

Ouray Walking Tour

You can't enjoy Ouray to the fullest without taking our historical walking tour. The tour starts and ends at the Ouray County Museum at 420 6th Avenue. If you aren't able to walk throughout the town, you can just as easily enjoy the tour by driving to each of the sites listed. In addition to the brief descriptions provided in this piece, there is significantly more detailed information regarding these and other historical Ouray sites at the museum. Books by local writers, which can be purchased at local shops and the museum, give descriptions of many of these buildings and also some insight into Ouray's colorful past. For information please stop by the Museum during posted business hours, or call (970) 325-4576.

1. Ouray County Historical Museum 1886 - 1887

(St. Joseph's Miner's Hospital)

420 Sixth Avenue

The Miner's Hospital opened on August 27, 1887 and didn't close until 1964. It was built by Francis Carney on land donated by the Catholic Church with funds contributed by Ouray citizens. This Italianate building, dressed with native stone and bracketed roof overhangs, became the home of the Ouray County Historical Society and Museum in 1971. The Museum's twenty-seven rooms are devoted to the historical significance of all areas of Ouray County history.



2. Ouray County Courthouse 1888 & 1976

541 Fourth Street

The Courthouse remains much the same as when constructed. It was built by Francis Carney with locally manufactured brick and cut stone trim. It embodies an unusual blend of architectural styles, primarily Queen Anne and Romanesque. The first floor houses the county clerk's and treasurer's offices just as it did when it opened. The old courtroom is a must see on weekdays.



3. Ashley House 1891 - 1902

505 Fourth Street

This elaborate Queen Anne Victorian home, which was restored in 1960, retains most of its original architectural flavor with bay and stained glass windows, multiple cross-gables, patterned shingles and spindle porch rails.



4. St. John's Episcopal Church 1880 & 1978

334 Fifth Avenue

The third church built in Ouray during the city's early days was St. John's Episcopal Church.

The original intent was to build a basement out of local stone and at least one upper floor. The present sanctuary, intended to be the basement, is adorned with carved woodwork and beautiful stained glass windows contributing to the look and feel of a Victorian Gothic English country church. In 1978, a connecting stone parish hall was added.



5. Hurlburt House 1895

445 Fourth Street

Although the original owner of this house is not known, Cora Hurlburt bought it in 1894. The Hurlburt family lived here for many years. This Queen Anne home has a north-facing bay window with a stained-glass upper sash, parquet wood floors, high ceilings and many other authentic Victorian features.



6. Kullerstrand/Reynolds House 1898 & 2002

510 Fifth Avenue

This unusual, recently expanded, Victorian Queen Anne home was built by Gustav Kullerstrand, an expert architect, builder and cabinet maker, and W.A. Reynolds, his partner. Together they built some of Ouray's finest homes. This one features a turret (tower), a lightning rod cap at the apex of the turret, stained glass windows, and many spindles, curlicues and carved woodwork.



7. Carney House 1877

439 Sixth Street

This frame house was built by Francis Carney who was a stonemason and bricklayer by trade. He built many of the imposing Ouray structures including the Miner's Hospital, the Wright Opera House, the Ouray County Courthouse and the Western Hotel.



8. First Presbyterian Church 1890 & 1997

336 Fourth Avenue

Reverend George Darley founded the Presbyterian Church in 1877. It was not until 1890 that the sanctuary of this, the second church, was erected. In 1948, an east-

ern addition was built and in 1997 the church was enlarged again, all in keeping with the original Queen Anne architecture. Many original furnishings adorn the interior.



9. Tanner House 1901

300 Fourth Street

This is one of two homes in Ouray that reflect Dutch Colonial Early American architecture. Designed by a Philadelphia architectural firm, it was built by Gustav Kullerstrand for the banker, Frank Tanner. The house has cherry and oak millwork, prismatic glass and curved bay windows, a stained glass stairway window, and a wreath design on the front porch pediment and front door.



10. Whinnerah/Idarado House 1902

305 Main Street

This beautiful red sandstone house was built for Ouray surveyor Richard Whinnerah and his wife Una who was an accomplished photographer. For many years the house was owned by the Idarado Mining Company who renovated it in 1995.



