

# Holyoke historic tour



- - - - - Mainstreet Tour      Distance: 3/4 Mile
- - - - - East Residential      Distance: 1/2 Mile
- - - - - West Residential      Distance: 3/4 Mile

All photos are courtesy of the Phillips County Museum unless otherwise noted.



Holyoke Coop circa 1940s  
Photo courtesy of Grainland Coop

## Elevator and Car Care Center, 249 W. Denver

The facilities and services of the Holyoke Farmers' Cooperative Elevator Company have expanded significantly since its establishment in 1920, with particularly rapid growth at midcentury. In 1947, the Coop hired Chalmers and Borton of Hutchinson, KS to erect a new modern elevator utilizing slip-form construction. This process continuously pours concrete into a form that is raised using hydraulic lifts. Once the first concrete is poured, work continues without breaks until the bin is complete, creating a seamless structure without any weak joints. The concrete service station was added in 1953, replaced a brick station built in 1927.



The public swimming pool circa 1936

## Municipal Power Plant N. Baxter

Residents of Holyoke received electric power in 1909 with the construction of this power plant. In 1936, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed an addition to house city offices. In the basement, the walls were covered with pine paneling to create a rustic style meeting room for the volunteer fire department. The WPA also built a reinforced concrete swimming pool directly behind the power plant, using the generators to heat the pool water.



The Holyoke Flour Mill circa 1930s



The Holyoke Feed Mill circa 1950s  
Photo courtesy of Grainland Coop

## Holyoke Feed Mill, N. Baxter

Originally a flour mill, this building was constructed in the 1910s. The miller used to live on the premises. The surrounding area used to be home to other manufacturing and processing businesses including a creamery, blacksmith, livery, wagon shop, and harness maker. Purchased by the Coop in 1920, a feed mixer was added in 1931 and flour milling discontinued in 1936.



Reimer Smith Grain Company  
circa 1920s

4

## Reimer Smith Elevator

This wood crib grain elevator was constructed in 1909. Crib elevators were designed to be able to withstand a large amount of lateral pressure from the grain stored within them. On the lower part of the structure, 2" x 6" boards were laid flat in an overlapping pattern and spiked together. Closer to the top, where the pressure was less, 2" x 4" boards were used. With few wood elevators still in use and many destroyed by fire, crib elevators are becoming increasingly rare.



Holyoke Auto Company circa 1920s

5

## Inklings Bookstore, 221 N. Interocean

Built in 1915 by brothers Edward and Forrest Hethcote to house their Holyoke Auto Company, this was the first brick garage in Holyoke. The Hethcotes sold Buick cars and Michelin tires. Sales of automobiles in the Phillips County were rapid in the 1910s. In 1921, the Holyoke Enterprise reported that the county "leads most of the United States in the number of cars per inhabitant." The garage also likely served travelers since Holyoke was on an early coast-to-coast highway that was a primary route for travelers to Denver and the Rocky Mountains.



The New Sears Hotel circa 1910s. The hotel at this time had a False Front.

6

## Burge Hotel, 230 N. Interocean

Conveniently located near the railroad depot, a hotel has been in this location since the 1890s. The current Mission Revival style building was constructed in 1920s. The hotel was very popular with business travelers, and in 1929 a large fireplace composed of rocks from all over the world was added and dedicated to the "Knights of the Grip" or traveling salesmen.



Postcard of the Hotel Burge with a Mission Style front  
circa late 1920s



Employees of the Holyoke Enterprise

7

## Holyoke Enterprise, 130 N. Interocean

Constructed in 1938, this building was originally an IGA store (look for the IGA logo on the storefront). The Independent Grocers Alliance (IGA) was established in 1926, a collection of independently owned stores with a joint marketing system to help them compete with chain stores. The concept was popular, with more than 8,000 IGA stores by 1930. The Holyoke Enterprise, established in 1900, moved into the building in 1967.



Photo from a brochure published circa 1923. Holyoke is shown looking south through the business district. The Burge Hotel is easily spotted in this photo to the very right.



The Standard Drug Store circa 1920s

8

## El Buen Sazon, 116 N. Interocean

Constructed in 1918, this brick commercial building is typical of Holyoke businesses in the early 20th century.



The Citizen's State Bank circa 1920s

**9**

**The Holyoke Federal Credit Union  
101 W. Denver**

Constructed in 1912, this was originally the C.W. Mowry Hardware store. The Citizens State Bank moved in the building in 1920. One of few local banks to survive the crash of 1929, it merged with the First National Bank in 1931. The new bank was one of the strongest in the region, with more than \$750,000 cash on hand. The bank hired local philanthropist William E. Heginbotham to manage the bank; he became bank president in 1936, a position he held until his death in 1968.



