

COLORADO CITIES – LARGE CITIES

Denver

What do these photos tell you about how 19th century Colorado cities looked like?

Denver's Business District – 1860

This is a photo of early Denver. It was taken sometime before 1864, when the city was less than five years old.



Denver's business district

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Denver began as a supply town for the mining camps in the Rocky Mountains. This photo indicates two of the services the city provided miners and people on their way to the mines. The building on the right

is the office of the Rocky Mountain News, Colorado's first newspaper. The tallest building on the left is the Tremont House hotel.

Their Own Words

"It was an exceedingly primitive town, consisting of numerous tents and numbers of crude and illy constructed cabins, with nearly as many rum shops and low saloons as cabins.... Horses, cows, and hogs roamed at will over the greater part of the village."

Source: Lavina Honeyman Porter (1910), quoted in Lyle Dorsett, The Queen City: A History of Denver (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Co., 1977): 28.

Wagon Train On Market Street – 1868

Wagon trains like the one in this 1868 photo kept Denver supplied with goods from the east. The photo was taken on Market Street.



Wagon train on Market Street in Denver, Colorado

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Market Street was the enter of Denver’s first business district. The signs on the buildings in this photo advertise some of these businesses. They include a land sales office, a leather and shoe store, a saddle and hardware dealer, a storage company, a meat and vegetable market, and a bank.

Their Own Words

“Our city...has in a few months increased to a city of six thousand people; with its fine hotels, stores, manufactories, and all the appliances, comforts and many of the luxuries of civilization.... Great trains of huge prairie freighters arrive and depart almost daily, and more than a thousand emigrant wagons arrive each week.”

Source: Rocky Mountain News, June 6, 1860.

Market Street In 1897

This is a photo of Market Street about forty years later. Can you find the electric streetlight in the photo?



Market Street in 1897

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

By 1900, Market Street had changed. Once a street of retail stores, it had become the center of Denver's wholesale trade. Farmers sold their vegetables and other produce to the wholesale merchants. They, in turn, sold them to storekeepers and café owners. Denver had electric streets lights by this time. The streetlight bulb can be seen in the upper right part of the photo.

Their Own Words

"The newspapers announced as "approaching the miraculous" the discovery by Thomas A. Edison of the incandescent electric light, so we were prepared for the miracle when April 21, 1883, the just organized Colorado-Edison Electric Light Company placed on display in a vacant store room on Curtis Street a 16-candle power incandescent light, Denver's first. . . . Electricity had come to supplant gas. Soon the residence sections were no longer dark at night. We had lighthouses on the prairies!"

Source: Joseph Emerson Smith, "Personal Recollections of Early Denver," Colorado Magazine, 20 (March 1943): 59.

Larimer Street In The 1880's

This is a photo of busy Larimer Street in the mid-1880s. The vehicles on this busy street include delivery wagons, carriages, and a horse-drawn bus called an omnibus.



Larimer Street in 1880s

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Larimer Street was a busy retail district. It had a variety of stores where people came downtown to shop. The streets were crowded with vehicles of all kinds.

Their Own Words

“It had been iterated and reiterated that rain rarely fell in Denver in the summer, yet I recall most definitely that there was a shower or a heavy rain in the city some time every day for nearly three weeks after August sixth. All good Colorado boosters said it was so healthy in the State that no one ever died, they calmly ‘dried up and blowed away.’ So when, as frequently happened, a six-horse-drawn ore wagon was seen stuck hub deep in the mud at the corner of Larimer and Fifteenth Streets I felt sure that there must have been a mixup of ideas over Colorado’s dryness.”

Source: W.H. Bergtold, “Denver Fifty Years Ago,” Colorado Magazine, 8 (March 1931): 67-8.

Seventeenth Street In The 1890’s

This is Seventeenth Street in Denver. This photo was taken in the 1890s.



Seventeenth Street in Denver, Colorado

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Seventeenth Street became the heart of Denver's banking and financial district. The largest banks and investment companies in Colorado were located there.

