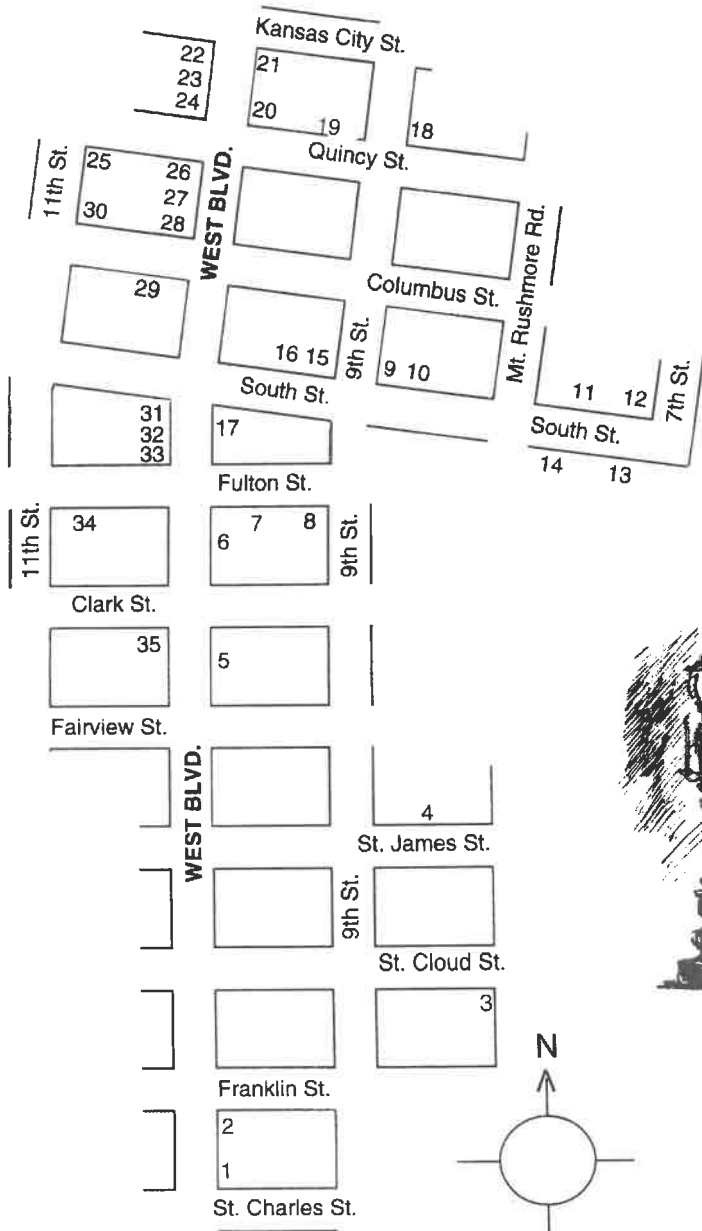
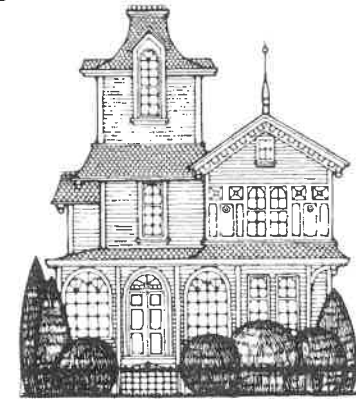


# TOUR ROUTE

## A Riding and Walking Tour of the West Boulevard Historic District



# A RIDING AND WALKING TOUR OF THE WEST BOULEVARD HISTORIC DISTRICT



## A Riding and Walking Tour of the West Boulevard Historic District

Second Revised Edition © 1996

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## Introduction

This booklet is designed to be a self-guiding tour to see the exteriors of some of the houses in Rapid City's West Boulevard Historic District and to learn about some of the people who have lived in them. The West Boulevard Neighborhood Association [WBNA] appreciates this opportunity to show you around our historic and beautiful neighborhood.

For each home listed, you will find a brief description of the architectural significance of the home to the District. Most of these comments are taken from the 1974 nomination of the original District for the National Register of Historic Places. Following the description, you will find information about the history of the house and some of its occupants.

We invite you to take this tour in its entirety or in part; on foot, on two wheels, or on four. Inside the front cover, you will find a map showing a suggested route for the tour. You may begin your exploration of Rapid City's past at any point by matching the numbers shown on the map to the numbered descriptions in this booklet. Please respect the rights of the property owners: do not enter yards without permission.

The thirty-five houses described and pictured in this booklet represent only a small percentage of the homes in the expanded Historic District. They were chosen only because they best exemplify, in some way, the characteristics of the architecture found in the area or the people who shaped our neighborhood and city. Many other homes are of similar or even greater historic importance because of their previous owners, or of equal architectural quality.

As you take this tour, be sure to look at *all* the houses in the District, not just the few chosen for this booklet. You will see a historic area which is not a museum of preservation but a living and lovely residential neighborhood, reflecting the evolving history of the area and the efforts of the WBNA to protect and enhance its integrity.

You will also find in this booklet a description of the significance of the West Boulevard Historic District and brief histories of the town of Rapid City and of the WBNA. For more information on Rapid City's history, contact the Minnilusa Pioneer Museum, 515 West Blvd., or the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission, 300 Sixth St.

If you want to see Rapid City's other Historic District, the Historic Preservation Commission publishes a free Walking Tour of Rapid City's Historic Downtown District which is available at the above locations and at some stores in the downtown area.

If you are interested in the WBNA and its goals, we cordially invite you to join us in our efforts. If you have additional information about any of the homes on the tour, please let us know; we want to be as accurate and comprehensive as possible in the information provided in this tour. The West Boulevard Neighborhood Association's address is P. O. Box 8004, Rapid City, SD 57709-8004.

## Significance of the West Boulevard Historic District

The original Rapid City West Boulevard Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Comprised of portions of eighteen blocks between Kansas City Street on the north and Fairview Street on the south, and between Seventh and Eleventh Streets, it is located just southwest of the main business area and reflects the life style of many early Rapid City business and professional people. In 1995, an expansion of the District to the south and west was added to the National Register; many more homes which were not eligible for the 1974 designation now meet the criterion of being at least 50 years old.

In its description of the original District, the 1974 nomination said:

"The landscape is mostly flat, with the exception of a slight hill at the eastern boundary. The area is lined with elm, oak and pine trees. West Boulevard has two parallel rows of trees in the central median and contributes to the aesthetics of the District.

"The District initially became important as a residential area in the 1880's, but the main growth years occurred in the first quarter of the twentieth century, when over three-fourths of the structures were built. The District's buildings represent typical architectural styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. From 1883 to 1900, seventeen of the 133 structures remaining in the District, or thirteen percent, were built; from 1901 to 1910, forty-four (33%); from 1911 to 1920, thirty-four (26%); and from 1921 to 1930, seventeen (13%). Only twenty-one buildings have been built since 1931, and of these just seven since 1950. These dates reveal a strong early twentieth century area with few major intrusions.

