



Files at the City's Historic Preservation Office

Criterion 1

An ongoing, publicly available inventory of historic properties.

The City of Fort Collins has a Historic Preservation Office, in the Advance Planning Department of the Community Planning and Environmental Services Division, maintaining extensive files on all historic properties in Fort Collins.

The **Historic Preservation Office**, maintains a website at www.fcgov.com/historicpreservation where you will find applications, Fort Collins Landmarks, governing policies, current projects, review procedures and preservation how-to's. In addition, we have completed

surveys of the East and West Side Neighborhoods, all remaining agricultural properties, Poudre River historical resources, all commercial downtown buildings, Quonset huts, the Old Fort Site, and the Overland Trail. We are currently surveying Poudre School District historic schools.

Fort Collins has 751 National Register properties (either contributing to a district or individually-eligible), 765 State Register properties, and 243 Local Landmarks which includes 1 site, 5 structures, 4 objects, and 233 buildings. There are six local landmark historic districts including the Sheely

Drive Historic District, the first 1950s Landmark District to be designated in Colorado.



1605 Sheely Drive



Criterion 2

A community-supported museum, interpretive facility, archive, or local history records collection (private or public).

Since 1941, the **Fort Collins Museum** has been dedicated to engaging and inspiring the community to explore the legacies of its peoples and environments. The museum has special programs that include workshops, demonstrations, guided and self-guided tours, lectures and events for adults, children, and families. There is a museum store with a wide variety of Western-inspired and locally-significant merchandise, plus books of local and regional interest.

The **Fort Collins Library Local History Archives** is responsible for collecting, preserving, and disseminating historical information relating to Fort Collins and Larimer County. You can visit them on the web at <http://www.fcgov.com/localhistory>. This archive has institutional records; research collections of newspapers, oral history interviews, biographical, subject and ephemera files, cemetery records and obituary files and books and periodicals; photographic collections of over 205,000 photos, and 12,000 slides; and special collections.

In 1985, **The Farm at Lee Martinez Park** recreated a farm setting with animals for self-guided and guided tours. Since then, this City-owned agricultural park allows people of all ages to feed the animals, see crafts and farm novelties, and tour the farm museum where the Fort Collins Rotary Club presents the history of agriculture, showing how people made a living from the land. Volunteers give tours, assist with special events, and work directly with the animals.

In 1974, **Fort Collins Historical Society** was organized with the intent of collecting and preserving historical information, assisting in the identifying and preserving of historic landmarks, completing historical records, and coordinating historical activities in the Fort Collins area. The Society sponsors various activities throughout the year including tours, window displays, programs and community activities.



Fort Collins Museum



Fort Collins Library Local History Archive

The Farm





Avery House Historic District

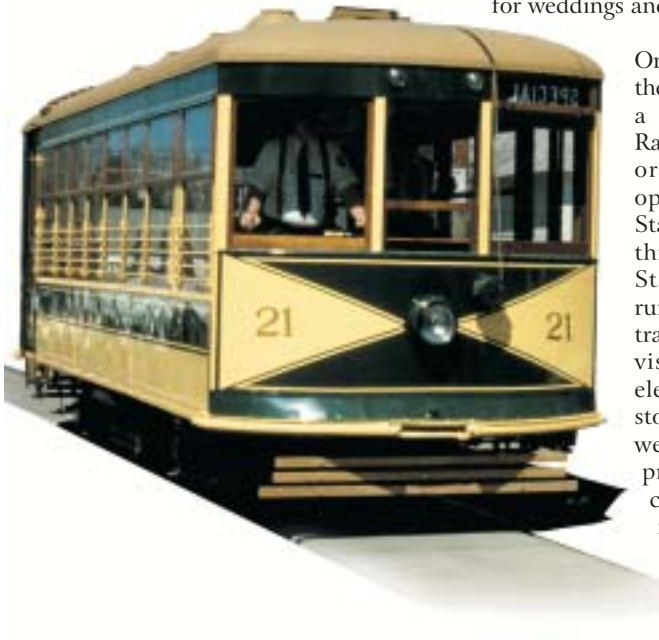
Criterion 3

Active citizen volunteer involvement, such as a docent or guide program for interpretation of local history and culture, or volunteer participation in improving the condition of heritage assets within the community

