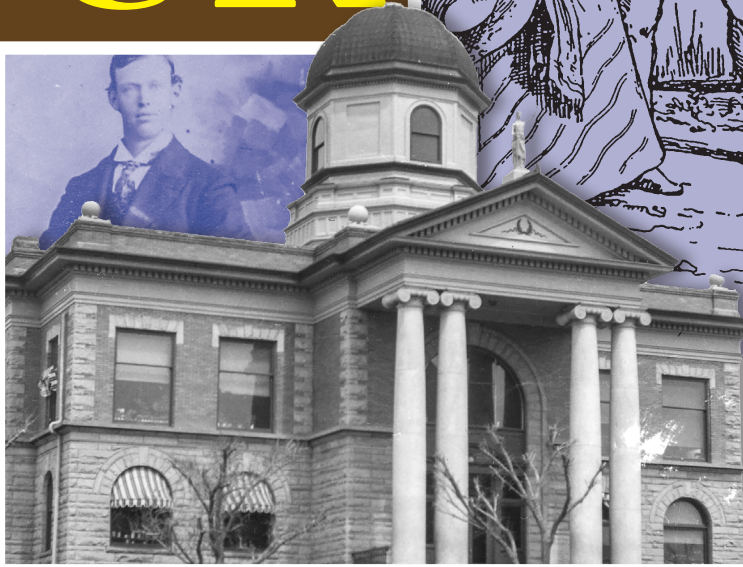


NEWCASTLE
Walk About Town
HISTORIC TOUR







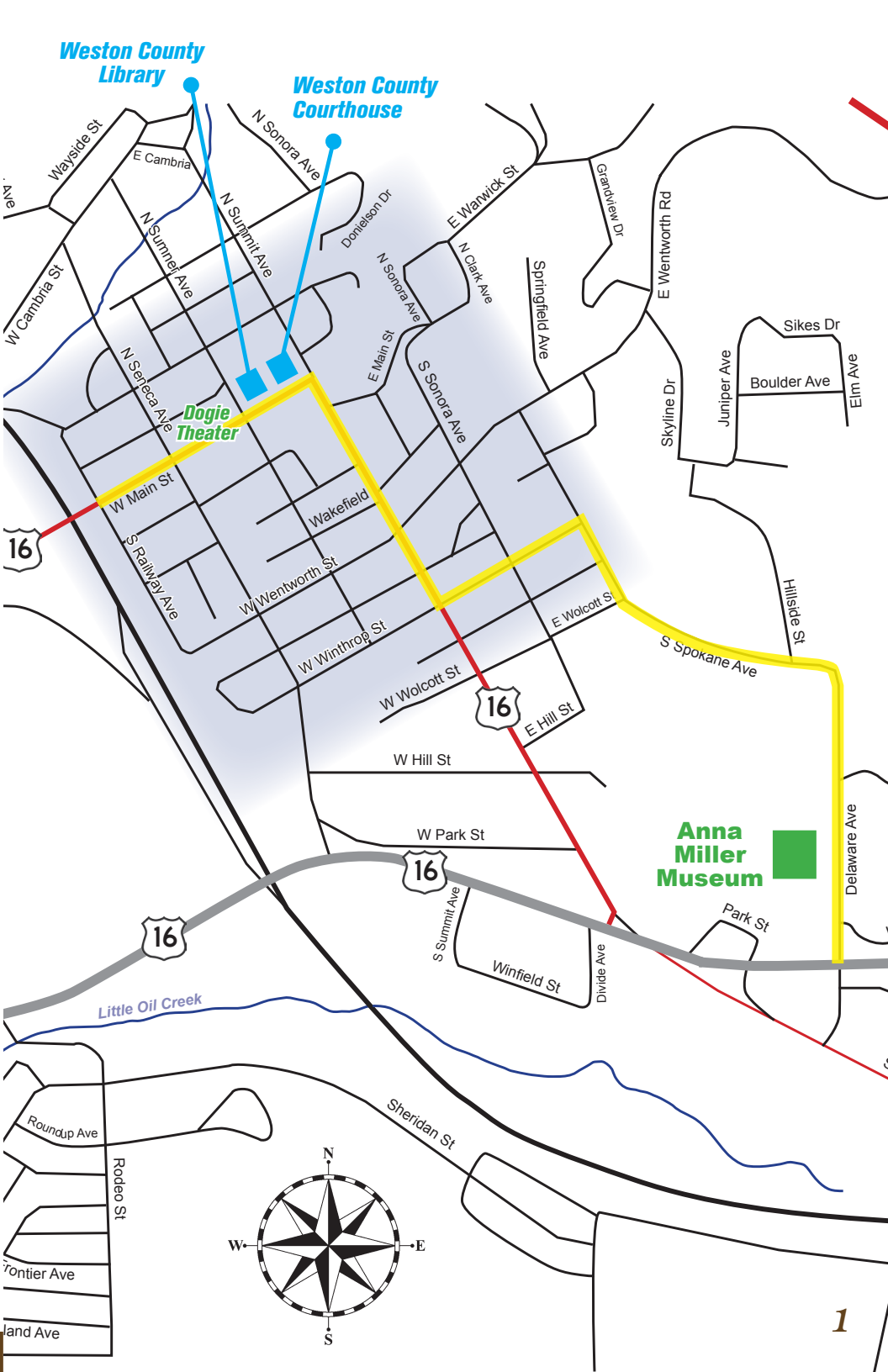


2018

Weston County Museum District

NEWCASTLE *Walk About Town* *2018* HISTORIC TOUR

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E Cambria
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Donielson Dr
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Grandview Dr
E Wentworth Rd
W Cambria St
N Clark Ave
Springfield Ave
Sikes Dr
Boulder Ave
Elm Ave
Juniper Ave
Skyline Dr
N Seneca Ave
E Main St
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Wakefield
S Railway Ave
W Wentworth St
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Park St
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Winfield St
Divide Ave
Little Oil Creek
Roundup Ave
Rodeo St
Sheridan St
Frontier Ave
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PROLOGUE

Downtown Newcastle has been designated as a National Historic Commercial District through the efforts of the Weston County Historic Preservation Board. Two of the buildings included in the historic district are also themselves on the National Register of Historic Places. These two buildings are the Weston County Courthouse, built in 1910-1911, and the United States Post Office, built in 1933. Both of these buildings are still being used for their original purposes.

The image below shows one of Newcastle's truly historic events, never to be forgotten. On May 25, 1903, President Teddy Roosevelt visited Newcastle. From an elaborate platform built for the occasion, the President gave a speech to hundreds of local fans. The platform was built at the intersection of Warren Avenue — today's Main Street — and Seneca Street. The background of the image shows the north side of today's Main Street. The large brick building flying American flags was built in 1890 as the Bank of Newcastle. Over the years, it has served as a bank, café, fabric store, gun shop and leather shop. Today, it's a ceramics store.

