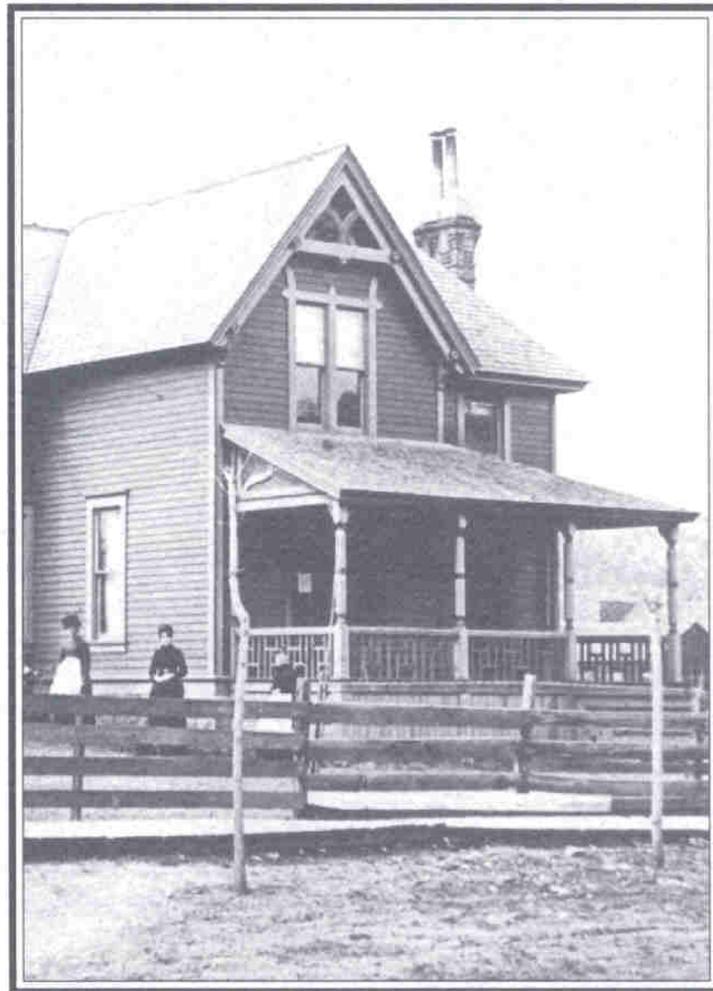


# Historic Walking Tour of Third Avenue DURANGO



747 Third Ave.

*Financed with funding from  
The National Historic Preservation Act  
and the City of Durango*

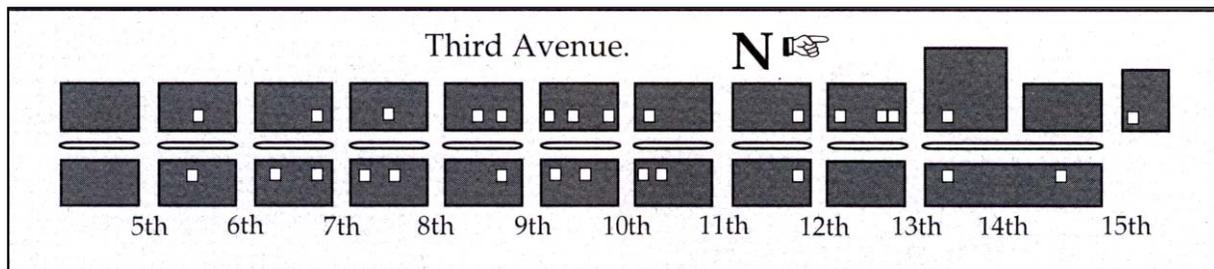
## The Railroad's Grand Plan

On September 13, 1880, the first stake was driven to mark the platted town of Durango. Under the plan of Denver and Rio Grande Railroad president, William Palmer and partner William A.