Their Own Words

“The Depot Loop lines, the Seventeenth Street, the Seventeenth Avenue, and the Colfax Avenue lines are those most used by tourists to reach the various points of interest in Denver. . . . After leaving the Union Depot at the foot of Seventeenth Street, board the Seventeenth Street car, which runs to Broadway, passing the railroad offices and the principal hotels—the Oxford, the Grand Central, the Elk, the Alamo, the Columbia, the Brunswick, the Warren, the Clayton . . . and the Brown Palace (on Broadway). Fare, 5 cents.”

Source: Eugene Parsons, A Guidebook to Colorado (Boston: Little, Brown, 1911): 65, 66.

Inside Colorado State Capitol

This is a photo of the interior of the Colorado State Capitol, which was completed in 1895.



Colorado State Capitol Building

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Denver also was the state capital. The legislature met for several weeks each year to make laws for the people of Colorado.

Their Own Words

“The Capitol is situated on Capitol Hill, 1 ½ miles from Union Depot. . . . The corner-stone of the Capitol was laid July 4, 1890. . . the building was not completed until 1895. . . . The cost of construction exceeded \$2,500,000. . . . The Capitol site included 10 acres of land [and] the building stands in the center of a beautiful terrace. . . . It was built of native granite, and finished inside with Colorado onyx. The structure is of the Doric order of classic architecture, with Corinthian ornamentations. In its general appearance it is characterized by simplicity and severe grandeur. The interior decorations are tasteful and artistic.”

Source: Eugene Parsons, A Guidebook to Colorado (Boston: Little, Brown, 1911): 75, 77.

Leadville

What do these photos tell you about how these cities were different from those cities today?

Leadville In 1875

This is an early photo of Leadville. The buildings were made of logs.



Leadville in 1875

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

The town of Leadville was located in a long valley called California Gulch. Miners had found some gold in the nearby creeks in the 1860s, but not much. Their sluices kept getting clogged with black dirt. This dirt turned out to be a carbonate ore made up of lead and silver. Leadville became a boomtown in 1877, when a smelter was built to recover the silver from the ore. Miners rushed to the Gulch to stake out their claims.

Their Own Words

"The scene unfolded was unlike anything I ever before had seen or conjured in my imagination. The main thoroughfare was pretty closely and compactly lined with homes on either side, for a distance of two miles, following the contour of the gulch, all of log or rough hewn slab construction, only a few of them two stories in height. Every other door seemed to open upon a saloon, dance hall or gambling den. There were no street lights, but the thousands of coal oil lamps indoors cast fitful flashes of light across the way."

Source: Recollections of Cad Davis, Denver Times, October 10, 1916. Dawson Scrapbooks, Colorado Historical Society.

Drawing Leadville In 1878

This drawing was made in 1878 from the hills above Leadville. This new city was barely a year old.



Drawing of Leadville

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Leadville became a major city almost over night. By 1878, Leadville and the area nearby had 120 saloons, 51 groceries, 31 restaurants, 7 hardware stores, and 4 banks.

Their Own Words

“As a glorious camp, rapidly increasing and developing, Leadville is the greatest sensation on record. Its mineral resources are in immense, easily developed; communication with the world is laborious and expensive; the climate abominable;...the spirit of the population good and happy. Everybody who wants work get it, and good pay.”

Source: Engineering and Mining Journal (October 5, 1878); Duane A. Smith, Colorado Mining: A Photographic History (Albuquerque, 1977): 27.

Chestnut Street – 1890's

Chestnut Street was one of Leadville's main business streets. This photo of Chestnut Street was taken in the 1890s.



Chestnut Street in Leadville

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

The signs on the stores in this photo indicate a bookstore, a drug store, and a loan office, among many other businesses.

Their Own Words

“I have never forgotten my first sight of Leadville [in 1879]. . . . We started up Chestnut Street. We could look up its length, possibly two miles. It was a crawling mass of horses, mules, wagons, and men. It looked impossible to get through, but we made it in about two hours. Leadville then was a town of 25,000 or more people with around a hundred producing mines.”

“The ore was practically all smelted by the six or so smelters in the mining district, so no ore had to be shipped out. But all mining and smelting supplies, all the food eaten, all the people wore and all they

drank (this was a considerable item) had to be brought in by the two little narrow gauge railroads to their respective terminals and from there by wagon to town.”

