



LYONS HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

Discover Lyons History

340 High Street Lyons, CO 80540 - redstonehistory@gmail.com - 303-823-5271

www.lyonsredstonemuseum.com

Follow us on Facebook [@lyonsredstone](https://www.facebook.com/lyonsredstone) and Instagram [#lyonsredstonemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/lyonsredstonemuseum)

The Lyons Historic District

Lyons, Colorado was officially incorporated as a town on April 10, 1891. By that time, the limestone and sandstone quarries were booming and people were moving to the area to find jobs. There are fifteen surviving structures from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They hold the history of the town's early culture and economy. These fifteen buildings are registered in the National Register of Historical Places and make up the Lyons Historic District.

Some of the structures are located on private property and are not open to the public. Please view these buildings from the road.

Download **Clio** from your app store for the free, expanded digital version of the Lyons Historic District Walking Tour!

Museum Hours

May

Saturday: 9:30 - 4:30

Sunday: 12:30 - 4:30

June through September

Monday - Saturday: 9:30 - 4:30

Sunday: 12:30 - 4:30

Admission is Free

Donations are welcomed

Starting Point



1

1881 Schoolhouse

340 High Street

The 1881 sandstone building was one of the original structures in the Lyons town site. It was originally a schoolhouse and is now the Lyons Redstone Museum. The schoolhouse was built in 1881 using sandstone donated by town founder Edward S. Lyon. In 1895, the school was expanded and a second story was added using wooden construction. In 1902, a two story addition was constructed on the west side of the building. The building was used as a school until 1977.

Seward Street



2

Montgomery Home

409 Seward Street

The Montgomery Home is a one-story house that was built in the 1880s. It was built by Lyons stonemasons using locally quarried sandstone. The Montgomery Home continues to be a private residence, as it has been since it was originally built. **Please view the building from the street.**



3

Cunningham/Weese Home

413 Seward Street

The Cunningham/Weese Home at 413 Seward Street was built as a private residence in the 1890s. The beautiful home combines skilled craftsmanship and Lyons sandstone. The majority of the structure is sandstone. It has a sharply gabled roof with two windows near the roof line. The original inhabitants of the home most likely moved to the area in order to take part in the town's growing economy. The home is currently a private residence. **Please view the building from the street.**



4

Chisholm Home

425 Seward Street

The Chisholm Home is one of three historic residences on Seward Street. It was built in the 1890s by the Chisholm family. Alexander Chisholm was considered an expert blacksmith in Lyons and he built his home to be used as a residence as well as a blacksmith shop. This is evident from the 18 inch exterior walls. They are made up of two stone walls which are separated by an air space. This was a building method used to create insulation for the structure. The home is a private residence. **Please view the building from the street.**

High Street



5

The Old Stone Church

408 High Street

The Old Stone Church is located on the corner of High Street and 4th Avenue. It was built in 1894 using locally quarried sandstone. As more people were settling in the area, Edward Lyon began to worry for the local youth. He had built the schoolhouse in 1881 but he felt that there was a need for a permanent pastor, "because the town has many saloons and the kids have to have some spiritual upbringing."



6

The Stone House

426 High Street

The Ralston Brothers Antique store was originally the Stone House built in 1884 by Edward S. Lyon. The town founders used it for many purposes including a general store, a post office, and a surveyors office. The Stone House functioned as a post office while Edward S. Lyon served as postmaster from 1889 to 1893. The building was a source of convenience for the town. People were able to pick up a few groceries, their mail, and catch up on information from stagecoach travelers all in one stop.



7

Dynamite Storage Building

427 High Street

This small sandstone building was constructed in 1890. It was once used to store dynamite for the quarry workers. Lyons, Colorado was built around the quarries. The Dynamite Storage Building is an artifact from that era. Quarry workers used dynamite to blast through the canyon and break apart oversized boulders. Once they reached the sandstone, they used tools such as drills and plug and feathers to break the slabs of stone into the desired sizes.

