

# Historical and Architectural Landmarks

## West of 1800 Grant Street

### The Brown Palace

#### Walking takes approximately 6 minutes, one-way

- Head south on Grant St. toward 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Turn right at 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Turn left at Tremont Place
- Turn left at 17<sup>th</sup> Street
- 321 17<sup>th</sup> Street

Excerpts adapted from the Brown Palace website: [www.brownpalace.com/about\\_the\\_brown/fun\\_facts.cfm](http://www.brownpalace.com/about_the_brown/fun_facts.cfm)

On Aug. 12, 1892 - 118 years ago - The Brown Palace Hotel opened its doors in the heart of downtown Denver. The hotel has remained open and welcomed guests every minute of every day since opening.

Every U.S. president has visited The Brown Palace since Teddy Roosevelt (1905), with the exception of Calvin Coolidge.

The Brown Palace contains 12,400 surface feet of onyx, a semiprecious variety of quartz, which was the most ever used in a single building at the time the hotel was constructed.

The hotel's original artesian well is located 720 feet deep beneath the lobby floor and still provides water to every faucet in the hotel.

Four of the hotel's suites are named for their famous residents: The Beatles Suite, Eisenhower Suite, Reagan Suite, and Teddy Roosevelt Suite.

Before the Beatles' visit in 1964, the hotel saw a great surge in applications for housekeepers by young girls. After the Beatles' stay, monetary offers were made for the dishes from which they ate and the sheets on which they slept.

In 1937, the hotel opened the Skyline Apartments which housed permanent residents in suites with kitchens on the top two floors of the hotel. The last of these residents moved out in the mid-1980s.

The Brown Palace Club, located on the second floor, served as campaign headquarters for Dwight D. Eisenhower prior to his election as president.

Two of the cast iron grillwork panels on the railing surrounding the hotel's eight-story atrium are upside down.

Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division tried rappelling from the balconies during a visit to the hotel during World War II.

Except for crackers and sandwich bread, the hotel prepares all of its own baked goods in a unique, carousel oven - catalogued at more than 50 years old. The oven is one of only three in the world known to be in existence and still in daily use.

President Eisenhower hit a wayward golf ball while practicing in the room and made a dent in the fireplace mantel in the Eisenhower Suite. The dent remains.

# Historical and Architectural Landmarks

## West of 1800 Grant Street

### Trinity United Methodist Church

#### Walking takes approximately 4 minutes, one-way

- Head south on Grant Street
- Turn right at 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Turn right at Broadway
- 1820 Broadway

Excerpts adapted from the Trinity United Methodist Church website: <http://www.trinityumc.org/>

Built in 1888, Trinity United Methodist Church is one of the finest examples of "Modern Gothic" architecture in the United States. It was considered by its architect, Robert S. Roeschlaub (1843-1923), as the crowning achievement of his extensive career. As a result of his work, the East Denver School Board offered Robert a permanent position to design plans for needed schools in the area, the grandest being East Denver High School. Not only did Roeschlaub design Trinity, but numerous other historic buildings across the state: the Central City Opera House (1879), Pueblo's Central High School (1881); the University of Denver's Chamberlin Observatory (1888), University Hall (1890) and Carnegie Library (1906).

By using blocks of locally quarried Castle Rock rhyolite on the building's face exterior, the rhyolite facing and sandstone trim linked the church with its native surroundings. The spire stands 183' 7 1/2" from the ground. Because of the height, the usual scaffoldings and cranes couldn't be used during construction. In 1888, it was one of the tallest stone towers in the United States.

At the main Broadway entrance to the church you will find patterned wrought-iron gates. Portions of the gates and their hinges were designed by the architect in the tradition of medieval prototypes. Additions have since been made. The majority of Trinity's stained glass artwork was designed by Healy and Millet of Chicago.

Trinity's Roosevelt organ quickly gained attention as a crown jewel in the flourishing West. While 108 pipes are visible in the sanctuary, a chamber filled with an additional 4,094 pipes, whose "speaking length" ranges in size from less than one inch to 32 feet, is behind the casing. The pipes are constructed of various materials: pine, mahogany and assorted hardwoods; zinc for the larger metal pipes are made of zinc and cast alloys of tin and lead for the smaller pipes.

