

Niwot was named for Chief Niwot, and Arapaho leader, whose people were hunting and fishing along the Front Range when the first gold miners arrived here in 1858. In the Arapaho language, Niwot means Left Hand.

The town was platted in 1875, two years after the Colorado Central Railroad extended its tracks northeast from Boulder. This expansion provided a significant boost to the local agricultural economy by creating a link to markets as far distant as Wyoming and Denver.

The town site straddled the railroad tracks which, for the next 75 years, played an important part in Niwot's history. A modest business district stood on the west side of town. There, behind the depot and loading pens, were a blacksmith shop, feed mill, and general stores. East of the tracks, neighborhood streets were laid out.

By the turn of the century, the business district had begun to move across the tracks to Second Avenue, where it remains today. John Nelson, a local carpenter, is credited with building the first two commercial structures there, in 1907. Most of the remaining shops on the first block were completed by 1915. It is those buildings that comprise the Niwot Historic District, which was established in 1993 by the Boulder County Board of Commissioners.

Structures remaining west of the tracks were razed or moved by 1959, when work began on the Diagonal Highway between Boulder and Longmont. Some of the trees were spared, however, and are still growing in the median.

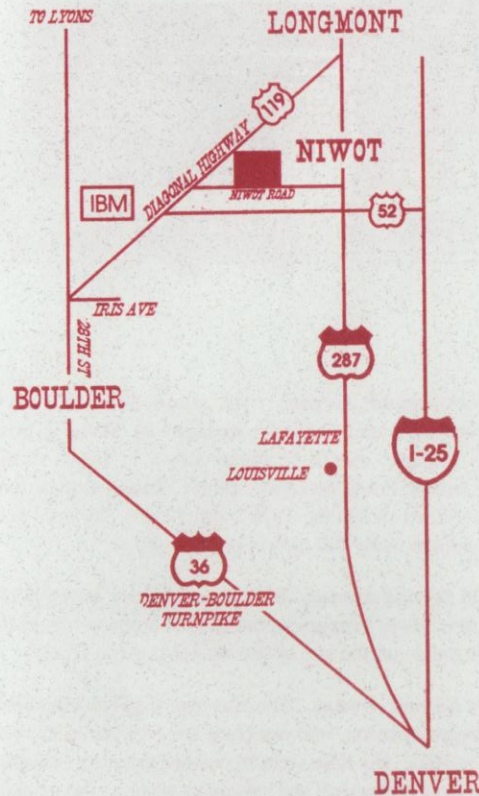
We invite you to extend your stroll into the second block of Second Avenue. Although not part of the Niwot Historic district, it contains turn-of-the-century homes and several more businesses. Follow

the map in this brochure and learn more about our history.

Text: Anne Dyni

## NIWOT HISTORIC DISTRICT

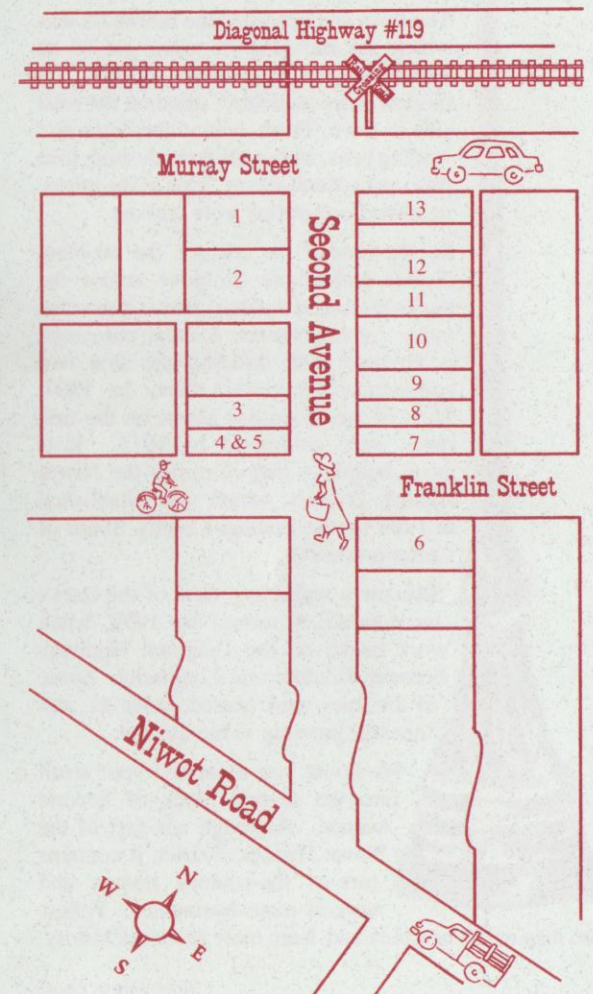
### NIWOT, COLORADO



2008 printing paid for by sales tax dollars collected by the Niwot Local Improvement District.