Main Street



8

McAllister Saloon

450 Main Street

The McAllister Saloon was one of the first structures built along what is now Main Street. It is a single story building that was constructed by Hiram Sawyer in 1881. The building housed the McAllister Saloon for five years. Then in 1890, Nicholas Frank purchased the building and turned it into a meat market. N. Frank & Bros. offered dressed meat of all kinds from animals that were slaughtered on the Nicholas Frank homestead. The building has since been used as a restaurant. It is the current location of The Fork.



9

General Store

415 Main Street

This two-story sandstone building was constructed as a commercial and residential space on Main Street. It has several common features of nineteenth century commercial architecture and has been the location of several businesses throughout Lyons history. It has a slightly recessed entryway and a decorative cornice at the roof line. The building was originally meant to be a general store as well as residential space. The first floor would have been the store, while the top floor would have been apartments. This space currently houses South Creek Ltd. Bamboo Rods.



10

Turner-Stevens Building

401 Main Street

The sandstone structure was named after banker Marvin Turner and garage owner C.E. Stevens. It was originally built to be a bank, but has housed many businesses over the years. The Turner-Stevens Building was constructed in 1917 to house the Bank of Lyons. The Bank of Lyons was established circa 1904 by George Stickney. After his death, son-in-law Marvin Turner continued bank operations. In 1921 O.J. Ramey became associated with the bank and it became the State Bank of Lyons, which operated until the 1930s.



11

Evans Homestead

500 W. Main Street

The Evans Homestead was built in 1870 by William Sites. It was originally called the Miller Road House, but was changed to the Evans Homestead after it was purchased by Griffith Evans. Like many structures constructed in the Lyons area during this time period, it was built using sandstone from the local quarries. It operated as a stagecoach stop and inn between Denver and Estes Park. The Evans Homestead is currently a private residence. **Please view from the road.**



12

Train Depot

430 5th Avenue

The Lyons Depot was built in 1885 and is a standard design for a nineteenth century train depot. When Edward S. Lyon, Hiram Sawyer, and Griffith Evans first started quarrying limestone and sandstone, there was no rail line into Lyons. They had to haul the heavy stone by wagon all the way to Lyons in order to send it to Denver. In 1885, the Denver, Utah, and Pacific Railroad built a narrow gauge track into Lyons. That same year, the train depot was built. The depot closed in 1960. It was saved from demolition by the Lyons Historical Society and was used as a library between 1977 and 2013. The building was renovated after the 2013 flood.



13

Bradford Homestead

398 Bradford Street

The Bradford Homestead was built in the late nineteenth century by Charles Bradford. He turned the land into a farm, which was one of his many money-making ventures. A large fruit farm was on one of the adjoining farm tracts. The Bradford Homestead is currently on private property and is registered in the National Register of Historic Places. **Please view the building from the road.**



14

Sites Milkhouse

4089 Ute Highway

Sites Milkhouse was built by William Sites, who was one of the first farmers of the St. Vrain Valley. He used this building to store dairy products. Sites ran a dairy farm east of Lyons. The milk from his farm was cooled by the spring water that ran through the milkhouse. Dairying was an evolving industry during the nineteenth century. The Sites Milkhouse is on private property. **Please view from the road.**



15

Montgomery School

5291 Ute Highway

The Montgomery Schoolhouse was built in 1917 and sits at the edge of town on private property. It is not within easy walking distance, but with a short drive you can view the structure. It is a 30x40 foot bi-level building. The building was used as a school until the 1950s. It was purchased in 1965 by Wilbur and Hazel Wolfe, who restored and renovated the building in order to turn it into a private residence. **Please view from the road.**

Sources Include:

Birth of a Quarry Town: 1800s Lyons, Colorado by Diane Goode Benedict

A History of Lyons Sandstone Quarries by Alfred c. Pace

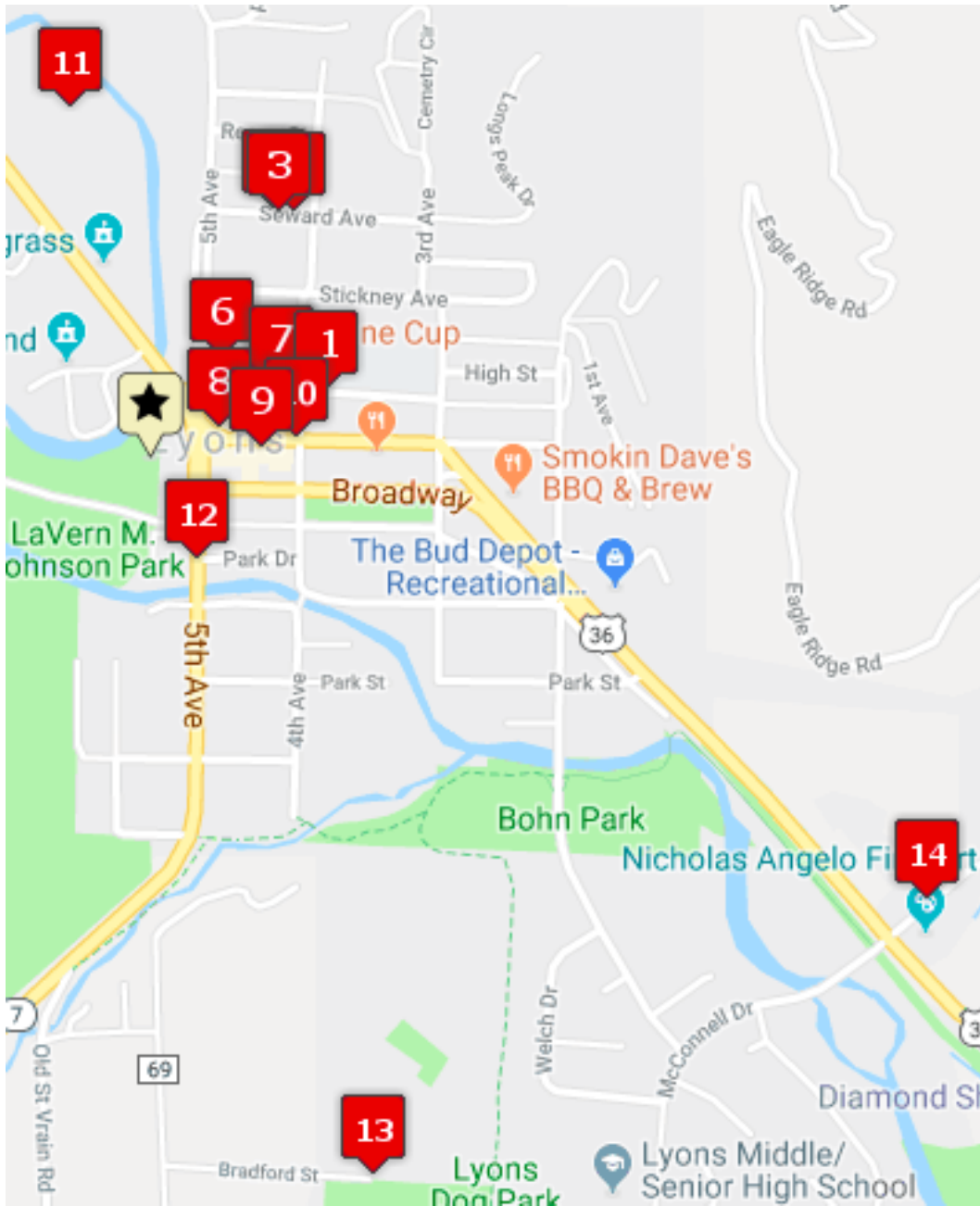
The Old Stone Church by Frank Weaver

All titles available for purchase at the Lyons Redstone Museum

Created July 2019

Revised from the 1980 version

Photos Courtesy of Charles Keim



**Lyons
Community
Foundation**

Serving the Greater Lyons Area

A FUND OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
BOULDER COUNTY



**Scientific
& Cultural
Facilities District**

CITIZENS MAKING IT POSSIBLE