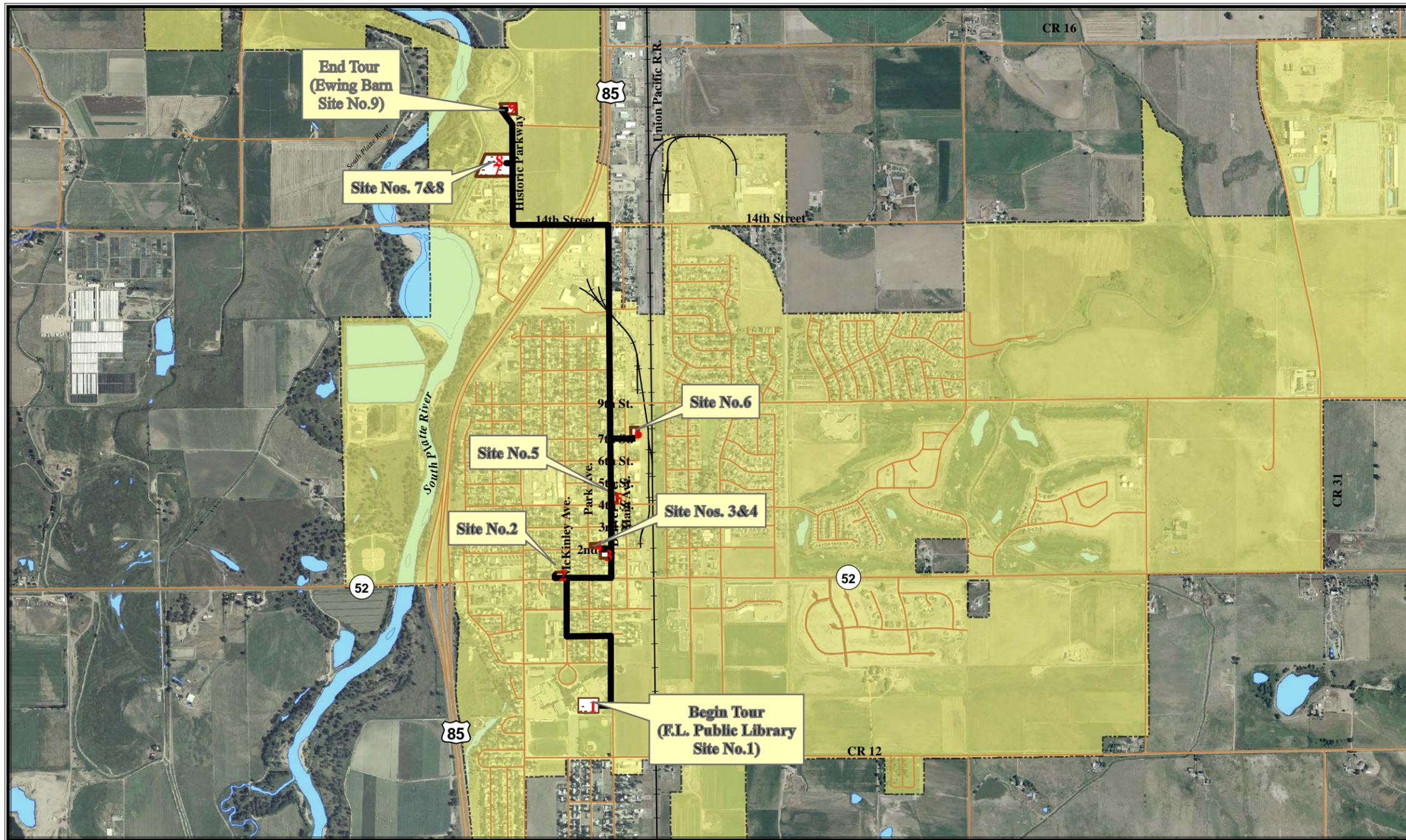


# Fort Lupton Historic Tour Map No.1

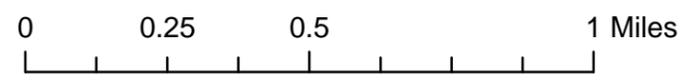


**Legend**

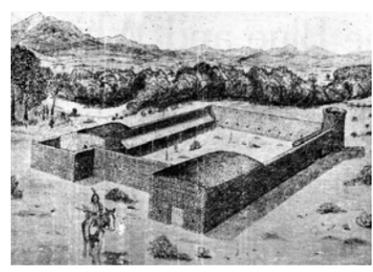
- County/State Roads
- Railroad
- City Limits
- Weldhydro

**Historic Site**

**Tour Route**  
(Approx. Distance 2.2 Miles)

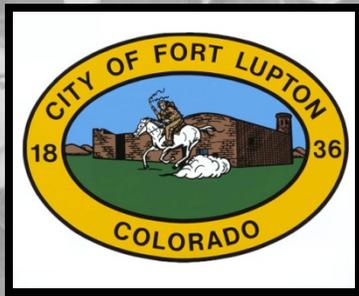


1:20,184

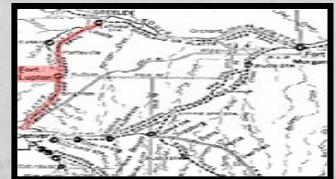




Lancaster Lupton



# Historic Fort Lupton Self Guided Tour Map



Fort Lupton Historic Tour Map was commissioned by the  
Fort Lupton Historic Preservation Board.

