with a centered door.
- Windows frequently in adjacent pairs, usually double hung sashes with multi-paned glass.

Six of Casper's most prominent citizens chose Colonial Revival when building their elegant mansions located in this area of town.

1110 SOUTH CENTER STREET



This Colonial Revival styled home was built in 1910 for



Casper Journal Collection, Casper College Western History Center

A. J. Cunningham. Cunningham was an early pioneer of Casper who opened a general mercantile in 1889 and later founded and served as president of

Casper National Bank, now a part of First Interstate Bank.

This estate occupies three large lots. The mansion is two and a half stories high and is composed of red bricks. Its carriage house is stylized in the same manner as the residence. The brick work in the main sidewalk has a purplish hue and is inlaid with decorative carvings.

1108 SOUTH WOLCOTT STREET



Welker F. Henning was Casper's first millionaire. Originally from Louisville, Kentucky and a plumber by trade, Henning came to Casper in 1909 via Denver where he installed sewers. He made his fortune by bringing in the first mechanical trencher to Casper when the paving of the streets made the construction of storm sewers necessary. The work was bid at the rate for hand and horse drawn construction and Henning's application of the new technology brought him the rewards taking such a risk deserved.

Around 1919-1920 he contracted for this large Colonial type home to be built. The interior featured materials from French and Italian castles.

1125 SOUTH WOLCOTT STREET } _____

This two-story, hip roofed red brick house was built for John Tripeny. Stories about John Tripeny and Welker Henning tell of their competitive nature with one another. Always trying to “one up” the other, one competition centered on who owned the largest diamond ring. Henning finally won after purchasing a five-carat diamond. However, at Henning’s estate auction Tripeny outbid everyone and gained possession of the diamond ring.

1134 SOUTH WOLCOTT STREET } _____

This lovely home was built in 1922 for Peter Nicolaysen and features attributes found in Colonial Revival architecture. Peter Nicolaysen and his wife were among the first to meet and marry in the newly formed community of Casper. Mr. Nicolaysen was the owner of Wyoming Lumber Co. and a rancher. He served as mayor, councilman, and county commissioner. Mrs. Nicolaysen was one of the first school teachers in Casper.

1208 SOUTH WOLCOTT STREET } _____

Bryant Butler Brooks was a rancher who pursued oil interests and served as governor of Wyoming from 1905 until 1911. This large twelve-room house was built in 1923. Like many prominent businessmen in Casper, Brooks lived on his ranch and also kept a home in town so his children could attend school.



Frances Seely Webb Collection,
Casper College Western History Center

109 EAST 10TH STREET } _____

One of Casper’s oldest and largest mansions, this three-story, 7,500 square foot home was built in 1909 for the well-known sheep rancher and businessman, Patrick Sullivan. Sullivan served as a Wyoming Senator from 1900 until 1918 and as a United States Senator in 1929. Joseph Carey, owner of the CY ranch, gave Sullivan the three lots this estate sits on. Carey’s only stipulation was that Sullivan build an outstanding home to attract other home owners.



Natrona County Pioneer Association Collection,
Casper College Western History Center



TUDOR REVIVAL



The Tudor Revival style of architecture became popular in the 1920's and 1930's. Its attributes include the following with some variations:

- A steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled
- A facade dominated by cross gables
- Decorative half timbering
- Tall, narrow windows
- Massive chimneys crowned by decorative chimney pots

There are eight examples of this style in the South Wolcott District. Two outstanding examples are:

1105 SOUTH DURBIN STREET



This house is distinctive because of its wrap around wood shingles which are reminiscent of thatched roof cottages in England.

1212 SOUTH CENTER STREET



Built in 1917 for a petroleum engineer, this house was designed to resemble the "House of Seven Gables" from the book of the same name by Nathaniel Hawthorne.



AMERICAN FOURSQUARE/ PRAIRIE STYLE



Between 1900 and 1920 an indigenous American architectural style was formed. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright was an innovator of this trend which was popularized in pattern books. Its distinguishing characteristics include:

- A low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves
- Usually two-stories, with one-story wings or porches
- The eaves, cornices and facade details emphasize horizontal lines
- Massive square porch supports

There are approximately 11 homes in the South Wolcott District of this style. Two examples are: 1008 S.Wolcott and 1041 S.Wolcott.



CRAFTSMAN/ BUNGALOW



The fourth predominant architectural style of this area is the Craftsman/Bungalow trend popular between 1905 and 1930. These solid structures featured:

- Low-pitched, gabled roofs with wide unenclosed eave overhangs
- Roof rafters usually exposed
- Decorative beams or braces under gables
- Porches either full or partially supported by tapered square columns.

There are 45 contributing homes that are part of this architectural genre. An example would be 1231 S.Wolcott.



GOTHIC REVIVAL



St. Mark's Episcopal Church, located on the southeast corner of 7th and Wolcott, is a non-residential example of Gothic Revival work. Its most outstanding feature is the large stained glass arch window accented with recessed stone. The building is embellished with decorative stonework such as the stone capping on the gables and around the doors and windows.

