

NOW...and THEN



PALISADE, CIRCA 1910

Downtown Palisade Historic Walking Tour

Established in 1904, the early days of Palisade found the town growing rapidly. It boasted two banks, two mercantile stores, a shoe store, two meat markets, two blacksmiths, three lumber yards, two livery stables, four churches, a jewelry store, a clothing store, several real estate businesses, a movie theatre, a bakery, three fruit platforms, two drugstores, a pool hall, a post office, two lawyers, three doctors and two dentists.

We invite you to enjoy a walk as you experience a few "moments in time" of historic downtown Palisade.

1. 235-239 S. Main Street

The Purcell Building, built in 1905, has been home to many businesses throughout the years.

239 S. Main Street - Tucan Coffee House

Around 1912, a groceries and meat shop operated out of this location. From 1920 until 1998, the Palisade Drug Store occupied this corner site which featured a soda fountain. In 2003, the significantly remodeled building was opened as the Tucan Coffee House, a social hub and meeting place. Owner Chris Millensted ships coffee beans from South America to Palisade where he roasts and packages quality beans. Tucan Coffee House features coffee beverages and food.

235-237 S. Main Street - Red Rose Café

Palisades National Bank opened its doors at 237 S. Main Street in 1905, taking its name from the town, which was originally called Palisades after the dramatic palisades of Mancos Shale north of town. The bank opened with \$25,000 in capital. A common happening for the times, the bank issued its own currency until 1929. In 1909, the bank built and moved into their new building located at 305 S. Main Street. During the early 1900s, 237 S. Main was the Best Clothing Company. In the 1920s, the Palisade Post Office moved to this location from its previous home in the Hugus Building Additions. Around 1926, Bancroft and Rice Grocery & Meat Shop operated out of this location. In 1958, Bill and Lillian Floryancic bought the grocery business. They moved across the street in 1962 and built Bill's AG Market where Family Food Town now stands. Today, the Red Rose Café occupies both the 235 and 237 S. Main Street locations, specializing in Italian and Vietnamese cuisine and featuring a wine bar.

2. 215 S. Main Street - Palisade Livery Saloon

This was originally the Jenkins and White Furniture Store. On February 6, 1909, Palisade's first real fire occurred destroying much of the building. In 1910, the existing structure was erected and reopened for business. It is believed to have been around the 1930s when Jimmy Marotta opened a pool hall at this site. Some of the original furnishings still decorate the interior. Note the painted advertisement for ice cream, cigars and tobacco on the south outer wall.

3. 209 S. Main Street - Palisade Glass Gallery

Currently a glass art studio, the Palisade Glass Gallery building was the town's public restrooms during the 1950s. It was built to accommodate the influx of migrant workers. The building was once called the Taj Majal. Other businesses to occupy this building have included a beauty shop, a massage room and a knick-knack shop.

4. 117 S. Main Street

This building housed the Palisade Tribune, which was established in 1903. The Tribune's first editor, Clinton H. Martin, moved the newspaper from the Hugus Building into this building in 1906 where it remained until the 1980s. Formerly known as the J.H. Sayles Building, it was constructed for the purpose of being a print shop. In addition to the Palisade

Tribune, this building has had the distinction of being home to numerous printing establishments.

5. 135 E. 1st Street - Toothaker Packing Shed

Built in the 1930s by Lee Toothaker, this building was used to pack and ship peaches. Up to twelve people packed peaches which were loaded directly on the train cars by way of a railroad spur that came to the shed. Some of the old equipment including a machine for sorting the peaches by size and a box maker still remain in the building. This shed was used until the late 1950s.

6. 135 W. 1st Street

This house was built by John Port (twin of the house located at 398 W. 1st St.) in 1904 and was one of the first Palisade homes to have indoor plumbing. It is a fine example of the Queen Anne Free Classic style of architecture. This home has had several uses. Around 1915 as the "McCoy Boarding House", it catered to teachers, bookkeepers and bank employees. In 1913, E. L. Jeffers, opened it as the area hospital. Mr. Jeffers' daughter, Essie, became Mrs. Wayne Aspinall. Wayne Aspinall was a prominent Senator and possibly Palisade's most "famous" citizen.