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May 8, 2009

City of Fort Lupton Planning and Building  
Department

Author: Tom Parko

Acknowledgements  
Mari Pena

# Fort Lupton Historic Site No.1

To Site  
No.2



**Fort Lupton Historic Murals**

**Type of Designation:**  
Historic Murals

**Location:** F.L. Public Library  
425 South Denver

**Ordinance No. 95-670**

**Effective Date:** April 12, 1995



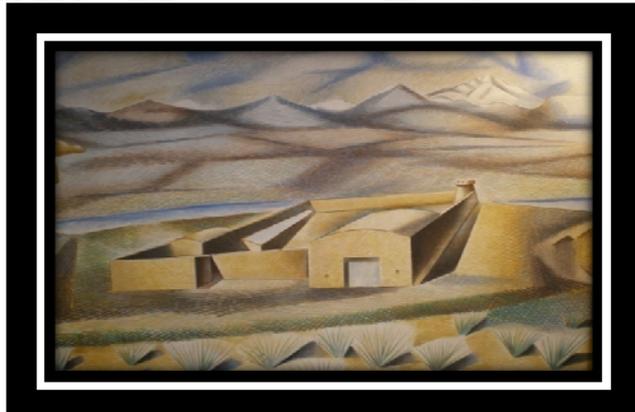
**425 South Denver Avenue**

**Fort Lupton Historic Murals**



**Frontier Woman**

**The Scout**



**Fort Lupton**

Frontier Woman by Hayes Lyons 1940-Oil on canvas 6x12ft

The Scout by Hayes Lyons 1940-Oil on Canvas 6x12ft

Fort Lupton by Hayes Lyons 1940-Oil on Canvas 8x36ft

History: The murals were painted in 1940 as a part of the Works Progress Administration, (WPA). The WPA program was created under Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration to provide employment in order to improve the economy of the country after the stock market crash of 1929 and the subsequent depression. Hayes Lion, a "Colorado Regionalist" artist, painted the murals in Fort Lupton in 1940, and they were placed in the then high school auditorium at 201 South McKinley. The mural "Fort Lupton" was placed in the back of the auditorium on the east wall; murals "Frontier Woman" and "The Scout" were placed on either side of the stage on the west wall. When the new high school was built in 1976, and the old high school was remodeled to accommodate the middle school, the murals were taken down and stored in a closet in the middle school. It was to the credit of those who stored them that they were stored correctly to minimize damage.

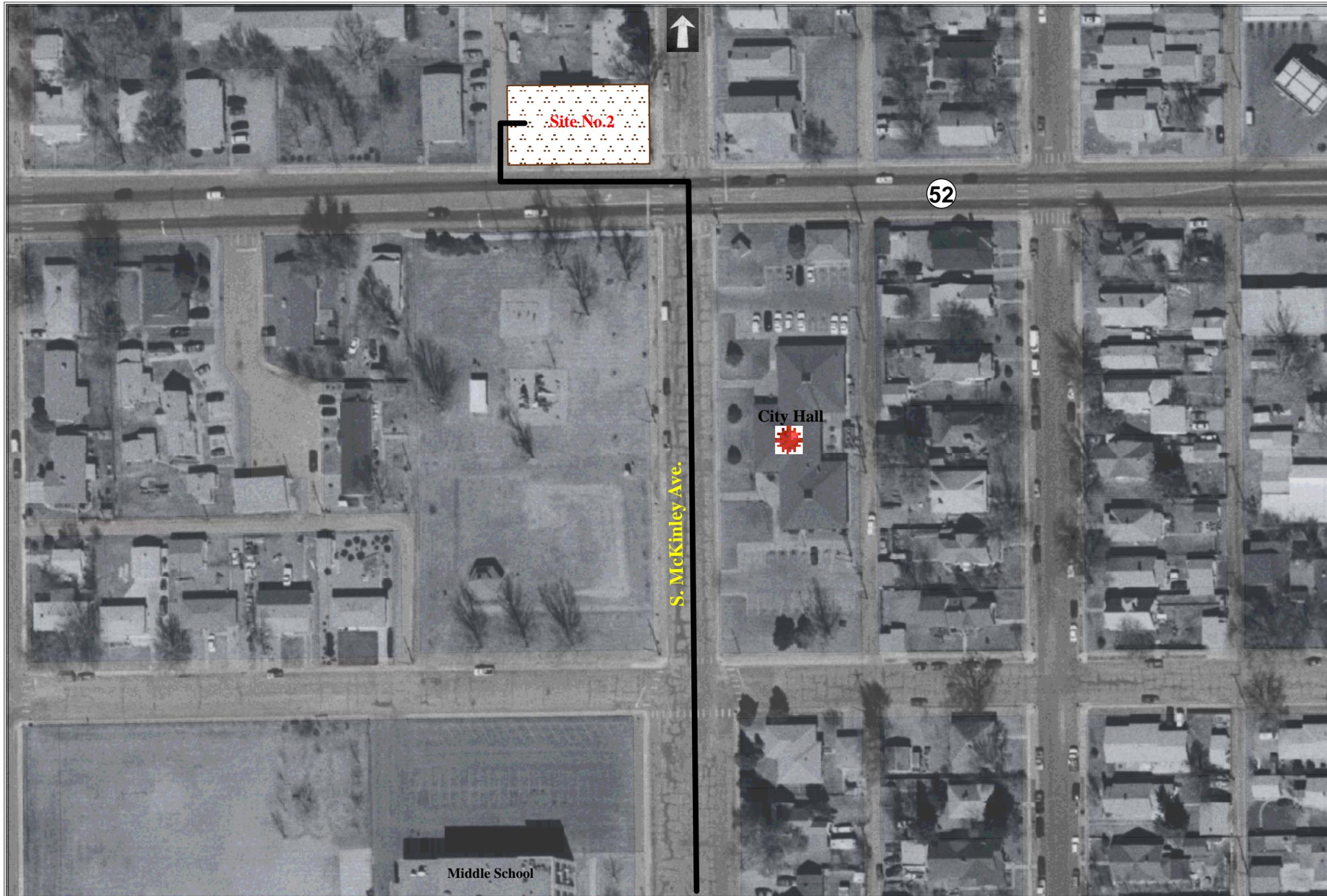
Fort Lupton Public & School Library construction: In May 1993 a bond issue was passed in Fort Lupton that included a \$1.2 million library. During the early planning sessions with the architect and other members of the planning team, Michael Brendle, the architect, asked if there was something that could be used to define this new space as a truly "Fort Lupton" library. Floyd Acre, Assistant Superintendent of the schools and member of the planning committee, remembered the murals and suggested they be looked at. The paintings were rolled out in the gymnasium and were very well preserved with beautiful colors. The interior designer for the library, Sharon Farr, planned all the colors in the library around the murals. The ceilings had to be high enough to accommodate the murals. The murals had to be cleaned, restored, re-stretched and framed. Randall Ash of the Rocky Mountain Conservation Center directed the project. Due to the size of the murals, some of the work had to be done in the library. The murals had to be stretched and framed in the library. Students assisted in turning the paintings over and lifting the murals to be mounted to the wall.

