



1) Village Smithy - 26 S. Third - As small as Carbondale was in the 1890s, it had a many blacksmith shops, and this building was one of the first. Note the anvil by the main entrance, similar to one used by Hugh Pattison, one of the early occupants.

"There were hitchin' racks on the north side, and the horses in those days were so well groomed, so well bred," said Mrs. Cleone Oliver, an old timer. The building has been occupied by the Village Smithy Restaurant under continuous ownership of the Chacos family for more than 25 years.

Walk to Main St. and turn right >>>

2. The Creamery - 220 Main - 220 Main was once a tire repair shop. The two-story structure at 202 Main was the local creamery for many years, operated by a Mr. and Mrs. Smoke. The creamery continued in business until the 1940s, when it became a private residence. The creamery was a place where local dairy farmers could pasteurize and sell their milk.

3) 102 Main - Another blacksmith shop, this is one of Carbondale's oldest buildings, constructed in the late 1800s. The wood flooring, which remains in the building today, was probably planed across Main Street at the old mill and lumberyard, torn down in the late 1940s.

4) Tanney Ranch - 199 Main - This building is one of the earliest surviving residences in Carbondale, occupied since 1888. It sits on the site of the ranch where Mrs. Tanney ran the State Station, once the only place along the Glenwood-Aspen line that served meals to travelers. It was occupied by a single family for most of the 20th century. The kitchen

Historic Main Street Carbondale

floor with its many layers of linoleum tells the story of numerous re-flooring and sprucing up.

5) Mt. Sopris Hotel - 66 N. Third - Probably Carbondale's first hotel, it is believed to have been a stage stop as well, and was constructed before 1900. The official population of Carbondale at that time was less than 200, but the town nevertheless boasted a grocery and dry goods store, a jewelry store and watch repair, lodging, a fruit and produce store, a general store, restaurants, a millinery, a livery stable, and several saloons.

6) Post Office - 96 N. Third - Next to the hotel, to the north, was the old post office building, owned by Alberta Sebree, postmistress for many years. Mail was sorted into pigeonholes for pickup in the south room, back when it cost 3 cents to mail a letter. The original building has been recently replaced by a new private residence.

7) Train Depot - 97 N. Third - Carbondale was once a major junction of the Crystal and Roaring Fork lines, which hauled potatoes and passengers up the Crystal River Valley, over to Aspen, and down to Glenwood Springs and beyond. The building was moved about 100 yards from its original spot, which was closer to the tracks. To the west of the depot sat a train yard and feed lots.

8) Dad Long's Store - 303 Main - This 1890's era building advertised in a 1911 Potato Day program as "The Best...for the least. Dry goods, clothing, groceries and shoes." The back room was a social center for farmers and cowboys, who sat around the potbellied stove, bought crackers from the barrel and helped themselves to a slice of cheese. The recessed entry, large display windows and decorative brick corbels were typical of com-

mercial architecture of the day and are seen in many of Carbondale's Main Street buildings. The iron rosettes on the outside east wall indicate where steel rods were inserted to hold high walls in place and keep them from buckling.

9) Old Town Hall - 319 Main - This small false-front building was once the Town Hall. The town offices have moved at least twice since being located here.

10) Theater/Pour House - 351 Main - This decorative brick building with the double transom over the door once housed the Sherwood Motion Picture Theater where it cost 10 cents to see a movie. "They didn't really get the good pictures," an old timer said. "Sometimes, somebody would take us to Glenwood to see a really good picture, but at least we knew what was going on in the world." Later, the building housed Kenney's Pharmacy.

11) Potato Growers Association - 389 Main - This bottle-glass storefront was once the headquarters for the Potato Growers Association, formed in 1923. The first carload of potatoes was shipped out of the valley 30 years earlier, and by 1912, the Carbondale area was a leading producer of spuds for the hotel and dining car trade.

12) Pings Store - 399 Main - Once owned by William Pings, this was where a dry goods store as late as World War II. The building was divided into several commercial spaces, one housing a drug store. Note the coal chute on the 4th Street side

13) Livery - 36 N. Fourth - This long brick building was the livery stable. When trains arrived at the depot, a two-seated buggy, would be driven over to pick up the passengers and carry them the short (often muddy or dusty) distance to Main Street. With the coming of the automotive age, the livery was converted to a mechanic's shop.

14) Bagett Grocery - 55 N. Fourth - The large brick building across the street from the livery was Jim Sheridan's Saloon until Prohibition closed it down. It then became Bagett's Grocery.