The City-owned **Avery House Historic District** was restored by the **Poudre Landmarks Foundation**, a citizen volunteer non-profit group. They also operate the Avery House Museum which is open for guided tours both during regular hours and by appointment. At the Avery House, the Foundation holds special events and an annual Historic Homes Tour fund-raiser, in addition to organizing seasonal displays and a Christmas Open House. The grounds are also available for weddings and receptions.

Originally operating from 1907-1951, the **Fort Collins Municipal Railway**, a member of the Association of Railway Museums (ARM), is the only original restored city streetcar operation in the western United States. Since its restoration in 1985, this trolley is a traveling National, State, and Local Registered object running on over a mile and a half of track for the benefit of residents and visitors. The trolley car, track, electrical overhead, power supply, storage barn, depot and loading area were entirely restored by citizen preservation volunteers, and it is currently operated with no City funds.

Birney Streetcar #21



Criterion 4

Opportunities for children to learn about local heritage in the schools through either established curriculum or special outreach activities.

Opportunities for learning about the local heritage of Colorado and Fort Collins are present in the established curriculum of **Poudre School District**. Grade 2 begins studying the local history and heritage of our area as part of the Core Learning area of Geography, History, Economics, and Civics. This is continued in Grade 4 with emphasis on the regional study of Colorado history including Native Americans and the first settlers. Activities included in the implementation of the curriculum include exercises such as *Prairie Dogs to Paradise*. They require the reading, interpretation, and analysis of a research paper followed by a test based upon the level of the student.

Also, the Fort Collins Museum sponsors a yearly summer program aimed at educating children about the heritage of our local community. This year the museum will offer three distinct programs concentrating on different aspects of our community's history. Early American Home Arts, Boxelder Schoolhouse, and Wild West Days are the themes. Home Arts focuses on the difficulty of household chores on the 19th century frontier. Boxelder Schoolhouse requires children to learn in the same fashion as their ancestors in a circa 1905 one-room schoolhouse. Wild West Days explores the lifestyles and cultural legacies of Native Americans, Hispanics, and early pioneers. These efforts make the heritage of Fort Collins an integral part of the learning experience for children.



Pre-Kindergarten Summer Class

Boxelder School





Criterion 5

A local governmental body, such as a board or a commission, charged with leading historic preservation activities.

The **Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC)** was established in 1968 as part of the Landmark Preservation Ordinance. Seven members are appointed to a four-year term by the City Council and serve without compensation. Members have expertise in the fields of architectural history, structural engineering, general contracting, urban planning, mortgage lending and commerce.

The duties of the LPC include designation of local landmarks and historic districts as well as design review of all exterior changes to locally-designated properties. Once a year, the LPC decides on recipients of the City's **Landmark Rehabilitation Loans**, a financial incentive for historic preservation. Since 1991, the City of Fort Collins has been a Certified Local Government established under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Landmark Preservation Commission



Criterion 6

An adopted community-wide historic preservation plan that is being implemented.

In 1994, the Historic Preservation Office of the Advance Planning Department produced the Historic Resources Preservation Program Plan (HRPPP). It was adopted by City Council as an element of City Plan, the City's comprehensive plan. This 127-page document with seven appendices lays out the past, present and future of the preservation efforts in Fort Collins. It is a dynamic document describing the mission of the program, benefits of preservation, history of preservation in Fort Collins, the approach the HRPPP would take to preservation moving from a program of regulation to one of a wide variety of incentives, and an action plan touching on:

- Survey, Identification and Prioritization
- Education and Awareness
- Incentives
- Planning and Regulations
- Landmark Designation Program
- Administration

Each category was identified with Action Steps further described in Appendix D. The Action Steps were a "wish list" of actions to choose from and complete in the years ahead. For instance, we were able to implement a Local Landmark Grant Program (now the **Landmark Rehabilitation Loan Program**) and a Design Assistance Program, both City sponsored funding incentives for historic preservation. Both have been in existence since 1995.





