

WHY MORRISON: This was the end of the line of the Morrison Branch of the Colo. & Southern Railroad built by Gov. Evans 1873-74. It made 4 round trips to Morrison daily until 1918. Carried freight, lumber from Bear Creek Canyon, marble, red, white & blue limestone, hay, cement & gypsum. Also tourists. 60¢ round trip. Final scheduled run March 15, 1925. Lumbering, stone quarries, coal mining, tourists to Red Rocks. 10 trains would arrive on Sun. with tourists. - 11 coaches each. A gypsum plant was just west of Morrison.

Population: 1860 - 20, 1880 - 750, 1910 - 250 & 1976 - 400.

Morrison has had its disasters. A fire on June 24, 1890 which burned most of the business district. Later fires in 1919 & 1931 but not as extensive. The big snow in 1913. Floods of 1878 & 79 & 1938 on Bear Creek.

See - 1: Newland house - Museum. Built before 1865. One of the oldest.

See - 2: Town Hall - Built 1880 for Woodman of the World. Called Hines Hall. Used by IOOF.

See - 3: John Ross Home - Deacon's Bench. John Ross owned much of Evergreen although he lived in Morrison. His 1st wife died in Ireland of childbirth. This son also came to America when he was grown. Ross was in Chicago at the time of the great fire. 1882 he married Mary Snell. They had one child also named Mary who was born in the house that is now the Deacon's Bench. They moved to Morrison in 1889. He ran a store, bought & traded land, took out timber leases, owned Evergreen's main street. He bought land directly from Mary Neosho Williams. He died in the early 1940's - age 90. Mary married Arthur Quaintance in 1919 in the Mission of the Transfiguration in Evergreen. Quaintances lived their lives in Golden. They had 2 daughters Pat & Maryanna.

Note - 4: Jake Schneider house built by Tom Bergan.

See - 5: Pillar of Fire Church - 1880 - 1885 replaced identical church that burned. Methodist Church 1885 - 1921. Bought as a memorial to Alma White. Her husband Kent White was the Methodist Minister. # 31 on map was the White home.

Note - 6: Charley Pike home. Now rectory. Was nephew of Zeblon Pike.

See - 7: Andrew Johnson Home. Built 1873. Was Methodist Church 1st Parsonage. Mrs. Johnson died here at the age of 97. Now Victoria Rose.

See - 8: Morrison Country Store - Built 1880 (Also 1st location of Newspaper "The Bud") Dwelling, meat market run by Tom Morrison who was also the Mayor of Morrison, post office, birth place of Harry Gates. (His mother didn't make it to Denver).

See - 9: John Ross Hardware & Lumber Co. Built 1876 of native stone. Note flood line where water washed away mortar from rock. Business (Pioneer Arts) run by great-grandson of John Ross, Tim Johnson.

Note - 10: Dean's Grocery Store. Built 1890 by John Ross. Dean also had a slaughterhouse in the red-rocks by the Morrison Cemetery. Dance hall upstairs, Sunday school on Sun.

Cross to Post Office: Robert Hubbard will point out rock formations. Robert & his wife Betty have resided in the former John Brisben Walker house for many years.

Red rocks formed during actual creation of earth. When the earth cooled & dried, the process developed mt. ranges & the flat, sedimentary rocks were heaved up against underlying granite until the edges tilted at all sorts of angles. On the bottom layer there are ammonite shells, teeth of odd fish, and strange plants preserved in stone. The red color is due to deposits of iron oxide & the entire area is honeycombed by dozens of caves & grottos. One discovery was a thigh bone of a dinosaur 9 ft. in length & 28 in. in diameter 1877 Prof. Lakes of the Colo. School of Mines discovered 70' Brontasurus. Prof. March of the Yale University excavated it in 1878. Sent entire skeleton in 10 boxes weighing over 1500 pounds to the Peabody Museum. Note Discovery Site 11.