Bell, the city was laid out in a grid to locate the residential areas upslope and away from the wholesale and business enterprises. Lots were 25 feet wide and 150 feet long. "The Boulevard" along East 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue was designed for carriage traffic to pass in front of homes with streets divided by a grassy, tree lined median. Houses lining the street represent the full gamut of popular styles between the 1880s and the 1930s, with a few later additions to the neighborhood.

In the 1890s in Durango, house lots ranged from \$200 to \$2000. Many prominent citizens in grand dwellings lived side by side with clerks in more modest homes. Churches and schools also located on "The Boulevard" as the community strove for the middle-class respectability that many of its citizens had left behind. The street was not characterized by the settled neighborhood character you see today. Lifelong resident Louis Smith remembered watching his neighbor shooing cows out of her yard every day, and the Durango City Council considered fencing the medians to keep livestock away from the new grass. The Boulevard is now a National Register Historic District.

*The homes on this tour are not open to the public. Please respect the privacy of the residents*



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**526** This Cottage is a vernacular Classic Revival. The first occupant, in 1905, was Edith Sackett. Sackett family members came to the area in 1860 with the Baker Party and later homesteaded near Hesperus.



**622** This house was built by Irish railroad contractor Peter Keegan in 1881. The unusual steep bow roof was added over the porch in the 1900s. Keegan's family, caught in the crossfire of a gunfight between Durango and New Mexico cowboys, took cover until Keegan arrived to "convince" the fighters to let the family escape the bullets. The Keegan house was also used by the congregation of St. Columba's Catholic Church until the new church was completed in 1881.

**670** Walter Weightman, a prosperous grocer who moved his business from Animas City to Durango, built this house in 1892. Note the distinctive Queen Anne brickwork and the spindle design on the porch, characteristic of the Eastlake style.

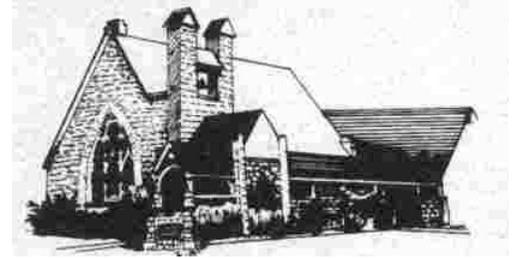


**722** Constructed in the early 1900s, this house was remodeled in 1923 to reflect the popular French Country styles of the times. The exterior paint color is believed to be the original remodel color.

**752** Harold Lloyd, the silent screen star, lived with his grandmother in this house at various times in his childhood.



**848** True to the speculative nature of early Durango, this property passed through five owners in twelve years before Thomas and Luella Rockwood built their home on the property in 1892. The house remained a residence until 1926.



**910** St. Mark's church was built in 1891, after the original wood frame church on East 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue burned in the 1889 fire.

**960** A Spanish Colonial Revival home built in 1920 with Mission style details, this home was owned by pharmacist J.L. Parsons, whose drugstore was a well known local landmark at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Main until 1992.

**1004** This property was a gift to the first baby born in Durango, on January 31, 1881. The baby's parents built the house here in 1886. It was remodeled to a Colonial Revival style house after 1900.



**1020** This eclectic Queen Anne style home is decorated with Eastlake detailing on the two porches. The house was built in 1898.

*On July 1, 1889, a devastating fire swept through Durango. A strong west wind caused the fire to spread so quickly that the new steam pumper burned in the house before it could be used. The fire spread to The Boulevard, destroying many of the wood frame homes and churches. The homes at 1154, 1158, and 1160 survived the fire. These survivors are some of the oldest buildings in Durango. Many structures along The Boulevard have changed with the times. The Baptist Church at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> Street survived three fires and underwent two enlargements in 1948 and 1958. The house at 1073 has been altered many times over the years, including recent work in 1990, and now reflects a curious mix of architectural styles not representative of any style or era.*

**1166** Constructed in 1922-23, the First Church of Christ Scientist is a vernacular variation of the Greek Revival Style.

