

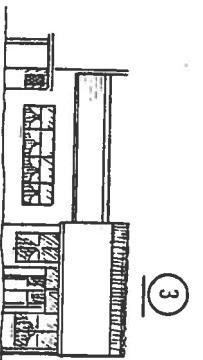
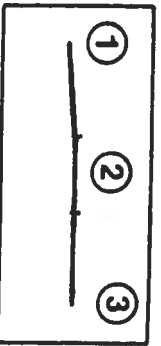
Stop 2
Town Hall &
"Original"
Hard Rock Cafe

Empire has had four Town Halls. The current Town Hall, a white and green two story building with a bell tower, was built in 1898. This Town Hall was designed for businesses on the first floor with town offices and a large meeting room on the second floor.

The first Empire Town Hall/Court House was located between the current Town of Empire and North Empire. The second was just east and north of the bridge on Bard Creek Road. This brick and wood building collapsed when too many Masons were donning their finery on the second floor in anticipation of a funeral on the first. The location of the third is unknown, but it may have been the Town Hall that burned down. The Town Hall at that time was being used as a school classroom and Miss Clara Nash, the school teacher, stuck a rag in a drafty hole by the chimney and it caught fire!

The Original Hard Rock, on the first floor of the current Town Hall, was started in 1934 and provided a cafe and sleeping dormitory for miners. The sleeping room was where the gift shop is now.

Access Profile



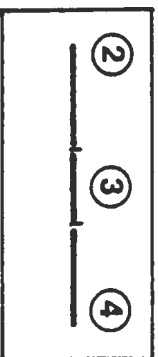
Stop 3
Jenny's Restaurant

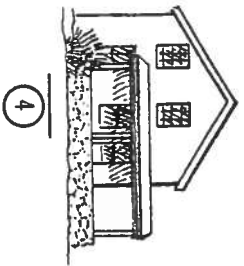
Jenny's Restaurant, a yellow clapboard building with red trim, was built around 1863. It has served as a bar, restaurant, poker parlor, feed and grain store, gas station and bakery to name a few. It was probably built as two buildings, the east half with a false front, likely the oldest, faces Main Street. The west half, also with a false front, faces Park Avenue.

Inside the building, the bar shows the scars of a bullet fired by a drummer who left the poker parlor in a huff.

There is a fun story on how Jenny's Restaurant got named. The story goes that a mule, named Jenny, swallowed dynamite on the very site of the present restaurant and survived to work many more years. The restaurant is named in her honor.

Access Profile





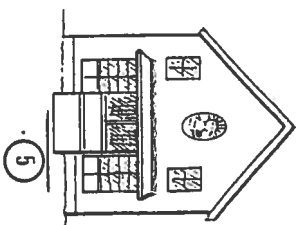
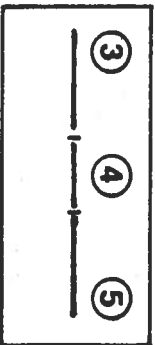
Stop 4
Avery House

The Avery House, a small turquoise two story house with cinnamon trim, was built in 1864. The front and side porch was added early in the 1900's. Gib (Gilbert) Avery, known as an early postmaster of Empire, even had this position written on his tombstone. Avery also discovered the Covode Lode (a 10-12 inch vein of quartz containing gold) on Covode Mountain north of Empire.

On west side of the Avery House is a small stained glass window. The green and yellow stained glass was added by H. F. Swanson, the owner of the first automobile in town, in 1900.

On the east front side of the property was the original post office building. To the left or west of the property was the large Hanchett's "Red Barr" livery station. Hanchett, for reasons unknown, called his Middle Park (now known as Fraser Valley) customers, the "Afghanistans", certainly confusing future historians. Nothing remains of these two buildings.

Access Profile

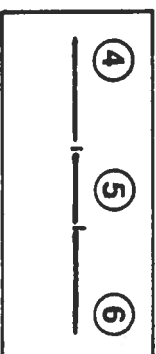


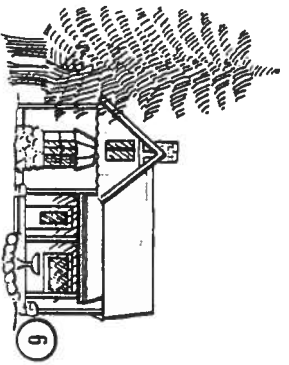
Stop 5
Red Men Hall

This white two story building was dedicated in November 1898 by the Improved Order of Red Men, Macinac Tribe # 2 as their lodge. The large oval painting between the upstairs windows of an Indian with headdress is copied from an Improved Order of Red Men medallion.

The outside of the building has changed little over the years, with the inside serving as a meeting hall, school classroom, newspaper office for the "Empire True Fissure", art gallery and museum.

Access Profile

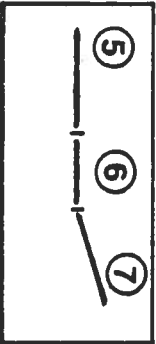




Stop 6
The Mad Creek
Bed & Breakfast

This light blue two story Gothic/Queen Anne house with purple trim has historically been called the Salmon House. It is thought that the house was built around 1879 by the Salmon brothers. Little is known about the brothers except that they served on the Empire Volunteer Fire Department in 1876. A more famous resident was J. Wilson Woodrow, Mayor of Empire and cousin of Woodrow Wilson, the twenty-seventh president of the United States.