Source: Charles M. Leonard, “Forty Years in Colorado Mining Camps,” Colorado Magazine, 37 (July 1960): 162.

Harrison Avenue – 1900

This photo was taken on Harrison Avenue, another of Leadville’s main street.



Harrison Avenue in Leadville

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Leadville had theaters as well as stores and saloons. The tall building in the center is the Tabor Opera House, which put on plays and musical performances.

Their Own Words

“The Leadville of 1900 to 1906 was a city of some twelve thousand [people], and still dominated, to a very great extent, by the ideals and forces of the earlier mining days of from 1879 to 1900. . . . During his last two years in High School, the writer and two of his sisters had to walk the length of Harrison Avenue, and in doing so passed at least six saloons in five blocks on the west side of the street. As a newsboy, he carried the Leadville Herald Democrat which came off the presses by four or four-thirty in the morning. Frequently the route was completed by 6 a.m. During that time, he left papers at a number of saloons, all of which were open.”

Source: Ivan C. Crawford, “School Days in Leadville,” Colorado Magazine, 36 (July 1959): 227.

The Tabor Opera House

This photo shows the Tabor Opera House. It was the largest building in Leadville when this photo was taken in 1880. The businesses located nearby included the Clarendon Hotel. Hotel guests could use the third floor covered walkway to reach the Opera House.



Tabor Opera House

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

The ground floor had merchants' shops. The photo also shows a clothing store, a saloon, and a billiard hall. The Tabor Opera House catered to the wealthier people in Leadville. Less well-to-do people generally frequented other types of entertainment.

Their Own Words

"Leadville at the time was the noisiest place you could imagine. The ore haulers and freighters in the daytime were bad enough, but the dance halls, variety theaters, and saloons at night were worse. There were, as I remember, six large dance halls, about the same number of variety theaters, and innumerable saloons and gambling halls in operation."

Source: Charles M. Leonard, "Forty Years in Colorado Mining Camps," Colorado Magazine, 37 (July 1960): 164.

Pueblo

What do these photos tell you about how these cities grew over time?

Santa Fe Avenue – 1870's



Santa Fe Avenue in 1870s

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Pueblo was founded as a fur trading post. Then it became a supply town for nearby farms and ranches. This is an early photo of its business district. The X-10-U-8 Saloon was located in one building. Another building had a combined boot and shoe store, bookstore, and post office. The small building on the right was a lawyer's office.

Their Own Words

"The first butcher was John Wheelock. . . . He had a little slaughter house at the edge of town. . . . John Jenner ran a grocery store. Sol Arkus had a small grocery and fruit stand, mostly lemons and oranges, occasionally apples and grapes. Bartels had a general merchandise store. . . . Wilson had a dry goods store; later Paul Wilson had quite an extensive store on Main Street. Business up to this time [about 1872] had been confined almost entirely to Santa Fe Avenue."

Source: James Owen, "Reminiscences of Early Pueblo," Colorado Magazine, 22 (May 1945): 99-101.

Two Blocks On Santa Fe Avenue

This is another photo of Santa Fe Avenue in 1872.



Two blocks on Santa Fe Avenue

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Santa Fe Avenue was the center of Pueblo's business district. Most of the buildings were one- and two-story frame buildings. This photo shows only one three-story brick building. The railroad arrived in 1878 and some visitors predicted that Pueblo would rival Denver.

Their Own Words

"Returning to Colorado Springs, we take the south bound train making our first stop at San Pueblo, a city of about 5,000 inhabitants. It does a lively business connected with the mining and stock-raising interests. There are several hotels, three banks, railroad machine shops, foundries, smelting works and a lively daily paper, the Democrat. Pueblo will in time be a formidable rival of Denver."

Source: "T," "A Michigan Correspondent in Colorado, 1878," Sidney Glazer, ed., Colorado Magazine, 37 (July 1960): 210.

Santa Fe Avenue – 1890's



Santa Fe Avenue in 1890s

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

This photo of Santa Fe Avenue probably was taken sometime during the 1890s. By this time, more of the city's buildings were made of brick. The poles for power lines indicate that the stores and shops were lighted by electricity. A new form of transportation also has been added. The tracks running down the middle of the street were for a horse-drawn streetcar.

