

Getting to Know
Fort Collins:
HISTORIC LANDMARKS



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This list was selected by members of the Landmark Preservation Commission in the summer of 2010. The listing is representative in the sense that it indicates structures and objects denoting a variety of historical architecture and associations with events and persons. It is not to be taken as a listing of landmarks more significant than others, nor is the arrangement indicative of a ranking of importance.



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Fort Collins Hospital



In 1906, this purpose-built structure became home to the Fort Collins Hospital, founded by a group of local physicians and hailed as the town's second hospital. The first hospital, established by Dr. Peter McHugh in 1899, was on Remington Street and a third hospital, operated by Larimer County, lay at the fringe of the community. The Fort Collins Hospital offered an operating room and sufficient private rooms to house upwards of 40 patients. In 1925, a new three-story county hospital opened, minimizing the need for smaller private hospitals. The Fort Collins Hospital building was sold in 1926 to the University of Commerce and was home to a number of adaptive reuses, including

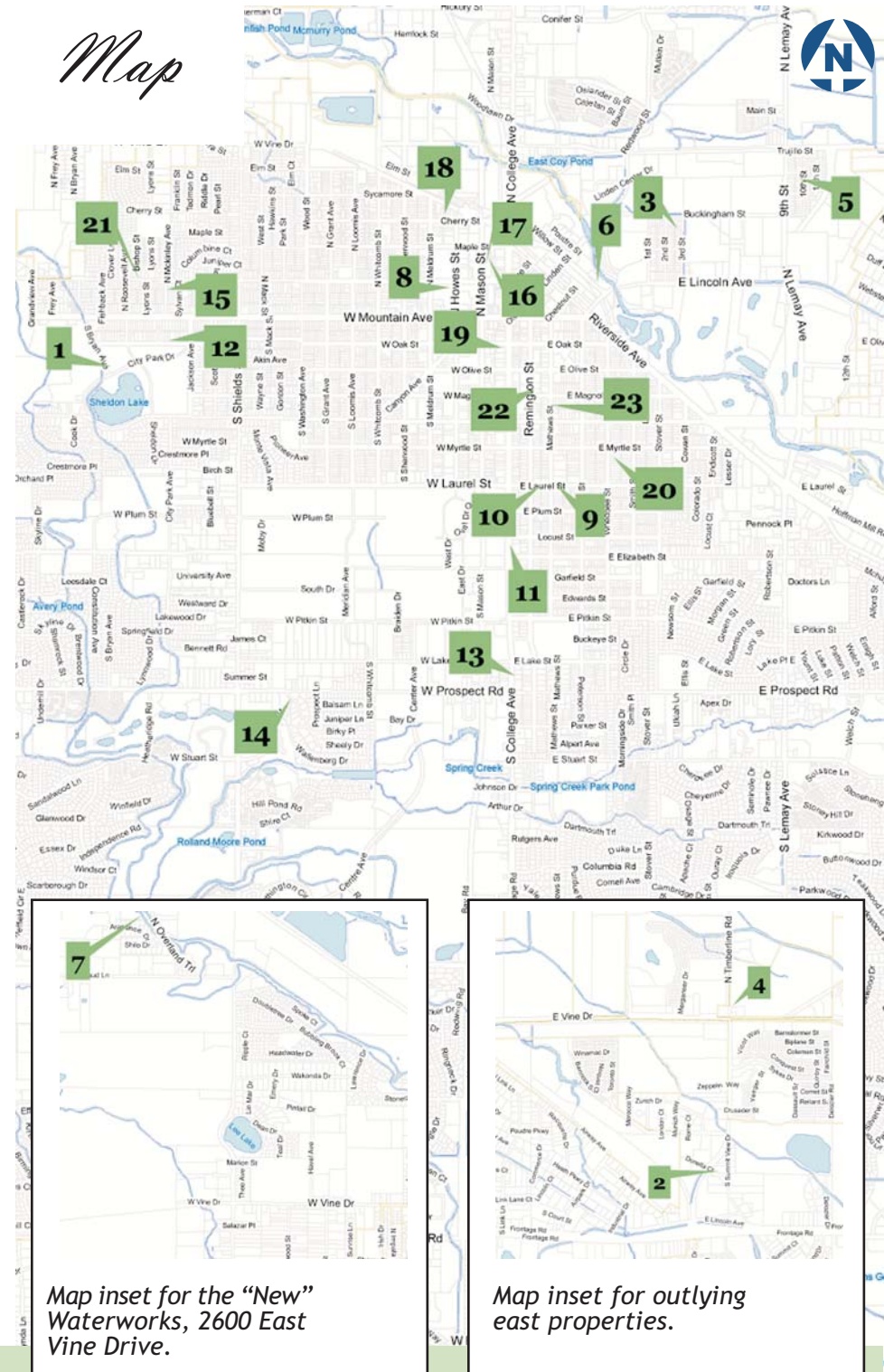
41 years (1931-1972) as the Pillar of Fire Church. In 2011, it's a condominium complex.