"The residents of this District were some of the leading citizens of Rapid City. Because the inhabitants were financially successful, their homes reflected their status and the area contained the finest houses in Rapid City. Architectural importance is obvious by the ostentatious appearance. Queen Anne (mostly built before 1900) and Colonial (mostly dating from the early twentieth century) styles predominate, with some Italianates, Mediterraneans, Neo-Classicals and hip cottages.

"These styles, with their fine sense of proportion and rhythm, create a definite impact upon the visitor. That impact is enhanced by the trees that line West Boulevard which add a sense of stability. There is little doubt that this neighborhood was once the home of Rapid City's most prominent citizens."

Although many homes in the expanded District, especially in the western portion, date from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the majority in the southern area date from the 1920's through the 1940's. Architectural styles of these newer homes range from the bungalows popular in the 1920's and 1930's to the "ranch style" homes of the 1950's. Aesthetically, there is no sharp boundary between the original and the expanded District, and a similar mixture of older and newer homes prevails, shifted in dates to the second quarter of the century.

—Scott Gerloff and Norm Nelson

# History of Rapid City

The Black Hills area, so far as history records, was the home of the Kiowa Indians until the middle of the eighteenth century, when pressure from other tribes driven westward by white settlement forced the Dakota and Lakota (Sioux) Indians from Minnesota into the plains of the Dakotas. Standing Buffalo, an Oglala Lakota, is said to have first discovered the Hills in 1775.

There is little published information pertaining to the region prior to the exploration by Lt. G. K. Warren in 1856. He discovered and named Harney Peak and made a satisfactory map of portions of the Black Hills.

In August of 1874, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, with an army of 1,200 men, made an extended exploration of the Black Hills. His party discovered gold near the site of the town of Custer, and newspaper accounts of the discovery set the nation aflame with gold fever. The rush to the diggings began at once. The first parties in the Hills, including Annie Tallent, the first white woman in the area, were expelled by the Army because the land belonged to the Lakota under an 1868 treaty. (The first non-Native American woman known to have come to the Hills was not Annie Tallent, but a black cook with Custer's 1874 expedition.)

By 1876, the Army had ceased trying to keep the whites out, and by March, 1876, it is estimated that from 15,000 to 20,000 miners were in the Black Hills.

Rapid City was started with the idea that it would be a service center for people and materials destined for the gold fields. John R. Brennan persuaded a party of unsuccessful miners to establish a town on the eastern edge of the Black Hills where he and his partners had discovered an adequate supply of water in Rapid Creek. They founded their community on February 25, 1876, and named it for the nearby stream.

The original one square mile townsite was laid out with a pocket compass, ten blocks from East Boulevard to West Boulevard and twelve blocks from North Street to South Street. (Because the founders forgot to correct for the declination of the compass needle from true north, streets in the original townsite are about fifteen degrees off. This was corrected in later additions to the city, accounting for the bend in north-south streets visible at South Street.)

Initially, the city failed to grow, despite its location on freight wagon routes from eastern Dakota Territory and Nebraska. The first year, the remaining settlers huddled in a log stockade at the corner of Fifth and Rapid Streets in fear of Indian attacks. As corporate, hard rock mining replaced individual prospectors, and stable homesteading and ranching elements settled the surrounding areas, Rapid City became a permanent consumer market. It soon aspired to be the wholesale center for western South Dakota and the "Gateway City to the Black Hills". For many years to come, however, the community would be much smaller than the mining centers of the northern Hills, with tens of thousands of residents in Lead, Deadwood and the surrounding settlements. At the turn of the century, Rapid City had a population of about 3,000 people.

The railroad from the east entered Rapid City on July 4, 1886, with important results. Expanded opportunities produced new businesses; the population quadrupled between 1880 and 1890. South Dakota became a state in 1889, and by 1900 Rapid City had begun to achieve commercial dominance of the Black Hills region.

In the early 1880's the Boulevard Addition, some twenty-five blocks adjoining the original townsite on the south and west, was laid out, to be followed by the West Boulevard addition to its south. In 1883, land in the new area sold for \$1.55 an acre, but as the first homes were built, it quickly became Rapid City's "nice" neighborhood, and some of the most ostentatious and expensive homes in the city were built there.

In the 1890's, silver poplar trees were planted along West Boulevard; they were eventually replaced by the stately elms which dominate today. Beginning in 1980, maple, linden and mountain ash trees were planted; eventually they will replace the elms which are threatened by Dutch elm disease, maintaining the character of the West Boulevard neighborhood.

Rapid City grew slowly until after World War II, when rapid growth to the south and west began. In 1930, the population was 10,000. In the early 1940's, the city limits were at St. Patrick Street on the south, and Canyon Lake Park, to the west, was two miles out of town. With the new housing boom, the richer citizens began to build their homes in areas closer to the hills on the western side of town, and the West Boulevard area lost its prominence as a residential area.

Over the following years, commercialization began to move into the area as the downtown business district expanded and Mt. Rushmore Road (Eighth Street) became a major thoroughfare. Many large, old houses were demolished to make room for commercial structures and parking lots, and others deteriorated in appearance. The 1974 designation of the West Boulevard Historic District on the U.S. Dept. of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places provided impetus for protection and preservation of the older homes remaining near the downtown area, as well as the newer residences to the south, and in 1976 the West Boulevard Neighborhood Association was formed.

—Scott Gerloff, Beth Shonts and Norm Nelson



## *A Short History of the West Boulevard Neighborhood Association*

In late 1975, a few neighbors in the West Boulevard area began to worry about commercialism creeping into the neighborhood, with the consequent loss of historic homes and destruction of the character of Rapid City's only designated historic neighborhood. There was talk of forming a group, but no one was ready to take charge.

On February 12, 1976, eighteen people met at 1116 West Boulevard and formed the West Boulevard Neighborhood Association. Those present were Jim and Jody Eckerdt, Dave Sieler, Bob and Judy Flood, Warren Engelbrecht, Paul and Marcella Wessel, Robb Swanson (WBNA's first chairman), Jane and Ed Day, Beth and John Shonts, Barb and Dick Shilvock, Dave Hudyma, and Bev and Tom Kappenman. Their goal — to preserve the residential integrity of the neighborhood they loved.

The first step was to solicit members. Open to anyone, city wide, who was interested in the cause, membership was \$5.00 per family, with senior citizens free; the response was enthusiastic.

The next step was to gather enough signatures on a petition to have the City Council reduce the neighborhood's zoning from High Density Residential to Medium Density Residential, as a signal that this was a residential area, not a developing commercial district. It took most of 1976 to accomplish the down-zoning, with a lot of work for some of our members and the full support of our membership at City Council meetings. It was at one of our first meetings with the City Council that we picked up one of our hardest workers (and honorary charter member), Norman Nelson.

After the rezoning was determined, early in 1977, it was decided to have a West Boulevard Summer Festival, an arts and crafts festival to be held in June in Wilson Park. During the festival, Scott Gerloff of the state Historic Preservation Office narrated an hourly tour of the area. The festival, with the tours, was an extremely successful event, both monetarily and in good will.

