

A Thriving History



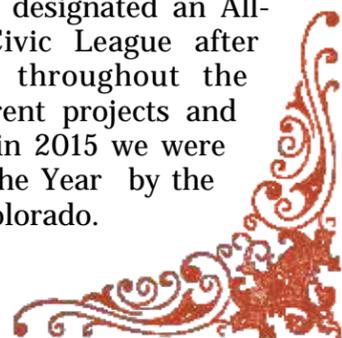
HISTORY: Brush has grown steadily through the restless decades since early Native American tribes roamed their favorite hunting grounds, evolving gradually to a time when early cattle herds passed through this area while crossing over the Texas-Montana Trails. Trail-hardened cowboys stopped at frontier stores in Brush, one of only six stops along the famous trail, to replenish their supplies. During the early 1880's when the railroad came to this area, Brush became a major cattle shipping point for cattle barons, including Jared L. Brush, for whom the town is named. The rich, loamy soil yielded lush grasses, enticing farmers and ranchers to settle in the area where the Beaver Valley merged with the South Platte River Valley. Then came the birth of the sugar industry, the first boom in the area---whole new streets were built. Since that time, the community's economic base has expanded from an agriculture base to include energy, health care, greenhouses and a variety of large and small businesses.

LOCATION: Brush is located in the fertile South Platte Valley in the northeast corner of Colorado, in the heart of the state's leading agricultural production region. Brush is located along I-76, at the intersection of US Highway 34, US Highway 6 and Colorado State Highway 71. Brush is the food and energy hub of a strong and growing local and regional market area. Known for its wide-open spaces, Brush strives to retain its highly valued rural quality of life while easily mixing high tech with traditional rodeos and county fairs.

COMMUNITY LIFE: The community of Brush is active, alert and dynamic! Its people, now numbering near 5,500 are industrious, friendly, down-to-earth, and hard-working. They have a great sense of humor and good common sense. Good work is satisfying and rewarding in the Brush area, and it shows in the warm reception that newcomers and visitors receive. Opportunities in business and industry have lead to steady growth throughout the years. The town boasts of its low cost of living, excellent education system, its safe neighborly style of living, clean air and water, no traffic jams, and a caring community with limitless horizons.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 2012, the City finished a three year downtown revitalization project that was awarded the Governor's Award for Downtown Excellence, Best Main Street Public Space. In 2014, Brush! was designated an All-America City by the National Civic League after competing against communities throughout the country. In reflection of the different projects and successes over the past few years, in 2015 we were awarded the Small Community of the Year by the Economic Development Council of Colorado.



Downtown Brush Historic Walking Tour



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Special thanks
The Stinton family for content and inspiration

A 314 S Clayton St: Knearl School was built in 1910 on South Clayton Street to alleviate the overcrowding at Central School as well as accommodate the children living on the south side of town so they would not have to cross the railroad tracks to get to school. The school district quit holding school in Knearl in 1970. The Knearl School was placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings in 1997, and started housing the Brush Area Museum and Cultural Center in 2005.

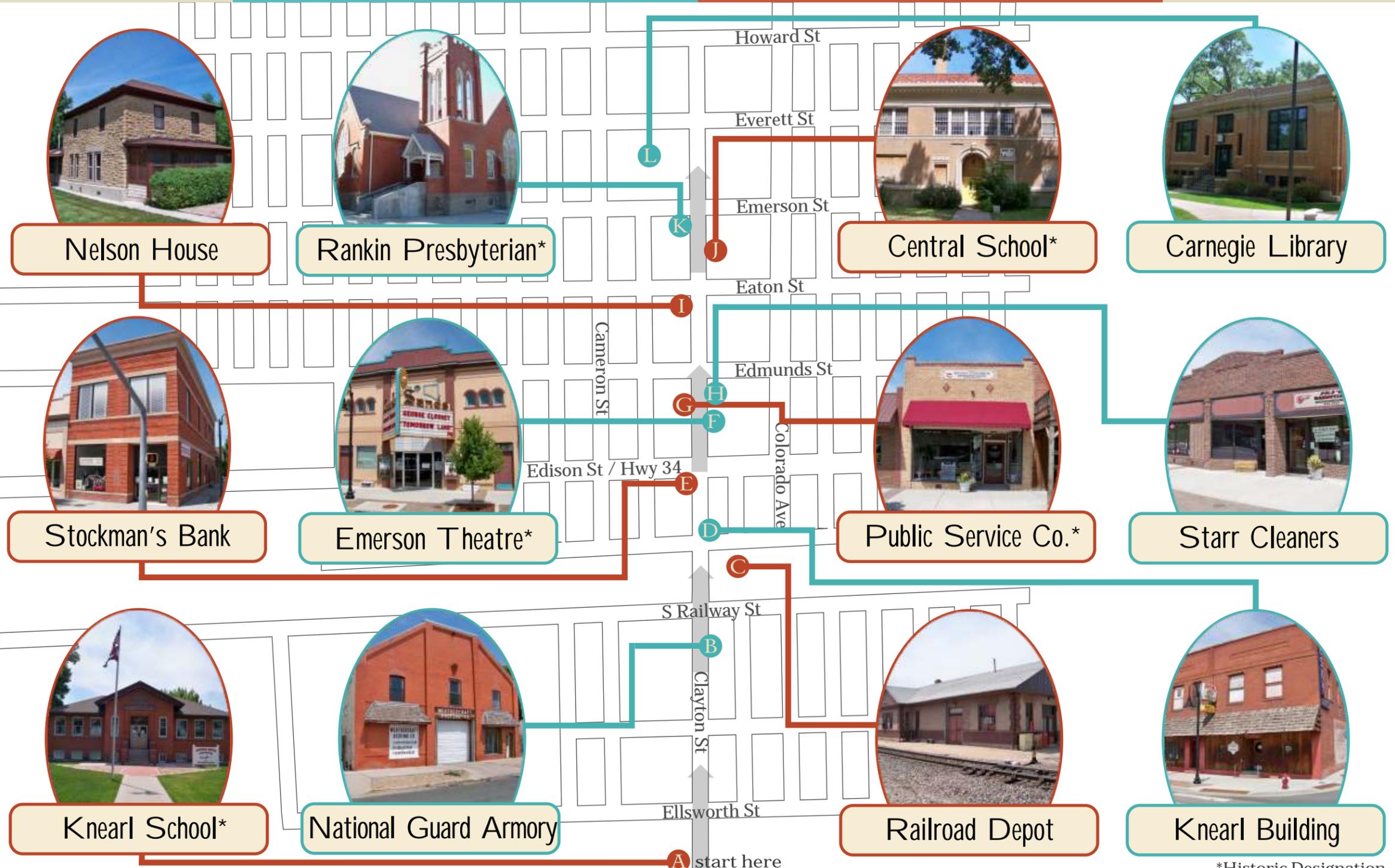
B 115 S Clayton St: The Amory was originally built in 1908 for the Colorado National Guard Company, but closed in 1922 when a new amory was constructed at Howard and Colorado. Doyle's Garage, an auto repair shop was located here until the late 1930's. Many uses for the building followed: roller skating rink, basketball, dances, and a garage to house and maintain the public school buses. The Amory has been used for Weathercraft Roofing since the late 80's.