The building itself is a brick and red sandstone masonry structure with a rectangular plan. It is two stories in height and features a symmetrically arranged front façade, an open front porch, and four Tuscan columns supporting a flat roof. The building is essentially unaltered. Although at the moment it is not a local landmark, it is protected by being a contributing structure in the Laurel School Historic District. It represents an excellent example of adaptive reuse of historic structures.



Dr. Peter McHugh built the first hospital in 1899 at 202 Remington Street.

Map



Map inset for the "New" Waterworks, 2600 East Vine Drive.

Map inset for outlying east properties.

City Park Cannon



Fort Collins, founded in 1864 as a military garrison, established a very close relationship with the military throughout its early years. The cannon, preserved in City Park, symbolizes this bond.

The creation of a land grant college in the 1870s further strengthened this union. Male students in the 19th and early 20th centuries had to fulfill a military obligation. In World War I, for example, the college sent an artillery battery to the fighting in Europe.

The cannon itself has related historical significance, for it was presented to the city in

1932 by the local American Legion and was dedicated to members of the military service who died in the war.

Further intriguing is the fact the cannon was initially designed to be horse-drawn and only later motorized, indicating the importance of literal "horsepower" in the 1914-1918 conflict. Only 98 artillery pieces of this type were manufactured; this may be the only remaining one in existence.



Early drawing of Camp Collins, from the local library.

First Baptist Church

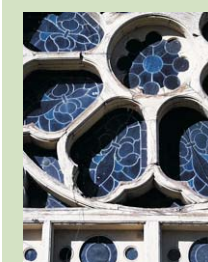


The First Baptist Church was constructed in 1903-04, replacing a small brick church building built in 1888 on the same property. In 1912, the building was enlarged with an addition on the east side. It also originally had a steeple atop the southwest corner tower, but leakage problems led to its removal, possibly in 1941. The building is an important example of combined Gothic Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque architecture.

Although the identity of the architect is lost, it is known that the building was constructed by the firm of Butler & McDaniels for a cost of approximately \$15,000. The builders used locally quarried sandstone from the

foothills west of Fort Collins. Dressed blocks were applied in a random ashlar pattern, and in ornamental applications, across the entire exterior. The building has a steep combination hip and gable roof,

Gothic arches in and around the windows and doorways, and a prominent squared two-story corner tower with a crenellated parapet. Shorter cylindrical towers with conical roofs are present on the west and south elevations, in addition to the segmented arches, crenellation, Gothic window tracery, a large rose window on the south, deep-set squared windows, heavy horizontal-paneled wood doors, and stone buttresses and towers.



Detail of the large rose window on the south elevation.

Benjamin F. Flowers Bungalow



This bungalow was a creation of Benjamin Flowers in 1924. Flowers pioneered real estate development in the region, having first opened a real estate office in Boulder in 1894 and then relocating to Fort Collins in 1896. He was also one of the founders of the town of Bellvue.

The home is excellent example of the Bungalow style, popular in the early 20th century. The typical bungalow was rectilinear in form for the sake of efficiency and had either one

or one and a half stories. The style peaked about 1914 but remained in fashion for some years thereafter as shown by the Flowers Bungalow, created a decade after that peak.

Its distinguishing features include: a clipped/Jerkinhead dormer; a pergola at the entrance extending to half the porch; windows with divided lights (eight over one); knee braces; exposed rafter tails; and a stone foundation.



A distinguishing pergola accents the front porch of this bungalow.

