

Inside the safe were receipts, orders, a few photos and items belonging to Dorothy Brown, who operated a laundromat in the space during the 1960s. Also inside was a piece of paper with the combination to the safe.

The southwest corner housed Dinkel's Mercantile where "You could buy an automobile, a saddle, a buggy, groceries, shoes, anything that was for sale. If Dinkel didn't have it, he'd order it for you." The second story was occupied by the Mt. View Hotel.

> ***Cross Main Street to the SE corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Main and look back at the Dinkel Bldg.***

Dinkel built additions to his property in subsequent years, ending with the one-story section on the west end, built in 1913 as a potato brokerage. The freight elevator that was used to transport sacks of potatoes to the cellar for storage, is featured in the Bonfire coffee shop.

The Crystal Theatre was operated as a movie house from 1949 to around 1962. It was used as a live theater for awhile, then closed again in the early 1980's.

On July 19, 1985, The Crystal Theater reopened as a family owned business. The first movie shown was "The Breakfast Club."

When film was being phased out of all theaters in 2013, the Carbondale community came together to help raise the money to convert to digital technology.

11) **Potato Days** - 4th and Main

Potato Days, Carbondale's longest running annual celebration, were first celebrated here, beginning in the fall of 1909. Farmers and their families would load up the wagons with their potato harvest and bring them to town for sale to the Potato Brokerage. Then they'd celebrate with a community picnic and contests for the largest beets, potatoes, and babies. The Married Women's Race featured a pair of silk stockings as first prize. By 1911, there was all-day music, a horse race, and a Grand Ball.

> ***Continue south on 4th St. to 1st bldg on left.***

12) **The Gordon Cooper Library** - 76 S. 4th St.

Named for the NASA astronaut. His mother Hattie Cooper had family in Carbondale and resided here until her death in 1991. She is buried in Hillcrest cemetery. Gordo spent summers here as a child, and as an adult he was a member of the Freemason Lodge 82 in Carbondale.

> ***Turn around, cross 4th and Main to the corner of the Dinkel Block. Walk to the intersection of the alley and look at the long brick building across the street to the east.***

13) **Livery Stable** - 36 N. Fourth

When trains arrived at the depot, a two-seated buggy would be driven from here to pick up the passengers and carry them the short, often muddy or dusty, distance to Main Street. With the coming of the automotive age, the livery was converted to a mechanic's shop.

> ***Walk north across the alley to the fenced yard.***

14) **Lieberman's Bakery** - vacant lot

The crumbling brick oven is all that remains of the Lieberman's German Bakery. The 1910 census showed that Carbondale had immigrants from Canada, Poland, Switzerland, Germany, Slovenia, Great Britain, Mexico, Sweden, France, Scotland, Italy, Belgium, Ireland, Denmark, Wales, Hungary and Japan.

> ***Walk north to the next building.***

15) **Sheridan's Saloon/Bagett Grocery** 55 N. 4th

The downstairs was a bar and upstairs was a brothel. The wood floors still bear scrape marks from the motion of the beds.

When Prohibition closed down the saloon in the early 1920s the building became Bagett's Grocery. In 1927 at age 15, Guido Bagett (GUY-doe BAJETT) delivered groceries for his father's store. He married a gal he met at a Potato Days dance when he was 19, and the marriage lasted 77 years. In 2015 Guido died at the age of 102.

> ***Continue north, back to Town Hall. Thank you for taking the Walking Tour of Downtown Carbondale!***

## **Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Carbondale, CO - 2019**

> ***Begin at Town Hall, 511 Colorado Ave., walk east to curve and look at the yellow building across the street.***

1) **Train Depot** - 97 N. Third

Carbondale was once a major junction of the Crystal and Roaring Fork lines, which hauled potatoes and passengers up the Crystal River Valley, and between Aspen and Glenwood Springs. The building was moved about 100 yards from its original spot, which was closer to the tracks. To the west of the depot where Town Hall is now, sat a train yard and feed lots.

> ***Continue east and take the pathway between True Nature on the right and apartment building on the left. WATCH FOR BICYCLES! Take the Rio Grande Trail east to N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.***

The railroads and telegraph lines that came with them brought more people and commerce to the west. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad ran from 1887 to 1991, and was converted into a Rails to Trails recreational path between 2001 and 2008. The Rio Grande Trail runs 42 miles from Glenwood Springs to Aspen.

> ***Continue to the intersection of N. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main St. and look across the street at the small house on the NE corner.***

2) **Tanney Ranch Stage Stop** - 199 Main

This building is one of the earliest surviving residences in Carbondale, occupied since 1888. It sits on the site of the ranch where Mrs. Ottowa Tanney ran the State Station, once the only stage stop along the Glenwood-Aspen line that served meals to travelers.