Criterion 7

A historic preservation review ordinance and volunteer or professional staff to implement it.

The City of Fort Collins **Landmark Preservation Ordinance** (Municipal Code, Chapter 14) established the Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC). The current code has Articles describing procedures for:

- General definitions, policy, purpose, staff, and standards
- Designations procedure
- Design review of construction, alterations, demolitions and relocations of local landmarks
- Demolition or relocation of historic structures not designated as Fort Collins Landmarks or located in a Fort Collins Landmark District

Professional staff consists of two Preservation Planners with Masters degrees, and one City Planner (AICP) who handles the Landmark Rehabilitation Loan Program. This staff is supplemented by three interns, from CSU's historic preservation program, for a total of 25 hours a week. All work in the Historic Preservation Office of the Advance Planning Department.

Katherine Martinez, Carol Tunner, Timothy Wilder and Karen McWilliams



Criterion 8

A local heritage tourism program or active participation in a regional program, with such promotional material as a walking/driving trail or tour itinerary, map of historic resources, etc.

Fort Collins has been a **Certified Local Government** since 1991. We promote heritage tourism in partnership with the **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)**, the **Fort Collins Convention & Visitors Bureau (FCCVB)**, and the **Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)** in the regional program, Historic Byways of Colorado.

The Cache la Poudre River Corridor flowing through Fort Collins has been designated a **National Heritage Area**.

We provide walking brochures of our Old Town Fort Collins Historic District (also on the State and National Registers), as well as driving tour brochures of Historic Buildings in Fort Collins.

The FCCVB provides the annual *The Official Guide for Visitors* containing a history of Fort Collins and a historic downtown walking tour. They also distribute Detour to the Cherokee Trail so visitors can follow sections of the Overland Stage Trail and the Cherokee Trail as they wind through Fort Collins.

Finally, we are part of CDOT's **Colorado's Scenic and Historic Byways**. Fort Collins is on the Cache la Poudre-North Park Scenic Byway as published in CDOT's Discover Colorado booklet. This road runs through Fort Collins to the nearby Cache la Poudre River canyon, once a useful transit corridor for Native Americans and, later white explorers.





Avery House Historic District



Waterworks



Museo de las Tres Colonias

Criterion 9

A regularly scheduled heritage observance or event.

Since 1985, the preservation community has celebrated May as “Colorado Archeology and Historic Preservation Month.” The Historic Preservation Office, Fort Collins Museum, and other preservation groups of the Heritage Network meet to plan events such as the Mixer Party for Preservation. A preservation proclamation is presented by the Mayor at the first City Council meeting in May.

In 2004, the theme of the Mixer Party at the museum was cultural diversity and our genealogical heritage. A potluck dinner of cultural family recipes to be made into a recipe book culminated a day of workshops and historical presentations. May is also marked by tours and/or open houses at historic sites, such as the Nelson Milk House, Street Railway Car Barn, Old Power Plant, Historic WaterWorks, and Downtown Basements, etc. On May 14, 2004, there was an open house presenting the restored **1924 American LaFrance Fire Engine** – Fort Collins’ 1st Pumper Engine.

The Poudre Landmarks Foundation, the all volunteer citizens group which oversees restoration and interprets history at the Avery House Museum, hosts an annual Historic Homes Tour the second week in September as a fund raiser. They have recently taken on another house museum project, the restoration and interpretation of the Romero House, a Hispanic home, now called the **Museo de las Tres Colonias**.



Criterion 10

A historic preservation awards or recognition program.

Since 1981, The Landmark Preservation Commission has given out **Friend of Preservation** awards. Each year, deserving recipients receive the award of a solid walnut block covered with brass engravings of historic Fort Collins buildings. The awards are presented by the Chairperson of the Landmark Preservation Commission and the Mayor before a televised City Council meeting in May.



Friends of Preservation Award