# Historical and Architectural Landmarks

## South of 1800 Grant Street

### Colorado State Capitol

#### Walking takes approximately 8 minutes, one-way

- Head south on Grant St.
- Turn right on Colfax Avenue
- State Capitol on left
- 200 East Colfax Avenue

Excerpts adapted from the Colorado State Capitol Virtual Tour Guide website:

<http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/cap/contents.htm>

Entrance Door - At each of the four porticos (entrances to the Capitol) there are three sets of decorative door panels. These door panels, made by Paterson and Roney of Denver at a cost of \$14,494, are especially valuable because of the statuary bronze used to accent the detailed workmanship. Quarter inch plate glass panels are framed with beautiful ornamental grillwork in the shapes of dogwood and cornucopias.

Marble and Granite - The white marble used in the Capitol, primarily the basement, was quarried at Yule Creek in Gunnison County. This quarry also provided marble for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. Also, throughout the Capitol is the rare and priceless Colorado Rose Onyx or what is commonly called Beulah Red Marble. In fact, the irreplaceable mauve marble is so rare that its known supply was completely used up in the process of beautifying the Capitol. The quarrying was difficult due to the rock's limited quantity, and transporting the marble took at least three days. It would take seven years and more than two hundred stone cutters to finally finish the task of installing all of the marble in the State Capitol. One of the cutters said that the varying shades of red marble reminded him "of the gorgeousness of a Colorado sunset."

For the exterior, the Capitol board desired to use Fort Collins sandstone. Many civic-minded socialites felt that sandstone was unworthy of gracing the building's exterior. Despite adding almost half a million dollars to the building cost, the Capitol Board made the decision to use granite. The Gunnison Granite that makes up the exterior was quarried in 1889 at the Zugelder Quarry at Beaver Creek. The quarry was somewhat remote, so the Rio Grande Railroad had to build a five-and-a-half mile extension so the many tons of granite could reach Denver. Working ten-hour days, seven days a week, for two years, these quarrymen could produce twenty carloads of granite a week.

The Tunnels - Thirty feet below the basement lies a vast network of tunnels that connect the Museum Building (now the Legislative Services Building), State Office Building, State Services Building, and State Capitol Annex to the State Capitol. The 9,000-to-1,300 feet of tunnel measures 6 ½-to-8 feet high and 5-to-8 feet wide. Originally, these passageways were lined with track so that carts filled with coal could be easily transported within the Capitol complex. This system also allowed the transportation of water from the complex's artesian wells to the various offices. The tunnels are now used as conduits for the Capitol complex's steam and heating pipes as well as electrical wiring.

Legend has it that there is a hidden treasure in the Capitol's secret labyrinth. A single watchman guarded the Capitol from the day the building opened until the day he died almost thirty years later. During that time the watchman lived in the tunnels and reportedly lived very frugally. Every paycheck he received was converted to silver dollars, and supposedly he hid his stash somewhere in the tunnels he called home for thirty years. The watchman's treasure has yet to be found.

The Gold Dome - Rising 272 feet, the distinctive gold dome has become a symbol of our state's rich heritage. Originally the dome was covered in copper. Since copper was not a native alloy or resilient to the elements, the dome soon became tarnished, displeasing many citizens. The persistent Otto Mears convinced the Colorado Mining Association to donate 200 ounces of 24-karat leaf toward the gold dome project, and soon his dream became a reality. The Board of Capitol Managers spent \$14,680 for the project and hired the company of F.T. Adam & George Murphy to gild the copper dome in 1908.

By 1948 the gold on the dome had begun to wear thin, and reporter Bert Hanna pushed the Colorado citizens to stand behind their symbolic monument. By 1949 the Colorado Mining Association was able to donate the gold needed, and the state paid the \$25,000 necessary to restore the dome to its previous luster. The dome later was regilded in 1980 and 1991.

# Historical and Architectural Landmarks

## South of 1800 Grant Street

### Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

#### Walking takes approximately 9 minutes, one-way

- Head south on Grant Street
- Turn left at Colfax Avenue
- Walk one block to Logan
- 1530 Logan Street

Historical information from Denver Cathedral website: <http://www.denvercathedral.org/htmlpages/histofcathedral.htm>

The first Catholic Church in Denver, St. Mary's celebrated the inaugural Mass on Christmas Eve of 1860. In 1868, St. Mary's became the Cathedral.

In 1890, Bishop Nicholas C. Matz built a brick and sandstone building at 1842 Logan Street. Its four floors were used as the Cathedral school and the basement was the pro-Cathedral or temporary Cathedral.

In 1902, ground was broken for the new Cathedral. Work came to a halt due to a lack of funds caused by questionable investments.

In 1905, an energetic assistant, Hugh L. McMenamin, or Father Mac, came to the Cathedral and organized fund raising efforts for the work to continue. The cornerstone was laid in 1906 and Father Mac was appointed rector of the Cathedral on July 26, 1908.

