

Walking the Tours

There are three walking tours within this guide. Each is different in length to suit your interest. All will introduce you to the historic downtown district. For the most avid walkers, tours 2 and 3 provide walks in the Historic Rainsford District, to Wyoming's Capitol Building, and the Historic Governor's Mansion.

TOUR 1 (Basic Tour) - The shortest walk at 0.7 mile (1.1 km) or ten blocks includes the immediate downtown historic district.

TOUR 2 - An intermediate walk at 1.3 miles (2.1 km) or six more blocks than the basic tour. This addition gives a complete tour through the downtown historic district and a look at the homes in the historic Rainsford District.

TOUR 3 - The longest walk at 1.9 miles (3 km) adding 20 blocks to the basic tour. This walk encompasses the downtown historic district, elegant homes in the Rainsford District, and a walk in the Capitol District.

If you choose to drive the tours rather than walk, this booklet has been laid out to coordinate with Cheyenne's one-way streets.

For your convenience, our City parking facility is available for free, all-day parking to those with out-of-state license plates. The multi-level garage is found at 17th Street at Carey Avenue, three blocks from the tours' starting point at the old Union Pacific Depot.

Stop and read the heritage markers, on signs shaped like this , along the route.

All tours start and end at the depot's northwest door.



Cheyenne, Dakota Territory



Wooden Railroad Depot - 1867

General Grenville M. Dodge, as the head of construction for the Union Pacific Railroad, envisioned this area he called Crow Creek Crossing as an important division point for the railroad. It is at the eastern foot of Sherman Hill, where the rail line rises from 6,062 to 8,282 feet in only thirty miles. Dodge founded Cheyenne



West Lincolnway (16th Street) - 1868

and began platting it on our nation's birthday, July 4 of 1867. The town grew rapidly to over 4,000 citizens by the time rails were spiked down here that November. Eastern newspapers called it the "Magic City of the Plains" because the town sprang up like magic!



Capitol Avenue - 1890

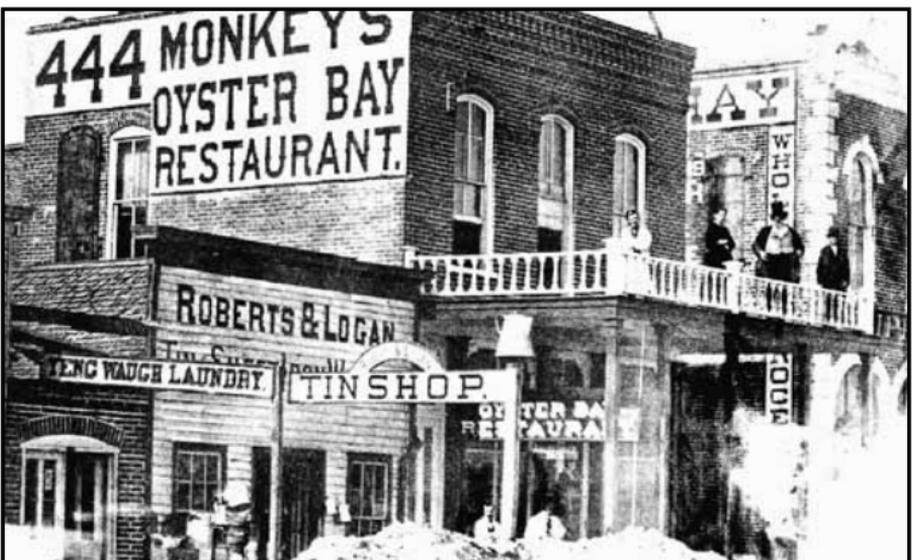


Streets of Cheyenne, Frontier Days - Early 1900s

The cavalry established Fort D. A. Russell on July 5th to protect Cheyenne as well as the expanding railroad. As a major railhead for the cattle industry from its founding, the town was a second home for English and European cattle barons. By 1885, Cheyenne was considered the richest city, per capita, in the world.

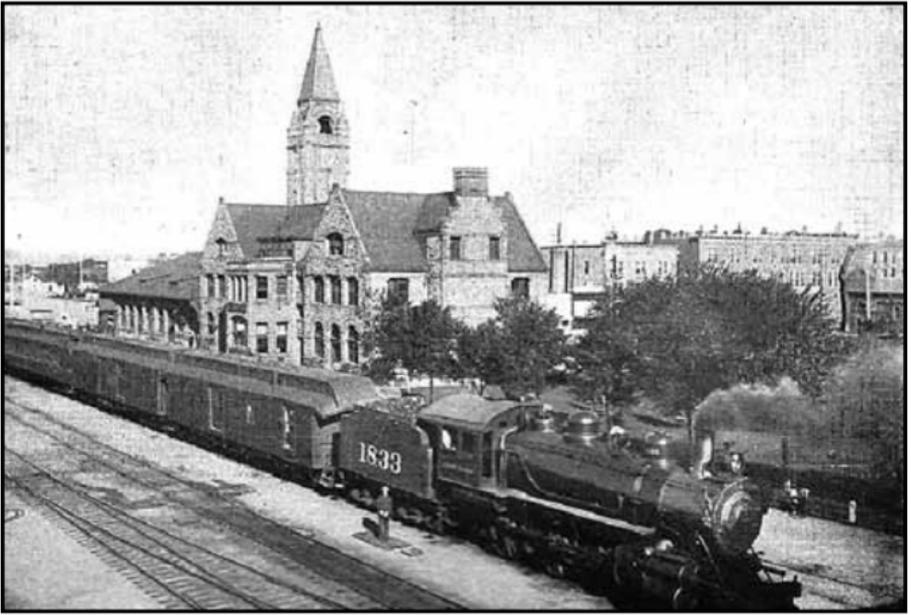
Many common men who arrived in this city in its infancy became wealthy beyond imagination. Their fortunes grew right along with Cheyenne. Small stores emerged as large businesses, attracting worldwide attention.

By the early 1880s, batten board buildings with their false fronts gave way to those of brick and stone with an Eastern flair. Dozens of fancy mansions with imported marble and fine grained woods were built near where the Capitol Building would later be constructed. These large homes on "Cattle Baron Row" displayed the affluence and elegance of the new frontier's finest. But, due to an incredibly severe winter of 1886-1887, the beef industry collapsed with the starvation of tens of thousands of cattle. Cheyenne began a whole new era, yet the old legends still remain.



Businesses on Ferguson (Carey) - Mid 1870s

Tours 1, 2 and 3 Begin at the Depot



Union Pacific Depot - 1908

This **Union Pacific Depot (1)** replaced a small 1867 wooden structure, shown on page four, that sat on the same spot. Due to the influence of the cattle barons, the railroad built one of the finest depots in America, finished in November of 1887. Notice the Richardsonian styling and use of polychromatic stones - two colors of sandstone from the same quarry, a rarity.

The “tunnel” through the depot is a portico intended only for carriages of the rich. Its purpose was to keep the cattle barons and their families out of bad weather when they needed to catch a train. The Seth Thomas clock in the tower was added in 1890; it still only loses about a minute a month. The east end restaurant, called the “Beanery,” was added in 1922. The lobby was redesigned in 1929 in Art Deco style. Completely restored in 2004, the depot is now a National Historic Landmark.



Union Pacific Depot, down Capitol Avenue - 1890

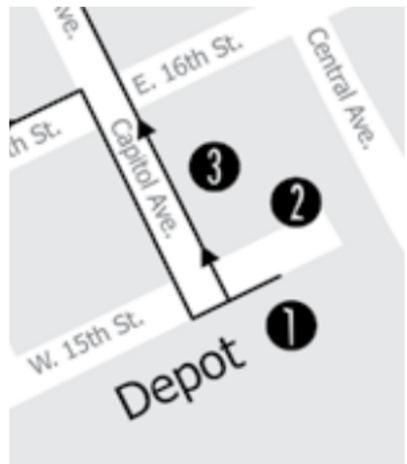
Tours 1, 2 and 3 North on Capitol



The colorful giant boots, an appropriate signature of Cheyenne, are found throughout downtown. The theme of each boot is different. They were painted by local artists and auctioned off at a gala as a fundraiser for the Cheyenne Depot Museum Foundation. A brochure, provided at the visitor's center, gives more information on each boot.

Cross 15th Street to the PLAZA on your right...

There are four heritage markers placed on the **Depot Plaza (2)**. The plaza is used throughout the year for concerts, farmer's markets, civic events, and the famous free pancake breakfasts during Cheyenne Frontier Days.



Full map on center spread



Warren Emporium - 1884

Tours 1, 2 and 3 North on Capitol

In 1868, Francis E. Warren arrived in Cheyenne with only a few cents in his pocket. During the Civil War, he had received the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry. He acquired a huge empire on good business practices and friendliness.

Warren became Wyoming's first Senator and served for 37 years. He built nine large commercial buildings in downtown Cheyenne. Seven still stand. In 1884, Warren constructed the city's first "mall," the **Warren Emporium (3)** on the northwest corner of today's Depot Plaza.



Burlington Depot - 1910

The 24 stores inside catered to the wives of the rich barons. It even had a ladies' lounge for when shopping became too tedious. The building was purchased by the Burlington Railroad and track ran from Chicago to the Emporium. In December 1887, it was a Chicago Burlington & Quincy depot and freight office with other small businesses and a funeral parlor.



Burlington and Trailways Depot - 1929

In 1929, a new Burlington (Colorado and Southern) depot was dedicated at the same location. It was also the bus terminal for Trailways, owned by the railroad. On the southern-most half of the Depot Plaza was the Greyhound bus terminal, owned by the Union Pacific. Both were razed to make way for a large parking lot which was replaced by the Depot Plaza in 2005.

Tours 1, 2 and 3 North on Capitol

Cross 16th Street toward the Capitol Building...

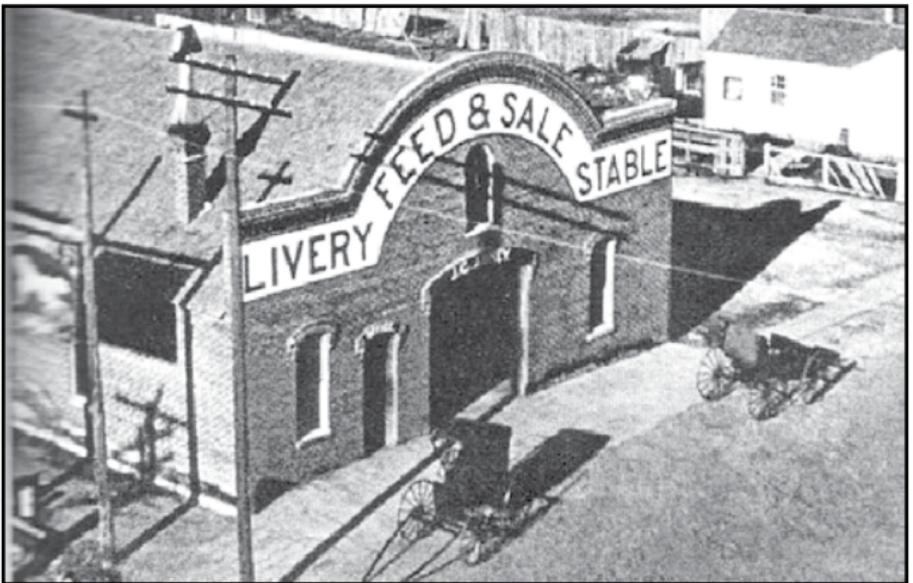
The street you've just crossed was used by Horatio Jackson in 1903 to prove the new-fangled automobile could travel across America. The famous 1908 race from New York to Paris stopped here overnight.