At this time WBNA also put together our first "Riding and Walking Tour" booklet, edited by Beth Shonts. With photos of details of the houses, the text was primarily based on the architectural survey made by Gerloff for the 1974 nomination of the Historic District.

In 1981, a completely revised "Riding and Walking Tour" was published, with historic as well as contemporary photographs, and, to bring their history to life, information about some of the people who had lived in the homes added. This 1996 Third Edition contains additional properties to mark the proposed expansion of the Historic District, as well as newly revised information.

Although it was not planned to be, the Summer Festival became an annual event, continuing to be well received. For the second and third festivals, because of the threat of Dutch elm disease reaching our city and destroying the trees on the West Boulevard median, a tree committee was formed, with Dave Hudyma as chairman. "Buy a Tree" buttons were sold to raise money to help replace the trees due to be lost to the disease.

We made enough money at these festivals to purchase 155 maple, ash and linden trees and donate them to the city. Under the direction of Toni Martin, our second

hard-working tree chairman, they were planted Arbor Day, 1980.

The proceeds of the 1980 Festival were used to landscape Wilson Park with plantings of both evergreen and deciduous trees, and moneys from subsequent festivals have gone to construct playgrounds at neighborhood schools and to other projects to enhance the neighborhood. Most recently, a substantial grant was made to the city to help pay the cost of the nomination for the expanded Historic District.

Over the years, a rapport has been developed with the City Council, and the entire city, which has helped us gain support in our efforts to protect and promote our historic neighborhood. One battle may serve as an excellent example of many: in the fall of 1978, we faced a serious threat of commercial development, as doctors asked for rezoning to open their offices in two different locations in the center of the area. It was to be our longest, hardest struggle, fought on principle against opponents we didn't believe we could beat, but one loss here and everything we had worked for would be gone. To our surprise and great joy, and to the benefit of the entire city, the City Council adopted an ordinance banning such commercialism in residential neighborhoods everywhere in Rapid City. (See Home No.33 in the Tour.)

Our Association continues to be the largest and strongest neighborhood association in South Dakota. Our activists are eager and dedicated. Over the years we have helped other neighborhood groups form in Rapid City, hosted historical society meetings, and continued to work with the city and our neighbors to maintain our goal of protecting the integrity of our neighborhood. We have watched the area turn back to become again one of the most desirable areas to live in the city.

Efforts put forth by this organization and similar groups throughout the state result in lovely neighborhoods, preserved in appearance and yet full of life, for our children, friends and visitors to enjoy, and maybe to slip back into our past for just a little while.

—Jane Day, Sandy Hudyma, Barb Shilvock and Norm Nelson



### 1. 1622 West Boulevard

*Built in the Italianate style, this large, square, two-and-one-half story brick house dominates its corner with its quiet appearance of solidity and wealth.*

When Bishop John Lawler moved the seat of the Roman Catholic Diocese from Lead to Rapid City in 1920, his father, a wealthy farmer from St. Cloud, Minnesota, decided that his distinguished son should have a home suitable for the residence of a bishop, and in 1927 had this impressive home built for him. Except for modernized plumbing and wiring, the house was an exact duplicate of the Archbishop's Palace in St. Paul, Minnesota, built from the original 1897 blueprints.

For many years this impressive residence was the home of Bishop William McCarty, who succeeded Bishop Lawler. Bishop McCarty was a familiar figure to the children of the neighborhood, still remembered as the kindly man in the black suit who always found time to stop and talk with them as he walked by.

During Bishop McCarty's lifetime, the house was probably best known for its Christmas lights. Although West Boulevard still draws many people to drive by and admire the many brightly lighted home displays, old-timers swear that it will never be the same without the bishop's decorations. He began putting up a manger scene every year at Christmas time, with life-size full-color statues of the Holy Family on the front porch. Some time in the 1940's, the display began to become more elaborate each year: eventually a large neon star topped the roof, with giant lighted candles and several rows of brightly lighted spruce trees standing on the lawn. Every Christmas, traffic would back up for blocks on West Boulevard as people drove by to stop and see the Bishop's display.

When his successors preferred to live elsewhere [see No. 25 on this tour], the church sold the home to the family who still live there. We were told that the bishops' chapel was converted into what is still undoubtedly the only bedroom in Rapid City with stained glass windows! Their daughter's bed stood on the platform which had once held the altar in the chapel.

### 2. 1602 West Boulevard



*Built in the English Tudor style, this handsome home brings variety to the architectural styles of the expanded historic district. The exterior features brick, wooden "half timbering", and stucco. Except for changes to the windows and doors, it remains as it looked when new.*

This house was built about 1928 for the Hecker family, who also owned a ranch about 15 miles north of town. During the drought and depression of the 1930's, the family lost both the ranch and their house in town. Interestingly, they then moved into the C. C. O'Harra house at 705 West Blvd [Number 22 on this tour].

The Driscoll family then took over the home and lived there for several years. Mr. Driscoll was a banker. The next owners were the John Elston family, who then sold it to James "Pev" Evans, who converted the attic into a hardwood-floored basketball and racquetball court. The present owners purchased the house from the Evans.

In the 1940's, there was a fire in the house, and the present owners relate that during a remodeling they uncovered charred hardwood floors and, behind the paneling, blackened walls with missing plaster. Still visible were the "ghost" images where pictures had hung and furniture had been against the wall. A crack in the beveled glass of a door has been left by all the succeeding owners since the fire.

We were also told that, if the vines were not cut back regularly, they would completely cover the house in a single season.



### 3. 805 St. Cloud Street

*This comfortable bungalow-style home was built in 1920. It features clapboard siding and decorative trim. Except for the porch being screened in, it has changed very little in appearance.*

The Welles Crawford family moved to Rapid City from Ohio in 1920, and that fall moved into this brand-new home in what was then a purely residential neighborhood along Eighth Street. In 1923, Mr. Crawford died and his wife, Charlotte, went to work in the principal's office at the high school (now Dakota Middle School). As they had no car, she and her children moved to a home on Columbus Street, one block from the school.

Her boss, C. E. Haskins, who was principal of the high school until about 1955, and his family rented the home from Mrs. Crawford until he bought it in 1936.

In 1987 the Crawford's daughter, Helen, came from California to visit a cousin. Driving by her old home, she saw that it was for sale. She bought it and, as she put it, "moved back home" in 1988.



### 4. 818 St. James Street

*This Queen Anne style house obviously once stood proudly here before the city came out to surround it. The frame house displays clapboard and octagonal shingle siding. Particularly noticeable details are the elaborate sawn wood fascias and gable ornamentation, emphasized by contrasting paint colors, and a decorative metal band, imitative of similar plaster bands found in other parts of the country. There is a circular window. The house retains its original wooden gutters.*

Zachariah "Zack" Holmes built this house for himself and his wife in 1886, the only house out in the country south of the little ten-year-old community of Rapid City. It was surrounded by open fields and outbuildings such as a carriage house, barn and chicken coop. Indians visiting town camped in the open prairie between the present streets of St. Cloud and St. Patrick. As late as World War I, visitors remember standing behind the house and looking across open space towards the town several blocks away.