The visit of Roosevelt was a short, but highly anticipated, event. He was very popular in Weston County and residents came from all corners of the county to get a glimpse of and hear from the famous Rough Rider-turned-President. Some Weston County residents had even served with Teddy and his Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War. Just two short years later, many would also become members of Seth Bullock's Cowboy Brigade from the Black Hills. Bullock was a close personal friend of Teddy Roosevelt from Roosevelt's own days of ranching and cowboying in the Dakotas.

After completing the term of assassinated President McKinley, Roosevelt was elected in 1904 to his own term as president. Members of the Cowboy Brigade, including many from Weston County, loaded their horses, saddles, and other gear onto trains and headed east to Washington, D.C. They rode in the inauguration parade, much to the President's delight. The cowboys were a huge hit with the entire inauguration crowd in D.C. as they rode their horses dressed in their cowboy clothes, twirling their ropes throughout the parade.





ANNA MILLER MUSEUM

This building was once a stable for the horses of the 115th National Guard Cavalry Regiment. It was constructed between 1933 and 1936 out of native sandstone quarried east of Newcastle. The south end of the building contains the living quarters used by the barn sergeant and his family. A National Guard family lived in the quarters until 1955.

During World War II, the U.S. Cavalry became mechanized and the building was then used for storing equipment. In 1966, the building became the permanent home of the Anna Miller Museum. Anna was the daughter of a pioneer family and widow of Sheriff Billy Miller. She was a prominent early day resident of Newcastle and Weston County.

The Anna Miller Museum houses artifacts depicting early day Weston County and the surrounding area. Native American artifacts, dinosaur fossils, a Burlington Northern caboose, a homesteader cabin, a rural schoolhouse, a stockade cabin and many other fascinating relics can be found there.

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and visitors will take a step back in time when they tour it.