The decision to rescue the murals was one of the best things the library ever did for the community. Former students make special trips to Fort Lupton just to see them displayed. Some people cry because the paintings invoke memories of their own school days. Rey Lyon, widow of Hayes Lyon, was on hand at the dedication of the new library. She was very pleased that the paintings had been restored and occupy a place of honor in Fort Lupton. Community residents come by to see them and bring out of town visitors just to look at them. Present students are interested in the history of the murals and treat them with the utmost respect. They are a wonderful addition to the library and to the quality of life in Fort Lupton.

*Source: City of Fort Lupton vault file*

# Fort Lupton Historic Tour Map Site No.2

To  
Site Nos. 3&4



**Fort Lupton Museum**

**Type of Designation:**  
**Historic Structure**

**Address: 453 1st Street**

**Ordinance: 99-009**

**Effective Date: March 13,  
1996**



**453 1<sup>st</sup> Street**  
**Fort Lupton Museum**



General Architectural Description: This museum building at 453 First Street is situated on the northwest corner of First Street and McKinley Avenue. A planted-grass yard with mature landscaping surrounds all of the structure except the west, where a packed-earth parking area is located. Oriented to the south, the structure rests on a high concrete foundation covered with cream-painted stucco. The walls consist of tan, raked bricks. Contrasting brown bricks highlight the water table, sills, arches, and cornice. A concrete lined stairwell leads to the basement doorway at the center of the east elevation. It hosts a six-panel wood door with integral fanlight, opening behind an almond-colored, vinyl-frame storm door. Another stairwell to the basement is located on the rear (north) elevation and is approached from the east. The stairwell leads to a pair of white-painted, wooden framed doors. The lights of the eastern door have been covered with a steel mesh while the top two lights of the west door now host metal, louvered vents. Concrete steps, divided in the middle by a black, wrought-iron railing, approach the front entrance. Above the door, brown brick is set in an arch pattern mimicking the windows. In the center of the arch is a diamond-shaped tile of cobalt terra cotta, and the same terra cotta appears above the arch, on either side of the keystone, as a

cartouche and trailing swag. North of the door are two metal plaques. The top reads: “FORT LUPTON / PUBLIC LIBRARY / AD 1929.” The plaque below it identifies the structure as the Fort Lupton Museum

Historical background: The history of the Fort Lupton Public Library building, now the Fort Lupton Museum, began with one of the oldest women’s clubs in Fort Lupton. Formed in 1902, the Thursday Musical Club changed its name to the Thursday Afternoon Club when it became a literary organization as well. By 1921, these literary pursuits ultimately enticed members to establish a library in Fort Lupton, first housed in the basement of the Methodist Church. It later moved to the office of Dr. W.A. Lee and to the town hall. In the late 1920s, the library’s supporters began a campaign to build a new library building. Citizens purchased subscriptions while various social clubs held fundraisers. Built in a classical style favored by many small-town Carnegie libraries (but without Carnegie funding), the new Fort Lupton Library was completed in October 1929 at a cost of \$14,460.16. Before the completion of Fort Lupton’s new high school in 1931-32, the library rented its upper floor and a portion of the lower to the school district. This situation provided the library, which initially housed 2,850 volumes, an opportunity to completely pay off construction costs. In 1975, the city established the Fort Lupton Museum, appointing Nancy Penfold as City Historian. The enterprise was initially established to take advantage of generous federal grants offered as part of the nation’s bicentennial. The museum moved into the Fort Lupton City hall upon that building’s completion in 1982. Meanwhile, the public and school libraries were formally merged in 1976. The contents of the public library were moved to the high school in November of that year. The museum moved to the former public library building in 1993.