Holmes was born in Sweden, where he learned the trade of carpentry. He came to Dakota Territory in 1877, where he owned and operated a stock farm of 1800 acres. He was also a civil engineer, serving as city engineer for Rapid City around 1915. He served in the state legislature in 1893, 1897 and 1916. After he retired around 1918, he and his wife moved to California, where he died in 1930.

The house was rented for many years to the Peter Hedin family, who were related to the childless Holmes. In October, 1945, William H. and Helen Barney purchased it from the Robert Leepers for \$3,500. At that time, the property still had its original outbuildings, including an outhouse.

The interior of the home retains most of its original woodwork and paneling, with an elaborate open wood staircase with turned and carved spindles in the banister, and the original brass hardware on the sliding doors. We were told that every room still has its original "picture rail", a strip of molding on the walls below the high ceilings from which pictures were hung.

The residence, now known as the Barney House because the family has owned it longer than any previous occupants, was independently placed on the National Register in 1983, as commemorated by a plaque on the front of house. Passersby may easily see the plaque, since when paved streets came to this part of town, the front porch posts had to be removed to make room for the sidewalk, which passes so close to the house that the porch roof extends over it.



### **5. 1214 West Boulevard**

*A well preserved, symmetrical Mediterranean styled home, it is of two stories with a cut stone foundation and an unusual variation of the hip roof, called the hip-gambrel. It is a combination of a hip roof topped with a small gable, and is most common in the area of Newport, Rhode Island. Horizontal siding is used. A front*

*and right side bay window add to this structure, along with a front dormer. It has an open porch of the classic type with Doric columns.*

The sandstone for this home's foundation was quarried north of Rapid City. Built in 1907, it belonged to James Surbeck, a prominent Presbyterian minister. His son, Homer Surbeck, a New York lawyer who grew up in this home and attended the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, later donated the student center building which bears his name on the Rapid City campus.

According to a story related by Homer Surbeck to the present owners, this house was one of the first built in Rapid City by J. L. Robbins, who ran out of money about \$500 short of completion. Rather than get a loan, Robbins was advised to sell it to the new minister who was coming to town for \$500 down; if he set the payments high enough, he would soon get the house back again all paid and clear. Rev. Surbeck earned \$175 a month; the house payments were set at \$125. The Surbeck family owned the house until about 1970!

For about 30 years, Surbeck said, this house was rented to the same family, and the rent was never increased from the late 1930's.



### **6. 1116 West Boulevard**

*An excellent Dutch colonial, it is one of the better preserved buildings in the district. It sits on a concrete block foundation, with a gambrel roof. Horizontal siding is used on the exterior walls and a long chimney extends from the foundation to the eaves on the left side. A front dormer and an open porch are other features of the building.*

Originally built in 1909, this house was a wedding present from her parents to Blanch Chase (Mrs. George) Williams. When first built, it was the only house on its side of the street in this block. The north half of the house was added in 1921 or 1922 as the family grew. Mr. Williams was the city attorney of Rapid City for many years. The house remained in the Williams family, owned by a daughter, until the mid-1960's.

The oak porch swing was, Williams' son Melville related, his high school manual training class project in 1923 or 1924. A picturesque backyard gazebo was built in the mid-1970's by later owners Jim and Jody Eckerdt, in whose basement the charter meeting of the West Boulevard Neighborhood Association was held in 1976.

The white house a block to the north (1012 West Boulevard) was a similar wedding gift to another daughter of the Isaac Chase family, who lived in the large house at 821 West Boulevard.





### 7. 919 *Fulton Street*

*This home is a Queen Anne style residence of two and one-half stories. It is important to the district architecturally. It has an irregular stone foundation as well as an irregular stone long chimney on the right side. It has a variety of facing including masonry, shingles, and clapboard. Also featured are some cross timbering and open front porch. It has an oriel window and a balcony. Square paned, leaded and beveled glass windows are additional embellishments.*

Built in 1916, this was originally the home of the Henry Daniels family. Daniels, owner of a lumber company, added a rear second-floor sunporch in 1917.

From 1918 to 1974, the house belonged to the William Snyder family. Mr. Snyder, blinded in a hunting accident, worked as a piano tuner. His wife, Charlotte, a talented and conservatory-trained musician, taught piano lessons, served as organist in several Rapid City churches, and entertained many prominent musicians in her home. A woman of many interests, in later years she was a familiar early-morning sight gathering edible mushrooms on the median of the Boulevard and the yards of surrounding streets. The Snyders raised seven boys in this house.

In 1974, the house was extensively renovated by Larry Wright, but without changing its external appearance.

Since then, at different times, it has been the residence of two former chairmen of the West Boulevard Neighborhood Association, Robb Swanson and Dick McConnell, as well as of several other families.



### 8. 801 *Fulton Street*

*This home is the best example of the Mediterranean style of architecture found in the district. It has an irregular stone foundation and a typical box floor plan. Clapboard is used to cover the exterior walls. Other features include an open front porch with rectangular wooden columns and a front bay window.*

Built in 1903 by Victor C. Anderson, Sr., this property originally included the land on which the houses on either side of it are built. When new, the house had a "widow's walk" atop the roof; it still has its original slate roof.

We were told that, back in the 1920's, when barnstorming airplane pilots came to Rapid City, they used the open land between this house and St. Cloud Street, four blocks to the south, as a landing area and at night would tether their biplanes to the trees along Fulton Street by this house, the only trees around.

Anderson's daughter, Nina Drickey, whose husband Floyd was well known in local World War I and II veterans' affairs, owned the house until the 1960's. It was converted into five apartments about 1946.





### 9. 928 Ninth Street

*This excellent example of the Queen Anne style of architecture has a cut stone foundation, an irregular roof covered with tile, corner windows, pedimental dormers, circular windows and a triangular window; horizontal siding is utilized. The second story porch balcony is supported by Doric columns.*

Dating from 1909, this house was originally the home of William Soule, a prominent Rapid City lawyer. It was sold to Zelia Anne Soule Miser in 1923 for \$6250.

There are 42 windows in the house: the upper windows have from 36 to 42 panes each in their upper portions, as did the main floor in earlier years. (Turn-of-the-century housewives usually had hired help!)

At one time, we were told, this house served as a music studio, with a grand piano in every room. Divided into apartments in the 1950's, it has been restored as a single-family home by the present owner, with an artist's studio in the attic.



### 10. 820 South Street

*One of the better examples of Late Queen Anne architecture in the district, it is a two story home with horizontal and shingle siding. An irregular gable roof features bargeboard, a right side dormer, and small rear*

*dormers. The classic open porch with its Doric columns displays a railing of turned spindles and wheel-like cutwork used as decorative features.*

Behind the house, and visible down the alley, is one of the two remaining carriage houses in the district. It is a two story structure of horizontal siding with a gable roof and a cut stone foundation. The second story originally housed the "servants' quarters" for the domestics employed by the family.

