

WOLCOTT HISTORIC DISTRICT

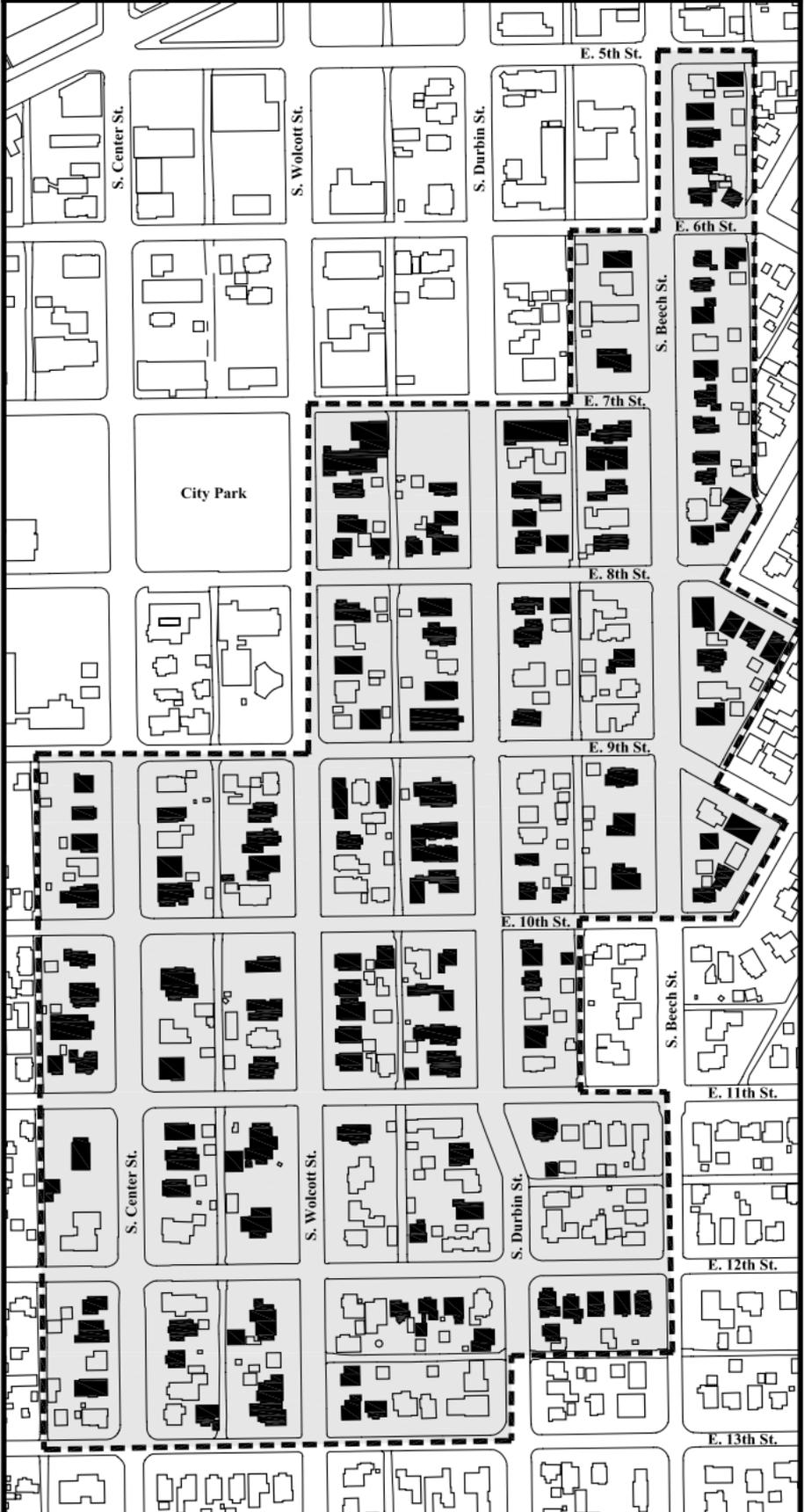
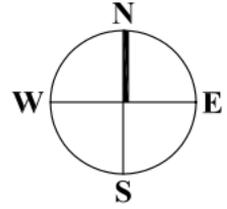
The South Wolcott Historic District encompasses one of the oldest residential neighborhoods in Casper. Its earliest house dates to 1905, however, the majority were built between 1910 and 1924.

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

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

South Wolcott St. Historic District

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



COLONIAL REVIVAL

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

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

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



1110 South Center Street

This Colonial Revival styled home was built in 1910 for A. J. Cunningham. Cunningham was an early pioneer of Casper who opened a general mercantile in 1889 and later founded and served as president of Casper National Bank, now a part of First Interstate Bank.