Three Fire Trucks



Growth of Fort Collins in the early 20th century necessitated the purchase of modern fire equipment. An American-LaFrance Pumping Fire Engine was acquired in 1924 as the first modern fire vehicle. It replaced a 1915 motor vehicle horse wagon with a 40-gallon chemical tank and a reserve horse-drawn hose wagon for which horses were not readily available.

In 1937, the department's ladder truck was badly damaged in a collision. Funds were scarce during the Great Depression, so rather than purchase an expensive new piece of equipment, Chief T.P. Treadwell advocated to purchase a truck chassis manufactured by Diamond T. Through crew's ingenious

remodeling and homemade upgrades, this Diamond T Aerial Ladder Fire Truck was kept in service until 1963.

In 1938, the Fort Collins Rural Fire Protection Association was established to bring consistent service to rural areas. After a 1950 reorganization and a new name, the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District, the group purchased a 1953 GMC chassis to improve effectiveness in responding to rural fires.



Altogether, these three fire trucks signify the growth of Fort Collins from a town to a city and the transition of the local fire department from a fire brigade basis to a modern municipal firefighting establishment.

Sugar Beet Worker's Shanty

German-Russian immigrants were an important contributors of the sugar beet industry in Northern Colorado. After first immigrating to the Volga River in Russia in the 18th century, this ethnic group found itself attracted to the United States in the early 20th century where better economic conditions prevailed. Their familiarity with sugar beet cultivation in the old country along with their strong work ethic commended them to the infant sugar beet industry in Colorado.



Photo from the Fort Collins History Archive of immigrant workers.

Here they constructed traditional dwellings such as the shanty at 209 3rd Street. One of 13 homes built around 1902, it survived the devastating flood of 1904. The first residents were the Peter Deines family.

Its most unusual feature is a barrel roof, but it also includes a root cellar and a summer kitchen out back, where cooking could be done during the warmer months. Its modest size belies its importance; at present it is one of the structures in the city most threatened by demolition.

Roy Nye-Reinholt/Mitchell House

The home at 509 E. Myrtle displays a unique architectural style not often seen in Fort Collins and is also representative of local master craftsman LeRoy "Roy" Nye. On August 18, 1924, Anna Nye received a permit from the city for a four-room brick home. She was the wife of Roy, a mason and contractor born in Fort Collins in 1884. Throughout his 50-year career he designed and constructed many local residences, commercial, and municipal buildings, including an addition to the Carnegie Library (now the Fort Collins Museum), and the Camp

Collins Monument and fountain located at the old Power Plant. This is a rare Fort Collins example of Prairie-influenced 20th century vernacular architecture, and features a unique roof design. The brick in the home is also special: three different types were used in the construction.



Three different types of brick are unusual in homes from this era.

Martin Reinholt and his wife Elta lived here from 1942 until 1961. He is most noted for his work with Colorado State University and the University of Wyoming to acquire data on area ranches.

Post Office



Although Fort Collins had a post office as early as 1865, the early facilities were routine in nature. That changed in 1912 when the Postal Service moved into this newly constructed building.

Italian Renaissance Revival architectural style was in vogue for federal buildings and this edifice reflects that interest. Alabama marble, sculptured designs, a red tile roof, and a façade reminiscent of a Renaissance palace lent a sense of solidness to College Avenue at the time.



Italianate sculptural designs make this one of Fort Collins' most elegant structures.

Other federal offices were also located in this building, but they and the Post Office outgrew the facility in 1972. After sitting vacant for several years, the building escaped demolition when the city designated it a local landmark, a rare instance when designation took place without the owner's consent.

Today the building serves as the Museum of Contemporary Art, a use allowing the historical integrity of the building to survive.

Hope Sykes House



Located at the intersection of East Vine and Timberline Road are the former Plummer Station and the home of author Hope Williams Sykes. Sykes operated the station with her husband and it became a business center for the area and a gathering place for the German-Russian community.

When Sykes published her novel *Second Hoeing* in 1935, it was met with disfavor from some members of the German-Russian ethnic group for its sometimes unflattering portrayal of their lifestyle. Supporters of Sykes felt differently, believing she had provided

a sympathetic picture of the Germans from Russia in the beet fields in the 1920s and 1930s.

The controversy did bring the need for reform in child labor to the attention of the general public. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt congratulated Sykes on her book and the novel was a factor in the passage of national child labor laws.