11. St. Elmo Hotel 1897 - 1898

426 Main Street

Catherine "Kittie" Heit built, owned and operated this Queen Anne hotel. The Bon Ton Restaurant, a building that was located on the site adjacent to and north of the hotel was also hers. The present day Bon Ton opened in the hotel in 1977. The hotel lobby and most of its rooms are furnished much as they were in 1898.



12. Elks Lodge #492 1904

421 Main Street

The Ouray Elks Lodge, organized in 1898 by Dr. W.W. Rowan, was the first Elks Lodge on the Western Slope. The architectural design combines French, Queen Anne and Romanesque features. Significant appointments in this building are dark wood trim, a stamped tin ceiling in the second



floor lodge room and leaded stained glass in transom windows on both floors. There is a bowling alley and an antique bar on the main floor. The clocks in the tower and lodge room always read 11 o'clock, an Elks tradition.

13. Wrights Hall / Wright Opera House 1888

472 Main Street

Edward and Letitia Wright built this impressive Greek Revival and Romanesque beauty after Edward's Wheel of Fortune Mine made him wealthy. Perhaps Letitia wanted to improve the cultural environment in Ouray for her daughter, Irene. The Wrights chose to adorn the front of the building with a Mesker Brothers cast iron facade which remains a prominent part of the facade today.



14. Beaumont Hotel 1886 - 1887

505 Main Street

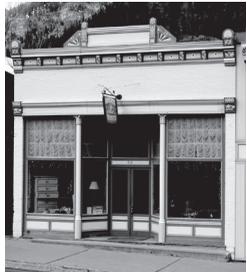
Construction began in 1886. This beautiful structure was completed in time for the Grand Opening, July 25, 1887. In its early days the lavishly furnished hotel, with its elegant dining room, was perhaps the finest in Western Colorado. The architecture is Second Empire style with a brick facade and a slate Mansard roof. After being closed for 34 years, the Beaumont has now been meticulously restored to its original grandeur. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



15. Powell Grocery 1895

512 Main Street

This brick building was built by grocer E. H. Powell whose grocery store was operated there for over 40 years. The building at various times has housed the Zanett Brothers Hardware store, John Carney's Out West Shop, Marvin Gregory's Vistaland Art Center and Buddy Davis Scenic Tours which was Ouray's first jeep company.



16. Hess-Stanislawski Block Building 1893

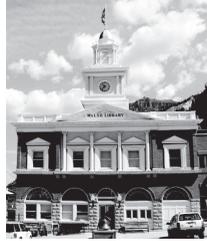
Corner of 6th Ave and Main St
Theodore Hess built two buildings on this site; the first burned in 1892. This Queen



Anne/Romanesque brick building was finished the next year. The brick came from Ouray's brickyard which was located where the Hot Springs Pool is today.

17. Ouray City Hall-Walsh Library 1899 -1988

320 Sixth Avenue
In 1891 Francis Carney erected a one-story building for city offices, a new jail and a fire department. Soon after the new building was in use, Thomas Walsh funded a second story to be used for a library, gymnasium and a free public hall. The exterior of City Hall was designed to resemble Philadelphia's Independence Hall. In January, 1950, fire nearly destroyed the building. A utilitarian two story City Hall was rebuilt by volunteers and in 1988 the facade was restored.



18. Prevost Building 1899

600 Main Street
Frank Prevost erected this Queen Anne/Romanesque two-story brick structure in 1899. Early tenants were the Office Saloon and the Office Café. The Citizens State Bank, which opened in 1913, purchased the building in 1918, moving the bank out of the Beaumont Hotel. The exterior south walkway is an original feature.



19. Jeffers Building 1890

633 Main Street
In 1890, Albert Jeffers and Henry Witterding erected this two-story building. Jeffers bought his partner out and he and his wife ran a very successful dry goods business on the first floor. Soon the whole building became dry goods and millinery. If Mr. Jeffers were to see his building today, he would find the exterior looks the same as it did in 1890, thanks to the 1972 restoration by the present owners.