Note - 12: Pike & Perry Mercantile Co. Built 1880. Burnt out 1919. Dance hall. After flood of 1938 Schnieders moved drug store & continued business until 1975. Soda fountain still there but moved. Schnieder started drug store in Morrison in 1898.

Note - 13: Henry F. Wolf's Pool Hall, Tobacco & Barber Shop. Built 1880. 1916 had 1st hand pump on sidewalk to fill cars with gas.

Note - 14: Pete Christenson's Shop. Name at top. Date was there of 1876.

Note - 15: Destroyed in fire of 1931.

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Note - 17: Site of railway station. Denver, So. Park & Pacific. Spur of the line that went to Buffalo Creek & So. Park. End of line. Turn table is buried about where parking lot by post office is. 1874 Grand Pavilion, also known as Morrison Springs Pavilion, was located here also. Morrison had hot springs which disappeared around 1918.

See - 18: Cliff House. Built by George Morrison in 1873. Morrison was born April 16, 1822. A stone cutter by trade, Canadian by birth. Came to area in 1859. First settled in Mt. Vernon. 1864 bought 320 acres south of Mt. Vernon. Later sold to Morrison Town Co. & he became president of company. He built lime kilns on the east side of the Hogback for fluxing. Served as justice of peace, operated the stage coach west through Turkey Creek Canyon. He died June 11, 1895 in the Cliff House. Is buried in Golden.

John Swanson bought the Cliff House & ran it as a hotel. Mrs. Swanson lost her mine & died in a sanatorium. Mr. Swanson hung himself from grief over her death. Peggy Hahn now owns it.

Note - 19: William Sawyer house. Minnie Sawyer has lived there since 1908.

See - 20: Morrison Bank - Can see vault door. Note ceiling.

Note - 21: Jail House. Mr. Crosser built jail around 1880. Door pins on the inside. He was 1st prisoner & 1st to break out. Jail completely inclosed & took Mr. Palmer 30 years building from reclaimed material. Insulation is 6" to 24" spun glass from old refrigerators & stoves.

Note - 22: Location of printing office for Newspapers: "Jefferson County Graffice," "Morrison Independent" & last "Morrison Monitor" - 1914-1917. 1st newspaper "The Bud" 1889-1899 located # 8.

Note - 23: Site of Morrison Stone, Lime & Town Co. kiln built ca. 1878. Made mortar that was used in many of the houses that still stand today.

See - 24: Stagecoach Building 1870. Natural sandstone. Owned by Lorene Horton. Believed to have been built by George Morrison. Stage ran from Morrison to Leadville & Fairplay, camping at mouth of Turkey Creek first night. Desputes & loss of life resulted at this camp near Willow Springs Ranch. Proof of this was revealed when a flash flood exposed a cemetery at this spot. Bandits lurked on this road so only entered canyon during daytime. If pioneer travelers only knew this is still a dangerous canyon road to follow.

See - 25: Abbo's Livery & Carriage House. Oscar Lewis took care of John Brisben Walker's horse & carriage. Would pick him up at foot of Mt. Falcon where he lived & take him to the train in Morrison to commute to Denver. Then would pick him up at train at night & take him home. Sad ending" Walker's horse killed Oscar. Owned by Lorene Horton. A major part of this building was torn down.

See - 26: Abbo's Dwelling - 1870. Dwelling & blacksmith shop. Shrock bought whole block 1882 for \$4,750. Abbo acquired in 1887. Dr. Luce 1922. 1945-1973 restaurant "El Gallo Tuerto" (Cross-eyed rooster). Ghost in 1945: door opened & refused to stay closed. After house & garden was restored ghost disappeared. Owned by Lorene Horton.

Note - 27: Swiss Cottage - Built for Gov. Evans of native sandstone by George Morrison. Names: Swiss Cottage, Evergreen House at Morrison, Morrison House, Loreli Park, Sacred Heart College, Mt. Morrison Hotel & Casino, Hillcrest Inn, St. Elizabeth Retreat, Pine Haven Manor. Torn down 1980-81.