"*Second Hoeing* takes on the stature of a powerful proletarian drama of the American soil, with children the main protagonists upon whom the bitter impact of economic struggle is spent." - *New York Times*



Sykes' book is still in publication today.

Romero House (Museo de las Tres Colonias)

Workers from Mexico were drawn to our local Great Western Sugar Company factory in the years following World War I. Initially they worked only seasonally, but to reduce costs Great Western eventually provided permanent and affordable housing to retain workers year-round.

In the summer of 1922, the company constructed 13 adobe homes at \$75 each. The experiment was a success and in the following year Great Western initiated a "Spanish neighborhood" near the factory.

Illustrating the growing permanence of the neighborhood was John Romero's adobe home, built

by Romero for his family in Andersonville between 1927 and 1935. The house was originally two rooms built from straw and clay excavated from the backyard, with a later addition created during the Great Depression.

Today, the Romero house is the only adobe home on its original site. In 2006, this house became the Museo de las Tres Colonias, to share the lives and contributions of Hispanic people in the three adjacent neighborhoods or "tres colonias" of Andersonville, Buckingham and Alta Vista.

The museum is open to the public, for more details, visit museodelastrescolonias.org.



The museum is proud to be a community resource and center for Latinos.

Hattie McDaniel House

This house is the childhood home of Hattie McDaniel, an actress most famous for her role as Mammy in the 1939 epic movie *Gone with the Wind*, earning her the prestige of being the first African-American woman to win an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. She became the first African-American to attend the Academy Awards as a guest, not a servant.

Over the course of her career, McDaniel appeared in over 300 films, although she received screen credits for only about 80. She gained the respect of the show business community with her generosity, elegance, and charm.

McDaniel has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood: one for her contributions to radio and one for motion pictures. In 1975, she was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame and in 2006 became the first black Oscar winner honored with a US postage stamp.

McDaniel lived in Fort Collins for several years as a child and this house, one of the last remaining homes associated with the small African-American community in Fort Collins in the early 20th century.



In 2006, Hattie McDaniel was featured on a 39¢ stamp.

Annie's Grave

It was 1943 and despite the Great Depression, workers at the local railway (Colorado & Southern Depot) found themselves cheered by a new addition to the group, "Annie." Found by railway workers at Timnath, this pregnant mixed-breed dog, was taken in by the crew and relocated to the Fort Collins freight depot. The crew nursed her back to health and here she spent the remainder of her days.

For 14 years Annie charmed community members and train passengers alike, surviving both the Depression and World War II before her death in 1948. She was laid to rest at the depot with a

gravestone reading "From C and S Men to Annie Our Dog 1934-1948."

There is also a bronze statue of Annie just outside the Fort Collins Library at 201 Petersen Street.



This statue marks the beginning of the annual Annie Walk in Fort Collins.

These touching tributes are a reminder not only of a faithful canine friend but also of the contributions of rail workers to the town in the days before automobiles and airlines dominated travel.

Harmony Mill

This industrial structure was built in 1886, when a number of prominent citizens, who believed other local flour mills were not giving them a fair price for their grain, formed a group entitled the Farmers Protective Association. They raised approximately \$100,000 from regional farmers and created the Harmony Mill as an independent competitor. The mill featured all the latest mechanisms, including one to reduce the danger of flour dust explosions.

The mill got quickly into financial difficulties, after a mere 16 years. This was most likely due to the relatively small group of supporters could not handle the burden of debt.

Harmony Mill represents a national movement in the late 19th century that saw farmers struggling against perceived monopolistic practices by flour mills and railroads. In the early 20th century, the Federal government dealt with many of these issues, easing tensions.

Aside from its historical significance, the mill is also noteworthy for its architecture. Numerous windows and the corbelled cornice lend the building an air of being commercial rather than industrial, which is rather unusual for a mill.



Lots of windows and a corbelled cornice make this industrial mill unusual.

First (Old) Water Works

A bond issue authorized the construction of a water works, and it was completed in 1883. A recent fire at Linden and Jefferson streets spurred the need for mechanisms to replace the antiquated bucket brigade system.

This new system consisted of several miles of pipe led to downtown Fort Collins, where direct pressure and gravity flow provided a stream of water sufficient to extinguish fires in multi-story buildings. The water came directly from the Poudre River. Although the era's primitive filtering systems could not produce safe drinking water for households, other domestic water needs could be met.