NOVAK / MILLER CABIN

This cabin depicts an early day homesteader's cabin. It came from the timbered area north of Newcastle and was donated by the Margaret Novak Miller family in honor of early day pioneer women from the Canyon Springs Prairie north of Newcastle. It is part of the Anna Miller Museum complex.





GREEN MOUNTAIN SCHOOLHOUSE

This schoolhouse was established in the 1890s north of Newcastle, close to the Weston-Crook County line. It was used by the children of the settlers for school, and by all the residents for community gatherings. It was even used as a polling place for elections until 1929.

The school was moved to the Weston County Fairgrounds in 1959 through the efforts of Mr. J.E. Crouch, long-time educator and school superintendent, and other retired rural school teachers. Volunteers, school faculty members and students participated in its restoration.

In 1968, the schoolhouse was moved to its present location, where it is part of the Anna Miller Museum complex.



JENNEY STOCKADE CABIN

This cabin is also part of the Anna Miller Museum complex. It is reputed to be the oldest standing building in the Black Hills area. It was built in 1875 by soldiers from Fort Laramie and named for Walter P. Jenney, a geologist sent by President Ulysses S. Grant to explore the Black Hills.

The cabin was later used as a stage stop on the Cheyenne-Deadwood Stage route. After the establishment of the LAK Ranch on the site where the cabin was located, it was used for a number of purposes by the ranch owners.

Eventually the cabin was saved by two women's groups, the Daughters of the American Revolution and The Owls, both of which were instrumental in getting the cabin moved to the lawn of the Weston County Library in downtown Newcastle. After it was discovered that the lawn sprinklers were damaging the foundation of the cabin, it was moved once again through a united community effort to its current location.

NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

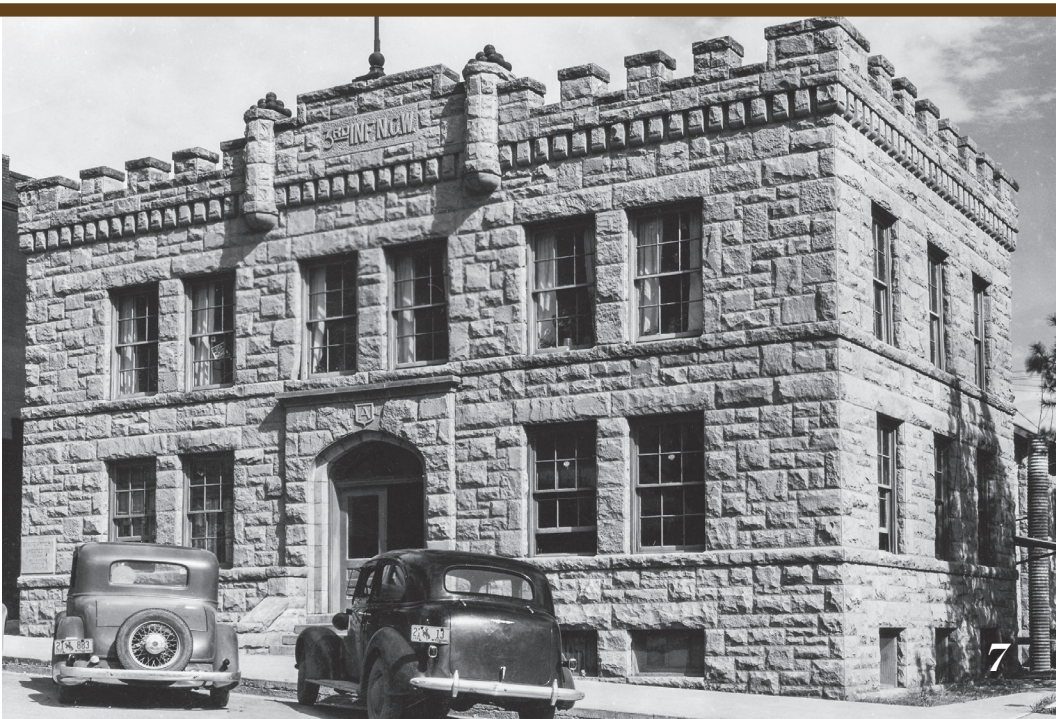


This building was constructed between July 1959 and June 1960. The original armory was built in 1913 and was on Newcastle's Main Street across from the courthouse. That armory was the first one built in Wyoming with government funds. It was constructed from native sandstone, just as the courthouse and museum were.