- 28: The school was built by George Morrison in 1875 of native sandstone at the cost of \$5,000. Grand St. 3 & was in continuous use until 1955. Is now a private residence.

Note - 29: Built 1872. 1899 Rogers family had 10 or 11 children. 1915 rented furnished for \$5 a month.

Note - 30: Mary Smith house - ca. 1872. Tuttle home. Mary Smith was a Schrock, one of the oldest families in Morrison. She was born in Morrison. In 1975 was still living in this house. Family owned Mt. Falcon before John Brisben Walker. 5 Schrock generations were living in Morrison in 1975.

Note - 31: Alma White house - 1872. Founder of Pillar of Fire Church.

Note - 32: Maggie Crow House - 1872. Maggie was born on Nov. 12, 1866. Her parents, John & Ruth Maple, homesteaded in Turkey Creek Canyon. In 1886 she married William L. Crow. They went to Creede. She joined her husband working at a lumber camp cutting wood. 3 children were born at Creede: Vernon, Dora & Floyd. They then returned to the South Turkey Creek homestead near what is now known as Hill Dale Pines. Ranch was known as Mt. Home or Crow's Ranch. It was near what maps still show as Crow Hill. William Crow petitioned to be postmaster of a town called Grotto on South Turkey. He was awarded this position on Feb. 4, 1881. He got the contract & then allowed his wife Maggie to carry the mail. Armed with a revolver to protect herself from robbers who constantly menaced the roads, Maggie was out each morning before daylight. She prepared breakfast, curried and harnessed the horses, left the children to do the chores and was on her way. Her neighbors met her as she came by, to send their butter and cream to the store. For years, the straight shouldered, hardy woman carried the mail through good weather and foul, warm and sub-zero. When the weather was bitter, she carried with her a rock which she had warmed in the oven and she would sit on it with her hands and feet under her. She gave the horses their head while she warmed herself and they kept straight on the narrow road. She started April 15, 1896. She earned 76¢ the first year. Her daughter died during a flu epidemic of W.W. I. Maggie took her daughter's 4 children & raised them. She panned gold near Breckenridge, taking the children with her & earning \$2 or \$3 daily. Next her husband died. Several years later her son, Floyd, was killed in a bus accident. The Crows had their home in Morrison as early as 1908. Maggie died in 1950 & is buried in the Ault Cemetery off South Turkey with her husband and parents, the Maples.

Note - 33: LaGrow house. ca. 1913. Built by Jennie Cowan & Bertha Hebrew Lagrow, a 13 yr. old neighbor girl.

Note - 34: LaGrow house ca. 1870. Belongs to Jamee Chambers. Is now rented.

Note - 35: John Brisben Walker house. Walker bought the failing Cosmopolitan Magazine and brought it back to life. He started exciting projects but never quite finished them. Came to Denver in 1870 with a bride & \$1,000. Built a castle & park on Platte River near the Union Railroad Station. Had 1600 acres of land & developed an alfalfa ranch. At one time he owned about 4,000 acres around the town of Morrison, the Red Rocks & Mt. Falcon. He built a \$50,000 mansion on top Mt. Falcon with a grand opening Sept. 12, 1908. The windows were curved glass, 8 fireplaces with beautiful furnishings. Only 1 wing of this castle was completed and this is where the family lived. George (Pete) Morrison and his 3 brothers helped build the mansion (referred to as the castle) in 9 months. 1918 the castle was struck by a bolt of lightning and burned. The ruins are still visible on Mt. Falcon.

On July 4, 1914 or 1918 the corner stone of Colorado marble, inscribed and dedicated to Pres. Warren G. Harding, was laid with elaborate ceremonies, for what was to be a summer home for the presidents of the United States. The years following the laying of the corner stone were hard ones, financially. Walker's fortune dwindled. In 1927, defeated and broke, he gave up his dream. The marble corner stone was salvaged and brought down to Morrison. It was placed on the veranda of the Hillcrest Inn. Mr. Walker at that time owned the inn. When it passed from his hands the stone was removed. No one is sure where it is now.