Wooden pipes carried water to Downtown Fort Collins.

In 1905, when the town opened a new filter plant at the present Gateway Natural Area, the water works was relegated to storage.

In addition, the architectural details are unusual for an industrial building: bushed stonework and windowsills, scored mortar, Tudor-style window crowns are all indicative of Gothic Revival. An engraved sandstone tablet over the pump house entrance commemorates citizens who contributed to the founding of the Water Works and includes such familiar, local names as Stover, Loomis, Watrous, Tedmon and Sheldon.

Colorado and Southern Freight Depot

Our local Colorado & Southern Railroad Freight Depot was the line's largest depot north of Denver. The depot was a shipping center for both domestic purposes and for industries such as sugar beets, lumber, and livestock. Its proximity to downtown Fort Collins expedited transfers to businesses and industrial firms in the immediate vicinity. The freight depot also housed a Railway Express Agency office from 1952 through 1975, offering a commercial shipping service similar to present-day UPS.

Of particular interest is the freight dock adjacent to the

building. With a 150-foot length and additional track, it was sufficient to unload 12 freight cars simultaneously. In 1995, when the freight depot was first designated as a local landmark, part of the freight dock was excluded. This was righted in 2000, when the original 1995 ordinance was replaced by a new ordinance landmarking the entire dock.

The dock is an excellent example of a structure whose importance is functional in nature rather than aesthetic.



The 150-foot dock allowed 12 freight cars to be unloaded at once.

Buxton House (and attached garage)

Located between Mountain and Laporte Avenues and several blocks west of Shields, this house is an example of a relatively modest home also part of a larger trend.

Built in 1945 for Robert and Orpha Buxton, it exemplified a return to a peacetime economy and the associated need for housing for veterans and their families. As a simple single-story, hipped box structure it was more affordable than the nearby prewar high style homes. Here there is much less emphasis upon decorative elements on the exterior, although three fixed pane windows on the front

elevation create an impression of an expanse of glass.

Perhaps equally important is the attached garage. After the war, automobiles became more and more central to American life. With greater postwar affluence, mobility was an increasingly necessary component of a homeowner's everyday rounds. This house, despite its relatively small scale, is indicative of the importance of automobiles; we now see storage for an auto attached to the home itself.



Attached garages appear in Fort Collins as early as the 1940s.

Saint Joseph School

St. Joseph Church is a familiar sight to passers-by in downtown Fort Collins, but perhaps few are aware of the school just to the north. The church, completed in 1901, featured a modified Gothic Revival architecture as well as stone from the quarries and Stout, now beneath the waters of Horsetooth Reservoir.

In contrast, the school's architecture represents Spanish Colonial Revival, quite rare in Fort Collins. Architect Leo Desjardins of Denver oversaw the construction, which included tan wire-cut rugged face brick, redstone trimming, and a red tile roof. The redstone, quarried locally

and cut at the church, was too soft for the steps, so a harder stone was provided by John Soderberg, a local quarry worker.

The original school faced Howes Street and was completed in 1925 and landmarked in 1996. In 2000, another wing was added on, designed to closely match the original school. The interior was extensively remodeled to accommodate a 21st-century learning institution, but the architecture of the east wing is an important reminder of the style and era it represents.



The north entrance reveals more Spanish Colonial details.

Laurel Street School

The Laurel Street School has a twofold significance as a local landmark. First, the school was designed by Montezuma Fuller, well known as an architect in early Fort Collins for almost 40 years. His work totals over 400 structures of several types. This schoolhouse represents his practical style in terms of institutional buildings.

Secondly, the Laurel Street School was built in 1907 and is an important part of the architectural heritage of Poudre School District. The building is indicative of educational architecture a century ago and the classroom experience of children of that time. Here

contemporary students can receive a visual impression of the lives of their peers in bygone schools.

It is also important to note the Laurel Street School is the centerpiece of its neighborhood, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Workers enjoy the rooftop view as they construct the school in 1907.