The original armory was used for dances, roller skating, gym and other classes during the boom years, when the local schools were overflowing. Plays and many other social events were featured there as well.

When the new armory was built on Delaware Avenue, the old armory was razed. The front entrance of the new armory was built with stone from the old one, as is the Keith Thomson Memorial drinking fountain on the courthouse lawn.

In 1997 the National Guard unit from Newcastle was moved to Gillette and the building was turned over to the Wyoming State Forestry Division. It is still used as a polling place on election days.



GREENWOOD CEMETERY

In March 1896, Newcastle's town council adopted a resolution to purchase four acres of land from the Lead City Oil Company at $40 per acre to establish a cemetery. A news article of March 20, 1896, stated that lots would soon go on sale. Lots were originally divided into two classes, with the best lots selling for $20 each, and all other lots for $15.

The first person buried in the cemetery was little Bertha Minnick, who died of pneumonia on March 19, 1896. She was not yet two. Many of Newcastle's and Weston County's famous — as well as infamous — citizens are buried in this century-old cemetery. Some of the buried include: Sheriff Billy Miller, who was killed in the area's last Indian battle; Anna Miller, the museum's namesake; Drs. Wells and Horton, both early day physicians; and Diamond L "Slim" Clifton, who was lynched for murdering a young homesteading couple.

The City of Newcastle, Weston County Museum District and several other donors have purchased and erected historical signs telling the stories of some of these past citizens. As you take your "Stroll with the Spirits" through the Greenwood Cemetery's sculptured garden of markers and monuments, think about the lives of the deceased and the value of a life lived well.





JOE LEFORS HOME

This home was constructed in 1892. It was originally owned by the Lincoln Land Company. Ownership went to E.H. Carpenter in 1895 for $300. It was in 1896 that Joe LeFors is believed to have become owner of the home. Joe is reputed to have been one of the U.S. Marshals who pursued Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid, as well as the one who got Tom Horn to confess to killing young Willie Nickell during Wyoming's range wars.

LeFors sold the house in 1901 to Estelea McMaken. The property then changed hands several times. In 1927, it was finally sold to Fred Williams, a game warden, and his wife Shirley. They owned it until 1969, when a local family purchased it.



THE HORTON HOUSE

This home was built in 1893 by Dr. Fred and Mrs. Ellen Horton. Horton had come to Newcastle in 1889 and, in 1891, he returned to his hometown of Wyoming, Iowa, to marry his sweetheart. They returned to Newcastle by train, bringing with them Ellen's wedding gift from her parents, a piano. The piano is now in the Anna Miller Museum.

Horton practiced medicine in Weston County, and raised his family here. They had six children, two of them dying in infancy. Dr. Horton also served as the Weston County Treasurer from 1898 to 1902. In 1928, he served a single term as a state legislator.

The Horton House was remodeled in 1920. Dr. Horton died in 1945, and Ellen in 1960. They are buried in the family plot in Newcastle's Greenwood Cemetery.

WESTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The courthouse is located, appropriately, at the head of Main Street in Newcastle. In 1901, the county commissioners purchased the last piece of the block and, in 1908, the citizens of Weston County petitioned the commissioners to build a courthouse in the 18-year-old Wyoming county.

On Nov. 3, 1908, by a vote of 550 to 365, the county's electorate approved the issuance of bonds to build a courthouse. Courthouse construction began in September, 1909 on the southeast corner of block 8. On February 10, 1910, a celebration with band music, speeches and refreshments welcomed the laying of the courthouse cornerstone. Completion was scheduled for the following September, but there were numerous delays. The commissioners relieved the contractor of his duties and took over the project themselves.

Many local men worked on the project, which features blocks and pillars of native sandstone from nearby Salt Creek. The county officials moved into their new courthouse in February 1911. In October of that year, President William Howard Taft gave a speech from the steps of the courthouse. Renowned governors, senators, congressmen and many others have spoken from those same steps.

