

**WELCOME TO THE
CITY OF GOLDEN,
COLORADO!**

Enjoy your visit by taking a walking tour of many buildings and locations which form the fabric of Golden's history. Founded in June 1859, nearly all the men who were instrumental in locating, laying-out and promoting the City were members of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons fraternity. They met at a variety of locations, each of which has represented an impact on the community. This pamphlet presents the evolution of these locations and provides a historical vignette of them and their Masonic connection. Throughout its more than 155 years of its existence, Golden City Lodge No. 1 has continued to contribute to Golden's vibrancy and its business and economy. Enjoy your walking tour and a brief look at the Masonic Heritage in the City.

"WHERE THE WEST LIVES"!



**Parfet Park
10th St. & Washington Avenue**

One of the first cornerstones in Colorado was laid here for Golden's 1st building, the Boston Company general store, on July 4, 1859. Laid with due ceremony, the cornerstone contained "a copper cent and two-cent of the mintage of 1858, a pair of scissors, a table fork, tea spoon, a steel bitt, an ox shoe, a mule shoe and a horse shoe." When the building was severely damaged in the Great Flood of 1896 the contents were salvaged and given to George West, original Boston Company president and founder of the *Golden Transcript*. The building departed in 1925, making way for the park named after George W. Parfet, father of a future lodge leader.



**Loveland Gardens
1107 Washington Avenue**

In January 1860, after first meeting in a tent, Golden's Masons moved to much warmer quarters in the second story of the Loveland Building. Built by William A.H. Loveland, the famed Colorado pioneer, it was his mercantile with public hall in the upper floor. Users included the Methodist church, Jefferson County, and officers' quarters and commissary for Camp Gilpin raising Union soldiers during the Civil War. The Masons met here until moving to the Railroad House hotel on Ford Street, but did not forget their first home. In 1921 Colorado's Grand Lodge used wood from the Loveland Building for their inlaid altar and made a gavel for Golden's lodge with it. The building was demolished in 1930.



**Odd Fellows Hall
1106 Washington Avenue**
Used as a lodge hall upstairs throughout most of

its existence, the Odd Fellows Hall, built in 1871, was also home to Golden's Masonic lodge for many years, along with the Rebekah lodge which still meets here. The Masons and Odd Fellows had shared halls before and the Masons moved here around 1915. They moved to today's Masonic Temple in 1950, and this place had its front replaced in 1961. Inside the Victorian lodge hall remains much the same as when the Masons met there.



**Loveland Block
1122 Washington Avenue**

In 1863 Golden's Masonic lodge teamed up with William A.H. Loveland to build this new hall, with Loveland moving his mercantile to the 1st floor and the Masonic Hall moving to the 2nd. Above the central upper front window gold rusher and early Jeffco Commissioner Duncan E. Harrison installed the building's cornerstone, and the hall was dedicated April 8, 1864. It became Representative Hall when the Territorial Legislature met here from 1866-67 with famed Golden pioneer Edward L. Berthoud as Speaker. After the Masons departed the cornerstone was taken out during a renovation in 1922 and it was presented to the lodge.



Historical content by Richard Gardner



**Loveland Cottage
717 12th Street**

Standing when Golden's Masonic lodge was born, this gold rush home was built by a founder and officer of the lodge, Senior Warden Reuben Borton. At that time it was considered "a rather *recherché* affair", a veritable gold rush mansion featuring construction entirely of cut boards along with Greek Revival detailing. Borton, an attorney, also served as Justice of the Peace and on the Common Council, Golden's original government. It then was home to fellow lodge founder William A.H. Loveland, who lent the lodge his buildings to meet in. Enduring a fire that gutted it in 1892, the Loveland Cottage is now Golden's oldest building and likely Colorado's oldest frame landmark.



**Linder Block
1215 Washington Avenue**

Golden's phoenix landmark, this storefront, first built in 1873, has been torn down and reassembled twice, in 1903 and 2007. In its original form its upper floor housed Golden's Masonic lodge during the 1880s and 1890s. The hall was a favorite for many years among Golden's fraternal organizations.



Golden Masonic Temple
400 10th Street

The longest home of Golden's Masonic lodge is the first home the lodge has fully owned. Realizing a dream since 1882, the Golden Masonic Temple was built in 1950. It was designed by Gordon D. White and constructed by Eugene Pickett. Today it is home not only to Golden City Lodge #1 but also Golden Chapter #5 Royal Arch Masons, Jefferson Council #24 Cryptic Masons, Jefferson-Highlands Commandery #30 Knights Templar, Mt. Zion Chapter #133 Order of Eastern Star, Friendship Court #7 Order of Amaranth, Bethel #43 Order of Job's Daughters, Golden Chapter of DeMolay and Columbine Assembly #96, Rainbow for Girls.



Golden Cemetery
755 Ulysses Street

On June 16, 1873 the Town of Golden gave 10 acres to the Masons to create Golden's Masonic burial ground, and what is now the Masonic Section of Golden Cemetery was created. Like the rest of Golden Cemetery its landscape was hard won, transforming a wilderness to the park landscape of today through projects including a Civil Works Administration landscaping with Shelter House in 1933. Returned to municipal possession in 1986, the Masonic Section resides with Golden Cemetery on the National Historic Register, home to many pioneers of Colorado's Masonic order.

Colorado Soldiers Monument
Colorado State Capitol



Lt. James A. Dawson, founding Junior Warden of the Golden Masonic lodge who was described as having "a good deal of western 'get up and get' about him", fought bravely at the Battle of Glorieta Pass in New Mexico during the Civil War. On March 28, 1862 Lt. Dawson helped lead the pivotal charge scaling down a cliff to attack the enemy supply train at Johnson's Ranch, breaking the Confederate hold on New Mexico and its threat to Colorado. Dying later in 1864, Lt. Dawson is remembered in honor upon the south tablet of this 1909 memorial.



Buffalo Bill's Grave
Lookout Mountain

A gold rusher who traveled though Golden as a youth in 1860, William Frederick Cody gained international fame as Buffalo Bill through the

19th Century, bringing the West to America and Europe through his shows. When he died in 1917 asking to be buried on Lookout Mountain, it became the charge of Golden's Masons to preside over his burial, as the famed scout was also a Mason. On 3 June 1917, 20,000 citizens attended the Masonic burial ceremonies overseen by the Lodge's Worshipful Master George W. Parfet Jr. Annually Golden City Lodge No. 1, in conjunction with the Grand Lodge of Colorado and the "The Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave" organization, conduct a reenactment of the Masonic burial at the Lookout Mountain grave site.

Other Golden Masonic Notables

- Territorial Legislature/Representative Hall—William Austin Hamilton Loveland
- Parfet Park—George W. Parfet Jr.
- Drew Bridge—Billy Drew
- Mitchell Elementary School—Roger Q. Mitchell
- Rubey Drive—Henry McBride Rubey



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TOUR GOLDEN'S



MASONIC HERITAGE