Scheunemann's Dry Goods Store circa 1910s

**10**

**Scheunemann's Department Store,  
105 S. Interocean**

August Scheunemann immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1888. He proved up a homestead north of Holyoke and worked in some of the community's early general stores. Scheunemann constructed the current store in 1907. August passed away in 1933, but his family continued the business and gave the store a modern makeover in 1955, adding the script logo in 1958.



Interior of Scheunemann's Dry Goods circa 1910s



The Peerless Theatre circa 1951

**11**

**Peerless Theater, 212 S. Interocean**

Opening in 1919, the Holyoke Enterprise called the theater "a valuable addition to Holyoke's amusement requirements." "The new theater will be modern in every respect. It will have a stage 25x32 feet, large enough to accommodate all the road shows; will have seating capacity of over 450 and the seats will be the regulation opera chairs. A modern manusa screen has been secured and a late model simplex motion picture machine will be used in projecting the film hits."



Former B & M Eating House  
circa 1910s

**12**

**Court House, 221 S. Interocean**

In 1904 the county purchased the B&M Eating House from the railroad for use as a courthouse. Originally located next to the railroad tracks, the building was moved to the current courthouse location using rollers and a team of horses. It was demolished in 1935 to make way for the current courthouse, designed by Denver architect Eugene Groves and constructed with funds from the Public Works Administration (PWA).



Holyoke Hospital circa 1920s

**13**

**Brandt Chiropractic,  
246 S. Interocean**

Completed in 1918, this was Holyoke's first hospital. The private hospital was established by Dr. Henry L. Timmons of South Carolina and had 20 rooms. The hospital passed through several private owners until being sold to the county in 1949. It served as the community hospital until 1965 when replaced by a new hospital at Baxter and Hale.

**114. E. Furry**

Constructed in 1952, this is an excellent example of a basement house, an evolution of the frontier dugout. Basement houses feature a main level that is generally about 6 feet below grade. They were popular during the 1920s through the 1950s as an economical house type with the potential for later above ground expansion.



The Methodist Church circa 1890s

**15**

**Methodist Church  
230 E. Furry**

The first Methodist Church, a small frame structure, was built here in 1888. In 1922, it was replaced with the current brick building, which included Sunday School rooms and the largest auditorium capacity in Holyoke. The church was further expanded with the addition of a new sanctuary in 1961.



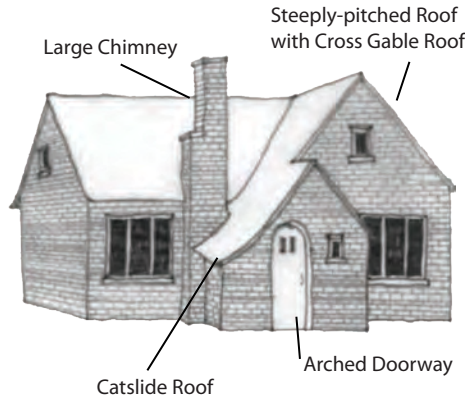
Residence circa 1900s

16

**Gerk Funeral Home  
241 E. Furry**

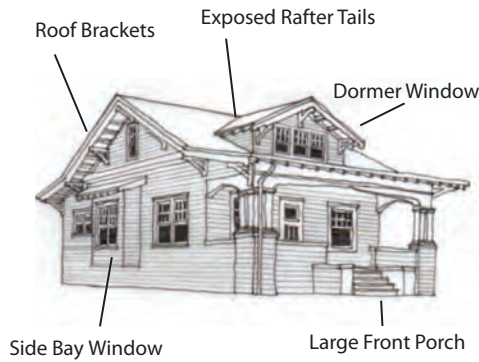
A former railroad agent from Nebraska, Oliver J. Colver moved to Holyoke in 1908, purchasing a hardware, furniture, and mortuary business located at 123 S. Interocean. The following year, Colver traveled to Philadelphia for training as a mortician. He moved to this house in 1918, and in 1936 decided to move his mortuary business from the back of the hardware store to his home, remodeling the residence and adding a funeral chapel to the side.

**English Cottage Style Houses**



The English Cottage style was one of several revival styles popular in the 1920s-1940s. These nostalgic, traditional architectural styles were a comforting contrast to dramatic political, social, and economic change. The introduction of stone and brick veneer also made traditional masonry styles more affordable. A variation on the Tudor Style, the English Cottage was typically more modest with less ornamentation.