This street that cuts through town was originally platted as 16th Street. It is also known as **Lincolnway (4)**.

Full map on center spread

Designated in 1913, the Lincoln Highway was the first transcontinental highway and was established along a chain of county roads, most of them unimproved. It made traveling from coast-to-coast a reality. It was named after President Lincoln, because he had envisioned an uninterrupted carriage road from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. It received the additional designation of U.S. Highway 30 in 1926.



J.C. Abney's Livery Stable - 1882

There were two large barns on this corner, operated by J. C. Abney. The first burned and the second, shown here, was razed in 1907 for Warren's **First National Bank (5)**, in the Majestic Building, now on this corner.

In the late 1880s, a two stall trolley barn was built to the right of this stable, sheltering the horses and trolleys for the first Cheyenne street railway. A track ran from the U.P. Depot to the Capitol Building and back, zigzagging

Tours 1, 2 and 3 North on Capitol

through residential areas. The horse-drawn trolley operated from 1888 to 1892.



Full map on center spread

Look to your right toward the east along 16th...

Two more of Frances Warren's "nine" can be seen on the next corner. Nearest to you is the **Historic Plains Hotel (6)**. Finished in 1911 as a truly modern facility, the Plains was the first hotel in America to have a telephone in every room. Many famous people have stayed there: presidents Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, and Ronald Reagan as well as Wallace Berry, Jimmy Stewart, Debbie Reynolds, and many more.



The Plains Hotel - 1915

Across Central Avenue to the east of The Plains is the **Gleason (7)**. In 1913, Warren constructed and named this building for his long-time manager of his general store. For decades it was known as the Grier Furniture store, also it was home for the Finkbiner Funeral Parlor.

Walking north on Capitol Avenue, next you'll find the **Capitol Theatre (8)**. Erected in 1904 for legitimate theatrics, it enjoyed success until a serious fire eleven years later. From the ashes, it was converted into the Paramount Theatre. Several decades ago, a burglar, attempting to hide his crime, set fire to the theatre, gutting it. The projection booth and the ticket booth on the sidewalk are all that remain.

Tours 1, 2 and 3 North on Capitol

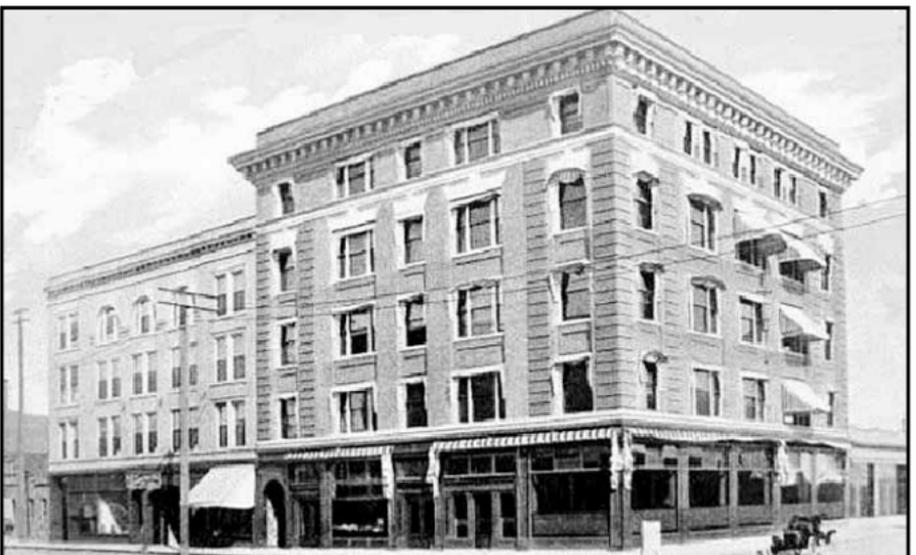


Plains Hotel and Gleason Building - 1928

The arched doorway, shown in the picture below, is the entrance to a long hallway that extends through the back of the bank building eastward into the lobby of the Plains Hotel. Actresses from the theatre in elaborate costumes adorned with peacock feathers took breaks from the stage and stood in this hallway. The portal between Capitol and Central Avenues became known as “**Peacock Alley.**” (9)

Further to the north on the next corner, the grey stone structure is the 1906 **Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Building (10)**. In 1878, the first long distance telephone conversation in Wyoming was engineered between here and Laramie, 45 miles to the west. Of those participating in the experiment, again Francis Warren was a major player.

Within the next five years, due to the wealth in the city, Cheyenne had over 100 subscribers to the Bell System. When a local printer was hired to prepare the pages of



Peacock Alley is visible to the left of First National Bank - 1908

Tours 1, 2 and 3 North on Capitol

their names and their phone numbers, he included advertising around the borders to make a profit. When he was ready to print the pages, he realized he was out of white paper and used yellow stock instead. This gave the Bell System the idea for the “Yellow Pages!”

Cross 17th Street continuing to the North...



Full map on center spread

Under the façade of the Wells Fargo Bank is the 1904 **Stock Growers National Bank (11)**, which served the cattle barons. Old timers remember the barrel of a rifle protruding from the wall about 20 feet above the heads of the clerks handling the cash at their windows. The security guard on the other end of the rifle would startle customers by swinging the muzzle back and forth, aiming at the patrons waiting in the lines. In the 1880s, the original Stock Growers Bank was located a block to the west in the Carey Brothers Block.



Stock Growers National Bank - 1908



Bat Masterson

Many famous people of the old west walked these streets when they were dirt, including William “Bat” Masterson. He killed only one man in a legal gunfight as a lawman and captured hundreds of bad men. Bat hung around with Wild Bill Hickok and the Earps. In 1877, while waiting here for a stagecoach to the gold fields of

Tours 1, 2 and 3 North on Capitol

Deadwood, he got lucky at a game of Faro. He wound up staying about a year, working as a banker and playing cards. In his senior years in New York City, he was a sports writer for a large daily newspaper. He published a short story in 1883 about witnessing two old friends in a fatal shootout on the streets of Old Cheyenne, told on page 22.



Opera House - 1890

Many of those drawn here by the cattle industry considered themselves high society theatergoers. In 1882, a group of cattle barons and Frances Warren set into motion the construction of the elegant **Opera House (12)** that stood on the corner across the street to your left. The front half of the building was used for City offices and library. The back half of the building housed the theatre, reflecting the high standards from the east. People came from miles around to see many famous artists who graced the stage. Lilly Langtree, Sara Bernhardt, William “Buffalo Bill” Cody with his Wild West Show, and major productions from Broadway were just some of hundreds who performed there. You might recognize the name of a Shakespearean actor, Henry Booth, who often entertained here. It was his brother, John Wilkes Booth, who shot President Lincoln. The theatre was destroyed by fire in 1902 and never rebuilt. Note the plaque on the north side of the current building.



Lilly Langtree



Sara Bernhardt



Buffalo Bill Cody

Important Route Information

Tour 1 - Continue north, toward the Capitol Building, to 18th Street



Tours 2 and 3 - Turn right and travel east on 17th Street. Tours continue on page 35.

To the north, toward the middle of this block, was the **Alert Hose Company (13)**. A wooden structure built in 1877 was replaced in 1890 by a Victorian brick hose house. The motto for the Alert Hose Company, "We Strive To Save," was engraved in a stone arch over the second floor window. All four downtown area hose houses were supplied with the latest in gear and horse-drawn equipment.

In 1888, the popular Leslie Magazine printed a wood-cut of women voting at the old Alert Hose Company,



Alert Hose Company - 1890



Leslie Magazine Woodcut

calling the women's action "shocking!" Note the Union Pacific depot tower in the background.

Later, small apartments filled the top floor. One included a tiny breakfast nook in the turret on the front of the building. The fire house and the other buildings north to the end of the block survived the wrecking ball until the 1960s.

Tours 1, 2 and 3 East on 17th Street



Cottage Row - 1888

New in the 1880s, at the corner of 18th and Capitol, across the street to your right, were quaint, fashionable homes owned by the well-to-do. It was “**Cottage Row**” (14). The second from the right had been the home of an early territorial governor. But, in the 1930s, it was one of Cheyenne’s most elegant eating establishments, known as “The Gables.”

Important Route Information

Tour 1 - Turn left and travel west on 18th Street to the middle of the block.



Tours 2 and 3 - Rejoin Tour 1.

On the north side of the block, directly across the street, were the very swanky **Maple Terrace Apartments** (15). Erected in 1884, they were modeled



Maple Terrace Apartments - 1884

Tours 1, 2 and 3 West on 18th Street

after the row houses found on the east coast. With imported marble and fine woods, they were built for the cattle barons and their families. Servants quarters were downstairs with the master kitchens. Spacious parlors with huge ornate marble fireplaces, libraries, and dining areas were on the middle floor. Each of the five dwellings were sold rather than leased, much like condos are today.



Krebs First Memorial Presbyterian Church - 1870

On the corner, next to the Maple Terrace, was the **Krebs First Memorial Presbyterian (16)**. Organized with only nine members in 1869, the Krebs church was dedicated the next year. A second sanctuary was built in brick in 1884 at that same location but was razed in 1925, when a much larger church was constructed four blocks north on Carey Avenue.

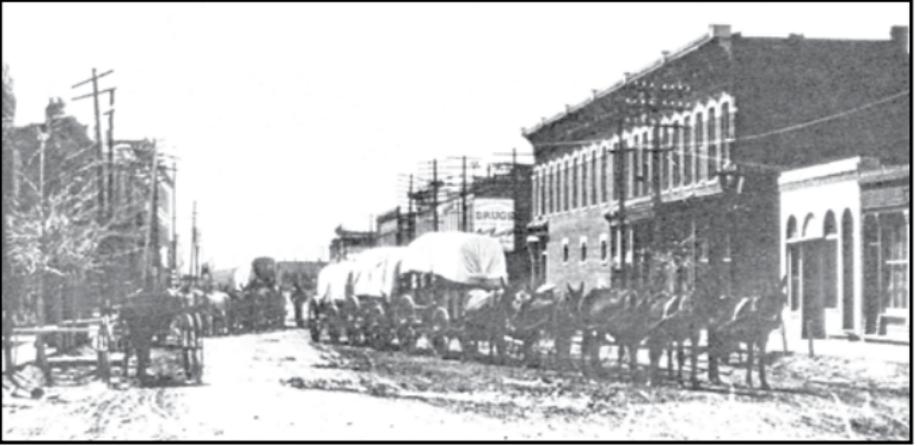
You're standing near the doorway of 209 and 211 West 18th Street. In 1878, two huge, two-story brick parlor houses were built here. The one to the right was called the "Double Decker", while the one to the left was Ida Hamilton's. Mirrors were placed all the way up to the second floor ceiling in the foyer. Appropriately, she named her business, Wyoming's largest brothel, the "**House of Mirrors**" (17). Unfortunately, we have no pictures of these infamous establishments.