*Source: SWCA Environmental Consultants August 23, 2003*

# Fort Lupton Historic Tour Map Site Nos. 3 & 4

To  
Site No.5



**Seymour and Birdie  
Rhode House**

**Type of Designation:  
Historic Structure**

**Location: 149 Denver  
Avenue**

**Ordinance: 08-903**

**Effective Date: July 23,  
2008**



**St. Andrews Episcopal  
Church**

**Type of Designation:  
Landmark**

**Location: 202 Park  
Avenue**

**Resolution: 98-027**

**Effective Date:  
October 28, 1998**



0 60 120 240 Feet

1:1,247

## 149 Denver Avenue

### Seymour & Birdie Rhode House



General Architectural Description: This home sits on a corner lot, which contains a 1 ½ story masonry residence that faces toward the east. The buildings first floor exterior walls are constructed of brickwork laid in common bond coursing. The home's front entrance, which is found on the northeast cutaway corner, has a wood panel door and a metal storm door. The buildings southeast corner holds the entrance to a hair salon, reached by way of a small wood deck and handicap ramp. On the front of the house is a three-sided bay containing original windows. This home is a late Victorian Queen Anne style home, the roof on this residence is complex. Its central portion is pyramidal, and is surrounded by intersecting gables to the north, south and east. The entire roof is finished with asphalt shingles and boxed eaves. A tall narrow brick chimney with a pair of horizontal brick bands near the top projects upward from the north slope of the pyramidal roof.

Construction History: The home on this property was constructed in 1902 with open porches in the front and rear. Over the next two decades, this has remained unchanged. By 1930, the house had been expanded toward the rear with the construction of an enclosed porch and an attached garage. A small shed, now gone, was located off the southwest corner of the house, although this might have been the old garage now found in the south west corner of the

property. The old garage was certainly not present in its current location prior to 1936. The one-story addition to the southeast corner of the residence was constructed sometime in the years after World War II, possibly in conjunction with the 1975 remodeling of the interior for use as offices. In the past two decades, several alterations have been made to the property. First, in 1992 the detached modern garage was constructed and the surrounding yard area paved with concrete. In 1996, the home received attention to its upper floor siding, soffits and fascia. Finally, in 2006 the wood ramp, deck and door for the hair salon were installed, along with the wrought iron fence that encloses portions of the year yard.

Historical Background: Between 1902 and the 1950's the home was occupied by the family of Seymour and Birdie Rhode. The couple was well-known for founding the first bank in Fort Lupton. Established in 1900, the Fort Lupton State Bank was initially housed on the main floor of the Winbourn Hotel on the northwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Main Ave. Seymour served as the institutions vice-president and cashier and Birdie held the title of president, a remarkable position for a woman to hold in any bank, large or small, at that time. Advertising "courteous treatment to all," the bank was launched with total assets of \$25,000 and on its first day of business received deposits in excess of \$3,500. In addition to banking, the couple was involved in the sale of fire and life insurance policies. With their bank thriving, Seymour and Birdie had a Queen Anne style home constructed for themselves in 1902 at 149 Denver Avenue. Eight years later, they erected their own bank building on the northwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Denver Ave. (This building no longer exists). Seymour and Birdie continued to operate their bank through at least the 1940's and were involved in the Fort Lupton community into the post-WWII period. During the 1950's, the home finally passed out the family's ownership. While it continued to be occupied as a residence, in 1975 the building was remodeled to serve as offices for Ranchero, a company engaged in home construction, real estate and land development. This work appears to have primarily involved the interior, but may also have involved construction of the one-story addition to the southeast corner of the building. In recent years, this portion of the building has been converted into a hair salon.

## 202 Park Avenue

### St. Andrews Episcopal Church



General Architectural Description: The church at 202 Park Avenue is situated on the northeast corner of Park Avenue and Second Street. The planted-grass yard surrounds this structure and the vicarage, east of the church. Oriented to the west, toward Park Avenue, the structure rests on a concrete foundation, which protrudes from the main wall. It is covered in pink-painted stucco. The symmetrical front (west) façade hosts a protruding front-gable entryway. To the right of the doors is a bronze plaque designating the church and its vicarage as a Fort Lupton Historical Landmark. A small, white-painted, wood pendant hangs in the gable end of the entryway. Below it, mounted to the gable, is a metal sign featuring the shield of the Episcopal Church and the words “SAINT ANDREWS / EPISCOPAL CHURCH / EST. 1902 / 8 AM SUNDAYS / WELCOME.” The vicarage is located behind the church. Its address is 617 Second Street.

Construction History: The church was completed in October 1908 by Robert Ozment and members of the parish. Ozment’s father founded the first brick works in Fort Lupton, and many of the earlier structures in the city are constructed of his bricks. Changes to this structure have been minimal. The

doors have been replaced, the stoop modified and the original wood-shake roof replaced with asphalt shingles. Because Ozment bricks were soft and deteriorated easily, many of the early buildings in Fort Lupton, including St. Andrews, have been stuccoed. The vicarage was constructed in 1914 and has not been significantly altered, except for a small addition to the north.