**Bungalow Type Houses**



Originating in California, the bungalow rapidly spread across the U.S. through pattern books, mail order catalogs, and magazines. The bungalow craze reached its peak in the 1910s and early 1920s, coinciding with a housing boom in Holyoke as residents replaced frontier housing stock with more modern and stylish dwellings. Reflecting an early 20th century interest in efficient homemaking, bungalows featured built-in furniture, a combination living/dining room, and a compact floor plan designed to maximize flow and eliminate wasted space.

Constructed in 1917, this bungalow was the home of John Heginbotham (father of George and William). Born in England in 1848, he immigrated to the U.S. with his family when he was 12. He lived in Ohio and Iowa, deciding to move his family to the new town of Holyoke when the Lincoln Land Company advertised lots in 1887. He worked as a building contractor and helped organize the Farmers and Merchants Bank in 1888.



Homes of J.D. Morgan and F.C. Castle circa 1910s

20

**443 S. Campbell and  
435 S. Campbell**

These two bungalows, built in 1920 and 1922, belonged to J.D. Morgan and F.C. Castle who owned a grocery and meat store called the Morgan and Castle Store.

17

**325 S. Phelan**

Constructed in 1934, this is an excellent example of the English Cottage style with its steeply pitched roof and decorative brick work.



Home of George Heginbotham circa 1910s

18

**405 S. Phelan**

This bungalow was built in 1911 by George Heginbotham, a banker and one of Holyoke's pioneers.



Home of John Heginbotham circa 1910s

19

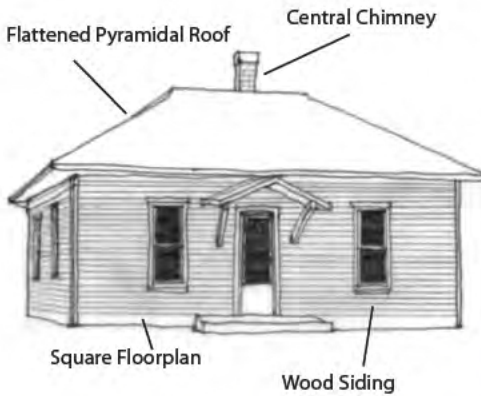
**425 S. Phelan**

21

**425 S. Campbell**

This hipped box house was constructed in 1910.

## Hipped Box Type Houses



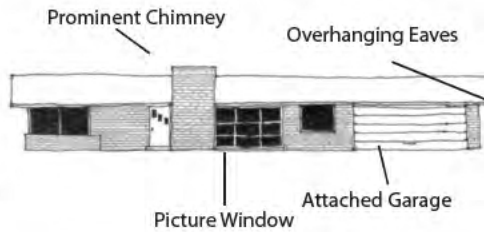
The Hipped Box or Pyramidal Cottage was a popular house type for settlers. The square floorplan generally contained four rooms and was topped by a hipped or pyramidal roof. This economical form is common in mining, lumber, and railroad towns of the West. Many include porches, either original or later additions. Holyoke contains many hipped box houses, though most have been expanded beyond their original four rooms.

### 416 S. Campbell

This bungalow was constructed in 1927 and features a cross-gabled roof with decorative brackets and shingles at the gable ends, exposed rafter tails, and a matching garage.

# 22

## Ranch Style Houses



In the early 1950s, there was a huge demand for new housing due to limited construction during the Great Depression and WWII, followed by the postwar Baby Boom. Architects and builders focused on developing practical designs and mass production techniques. The Ranch became the style most associated with the country's expanding midcentury suburbs, but many examples can also be found in Holyoke. The Ranch House was promoted as creating an easier, more casual lifestyle. An open floor plan maximized space and created flexibility. The kitchen was combined with the living/dining room. Second stories, hallways, and most decorative elements were eliminated. Large windows and patio doors were used to make small houses feel larger.

### 340 S. Campbell

Constructed in 1954, this is an excellent example of the ranch houses popular in the early 1950s featuring a brick veneer, picture windows, a prominent stone chimney, stone planters, a solid wood door with three square lights, and a deep roof overhang.

# 23

# 24

### 127 E. Gordon

Constructed in 1904, this frame, gable-front house is one of the oldest in the neighborhood. The house was updated at midcentury with the addition of a picture window and awning.