7. 204 W. 1st Street

Built in 1904, this one-and-a-half story Edwardian style bungalow home is one twin of two sets of twin homes in Palisade. It was originally



Bancroft home in the early 1900s

the home of the R.H. Bancroft family, who arrived in Palisade in 1893. Mr. Bancroft was involved in real estate and was a fruit grower. For many years, it was the residence of Mrs. Evelyn Everhart, who taught school in Palisade for over 40 years. This home is one of three downtown Palisade houses that still has an orchard on its property. This home's twin house is located at 107 W. 6th Street.

8. 218 W. 1st Street

The Herbert and Edith Crissy home was started in 1905 and completed in 1907. Mr. Crissy's connection to the lumber industry enabled him to have the materials for the home shipped to Palisade. Although the house is classified as Classic Cottage or Neoclassic eclectic cottage there are some significant variations. Most notable of these is the wood frame, the flared walls, the diamond upper sash and the cobblestone chimneys which are common features of Craftsman bungalows. Crissy's

involvement in the fruit and orchard industry and the home's architectural integrity qualified this home for placement on the Colorado and National Register of Historical Sites in 2002.

9. 234 W. 1st Street

Built by J.L. Oliver in 1898, this two-story home has a basement composed of double thick brick walls. Mr. Oliver was one of Palisade's first orchardists who reportedly transported water from the river to irrigate his orchards prior to the building of the canals. Oliver is also on record for suggesting the name of "Palisade" in honor of the palisades formation of the Book Cliffs.

10. 362 W. 1st Street

This Simple Victorian farmhouse was begun in 1904 and finished in 1908. It is a good example of the type of home for the "well-to-do" orchard owner of that period. The home was illustrated in the Palisade calendar of 1912.

11. 398 W. 1st Street

Built by John Port in 1905 as his residence. The cost of construction was \$3,500. This was the first house in Palisade to have indoor plumbing. Port's daughter, Dorothy, lived in the family home until her death in 1979. The house and its distinct gabled roof typifies Palisade's most outstanding Victorian two-story style. The house is part of the second set of twin homes in town; its twin is located at 135 W. 1st Street.

12. 404 W. 1st Street - A DiVine Thyme Bed & Breakfast

The W.A. Lloyd home was finished in 1903. Mr. Lloyd, a coal miner in Newcastle, owned a peach orchard above the ditch behind his home which he watered with a gasoline engine set up. This house is typical of the upper class dwellings of the Palisade area. After many months of remodeling, present owners Tom and Cathy Monroe welcomed their first bed and breakfast guests in April 2007.

13. 588 W. 1st Street - Palisade Wine Valley Inn

This house was built by a local carpenter in 1909 for Cicero and Victoria Smith. After retiring from the railroad in 1900, Cicero joined his family in Palisade where they had already planted acres of fruit trees. Cicero became a fruit grower, an inventor and eventually went to Utah to prospect for silver and lead. Smith's daughter, Helen, lived in this house until her death in 1978. After sitting vacant for three years, the house was bought by another Smith family (no relation) and the remaining acreage was developed into the Victorian Heights subdivision with a street named after Cicero. In 2002, Dave and Michelle Walker purchased the house and after extensive remodeling, opened the doors of the bed and breakfast in 2004. The house is vernacular Victorian style. The sunburst above the second story window is the most common detail on the area's upper class houses built in the early 1900s.

14. 405 W. 1st Street - Varaison Winery

This home was built in 1908 by J. R. Bradshaw, a local orchardist who was also involved in real estate. This house is one of the larger and more

elaborate Victorian style homes in Palisade. Interesting features of this home are the Corinthian columns across the front and the beveled glass windows on the top half of the window set ups. In 2003, owners Ron and Kristin West began their extensive renovation, restoring the house to the 1905-1908 architecture and furnishings. The house was 95% original with authentic lighting, trim, and structural features prior to the renovation. The house is now the tasting room for Varaison Winery. Many historic artifacts from the late 1890s to 1945 were discovered at the property and are on display for all to enjoy.