Historical Background: The history of St. Andrews Church begins like so many pioneer congregations in Colorado: as meetings among members of the faith in homes and other informal structures. A traveling Episcopal priest baptized a young man in the Fort Lupton area around 1886. His parents were intent upon maintaining the faith, holding meetings in their home every two months. About that same time, a group of Episcopal women in the Fort Lupton area organized the St. Mary’s Guild to continue and enhance the work of that first family. Services were eventually conducted monthly on the top floor of the Knights of Pythias Hall (Winbourn Hall) currently located at 336 Denver Avenue, or at Smith Hall. By 1902, an Episcopalian parish was firmly established in Fort Lupton. Among the members of the church were some of early Fort Lupton’s most notable families, including the Winbourns (also spelled Winbournes), Hubbells, Ozments, Pelles, Slates, Kelseys, and Whitesides. In 1907, the fledgling congregation purchased lots on the northeast corner of Park Avenue and Second Street. By that time the parish consisted of 10 families, in which 19 were confirmed. In the early summer of 1908 members of the congregation led by Robert Ozment, began constructing a new church building. Ozment’s father established the earlier brick works in Fort Lupton, and many of the oldest structures in the city were constructed of his bricks. The church was completed in October 1908 and consecrated on November 29 of that year.

From the late 1970s through 1993, St. Andrews shared its priests with St. Elizabeth in Brighton. The parish suspended this arrangement in 1994 due to declining membership. The church continues weekly services conducted by supply priests” rather than a resident minister. St. Andrews operates the vicarage as rental housing.

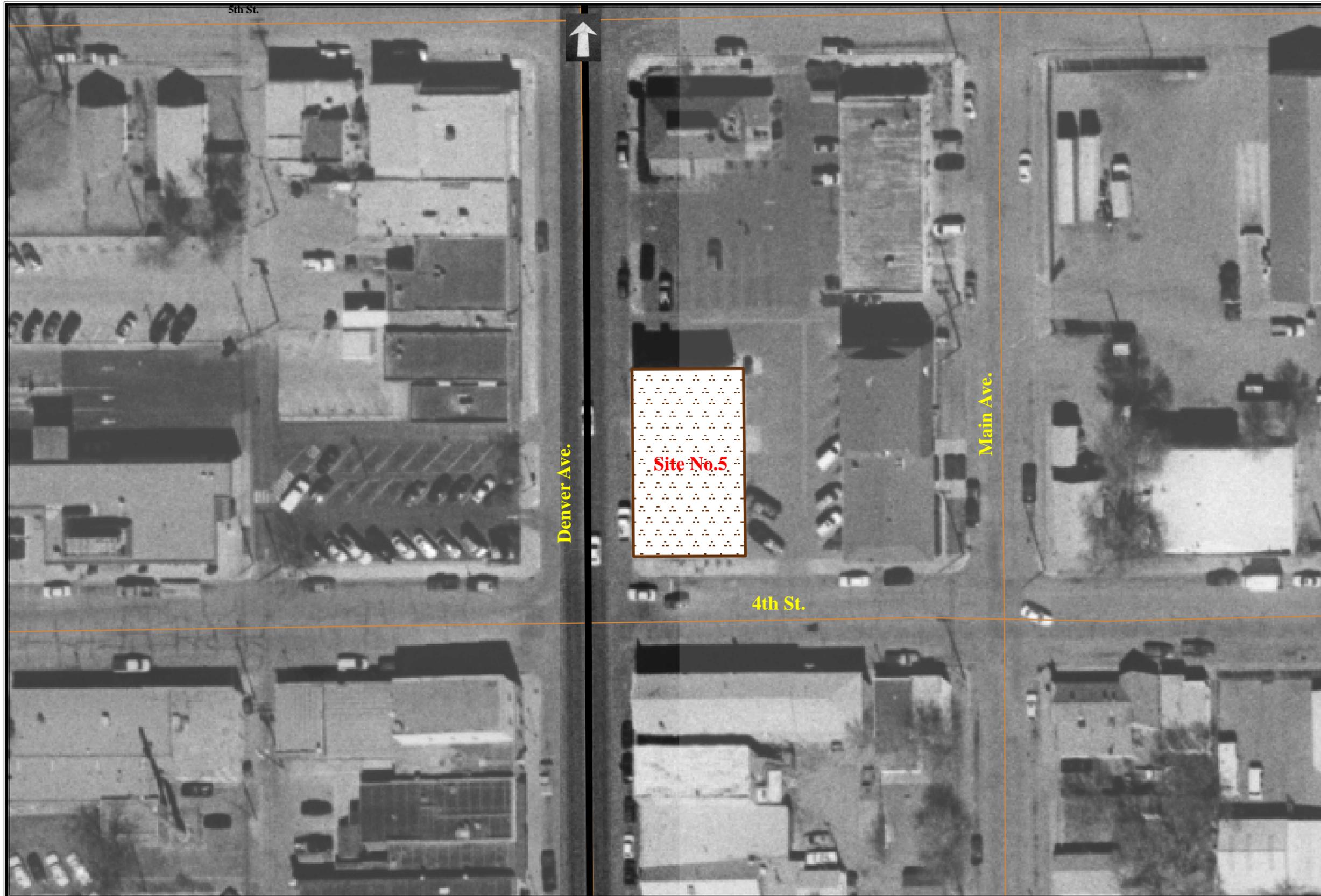
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*Source: SWCA Environmental Consultants August 21, 2003*

# Fort Lupton Historic Tour Map

## Site No.5

To  
Site No.6



**St. John Building**  
**Type of Designation:**  
**Historic Landmark**  
**Location: 704 4th Street**  
**Ordinance: 04-827**  
**Effective Date: June 21,**  
**2004**