In 1893 roads for tourists to enter the red rocks park were being constructed. As early as 1900 Walker was holding concerts in the Red Rocks on Sun. The Garden of the Titans was formally opened on Memorial Day, 1906 with 2500 visitors.

Mt. Morrison summit was 8,000 ft. Walker built the Mt. Morrison Incline Railway. Each car seated 80 passengers. Opened Aug. 7, 1909 with a big celebration. Guests rode the train to Morrison. \$1 price to ride the funicular. 1915 with the invention of the auto the funicular's popularity declined. Sold for scrap in 1929. You can still see the path of the railway.

Denver bought 1100 acres from Walker in 1928 for \$50,000. 1927 Denver paid John Ross \$25,000 for 540 adjoining acres. In 1915 a herd of buffalo and elk were brought in from Yellowstone. The amphitheater was under construction in 1932. 1944 seating capacity of 10,000, parking & the trading post were completed. Walker lived to see the Red Rocks become a park. On June 15, 1941 the park on 639 acres & a \$750,000 theatre was opened.

John & his 2nd wife & family lived in this house while the mansion on Mt. Falcon was being built. There were 4 children by his 2nd marriage. Big John, a son by his 1st marriage also lived in Morrison for awhile. John's 2nd wife's remains are buried under a pine tree at the foot of Mt. Falcon a little way from the house where she loved to sit and look over to the Red Rocks Park. Robert & Betty Hubbard now live in this house.

Walker made great fortunes & he lost great fortunes. He continued his promotion schemes & dream castles. He died in Brooklyn, New York, July 7, 1931 - age 83. He is buried in Brooklyn.

Note - 36: C.C.C. Camp (Civilian Conservation Corps) Men staying at this camp assisted in building the Red Rocks Park. They also did rock work on the road from Morrison to Evergreen. National reunion for all C.C.C. Camps is held at these facilities with all kinds of activities. Is now owned by Denver Mt. Parks & Recreation.