Frank Ackerman, who was in the mercantile and hardware business with the Duhamel brothers in Rapid City, was the original owner of this house, built in 1909. The sandstone foundation blocks reportedly came from the old Hot Springs Hospital. In 1917, the house was bought by Claude Gray, who was mayor of Rapid City in 1921.

The Grays reportedly removed some grillwork or "gingerbread" from the top of the house. The kitchen was remodeled in 1968 by the then owners, and a tin ceiling from the old theater in New Underwood, S. Dak., was installed in the 1980's by another owner. A room at the rear was added about 1983.

In 1994, the home briefly became a bed-and-breakfast.



### 11. 726 South Street

*A well preserved Queen Anne cottage of one-and-one-half stories, this structure has a steep-pitched hip roof and a medium-pitched gable roof with wood shingle covering. Three dormers, one in the front and one on each side, are employed. Under the eaves of the roof and on the dormers, modillion is utilized. An open front porch that extends the entire right side of the house has rectangular wood supports with solid clapboard railing and lattice work beneath. The structure is supported by a cut stone foundation; shingle and horizontal boards are used as siding. Offset to the left of the front of the structure is a bay with leaded glass windows. The main windows vary in width but are of the same height. At gable's end is a small rounded arch encased in wood with a lintel surround.*

Owned by only three families since its construction in 1908, the home was first occupied by J. C. Read. In 1927 it was purchased by Fred and Edna Clark. Mr. Clark worked for the railroad, and Mrs. Clark lived in the home for about 60 years.

This home is virtually unchanged in appearance since it was new. The old photograph with the people on the front porch dates from the late 1920's.



### 12. 923 Seventh Street

*A large two and one-half story house of the Dutch Colonial style, this home has two types of siding — clapboard and shingle. Its most distinguishing feature is the wooden shingle-covered cross gambrel roof, which features front and back flat-topped dormers and a rear eyebrow window. The front has a large open porch with rectangular wood columns supporting a second floor balcony. The right side features a flat topped bay with three windows.*

Built in 1901 for Mary Congdon, this house sold in 1908 to Mary A. Smith for \$7,000, who sold it to William Remington, the Episcopal Suffragan Bishop of South Dakota, for \$6,500 in 1919. From 1934 to 1977, it was the home of Rev. and Mrs. Charles Fred Parks; he was a teacher and a priest in the Episcopal church.

A main floor bedroom and full basement were added to the house about 1936. Like many large homes in the area, built in an era of big families, this house was divided into apartments in later years.

### 13. 705 South Street

*With an irregular roof and various materials used for facing, this very interesting house is one of the best examples of Queen Anne architecture in the district. Corner windows, barge-board, an enclosed balcony and an open balcony are other features of this home.*



Built in 1887, this house was the home of James Woods, founder of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, and his wife, Matilda, from 1889 to 1892. A cattleman and banker, Woods served two terms as mayor of Rapid City, beginning in 1892.



#### 14. 717 South Street

Another example of the Queen Anne architecture that dominates the district, this house features beveled corners with decorative millwork at the top. It is a two story structure with clapboard and shingled siding and a cut stone foundation. Stained glass windows, a multiple gabled roof, corner windows and an open porch with spindle supports and dentils, as well as cut wood decorative panels, add to the interest of this house.

Dating from 1892, this was the home of Charles and Adella Brown. Mrs. Brown enjoyed entertaining at luncheons and dinners; her dining room could accommodate 24 guests.

There is a very narrow door between the dining room and the kitchen; it is reported that Mrs. Brown, who was quite portly, had to move through the door sideways. When questioned, she is supposed to have said that she preferred the narrow door so that guests could not see into the kitchen.

At some time, a ten-foot deep, two-story addition was built on the rear of this house.

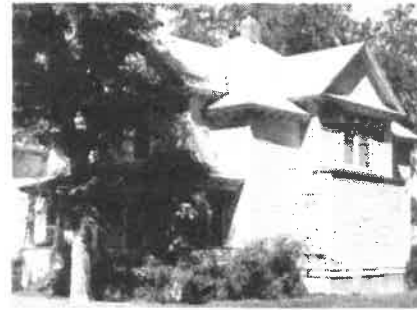
#### 15. 908 South Street

This two story Dutch Colonial styled home is a good example of its type. The house features a gambrel roof with dormers on each side. Horizontal siding and shingles cover the exterior walls.



Built in 1903, this house was sold in 1918 for \$3,700. It was purchased for \$2,314.16 at a sheriff's auction in 1922, and again in an estate auction in 1925 for \$2,500.

The Fischbach family owned it from 1946 into the 1960's. Mr. Fischbach operated a dry cleaning business in Rapid City for many years. In 1946 the bay window on the front, an enclosed sun porch, and the attached garage were added when the house was restored by the Fischbachs after having been a rental.



#### 16. 910 South Street

Another good example of the Queen Anne architecture that dominates the district, this house has the original clapboard and shingle siding remaining. It has brackets, modillion, and an oriel window.

This home was built in 1909 for Mr. and Mrs. George Philip. The Philip's sons George, Jr, a Navy Commander, and Bob, a Marine major and pilot, both lost their lives in World War II. This home has entertained many outstanding people in the legal and musical fields over the years, including pianist Artur Rubenstein.

It is interesting to note that the house next door to the west was apparently built from the same plans!



#### 17. 1000 West Boulevard

This symmetrical Colonial style home of two stories has clapboard siding, a cut stone foundation, and a medium-pitched gable roof with a chimney at the north end.

One of several houses built for himself and his wife by contractor Joseph L. Robbins, this home, dating from 1916, is the only one he did not promptly sell to someone else.

Founder of Robbins and Stearns Lumber Co., J. L. Robbins became one of the legendary names in Rapid City. His firm built the first low-cost homes in the southeastern section of the town, the new Robbinsdale Addition, after World War II.

J. L. Robbins liked round numbers, and the story is told that he had his house number changed from the original 1002 to 1000 West Boulevard. In

the days before dial phones, he also had business and home phone numbers of even thousands.

His wife, Mabel, was a musician, and founder of the community concert association. The cultural elite of Rapid City frequently assembled here for social gatherings with the visiting artists after concerts. The Robbins family lived in the house until the late 1970's.

This house has had several owners recently, mostly Air Force people. One of them told us that over the years the successive owners still keep a pair of Joe Robbins' false teeth in the house for good luck!



### 18. 830 Quincy Street

*A two story Queen Anne style of home, this house is a large structure with horizontal siding and shingles used as facing. Irregular gable roofs with several different types and sizes of windows create a highly interesting building. Beautiful beveled glass panels set off the main doorway; small bow windows also feature beveled glass.*

Lawrence Ryther was a contractor; he and his four sons built many homes in Rapid City in the early 1900's. His wife, Libby's, dream of a large house where she could show off her sterling and hand-painted china was realized in 1910, when they built this house. The first floor, occupied by the family, featured large rooms: the 40-foot living room, with an eleven-foot ceiling, is connected to the parlor and dining room by sliding doors so that all the rooms could be opened up together for entertaining. It is reported that Mrs. Ryther could easily entertain 75 people at one time.