1:631 0 30 60 120 Feet

## 701 4<sup>th</sup> Street

### St. John Building



General Architectural Description: This commercial structure at 701 Fourth Street is situated on the northeast corner of Denver Avenue and Fourth Street. Oriented to the south, the structure rests on a redbrick foundation. A random-coursed, sandstone veneer stretches between the foundation and the bottom for the windows. Engraved in the sidewalk in front of the west entrance are the words “DON MASON HARDWARE.” An unusually heavy, blue-green, protruding cornice emerges beneath the parapet on the front (south) and west elevations. Supporting the cornice are scroll-volute brackets with acanthus leaves across their fronts. Above the doorways, the cornice forms a shallow pediment. Below the pediment on the front (south) elevations are gold letters on a blue-green background, spelling “1912 / ST. JOHN BUILDING.” Another doorway appears near the center of the elevation. It features a tan-painted particle board, sliding door. It provides direct access to a freight elevator. A brick chimney emerges above this elevation, on the west side.

Historical Background: The St. John Building and its predecessor have been the anchors of Fort Lupton’s commercial district since 1882, the same year William G. Winbourn, father of modern Fort Lupton, dedicated his new town. Area pioneers George and John Twombly recognized shortly after the town was platted that one particular corner marked the point at which traffic turned off Denver Avenue, the main north-south thoroughfare, onto Fourth Street, the principal east-west thoroughfare, en route to the Union Pacific Railroad Depot. They purchased two lots on the northeast corner of Denver and Fourth and, in 1882, completed a two-story commercial structure for their mercantile. In June 1895, Edgar S. St. John purchased a 50 percent share in the Twombly Mercantile. He owned all of it by 1901.

Edgar S. St. John was born in Augusta, Illinois, on December 31, 1861, to Edgar A. and Julia (Sadd) St. John. The elder St. John, Edgar A., died before his son’s birth, and in 1865, Julia married Rufus C. Reynolds. The family moved to Colorado in 1870 settling on a farm just south of Fort Lupton’s original town site, in what is now the Reynolds Subdivisions. St. John worked as a telegrapher for the Union Pacific Railroad in Brighton and, in 1884 married Harriett J. Reynolds, daughter of Reuben J. and Emily Reynolds, in September 1887. In 1891, St. John resigned as station agent to work for George Twombly at the mercantile. St. John renamed the business the St. John Mercantile Company when he purchased Twombly’s share of the business in 1901.

Disaster struck on March 17, 1912, when an early-morning fire destroyed the St. John Mercantile and several other businesses. St. John lost over \$16,000 in inventory, but only had insurance for \$9,000. Yet, less than a day later, the business owner had already begun construction of a temporary store until he could rebuild on the corner of Denver and Fourth.

In the same year as the fire, St. John’s son, Edgar R., became a partner in the business. The elder St. John left the company before 1921, when he moved to California. He returned to Fort Lupton in 1928 and died on February 7, 1938. During his time in Fort Lupton, Edgar S. St. John served a term as mayor and as a town trustee.

St. John completed the current structure in 1913. Instead of two stories, it was constructed with a lofty first floor and generous, full basement. But even without its second story, the commercial building imposed a commanding presence. The heavy, elaborately decorated cornice, almost out of proportion with the rest of the structure, suggested a connection to the posh Classical-Revival and Beaux Arts homes, hotels, railroad terminals, and commercial structures popular at the time.

*Source: SWCA Environmental Consultants August 23, 2003*

# Fort Lupton Historic Tour Map

## Site No.6

To  
Site Nos. 7 & 8



**Ottesen Grain Co.**

**Type of Designation:**  
**Historic Landmark**  
**(NATIONAL REGISTER)**

**Location: 815 7th Street**

**Effective Date: November**  
**18, 1998**



1:629 0 30 60 120 Feet

## 815 7<sup>th</sup> Street

### The Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill

**\*\*NATIONAL REGISTER\*\***



The Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill occupies a .34-acre site in central Fort Lupton. It is located on the north side of Seventh Street, ½ block east of Main Street and adjacent to the main north-south rail line. The building is composed of the mill/elevator building (on the southeast), two warehouse buildings (on the north and southwest), two silos (between the mill/elevator building and north warehouse), and an adjacent parking area (on the west). The mill/elevator building is currently unused, yet it contains much of the original milling equipment. The north warehouse now houses the La Familia Restaurant, with a commercial kitchen, prep and dishwashing areas, a bar, restrooms, small office and a large open dining area. The west warehouse includes a large banquet facility for the restaurant and a rear food pantry area that contains walk-in coolers, freezers and the abandoned equipment of an earlier commercial kitchen. Between the eastern, western and northern buildings is a former truck dump bay, which is now enclosed and serves as a lobby for the restaurant and meeting hall. The property is surrounded by Seventh Street to the south, a Buddhist community hall to the north, parking lot to the west, and vacant rail siding land to the east.

The Ottesen Feed Mill, constructed in 1920, is historically important as the sole grain buyer and livestock feed processor for the Fort Lupton area during its fifty-one years of operation. Colorado farms, both irrigated and dryland, along with livestock

feeding operations, experienced a long period of growth between 1900 and 1920. During these early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Fort Lupton became well established as an agricultural market center, with area farmers requiring a local mill and elevator where they could sell their crops. At the same time, area livestock feeders, many of them dairy farmers, were in need of a central mill where they could purchase processed grain for their cattle. Baled hay and processed grain and beans were sold to area farms and shipped by rail to other regions.