The twin 210 foot spires were capped in 1911. The exterior of the structure is made of limestone from Indiana and granite from Gunnison, Colorado. The altar, statuary, and bishop's chair are all made of marble imported from Carrara, Italy. The seventy-five stained glass windows came from the F.X. Zetter's Royal Bavarian Institute of Munich.

With the structure virtually complete, a bolt of lightning struck the west tower on August 7, 1912 and knocked off the top twenty-five feet. The spire was repaired before the dedication. The total cost to build the Cathedral was approximately \$500,000.

The Cathedral was consecrated in 1921 and elevated to a minor basilica on December 25, 1979.

On August 13 and 14, 1993, His Holiness John Paul II celebrated Mass at the Cathedral as part of the World Youth Day celebration held in Denver that year.

On June 23, 1997, the east spire of the Cathedral was struck by lightning. Repairs took nine months to complete. The east tower and spire were rededicated on June 23, 1998.

# Historical and Architectural Landmarks

## South of 1800 Grant Street

### Molly Brown House Museum

#### Walking takes approximately 14 minutes, one-way

- Head south on Grant Street
- Turn left at Colfax Avenue
- Turn right at Pennsylvania
- 1340 Pennsylvania

Historical information from Molly Brown Museum website: <http://www.mollybrown.org/learn/mollys-house/>

The Molly Brown House Museum stands as an enduring symbol of the Victorian era and the city of Denver. In the 1880s the lucky few who made millions in the mountains, the railroads, or trade moved to the prestigious Capitol Hill neighborhood. Margaret and J.J.'s house at 1340 Pennsylvania Avenue was built in 1889 for Isaac and Mary Large, who made their fortune in silver mining. They commissioned the well-known architect William Lang to design the home. Lang combined the styles of Classic Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, and refined neoclassical to create a unique and eclectic home. Lang used rhyolite stone on the exterior to create a rugged façade; he then complimented this ruggedness with smooth red sandstone. Lang also incorporated stained glass windows, ornamental wood panels and curved brackets to create a lavish appearance. The house contained all the modern technology of the day including electricity, indoor plumbing, steam heat and telephone lines.

Shortly after the completion of the house, the Sherman Silver Act was repealed and the Larges became victims of the silver crash that followed. On April 3, 1894 the Larges sold their home to James Joseph "J.J." Brown. The Browns made changes to the house by adding a retaining wall to the front porch and enclosing the back porch.

In 1898, J.J. transferred the titled of the house into Margaret's name. Margaret owned the house until her death in 1932. When Margaret was traveling about she would often rent the house to various wealthy families. In 1902, while the Browns were on a world trip, the home became the Governor's mansion for Governor James Orman and his family. Margaret continued to rent the house until the declining neighborhood and the Great Depression forced her to turn the home into a boarding house under the supervision of her housekeeper, Ella Grable. Upon Margaret's death in 1932, at the height of the Great Depression, the house was sold. Subsequent owners altered the house dramatically, creating twelve separate spaces for roomers.

In 1958, Art Leisenring purchased the house and ran a gentlemen's boarding house. In 1960 Leisenring leased the house to the city, and it was utilized as a home for wayward girls. Leisenring knew of Margaret "Molly" Brown as she was being immortalized on stage and screen in the "Unsinkable Molly Brown."

During the 1960s, Denver was in the process of undergoing "urban renewal," and bulldozers demolished many of the finest buildings to make room for high-rise apartments and parking lots. Concerned about what he was seeing happen in the neighborhood, Art Leisenring and a group of other concerned citizens appealed to the then-governor's wife, Ann Love, for help. On December 11, 1970, the group incorporated to form Historic Denver, Inc. and made a grass roots effort to save the Molly Brown House from demolition. Through massive media appeals and other fund raising efforts, [Historic Denver, Inc.](#) was able to purchase the house and begin restoration. Through microscopic paint analysis, architectural research, and studying original house photographs from 1910 the house was finally restored to its original splendor.

# Historical and Architectural Landmarks

## Southeast of 1800 Grant Street

### Cheesman Park

#### Walking takes approximately 30 minutes, one-way

- Head south on Grant Street
- Turn left at 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Take a slight right at Park Avenue
- Turn right on Franklin Street

Information taken from Colorado Legends, Ghost of Cheesman Park in Denver website:

<http://www.legendsofamerica.com/co-cheesmanpark.html>

While taking a stroll upon the rolling hills or having a picnic under the shade of one of the many trees in the beautiful 80 acre Cheesman Park, many visitors don't realize that they very well may be walking or sitting right upon the grave of one of the many who were buried here in the 19th century. Surrounded by Capitol Hill mansions in the heart of downtown Denver, Colorado Cheesman Park is not only frequented by visitors wanting to explore its botanical gardens or enjoy its 150 mile panoramic view from the pavilion, but is also said to be home to a number of restless spirits.