15. 383 W. 1st Street

The Bridges Home was built in 1920. Mr. John J. Bridges was a banker and financier and an early vice-president of the United Fruit Growers Association. The bungalow style house is representative of the most characteristic urban residence style in Mesa County.

16. 144 S. Kluge Avenue - Fruit & Wine Real Estate and Castle Rock Construction of Palisade

Palisade's first Railroad Depot was constructed between 1882 and 1890. The building first stood south of the track and just west of the Main Street crossing but was moved across the tracks in 1900. It reportedly was moved more than once. In 1910, the building served as a home for W.A. Lloyd, who previously lived at 404 W. 1st Street. Eventually it became the office and store for United Fruit Growers in the early 1920s. Due to the removal of large trees and its various locations, it is less renowned but still a large part of Palisade's agricultural history.

144 S. Kluge Ave., Bldgs. 2 & 3 -

Peach Street Distillers & DeBeque Canyon Winery

This area was once a hub for the fruit industry with packing sheds and shipping platforms that stood adjacent to the railroad tracks from Kluge Avenue west to where the Palisade Brewery now stands. In 1971, a fire destroyed most of the buildings next to the tracks leaving just two examples of this 1903s era local architecture style. The smaller building is home to Peach Street Distillers, which opened in 2005. They manufacture handcrafted spirits made with local produce. This building was originally the store for United Fruit Growers Association. The larger building next door has been DeBeque Canyon Winery's production facility since 2003. Originally called the "Basket Shed," it was used to store the peach baskets for the fruit growers' association.



Unloading boxes of peaches next to the railroad tracks at United Fruit Growers in the 1930s

17. 101-113 W. 3rd Street Hugus Building

The largest building in Palisade was erected in 1903, at a cost of \$10,000, for the Palisade Mercantile Company, a dry goods store. It was



Hugus Building and Additions around 1905

owned by J.D. Secor and E.E. Hampton, who after an extremely successful year, sold it to J. W. Hugus & Co. in 1904. During the early 1900s, the upstairs housed offices for Dr. Larson, Surgeon and J.W. Best, Dentist. Many service and religious groups used the large upstairs for meetings and social gatherings. Not long after buying the Palisade Mercantile Co., Hugus and Co. purchased lots to the west, and in 1905 organized the Bank of Palisade. In addition to the bank, a variety of businesses occupied the ground level of the building over the years (see following). The upstairs were offices, and around 1912, Dr. E.H. Weidlein and the Colorado Telephone Company had their businesses there. This modified Federal style structure of the Hugus Building and Additions exemplifies classic detailing, shown in the dentils below the fascia board, characteristic of Western commercial structures built in the early 1900s.

101 W. 3rd - Arts & Antiques of Palisade

Occupying what was originally Palisade's first dry goods store, Arts & Antiques of Palisade moved into the largest and most visible store-front in town in July 2006. They offer a wide variety of antiques and collectibles on the main floor with an art gallery upstairs that showcases unique pieces from local artists.

105 W. 3rd - Slice of Life Bakery

Home to Slice of Life Bakery since 1978, this bakery is world famous for its fruit cakes which boast of fresh Palisade peaches as its special ingredient. During the early 1900s, the Bank of Palisade operated from this location. Later it became the Elberta Theatre. The old movie projection room is now an office. A considerable amount of concrete was poured to level the main floor.

107 W. 3rd - Gordon's Barber Shop

Since 1966, Gordon Stewart, owner of Gordon's Barber Shop, has been cutting hair at this location. The Bank of Palisade occupied both this space and the space next door during the early 1900s. The back of this store front was also part of the Elberta Theatre.