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



Casper Journal Collection, Casper College Western History Center

1108 South Wolcott Street

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

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

1125 South Wolcott Street

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

1134 South Wolcott Street

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

1208 South Wolcott Street

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



Frances Seely Webb Collection, Casper College Western History Center



Natrona County Pioneer Association Collection, Casper College Western History Center

109 East 10th Street

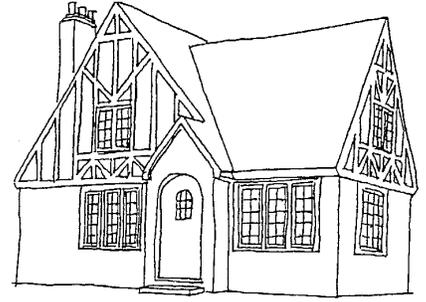
One of Casper's oldest and largest mansions, this three-story, 7,500 square foot home was built in 1909 for the well-known sheep rancher and businessman, Patrick Sullivan. Sullivan served as a Wyoming Senator from 1900 until 1918 and as a United States Senator in 1929. Joseph Carey, owner of the CY ranch,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

TUDOR REVIVAL

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

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

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



1105 South Durbin Street

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

1212 South Center Street

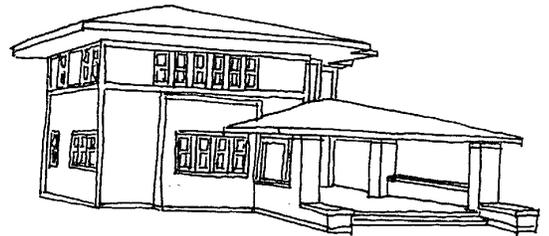
Built in 1917 for a petroleum engineer, this house was designed to resemble the "House of Seven Gables" from the book of the same name by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

AMERICAN FOURSQUARE/PRAIRIE STYLE

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

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

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



CRAFTSMAN/BUNGALOW

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

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

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



GOTHIC REVIVAL

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

TOUR OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS, MARKERS AND MONUMENTS

A. 1002 East "L" Street

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

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



Frank Schulte, Casper College Western History Center

B. 818 East 2nd Street

The Marvin L. Bishop home is the first multi-story brick home constructed in Casper. It was designed after Mr. Bishop's childhood home in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. Constructed in 1907, design elements include a widow's walk, a full width exposed porch with Tuscan columns, and a central hallway that continues from the entrance of the house to the back porch. Mr. Bishop was appointed Postmaster for Casper in 1892. Upon resignation, he entered into sheep ranching and became a prominent sheep rancher in the community. He founded the Natrona County Woolgrowers Association and was instrumental in establishing a series of stock drives and rest stations for livestock in Natrona County.

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



Ruth Scott Hocker Collection, Casper College Western History Center

C. 360 North Wolcott Street

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

D. 421 South Center Street

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



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

E. 624 South Center

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

A priest of St. Anthony's Church, Father John Mullin, came to Casper in 1915. During a Ku Klux Klan (KKK) activity in town, Father Mullin became agitated at the gathering near his parish and told the KKK to carry on its business away from his church. Not long afterwards, Mullin, with the help of others obtained a list of Casper businessmen who dealt with the KKK. By boycotting and shunning these men, Casper was successfully rid of the KKK.

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



F. 108 East 7th

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

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

G. 136 East 6th Street

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

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



H. 930 South Elm Street

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

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

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

I. 815 S. Grant Street

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

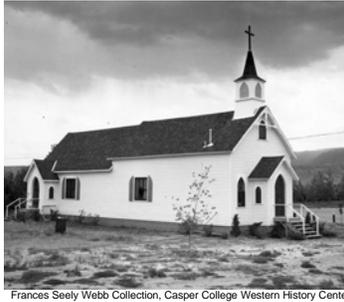
As of this printing, Grant Street Grocery and Market has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places, and is pending final review.

J. 140 East "K" Street

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

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

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



Frances Seely Webb Collection, Casper College Western History Center

K. St. Marks Episcopal Church at the Central Wyoming Fairgrounds

The little white chapel was once located at the northeast corner of 2nd and Wolcott. Constructed in 1891, it was Casper's first church. When its patronage outgrew this structure, it was used as a parish home. In 1954 it was moved to the Fairgrounds and was used as a museum for pioneer artifacts until 1990.

L. Reshaw's (Richards) Bridge

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

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

M. Mormon Ferry

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

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

N. Child's Route

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

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

O. Fort Caspar

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

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

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

P. National Historic Trails Interpretive Center

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

Q. Oregon/Mormon/California/Pony Express National Historic Trails

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



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

R. Casper Army Air Base

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

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

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

S. "Old Yellowstone District"

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

As the automobile gained popularity, the businesses in the OYD catered directly to the needs of the car, and the travelers along the original Yellowstone Highway. The Tripeny Motor Company at 355 W. Yellowstone began in the 1930's, selling Desotos and Cushmans. At 400 West Yellowstone is A-1 Used Tire, Originally Wyatt Service Station. George Wyatt began the service station in 1920 after losing his sheep business to the harsh winters of Wyoming. George and his brothers, Henry and A.H. Cheshire, and other family members continued to operate the business until it was sold in 1996, when it became a tire shop.

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