



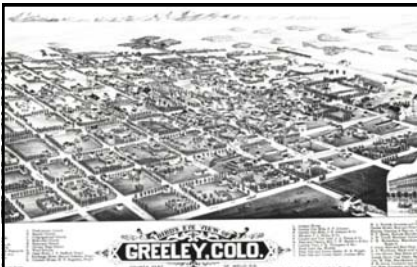
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HISTORIC FACES & PLACES

a peek at Greeley's hidden history Tour Guide & Fact Sheet



a **G.Town Tour** offered by the City of Greeley



Points of Interest:

- The location for the Union Colony was established in 1870 by Nathan Meeker, Robert Cameron and Henry T. West.
- Greeley was situated due to its location midpoint between Denver and Cheyenne on a rail line and near the confluence of two rivers.
- The original Union Colonists were selected based upon their traits as "white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants possessing brains, money, high moral standards, a strong work ethic and conservative values." These common traits were sought initially to foster an accelerated building of the town.
- The town was founded on seven principals:
 - Agriculture
 - Education
 - Irrigation
 - Family values
 - Cooperation
 - Religion
 - Temperance
- On May 29, 1871, Union Colony officially incorporated as the Town of Greeley, so named after Horace Greeley, a New York newspaper publisher, sponsor and investor in the Colony, who urged the settlement of the new frontier with the words "Go west, young man..."

G.Town Tours

Every place has a story. Maybe it is the unusual manner in which the community was settled. Perhaps it is found in the natural or physical attributes of the location. It could be unique aspects of its business and community development. Most certainly, the people associated with a place over time provide special perspective to a community's character and personality.

Gaining insights to the unique attributes of a community enriches its residents and visitors with its special 'sense of place' in the state, country, and in the world.

Greeley has exceptional qualities that bear sharing and to help in that regard, the City has launched a program called the "G.Town Tours" to help acquaint

community members and visitors with parts of the community that may not be as well known but which offer sparks of community enlightenment once revealed.

Tours are generally scheduled for the first Friday morning of each month and will vary between different themes throughout the year, including:

- Historic Faces & Places
- Greeley's Creative District
- Natural Places & Open Spaces
- Business Around Town
- City Hall Crawl & More
- Greeley Unexpected

On this **HISTORY** tour, twenty-five sites have been selected to provide a glimpse of Greeley's past and some of her well-hidden secrets.

Tour Highlights

The following points of interest correlate to the points on the enclosed tour route map:

1 Greeley Union Pacific Railroad Depot

- The depot is a stellar example of pre-Depression railroad depot architecture.
- Built by master architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood, the depot was a significant transportation hub from 1930 to 1943.
- This route connected Denver to the transcontinental railroad, which was routed through Southern Wyoming rather than Colorado to avoid the mountainous passes west of Denver.
- Construction was completed and the railroad moved into the building in October 1930, falling at the same time as Greeley's 60th anniversary and the Teachers' College's 40th anniversary.

2 Lincoln School/East Ward School, 1028 5th Avenue

- Built 1913-1915, it was designed by architect F.M. Barber in a Mission/Craftsman Style with hipped roof, open eaves, exposed rafter ends, parapet, and knee braces over entrances (triangle braces).
- It was built to accommodate the significant increase in population and, in 1929 the school district implemented the "platoon system" for grades 3-8. The school was divided into two groups called platoons. While one group stayed in homerooms studying and doing fundamentals, the other group was in "specials," such as art, music, library, P.E. and science; students would switch half-way through the day. Every room was utilized all day, so it increased the number of students educated without increasing the school size. The school housed mostly German from Russia students for many years.
- The building ceased operation as a school in 1953; it has since been used as a clinic and is now a pre-school.