109 W. 3rd - Premier Pasta & More

This site was used as offices during the early 1900s and was the office of Dr. Ralph Kibler, dentist for 48 years. Specialty food shop Premier Pasta & More opened for business in 2007 offering Pappardelle's Pastas, gourmet oils, sauces, bulk herbs, spices and local Palisade products.

113 W. 3rd - Palisade Café

Around 1912, this location was the Palisade Post Office. Since the 1930s, it has been a café with as many names as owners. For years, Palisade Café has been the home of great breakfasts and lunches.

18. 119 W. 3rd Street - Blue Pig Gallery

This building was originally the Independent Lumber Company which was built around 1911. The business had two large lumber barns on the

west end of the property. The building was substantially remodeled in 1946 and again in 2007. The Blue Pig Gallery, a working artist co-op featuring local artists' work, opened in 2007. Be sure to visit the courtyard!



The former Grand Junction Fruit Growers Association building in more recent times as a residence

Featuring the Mountain Lion Produce label, the association eventually became Mountain Lion Fruit. Fire destroyed the rear of the building, which years later, was rebuilt to make the structure suitable for a residence.

20. 392 W. 3rd Street

Around 1926, this building was a service station and small grocery store. During the 1940s, Bennett Young, a former mayor of Palisade, owned the business.



Dedication of St. Ann's Church on July 26, 1914

Before the church was built, the first masses were celebrated at the Mulvihull's home, the railroad section house and Hugus Hall.

22. 128 E. 3rd Street

This building was built by Duane Hoffman in 1926 and was the site of Hoffman Motors, the Ford dealership. The Mission style of this building is very rare in the area.

23. 237 Bower Avenue

Built in 1903, this home was first known as the Martin property. It was owned in 1904 by J.H. Sayles, who was associated with the print shop building on Main Street. Dr. J.H. Larsen, Mayor of Palisade in 1913, lived and operated his doctor's office out of this home for years. Later, it was the home of Dr. E.H. Weidlein, who came to be the subject of a small town controversy.

24. 305 S. Main Street - Palisades National Bank

This building was built in 1909 for Palisades National Bank, which moved from its former location at 235 S. Main Street. Palisades National Bank is

19. 244 W. 3rd Street

In 1912, this building was the office of the Palisade branch of the Grand Junction Fruit Growers Association.

Featuring the

21. 203 W. 4th Street - Head Start

This structure, built in 1914, was St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Before the church was built, the first masses were celebrated at the Mulvihull's home, the railroad section house and Hugus Hall.

**“Here’s to Palisade,
the greatest fruit country on earth,
with the best and most intelligent
citizenship of any rural
community in the world.”**

Clinton H. Martin, Editor
The Palisade Tribune, 1907



Iowa Day in Palisade (no longer celebrated) circa 1911, looking south down Main Street



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*Photos unless otherwise noted
courtesy of the Museum of Western Colorado.*



East side of Main Street looking north from the Palisade Chamber office toward the Palisades National Bank in the 1930s

structures in the West built in the early 1900s. The cost of construction for this modified Federal style building was just about \$3,500.

25. 307 S. Main Street

Around the early 1900s, this was the site of a prints and wallpaper shop.

26. 311 S. Main Street - Independent Home Mortgage

A jewelry store operated out of this location around 1912.

27. 317 S. Main Street - Rapid Creek Cycles & Sports

One of the first businesses to operate out of this site in the early 1900s was the Wooden Posts and Billiards Store. This is now home to Rapid Creek Cycles & Sports.

28. 319 S. Main Street - Palisade Chamber of Commerce

Built circa 1906 to 1909, this location was once Voorhees funeral parlor, Palisade’s first mortuary. Around 1912, it housed a harness and cobbler business. Today, it is the home of the Palisade Chamber of Commerce.

29. 336 S. Main Street - Inari’s

Built in the 1940s, this building was originally Young’s Grocery and Market and later, Young’s Laundromat. Inari’s neighborhood bistro opened in August 2007 and features a seasonally changing menu.