With regional agriculture booming, Fort Lupton's small mill (located on this same site) was replaced in 1920 by the Ottesen Grain Co. Feed Mill, a more substantial facility that could purchase, store and process larger volumes of grain and feed for area markets. As the only feed mill/elevator in the Fort Lupton area, the facility was the focus of important agricultural trading and processing activities for five decades. During the Great Depression, the Ottesen Grain Co.'s owner not only saw his firm survive troubled times, but generously helped area farmers and ranchers stay afloat by extending credit until their situations improved.

Many of the mills and elevators constructed in eastern Colorado during the 1800s and early 1900s have been lost to fire or demolition. While some of the remaining facilities are still in operation or have been converted to new uses, many others are abandoned and becoming deteriorated. A small number of these surviving feed mill and grain elevator facilities have been documented in recent years. Of these only a few are historically designated and fewer still have been rehabilitated. The Ottesen Feed Mill, intact and in use as a restaurant and meeting hall, is thus a remarkable example of a mill and elevator dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that has been successfully converted to a modern commercial use.

Over the past decade, the Ottesen Mill's owner, Robert Vigil, has invested thousands of dollars into its rehabilitation and interior conversion for a restaurant and meeting hall use. He has single handedly saved this important facility from likely decay and demolition, successfully giving new life to one of Fort Lupton's most important historic properties. To celebrate its importance to the community, the property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998.

*Source: Ottesen Feed Mill Historic Structure Assessment, Tatanka Historical Associates*

# Fort Lupton Historic Tour Map Site Nos. 7 & 8



**Donelson Homestead House**

**Type of Designation:**  
Historic Landmark

**Location:** 1875 Historic Parkway

**Ordinance:** 97-706

**Effective Date:** April 7, 1997



**Independence School**

**Type of Designation:**  
Historic Landmark

**Location:** 1875 Historic Parkway

**Ordinance:** 94-665

**Effective Date:** February 10, 1995

1:3,294      0    135    270    540 Feet



**1875 Historic Parkway**  
**Donelson Homestead House**



The Donelson Homestead House was moved from 12795 W 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Brighton to 1875 Factory Circle, now Historic Parkway, in Fort Lupton. The Donelson house is significant in that it was the first frame house built by homesteading pioneers who settled in the South Platte Valley in 1859-60. It is the only house still standing of those built by the earlier settlers. The house was built by a pioneer to house his family after his first log cabin near the South Platte River was damaged by the 1864 flood. It exemplifies the simple architecture employed by the pioneers.

The house was built by pioneer Thomas Donelson on high ground east of the South Platte River sometime after a flood damaged his original homestead log cabin in 1864. According to William A. Blundell, a grandson of Donelson, in an unpublished account entitled “Stories of Pioneer Days in Colorado,” Donelson and his uncle James Blundell came from Wisconsin, along with George and William Hazzard and Andrew Hagus in 1859 to placer mine in the Clear Creek area during the summer. During this time Blundell, Donelson and William Hazzard came to the South Platte Valley and staked out five homestead claims and laid foundations for log cabins. Stakes in the middle of the foundations were dated July 14, 1859. In October the five men came down from the mountains and built five rude log cabins.

Blundell, Donelson, and William Hazzard returned to their families in the East, while George Hazzard and Hagus remained on their claims.

In the Spring of 1860, the Blundell and Donelson families set out in covered wagons from the Platteville, Wisconsin area. They joined a wagon train at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Blundell was elected captain of the train. They arrived near Julesburg on May 3, 1860. The women and children stayed in cabins in Denver while the men prepared the homestead cabins. Both families were enumerated in the 1860 census of Arapahoe County, Kansas Territory.

Donelson’s homestead of 120 acres is listed in Homestead Certificate #79, Application 12, dated October 19, 1870, signed by Ulysses S. Grant, President, lists the homestead as the South half of the Northwest quarter, Section 13 and the Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter, Section 14, Township 1 South, Range 67 West. Subsequently a Land Patent dated April 14, 1871 refers to Homestead Certificate #79, Application 12, and lists the same legal description.

Copies of published articles about Thomas Donelson from The Brighton Register, November 27, 1903 and his obituary, The Brighton Blade, May 27, 1904, further illustrate the life of Donelson. The 1903 article specifically mentions the construction of the subject house.

The historic Donelson House was scheduled to be demolished to make way for a new development. Recognizing its historic value, the owners, James and Barbara White, donated it to the South Platte Valley Historical Society (SPVHS), with the condition that it be moved by November 1996. The Society has moved the house to its historic park in Fort Lupton, where it will be or has been restored as part of the historic farm portion of the park. The intent is for the park to become a living history museum to show future generations the lifestyle and environment of the pioneers of the South Platte Valley.

After its acquisition by the SPVHS, the house was moved to the Fort Lupton Historic Park to serve as a focal point of a pioneer farmstead that will be established to eventually become a living history museum. It joins an 1875 schoolhouse that the Society has located near the farmstead and has been restored.

## 1875 Historic Parkway

### Independence School



Independence or District 23 was organized September 22, 1873. It is believed to be the first school taught in Weld County and one of the first in Colorado.