The second floor served as a guest home from the time the house was built. For many years, the house was commonly known as "Marion's Rooms" (formally, Marion's Guest Home), and was operated as a rooming house by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Marion. In 1962, the Marions modified the house to increase its attractiveness to guests by adding living quarters on the third floor.

The Marions sold the house in 1984. It is now operated as a nursing home. Building codes required the addition of the fire escape visible above the front porch.



### 19. 914 Quincy Street

*A two story Colonial that enhances the district architecturally, this house has an irregular stone foundation, horizontal siding, and a hip roof. The portico is of the pediment type; carved scrollwork brackets are paired along the roof line.*

Built in 1907 for Virgil Price, who served as postmaster of Rapid City, this house was originally a one-fam-

ily home of 13 rooms. With a large porch across the front and down the east side, it once had an apple orchard and a barn in back.

In 1936 it was remodeled; it now contains four apartments.

### 20. 926 Quincy Street

*This home is of the Neoclassical style with a plantation type of appearance. A cut stone foundation supports a house of two stories with horizontal siding on the exterior walls. The porch features paired Ionic columns of two stories in height. Other Graeco-Roman features include wooden quoins, which give the appearance of large masonry blocks at the corners. The house has a front dormer, elliptical windows, and rectangular oriels on each side.*

This stately home, built in 1909 by John and Ed McNamara, reportedly caused quite a stir in the small community of Rapid City by its impressive size and appearance. Bachelors, the brothers built the house so that their sisters Margaret and Mary (Mame) could join them in Rapid City after the death of their parents in Chicago. John McNamara was connected with the flour mill, while Ed operated McNamara's Bookstore on Main Street; both had banking interests as well. The McNamara family were recognized as generous philanthropists: St. John's McNamara Hospital, built on Eleventh Street, was named in honor of their donations to the building.

Built to the design of H. E. Waldron, Rapid City architect who also designed the old public library at Sixth and Kansas City and other public buildings in the city, the house is unchanged in appearance except for replacement of the porch by a reported five tons of concrete; the stone foundation is some 18 inches thick.

For many years the home was a rental owned by Maggie Lemley Warren, who ranched near Hermosa, and who talked of opening it as a museum. Today, the home is again privately owned by a family who lives there. It still contains some of the McNamara's original furniture and pictures.



## 21. 929 Kansas City Street

This picture shows an excellent example of the Late Queen Anne style of architecture and fits the district's period. It was a two story home, using horizontal siding and shingles on its exterior walls. A rectangular tower with a pyramidal roof enhanced the structure. The building sits upon a cut stone foundation and has a very irregular roof line of the gable type. Dentil molding and bargeboard add character; a canopy with bullseye design covers a side window.



A note in pencil under the stairs helped date the construction of this large house: "This stairs were put up by Ole O. Stromsnes in June and July 1892". The old picture above dates from shortly after the house was built for Virgil Price and his family. Note the wooden sidewalk and the carriage house.

With more than a dozen owners in over one hundred years, the building had undergone some major structural changes. The original porch seen in the old picture was removed and replaced, with a subsequent addition to the first and second floors in front, a second floor rear addition, and the addition of an apartment at the rear.

Cattleman I. M. Humphrey owned the home from 1909 to 1929; the Humphreys gave parties which old timers still remember today. From 1945 to 1971, Dr. Byron Callan, an orthodontist, lived and had his office here. Before the fire, the building contained several offices, making it the only commercial structure in the Historic District, although the exterior retained its historical appearance.

The east side of the house was damaged in a fire in the spring of 1995. The owner applied for a demolition permit and removed the more modern additions. In July, 1995, because of the importance of the structure to the Historic District and the appearance of the neighborhood, the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission issued a stay of the demolition to see if a way could be found to preserve this important historic home on its site and prevent further encroachment of modern buildings into the Historic District.

As of this printing, the decision regarding the future disposition of the house had not been determined.

## 22. 705 West Boulevard



Built in 1905, this bungalow has clapboard siding with a cut sandstone foundation. A screened porch dominates the front of the home. The only significant addition to the house was a "breakfast pantry".

Cleophas Cisney O'Harra came to the young S. D. State School of Mines as an instructor of Geology, and eventually became the school's president, as well as the author of many books and articles about the Black Hills. From the turn of the century until his death, he was one of the most prominent and widely known citizens of the Black Hills. He spoke on the geology of Mt. Rushmore at the dedication of the National Memorial's Washington face. The O'Harra Building, which houses the Geology Museum, and O'Harra Stadium on today's S. D. School of Mines & Technology campus are named in his honor.

In 1905, Professor and Mrs. C. C. O'Harra moved into this comfortable home. The old photograph was taken when the house was new.

Title to the property was in the name of Mary O'Harra, his wife. She owned the home until 1937, when it was inherited by their daughter, Estelle (Mrs. Walter, Sr.) White. The home was rented to Jim and Nora Krall, who operated Krall's Gifts in downtown Rapid City for many years. The White's daughter, Ealsa Rowe, who taught at Rapid City High School for many years, became its owner in 1955. As is true of several other homes in this area, this property remained in the same family for more than sixty years.

The present owners have lived there since 1971.

## 23. 711 West Boulevard

This two story Neoclassical home is one of the best preserved structures in the district. The period building has a classic porch with Ionic columns and also has an oriel on the right side. The siding is clapboard, with a cut stone foundation and a medium pitched gable roof. Modillion is used along the eaves.



This house has had 10 subsequent owners since it was built in 1908 for Archibald K. Gardner, an attorney. Walter May, a railroad man seen in the old photograph above, lived here from 1910 to 1916. Eugene and Margaret

Bangs lived here from 1920 to 1922; he owned a livery stable which later became the Buick dealership, served as mayor of Rapid City in 1928, and was postmaster at one time. Twenty-seven years later, the Bangs again owned the house, from 1949 to 1950.

Some time in the 1950's, the wife of one owner is reported to have hung by a rope from the chimney to paint the house chartreuse.

The wrought iron fence and ornate lamp post are not originals, but are appropriate for the period.



#### 24. 721 West Boulevard

*This two story Neoclassical home is of white painted clapboard. Offset to each side of the door are slender rectangular windows and two pilasters. Along with the four pilasters are two fluted columns of the Doric order supporting a pedimental portico. The roof is a medium pitched gable, with two one-half round and two large pedimental dormers. On the right side is a classic porch with four fluted Doric columns supporting a balcony. There are two chimneys, a tall exterior one along the right side and one on the rear slope. This symmetrical home is an excellent example of its style.*

The C. C. Warren home was built in 1919, reportedly at a cost of \$15,000. The Warrens lived there until 1935. He was the Warren of the Warren Lamb Lumber Co., which operated a large sawmill on the land below the hill northwest of the corner of Omaha and West Boulevard for many years. His partner was his brother-in-law, Chauncey Lamb.

The home was later owned by Mrs. George Bennett and her son Charles, who owned many properties in downtown Rapid City.

