

La Veta means "the vein" in Spanish. Why the town is so named is unconfirmed. Local legends suggest it is based on the search for gold by the Spanish Conquistadors or perhaps to the dike walls radiating from the Spanish Peaks.

What we do know is partners Colonel John Francisco and Judge Henry Daigre with Hiram Vasquez built the Francisco Fort Plaza in 1862 to supply trading posts and mining camps with local products. When the railroad reached La Veta in 1876, it brought new opportunities and people to town. Skilled craftsmen, merchants, doctors, miners, and prospectors built stores, restaurants, saloons, hotels, and new homes. The walking tour of the La Veta Historic District is a great way to introduce yourself to this history.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank Nancy Christofferson, La Veta Historian, and Mary Jean Fowler, past-President of the Historic Preservation Committee, for their research, which was used to create this brochure. Additional information is available at the Francisco Fort Museum and the La Veta Library.

Marilyn Russell for the La Veta Historic Preservation Committee - 2015

Kate Johnson, Layout and Photographs

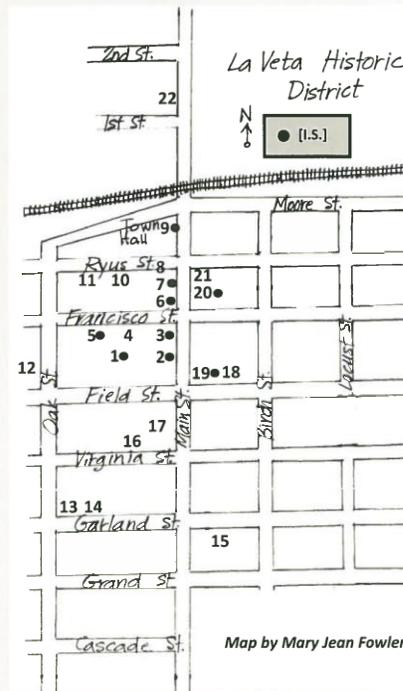


Walking Tour

22 Historic Buildings

Welcome to Historic La Veta

Plan on 75 to 90 minutes if you visit each of the locations on the map.



The map-guided walking tour covers 22 stone buildings and historic structures built between 1862 and 1935. Starting with Francisco's adobe plaza, the tour will introduce you to a range of architectural styles that tell the story of our town. Sixteen are stone buildings constructed of locally quarried sandstone. The most prominent of the stone masons were brothers Edward R. and Elmer E. Coleman who arrived in La Veta in 1895. They often teamed up with William "Dad" Fey, a prolific contractor and stone mason in his own right.

Interpretive Signs with historic photographs and information have been posted by the Historic Preservation Committee at 12 locations. Nine, indicated by the notation [I.S.], are located at historic buildings. Two others are located on Ryus Avenue between Main and Oak Streets, another on the southwest corner of Main and Ryus.

We encourage you to visit the interiors of public buildings, but please view private homes only from the public right of way.