The courthouse, with some modernizing and refurbishing over the years, has served the residents of Weston County well. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



WESTON COUNTY LIBRARY

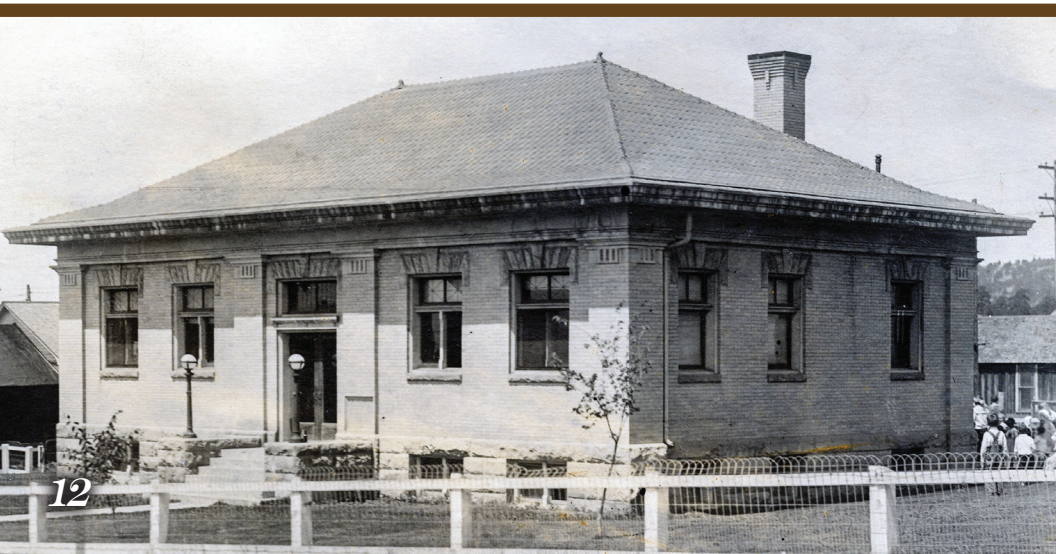
This library is Weston County's Carnegie Library. In 1909, the women of the Twentieth Century Club — organized in 1894 as a literary club & today is called the Twenty First Century Club — formed a committee to look into building a library. Wyoming's U.S. Representative, Frank Mondell, who was also Newcastle's first mayor, told the committee that help could be obtained from the Carnegie Library Fund if they had a "going library" of at least 100 books that was kept open everyday except Sunday. Throughout 1910, the ladies held various socials and fund raisers for a library.

January 2, 1911, was the opening day of the Weston County Library. It was situated in the back of the building that was being used as a courthouse. The next month, word was received from Congressman Mondell that Carnegie had consented to donating $12,500 for a public library in Weston County, and the county commissioners had agreed to provide land without expense. The ladies continued to hold fund raisers throughout 1911 and, in July of that year, Carnegie approved the plans and money for the library construction.

The Weston County Library Association of Newcastle, Wyoming, was incorporated in the office of the Secretary of State in Cheyenne on July 1, 1911. In August 1912, the books of the library were moved to the new building by the librarian, Mrs. Anna C. Miller. A formal opening was held later when Rep. Mondell returned home to Newcastle.

To ensure the goal of having a library that offered extended opportunities for learning and education, the board decided in 1982 to build an addition onto the existing structure. Ground was broken in July 1982 and the new addition was opened in November 1983. In 1987, the library celebrated its 75th anniversary with a gala reception that included speeches and music.

The Centennial Celebration of the library was held July 28, 2012, with a luncheon and dedication of the Centennial Statue. This library, with its beginnings of less than 200 books to its current collection of 50,000 bound volumes, audio books, videos, subscriptions and a satellite library in Upton, remains today an important part of the lives of residents in Weston County





THE HOUSE OF BLAZES

This saloon and dance hall was located where the Dogie Theater now stands. It was owned and operated by John Owens, Weston County's gambling sheriff. While Owens took his job as a lawman seriously, he did like to gamble and was involved in many high-stakes games, in which he was more often a winner than a loser.

His saloon, that he named "The Castle," provided all kinds of entertainment, from traveling performers to local talent. It became known as the "House of Blazes" because of the guns blazing nonstop there.

In 1894, at the age of 51, Owens married one of his dance hall girls, Addie Parker, who was 31. Addie was considered a quiet, pretty woman. The couple had a son, Sterling Robert. Addie died in 1906 and was buried in one of the original plots in Newcastle's Greenwood Cemetery.

John Owens continued in law enforcement where, in his later years, he served as a guard at the State Industrial Institute in Worland. He died in Thermopolis on his 84th birthday in 1927. His son buried him in Newcastle beside Addie.



DOGIE THEATER

In 1950, Esther (Shorty) Shenton made plans to build a new, modern movie theater in Newcastle. The new theater was to boast updated projection equipment and a new sound system, which was complimented by luxurious, fireproof carpets and stage drapes, special devices for deaf and hard of hearing clientele, and a clear plastic viewing screen.