In the 1970's and 1980's, the house was the residence of the Roman Catholic bishops of the Diocese of Rapid City, who entertained many distinguished guests here, including Archbishop Jean Jadot, Apostolic Delegate to the U. S. from the Vatican, and Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

It is now operated as a bed-and-breakfast.

#### 25. 1021 Quincy Street

*This home, with horizontal siding and shingles used as facing materials, is a two and one-half story frame house that typifies the Late Queen Anne style. The building sits on a cut stone foundation. A multiple gabled and hip roof with two gable dormers and one shed dormer creates an interesting, irregular roof line. Highly decorative barge-board is used at gable's end in the front and rear of the house; bead and stick design "gingerbread" is also found at the corners of the building. The home has a large front balcony with a smaller one toward the back. The second floor front has a bay window offset to the left. The chimney is located at the center and is of the single stack type.*



Tom Sweeney, proprietor of Rapid City's leading hardware store, built this impressive home in 1889 for \$20,000. The front porches were enclosed about 1910; an addition at the rear dates from around 1920.

Sweeney Hardware, at the corner of Main and Seventh Streets downtown, continued in business for more than 30 years after Tom Sweeney's death in 1917 (his car was

struck by a locomotive at a downtown railroad crossing). Mrs. Sweeney lived in this house until her death in 1940.

The house became a rental property, at one time housing a college fraternity, and was eventually converted into three apartments. By 1968, it had become a dilapidated eyesore and was scheduled for demolition.

Two weeks before it was to be torn down, it was purchased by Richard and Barbara Shilvock, who began an extensive program of restoration; replacing the wiring and plumbing, refinishing the woodwork and parquet floors, stripping paint from the cast brass hinges and door handles, and repainting the house inside and out. Except for the modern kitchen, the house, with its tiled back-to-back fireplaces and the narrow, steep stairs leading from the kitchen to the "servants' quarters" on the third floor, was restored as nearly as possible to its original condition.

The ornate "gingerbread", from a house being torn down in Lead, S. Dak., was added to replace the original which had been removed sometime in the past; the iron yard fence came from the Lead cemetery. Before they moved to another home, the Shilvocks received an award from the West Boulevard Neighborhood Association for their work in restoring the house.

This house also boasts its original cast iron hitching post in the front yard, believed to be the only one remaining in Rapid City.

A few years ago, the house was converted to a nursing home, and an addition containing several bedrooms was built on the east side.



## 26. 803 West Boulevard

A large two story structure of the Early Queen Anne style, this building's exterior walls are mostly common brick with shingles at gable end and some horizontal siding. It is of irregular plan with a combination of gable and hip roof. There is a two story bay window on the right side, extending into a tower with a conical termination. The shingle-covered roof features a joined chimney located at center. There is a large front porch with rectangular brick pillars supporting a second floor wood balcony.



Built in 1888 for Frank Davis, this impressive home was one of the first brick houses in Rapid City.



In 1903, it became the property of George Schneider, who was with the Pennington County Bank. The Schneiders, who were childless, were reportedly very private people; the story was told that Mrs. Schneider sometimes wrapped the legs of her furniture in cloth to keep them from getting scuffed by visiting children. The story is also told that Mrs. Schneider used to put up a Christmas tree for her fox terrier. The

Schneiders lived here until 1943.

The house later belonged to R. W. Hitchcock, the publisher of the Rapid City Journal; it subsequently housed a school for retarded children and then a doctor's offices. At some time, all the interior walls on the second floor were removed to make one large space.

In 1973, the house was purchased as a private residence; the new owners spent about five years completely restoring the interior. The house has somehow retained its original tin ceiling and cornice in the kitchen, believed to be the only ones remaining in a home in Rapid City.



## 27. 807 West Boulevard

This two story Colonial adds continuity to the district as part of the district's abundance of colonial styles of homes. It has horizontal siding and a cut stone foundation with a classic entryway of the broken pediment type. There is a large right side balcony, and brackets support the eaves.

Felix Poznansky, an early Rapid City merchant, built this home on West Boulevard around 1889. James Halley, one of the early settlers of Rapid City and donor of the land that is now Halley Park, also lived here at one time.

Originally a Queen Anne style with typical "Victorian" trim, the house was completely changed to its present Colonial style when it was remodeled in 1919. The front porch was removed and replaced by the present portico, the master bedroom was extended to the north, adding the second floor balcony, and the front wall extended to the south to make the garden gate seen today.

After being used as the offices of a counseling group, the house is again a single-family home.





### 28. 815 West Boulevard

*A large, rambling Late Queen Anne style with an irregular gable roof, this is an important architectural structure in the district. Its other features include several dormers, stained glass windows, a front bay, and a well preserved first floor interior.*

The carriage house behind it, one of two remaining in the district, is a long, two story structure with a center cupola at top. Its siding is clapboard.

Charles Buell was one of the most prominent citizens of early Rapid City, an attorney and owner of the Moorish-domed Buell Building downtown. His house, built in 1889, was originally a small, three-bedroom home. Additions to the sides, back, front, third floor and porches over the past century have produced the imposing residence seen today. The front bay window seen in the 1912 photograph can still be recognized on the front porch.

Still owned by members of the Buell family several generations later, this house has had many distinguished guests. Gutzon Borglum, sculptor of Mt. Rushmore, was a frequent visitor, and Calvin and Grace Coolidge dined here while the President was vacationing in the Black Hills in the summer of 1927.

The Buell's cornfield was across the street, and the house was surrounded by extensive gardens. Behind the house, and easily seen from the alley (which must make a jog around it), is the original barn and carriage house. It held the horses, cows, and even chickens. The second floor was the hay mow, with a cupola for ventilation; its large doors can still be seen on the west side. The carriages were kept in the ground floor, along with a harness room, tool room, and the laundry room with its copper wash boiler and manual washing machine.

According to the old-timers, almost every home on the Boulevard in the early days had its own cow, and they were herded the few blocks to the south edge of town to graze daily.



### 29. 1015 Columbus Street

*This Queen Anne style, two story, cross gable home features clapboard and shingle siding and decorative spindle and ball woodwork window canopies and porch. When the Victorian elements of the house became passé, the porch "gingerbread" had been removed. Long an outcast, this style, which developed in a variety of vigorous forms, began charming its way back into fashion in the 1970's, when the home was restored.*

This interesting house was constructed in 1895 for the Crockett family. From 1930 to 1975, this was the home of the Peter and Minnie Duster family and their relatives, the Klaters.

Several subsequent inhabitants have been convinced the house had a ghost, but that the mysterious, invisible inhabitant was kindly, not threatening. A granddaughter of the Dusters told us that one morning when she and her twin sister were about five years old, her grandmother inexplicably ordered them to sit in the dining room, although all their toys were in the sewing room. A few minutes later a large chunk of plaster fell from the ceiling, right where they usually played. Later occupants of the home have related that they felt grateful to their unseen fellow resident, who sometimes refilled their coffee cups and turned down their beds before they went upstairs.