## Self Guided Walking Tour of the

# NIWOT HISTORIC DISTRICT





**1** *101 Second Avenue.* This building was constructed as a dry good store by Walter Hogsett, in 1911. It was one of the last commercial buildings to be built along Second Avenue in the early 1900's. Walt's inventory included yard goods, groceries, shoes, and hardware. Subsequent businesses here included Esgar's grocery store, tractor, motorcycle and auto repair shops, an auction house, and a second hand store.

**2** *121 Second Avenue.* Reverend Taylor opened his "White House" grocery store here in 1914. As a United brethren minister, Taylor maintained a meeting room on the second floor for worship services, when he could gather enough believers together. The open area to the left was occupied by a small house at the time this building was constructed.

**3** *165 Second Avenue.* This 1909 shop housed Niwot's post office until the mid-1930's. During that time, several local women and men served as postmaster. Mail arrived twice daily at the train station, in mailbags tossed onto the depot platform. Outgoing mail was hung on a hook beside the track, to be snagged by a mail handler as the train passed through town.

**4** *195-A Second Avenue.* Nelson Hall, built in 1905, was probably the first commercial building on Second Avenue. Over the years, several small businesses occupied the first floor. The upstairs meeting room was used by local lodges and social groups, including the Royal Neighbors, Rebekahs, Modern Woodmen, and Odd Fellows. Left Hand Grange purchased the building in 1945.

**5** *195-B Second Avenue.* This firehouse once stood across the street, next to 102 Second Avenue. It was built in 1910 to house the chemical cart you see before you. Its shed doors were replaced when the old Livingston Hotel (site #10) used it as a laundry house. In 1998, it was donated to the Niwot Historical Society and moved to this site.

**6** *210 Franklin Street.* Largely unchanged since it was built around 1900, this is the only residence included in the Niwot Historic District. It was built by Frank Bader, one of Niwot's first postmasters. Frank and his brother George operated the Bader Brothers Mercantile across the tracks. This home was later occupied by Dr. Dusef, the town's first doctor.

**7** *198 Second Avenue.* Built as a drugstore in 1909, this building was managed by the town physician. In 1921, it became the office for E.S. Hayes and his family, who moved to Niwot to establish a weekly newspaper. For \$1.25 a year, subscribers received the Niwot Tribune every Friday. Reprints of a 1921 and 1933 edition of the Tribune are available from the Niwot Historical Society.

**8** *190-B Second Avenue.* John Nelson constructed this cement block building in 1907, shortly after completing Nelson Hall across the street. It served as a mercantile, and later as a grocery, pool hall, and barber shop. Folks often stopped by after baseball games and band concerts for treats from its elegant soda fountain. In a room at the back, a full-sized bathtub provided warm Saturday night baths...just 25¢.

**9** *190-A Second Avenue.* As automobiles began to outnumber draft teams, Niwot replaced its hitching posts with gas pumps. A single pump stood in front of this building, where Frank Monthey, John Conilogue, then John Nelson serviced cars in the 1920's and 1930's. Its wide door accommodated many old cars in need of repair.

**10** *136 Second Avenue.* Built as an antique action house in 1977, the Niwot Emporium building is a newcomer to the block. It stands on the site of the old Livingston Hotel.

**11** *124 Second Avenue.* This was once the town blacksmith shop. George Atkinson, who had come west for his health, built the shop in 1921. His skills were legend and the street was often lined with farm implements and machinery waiting to be repaired.

**12** *112 Second Avenue.* George Atkinson built this shop in 1927 as a service garage for the many new automobiles in town. Folks also brought in their radio and car batteries for recharging. This building originally had a grease pit in the floor and a small office in front where folks could buy cigarettes, candy and fishing tackle. During the 1930's local boys used the space for boxing matches.

**13** *102 Second Avenue.* The Niwot State Bank was founded here in 1909, by several local businessmen. It was robbed only once, in the winter of 1916. Unable to break open its safe, the thieves emptied the safety deposit boxes and fled with the contents on a railroad handcar. The bank failed in 1931, a victim of The Depression. This building later served as a barbershop and a post office.