Access Profile



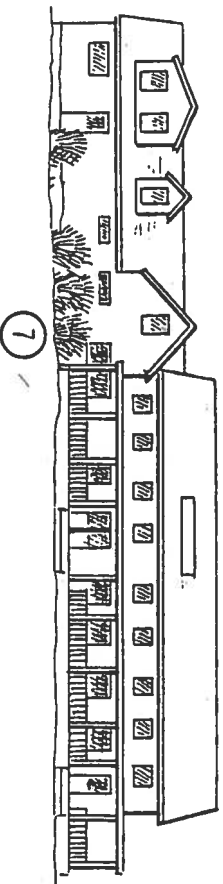
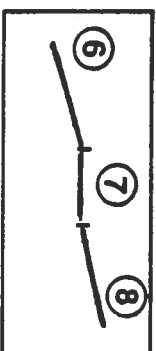
Stop 7
The Peck House

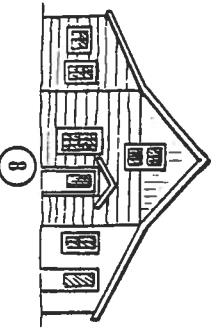
The Peck House, a famous Colorado hotel opened in 1872, was originally built as the home of James Peck. Peck, known as the Emperor of Empire, owned the Atlantic gold mine, high on Silver Mountain behind the Peck House. The long white wooden building with red trim was an early stagecoach stop between Middle Park and Denver.

Peck built his home in several stages. The original 15' x 30' home was constructed in 1862. The first addition, to the left side of the main door, was made in 1872. The second addition, to the right of the door, was completed in 1880. Additions were also made in 1955 and 1986.

The Peck House is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Access Profile

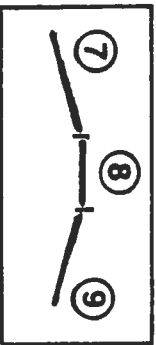




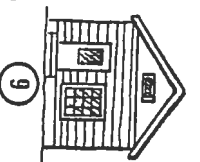
Stop 8
The Shepherd
House
 (Historically -
 Shepard House)

The Shepard House, a two story pioneer log home built in 1864, belonged to Judge Levi Shepard. Judge Shepard, with his family, came to Empire in 1864 to work as James Peck's "right hand man". The Judge and his hired man each lost an eye, when a delayed charge of dynamite went off while digging a well for the kitchen.

The Judge's daughter, Emma Shepard Hill, grew up in this house. She would later write the book, Dangerous Crossing, telling of her trip in a covered wagon from Iowa to Empire, Colorado Territory. Much of her book contains letters written by her as a young girl describing Empire to her girlfriends back East.



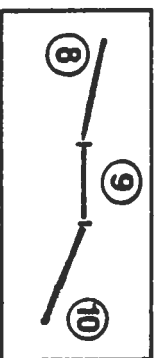
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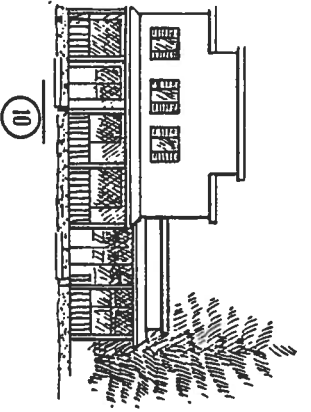
Stop 9
The King
House

The King House, built in the spring of 1861, was the first two story house in Empire. Dean King was the first county coroner, but he also organized the Union Ditch Company which brought water from Mill Creek to the North Empire mines. Remains of the canal can still be seen high in the mountains above Empire.

Mrs. Dean King wrote that their noted guests at the log home included Col. Levenworth, Capt. C. M. Tyler, Governor Evans, Jim Bridger, and Dr. Cook of the Smithsonian Institution.



Access Profile

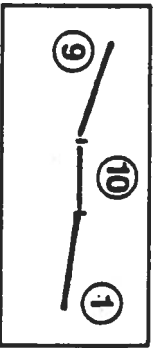


**Stop 10
Silver Mountain
Antiques & The
Empire Shop**

The west side of this two-story false-front building was the location of the Andre/Hanchett Store in the 1870's. Local tradition has it that the original building was built in 1865 and may have been one of the early buildings that burned. Silas Hanchett also used the building as a grocery store and feed stable. It was here that the cattle drivers from Middle Park (now known as Fraser Valley) stopped for supplies.

The Empire Shop is on the National Register of Historic Places as the Mint Saloon. It was selected because of its architectural significance representing a one story frame commercial building of the late 19th century.

Access Profile



Auto Tour

The South Auto Tour and mileage starts at the intersection of Main Street and Park Avenue in the center of Empire. The road is dirt but in good condition.

The elevation in Empire is 8600 feet above sea level.

The elevation at Union Pass is 8720 feet above sea level.