TOUR OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS MARKERS AND MONUMENTS

A. 1002 EAST "L" STREET

A unique "rammed earth" construction, the North Casper Clubhouse was built in 1938-1939 by the National Youth Administration as a community center. Rammed earth structures are formed by laying a concrete foundation then compressing earth to form walls. Once the frame of the building is together, the compacted earth is covered with stucco.

The North Casper Clubhouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in February 1994.

B. 818 EAST 2ND STREET

The Marvin L. Bishop home is the first multi-story brick home constructed in Casper. It was designed after Mr. Bishop's childhood home in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. Constructed in 1907, design elements include a widow's walk,



Frank Schulte, Casper College Western History Center

a full-width exposed porch with Doric columns, and a central hallway that continues from the entrance of the house to the back porch. Mr. Bishop was appointed Postmaster for Casper in 1892. Upon resignation, he entered into sheep ranching and became a prominent sheep rancher in the community. He founded the Natrona County Woolgrowers Association and was instrumental in establishing a series of stock drives and rest stations for livestock in Natrona County.

The Bishop Home was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 2001.

C. 360 NORTH WOLCOTT STREET

The Burlington Railroad arrived in Casper on October 20, 1913. Its arrival was unusual, as it came from the west, not the east. The Burlington-Northern Railroad Depot was built in 1916. During World War I a trainload of gasoline was shipped every hour for the war effort.



Ruth Scott Hocker Collection,
Casper College Western History Center

D. 421 SOUTH CENTER STREET

The Title Guaranty Building sits on the site of Casper's first oil refinery.

E. 624 SOUTH CENTER

Saint Anthony's, the first Catholic Church in Casper, was located at the southeast corner of 1st and Center Streets in 1898. The present structure was dedicated in 1920.



Photo by Tom Carrigen (DeLuse Studio)
Frances Seely Webb Collection,
Casper College Western History Center

A priest of St. Anthony's Church, Father John Mullin, came to Casper in 1915. During a Ku Klux Klan (KKK) activity in town, Father Mullin became agitated at the gathering near his parish and told the KKK to carry on its business away from

his church. Not long afterwards, Mullin, with the help of others obtained a list of Casper businessmen who dealt with the KKK. By boycotting and shunning these men, Casper was successfully rid of the KKK.

St. Anthony's Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in January, 1997.

F. 108 EAST 7TH

In 1921, during a boom in the oil economy, the Elks enlisted the architectural firm of Garbutt and Weidner to design a lodge hall. Its massive, tastefully decorated appearance confirms the expense and attention to detail put into its design. The building was finished in 1936 after the Elks Lodge recovered from the Great Depression.

The Elks Lodge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in January 1997.



Ruth Scott Hocker Collection, Casper College Western History Center

G. 136 EAST 6TH STREET

This red brick Georgian-style building was known as the Casper Women's Clubhouse. The edifice has terra cotta rosettes on each window, terra cotta flower boxes and ornamental moldings. The interior has lovely woodwork and iron railings. Constructed in 1920 by the Midwest Oil Company at a cost of \$65,000, the building served as a hotel/living quarters for its male employees and male guests. Ironically, in 1939 several women's groups combined to purchase the building for \$8,000. The building is presently a private residence.

The Midwest Oil Company/Casper Women's Clubhouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in November 1983.

H. 930 SOUTH ELM STREET



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Casper College Western History Center

Natrona County High School was completed in 1927. Designed in the traditional Gothic Collegiate style, it is three-stories with terra cotta ornamentation. The dramatic entry tower is the focal point of the facade with a two-story bay window and castellated appearance. The main entry has the words "Natrona County High School" inscribed in medieval script. Reminiscent of a European castle, there are turrets, finials and other innumerable embellishments of terra cotta.

Although Natrona County High School became a source of community pride, the citizens of Casper believed it was overly extravagant and did not reflect any of the school board members who had voted for the elaborate project.

Natrona County High School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in January 1994.

I. 815 S. GRANT STREET

Grant Street Grocery and Market has been a family-owned grocery and meat market in the same location since 1918. Over the years, it has kept its family atmosphere, even during times of stressful economic conditions and change of ownership. Each successive owner has maintained a tradition by making this store an essential and integral part of both the immediate neighborhood and the wider community for 88 years. This tradition has made the store the sole surviving neighborhood grocery store (there were sixty of these neighborhood stores in Casper in 1923).

Grant Street Grocery and Market was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

J. 140 EAST "K" STREET

The style of Roosevelt School, a central block with wings, represents an architectural style basic for institutional structures of the time. Roosevelt School was built in 1921 in response to an increase in population and demand for schools.

The North Casper District was for the most part, a district of small homes, meager means and large families. The new school with showers and a kitchenette for the children and a rest room for the teachers became a community center and a first step in revitalization of the community. School personnel and volunteers provided special care for the children's health, made home visits, distributed clothing and had a successful vaccination program.

Roosevelt School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in January 1997.

K. ST. MARKS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AT THE CENTRAL WYOMING FAIRGROUNDS

The little white chapel was once located at the northeast corner of 2nd and Wolcott.