3 Sunrise Neighborhood

- The area developed around the turn of the 20th century, with the development of the sugar factory and immigrants in the area working in the agricultural fields needing housing.
- The neighborhood is bounded roughly by the railroad tracks on the west, Highway 85 bypass on the east, the river and 5th Street on the north and 16th Street on the south.
- Centered around Sunrise Park, the neighborhood was self-sufficient for many years and home to many Germans from Russia, Japanese, and Hispanics.
- Some significant sites include the Ice House, the East Ward School, Sunrise Park, St. Paul's Congregational Church, Jefferson School, Moreno's and the Borgens House.

4 Great Western Sugar Company Factory (Leprino Foods), 1301 1st Avenue

- Construction began in November 1901 and was completed by October 1902, in time for sugar beet harvest.
- Chester Morey, resident and founder of Morey Mercantile, served as the first president of the Greeley Sugar Company and supervised construction of Greeley's factory, which used 2.5 million bricks from Boulder.
- The factory continued operations until 2005 when it closed. After a 103 year history as one of the community's largest early employers the site was purchased in 2008 by Leprino Foods, another agricultural business and the world's largest producer of mozzarella cheese, and the contemporary equal in terms of local economic impact.

5 Linn Grove Cemetery

- Established June 3, 1874.
- Forty acres bought by Joseph C. Shattuck, who owned a farm in Linn Creek, Missouri named "Linn Grove." When the town bought the land from him, they kept the name.
- The first recorded burial was Newell Ives, who died June 3, the same day the cemetery was established.
- Many remains from the original Greeley Cemetery were re-interred at Linn Grove in 1882.



Greeley High School (Greeley Central High School)



6 University of Northern Colorado

- Founded as the State Normal School on April 1, 1889, with enrollment for the first students in 1890.
- The school opened its doors on October 6th with a staff of four instructors and 96 students.
- Greeley residents had petitioned the Colorado government for a school for teachers' education and raised all the money for the first building.
- Name changes since its founding include Colorado State Teachers College in 1911, Colorado State College of Education in 1935, and finally University of Northern Colorado in 1970.
- The original building, Cranford Hall, was burned in 1949 by a theater student.

7 Alles Acres Neighborhood

- Adam Peter Alles and his family farmed this area from approximately 1917 to 1940, giving the future neighborhood its name.
- Distinguishing features include its estate-sized lots and its eclectic and distinctive architecture, ranging from log cabins and rammed-earth houses to modern houses.
- The neighborhood is bounded by Reservoir Road on the north, 25th Street on the south, 17th Avenue on the east, and 23rd Avenue on the west and contains 89 homes, housing about 240 people.
- Notable residents include: Howard Murphy, president of Turnpike Builders Incorporated; Dr. Claude Johns Jr., longstanding member of the U.S. Air Force who served in Vietnam and Iran, and became the Dean of Library Services at UNC; Charles Gardener, who owned Motor Mart; and David J. Miller, who worked in Germany during the Nuremburg Prosecutions on General Luscious Clay's legal staff.

8 Glenmere Neighborhood

- This neighborhood surrounds the beautiful Glenmere Park and reflects influence of the City Beautiful movement, which promoted making cities attractive through urban planning.
- The park was developed in the 1930s and 160 trees were planted.
- Several features of the park were projects conducted by the WPA under FDR's New Deal.
- Many popular architectural types found in Glenmere include vernacular, Colonial Revival, Spanish Eclectic, and Tudor Revival.

9 Cranford Neighborhood

- This neighborhood was first platted in 1887 and development began in 1890.
- Popular architectural types and styles include American Foursquare, Craftsman, and Tudor Revival.
- J.P. Cranford donated the land used in Cranford's development, but he never was a resident himself.
- The neighborhood grew in relation to the State Normal School after World War I, with a building boom and a 158% increase in students. Many residents worked as faculty at the College.



10 No. 3 Canal (“Ditch No. 3”)

- The ditch dates to 1870, when able-bodied colonists began to build the canal representing the first large-scale irrigation project constructed by the Union Colony.
- Is associated with the 1874 water conflict with Fort Collins that ultimately led to the establishment of the western water law “Doctrine of Prior Appropriation.”
- The ditch carries water from the Cache la Poudre east through Greeley along a 13-mile journey and was used initially to irrigate over 3,500 acres and is approximately four-to-six-feet deep and ten-to-fifteen-feet wide.