This section of road is a favorite for locals to walk and jog, please give them the right of way.

The County Poor House, established in 1876, is the large white two story house on the southwest corner of Main Street and Mountain Avenue. One of the best known residents was Fred Huei, an artist from Paris, France who became more interested in gold than paints.

South of the bridge:

East side: The town cemetery with graves from the 1870's.

Much can be learned about Empire's early history by taking time to explore.

The Town Park has picnic tables and a playground that is open to visitors.

West side: Historic Indian campsite.

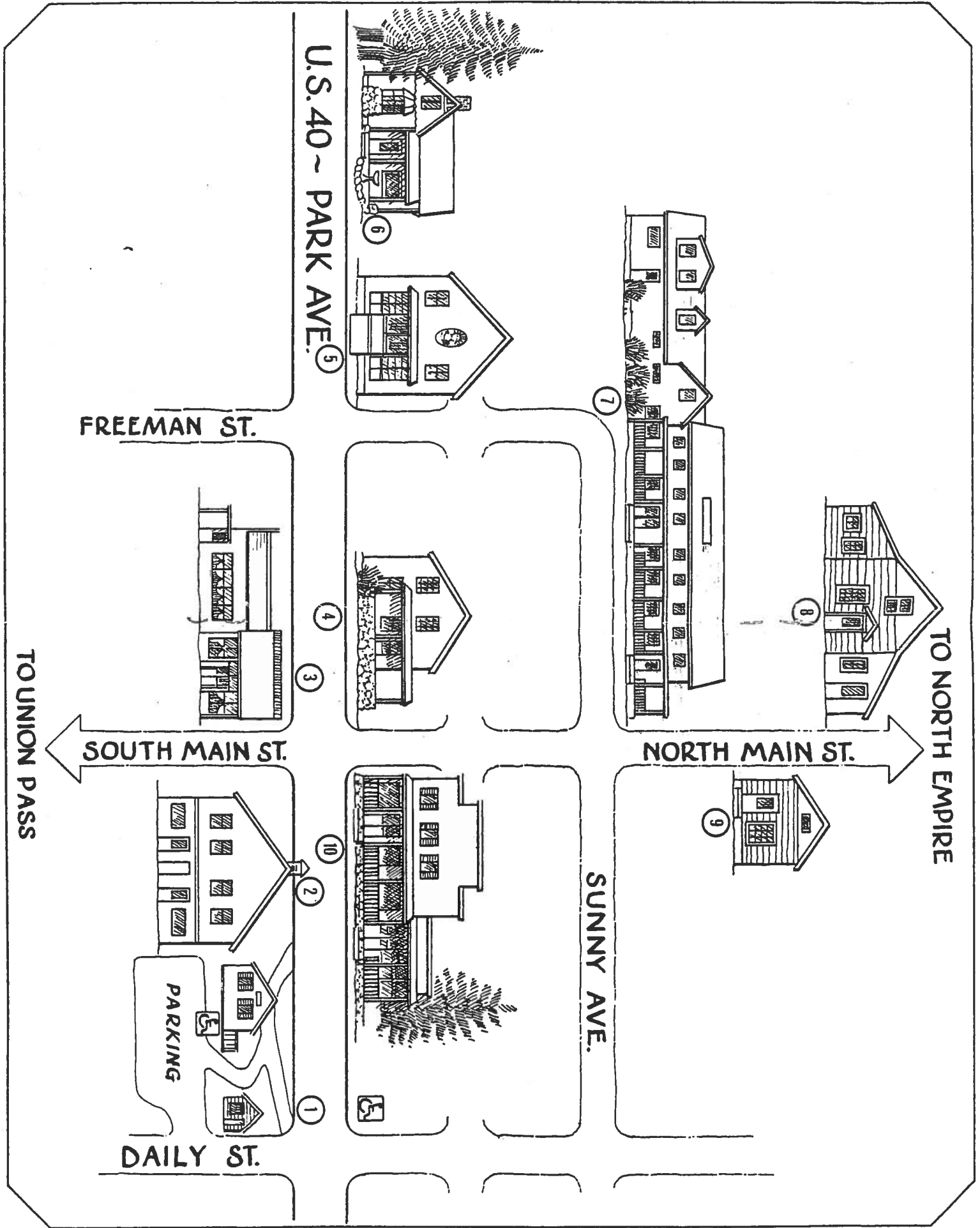
In 1876, 1500 Utes camped here while waiting for presents from the U. S. Government in exchange for peace.

The light from the campfires could be seen and the pow-wow's beating drums could be heard by Empire's uncomfortable citizens.

Also at this location, was Empire's 1930 - 1940

Golf Course. Cement pads with distance markings can still be found.

One mile from town is Union Pass. Here are the remains of the stagecoach road from Empire to Georgetown. The trail, although steep and narrow, is about 3 miles long, offering a breath taking view of Georgetown and an excellent opportunity for viewing Big Horn Sheep.



U.S. 40 ~ PARK AVE. ⑤

FREEMAN ST.

SOUTH MAIN ST.

DAILY ST.

NORTH MAIN ST.

SUNNY AVE.

TO NORTH EMPIRE

TO UNION PASS