20. Louis King House - 1888 or 1889

325 Seventh Avenue
Louis King, a wagon and carriage maker, built this Queen Anne residence for his family. The original siding was made of elaborately cut shingles. The interior layout is full of alcoves, inglenooks and bay windows. It is an informal, asymmetrical, cozy home, typical of Queen Anne architecture.



21. King-Story Building 1892

700 Main Street
Louis King erected the present building soon after his first one burned. Throughout its history, various tenants had saloons, dry goods, a cafe, a grocery, offices and a hotel in this Queen Anne/Romanesque brick structure while he continued to operate his livery and barn on the premises. In 1893 he sold to William Story who made many changes, but continued to rent building spaces; some new early 20th-century businesses being the Post Office, a drug store and a silent movie theater called The Isis.



22. Western Hotel 1891-1892

210 Seventh Avenue
The Victorian/Italianate Western Hotel, a three story building with a south facing front porch opened in 1892. Being located near the D & RG Western Train depot, business immediately boomed that year. Today the 28 room hotel has rooms for rent, a frontier-style bar and dining rooms. Victorian and Western themes prevail throughout the hotel.



23. Columbus Building 1898

740 Main Street
This two-story brick and stone building was built by Fred Scala, Mark Pasqual and Antonio Casagrande. Fred Scala owned the building for most of the next 50 years. The building has housed many businesses including hotels, saloons, restaurants, a pool hall, and a second hand store. It has housed the Silver Nugget Restaurant since 1966.

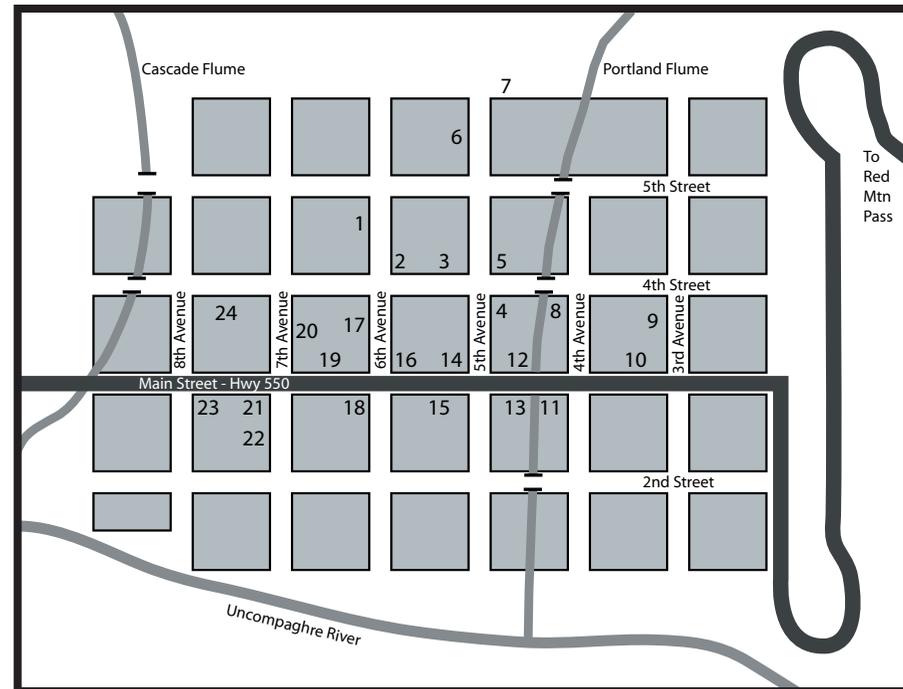


24. Story House 1895

342 Seventh Avenue
Built by Charles Warren for Wm. Story, a lawyer and judge, this fine three-story, ten-room home cost \$6,000, a very substantial amount for that day. Dormers, bay and leaded glass windows, a gabled roof line, four tiled fireplaces that share a common chimney, and decorative ornamentation are all characteristics of this Queen Anne beauty.



Credit for development and authenticity of this material goes to Doris Gregory, Ann Hoffman, Don Paulson, and Walt Rule.



Walking Tour of Ouray



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Ouray Chamber
Resort Association
www.ouraycolorado.com
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