

The Historical Living Project

Historic Houses and Oral Traditions
of Laramie

VIDEO TOURS

www.visitlaramie.org/hlp

The Historic Ivinson Mansion

1893, Queen Anne *603 Ivinson Ave.*



The Ivinson Mansion is one of Laramie's major historic gems. This three-story house was built in 1893 during the Victorian Queen Anne period. It represents an eclectic, picturesque style of domestic architecture in America from the 1870s to 1910 and beyond.

This historic house was the home of Edward and Jane Ivinson, who are well known for their leadership efforts in creating Laramie's thriving community, just as the expansion of the West was occurring with the development of the Union Pacific Railroad in the late 1800s. The architect of the house was Walter E. Ware, who was from Nebraska and originally hired as a draftsman to design shops for the Union Pacific yard.

The Ivinson Mansion now operates as a historical museum, The Laramie Plains Museum, and includes collections ranging from Victorian and Mission furnishings to cowboy, Calvary, American Indian, and Jane Ivinson's girls school memorabilia. The Ivinson Mansion and Grounds were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.



Scan this mobile tag with your smartphone to view the video of the Ivinson Mansion. Mobile tags are available for each historic home featured in this brochure. Videos, audios and feature stories can also be accessed via www.visitlaramie.org/hlp.



703 Ivinson Ave.

The Meldrum Residence

1883, Tudor Revival



This Victorian turned Tudor Revival was built in 1883 and redesigned by Wilbur Author Hitchcock in the early 1900s. The home's first owner was John Meldrum, who served as secretary of the Wyoming Territory when it became a state in 1890. He later became superintendent of Yellowstone National Park.

715 Ivinson Ave.



1909, American Craftsman




This American Craftsman style home was built by Wilbur A. Hitchcock in 1909 for Charles O. Merica, president of the University of Wyoming from 1908 to 1912. It served as the UW President's house until 1948. The home was also a fraternity house, the "Farm House," under the College of Agriculture. While the house includes many modern amenities, it maintains its historic character with pocket doors designed for privacy and separating the open dining and living rooms. The fine craftsmanship represents a design movement that encouraged originality, clean lines, natural materials, and the visibility of handiwork.



157, 159 N. 6th St.


1883, Front Gable Shotgun

 The national historic “Bath Row” was built in 1883 by Laramie pioneer and stone mason Theodore Bath. Named after the builder, Bath Row originally consisted of seven houses, which were rented to employees of the Union Pacific Railroad, the men who came to manage and work on the rail line after it was built in 1869. The architectural style is Front Gable Shotgun. There are three homes left of the original seven on Bath Row on 6th Street, including 157 and 159, which were designated on the National Register of Historic Places.



603 Fremont St.

Late 1800s, Folk Pyramid

 This historic home is an example of a Folk Pyramid style with Colonial Revival features. It was built prior to 1886 and moved to its current location at 603 Fremont Street.

Emil Therkildsen, an early owner of the home, was Deputy Sheriff of Albany County and in 1908 he hid a prisoner in the cellar to avoid a lynching, then spirited him to Cheyenne in the middle of the night.



812 Grand Ave.

The Arnold Residence

1889, Victorian



Walter E. Ware designed this historic home for Constantine Peter and Annie Arnold. This building, known as the Arnold Residence, is a significant example of the work of Ware, who also designed the Ivinson Mansion. Built in 1889, this house is an Eastlake style with hints of Victorian. Constantine Arnold "C.P." was a highly respected Laramie attorney and leader in the community. C.P. and Annie were socialites and held numerous parties in the home.



415 9th St.

1916, Queen Anne and Prairie



This house, built in 1916, is an interesting mix of Queen Anne, Prairie, and Stick styles of architecture. The house was ordered from a Sears Roebuck and Company catalogue. It is believed the owners had it shipped to Laramie on the Union Pacific Railroad. In the Queen Anne style, it is asymmetrical with an emphasis on verticality, with front-facing gables and textured shingles.



318 11th St.

1914, Craftsman Bungalow



This Craftsman Bungalow, built in 1914, was home to pioneer stockman and Albany County sheriff, Charles C. Frazer. It includes an eave-front roof and a full-length, open-front porch supported by four large, square, clapboard-sided piers. The house has been enhanced with copper gutters and Arts and Crafts-style home paint colors.



1100 Garfield St.

1911, Craftsman Bungalow



This Craftsman Bungalow was designed by Wilbur A. Hitchcock for Aven Nelson in 1911. Nelson was one of the original founding faculty members of the University of Wyoming in 1887. He was the first professor of Botany and also served as UW's 10th President. Nelson owned many homes in what is now known as the "tree neighborhood" of Laramie and rented his homes to deans of various colleges as well as to students of UW.



402 11th St.

Early 1900s, Free Classic



This Free-Classic historic house with Victorian features was built in the early 1900s. Its first owner was Aven Nelson, a well-known botanist and entrepreneur in Laramie. This house includes clapboard siding with wood shingles in the gable ends and eyebrow windows. It also has a large front porch with Doric columns, a triple-sash front window, and other features representative of a Free-Classic house and Victorian.



262 9th St. (his home)

Wilbur A. Hitchcock



Ann Mullens Boelter discusses the life of architect Wilbur A. Hitchcock, her grandfather. Hitchcock's legacy is represented in the hundreds of historic homes that he designed in the early 1900s in Laramie, as well as numerous buildings on the UW campus.



Local architectural historian Judy Knight details the wide variety of homes designed by Hitchcock.

The Historical Living Project is a video-based journalism initiative that provides residents and visitors with a historical narrative of the people and historic homes of Laramie, from its beginnings as a railroad town, to a thriving community that values its sustainable architecture and historic heritage.

This project includes many of the houses in the National Historic District, the University Neighborhood of Laramie. Video vignettes include the style and oral history of each home and are featured in this walking tour guide, accessible via mobile tags using a smartphone while on the tour.

The videos, audio files and feature stories are also available to view or download via the program's website.

www.visitlaramie.org/hlp

Produced by Chamois L. Andersen

This pilot initiative is a collaborative effort between UW's Ruckelshaus Institute, Albany County Tourism Board, UW's American Heritage Center, Albany County Historic Preservation Board, and the Laramie Plains Museum at the Historic Ivinson Mansion.



Photo by Patrick Connolly