In 1975, John and Beth Shonts began restoration of the house, which continued until they moved away in 1983. Fortunately, the decorative window canopy was still intact and, with old photographs from the Duster family, offered a model for the restorative work on the porch. At that time, the house was painted orange, with charcoal accents, and was popularly called "the pumpkin house" by residents of the neighborhood!

Beth Shonts was an active member of the West Boulevard Neighborhood Association; she prepared the first *A Riding and Walking Tour of the West Boulevard Historic District* book.



### 30. 1022 Columbus Street

*This two story gabled Queen Anne home is well preserved and adds to the district for this reason. It has horizontal siding and a cut stone foundation. The open porch with scroll and bead design ornamentation is a distinctive feature; the spindle posts enhance the house esthetically.*

Built in 1904, this house has had four owners, all named Mary. It was built by Mary (Mrs. Tom) Sweeney, who lived in the house to the north [see No. 25 on the tour] to rent to employees of her husband's hardware store. In 1907, Andy and Mary (Molly) Traut moved into the house when he went to work for Sweeney's plumbing shop, and in 1909 the Trauts bought it. In 1913, Mr. Traut became the owner of the plumbing business, changing the name to Rapid Plumbing. The firm was prominent in Rapid City for many years.

After Mrs. Traut's death in 1953, the house was owned by her daughter, Mary McMahan, and now belongs to the McMahan's daughter, who is also named Mary.

According to a family story, the upstairs bedroom with its sloping ceiling created problems in arranging the furniture, even after the addition of the front dormer, until the resourceful ladies sawed two feet off the top of the old bedstead. Other changes in the house have included adding the foundation, an enclosed back porch, and addition of a bedroom on the north-west corner.



### 31. 1003 West Boulevard

*Although slightly outside the period used for this district, this is one of the most grand and ostentatious homes in the district, and creates a visual impact upon the viewer. It is an Italianate styled home of stucco exterior with Roman arches.*

Built in 1928, this home belonged to Henry O'Neill, a California cattle buyer and one of the original group that built the Hotel Alex Johnson downtown at about the same time. For 25 years, it was the home of Carl Quarnberg, owner and operator of the Tri-State Milling Company (later Hubbard Milling Co., now Dakota Mill and Grain) in Rapid City. Mr. Quarnberg was also president and director of the South Dakota Association, a forerunner of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce, and first president of the Belle Fourche Round-up.

Originally the house was painted a "livid" green, with a sun porch on the north now turned into living quarters. Guests entertained in this home in the past have included Gutzon Borglum and Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.



### 32. 1013 West Boulevard

*This Queen Anne home of two stories is a good example of its style. It has horizontal siding with some shingles used for facing. It displays a small balcony, an oriel, and a front bay. The left side exhibits a style of window known as Palladian, a group of three windows with the center window having a rounded top.*

This home was built in 1919 and has been owned by only two families. Henry Joosten, a hardware salesman for some 30 years, lived here until 1943. It is presently occupied by descendants of its second owner.



### 33. 1017 West Boulevard

*A white brick home in the bungalow style, this low, rambling house features a sun porch on the east, and a brick wall surrounding the back yard.*

This cozy home was built in 1919 by Bill and Phyllis Baron, who operated a clothing store in downtown Rapid City, and who later added a breakfast nook to the home. The Barons lived here for about 50 years. The current owners added a rear deck.

The home is a landmark in the history of the West Boulevard Neighborhood Association and the Historic District because, in 1978, when St. John's McNamara Hospital still occupied the buildings now the West Park Apartments, two psychiatrists proposed to buy it for their offices. At the same time, a church building at Ninth and Fairview Streets was about to become another doctor's office. The Association decided that we had to contest the latter (although we did not think we could win) if we were later going to make a credible battle against the commercialization of West Boulevard represented by office use of this house. As it turned out, the City Council was impressed enough by the arguments against commercialization that they adopted an ordinance banning new doctors' offices from all residential neighborhoods; thus, it was never necessary to fight to maintain this residence as a private home.



### 34. 1019 Fulton Street

*This large two and one-half story Queen Anne home is architecturally important, with its cut stone foundation and horizontal siding. It has a large, open porch on the front and left side, and a two-story bay window culminating in a dormer. The edges of the gable roof are slightly flared.*

Built in 1909 by Harvey and Anna Lanphere, this house was owned by members of the Arthur Vincent family from 1911 until the 1990's. Mr. Vincent was in the lumber business, and drew up his own plans for the 1921 remodeling which added the spacious porch, often used as a second living room in the summer, being furnished with rugs, furniture and potted plants.

At one time, Mrs. Vincent operated a private kindergarten in her home for three years.

Their daughter, Frances Vincent, who worked at a Rapid City bank for many years, continued to live here until the 1990's.



### **35. 1205 West Boulevard**

*This two story "Victorian" home has horizontal siding. The first floor window openings are one of the most attractive features of the house. The front door has a fan light above the center glass pane. On the front and right sides, large rectangular windows with two half-round windows above are encased in decorated wood.*

*On the right side is a rectangular hip roofed bay window with three windows, all having half-round windows above. On the left side is a half-round bay, situated in the corner of an extension of the building. The remaining windows are tall and rectangular. Shutters have been added to some. The structure originally had two open porches. Spindle columns support the front porch's hip roof, which has dentils and stick design. The right side porch (now enclosed) was open, but recessed into the structure; it had plain supports and a hip roof. A medium pitched, grooved metal roof is utilized and leaves a large square opening along with a joined chimney at the center.*

When Arthur Clift and his bride, Inez, were newlyweds in 1886, they moved into their elegant new home in the country, then four or five blocks south of the nearest house. Childless, the couple shared their home at various times with her sister, Miss Angie Roosa and his sister, Carrie, a popular nurse. The Clifts lived here for more than seventy years.

Art Clift owned a men's clothing store, Cohen and Clift, on Main Street; he later worked at the County Courthouse. Mrs. Clift, who is well remembered for her cooking, frequently entertained church and bridge groups, and gave dinners. In the late 1930's and 40's, she catered and operated a tea room in the home.

After their deaths, the house was remodeled in 1964 by Francis Moore, who enlarged the kitchen, added the yard fence which is appropriate for the period and changed the furnace from coal to gas. In 1973, the present owners, who had the first small children to live in the house, converted an attached garage at the rear to additional living area and a bedroom.

The house, which has large ground floor rooms opening into each other, has a central back-to-back fireplace in the front hall and back parlor.



**JOHN R. BRENNAN**  
*Founder of Rapid City.*

FW Farrar Photographer  
Mary Farrar Collection



**TOM SWEENEY**  
*Rapid City  
Entrepreneur*

FW Farrar Photographer  
Mary Farrar Collection



**DR. CLEOPHAS C. O'HARRA**  
*South Dakota School of Mines  
and Technology, third president*  
FW Farrar Photographer  
Mary Farrar Collection



*Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Robbins*



**TOM SWEENEY**  
*Rapid City  
Entrepreneur*  
FW Farrar Photographer  
Mary Farrar Collection