Their Own Words

"The Missouri Pacific Railway Company was brought into Pueblo in about [1887 or 1888]. I will never forget Jay Gould [owner of the railroad] . . . putting his finger on the map at the location of Pueblo and saying that Pueblo would be the 'Pittsburgh of the West.' . . . In the middle '80s the boom started and lawyers and doctors flocked in. Additions to the town were laid out in every direction. . . . The boom commenced to peter out in the early '90s and when the panic of '93 struck, everything went flat. . . ."

Source: James Owen, "Reminiscences of Early Pueblo," Colorado Magazine, 22 (May 1945): 103, 107.

Main Street – 1910's

This photo of downtown Pueblo was taken about 1910.



Main Street in Pueblo, Colorado

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

By the early 1900s, Pueblo had become a prosperous, industrial city. It had steel mills, ore smelters, and factories. This photo also indicates that Pueblo had air polluted with smoke from coal-burning furnaces.

Their Own Words

“There were few houses near the smelter of any size, the cottages rented by the hotel, another rooming house, and a saloon was about all that one could find other than the smelter itself. The smelter was running all of the time, the men knew nothing of short house regulations and worked whenever they could get a chance.

“In the hotel there were three other girls, and about six cooks hired to care for the men who boarded at the place. I thought I was making a grand salary – I made \$20 a month, and my room and board furnished. My work consisted, for the most part, in waiting on tables, and going for beer for the thirsty boarders.”

Source: Recollections of Mrs. Anna Dillion, CWA Interviews, Doc. 344/45, Colorado Historical Society.

Steel Mill

This is the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company's steel mill in Pueblo.



Steel Mill in Pueblo, Colorado

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Pueblo became a center for steel making. The first mill was built in 1880. Twenty years later it had the largest steel mills in the Rocky Mountain west. The mills made rails for railroads, wire fence, and other steel products.

Their Own Words

"The well ordered suburbs of Minnequa with their hundreds of model houses for workmen pass in review on the left, while on the right long lines of freight cars, the scores of tall, slender stacks, giant blast furnaces on the immense steel and brick buildings of the Minnequa Works and of the Eller Smelter separate themselves from the smoke and from one another, and slip by. "

"A glimpse on the left of the lawns, trees and neat executive buildings of the Minnequa Works, and then, on the right, one gets for a moment before the train pulls into the station, a view of the entire central and northern part of the city, with all the larger and finer buildings appearing in their most favorable aspect. "

Source: "Why Pueblo Appears Unattractive to Tourists," *Camp and Plant*, Vol. 4, No. 10 (Sept. 19, 1903), 226-27.

Colorado Springs

What do these photos tell you about the different kind of stores and shops that were in those cities?

Drawing Of Pike's Peak – 1865

This is the future site of Colorado Springs. It shows Pikes Peak towering over the existing town of Colorado City. The drawing was made in 1865.



Drawing of Pike's Place

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

In 1871, William Jackson Palmer founded the town of Colorado Springs. He chose a beautiful place at the foot of the Rocky Mountains near Pikes Peak. Colorado Springs was located east of an older town called Colorado City.

Their Own Words

"After his first visit to this barren and arid plain, General Palmer wrote, "I am sure there will be a famous resort here soon after the railroad reaches Denver." He bought the worthless tract of land and upon it he laid out a town with broad avenues and ample streets."

Source: Irving Howbert, Colorado Springs Telegraph, July 31, 1921.

William Jackson Palmer

This is William Jackson Palmer, the founder of Colorado Springs.



William Jackson Palmer

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

William Jackson Palmer was a Civil War General who became a railroad builder after the war. In 1871, he began building the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad south from Denver. He also bought land near Pikes

Peak to build a town that he would call Colorado Springs. He wanted to make it a famous resort that would attract people from the eastern United States and from Europe. They would get there on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

Their Own Words

“My theory for this place is that it should be made the most attractive place for homes in the West, a place for schools, colleges, science, first class newspapers, and everything that the above imply.”