The floor plan of the theater was crafted in the shape of a saucer that would allow a perfect line of sight for all viewers. And the facility featured state-of-the-art air conditioning and heating systems, a snack bar and even a special cry-room for babies.

A contest to name the new theater was held, and the name Dogie Theater was chosen, in honor of the Newcastle High School mascot. A "dogie" is a motherless calf in a range herd of cattle and must be strong to survive.

The grand opening was held March 21, 1951, under the ownership of the Black Hills Amusement Company. Judge Ilslely was master of ceremonies, Mayor Ty Thomas gave the welcome, the Newcastle High School Band played, the Newcastle Male Chorus sang and Wyoming Governor Frank Barrett gave the dedicatory address.

About 450 advanced tickets at 65 cents each were sold for the grand opening. The movie *Two Weeks In Love*, starring Jane Powell and Ricardo Montalban, was the featured film. The Weston County Historical Society and Museum District staged a reenactment of the grand opening for the theater's 50th anniversary in 2001.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Methodism was established in Newcastle in 1893. There was no church building, no parsonage and only three members who met in Jake Lang's grocery store, where the first public instruction in Newcastle was also held. By 1897, the membership had grown to 20.

The store building and lot were purchased by the church, and the Lincoln Land Company gave it the lots adjoining the store property. Remodeled in 1930 and again in 1936, the building was shifted slightly to the north so that a full basement could be constructed. In 1950, construction of a parsonage began, being completed in 1951. A groundbreaking was held in 1953 to begin construction of a new sanctuary, which was completed by the next year.

On April 4, 1954 an open house was held for the public to view the new facilities. This was followed up with a fellowship dinner, cornerstone laying ceremony and a consecration service. The evening program included entertainment by the popular folksinger Burl Ives. In 1980, additions to the church included a new entrance and improved landscaping.

In 1986, the church parlor was remodeled and redecorated. The parsonage, on the north side of the church, was removed during this period and a gazebo with landscaping now occupies its space.



KILPATRICK BROTHERS COMMISSARY

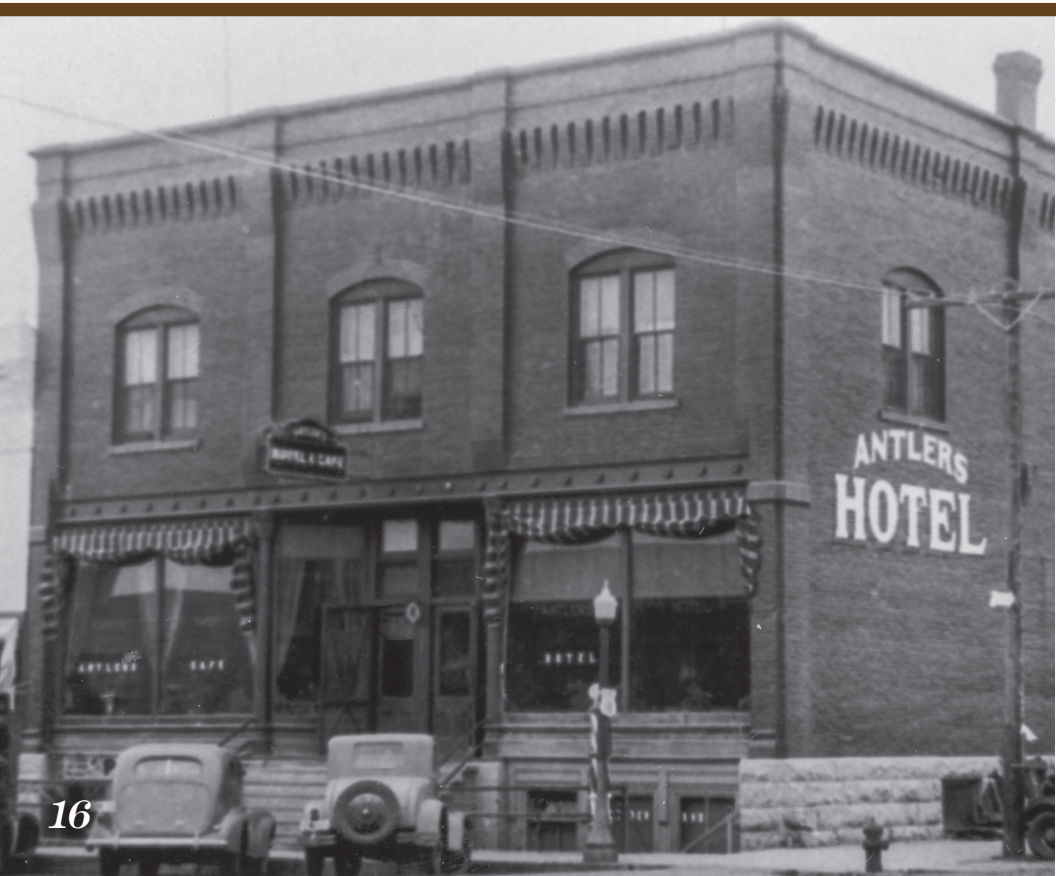
This building was the first permanent structure erected in Newcastle. It was built by the Kilpatrick Brothers and their partner, Collins, or the KB&C Company. These partners also owned and operated Cambria Fuel Compny and Lincoln Land Company. The building was constructed of locally manufactured brick.