C 101 S Clayton St: What was originally the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad Depot, was built in the late 1920s. It was the third and last depot that Brush had, and the cost to build the structure in 1927 was \$25,000. Up to 6 passenger trains stopped in Brush each day, until passenger service ceased in Brush in 1968. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad currently owns and uses the building as the office for their Brush hub.

D 101 Clayton St: Built in 1902, what was known as the 'Knearl Building' housed retail businesses, including a mercantile store, on the first floor, with hotel rooms on the floor above. The building had a handful of hotel names through the decades including the Desky Hotel (when the building was completely refurbished) and Cattleman's Inn. Since 2003 the building has been the Corral Sports Bar & Grill, and currently has plans to seek historical designation.

L 500 Clayton St: In 1914, the Brush Town Board voted to support the Library to be built in City Park. The Carnegie Foundation granted \$6,000 to the project along with plans to be followed by the Foundation's specifications. The Carnegie Library opened in August of 1915, and remained a city library until 1983, when voters decided the library would cease to be part of the City and become the East Morgan County Library District. The City sold the block to the Library District for \$1, the building was expanded in 1984, and again in 2010.

K 418 Clayton St: Rankin Presbyterian Church was finished in 1907 and was named after Hugh Rankin, a circuit preacher who served throughout Colorado. The architecture is an excellent example of the Late Gothic Revival style. The exterior is relatively unchanged since construction and even has some of the original pews in use. The bell dates from 1892 and was used in a previous church. There is a Moeller organ that was purchased in 1910 for \$2,000; now valued at \$150,000. The church was placed on the National and State Historical lists in 2007, 100 years after it's construction.



E 122 Clayton St: Built in 1902 by Ewing Munn and was initially the home of the Stockman's National Bank, which closed in 1926. The First National Bank located there in 1927, and stayed until 1973 when they moved to 301 Clayton (now Bank of Colorado). The building housed a real estate office for about 9 years, and received a historical renovation in 2000-2001. The building is presently home to Downtown Duds on the ground floor, and has office space on the second floor which has served different organizations through the years.

F 211 Clayton St: The theater was built in 1916 by Charles W. Emerson, a long time community leader. In addition to the theater was the 'Sweet Shoppe', a complementary business which offered light lunches, ice cream and more; as well as a photography studio located upstairs. With the popularity of cars and drive in movies, the theater closed in the 50's. In 1958, Joe Machetta spent time renovating things, including building a stage which was used to book occasional live performances. Mr. Machetta purchased it in 1966, and renamed it Sands Theatre. It was added to the Colorado Historic Places in 2005.

J 411 Clayton St: Built in 1928 in the style of the Italian Renaissance, Central School first operated under the "platoon" system which originated in Detroit and was only adopted in seven other school districts, including here. Central School was last used for grades 3 through 6 in January 1997 after voters approved a mill increase to fund a new elementary school. The school was listed on the National Register of Historic sites in 2001.

I 322 Clayton St: The Nelson House was built in the 1880's by Ole Nelson, a local businessman. The walls were constructed of 2' thick coursed limestone blocks that were quarried near Akron and hauled on wagons pulled by horses. Due to the thick walls, the house is naturally warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. The house remains very close to it's original design and finish.

H 219 Clayton St: The land was originally part of a lumber yard that took up the north half of the block until 1931, when the building was constructed by William Emerson. In 1932, Starr Cleaners opened and remained for the next 41 years. The north half of the building was then occupied by Gallea's Bakery (now Rising Sun Bakery at 208 Clayton), and the south half has been J&J's Hairstyling since the late 1980's. The building was split into 3 spaces in 2013.

G 218 Clayton St: The lot was originally used for a doctor's office and dwelling, but was removed before the current structure was built in 1926. The building has served primarily as a retail establishment, but was known better as the Public Service Building, which was located there for many years. Over the past few decades, many services were located in the building including a flower shop, print shop, a church, and now is operated by the Brush Area Chamber of Commerce.