A cattle baron who lived across the street in the Maple Terrace visited Ida's business regularly. He was a very rich bachelor. After falling in love with one of Ida's ladies, he married her and moved her across the street

Tours 1, 2 and 3 West on 18th Street

into the Terrace. It is said that she'd open a second story window each day and sit for hours on the sill, yelling and waving to her former customers as they walked by!

If you lived in the 1880s and looked to the south down Ferguson Street, now Carey Avenue, the scene below would have been common.



Ferguson Street (Carey Avenue) - 1880s

Move west to the corner of Carey Avenue...



In the earliest days of Cheyenne, the first Baptist Church sat on this corner. The building here now was erected in 1910. Not long ago, when restoration on it was started, workers found the northwest corner of this building supported by a single, antique glass beer bottle, sitting upright under the foundation!

Cross Carey Avenue to the west...

This is the 1911 **Citizen's Bank Building (18)**, now known as the Boyd Building. For years, it was the city's tallest office building. Doctors, dentists, and lawyers kept the offices full. The bank went broke during the nation's recession of 1924 and was converted to retail sales space. The vault still remains.

Watch your step! In the sidewalk next to the old Citizen's Bank, you'll find the remnants of a rare sidewalk

Tours 1, 2 and 3 West on 18th Street

elevator. These were necessary conveyances used to restock the basements with retail sales goods and supplies. They could be found in the sidewalks all over downtown. As the elevator came up to sidewalk level, a pair of large metal doors would be pushed open to allow access. They would certainly pique a child's curiosity.



Citizen's Bank Building - 1918

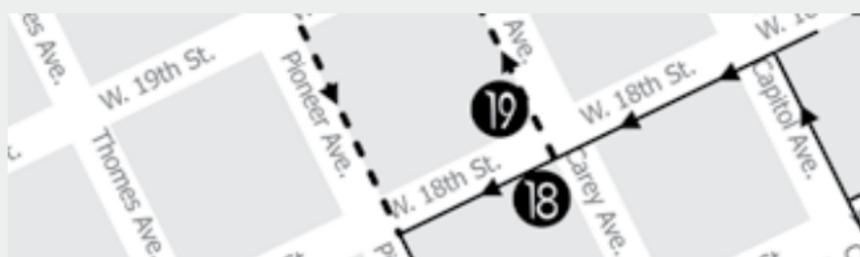
In 1904, one of Cheyenne's most beautiful buildings graced the northwest corner directly across 18th Street. As the city grew, so did the size of its **Federal Post Office (19)**. Court rooms and judge's offices were on the upper floors of this magnificent edifice. Like at no other time, this post office had rows and rows of lockable, brass mailboxes. The railings on all the staircases were brightly shined brass. Marble decorated the interior everywhere, along with massive stonework. Huge ramps and truck loading docks ran the entire back of the building for handling mail.



Cheyenne Federal Post Office - 1904

Important Route Information

Tours 1 and 2 - Cross Carey Avenue and continue west on 18th Street.



Tour 3 - Turn right and travel north on Carey Avenue. Tour continues on page 45.

This corner was known as “church corner” because the first Presbyterian, the first Baptist, and the first Episcopal churches were located here soon after the city was established. The Episcopal church was where the old post office was, now the bank building.

Walk west to the corner of Pioneer Avenue...



Another famous character who walked the streets of Cheyenne would make his mark after he left here. John “Doc” Holliday had consumption, known today as tuberculosis, and enjoyed our dry climate. Only in his 20s, Holliday would spend hours playing cards in any one of a dozen saloons in the block where our City parking garage is today.



Doc Holliday

Marked as being quick with a pistol, he was a dentist by trade. He never plied either of his skills while here. Of course, Doc made his way south and is most famous for participating in the historic shootout near the OK Corral in Tombstone.

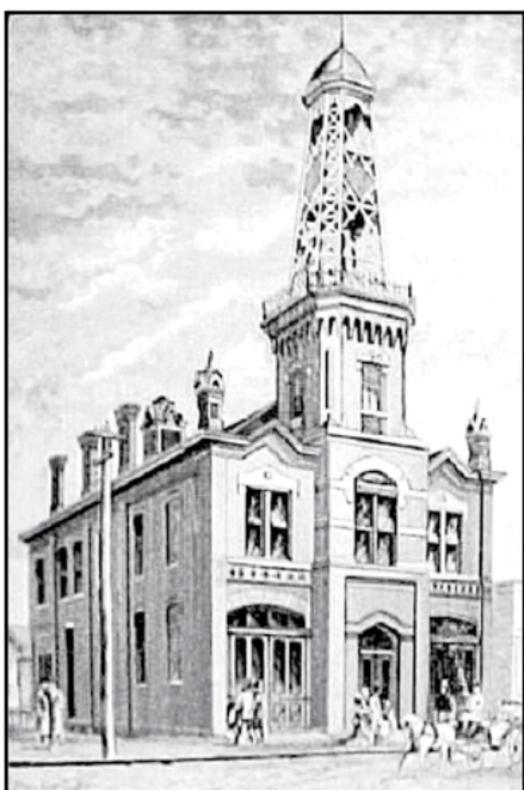
Important Route Information

Tours 1 and 2 - Turn left and travel south on Pioneer Avenue to 17th Street.



Tour 3 - Rejoin Tours 1 and 2.

Across the street in the middle of the block is the fire house for the 1888 **Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company (20)**. Two years after it was put into service, volunteers were replaced by full-time firemen. A new horse-drawn steam fire engine, which the city still has, was the first west of the Missouri River. Today, the building looks incomplete without its tall, ornate bell tower.



Pioneer Hook and Ladder - 1888

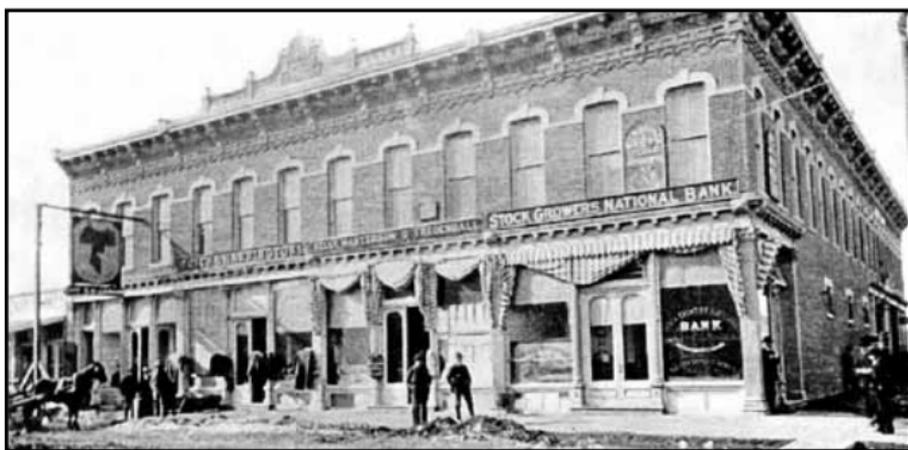
Walk south to the corner of 17th Street...

In the 1880s, if you looked to your left, you would have seen 17th Street with awnings on nearly every building. Awnings were not only practical, but also fashionable.



17th Street Awnings - 1892

Tours 1, 2 and 3 South on Pioneer



Carey Brothers Block - 1885

The 1895 I. L. Davis Building (21) on this corner was home to many grocery stores. Just under the second floor windows at the point of the southwest corner, the name “Eddy St.” is visible.

At the far end of the street on the left is the **Carey Brothers Block (22)**, original home of the famous Stock Growers National Bank. One of America’s richest banks, it was started by the cattle barons during the city’s wealthiest times. Joseph Carey came to Cheyenne as Wyoming’s first territorial judge. His prominence grew and, in 1890, he was elected as one of this new state’s senators.

The photograph below, taken to the south from 17th and Eddy (Pioneer) Street, typifies a day in the 1880s. Due to the railroad, Cheyenne was a major hub for many freight companies. Long wagon trains left the city daily for destinations in all directions.

For decades after Cheyenne was established, Eddy Street was lined with saloons and houses of ill-repute. The street had fallen into total disfavor just after the turn of the century, when women of the “Pioneer Ladies Club”



Pioneer (Eddy) Street - 1878

Tours 1, 2 and 3 South on Pioneer

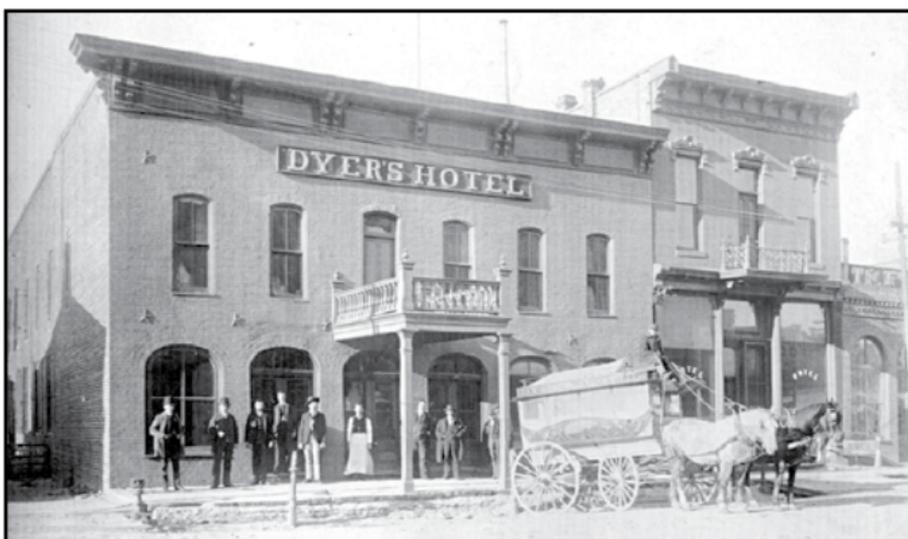
campaigned for the brothels and saloons to be shut down and the street name changed. By July 1913, it was done. The City chose the new street name, Pioneer Avenue, to honor the women's club.

All the streets were named by Grenville Dodge at the time he platted Cheyenne. The names used were those of friends and those responsible for building the railroad like his assistant, J. M. Eddy. Since then, a few have been renamed. For instance, Warren rather than Dodge, Central replaced Ransom, and Hill became Capitol when the grand edifice was built. Van Lennep, on Christmas Eve 1924, became Van Lennen because the City thought the former name was too hard to say.

Cross 17th Street and continue south...