Young’s Grocery and Market in 1948

30. 365 S. Main - United Methodist Church

This church was designed by T. P. Barber, who insisted upon the two-domed roof and the buff-colored brick to retain the popular “Old Mission” style of the time. The church was built in 1907 at a

cost somewhat over \$14,300 and was the first property in town to have concrete sidewalks and iron hitching posts. The building was lighted by electricity and at the time was considered to be “one of the most modern and commodious churches formed on the Western Slope.”

31. 129 E. 4th Street

In 1906, John Secor built this home as his family residence. Secor was one of the partners of the Palisade Mercantile Company. He served several terms as mayor and was an important contributor to the Palisade business community. The bungalow-style home has interesting detailing in the lead glass and the arched windows on the right side of the house.

32. 162 E. 4th Street - Seventh Day Adventists Church

Built by the Seventh Day Adventists Church, this Modified Dutch style architecture is somewhat unique to the area. The Seventh Day Adventists



The first Palisade bridge across the Colorado (formerly Grand) River, connecting the town to the Vinelands

33. 103 W. 5th Street - First Baptist Church

This Victorian style church was constructed in 1902. It was later moved to its current location where additions and a belfry were added to the small original building. The church, at its present location, was dedicated on May 26, 1911. The stained glass windows were made by local artisan and fruit grower, Bonnie Ball, in 1990.



First Baptist Church, built in 1905, shown here before its earliest expansion

34. 443 S. Main Street

The Best family had this house built in 1907. The simple Victorian structure was originally surrounded by acres of orchards. It has been home to a prominent druggist, functioned as a boarding house and was later a beauty salon.

35. 509 S. Main

This stately, two and one-half story home was built in 1899 for the Beahm family. The home has been restored, but not remodeled. Five original beveled-glass windows from Germany and a hand carved staircase enhance this wonderful building.



The Beahm family home as it appears today

36. 107 W. 6th Street - EB Realty

This 1905 Victorian was built by George Hoffman. He built this home exactly like the home he built for his sister at 204 W. 1st Street because his wife loved it so much. It became the local hospital in the early 1920s and later the Palisade Medical Clinic. It was remodeled back into a residence in 1998 but still has the original doctors’ office sign inside. Note the hand painted roses on the front of the home.

37. 101 E. 8th Street

This big white mansion at the end of Main Street was built by Charles Whisler in 1903. He erected a swimming pool on the property that year that included cement floors, dressing rooms and as reported in the Palisade Tribune “...complete with all the paraphernalia for doing a swimming pool business.” Whisler was the