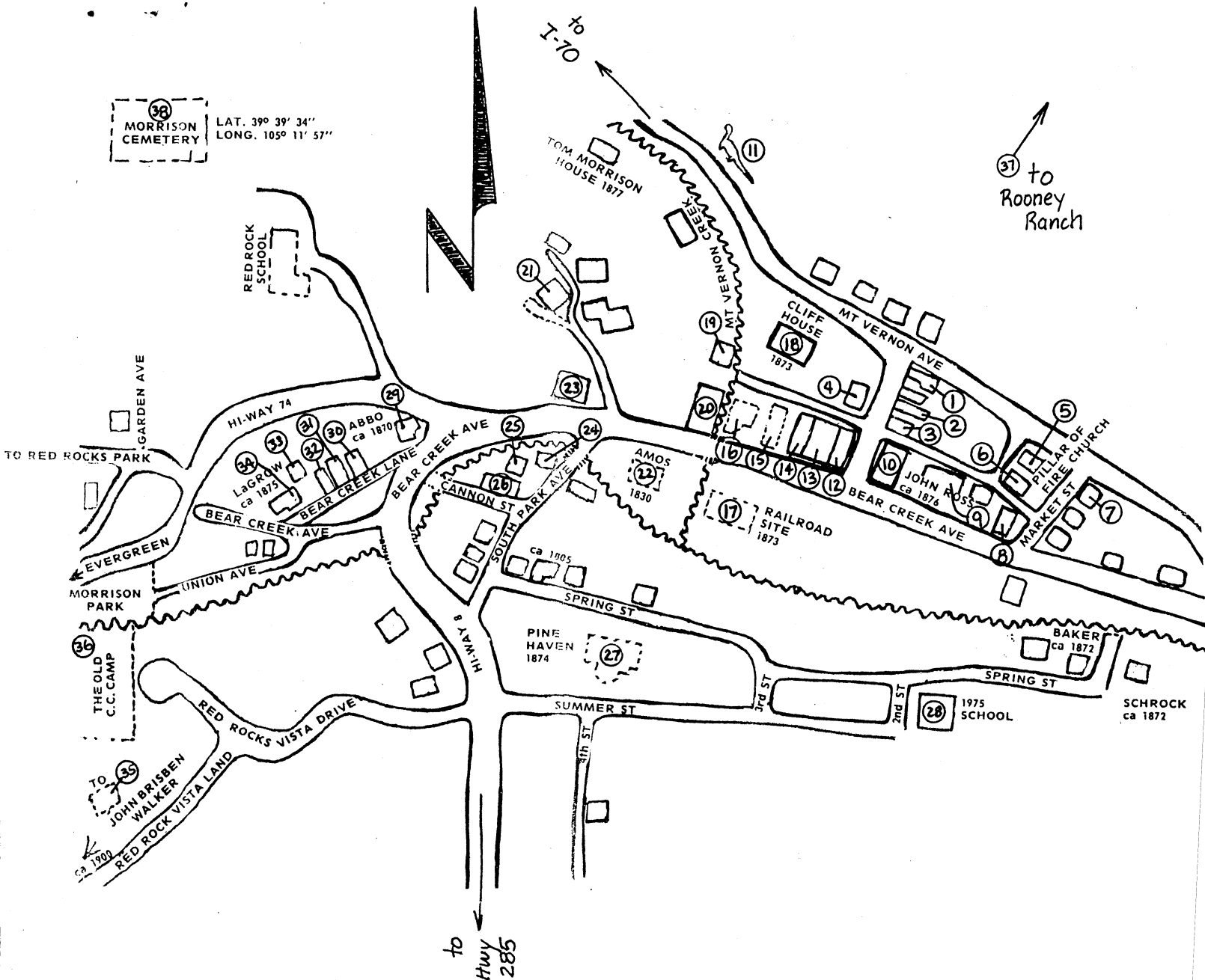
See - 37: Rooney Ranch - Scotch-Irish. Alexander Rooney came from Ohio to Colo. 1859. Stonecutter - Came to Nevadville near Central City. Came back by Mt. Vernon Canyon. Crossed the hogback & saw a sea of grass, water & heavily forested Green Mountain. Went back to Iowa & got wife, Eamline. Returned 1860. Brought Galloway cattle (black) and yellow rose bushes. Log cabin near spring. Utes thought spring had magical powers. Contained iron. Built stone house & spring house. Respect of Utes & Arapahoe. He smoked peace pipe as they sat on oddly crooked trunk of cedar tree north of the house. Lighted tree. Took 5 years to build the 2 story house. Completed in 1865. Several children were born in downstairs front bedroom. Magnificent stone barn date 1860 carved in the over-head arch. During 1890's Rooney Ranch included 10,000 acres: bounded by Hwy. 40 on the north, Bear Creek on the south, Hogback on the west and as far east as the Denver Fed. Center. Rooney lost much of his holdings in the Panic of 1893.

Alexander & Emaline had 6 children. Otis remained on the ranch. He married Christine Buhner. Their 3 children were born in the downstairs front bedroom. One of these children, Alex, married Evelyn Prince. 3 of their 4 sons were born in the downstairs front bedroom. Alex has built a stone home across the road. Alex & Evelyn & their 4 sons & families still live on the Rooney Ranch.

Alexander & Emaline are buried in the Morrison Cemetery.

One mile south, Nora Emma Rooney married and lived with L.V. Pike. On June 1, 1964 Nora was brutally murdered at the age of 92. Her killer is serving time in the Colo. State Prison.

See - 38: Morrison Cemetery - circa 1868. John Ross's comment when ask to donate money to build a fence around the cemetery: "Do you know anyone who wants to get in and no one in can get out"?



Information Sources:

- The Shining Mountains by Georgina Brown
- Mountain Memories by Inter-Canyon Historical Society
- Circle of Pioneers by Mary Helen Crain
- Evergreen, Our Mountain Community by Barbara & Gene Sternberg
- Memory Album - Morrison, Co. by Lorene Horton