15) Lieberman's Bakery - Vacant lot - To the left of Bagett's, you can see part of the red brick oven, all that remains of the Lieberman's German Bakery. The 1910 census showed that Carbondale had immigrants from Canada, Poland, Switzerland, Germany, Slovenia, Great Britain, Mexico, Sweden, France, Scotland, Italy, Belgium, Ireland, Denmark, Wales, Hungary and Japan.



16) The Dinkel Block - 400 block of Main - "You could buy an automobile, a saddle, a buggy, groceries, shoes, anything that was for sale. If Dinkel didn't have it, he'd order it for you." Carbondale's most imposing building, begun during

the building boom of the late 19th century. The oldest part of the structure is the corner in the alley. The Mt. View Hotel operated on the second story, complete with a kitchen and dining room.

Additions to the Dinkel Block were built in subsequent years, ending with the one-story section on the west end, built in 1913 for potato storage. The space at 419 Main housed the First National Bank of Carbondale until it was dissolved during the Depression, had a vault in the back that is still there today. The Crystal Theatre, opened in 1948, still has some old posters advertising the movies shown there in the old days.

17) Potato Days - 4th and Main - Stop at the intersection of Main and 4th Street. It was at this location that Potato Days were often celebrated, beginning in the fall of 1909. There were prizes for the largest beets, potatoes, and babies. By 1911, there was all-day music, a horse race, and a Grand Ball on Saturday night. The Married Women's Race featured a pair of silk hose as first prize. This was also the site of an elevated bandstand under which the town fire hose was stored. (Carbondale had no fire truck until 1955.)

18) The Granary - 505 & 511 Garfield - On Fourth Street, walk the short block to the south (towards Mt. Sopris), and then turn right again. You'll find yourself in a shady enclave, in front of the red Robinson and White Granary, constructed in 1906. It was here that seed, feed, and other grains were stored and sold. A railroad spur ran behind the building on the west and connected with the main line.

19) Electric Company - 553 Garfield - The small building next to the chicken yard was the electric company office. Electric lights were installed in town in 1910 and the rates were notoriously high.

20) 300 Block of Main - South Side - This block of Main held a number of eateries, small business, and saloons. At one time, Carbondale had at least 15 saloons.

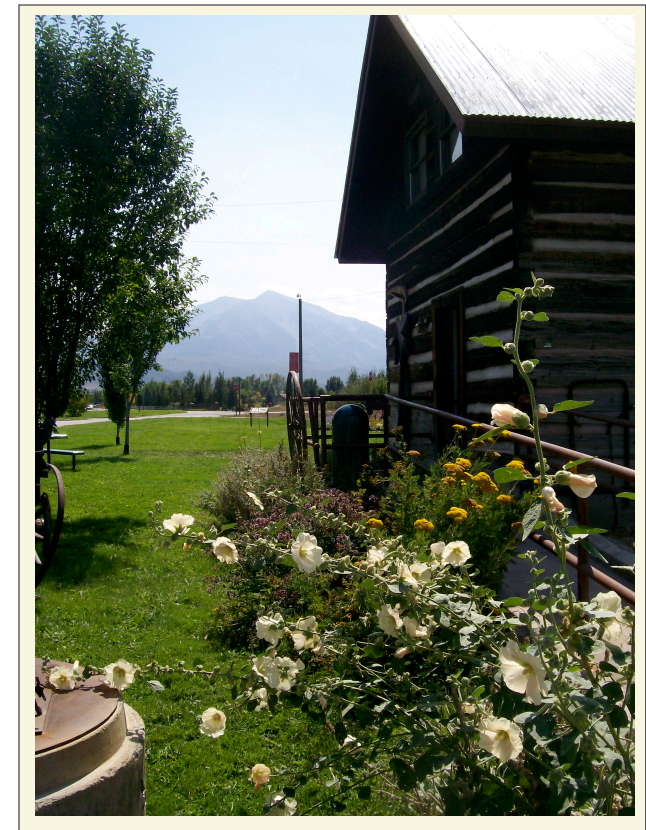


21) Odd Fellows Lodge - 302 Main - The original Odd Fellows Lodge No. 75, dedicated on July 4, 1888, burned 17 years later to the day, July 4, 1905, and was rebuilt the following year. The fire began

when someone tried to light a carbide lamp in the basement. The main floor room saw many dances, traveling shows, movies and basketball games.

WALKING TOUR

CARBONDALE, COLORADO



MT. SOPRIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



499 Weant Blvd

Carbondale, CO 81623

970-963-9371

mtsoprishistoricalsociety.org