In November 1891 a large fire destroyed the main part of town, which was concentrated on the east end of the current town center.

Ottowa Tanney's stage stop was one of the few buildings that survived the fire and is still present today.

> *Cross Main Street to the building on the SW corner.*

3) **The Creamery** - 220 Main

The two-story structure was the local creamery operated by Mr. and Mrs. Smoke. This was where local dairy farmers could pasteurize and sell their milk. It continued in business until the 1940s, when it became a private residence. Later, it was a tire repair shop.

> *Continue west on Main Street.*

4) **Blacksmith Shop** - 26 S. Third

Note the anvil by the main entrance, similar to one used by the first occupants; blacksmithing brothers Roy and Hugh Pattison.

Other businesses in this building included a machine shop, tropical fish store, a nursery school and offices of one of Carbondale's newspapers, now defunct, The Valley Journal.

The building has been occupied by the Village Smithy Restaurant under continuous ownership by one family for more than 44 years.

> *Cross 3<sup>rd</sup> St. to the building on the SW corner.*

5) **Odd Fellows Lodge** - 302 Main

The Odd Fellows Lodge No. 75, dedicated on July 4, 1888, burned 17 years later to the day, July 4, 1905, and was rebuilt the following year. The fire began when someone tried to light a carbide lamp in the basement. The main floor was used for dances, traveling shows, and movies and has since housed a craft store, a church and the high school basketball court.

Seven Stars Rebekah Lodge #91, established in 1903, acquired the building in 1995. The Rebekahs are the female component of the Oddfellows, created in the late 1800s as a service organization for the isolated ranching and farming families. They helped whenever there was a need in the community and they still donate much of the proceeds of the Near New Thrift Store to non-profits and schools.

> *Cross Main Street to the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main.*

6) **Dad Long's Store** - 303 Main

This 1890's era building with the recessed entry, large display windows and decorative brick corbels is typical of commercial architecture of the day, seen in many of Carbondale's Main Street buildings. The iron rosettes on the outside east wall indicate where steel rods were inserted to hold high walls in place and keep them from buckling.

Dad Long's Store advertised in a 1911 Potato Day program; "The Best...for the least. Dry goods, clothing, groceries and shoes." The back room was a social center for farmers and cowboys, who sat around the potbellied stove, bought crackers from the barrel and helped themselves to a slice of cheese.

> *Walk west along the north side of Main Street.*

7) **Sherwood Motion Picture Theater** - 351 Main

This decorative brick building once housed the theater where it cost 10 cents to see a movie. Later, it became Kenney's Pharmacy. It has been the Pour House Restaurant since 1985.

8) **Potato Growers Association** - 389 Main

This bottle-glass storefront was once the headquarters for the Potato Growers Association, formed in 1923. The first carload of potatoes was shipped out of the valley 30 years earlier, and by 1912, the Carbondale area was a leading producer of spuds for the hotel and dining car trade.

PGA member Eugene Grubb, co-owner of Mt. Sopris Farm and developer of the Russet Burbank variety, literally wrote the book on Potatoes. In an excerpt from his 1912 book "The Potato" Grubb wrote, "The Roaring Fork and Crystal River Valley section of Colorado is as nearly perfect in soil conditions as can be found, and the potatoes grown there are not excelled anywhere in the world."

Another famous Carbondale potato grower was Thomas McClure, for which McClure Pass, located on Hwy 133 leading from the Crystal Valley to the North Fork Valley, is named.

In the late 1800s McClure left Ireland for America, arriving in Philadelphia at age 21. Upon hearing of the gold strikes out west, he moved to Leadville, Colorado in 1876.

He eventually moved to Catherine – the current site of Catherine Store – and purchased a piece of land where he began cultivating that well-known Irish staple: the potato. While growing the then popular variety, the "Peachblow," he noticed a mutation, and developed the oddity into a new variety that became known as the Red McClure.

In their heyday, Carbondale growers shipped a 1,000 train car loads of potatoes every year across the country. The labor shortages of the 1940's coupled with falling prices and small, rolling fields not suitable to larger, modern mechanized equipment contributed to the potato's disappearance from commercial cultivation in the valley.

9) **Pings Store** - 399 Main

German immigrant William Pings owned this dry goods store as late as World War II. The building was divided into several commercial spaces, one housing a drug store complete with the classic soda fountain.

