A historic walk

WHERE TO GO

The Fort Collins Museum of Western History. A 1905 Carnegie library building is the perfect spot to peruse Old West exploration. Constructed of native sandstone, the building served as the Fort Collins Public Library until 1970. Today, the Fort Collins Museum of Western History displays regional cultural and local history exhibits in three galleries. The Beautiful History Countrywide contains a piece, historic sites, the Nathaniel sunrise, the Fort Collins Cemetery, and four historic buildings illustrating Fort Collins' history.

McKeel House & Hospital

321 RENWICK AVE. Former home to the Fort Collins Museum of Western History. This building was constructed in 1895 and served as a hospital during the Spanish-American War. It was later converted into a restaurant and then a museum.

Armstrong Hotel

299 S. COLLEGE AVE. Originally known as the Armstrong Hotel, it was built in 1921 by Robert Armstrong, a local businessman. The hotel's architecture is influenced by the Southwest and features balconies and arched windows.

The Opera House Block

101 S. COLLEGE AVE. Built in 1900, this building housed a variety of businesses, including a restaurant, a bank, and a theater. It is one of the oldest surviving structures in Fort Collins.

Businesses in the Old Town Historic District

Many of the businesses in the Old Town Historic District are housed in turn-of-the-century buildings that have been carefully preserved and restored. These buildings were constructed using locally sourced materials and feature architectural details such as decorative cornices, which contribute to the district's distinctive character.

The Fort Collins Museum of Western History

The Fort Collins Museum of Western History is located in an 1895 Carnegie library building and features exhibits on regional history, culture, and natural history. The museum is open to the public and offers a variety of educational programs and events throughout the year.

Old Millブラック

231 LINDSAY STREET. This iconic structure was built in 1881 and served as a packing house for the Fort Collins Stockyards Company. It is now used as a venue for events and concerts.

Historic Denver Museum

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is located in the historic Denver Museum Building, which was constructed in 1888. The museum features exhibits on natural history, paleontology, and anthropology.

Old Town Square

Old Town Square is a historic district located in downtown Fort Collins. It features a variety of buildings and structures, including the historic Old Town Square Building, which was constructed in 1872. The square is used for events and festivals throughout the year.

Poudre Valley Bank

1300 COLO AVE. Designed by architect Arthur W. Carr, this building was constructed in 1926. It features a distinctive Art Deco design with intricate stonework and arched windows.

Miller Block

210 S. COLLEGE AVE. Housed in the Miller Block, which was built in 1906, this building features a variety of businesses, including a bank and a law firm.

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History Walk

A one-hour tour through Old Town.

Assistant Tour Guide: Christy L. Shangraw, Fort Collins Museum of Western History

Legend has it that in the early 1800s, French-Canadian trappers were caught by a sudden snowstorm. To lighten their load, they buried large amounts of pan powder ("powder" in French) in a hollow tree ("store" in French) along the banks of the Cache la Poudre River, which runs through modern-day Fort Collins. In 1864, Camp Collison was built by the 9th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry to protect travelers and settlers along the Cache la Poudre River. A flood in 1864 sent the high water to higher grounds at approximately 900 feet. Less than three years later, the camp was abandoned.

The Colorado Central Railroad arrived in 1877, and Fort Collins became a thriving agricultural center. Colorado Agricultural & Mechanical College constructed its first building in 1873, followed by Old Main in 1879. Further enriching Fort Collins as an economic and cultural hub.

Thanks to the efforts of local citizens and the city's historic preservation programs, streets can still be traced back to the town's earliest days. The Old Town district was a small area of land in the center of the city, where early pioneers built their homes and businesses. This historic district is now home to a variety of shops, restaurants, and attractions, making it a popular destination for visitors.

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