11 Meeker Home/Monroe Avenue Historic District

- This home was built in 1870 for town founder Nathan C. Meeker and is constructed of adobe bricks, a common material in southern Colorado from the late 19th century until 1940, and is described as a vernacular Italianate territorial adobe structure.
- When constructed, the home was located far from the town center to promote an optimistic view of the town’s success and future growth.
- The district was designated on the Greeley Historic Register in 1999 as Greeley’s first historic district. Before the numbering system of the roads in 1884, the north-south avenues were named after famous men and the east-west streets were named after trees, hence the name of the district.

12 “The Castle”, 1223 11th Street

- The Eclectic Victorian Harper Home, also called “The Castle,” was built in 1883 for Captain B.D. Harper, cattleman and banker, who relocated from Iowa to Evans and then Greeley, where he served as a county treasurer and helped organize the First National Bank.
- Notable features include flared eaves, pendants on all gable-ends, a tower with finial, cornice brackets, alternating bands of fish scale and diamond shingles on the tower, a porte-cochere, and an intricate verge board.

13 Haynes House, 1305 6th Street

- This Queen Anne style residence was built for Harry N. Haynes in 1885, who lived here until 1921 and was a prominent Greeley attorney, with expertise in western water law, devoting a large portion of his time to irrigation legal cases. He also served on the school board, as the city attorney and as the county attorney.
- Significant features include the decorative verge board (board attached to the incline of the gable), fish scale shingles, three brick chimneys, double hung windows with segmental arches, stone sills and brick lintels.

14 Washington School, 530 13th Avenue

- The Greeley School District No. 6 purchased lots for the school in 1882, located at the corner of what was Spruce Street and Sherman Avenue (6th Street and 13th Avenue). This Craftsman style structure was built by 1919 as the North Ward School.
- In 1931, the School District reorganized and changed the name of this school to Washington School, named for George Washington, which it operated as from 1931-1954. In 1954 it became the Park-Washington School, combining with the New Park School to be under the direction of one principal. The Park School was renamed Billie Martinez and the Washington School became the Head Start School for Greeley in the 1970s.

15 Norcross House/Warnoco Skating Rink, 1403 2nd Street

- Houghton & McElroy built the house with nine rooms for approximately \$9,000 in 1883; J.L. Barrett, a fruit farmer, was the original owner. The Billings family owned the house from 1902-1919. According to Marvin Billings, “Buffalo Bill” Cody, a friend of the family, visited them in the house when he was in town with his Wild West Show.
- Clarence Sall purchased the house and surrounding property in 1919 and created Sall’s Gardens, an amusement park on the site. In 1935 Warrick Norcross purchased it and operated the recreational area and amusement park for over 55 years. The amusement park once contained a dance hall, swimming pool, roller rink and outdoor arena. Norcross brought in entertainers, such as Lawrence Welk. J.W. Norcross helped initiate the Greeley Independence Stampede in 1922 and served as Parade Marshall in 1972.

16 Our Lady of Peace Church

- In 1941, Archbishop Urban J. Vehr established a new Catholic parish in Greeley, which arose out of religious efforts in Northern Colorado to meet the religious needs of Mexican-Americans who worked in area beet fields.
- A large building-site was purchased and plans for construction commenced. Funds to build the church came entirely from donations. However, World War II postponed any new building until 1947, when the City issued a building permit. The church was named Our Lady of Peace due to its beginnings in the war years.
- This Spanish Eclectic church is a rectilinear, single-story brick structure with a mission tile front gable roof. The exterior walls are red brick with simple wedge-shaped attached buttresses at all corners and evenly spaced along the south and north facades. The rounded arch is used in all fenestration.