Source: William Jackson Palmer to William A. Bell quoted in Amanda M. Ellis, The Colorado Springs Story [No place, no date]: 9.

Palmer’s Home – Glen Eyrie

This is William Jackson Palmer's house at Colorado Springs.



Palmer’s home in Colorado Springs

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

William Jackson Palmer built a fine mansion near Colorado Springs. It had three stories and a tower with a covered deck on top. It was located in a glen or valley west of town where eagles built their nests. He named the house Glen Eyrie. An eyrie is an eagle's nest.

Their Own Words

"I have been dreaming ever since...how the Castle should be on one of the bold, pine-topped hills near the mountain foot, and the farm-houses in the smooth, rounded valleys; how there should be fountains and lakes, and lovely drives and horse-back trails through groves-all planned and planted by ourselves."

Source: Frederick Jackson Palmer to Queen Mellon [his fiancé], quoted in Amanda M. Ellis, The Colorado Springs Story [No place, no date]: 6.

Cascade Avenue (facing South)

This is a view of Colorado Springs along Cascade Avenue, the tree-lined street on the right of the photo. The photo was taken in 1874.



Cascade Avenue facing the South

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

General Palmer's new town grew rapidly. During the early 1870s, nearly 500 newcomers arrived each year. They built half that many house and buildings each year.

Their Own Words

"We reached Colorado Springs (the station) at noon, and found it situated on a perfectly flat, barren desert, but the fresh, new houses, wide streets and clear flowing streams in its gutters, causing the young trees to grow rapidly, the brilliant wild flowers blossoming profusely on the sidewalk and street, and the businesslike manner of the people, all combined to make one forget that it has grown up from a barren plain."

Source: Quoted in Susan Armitage, ed., "The Letters of Hester McClung," Essays and Monographs in Colorado History, No. 5 (1987): 95.

Cascade Avenue (facing North)

This is a view of Colorado Springs in 1874 looking north along Cascade Avenue.



Cascade Avenue facing the North

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

To help keep Colorado Springs shaded during the summer, Palmer had 5,000 cottonwood trees planted along the main streets.

Their Own Words

“You may imagine Colorado Springs, as I did, to be a [protected] valley with bubbling fountains, and green grass, and shady trees: but not a bit of it. Picture to yourself a level elevated plateau of greenish-brown without a single tree or plant larger than a Spanish bayonet (Yucca) two feet high, sloping down about a quarter of a mile to the railroad track . . . and you have a pretty good idea of the town-site as it appears in November 1871.”

“The streets and blocks are only marked out by a furrow turned with the plough and indicated faintly by a wooden house, finished or in process of building, here and there, scattered over half a mile of prairie. About twelve shanties are inhabited, most of them being unfurnished, or run up for temporary occupation; and there are several tents dotted about also.”

Source: Rose Kingsley, quoted in Burt Allan Storey, William Jackson Palmer: Promoter, Colorado Magazine, 43 (Winter 1966): 49.

Pike’s Peak Avenue

This is a photo of the Antlers Hotel looking west toward Pikes Peak.



Antlers hotel in Pikes Peak

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Colorado Springs was a tourist resort as well as a beautiful place to live. The Antlers Hotel on Pikes Peak Avenue was a popular hotel for tourists.