Ben Olds House

Ben Olds, a noted Fort Collins developer and co-owner of Olds and Redd Construction, had this house built for himself in 1960. As with other homes on Sheely Drive, it represents a high-end Ranch style, with some features displaying the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright. It is elongated and built on a concrete slab, lacking either an attic or a basement. Wide overhanging eaves, a low roof line, a centrally located fireplace, black shutters, and a covered concrete slab patio are a mingling of Ranch, Prairie Style, Colonial, and Spanish Colonial elements.

The interior retains many original elements, such as

slate stone floors and a large granite fireplace, but even more striking is the backyard swimming pool of Esther Williams influence. It was one of the city's first swimming pools. Altogether, this house and many others on Sheely Drive are excellent examples of Ranch style, a post-World War II departure into suburban living quite different from both vernacular and high style homes that prevailed prewar.

Sheely Drive one of only two 1960s neighborhoods landmarked as an historic district in Colorado.



ART C. SHEELY, Inc.
A Complete Automotive Institution — Always Ready to Serve
With no sidewalks, curbs or gutters, this neighborhood was built for the automobile age by local car dealer Art Sheely. The Ghents, another local car dealer, lived here too.

Bradley House

This home received its name from Harry and Maude Bradley, who arrived in Fort Collins in 1899 and operated an art studio and gallery and later an automobile sales business.

Their South College home was completed in 1924 and features an English/Norman style cottage with many distinctive attributes: a false thatched roof, multiple front and side gables, a center gabled dormer and several windows with tracery.

Harry Bradley died in 1939 and in 1940 the home was purchased by Louis and Bertha Lear, who lived here for over 20 years. Lloyd and Grace Hopwood were the

next homeowners, but after their departure in the early 1970s the house was occupied by a variety of tenants, including fraternities, a real estate office, an apartment building, and a property management firm.



Note the false thatched roof and window tracery.

In 2007, the building became the location of the Wild Boar Coffee Shop. Although the interior has been remodeled many times, the exterior retains much of its architectural integrity, demonstrating that a historic property can remain viable even when repurposed from home to office to retail and more.

Long Apartments

In the decade between 1920-30s, the population of Fort Collins grew from 8,775 to 11,489, an increase of about 31%. The increase of multiple dwelling buildings in the 1920s is a reflection of this population surge.

Long Apartments, built in 1922 by Ora Long, is conveniently located near both the college and downtown Fort Collins. Long Apartments featured fourteen units, each with four rooms and a bath.

Long moved to Fort Collins in 1901 with his wife Patience and found work as a carpenter, a building contractor, and city building inspector.

In 1925, an one-story addition constructed on the westside featured a red brick front elevation and served as a living room for one of the apartments. It also connected the main building with an original 7-bay garage, a notable example of the prominence automobiles began to play in transportation and everyday life.

The 1922 building, its garage structure, and the 1925 addition were landmarked and is indicative of tenant expectations of this era.



The original 7-bay garage is a notable example of rising auto travel.

Scott Apartments

Constructed in the mid-1920s, these apartments were located across College Avenue from Colorado State Agricultural College. Historically this building served as a residence for students.

The building is generally typical of early 20th century apartment architecture. The façade is symmetrical, with an inset gabled roof. Parapets and walls with flat crests at either end of the roof are further architectural details, as is a split staircase leading to the apartment

entrance. Some of these features are repeated in the 5-bay garage. In all, the apartment building and the garage have seen minimal change over the years and therefore reflect architectural integrity.

Much like the Long Apartments (see page 10), the Scott Apartments denotes the 1920s growth of a town with a need for rental space and structures for the housing of automobiles.



The original 5-bay garage reflects the importance of auto travel in the 1920s.

Parker/Stover House

Frank and William Stover were both well-known residents in early Fort Collins. Frank was noteworthy for his ownership of City Drug for many years.

He built this house in 1922 for his wife Mary and himself, choosing a locale with appeal to the more well-to-do. Facing the expanse of City Park and its amenities, the home was only a block away from Mountain Avenue and the trolley system, allowing for easy transit downtown.

Stover hired Marion Alice Parker to design the home. Parker, an early female architect, established a

reputation in Minnesota and created her own firm about 1918 before eventually moving to California. The home exhibits characteristics of Tudor Revival, with a steep shingle roof and multiple front and side gabling.

Although Frank Stover died in 1924 and the house eventually passed into other hands, its exterior features remain as an example of a high style home.



This home's proximity to the trolley reflected the height of public transit in 1922.