Constructed in 1891, it was Casper's first church. When its patronage outgrew this structure, it was used as a parish home. In 1954 it was moved to the Fairgrounds and was used as a museum for pioneer artifacts until 1990.



Frances Seely Webb Collection,
Casper College Western History Center

L. RESHAW'S (RICHARDS) BRIDGE

Turn off U.S. 20-26 north onto Curtis Street and follow to the river where the town of Evansville maintains the Reshaw Bridge Park. Remnants of the bridge can be found at Fort Caspar.

The site of a wooden toll bridge and an extensive trading post, built by John Richard (Reshaw), was in use from 1852-1865. It serviced emigrant trains and other travelers along the Oregon, Mormon, and California Trails. Three military forts also occupied the site: Fort Clay, Camp Davis and Post at Platte Bridge, informally called Camp Payne. The bridge was dismantled during the winter of 1865-66 for use at Fort Caspar.

M. **MORMON FERRY** §

Turn west off North Beverly Street onto Bryan-Evansville Road. An interpretive sign is located in the North Casper Park complex directly north of the baseball field closest to the river.

The Mormon Ferry was built to assist travelers in crossing the North Platte River. The ferryboat consisted of two 30 foot long cottonwood logs covered with planks to carry wagons. The ferry operated at different locations from 1847 to 1851. No traces of the crossing remain at the park. The original crossing and a replica of the ferry are at Fort Caspar.

N. **CHILD'S ROUTE** §

Turn east off North Poplar Street into Crossroads Park. Follow the road east into a large parking lot where the Platte River Parkway is located. Follow the signs along the parkway, which will direct you to a segment of the Child's Route. A portion of the historic trails was named for Andrew Child who published a guidebook that showed a route of the Oregon Trail on the north side of the North Platte River.

The walk will take at least one hour to complete. Along the parkway are two interpretive signs, an overlook of the North Platte River Valley, an interpretive map of the national historic trails through Casper, and an opportunity to walk a short segment of the Child's Route.

O. **FORT CASPAR** §

The site is located at 4001 Fort Caspar Road immediately south of the North Platte River, adjacent to Wyoming Boulevard SW.

During the year 1859, Louis Guinard built a toll bridge and trading post at the site, later to be known as Fort Caspar. The site also served as a relay station for the Pony Express and the Transcontinental Telegraph. In 1862, Union troops occupied the site and named the post Platte Bridge Station. The name was changed to Fort Caspar in 1865, following the death of Lt. Caspar W. Collins in the Battle of Platte Bridge. The army closed the post in 1867. Today the site contains a reconstruction of the 1865 fort, a museum and an extensive bookstore.

Fort Caspar was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in August, 1971.

P. NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS INTERPRETIVE CENTER }—————

Located at 1501 North Poplar Street on a sand dune bluff overlooking the city and valley of the North Platte River, the Center interprets the story of the emigrants traveling along the Oregon, Mormon, California and Pony Express Trails in the 1800s. The Center also interprets the Native American lifeways of the area as well as the regional Bozeman and Bridger Trails. The Center features life-sized interactive exhibits.

Q. OREGON MORMON CALIFORNIA

PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS }—————

The approximate route of these national historic trails can be followed west of Casper. For further information and directions, please contact the Fort Caspar Museum.

R. CASPER ARMY AIR BASE }—————

The Casper Army Air Base is located approximately eight miles Northwest of Casper via U.S. Route 20-26 at the Natrona County Airport.

The Casper Army Air Base was a major military facility constructed in April, 1942 and covers 2,902 acres. By the end of 1942, personnel numbered 3,327. Approximately 400 buildings were constructed of which 100 are still intact. The Air Base was deactivated in March, 1945. A museum located in the Serviceman's Club, commemorating Veterans from all wars and all branches of service opened in 2002. This building contains an outstanding collection of murals depicting the history of Wyoming that were drawn on the interior walls by enlisted army personnel.

The Casper Army Air Base was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in August, 2001.



Casper Area Chamber of Commerce Collection,
Casper College Western History Center

S. "OLD YELLOWSTONE DISTRICT" §

A large area immediately West of downtown Casper, between David and Poplar Streets and First Street and Collins Avenue, the Old Yellowstone District (OYD) represents what could be described as a "warehouse district." Originally next to the railroad, warehouses and businesses sprang up to serve the agricultural industry. Noland Feed located at 268 Industrial Avenue has been in operation since 1918.

As the automobile gained popularity, the businesses in the OYD catered directly to the needs of the car and the travelers along the original Yellowstone Highway. The Tripeny Motor Company at 355 W. Yellowstone began in the 1930's, selling DeSotos and Cushmans. At 400 West Yellowstone is A-I Used Tire, Originally Wyatt Service Station. George Wyatt began the service station in 1920 after losing his sheep business to the harsh winters of Wyoming. George and his brothers, Henry and A.H. Cheshire, and other family members continued to operate the business until it was sold in 1996, when it became a tire shop.

In 2007-2008, the Old Yellowstone District was the subject of an extensive redevelopment plan with the goal to revitalize the area.



**CASPER HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION
COMMISSION MEMBERS**



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