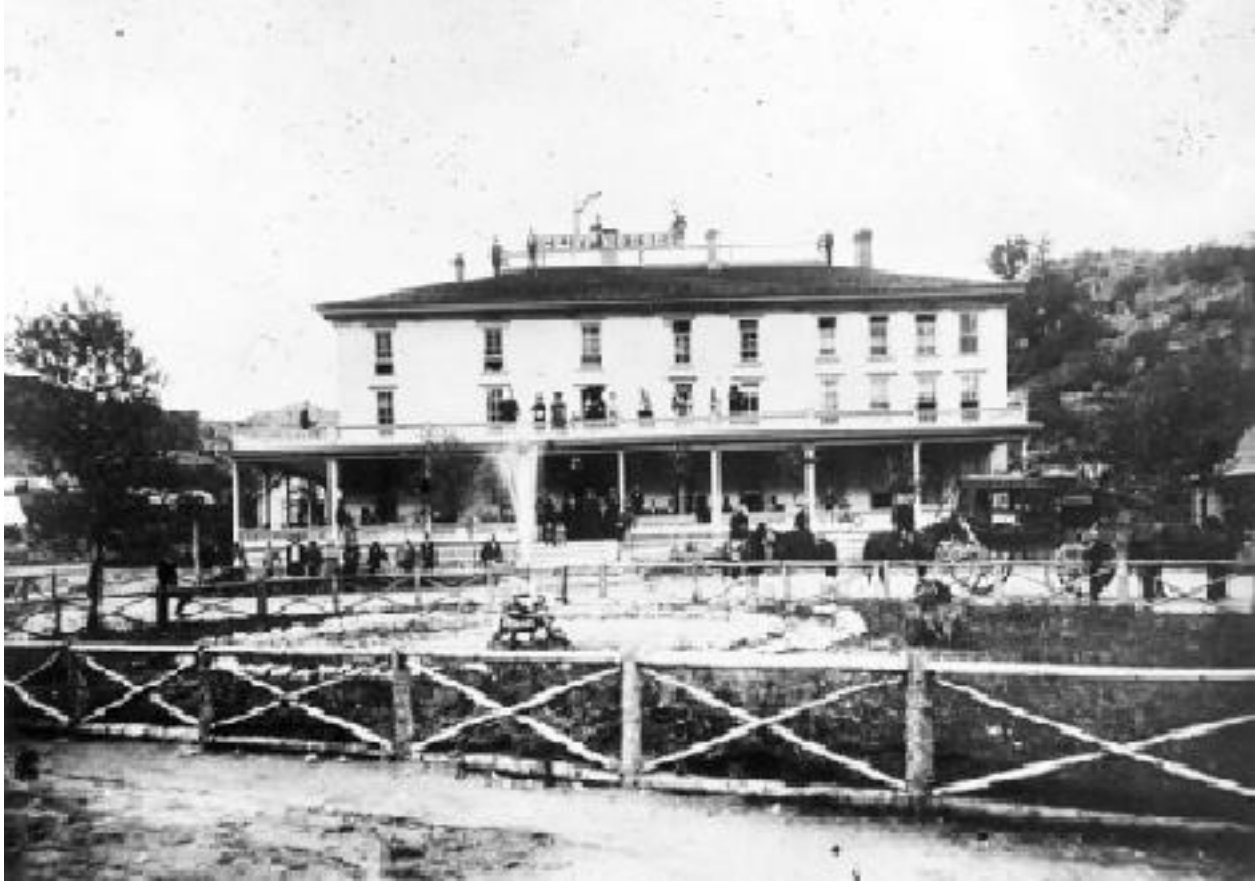
Their Own Words

“The Antlers is the foremost hotel of Colorado Springs and of the Rocky Mountain region. It is a thoroughly modern and strikingly handsome structure, complete and elegant in all its appointments, with a cuisine of noted excellence. Thousands of tourists from all parts of the world have pronounced it one of the most delightful hotels. Its rates range from \$3 to \$5 per day.”

Source: Harper’s Magazine Advertiser, 1892.

Cliff House Hotel

The hotel in this photo is Cliff House. It was located in Manitou Springs, a town five miles west of Colorado Springs.



Cliff house hotel in Manitou Springs

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Just west of Colorado Springs is another resort town called Manitou Springs. It was famous for its mineral springs. Tourists stayed in hotels like Cliff House while they bathed in the mineral waters.

Their Own Words

"At Manitou we would stop to drink some of the mineral water for which I did not care in its virgin state. Provident folk took with them large glass bottles or jugs and filled them with water from soda springs. They had to be handled with care lest trouble ensue. If too full and subjected to a lot of motion, the jug was apt to blow its cork and the precious fluid lost. But my mother was careful and on our return we would have 'soda lemonade,' a great treat."

Source: Quantrille McClung, Memoirs of My Childhood and Youth in North Denver (Denver: Colorado Genealogical Society, 1979), p. 66.

Grand Junction

What do these photos tell you about how 19th century Colorado cities looked like?