A shoot out in March of 1877 was chronicled in an article written by New York newspaper sportswriter Bat Masterson, who witness the gun play. Two out-of-town gamblers, known for their "talents" with pistols as each had killed before, got into a ruckus in a saloon on 16th Street. It didn't take long for them to find six shooters, borrowed from friends. The two eventually met again on Eddy Street. The mayhem started with guns blazing in



Dyer's Hotel - 1875

Tours 1, 2 and 3 South on Pioneer

front of Frenchy's Saloon north of **Dyer's Hotel (23)**, across the street on the north side of the alley. Charley Harrison was stopped by two rounds, one to the chest, from Jim Levy's Colt and was taken into the hotel. Although Harrison refused to have the ball removed from his chest, the doctor gave him a good prognosis. However, he expired thirteen days later. It was Levy's 16th gunfight. His next would be his last!



Whitehead Building - 1900

The first permanent building constructed in Cheyenne was finished two weeks after the city was founded. Immediately, the second story of the **Whitehead Building (24)** was taken over for City offices and meeting rooms. The first religious services in this city were held on the upper floor by a Methodist minister in September 1867. This three-section structure built south of the alley was replaced by the Dinneen Garage in 1927.

Continue to the corner of 16th and Pioneer...



The Dinneen family settled here in 1879. They operated a grocery store and the Bon-Ton Livery Stable, consistently adapting to Cheyenne's ever changing transportation needs. Built as an auto shop and showroom, this elaborate and spacious garage featured a special hydraulic lift to raise cars to the second floor.

Tours 1, 2 and 3 South on Pioneer



Dinneen Garage - 1927

Using only City water pressure, it would take just 50 gallons of water to silently lift a car to the top level in under a minute.

The first **Dinneen Garage (25)** was on the far right side of the corner in the next block at Eddy (Pioneer) and 15th Street. Dinneen's sold American, REO, Hudson, Essex, and, later, Edsel, Desoto, Lincoln, Mercury, Buick, Jeep, and Subaru. In the early days, automobiles were shipped in Union Pacific boxcars set up on end. That way, more autos could be delivered per boxcar!

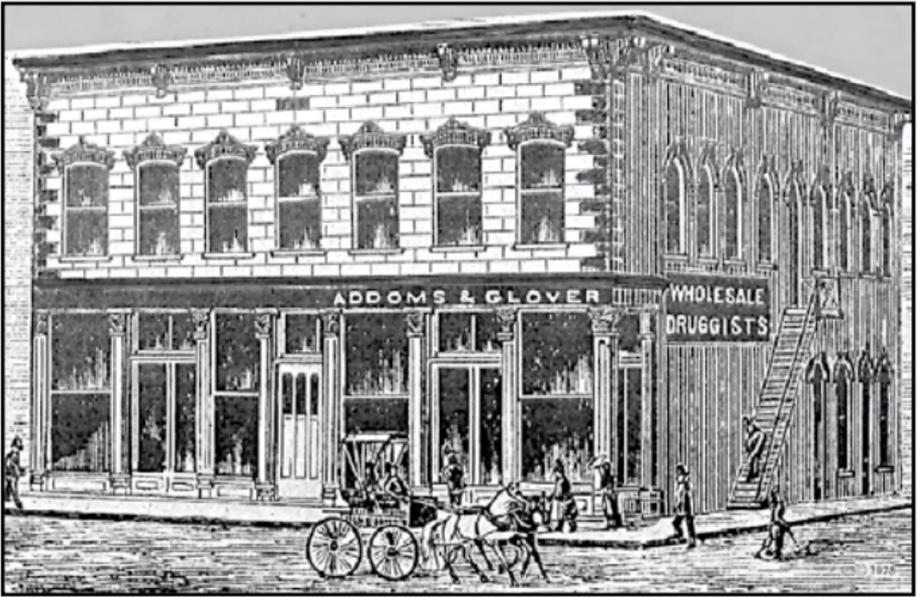


First Dinneen Garage - 1910

The acclaimed **McDaniels Theatre (26)** stood on this corner of 16th and Eddy. This establishment featured the "Giantess" who stood seven feet tall. Each night, a band would perform in the street to bring in the clientele.

Across the street, on the southeast corner of this intersection, is Cheyenne's oldest downtown structure. The **Addoms and Glover (27)** rests on the same spot where the Great Fire of 1870 erupted. Immediately after the blaze, construction of this building began with an identical structure to the left which was destroyed in

Tours 1, 2 and 3 South on Pioneer



Addoms and Glover - 1871

by a natural gas explosion in 1934. Note the “1871” date-stone at the top of this building. If the date-stone is at the top, it indicates when it was completed, while one at the bottom was placed when the building was started.

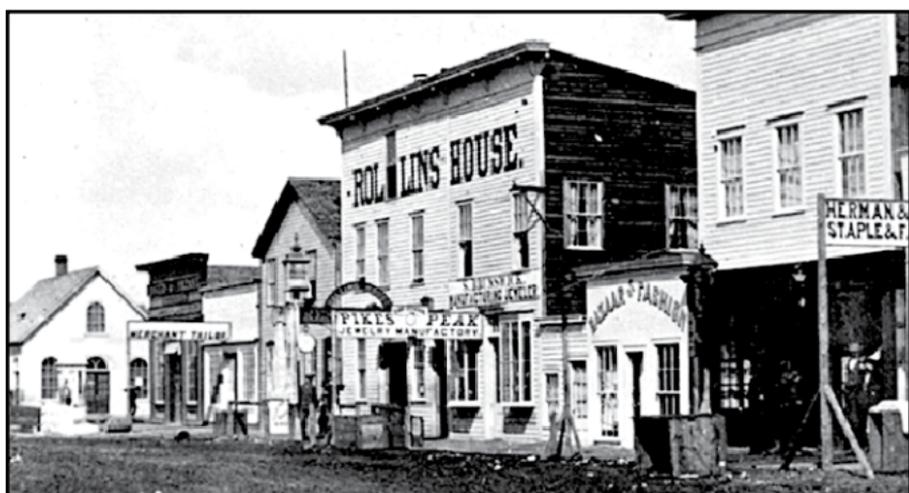
All early western towns were plagued by major fires and Cheyenne was certainly no exception. In early January 1870, one of the most disastrous blazes burned two entire city blocks. Pushed by intense winds, the fire started in the flue of an old tobacco store that sat where the Addoms and Glover is today. The huge fire was so hot it peeled paint off the front of the Rollins House across the street! Before the day was over, it had destroyed every building in the block and those in the next block to the east, except for one: the city’s first all brick commercial building. Though there was no loss of life, the Daily Leader newspaper reported over ninety businesses were leveled, almost all without insurance.

Turn left on 16th Street and continue east...



As you walk next to the City parking garage on your left, imagine being here in 1868, passing by the **Rollins**

Tours 1, 2 and 3 South on Pioneer



Rollins House - 1868

House Hotel (28), the Pikes Peak Jewelry Manufactory and the Bazaar of Fashion. Across the street was a row of saloons in the center of the block including the **Gold Room Saloon (29)**, a favorite watering hole of Wild Bill Hickok's and Calamity Jane. The Ford House hotel and the famous **Ford Restaurant (30)** were to the right of center. Barney Ford, an ex-slave from South Carolina, ran the most popular eatery in the city until the fire consumed his property. Ford, one of the few who had fire insurance, left for Denver but returned several years later to build the world renowned Inter Ocean Hotel further down 16th Street. In 1868, Theatre Comedic was on the corner where the **Tivoli (31)** stands today.

Walk to the corner of Carey and 16th Street...



The Tivoli was a restaurant and saloon built in 1883 by a brewery from Denver. Ladies, with or without escorts (very uncommon), were welcome. The structure was rebuilt and given two additional floors in 1892.

Prostitution was legal in Wyoming until 1938 and the upper stories of the Tivoli were well known to many. It's said, during prohibition, there was a popular speakeasy in the basement. Wyoming was the last state to ratify prohibition. Bootlegging of hooch between Colorado and Cheyenne ran rampant until the amendment was repealed.

Notice the heritage marker at 16th and Carey and original roadside marker for the Lincoln Highway.

Tours 1, 2 and 3 East on 16th Street

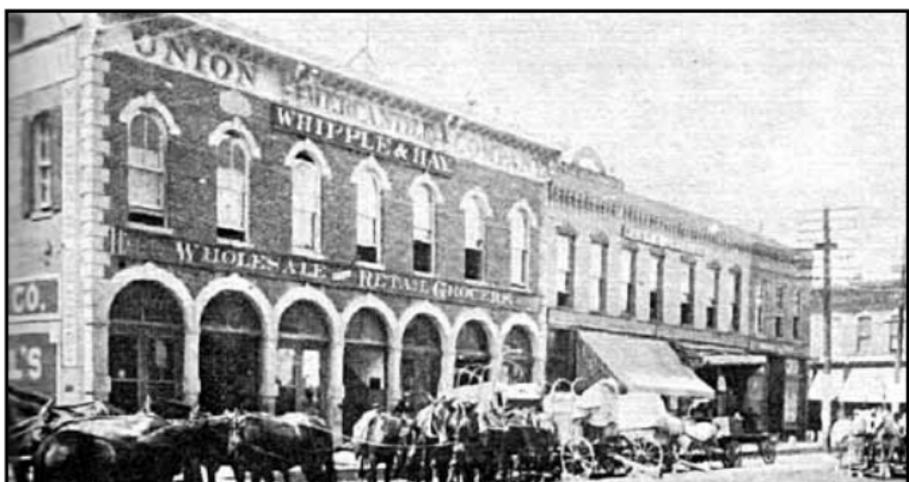


Tivoli Saloon and Brothel - 1895

Looking north up Ferguson Street in the 1880s, you'd find the Whipple and Hay "Union Mercantile", a major outlet for area ranchers. The owners established themselves solidly soon after Cheyenne's beginnings and quickly became part of the rich elite. Ithamar C. Whipple's mansion is part of tours 2 and 3.

Esther Hobart Morris, the wife of a gold miner, traveled 250 miles from South Pass City to lobby the **First Territorial Legislature (32)**. The group convened in the building on the corner of 17th Street and Ferguson (where the mini mall is today) to make the first laws for the territory. That was in November of 1869.

Morris believed women should have more rights and wanted to persuade the legislature to pass a very specific law which would help the territory become a state right away. She was successful and the bill made Wyoming the first to permanently grant women the right to vote and hold office in all public elections. The law brought the young territory fame and serious condemnation.



Whipple and Hay's Union Mercantile - 1878

Tours 1, 2 and 3 East on 16th Street



First Territorial Legislature - 1869

Soon after returning to South Pass City, Morris was one of the first of three women appointed as Justice of the Peace and was the first female Justice in the world to complete her service. She handled twenty-six cases in a manner that brought her great respect.



On her first day on the bench, she wore a black blouse and skirt in keeping with the nature of dress of the other male judges but, to show her independence, had a bright green bow in her hair. In 1890, she moved to Cheyenne where she remained until her death in 1902. She is now considered the symbol of women's rights. Her statue that stands in front of the State Capitol is the same as the one in Washington, D.C.'s Statuary Hall in the Capitol.

Looking east along 16th Street, or in the picture on the next page, you'll first see the **Idelman Saloon and Hotel (33)**. Built in 1882, it shows the grandeur of the time. "Mox" (Max) Idelman and his brother Abe built this elegant building and commissioned one of the last regal mansions on Cattle Baron Row across from the Capitol. See the wooden cigar store Indian on the sidewalk at the front door.