17 Centennial Village Museum

- The Colorado Centennial and the U.S. Bicentennial encouraged the establishment of a center to interpret agricultural, architectural, and cultural heritage of Greeley.
- The outdoor museum was established in 1976 to recreate the frontier lifestyle between 1860 and 1920.
- Thirty structures from the Old West are set on its eight acres and were either relocated from other sites or built as replicas.

18 Island Grove Regional Park

- Trees in this park date back to 1869.
- The park name was taken from the original stand of cottonwood trees growing along the Poudre River and is located on 145 acres bordering the Poudre River.
- The Works Progress Administration provided some civic improvements at the park including new structures at the fairgrounds.

19 Oak & Adams House, 930 5th Street

- Local stone mason William Ross built the house for himself in 1883. A concrete stone with the carved words "OAK" and "ADAMS" is located on the northwest corner of the house, placed there as protest to the town's decision to change the street naming convention from trees/famous men to numbered streets and avenues.
- Residents included business owners, managers, farmers, and a mechanic.
- The Greeley Urban Renewal Authority acquired the property in 1996 and rehabilitated it in the early 2000's.

Artesian Well #5

- The Artesian Well Company was formed in May 1886; eight wells drilled in Greeley from 1884 to 1886.
- The *Tribune* announced on June 16, 1886 that the well, at a depth of 1160 feet in depth, was completed and water had been found.
- Dr. Jesse Hawes, respected local physician, analyzed the water and said it was "almost chemically pure, save the presence of free carbonic acid."



Racers at Island Grove Park



20 State Armory, 614 8th Avenue

- The State Armory served as the training facility for the Greeley unit of the Colorado National Guard and housed sporting events and community activities and also served as a morgue when a commercial airliner exploded over Weld County and when children were killed in a train-school bus accident.

Camfield Court Building, 615-31 8th Avenue

- Built in 1909-10, the original tenants included a local engineering and construction company, the Home Gas & Electric Company, the Christian Science Church, and City National Bank on the first floor corner section and the second floor units were rented as apartments.

21 Lincoln Park

- Lincoln Park is one of very few remaining sites constructed during the Union Colony's first year and represents the colonists' belief that a central public plaza is essential to the health and vitality of residents.
- The park has historically been the site of many annual events, contributing to its history and significance.
- Two lakes, called Lake Luna and Lake Auricular, were located in the north and south halves of the park, but they were drained soon because of mosquitoes and flooding.

22 Old Park (St. Patrick) Church, 803 10th Avenue

- The church was originally built in 1883, but the current building was constructed for the First Congregational Church in 1906, enveloping the 1883 structure.
- The new church was built because the congregation had outgrown the original facility. The renovations, including installation of a \$3,000 pipe organ, were completed in 1907.

23 Weld County Courthouse

- The courthouse cost \$414,000 and was completely paid for upon completion and was celebrated in July 1917.
- Is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a contributing building in the Greeley Historic Register Downtown Greeley Historic District and the National Register downtown historic district.

24 8th Avenue/Downtown Greeley

- Electric lights came to downtown Greeley by 1886 and the first planning commission was created in the 1950s to address traffic and parking in the downtown shopping district.
- Downtown includes both a Greeley historic district and smaller National Register of Historic Places district.
- Bessie Smith, Greeley's first female architect, designed the Coronado Building.
- A welcome arch spanned 8th Ave. between the Camfield Hotel and the Camfield Court Building from 1911-1917.

25 Greeley Tribune Building/Greeley History Museum

- Constructed in 1928, this building housed the Greeley Tribune newspaper offices and printing rooms, as well as offices of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District.
- The Tribune occupied this building from 1928 until it moved to its current location on 8th Ave. and 5th St. in 1986.
- The building was eventually acquired by the City and rehabilitated as the Greeley History Museum.



8th Ave. north entry



Photos courtesy of the City of Greeley Museums,
permanent collection.

Arvilla Meeker, wife of Nathan Meeker