The park's history began in 1858 when General William Larimer jumped the claim of the St. Charles Town Company and established his own town, which he called Denver. In actuality, the property didn't belong to the Town Company either; rather the land legally belonged to the Arapaho Indians. In November, 1858, Larimer set aside 320 acres for a cemetery, which is now the site of present-day Cheesman and Congress Parks. Larimer called it Mount Prospect Cemetery and several large plots were designated on the crest of the hill for the exclusive use of the city's wealthy and most influential citizens. The outermost edge of the cemetery was reserved for criminals and paupers, while the middle class were to be interred somewhere in between.

The first man buried in the cemetery was named Abraham Kay, who died after being suddenly stricken with a lung infection. He was buried on March 20, 1859. However, the most often story told of the first person buried was a man hanged for murder. Making for a far more interesting tale, it has become the more preferred version.

The cemetery never gained the respect that Larimer intended for it to have. The influential citizens of Denver's society were most often buried elsewhere, leaving the graveyard to burials of the poor, criminal, and diseased.

When Larimer eventually left Denver, Mt. Prospect was claimed by a cabinet-maker named John Walley, who also just happened to be an aspiring undertaker. Walley did an extremely bad job of keeping up the cemetery which soon fell into a terrible state of disrepair as headstones were toppled, graves were vandalized and sometimes, even cattle were allowed to graze upon the land. Some legends even tell of homesteaders who began to live upon the land.

In 1872, the U.S. Government determined that the property upon which the cemetery sat was federal land, having been deeded to the government in an 1860 by a treaty with the Arapaho Indians. The government then offered the land to the City of Denver who purchased it for \$200. A year later, the cemetery's name was changed to the Denver City Cemetery.

By the late 1880's, the cemetery was seldom used and had fallen into even worse disrepair, becoming a terrible eyesore in what had become one of the most prestigious parts of the burgeoning city. Real estate developers soon began to lobby for a park rather than an unused cemetery. Before long, Colorado Senator Teller persuaded the U.S. Congress to allow the old graveyard to be converted to a park. On January 25, 1890, Congress authorized the city to vacate Mt. Prospect and in recognition, Teller immediately renamed the area Congress Park.

## Cheesman Park cont.

Families were then given 90 days to remove the remains of their departed to other locations. Those who could afford to began to transfer the bodies to other cemeteries throughout the city. However, most those buried in the cemetery were vagrants, criminals, and paupers. When the majority of bodies remained unclaimed, the City of Denver awarded a contract to undertaker E.P. McGovern to remove the remains in 1893.

McGovern was to provide a "fresh" box for each body and transfer it to the Riverside Cemetery at a cost of \$1.90 each. The gruesome work began on March 14, 1893, before an audience of curiosity-seekers and reporters. For the first few days, the transfer was orderly. However, the unscrupulous McGovern soon found a way to make an even larger profit on the contract. Rather than utilizing full-size coffins for adults, he used child-sized caskets that were just one foot by 3 ½ feet long. Hacking the bodies up, McGovern sometimes used as many as three caskets for just one body. In their haste, body parts and bones were literally strewn everywhere and in the disorganized mess, "souvenir" hunters began to loot the open graves and coffins.

The Health Commissioner immediately began an investigation into the matter and as a result, Mayor Rogers terminated the contract. Afterwards, the city built a temporary wooden fence around the cemetery, leaving it in shambles with open holes still displayed. Though numerous graves had not yet been reached and others sat exposed, a new contract for moving the bodies was never awarded.

In 1894, grading and leveling began in preparation for the park, though several of the open graves wouldn't be filled in until 1902, when shrubs were planted in many of them. The park was finally completed in 1907, without ever having moved the rest of the bodies. Two years later, in 1909, Gladys Cheesman-Evans, and her mother, Mrs. Walter S. Cheesman, donated a marble pavilion in memory of Denver pioneer, Walter Cheesman. The donation was conditional that part of the park's be designated as Cheesman Park and so it was. The pavilion continues to stand today.

Today, an estimated 2,000 bodies remain buried in Cheesman Park. It comes as no surprise that the spirits of these forgotten, looted, and sometimes desecrated bodies continue to make their presence known, not only at Cheesman Park, but in neighborhood that surrounds it.