Tours 1, 2 and 3 East on 16th Street



200 Block of West Lincolnway - 1890

Next to the Idelman, to the east, is the 1883 **Commerce Building (34)** and the **First National Bank (35)** building, two more of Warren's "nine." It was in the Commerce Building, in the room with the bay window, that the infamous Tom Horn was "tricked" into confessing about death of fourteen year old Willie Nickell, son of a sheep rancher. Lawman Joe LeFors used alcohol to get Horn to brag about the incident. Horn was eventually hanged.

The next building to the east was Warren's first, constructed in 1876. The **Warren Block (36)** was destroyed by an arsonist in 2004. The building on the far corner was the Inter Ocean Hotel. Note the huge beer barrels and wagons in front of the saloon in the Commerce Building.



Looking east on Lincolnway - 1900

Tours 1, 2 and 3 East on 16th Street

Across Lincolnway, near the middle of the block, is the 1887 **Atlas Theatre (37)**. It is painted white with yellow trim on its unique four bay windows. This location has seen the trials and tribulations of life in early Cheyenne. First, the Great Fire of 1870 razed the original single-story building. The second structure was quickly put up without regard for building standards. In the early 1880s, Francis Warren bought the building for his music store, placing pianos on the first and second floors. It wasn't long before the weight of the instruments brought the poorly constructed building crashing down with three fatalities, including two young children. The next structure, finished in 1882, was under eye of building inspectors but a fire leveled it in 1886.

The current building was completed the next year as an arcade and confectionery with a hotel on the top floors. In 1908, huge theater curtains were hung as part of a new addition constructed back to the alley. Rows of seating were put in for patrons of true high-class vaudeville. With that style of theater gone by the 1930s, it was converted for talkies; called the "Strand Theatre and Hotel". By the 1960s, the seats were removed for a disco and the walls were painted bright pink. Today, the Atlas is home to the summer melodrama and Cheyenne Little Theatre stage productions.

Continue to Capitol Avenue and 16th Street...



By 1875, ex-slave Barney Ford had returned from Denver and completed his world famous **Inter Ocean Hotel (38)**. It attracted no less than eight U.S. presidents, beginning with Ulysses S. Grant. Notables from all distances and directions stayed in this fine hostelry. It was decorated with elegant wall-to-wall carpeting and gorgeous velvet curtains throughout. The Inter Ocean was the first hotel in the world to have a telephone in its lobby. It was also the first hotel to install AC electric lighting in every room. There was no doubt this historic attraction was the hub of Cheyenne's activities. It was host to many huge social gatherings, including inaugural

Tours 1, 2 and 3 East on 16th Street



Inter Ocean Hotel - 1885

balls for several governors. A major fire in 1916, caused by old shorted wiring on the third floor, killed a family of six and brought the demise of this famous Old West landmark.

Stage coaches going to cities north and south departed from the Inter Ocean. The coach north to Deadwood operated from 1876 to 1887 and was one of the most famous stage lines in the world.

The photo shows the last stage to leave for that mining town. After the railroad entered Deadwood few wanted to take the stage there. Even using “Concords,” the finest and easiest riding coaches ever built, traveling was extremely uncomfortable during the nearly continuous three day and three hundred mile trip.



Final Deadwood Stage - 1887

The **Hynds Building (39)**, on this corner today, was finished in 1922. The deaths in the Inter Ocean fire prompted Harry Hynds, one of Cheyenne’s early philanthropists, to have his office building constructed entirely without wood. The building is made of concrete and steel as a way to fireproof the structure. He said, “no one will

Tours 1, 2 and 3 East on 16th Street

die from a fire in my building!” Decorative trim inside the bank lobby appears to be wood, but is actually stone hand-painted by artisans to simulate walnut.

Watch your step! Notice the small, glass inserts surrounding some of Cheyenne’s large buildings like the Hynds. These were used to allow sunlight to shine into basements. When goods were stored below ground level, lamp light wasn’t bright enough for checking inventory. The sunlight helped light up the dark basements.

Turn to the south and cross 16th Street...



The 1882 **Phoenix Building (40)** is on the corner. This is yet another of Warren’s “Nine,” the first hotel in the state with a full plumbing system for water and gas. From about 1900 and for the next quarter century, the main floor was a very popular mercantile and grocery store. In the days without modern refrigeration, large sides of beef were heavily salted and placed on huge meat hooks for inspection. Customers would choose the side they wanted, pay for it, and then throw it over a shoulder to carry it home. Ladies, of course, could have it delivered.

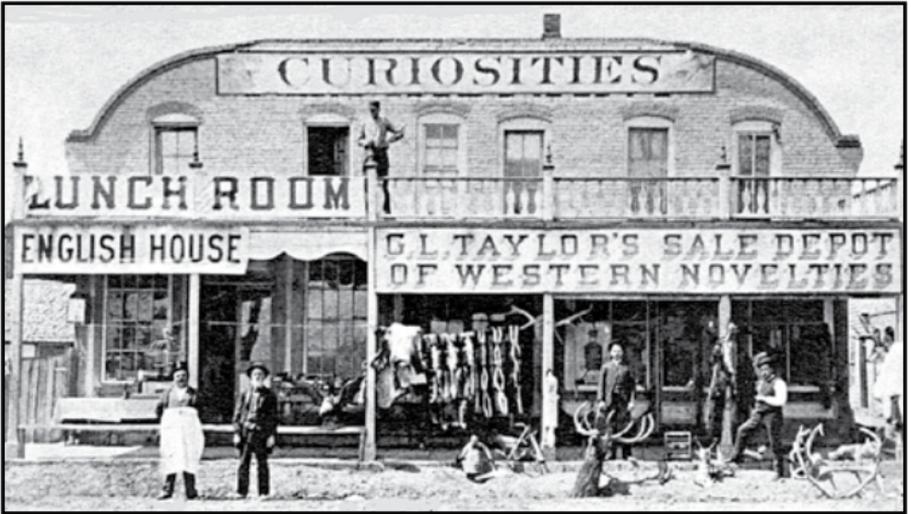
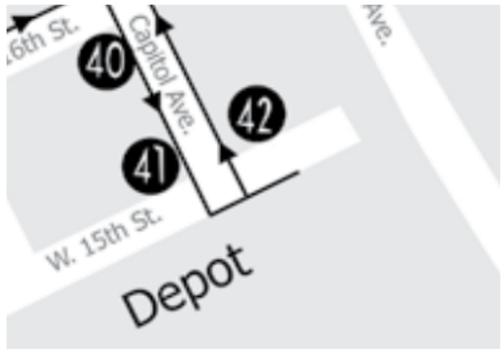


Phoenix Building - 1882

There have been several hotels upstairs through the years, but the longest-lasting was the Normandy. It served the public from the 1880s to the early 1940s. Soon after the building was completed, fashionable restaurants occupied the south end.

Tours 1, 2 and 3 South on Capitol

Continue toward the Depot...



G.L. Taylor's Sale Depot of Western Novelties - 1875

For decades, the building across the alley to the south of the Phoenix was a curio shop for tourists coming through Cheyenne on trains. In 1906, a hotel and a couple of saloons on the south end of the block took the curio shops place. The current building is called the Albany.

Originally, the **Becker Hotel (41)** was built to compete with the aging Inter Ocean. The LeBarron's Restaurant served the finest foods imported by rail from both coasts as the Inter Ocean had in its hay-day. In the photo of the Becker onlookers are watching workers ballast the rails for Cheyenne's electrified trolley system.



Becker Hotel - 1908



Tours 1, 2 and 3 South on Capitol

A year later, representatives of the Burlington Railroad visited owner John Becker with an offer he had to refuse. The Colorado and Southern Railroad was operated by Burlington. The company wanted to restore an old track from Fort Collins, Colorado, to Cheyenne. Most of the rails had been torn out years earlier. The president of the line, General Grenville Dodge, had big plans for the city he'd founded thirty-five years before. He wanted the track, planned to run from Texas to Montana, to connect with the tracks that terminated across the street where the Depot Plaza is today. In order to do that, the rails would have had to come down the alley from the west. Several buildings stood in the way. The Becker Hotel was one such obstacle. The idea was to buy and tear down the old buildings in the way. The hotel, however, would be picked up and moved! Becker flatly refused.

The railroad finally bought the hostelry from Becker. In 1910, he built another hotel around the corner on 15th Street, which still bears his name.



First passenger train from Denver - 1910

Dozens of hydraulic jacks lifted the old Becker and slowly moved it forty-four feet closer to the Union Pacific depot. An old saloon next to the hotel was torn down to make room. The task was arduous, time consuming, and even made national news. Becker just knew his old hotel would crumble like sand under the stress, even though it was moved at the speed of an inchworm. Bookies made wagers whether the hotel would survive. It did and not a single brick was shaken loose!

Only one track came down between the buildings rather than the planned two. In November 1910, the first

Tours 2 and 3 East on 17th Street

passenger train from Denver pulled down the alley from the west and stopped next to the CB&Q depot across Capitol Avenue.

We're now back where the tours started. It's also the area of the infamous **Hell-On-Wheels (42)**. Cheyenne became "end of track" for the winter of 1867. Over 90 semi-portable saloons and gambling joints, with more than 400 ladies of the night with their hundreds of tents. It became a ruckus town within a town. It catered to thousands of railroaders with money to burn. During this time, gangs such as the Gunny Sack Gang and the Vigilantes, with over 200 members, became the law in the city. By the time the Hell-On-Wheels and railroad moved west to Laramie in mid-1868, at least 23 hangings had been documented.

Important Route Information

This concludes Tour 1. Thank you!

Tours 2 and 3 continue from page 12. This additional tour adds 0.6 mile (1 km) to the basic tour.

The eastern half of the bank building was the location for the home of **Alexander Swan (43)**, one of the richest men in the world. He'd come to Cheyenne in 1873 to represent large money interests in Scotland and developed an unimaginably huge cattle empire.



Alexander Swan House - 1880

Tours 2 and 3 East on 17th Street

He brought the famous Hereford cattle from England to Wyoming territory.

During the winter of 1886-87, disastrous snow storms, unending for months, covered the grasslands with layers of ice and snow. By spring, nearly ninety percent of the area's quarter of a million head of cattle had starved to death. The beef industry went bust almost overnight. Swan went from ridiculously rich to dirt poor, owing hundreds of thousands of dollars to his creditors. He and nearly all the cattle barons left Cheyenne with their families. Most turned the deeds for their mansions over for auction to pay their debts.



Mayflower Cafe - 1960

Next to Swan's house to the east was his huge barn, nearly as big as the house. It was replaced just after 1900 by a building that would later become a very well-known restaurant, the **Mayflower (44)**. Movie stars, the likes of Tyrone Power and Clark Gable, dined at the old Mayflower while waiting for train connections. The large porthole window on the right displayed fresh pies and cakes, while the one to the left had a large water tank for live lobsters waiting to be thrown into the chef's pot. The Mayflower gained quite a reputation as the place to be during Cheyenne Frontier Days.

Continue east across Central Avenue...