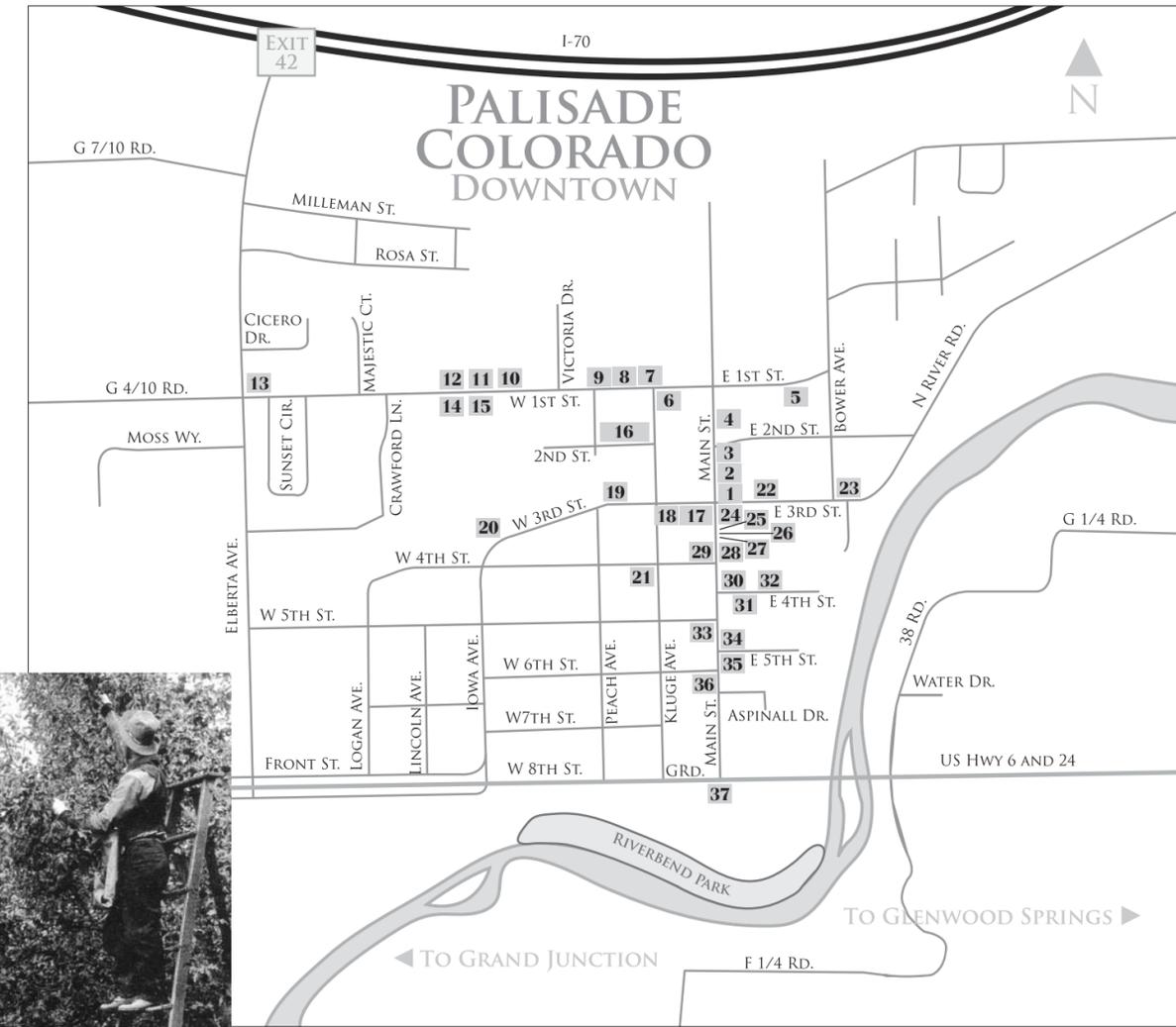
An aerial view of the fruit orchards and East Orchard Mesa. The two-story home in the center of the photo was built in 1906 and stands at the south end of Main Street.

secretary of the Palisade Fruit Grower’s Association in 1904. The property was eventually sold to Frank Swisher around 1907, who invested in orchard land. The Swisher House was considered a showplace as the Swishers were well-to-do. Their daughter, Agnes Swisher, was elected Queen of Peach Day in 1909. In 1910 to 1913, their entire peach crops were destroyed by frost and the Swishers lost everything. Swisher is still known today for the shade trees he planted in Palisade Park.



Packing peaches in 1910 at the Peach Growers Association in Palisade, which accommodated sixty packers at one time. A large belt in the bottom of the trough conveyed the fruit to workers at the packing tables. The packed boxes were then sent to the nailers, who placed lids and nailed them securely for their long journey to the market centers of the world. Each packer averaged 150 boxes per day, making over \$5 in a ten-hour shift.

Fruit packers in an apple orchard with ladders and boxes of fruit around 1910. In all probability, the orchard was located on south Main Street that is now the Palisade Park.



**Walking Tour Guide
generously underwritten
by Elizabeth Birmingham
of EB Realty**

*Specializing in selling
homes—historic to new—
throughout the
Grand Valley area.*



Elizabeth Birmingham

*Homes for a
Quality Lifestyle*

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