Almost immediately, when the bodies began to be removed from the cemetery in 1893, strange things began to happen. One of the first reports was when a grave digger named Jim Astor felt a ghost land upon his shoulders. Astor, who had been looting the graves as he moved the bodies, immediately ran from the graveyard and failed to return to work the next day.

Those living in residences surrounding the graveyard began to report sad and confused looking spirits knocking at their doors and windows, as well as the sounds of moans coming from the still yet open graves.

Today, these restless spirits are still said to occupy the park as dozens of tales continue to be told of paranormal activities taking place. Most visitors tell of feelings of unexplainable sadness or dread in a place, that is today, meant for pleasure and relaxation. But other reports are more specific, often including the sounds of hundreds of whispering voices and moans that continue to come from the fields where the open graves once laid.

Children have been seen playing in the park during the night before they mysteriously disappear and a woman is said to be seen singing to herself, before she too, suddenly vanishes.

On some moonlit nights, the outlines of the old graves can still allegedly be seen. Others have also claimed that after lying on the grass, they have found it difficult to get up, as if unseen forces are restraining them.

Yet more reports tell of strange shadows and misty figures that seem to wander through the park in confusion.

# Walking Destinations from 1800 Grant Street

## **Brown Palace Hotel**

*Round trip: 15-minute walk*

Broadway & Tremont Place

Walk south on Grant Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Turn right onto 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and walk west towards downtown

Take a slight left onto Tremont Place and the hotel will be on left-side of the street

## **Cheesman Park**

*Round trip: 60-minute walk*

Franklin Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Walk south on Grant Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Turn left onto 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Take a slight right onto Park Avenue

Turn right onto Franklin Street

## **D Bar** (Dessert Bar, as featured on Travel Channel & Food Network)

*Round trip: 35-minute walk*

Humboldt Street & 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Walk south on Grant Street to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Turn left onto 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, walk past Park Avenue

D Bar is on left- side of the street, immediately after Humboldt Street

## **Denver City Park**

*Round trip: 60-minute walk*

York Street & 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Walk south on Grant Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Turn left onto 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and walk past Park Avenue to York Street

## **Denver's Firefighter Museum**

*Round trip: 25-minute walk*

Tremont Place & 13<sup>th</sup> Street

Walk south on Grant Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue,

Turn right onto 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and walk west towards downtown

Take a slight left onto Tremont Place and walk towards 13<sup>th</sup> Street

Museum will be on left-side of street

## **Grant Humphrey Mansion**

*Round trip: 55-minute walk*

Pearl Street & 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Walk south on Grant Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Turn left onto 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and walk east 3 blocks to Pearl Street

Follow Pearl to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The mansion is on the right-hand side of the street



## Walking Destinations from 1800 Grant Street

### **Black American West Museum**

*Round trip: 45-minute walk*

California Street & 31<sup>st</sup> Street

Walk north on Grant Street to Tremont Place

Take a left onto 21<sup>st</sup> Street and walk 3 blocks to California Street

Follow California Street to 31<sup>st</sup> Street

Located in a cream house with a black iron fence out front with a large tree on the corner

### **Molly Brown House Museum**

*Round trip: 30-minute walk*

Pennsylvania Street, between 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Walk south on Grant Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Turn right onto Pennsylvania Street and walk south and pass Colfax Avenue

Destination is on the left

### **Old Spaghetti Factory**

*Round trip: 30-minute walk*

Lawrence Street & 18<sup>th</sup> Street

Walk south on Grant Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Turn right onto 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and walk west towards downtown

At the intersection of Broadway & 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, take a slight right onto 18<sup>th</sup> Street

Follow 18<sup>th</sup> Street up to Lawrence Street, destination is on the right

### **Ritz-Carlton**

*Round trip: 30-minute walk*

Curtis Street & 18<sup>th</sup> Street

Walk south on Grant Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Turn right onto 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and walk west towards downtown

At the intersection of Broadway & 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, take a slight right onto 18<sup>th</sup> Street

Follow to Curtis Street, destination is on the right

### **State Capitol**

*Round trip: 20-minute walk*

Sherman Street & Colfax Avenue

Walk south on Grant Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Turn right onto 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and walk west one block towards downtown

Turn left onto Sherman Street and capitol is 3 blocks further

### **Coors Field**

*Round Trip: 40-minute walk*

20<sup>th</sup> Street and Blake Street

Walk north on Grant Street to 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Turn left on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Take slight right onto 20<sup>th</sup> Street

Stay on 20<sup>th</sup> Street for 10 blocks, destination will be on right-side of street