You'll pass by the **BPOE Elks Club (45)** dedicated in 1903. Although modified through the decades, the building retains much of its original grandeur.

Tours 2 and 3 East on 17th Street



BPOE Elks Club - 1903

In the middle of the block across the street was an old **Chevrolet automobile showroom (46)** with the façade in white terra-cotta.

Other than the Capitol building, the most famous structure from Cheyenne's early days was the **Cheyenne Club (47)**, once found at the end of this block. It was used as a cornerstone for a totally fictional Hollywood movie of nearly the same name. The original was truly the hangout for the cattle barons. Although only 100 members were allowed at any time, it had a long waiting list. The club was a luxurious hideaway where ranchers could get away from the pressures of the industry and their wives; it was never was a brothel.

This luxurious 1880 playhouse had a world class library, a richly appointed billiard room, a well stocked saloon, and a chef from Canada for the elegant dining room. Rules of the house included no profanity, no spitting on the floor, no cheating at cards, no blows struck, and no betting. Still, high stakes games of chance and skill were played in the private apartments on the top floor.



Cheyenne Club - 1885

Tours 2 and 3 East on 17th Street

As second home to the cattle barons, the Cheyenne Club lasted only seven years before the cattle industry collapse. The deed was turned over to the City and it became the Industrial Club in 1909, the club was later renamed the Chamber of Commerce. After outliving its importance, this iconic landmark was razed in 1936. But its elitist reputation was already ingrained into the history of old Cheyenne.

Continue east crossing Warren Avenue...



Francis E. Warren

This street, now Warren Avenue, was originally platted as Dodge Street. The city's founder named it for his wife Ruth Ann. In 1883, when Francis E. Warren moved into his grand house that once stood on this northeast corner, the street was renamed by the City for him.

Warren was one of the most influential men in Wyoming. He arrived here in early 1868 with 50 cents in his pocket, going to work for Amassa Converse at his general store on 16th Street as a sweep-up boy. He became Converse's equal partner a few years later. His sharp business savvy and his easy ways made him the richest man in the territory by the early 1880s. Virtually every government building and most enterprises were in some way touched by Warren. In 1890, when Wyoming became a state, he was elected as one of the first two senators and held the office for 37 years.

The military has been a part of the community since the day after Cheyenne was founded. Originally a cavalry fort called Camp Cheyenne, the base was officially named for General David A. Russell, who had been killed in the Civil War. To honor all Warren did for Cheyenne, the

Tours 2 and 3 East on 17th Street



Bresnahan Mansion - 1882

territory, and the state, the fort was renamed for him posthumously on January 1, 1930. Today, it is Francis E. Warren Air Force Base.

On the corner across the street to the south was the **Bresnahan Mansion (48)**. Constructed in 1882, the home was built by five-term Mayor L. R. Bresnahan. It was the first house in the world to be completely lighted by alternating current electricity. The mayor extolled the usefulness of his 16-watt light bulbs, the equivalent of today's refrigerator light.

Notice the historical marker on the corner. In the middle of the block to the left, is Cheyenne's first **all brick house (49)**. Erasmus Nagle was a panhandler - but not



Nagle home - 1874

Tours 2 and 3 East on 17th Street

as it is defined today. The “Merchant King of Wyoming” sold pots and pans to rural folks and became wealthy enough to afford to build this brick house in 1874.

He bragged he had the “biggest and best house in Cheyenne” and that “nobody would build a better one!” Nagle was shaken when the sizable Warren house was constructed right next door in 1883. Not to be outdone, Erasmus decided to build a bigger home next door to his first at the far east end of this block.

As the head of construction for the Capitol Building, Nagle asked all his foremen to provide him any stones they felt were inferior and unfit for the new Capitol. Those he deemed good enough were used for his new house and adjoining stable. By the late 1950s, long after his death, the inferior stones were crumbling and there was fear the building would eventually collapse. The home was covered in concrete stucco to reduce the threat.

Walk to the corner of 17th Street and House...



Nagle passed away only two years after he completed the second mansion. The family fortune was squandered away quickly and the mansion was up for sale by 1910. Senator Warren had lost his first wife to illness a few years earlier. By 1910, he'd remarried. Not wanting to live in a house filled with old memories, Warren bought Erasmus' second home for his bride. Today it is known as the **Nagle-Warren Mansion (50)**.

Take just a few moments away from the walking tour to visit the Nagle-Warren. It is now a bed and breakfast and is listed in the Smithsonian Guide to Historic America and the National Register of Historic Places. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., experience the opulence of 1888 life and appreciate the home's cherry, maple, and oak woodwork, its original chandeliers, and 19th century furniture. Step across the threshold to where Warren's good friend,

Tours 2 and 3 North on House



Nagle-Warren Mansion - 1980

President Teddy Roosevelt and other famous people, spent time. It's a glimpse of when wealth dominated this western town.

As you continue on the walking tour, notice the large carriage stone near the street with the name "Warren" engraved into it. Once, there were hundreds of these stones throughout town and now there are less than half a dozen. They were installed to assist ladies getting out of carriages so their long dresses wouldn't rise above a decent place. With advent of the automobile these stones were no longer needed. Also note the unique stone carriage house directly behind the home.

Across the street, the small brick house on the southeast corner is the last of the **Union Pacific hospitals (51)**. The first was a large tent near where the depot is today. Fifteen years later, the company built Dr. Barkwell this facility. In those years, employees of the railroad had frequent accidents, making it necessary to have a hospital close to the tracks. The eastern side was the doctor's operating room.

Directly to the east across House Avenue is the **Ithamar C. Whipple Mansion (52)**. Whipple, Nagle, and banker Henry Hay developed the Union Mercantile into a wealthy enterprise. Whipple was also a sharp financier and cattleman. He constructed his elegant home in 1883.

Territorial Supreme Court Justice John Lacey also owned this house at one point. He was legal counsel for Tom Horn during his murder trial. For a number of years in the 1930s, it was a Greek gambling house and

Tours 2 and 3 North on House



Whipple Mansion - 1883

brothel. Also among its residents were hoards of pigeons that made themselves comfortable in the cupola to such an extreme that the tower had to be removed.

Turn left on House, go north to the corner.
Turn left on 18th Street...

This area, about a half mile east to Holliday Park and north beyond the Capitol, is known as the Rainsford Historic District. George Rainsford, an architect who stood only five feet three inches tall, came from New York and started Diamond Ranch 40 miles north. When the cattle barons realized how creative Rainsford was in his design of mansions, they paid him handsomely to build their homes. Dozens of the area's homes were Rainsford designs, distinguished by their large rambling porches, multiple roof styles on a house, and decorative "fish scale" shingles. These shingles were popular on the East Coast. All the barons had to have them on their homes.

On this corner, the **Kingford Victorian home (53)** has the distinctive Rainsford touch. Queen Anne design, the square bay windows, high peaked roof, and the fish scale shingles detail the home. This was formerly a boarding house for railroad workers.

The **Nettford Apartments (54)**, second on the left, were opened in 1911. The tall white columns accentuate

Tours 2 and 3 West on 18th Street



Corson Queen Anne cottage - 1900

the Greek Revival. It was built by Arthur C. Kingford and named for his wife, Nettie, combining two names to create “Nettford.”

A year after Samuel Corson came from Scotland in 1883, he was his own contractor for his cozy home erected from Rainsford’s plans in the middle of this block. Several generations of the family lived in this **Corson Queen Ann cottage (55)**.

Go west to the corner and cross Warren...



Across 18th Street, on the corner, the **Amassa Converse Mansion (56)** was the largest of all the



Amassa Converse Mansion - 1895

Tours 2 and 3 West on 18th Street

Rainsford homes; it stood on a quarter of a block. Converse established his general store a few days after Cheyenne was founded. He hired Francis Warren to help with his business and they soon became partners. Later, Converse, as a merchant, a banker, and a leader in the community, became a success in territorial politics. As a cattle owner, his herds were large enough for 28 different brands.

The Converse mansion had a small fireplace in each of its many bedrooms. Graced with a huge winding staircase, the design was a successful combination of brick and wood. All sides of this structure were decorated with hundreds and hundreds of fish scale shingles. The building was razed in 1967.

Walk west to the corner of Central Avenue...



Just a couple of months after Cheyenne was started, the Methodist church had found roots. The meager congregation of nine paid the railroad a dollar for two lots on which to build their sanctuary. In 1871, the first church, on the northeast, was dedicated and nicknamed the “Little White House.”

By 1890, enough money was raised to begin building the second **First United Methodist Church (57)** in the same location. Designed by architect J.P. Julian, it was built with local red sandstone. Julian also designed the famous water pressure gallows upon which Tom Horn was hanged.



First United Methodist Church - 1871

Tours 2 and 3 West on 18th Street

To make room for the new structure in 1890, the Little White House was dragged into the middle of Central Avenue using horses and ropes. For nearly three years, services, weddings, and funerals were held in the little church in the middle of the street. The current building was dedicated in 1894. The Little White House was then dragged to the UP rail yard where, in its final days, it was used as a hay barn.

Important Route Information

Cross Central Avenue and go west to 18th Street. Tours 2 and 3 rejoin Tour 1.



Tours 1, 2 and 3 - Travel west on 18th Street. Return to page 13. Tour 3 will return to this page after completing pages 14-17.

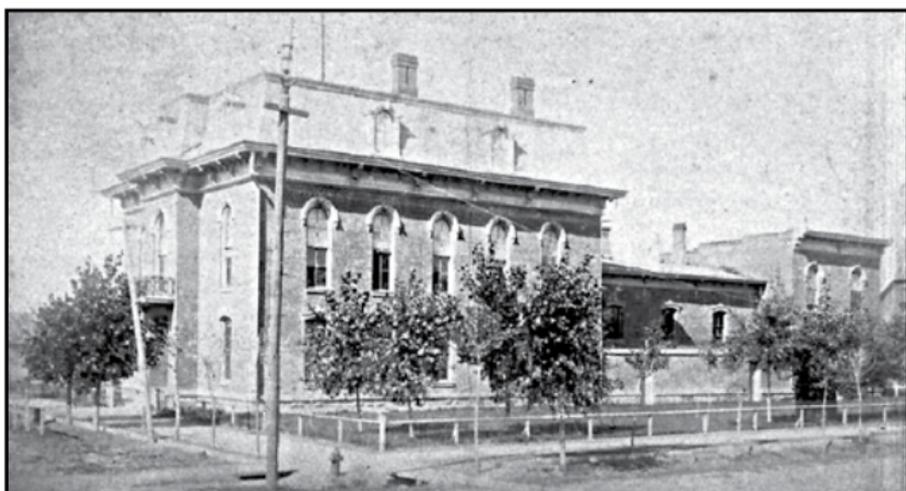
Important Route Information

Tour 3 continues from page 17. This additional tour adds 1.2 miles (1.9 km) to the basic tour.



As we travel north on Carey, one might imagine running into our most outrageous citizen, Martha Jane Canary Burke, better known as “Calamity Jane.” She got her nickname from an uncle who noted she was very out-spoken, dressed like a man, and could out-drink most of them. He said, “everywhere you go you cause a calamity, Jane!” It stuck. Well, at least, that’s one of many stories she told as to how she got her nickname.