> *Stand here on the corner of Main and 4<sup>th</sup> Street in front of Ping's Store and look west across 4th street at the massive brick building.*

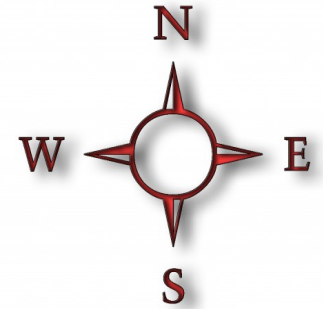
10) **The Dinkel Block** - 400 block of Main

Carbondale's most imposing building, built by William Dinkel after his original store was destroyed in the 1891 fire. Dinkel operated the Bank of Carbondale out of his store, and the original bank safe was rescued from the fire and moved to its new location in the northeast corner of the building, where it sits to this day.

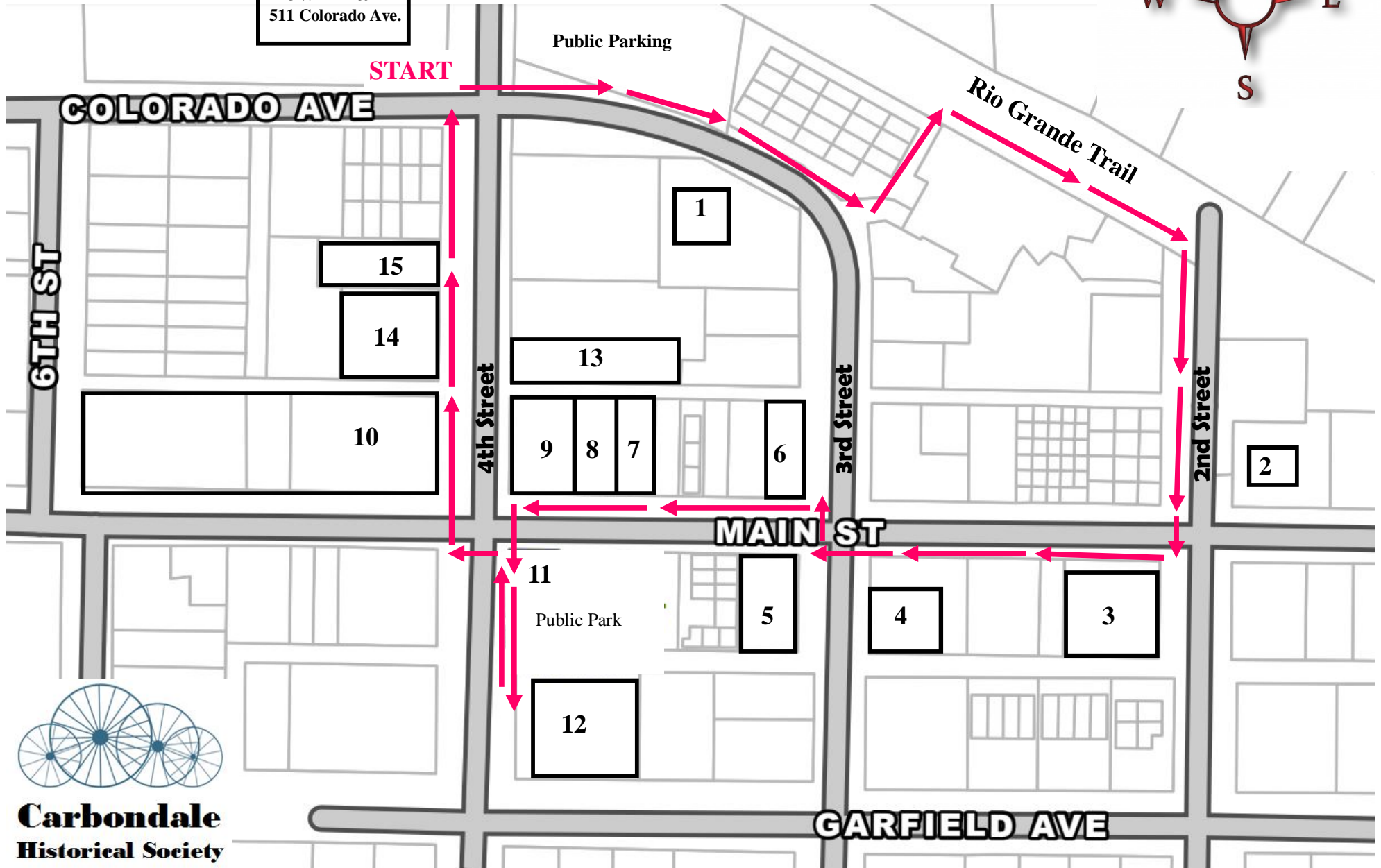
The combination to the safe had long been lost, but in 2018 the safe was cracked open by Tri-County Locksmith as a fundraising event for the Carbondale Historical Society hosted by current occupant Steve's Guitars.

# MAP - Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Carbondale, Colorado - 2019

Carbondale Historical Society  
[www.carbondalehistory.org](http://www.carbondalehistory.org)



Town Hall  
511 Colorado Ave.



**Carbondale**  
Historical Society