

Rifle Historic Tour



Rifle House
Currently under restoration by Sally Brands, the Rifle House was a first class hotel built by Andy Wiseman in 1902. It survived the fire of 1902 due to heroic efforts. The bricks on the north wall still show evidence of hasty replacement after the fire.

Rifle Branch Library
The first library in Rifle, it was founded in 1903 by the Rifle Reading Club, an organization of Rifle women. The Roosevelt Window, a heritage window, was purchased for the new Christian (Presbyterian) Church using proceeds from sales of pictures of Teddy Roosevelt on his hunting trip on Divide Creek.

Rifle Plumbing Company (1st Building East of Library)
The best example of boomtown construction in Rifle. C.M. Hoback bought the building in 1924 and converted it to a flour mill. The crow's nest was added at that time, along with a rear metal extension.

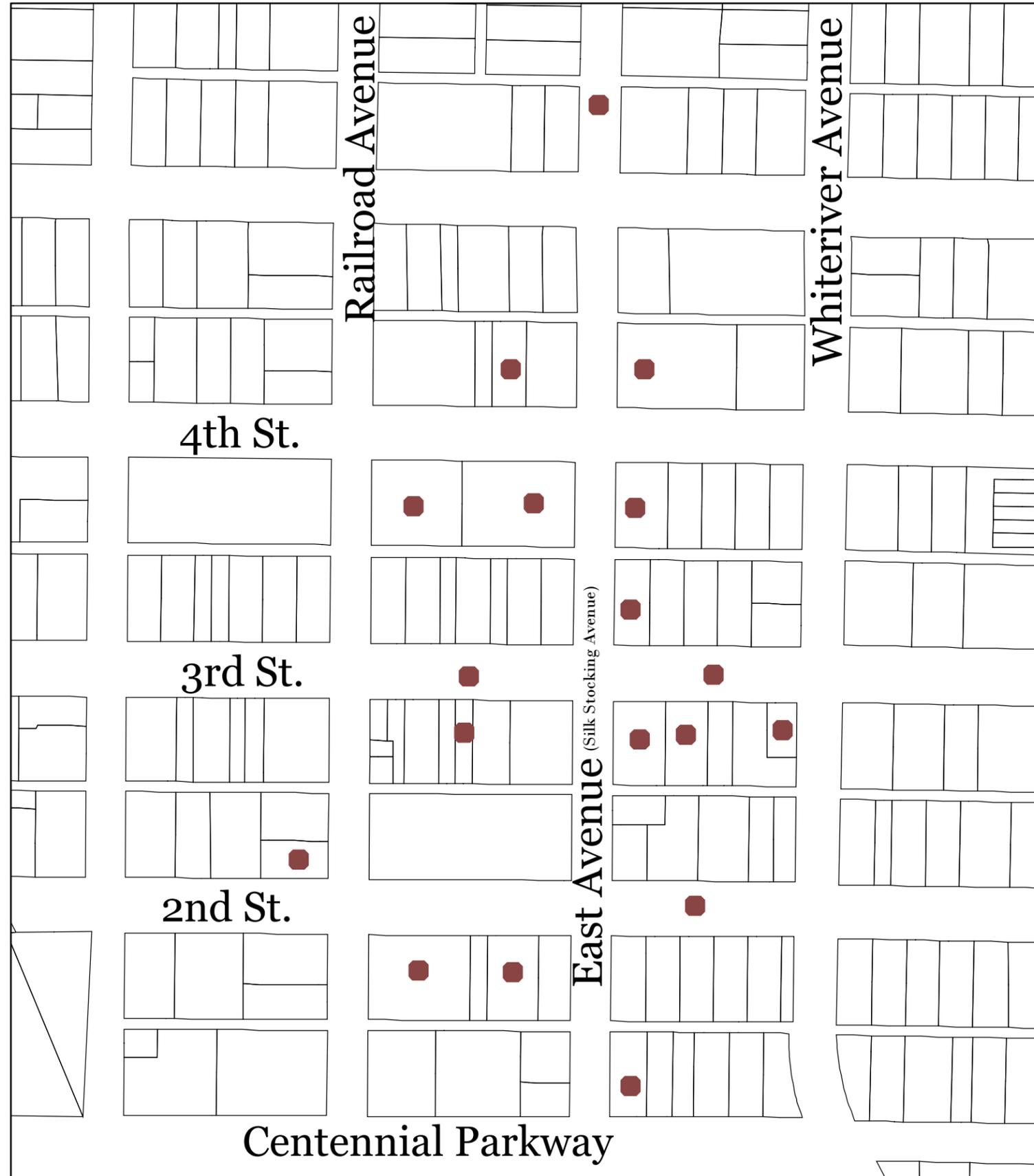
Birdie Caton Home (now Karylett's)
Home of the Justice of the Peace Birdie Caton and her husband Jim Caton, the first forest ranger for Whiteriver National Forest. Two houses, one a log cabin, were moved together in the 1920's to form this unique home, now a gift shop owned by Carol Gentry.

