



1. Armory Building
2. Elks Lodge
3. Masonic Lodge
4. City Library/Museum
5. Former Farmer's State Bank Building
6. Former First National Bank/Goetz Building
7. Stapleton Building
8. Queen's Lounge
9. Court House/County /Building
10. Post Office
11. Manhattan Café Building
12. Historic City Hall

Fort Morgan

Historic Downtown Walking Tour



Discover our history at:
www.CityofFortMorgan.com

9 COUNTY COURT HOUSE



225 Ensign Street



After Morgan County was officially established in 1889, a Tudor Revival style courthouse was first constructed on the corner of Ensign and Kiowa Ave. However, the rapidly increasing settler population soon demanded further capacity for both the courthouse and existing jail facility. The county was able to receive a matching grant from the federal government under the Public Works Administration to replace the outgrown courthouse with a modern fireproof building of steel and concrete. Adjacent to the site, the county's jail and sheriff's office was designed with Craftsman style elements similar to the surrounding neighborhood homes. Built in 1936. (Jail built in 1921) Both buildings placed on the National Register 04/01/2002.

11 MANHATTEN CAFE



201 Main Street



Built in 1889 by Burton Preston, its first owner, the building at the corner of Main and Railroad Ave. has, over the years, been the site of many, varied businesses and is most known for the shootout between Marshal Pete Eyser and John Swan in 1916. The second floor served as a rooming house at the time of the of the gun battle that occurred over some illegal hooch. The marshal was gunned down along with a woman staying in one of the rooms of the Manhattan Hotel. Swan was convicted but escaped the porous county jail before being transferred to the Canon city Penitentiary. Local Landmark designation 11/15/2016.

10 POST OFFICE



300 State Street



Built in the classically derived Federal style, the community's post office displays this rare architecture style usually reserved for buildings in the south and east. At the entrance, the symmetrical building is dominated by a monumental pediment supported by four columns. In addition to its listing on the National and State Registers (01/22/1986), it is also listed on the U.S. Post Offices in Colorado Thematic Resource nomination, a compilation of 14 state post offices built during a 40-year span (1900-1940) that are well crafted examples of a particular architectural style and depict an imposing, official impression of the Federal government. Built in 1917, it continues to serve the public for mail delivery, passports, money orders, and other postal services.

12 HISTORIC CITY HALL



110 Main Street



Reflective of the municipal building construction practices prevalent at the turn of the twentieth century, City Hall boasts elements of functionality, rhythm, and monumental form. The building was prominently placed at the southern entrance to Fort Morgan's downtown business district and across from the Burlington Railroad depot, serving as a center of municipal government and community life for many decades. George G. Cox, the city's first superintendent largely responsible for the development of its public service infrastructure, molded the building to his vision as a governmental hub, housing city offices and at one time, the municipal power plant in the basement. Built in 1908. National Register 11/22/1995. Local Landmark 3/5/2013.

1 ARMORY BUILDING



528 State Street



Built in 1922, the armory was one of twelve constructed using the plans of John J. Huddart. Seven of the twelve buildings remain in Colorado using this unique architectural method. During its time as an armory, it housed members of the Colorado National Guard and POW's during World War 11. In 1996, the guard moved from Fort Morgan, and the building was donated to the City of Fort Morgan where it was used as a recreation center until May of 2021. National Register designation 06/16/2004. Local Landmark designation 3/5/2013.

2 ELKS BUILDING



430 State Street



Home to the Elks BPOE #1143, this building was constructed in 1917 to house the Elks and the Does in their benevolent work in Fort Morgan and the surrounding communities. The lodge was chartered in 1906 and quickly grew to the point of requiring a dedicated building. The land was purchased in 1916 and the dedication for the building was on December 5th, 1917. The Elks continue to use the structure for lodge meetings, projects and fundraisers, and other events to support the local community. Local Landmark designation 09/04/2018.

3 MASONIC LODGE



407 Main Street



The Fort Morgan Masonic Lodge is home to the Oasis Lodge #67 of the Colorado A.F. & A.M. The lodge was chartered in 1887, and the current lodge building was constructed in 1906. Home to many local activities and events throughout the years, the lodge continues to serve as the home to the local Masons. A fire in 1971 destroyed the south end of the building. However, the north section of the structure remains intact from the original 1906 construction. Very similar to the original temple, the building's architectural style is a Classical Revival, eclectic in its borrowing of Greek and Roman features.

4 CITY LIBRARY/MUSEUM



414 Main Street



Within its museum walls, (Don Ostwald East Gallery) is the original Carnegie Public Library, opened February 25, 1916, after many years of fund-raising by the Ladies Library Association. Incidentally, the first library dates back to 1891 when books were housed in orange crates in the Putnam Notions Store. The building was expanded and remodeled in 1974-1975, which added the new library wing. The architect, Ed Warner, was a direct descendant of a Fort Morgan founder. The "new" complex was opened March 2, 1975.

5 FARMER'S STATE BANK



300 Main Street



This beautiful art deco building, built in 1930, was testimony to the faith the Bloedorn family had in the future of the Fort Morgan community when they built the former Farmer's State Bank. Skilled craftsmen created designs, both inside and out, which offered elegance as well as utility and is one of the best examples of Art Deco architecture in the state. It was the site of a daring bank robbery in 1939. Law enforcement officers in northeast Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska, coordinated their searches, caught the robbers, and all the money was returned. The building was gifted to Morgan Community College and dedicated as the college's Bloedorn Center for Community and Economic Development in April 1998. National Register 09/13/1990.

6 MORGAN COUNTY BANK



225 — 231 Main Street



This Classical Revival building was built in 1906 to house the Morgan County Bank and includes addresses of 225-231 Main Street. The first two-story brick building in Fort Morgan, the A.K. Clarke building, had previously occupied this site. The bank was located in the 231 portion of the building with the rest of the structure housing the J.A.M. Crouch Dry Goods Store. In the 1920s, Morgan County Bank merged with the First National Bank led by prominent businessman and bank president, James P. Curry. The bank changed its name to First National Bank of Fort Morgan after this sale, and Curry directed his attention to other business ventures. Local Landmark designation 10/06/2015.

7 STAPLETON BUILDING



316 Main Street



The Stapleton building, the third generation of structures on the site, typifies the Art Deco style of the 1930s and is an example of the last stage of Fort Morgan's stylistic development. Originally constructed in 1906 as a single-story brick building, it was razed and replaced in 1920 by the Schwartz Mutual Drug Company, which eventually went bankrupt, after which J.B. Stapleton purchased and expanded the building. Stapleton constructed a second floor and completed the reconstructed façade in the prevailing Art Deco style of the time. The business and building were later sold to Donald Macy, who restored and operated it as a drug store for many years. Local Landmark 09/04/2018.

8 QUEEN HOTEL/ LOUNGE



112 & 114 Ensign Street



The building at 112 & 114 West Kiowa was constructed in 1907 by Ora McGrew as a hardware and implement store. Eventually, after a stint as a furniture store, the building was remodeled and converted into a hotel in 1930. It was advertised as a 45-room hostelry at its opening gala. In 1980, the Queen was reopened as the Queen Lounge and has been serving the community ever since.