**Schools** The east side of the 1200 Block was the site of a school that housed first through twelfth grades. It was built in 1892 at a cost of \$30,000. The building was adapted to changes in the school system. It became an elementary and junior high after the high school was constructed in 1916, and then functioned solely as an elementary school when the junior high was built across the street (1300 Block) in 1938. The building burned in 1950 and was replaced by Mason Elementary.

**1330** This house has been altered since its construction in 1898, but enough of the original elements remain to give a sense of the vernacular Cottage style. James Pulliam, a former Colorado lieutenant governor, lived in the house. He and his wife Eulalie were both attorneys.



**1412** The English Cottage style of this house is a far cry from the original small brick house built in 1896. This house was remodeled to the then popular Cottage Style of the 1920s.

*If you want to walk another block, you will see the former home of Durango's famous newspaper editor David Day located across 15<sup>th</sup> Street (Florida Road).*

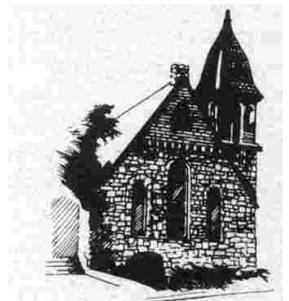
**1261** The Shingle Style Amy Mansion was a wedding present to Ernest Amy and his bride in 1888, from her father, one of the owners of the San Juan Smelting Company. Ernest Any was the Manager of the Smelter in the late 1880s.



**1237** Adair and Margaret Wilson built this house in 1892. Adair Wilson was the president of Colorado's 11<sup>th</sup> territorial council in 1875. In 1886 he was elected to the Colorado Senate, and was appointed chief justice of the State court of appeals in 1897. Other political notables also owned the house, including Durango mayor Clayton Perkins and state senator Al Ruland.

**1215** This home is an eclectic mix of several popular turn of the century architectural styles. They include the Tudor half timbering on the second story, the Spanish Colonial Revival tile roof, an American Foursquare floor plan, and Mission-Craftsman decoration. State Senator George "Smoothie" West lived in the house until 1912.

**1161** There were 91 church members in the Presbyterian congregation when the cornerstone was placed for this church in 1890. A time capsule in the cornerstone included copies of the Durango Herald from the week after the fire. The capsule was recently opened, and valuable information from the newspapers came to light.



**1001** Locally produced brick was used in this house, which was built in 1881-82. Dr. John Haggart, the president of the medical staff at Mercy Hospital and the first doctor to perform surgery in Durango, lived in this house around the turn of the century.

**973** A native sandstone and frame structure, this building includes elements of Craftsman style in the porch brackets, rafter details and bay window. It was built by Robert Sloan in approximately 1912. Mr. Sloan was a friend of General Palmer during the Civil War and was an original partner in the Graden Mercantile Company. His descendants own the Graden Building on the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Main. Mr. Sloan's heirs have lived in this house without interruption.





**909-929** Look closely and you can see that these were twin houses. They were built in 1881 by Charles Newman and W.L. Stephens, whose wives were sisters. Newman and Stephens were partners in a drugstore and in some early mining ventures. Newman built the Newman Building at 8<sup>th</sup> and Main.

**871** This government surplus modular house was moved from Whiterock, New Mexico (near Los Alamos) just after WWII. Many of these homes were brought to Durango to address a housing shortage after the War.



**825** This American Foursquare style house has some Italianate influences in the eaves and bracketing. It was built in 1908 and was not altered until 1982 when the front porch was glassed in.

**747** This Stick style home was built in 1883 for A.P. Camp, president of the First National Bank of Durango. The building remains essentially unchanged (including the paint colors) except for a solarium on the south side.



**669** This Dutch Colonial Revival style house was built in 1906 by David Ramsey, a Scot. Margaret MacLean, whose brother Dan owned the Highland Mary Mine (named after their sister) near Silverton, bought the house, and later sold it to Fred and Marguerite Clark in 1926.