Main Street (Now 2nd Street)
Looking up and down this street, you can see early Rifle homes of the Sinele (200 E. 2nd), Gregor (224 E. 2nd), Miller (223 E. 2nd), and Ellis families (211 E. 2nd) and the Thomas Maternity Home (229 E. 2nd) where many Rifle residents aged 50 and over were born. Up the hill in the Clarkson/Munro addition are more early homes and the Sinele Terrace (338 E. 2nd), a 1908 duplex.

LeRoussignol Home
Laura Harris came to Rifle with her husband, a physician in ill health, and their son Leslie. After her husband's death, she stayed in Rifle and provided meals for Dr. Walter LeRoussignol; they fell in love and married. This home, built where the original Maxfield cabin stood, has recently been designated a Rifle Historic Landmark and is under restoration. Eugena Perkins' art work is on display here. Eugena and her husband own the Gene Hill service station across the street and are working to preserve it.

Crann House
Hannah Crann, one of Rifle's earliest pioneer women, lived here. Born Hannah Vaughn, in 1881 she came to Boulder by train and then to Aspen. She and William Crann were the first couple married in Pitkin County on May 16, 1882. In 1885 she drove the first wagon through the canyon west of Glenwood Springs and settled in Cactus Valley, moving on across the river to what is now Crann Mesa in 1886. Hannah had learned to row on the Ohio River as a child, and became an expert at rowing across the Grand River (now the Colorado)-she could do it when no one else could. Before the first ferry, she would row passengers across with horses swimming behind. When they later moved to Rifle, Hannah became a school board member when the original Rifle High School (now CMC) was built. Legend says she was so incensed when Hollenbeck built his garage on the adjacent property, she moved the house next door in to block the view.

Todd House
One of the earliest houses in Rifle, Blanche Goodrich, a Todd daughter, was the first Apple Pie Day Queen (her picture is shown on the 2nd floor of the Rifle Creek Museum). A long-time civic leader, she was for many years treasurer of the Presbyterian Church.



3rd Street
Features the Claggett home (303 E. 3rd), the Harry Smith home (317 E. 3rd), the Jim McLearn home (320 E. 3rd), Cave House, a walled-in cave (corner of 3rd & Munro), the Dr. Morelock home and office (230 E. 3rd), the Mock Kendall home (218 E. 3rd), the First Christian Church and parsonage, built in 1906 (312 E. 3rd), and the Fremont Dixon home (next to the Gene Hill service station).

Gene Hill Filling Station
A very early filling station. May Hill was proud of her Indian heritage and shared it with the community.

Andy Gump Apartments
Local lore says this was a house of ill repute in Aspen. It was moved to Rifle in the 1930's. Nellie Dudley ran a boarding house and restaurant here.

Methodist/Presbyterian Church
Built in 1906. Current church historian Harriett Loshbaugh, who came to Rifle around 1920, tells us the bricks were locally made. The windows were designed in Denver. When the Rifle School System became overcrowded, classes met in this church's basement.

Silk Stocking Avenue (Now East Avenue)
Silk Stocking Avenue north contained homes of many of Rifle's elite:

504 East Avenue	Pike Donell
532 East Avenue	Dr. Mary Moore
537 East Avenue	Fred Munro
600 East Avenue	Hamp Haley
612 East Avenue	Richard Magor
618 East Avenue	Suzie Barley (1st woman editor of the Rifle Telegram)
634 East Avenue	Kit house from Montgomery Ward brought in by train & assembled
721 East Avenue	Hawxhurst
728 East Avenue	Callen
729 East Avenue	Sizer Prefontaine
808 East Avenue	Harp

Ute Theater
The art deco lights, designed by Pat Lind, represent the Rifle economy of 1949. They show the vanadium mill east of Rifle on Rtes 6 and 24, the sugar beet industry, the sheep and cattle industry, and fishing and hunting.

Rifle Creek Museum
A dream of school teacher Emalyn Kangston, the museum was started by the Rifle Creek Home-makers' Club in the Austin School House, a building now part of the Silt Historical Park. The museum outgrew the school building during the Oil Shale Boom of the 1980s and was moved to Rifle's City Hall. It currently houses the Garrison Collection of early Western Colorado photographers Ola and Fred Garrison. Ola Fralick had a studio in Debeque when she met Fred Garrison. In 1914 they married and she came to Rifle to run the studio, doing studio sittings and retouching while Fred did the developing. Their pictures are classics, a preservation of our western Colorado heritage.

3rd Street
Buildings from the early 1900s include the Munro building, Enterprise building (the first garage in Rifle), the Valdez & Hampson grocery, the Hoffmeister bakery, Reynards Hotel, the McLearn building, the Moyle building (home and office of first Rifle dentist Kate Moyle), the Stauffer pharmacy, the Glover jewelry (home of the first library), and the Rifle Sanitarium (now the Midland Hotel).

Senior Pro Rodeo Museum
Site of the Ute Theater, which burned in 1944. Currently the home of the Senior Pro Rodeo Museum.