Tour 3 North on Carey Avenue



Courthouse and Cheyenne City Jail - 1885

Jane was a frontier woman and professional scout. She was known for her expertise with a rifle and even performed in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. She was a heavy drinker and, often, wound up in Cheyenne's City jail to sober up. She was said to be very kind and was well-liked, regardless of her short-comings.

"Wild Bill" Hickok and Jane were good buddies. Though there were rumors of love, these were not supported by fact. She traveled with him to Deadwood in July 1876 where, two months later, he was murdered. Jane is still in Deadwood. Upon her death from pneumonia in 1903, the city buried her next to Wild Bill.

Go to the corner of 19th Street and Carey...



The first City jail was built of logs in July of 1867. It was designed primarily to hold those who had too much to drink. It wasn't long before the inmates, convicted of all kinds of mayhem, used their dinner spoons to dig through the dirt under the logs to escape. A more permanent facility was needed. Across 19th Street to the north was the 1870 **courthouse, City jail, and the combination sheriff's office and home (58)**.

The third jail, built at the turn of the century, is shown at the far left of the **1917 courthouse (59)**, in the photo on the next page.

Tour 3 North on Carey Avenue

Another infamous character who barely avoided taking up residency in our jail was James Butler Hickok. Just before Wild Bill got to Cheyenne in 1876, a warrant for vagrancy from the year before went out for his arrest. Apparently, some of his friends paid the fine and for him before his arrival.



Courthouse with City Jail in the background - 1917

Wild Bill Hickok liked Cheyenne and frequented our city. He spent most of the day playing cards in the gambling houses found where the parking garage is today. His reputation for killing more than a hundred men in gunfights as a lawman didn't matter in this town full of gunfighters. Wyatt Earp, Charlie Storm, "Big" Steve Long, and Charlie Bassett were typical of the gunslingers who drifted through Cheyenne. Boone May was a Deputy Marshall here and Luke Short worked security for the Inter Ocean Hotel. Nobody feared Hickok. He gave them no reason. In fact, Cheyenne looked upon him as a folk hero.

Agnes Thatcher Lake and her husband were traveling the U.S. with their horse circus. In 1869, he was killed by a man trying to sneak into the circus tent. Agnes was a



Wild Bill Hickok

tightrope walker, lion tamer, and equestrian from France. She continued to tour with her show. Hickok met her in 1871 and again in 1875. After their last meeting, they wrote letters to each other for more than a year before they "accidentally" met up in Cheyenne. By then she had sold the circus and was very wealthy. Bill just drifted into town in early March

Tour 3 North on Carey Avenue

of 1876 and, at about the same time, Agnes came to visit friends. Within a couple of days Agnes and Bill were married! The Methodist minister who performed the ceremony kept a notebook that the church still has. After the couple had said their vows, he wrote, “don’t think he meant it!”



Agnes Hickok

The newlyweds went to Cincinnati for a honeymoon. She had business to conclude there, while Bill wanted to get back to Cheyenne to start a freight company, using money Mrs. Hickok had given him. The couple agreed to meet in Deadwood several weeks later. Hickok left here in mid-July with his freight wagons, arriving in Deadwood only to be murdered on August 2, while playing poker and holding the “Deadman’s Hand” of Aces and Eights!

After they parted in Cincinnati, Agnes never saw Bill again. She did return to Cheyenne several times. The last in the 1880s when, still a widow, she lived near the Capitol for almost five years before returning to Cincinnati for her final years.

Turn right, go to end of the block...



At this corner of 19th Street and Capitol, you’ll find the **Masonic Temple (60)**. The Masons were an extremely important part of the Old West and Cheyenne. They established themselves in the first days of the city. The construction of virtually every major building started with an engraved cornerstone and the Masonic Lodge’s dedication.

Tour 3 East on 19th Street



Masonic Temple - 1901

First built in 1901, the original temple had ornate spires along the roof line. A disastrous fire in 1903 gutted the interior of the building and the roof. When they rebuilt it, they used the original walls, but left off the dormers and spires. A major addition to the west meant the Temple would cover a full quarter of a block.

Through the 1870s and early 1880s, the world's richest cattleman, Alex Swan, expressed his disdain for the small Episcopal church at 18th and Carey. He said he'd build the congregation a new church at 19th and Central. Construction started very late in 1886 on **Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (61)**. All went well until it was time to put on the roof. The devastating blizzards of '86/'87 changed the cattle industry overnight and Swan lost his fortune. He couldn't complete the new church.

Four years passed before money could be raised to cover the church, put in pews, and finish the building. But one item was still missing: a bell tower. A small, capped cylinder, shown in the 1900 postcard on page 50, held the old bells but was no tower. By 1924, the church raised enough money to build a real bell tower.

After nearly 40 years, stones from the original quarry still had the same texture as those already in the church, but the color was much darker. It was decided to use the stones from the cylinder in the lower one-fourth of the tower, while the "newer", darker stones would go to the top. Two Swedish stonemasons were hired to build the addition. They laid stone to about where the new stone was to be placed (a noticeable line appears there) and, then the stonemasons just disappeared, never to be seen

Tour 3 East on 19th Street



Saint Mark's Episcopal Church - 1900

again. A couple of other masons were hired and completed the tower the next year.

In 1976, a letter was received at the church, sent from South America and written in Swedish. The church still has that letter. When translated, it says the writer was very elderly and about to pass on. But, before he could go through the “Pearly Gates,” he had to write the church to let them know he was an innocent man. The letter states that in 1924, he and his friend were hired to set stones for the new bell tower. One day his buddy came to work drunk, slipped, and fell off the scaffolding and broke his neck. He said he didn't know what to do and thought others might blame him for the death. Having no grasp of English and having no other friends in Cheyenne, he panicked. Instead of calling the authorities, he buried his buddy in the stonework and took off!

Father McGinnis, minister of the church in 1976, laughed at the notion. He thought the old man must have been delusional in his senior years. But, there are those who claim there's a body in the tower and believe the church is haunted.



First Congregational Church - 1872

Tour 3 North on Capitol Avenue

Turn left, cross 19th Street and go north...



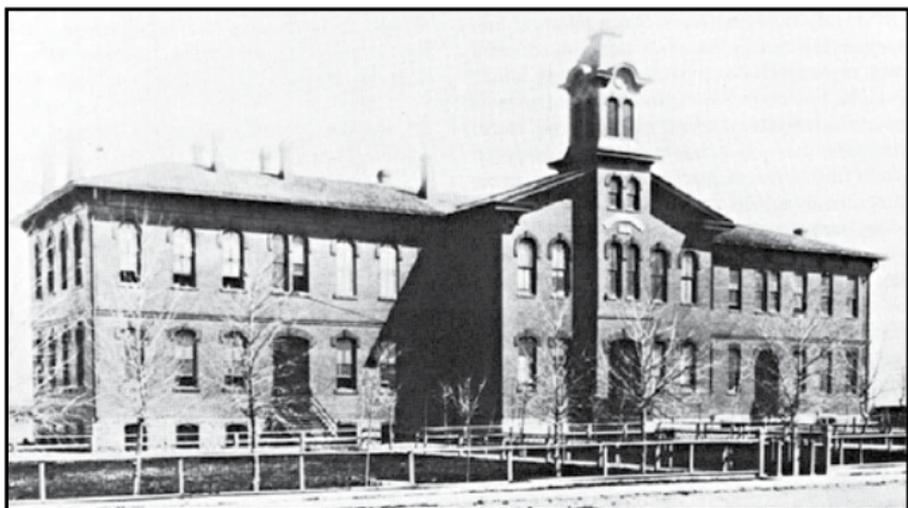
Two **First Congregational churches (62)** graced this corner. The first with its parsonage was built soon after the church was organized in 1869.

In 1880, a more substantial brick house of worship with a tall spire was erected at this same location.

Cross 20th Street and continue north...



Cheyenne's first hall of education was the typical one room schoolhouse with a folding partition down the middle. Obviously, a larger school was necessary as the town grew quickly. The middle portion of the **Central School (63)** was the anchor, built in 1871 with the wings added a couple of years later. It filled a half block, facing south. A new high school would be built a block to the north just a few years later. Individual neighborhood elementary schools would find their places around an



First Central School - 1880

Tour 3 North on Capitol Avenue

ever-growing Cheyenne. To your right, the **Lulu McCormick Jr. High School (64)**, filling the entire block, replaced Central School in 1928. It is now a State government facility. The new McCormick school is far north of the downtown in a residential area. It's next to the newest Central High. Cheyenne today has four high schools, Central, East, South and Triumph.

Cross 21st Street and continue north...



Catholic Church - 1879

To your right is **Saint Mary's Cathedral (65)**, completed in an English Gothic style in early 1909. The Catholic church was established soon after the railroad came through. In May of 1868, a "portable" chapel, named St. John's, was shipped from Omaha

by rail and was assembled four blocks west of here. The first locally-built Catholic church was found at 19th and Carey. Finished in 1879, it out-grew its congregation



Carey Mansion - 1888

Tour 3 North on Capitol Avenue

by the turn of the century and the present Cathedral was built. In 1887, the name Saint John's was changed to Saint Mary's by the Wyoming Diocese.

To your left is the Federal Building, built in the 1880s, it was the location for one of Cheyenne's largest mansions on what was known as "Cattle Baron Row." **The Carey Mansion (66)**, which took the entire block, was built by Joseph Carey, the first judge assigned to the territory. He just got richer and richer and lavishly decorated his home like a castle.



Inside Carey Mansion

Continue north across 22nd street. On either side of these blocks that ran from 19th Street to where the Capitol Building would later be constructed, the cattle barons built their mansions. Over two dozen graced this exclusive neighborhood with some occupying as much as a half a city block. But, most took a quarter of a block, including **Gilchrist Home (67)**. Andrew Gilchrist came to Cheyenne from Scotland, establishing a huge ranch west of town at Granite Canyon. He owned much of the land for many blocks around the Capitol Building and



Gilchrist Home - 1888

Tour 3 North on Capitol Avenue

became the president of the prestigious Stock Growers Bank. His modest home at 2300 Capitol; this is where the Hathaway Building is today, to your left in the next block.



Carnegie County Library - 1902

As you near the end of this block, look to your right. On the corner, across Capitol Avenue, was the first **Carnegie County Library (68)** to be located outside New York City. In 1899, Ester Morris' son, Robert, contacted philanthropist Andrew Carnegie seeking funds to help build a county library. Efforts to build one had gone on for years without success, but Carnegie provided fifty thousand dollars toward construction in 1902; appropriately, the library was named for him. Once a larger library was built in the early 1970s, the Carnegie was razed with no thought about repurposing.

Cross 22nd Street. Go to the Capitol...



Tour 3 North on Capitol Avenue

On your way to the Capitol, to your right is the **Wyoming Supreme Court Building (69)**. Originally, these two blocks and the two to the east made up the park that Grenville Dodge called his “four squares.” Due to necessity in 1935, Central Avenue was run down the middle of the old park, making way for the Court Building and, later, the Wyoming State Museum. A new park was created a mile north of the Capitol.