Log Cabin – 1882

These are two of the first buildings in Grand Junction. The photo was taken in 1882.



Log cabin in Grand Junction

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

The city of Grand Junction began as a marketing town for the nearby farms. It was founded after the Ute lands on the Western Slope were opened to settlement in 1880. The Utes in this area were removed to reservations in Utah.

Their Own Words

"There were at this time about 50 or 60 people located in what is now Mesa County, most of these were in Grand Junction. There were no houses in town except log cabins, the windows and doors were made out of gunny sacks, the roofs out of dirt, lumber was worth \$150 a thousand. Beef, the finest porter

house steaks, were worth 5 cents a pound. This cheap price of meat was owing to the fact that this was an Indian reservation, and the cattle rustlers were stealing the cattle for beef. "

"The town company were giving away the best business lots on Main Street to anyone who would build a log cabin on them. The pioneers were all poor men. The saloon business was the principal business of the town. Colorado Avenue, which was at that time the principal street, was not known by its proper name, but was known to everybody as Hoodoo Street."

Source: Recollection of James Bucklin, CWA Interviews, Doc. 344/24, Colorado Historical Society.

Main Street – 1884

This photo of buildings on Main Street was taken about 1884. It shows how Grand Junction's buildings changed over a three-year period.



Main Street in Grand Junction

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

The oldest buildings in this photo are the log cabins. Next to them are two frame buildings, which quickly replaced log cabins in most towns. These are one-story buildings with “false fronts.” On the right of the second frame building is a two-story, brick structure. In the business districts of most cities, brick structures eventually replaced frame buildings.

Their Own Words

“The first thing all the early settlers [in Grand Junction in 1882] proceeded to do was to build little log huts on their claims to live in during the coming winter, and to establish their claim to the land. Douglas Blain’s cabin was 10 feet square, build of cottonwood logs, having a door made of split poles, a hole for a window, and a roof of earth. Other cabins were constructed similarly.”

Source: Nancy Blain Underhill, “Trekking to the Grand River Valley in 1882,” Colorado Magazine, 8 (September 1931): 179.

Another View Of Main Street – 1884

This is a longer view of Main Street in Grand Junction in the year 1884.



Main Street in Grand Junction in 1884

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

The city of Grand Junction was only three years old when this photo was taken. The number of buildings in the photo indicate how rapidly the city grew.

Their Own Words

“There were several log cabins on the town site, which had been laid out with streets and alleys marked with stakes by the surveyors. One or two rough board one-story buildings, and the walls of two hotel buildings being build with sun-dried adobe bricks. A saw mill had just been brought in by Innis and Hobbs, and was set up on the south side of the river, on Pinon Mesa. . . .”

“One morning I went down to breakfast at the Grand Junction Hotel, located in a log cabin at 1st Street and Colorado Avenue. There was no floor, just nature’s soil. The table was made by driving four posts in the ground and nailing across pieces on which planks were laid, and an oilcloth top as covering. The benches and seats were planks resting on boxes. In one corner of the room I noticed a narrow space had been curtained off with burlap, or gunny sacks split open and hung as a screen, behind which was a sleeping bunk built on the side of the wall.”

Source: Edwin Price, “Recollections of Grand Junction’s First Newspaper Editor,” Colorado Magazine, 30 (July 1953): 229.

Main Street – 1900

This is a photo of Main Street about the year 1900. How has the street changed since 1884?



Main Street in 1900

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

Many new buildings were constructed since the previous photo was taken. Most of them are made of brick. The building on the corner is made of stone. Electric streetlights also have been added. The street lamp can be seen in the upper middle of the photo.

Main Street - 1910

This photo of Main Street was taken about 1910. What new form of transportation does it show?



Main Street in 1910

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

This photo shows an electric streetcar or trolley coming down the middle of the street. The lines overhead provide it with electric power.

Another View Of Main Street – 1910

This photo of Main Street also dates from about 1910. How many forms of transportation can you find?



Another view of Main Street in 1910

Photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

More About This Topic

This photo includes an early automobile (lower right), an electric streetcar, and horse-drawn wagons. It also shows a woman crossing the street pushing a baby carriage.