Home of Fred Fielder circa 1910s

# 26

## Returning to **Mainstreet Tour**



Quonset advertisement from the 1950s

# 25

### Speer Cushion, 431 S. Interocean

The Speer Cushion Company was established in 1958, manufacturing mattresses out of a garage. The company soon expanded into farm equipment seating and moved to this location in 1960. The Speer Cushion Company occupies two popular midcentury building types, a Quonset and a Behlen building. Developed during WWII, the Quonset was a lightweight, prefabricated structure that could be easily shipped and erected without skilled labor. Easily adaptable to a wide range of uses, Quonsets became popular after the war. The Behlen building was developed in 1949 and utilized steel panels with large, undulating ridges capable of spanning hundreds of feet without internal supports.

### 519 S. Interocean

Built in 1918, this bungalow was the home of Fred Fielder, a cashier at Citizens State Bank. The bungalow features a large porte cochere, expansive front porch, decorative wood shingles, and roof brackets.



First Catholic Church circa 1890s

# 27

### Catholic Church 541 S. Interocean

Holyoke's first Catholic Church was constructed in 1895. Destroyed by a fire in 1934, it was quickly replaced with the current building which was remodeled in 1962 and 1984.



The photo above shows a bird's eye view of Interoccean around 1910. The building on the left was the Catholic Church and the site of the current Catholic Church.

28

606 S. Interoccean

Many of Holyoke's houses are much older than they appear. During the mid-twentieth century, homeowners frequently updated their homes, incorporating new building materials and contemporary trends. Though midcentury in appearance, this house was constructed in 1914.



Midcentury advertisements such as the one above encouraged homeowners to modernize their homes



Home of C.P. Peterson circa 1920s

29

641 S. Interoccean

Charles Peterson constructed this airplane bungalow in 1917. A variation on the traditional bungalow, the airplane bungalow features a distinctive "pop-up" partial second story. The style takes its name from the resemblance of the "pop-up" to an airplane cockpit. Born to Swedish immigrants in Iowa in 1884, Peterson came to Holyoke in 1907. Initially finding employment at a lumber company, Peterson later worked as a bank cashier, city clerk, and in real estate and insurance.



Millage home circa 1920s

30

640 S. Interoccean

The home of Carl Millage, this ornate bungalow was constructed by Denver contractor Michael McEachern in 1918. Born in South Dakota in 1888, Millage moved in Holyoke in 1904 when his father purchased 3,000 acres Sand Hills to establish a ranch. Carl inherited the ranch and managed it until 1918, when he decided to sell it and move into Holyoke so that his children would be closer to school. Millage established a successful hog operation south of Holyoke, raising championship Duroc-Jersey swine.

West Residential Tour



Birthing house circa 1910s, photo courtesy of Deb Duesenbury

31

641 S. Baxter

Constructed in 1908, this residence also functioned as a birthing house, offering expectant mothers an alternative to home births. The house was purchased by Dr. Timmons and the 1920 census records the doctor, his wife, and children living in the house along with a hospital cook, a nurse, and a helper.



Home of J.L. Slack circa 1910s

32

610 S. Baxter

J.L. Slack, who had a livestock business, constructed this bungalow in 1918.



Home of S.S. Worley circa 1920s

33

605 S. Baxter

S.S. Worley, an early Phillips County judge, built this bungalow in 1918.



Will E. Heginbotham home, photo taken in 1920s.

34

### The Heginbotham Library, 539 S. Baxter

William E. Heginbotham built this Craftsman-style bungalow in 1922, with contractor Michael McEachern of Denver. Passing away in 1968, Heginbotham left his house to the city of Holyoke, which converted it to a library. Heginbotham also placed his \$2.4 million estate in trust for the community, money which has funded a wide range of health, education, and recreation projects.



First Baptist Church circa 1890s

### Baptist Church, 343 S. Baxter

The original First Baptist Church was constructed in this location in 1890. In 1927, the congregation decided the church was too small and replaced it with the current building. Many of the church members volunteered labor or provided materials at cost including hardware, light fixtures, carpet, and paint from C. A. Mowry's hardware store. The church was remodeled in 1961.



36

Home of G.W. Garland circa 1910s

### 206 S. Baxter

G.W. Garland constructed this bungalow in 1915. One of Holyoke's pioneers, Garland arrived in 1888 and established the community's first blacksmith shop. He later had an implement, plumbing, and heating business and was the county's first automobile dealer.

35

The Center of Preservation Research (CoPR)



Pictured below is Phelan Street looking North in 1911. Notice that most of the bungalows seen today hadn't been built when this photo was taken.