Historical Background: In 1875, the subject school house was built on the Rego Ranch, just east of the now Independence School on Weld County Road 27. It was named the “Acorn Academy” by the children, after two brothers named Coggins who owned a nearby cattle ranch and the Acorn brand. In the summer of 1885, the schoolhouse was moved to the Powars ranch, a quarter-mile north. The building continued in use as a school until January 1890, when a new brick two-room school was built. Sometime during the tenure of teacher Miss Lulu Rogers, 1890-1893, the school name was changed from “Acorn Academy” to “Independence.” Affidavits by Dare W. Hause and Mary L. Nordell attest that the building is the original Independence School. After its abandonment as a school, the building was used variously as a rental residence and as housing for farm laborers until it deteriorated to a point where it was unlivable. The Watada family donated the schoolhouse to the South Platte Valley Historical Society, which had the building moved to its present site on October 5, 1992. The Society raised funds to restore

the schoolhouse for use as a living history school and cultural center, similar to its use in the past.

Construction: The schoolhouse presently sets on a concrete slab upon which a two-course concrete block foundation was built. It is a one-room frame building, with three windows on each side, and doors front and back (east and west). The restoration process has included:

- Replacing the rotted-out 6x6s cut to match the original, and repair windows and doors.
- During this operation, electrical wiring was installed, as well as insulation.
- Paint was applied immediately to prevent weathering.
- The removing of modern wallboard, re-plastering walls and ceilings, and saving the original wainscoting that was uncovered was also done.
- Installation of a partition in the place where demolitions has indicated there was a wall separating the schoolroom from the cloakroom.
- Installation of a heating system that is compatible with modern code, yet have the flavor of authenticity.
- Installation of light fixtures similar to the kerosene lamps that were used in that era. Exterior painting.
- And the finishing of desks as research indicates.

A sign on the building reads:  
Independence School Built in 1875  
Moved to this Location and Being  
Restored by the South Platte Valley Historical Society

*Source: City of Fort Lupton vault file*

# Fort Lupton Historic Tour Map

## Site No.9



**Ewing Barn**

**Type of Designation:  
Historic Landmark**

**Location: 1875 Historic  
Parkway**

**Ordinance: 02-089**

**Effective Date: July 17,  
2002**



**1875 Historic Parkway**  
**Ewing Barn**



This building is original to the site; the concrete barn dates from the very early 1900's. The barn is in fairly rough condition, particularly the concrete walls with several very large (one inch wide plus) and many medium sized cracks. Fortunately, the structure is quite repairable and may continue its function for storage and be developed as a museum to display the transitions in agricultural equipment from the 1830s on the Lancaster Lupton's first farm, and through to the agricultural era of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A number of pieces of agricultural equipment have been collected over the years by the South Platte Valley Historical Society. The larger pieces, a thresher for example, are stored outside in the vicinity of the concrete barn. The barn is deteriorating due to the weather.

The structure was built on the home farm of the Ewing family, established by David Walker Ewing. David Walker Ewing was an emigrant from Illinois who first came with his wife to Blackhawk, Colorado during the 1859 gold rush. With the infant son born in Blackhawk, the Ewings moved to homestead in 1861 on the west side of the South Platte River to a location north of the Fort. The land occupied by the Fort was purchased by David Ewing in 1867, and it became the home ranch.

Horses and cattle were the mainstay of the ranching operation, with hay being grown for winter feed. At the time, there was a market for good horses as the government purchased "remount" animals for the military. Cattle were pastured during the summer on vacant land to the east. The Ewing boys became cowhands as they herded the cattle and took part in roundups. As farming continued to become the agricultural focus, dairying became a profitable venture, and the barn became the first dairy barn on the home farm. A milk condensary was built in Fort Lupton, and several of the David Ewing sons became dairymen.

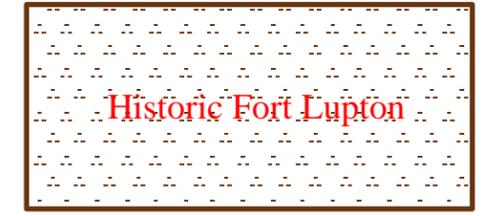
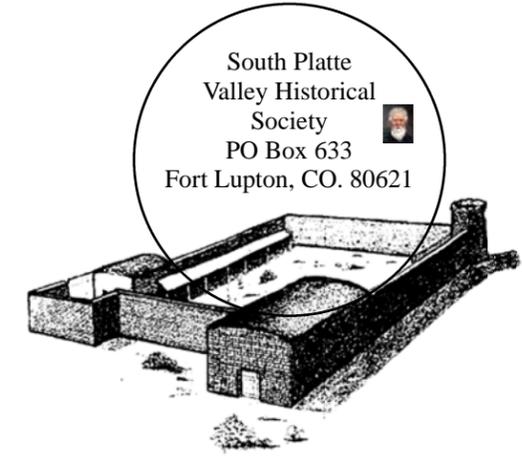
Harry Howard Ewing, third son of David Walker Ewing, took over the fort ranch on the death of his father in 1895, caring for his mother, Nancy Jane, until her death in 1904.

After the death of Lester Ewing, son of Harry Ewing, and his wife, their children were unable to keep the home place and it was sold to Bob Sakata, prominent owner in the region. Sakata sold some of the land to BoMark Welding (Weldon Higgs) and part of it was platted as Fort Lupton Industrial Park. The area where the barn stands was unplatted when it reverted to the First Security Bank (now Bank of Colorado). The City of Fort Lupton acquired the land under a ten-year lease-purchase, and subsequently lease-purchased the land to South Platte Valley Historical Society in August 1992 under a 30-year contract.

*Source: City of Fort Lupton vault file*

# South Platte Valley Historical Society

## Historic Fort Lupton



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