Huge crowds gathered at this location in May of 1887 for the official laying of the Capitol Building’s cornerstone. Souvenir coins commemorating the event were given out. Bands played and the Grand Masons in regal uniforms dedicated the structure. Ground had been broken the previous September with the first segment of the **Capitol Building (70)** being finished in 1888.

Territorial Governor Francis E. Warren appointed a commission to raise money for the project. They collected over \$138,000, which was more than necessary. In 1890, the year Wyoming became the 44th state, two extensions to the building were finished. The end caps were completed in 1917.



Laying of the Capitol Cornerstone - 1887

Tour 3 North on Capitol Avenue



Wyoming Capitol - 1888

There are a number of statues around the Capitol. A large goldfish pond with lily pads on the east side was an attraction for romantics for many years. Artisans must gild the dome, every few years, with 24-carat gold leaf. Stones from the quarry also used for the Union Pacific Depot

were essential, including those from a quarry near Rawlins, Wyoming.

The Capitol's information desk is visible from the south entrance. Sign up for a tour or pick up a brochure for a self-guided tour. On your walk-through, note the Tiffany stained glass ceiling in the halls for the legislature. There are many displays lining the walls, celebrating the history of Wyoming. There's even a giant buffalo, reputed to be the third largest known to man.

Look west, across to the end of the block...



The last mansion remaining on Cattle Baron Row is the **Idelman Mansion (71)**. "Mox" (Max) and his brother Abe started what would become a very successful liquor business soon after the founding of the city. The Idelman Saloon and Hotel was built downtown in 1882. The mansion was built the next year. For decades, the home, facing Carey Avenue has been a mortuary. None of the

Tour 3 East on 24th Street

interior has been changed since it was constructed and only a few changes to the exterior were necessary to add a modern chapel and a garage for the limos.



Idleman Mansion - 1883

Walk east on 24th to Central Avenue...



Academy of the Holy Child Jesus - 1888

On the corner to the left, across Central Avenue, was the **Academy of the Holy Child Jesus (72)**. The first Catholic school opened in 1884 in Saint John's Church. An imposing structure was erected two years later with a name change. It had a school, convent, and sleeping quarters for those traveling around Wyoming.

The academy was razed and smaller structures with the same purposes replaced it by the early 1950s. In 2010, those buildings were torn down and the land was sold to the State. The Catholic school, Saint Mary's, moved into beautiful new facilities just west of the downtown area.

Tour 3 South on Central Avenue

Walk south to 22nd Street...



As you travel south toward 22nd Street, note the **Wyoming State Museum (73)** to your left. This is a free museum and considered one of the best in the nation for its wide variety of artifacts on display. Pistols and rifles, Native American clothing, dinosaur bones, the history of Wyoming's geology, and native wildlife are displayed, plus thousands of other items.

Continue to 21st Street...

On the southwest corner of this intersection was **Cheyenne's first high school (74)**. Completed in 1890, the school was known for its tall tower and turret, as well as a huge oak staircase going from the front door to the upper two floors.



Cheyenne's First High School - 1890

All the boys were ushered into school through the back door, while girls entered through the front. In class, girls were on one side of the room and boys were on the other. This architect's delight was razed in the 1970s to make way for parking.

Tour 3 East on 21st Street

At 21st Street, walk east for two blocks.
Cross Central and Warren Avenue...



Governor's Mansion Construction - 1904

Before the turn of the century, Wyoming's governors used their private homes while in office. The first public **Historic Governor's Mansion (75)** at the corner of 21st Street and House Avenue was built with all the luxuries for visiting dignitaries including presidents. Teddy Roosevelt spent time here in 1910. Eleanor and President Franklin Roosevelt were here in 1936. As Vice-President, Richard Nixon warmed the sheets in this mansion and Harry Truman, then president, gave a radio speech to the nation from the front porch in 1948.

The picture above shows the construction of the mansion, finished in 1905, designed in the Classic Revival style, featuring window details and sandstone columns.

Tour 3 West on 20th Street



Nellie Tayloe Ross

The Ross family was just one of 19 who lived in this stately building. William Ross was elected the state's 12th governor in 1923. His term lasted just less than two years when he succumbed to appendicitis at the hospital north of the mansion.

A new governor would have to be chosen in a special election. The voters of Wyoming decided the person most knowledgeable about Governor Ross' plans

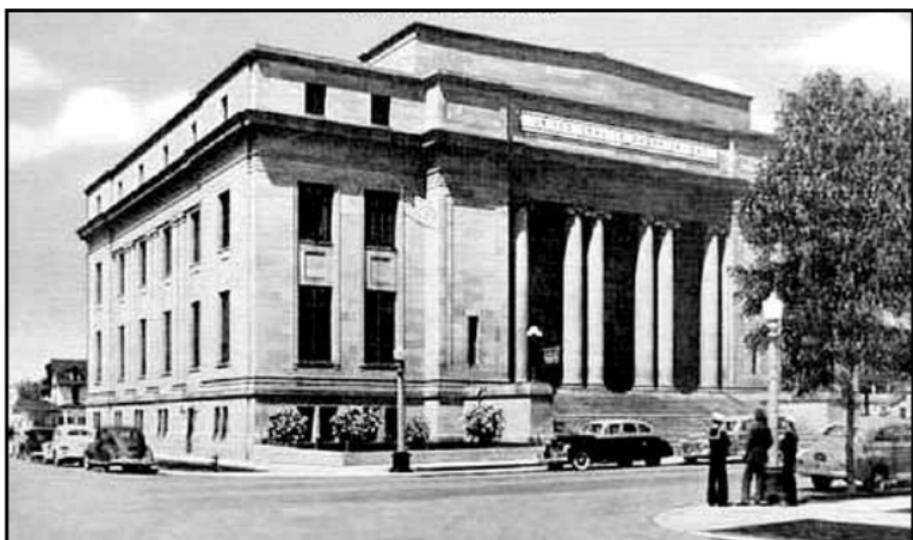
for the Equality State and the most logical to take over would be the late governor's wife, Nellie Tayloe Ross.

On January 5, 1925, Mrs. Ross was sworn in as the nation's first woman governor. Her term lasted until January of 1927. Although she was well-liked, she was narrowly defeated in her bid for another term. Ross blamed her loss on the fact she did not campaign for herself. President Franklin Roosevelt appointed her the Director of the U. S. Mints in 1933. She held that position for 20 years before retiring. She gave public speeches all over America until 1977, when she passed away at age 101.

Go south to 20th, turn and continue west...



Tour 3 West on 20th Street



Consistory Building - 1944

After touring the Historic Governor's Mansion, walk south on House to the next block and head west. On the northwest corner of 20th and Capitol was the **Consistory Building (76)**. An opposing 1922 structure used during the World War II by the USO and from 1930 to 1953, the Consistory was home for the Cheyenne Little Theatre performances. In the mid-1950s, the large open basement was perfect for contests of midget cars. Scaled, foot long race cars, using real miniature gasoline engines taken from model airplanes, sped around a thirty foot circle. These cars, tethered by a wire, attained speeds of nearly 80 miles per hour! The building sat virtually empty for years before being razed in the 1970s.

As you walk west and cross Carey Avenue, the new County Courthouse sits where **Castle Dare (77)** once



Castle Dare - 1908

Tour 3 West on 20th Street

sat. The world's richest cattleman, Alexander Swan, started construction of a Richardsonian mansion in 1886 for his daughter, Louisa. Her impending marriage to wealthy Renesselaer Van Tassel, years her senior, caused Swan to pull out the stops for the bride. As it neared completion Swan defaulted due to the cattle bust.

The castle was then sold to an unscrupulous David D. Dare who had been a local sign painter, photographer, and druggist before becoming a con-man with his partner, John W. Collins. They started the Cheyenne National Bank and, with the depositors money, went to San Diego in late 1887 to start two other banks, several businesses, and a street railway. Dare had tried to swap his Castle here for funds to build another huge castle in California, but the deal fell through because the Cheyenne property was already highly mortgaged.



Dare & Collins Business Card - 1882

In 1891, their Ponzi scheme started to unravel as none of the banks could meet their obligations. Dare and his wife skipped town and headed for Italy with \$200,000 of the bank's missing money. Collins wasn't so lucky. He committed suicide as the law closed in. The Cheyenne National Bank defaulted and one of its clerks, never implicated, felt so guilty he hadn't discovered the fraud that he also took his own life.

The Dares drifted through Europe and were never arrested, although his wife eventually returned to New York City, claiming her husband had passed away. Dare actually died, a wealthy man, in Greece in 1909.

The castle passed back into the hands of the original builder, R.W. Bradley. Through the years it was a rooming house, mortuary, and a lodge hall.

Tour 3 South on Pioneer Avenue

Razed in 1963 for a parking lot for the fire house next door, the Castle's carriage house lasted thirty more years. Some believe Dare's name should not be associated with the mansion. They believe it should be called Castle Swan.

At Pioneer, turn left and continue south...



Soon after Cheyenne was founded, the members of the Jewish community met in private homes and later formed the Mount Sinai congregation,. The **first Synagogue in the Territory (78)** occupied this southeast corner from 1915 until 1951, when the new synagogue was constructed near the Capitol.

To the left, in the middle of this block, cowboy history was made in 1903. The legendary murderer Tom Horn, stock inspector for the cattle industry, was tangled up in the shooting of fourteen year old Willie Nickell, son of a sheep rancher. Horn was already suspected of killing as many as two dozen men around Cheyenne, mostly cattle rustlers, shooting them from ambush.

Horn was tricked by Marshall Joe LeFors, a man Horn didn't know. LeFors pretended to be a rancher from



Tom Horn

Montana wanting to hire Horn. LeFors got Horn drunk. Horn then bragged about being involved with the 1901 killing. Horn's drunken confession was recorded by a legal stenographer listening from a room next door and witnessed by the sheriff. Horn's drunken admission of taking the "best danged shot I ever made" at Willie got him arrested and sent to trial.

Tour 3 West on 20th Street

Horn never again spoke of the Nickell murder, only saying he was trying to impress his new boss from Montana. Only circumstantial evidence was presented to the court, but it was understood Horn had to go. He was found guilty and was the last man legally hanged in Cheyenne on November 20, 1903, a day before his 43rd birthday.



Tom Horn's Gallows

Used for the first time that day was a specially designed gallows. J.P. Julian, who designed Castle Swan and the First United Methodist Church building, among many others, created an apparatus that didn't need an executioner. Horn stood on a trap door supported by water pressure. When his body weight equalized with water dripping from a holding tank in the gallows, the platform tripped open. It took 31 seconds - long time to stand there waiting!

Horn was executed on the west side of the old jail in the area now between **the new and the old courthouses (79)** to your left. Today, those who have studied the case are convinced Horn did NOT kill Willie Nickell.

Important Route Information

Cross 19th and 18th Streets.

Tour 3 - Rejoin tours 1 and 2 after walking through the Historic Capitol District.



Tours 1, 2 and 3 - Travel south on Pioneer. Continue reading on page 18.