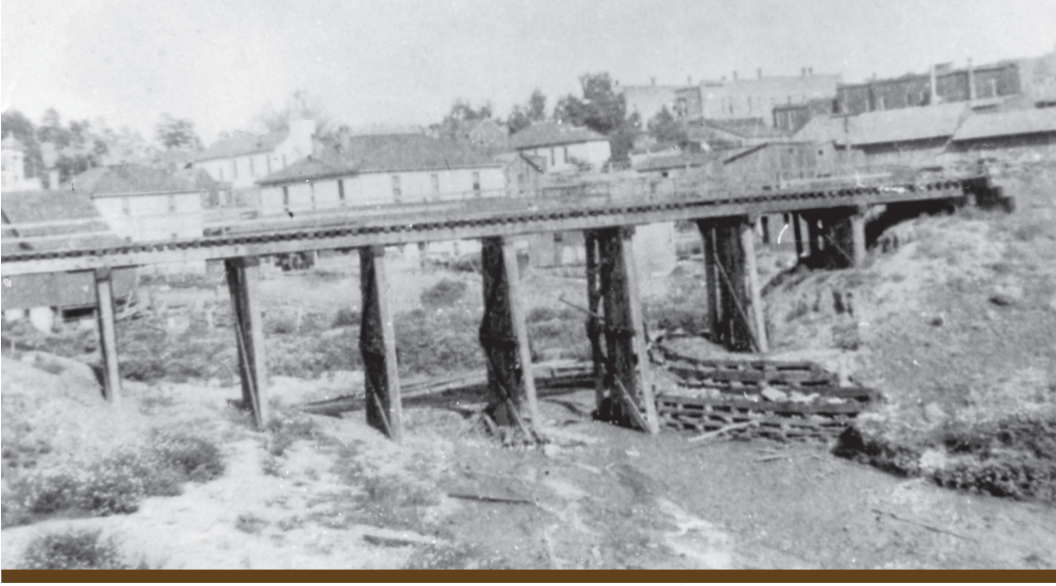
The new commissary had a full basement, two stories and even boasted a freight elevator. The KB&C commissary basement was also used at one time for Weston County's government offices.

It was during this time that Jesse Freel, on April 19, 1892, shot and killed his uncle, Hank Freel, on the street in front of the building. Hank had been arrested because of a quarrel with Jesse about the death of a horse and for abusing his wife.

Twenty-eight-year-old Jesse was sentenced on April 19, 1893 to 20 years in prison. Due to the petitioning of Weston County citizens, however, he was pardoned by Wyoming Governor William A. Richards after serving one year and 10 months.

The building later became the Antlers Hotel and Café.





HANGING OF DIAMOND L SLIM



The historical marker at this location tells the tale of Slim, whose legal name was W.C. Clifton. Slim was hanged for the murder of a young couple, John and Louella Church, and their unborn baby.

One May night in 1903, a "citizens' committee" composed of men from three counties decided the law was moving too slowly in the case of this now-confessed killer. They took the law into their own hands by taking Slim from the jail in the middle of the night. The "committee" took Slim to the railroad bridge and hanged him by the neck.

According to legend, Slim's last request was to ask for a "long drop." It was perhaps too long, as his head was severed from his body during the execution. Rumor has it the mortician sewed Slim's head on backwards and then propped him in the store window for public viewing. Slim was buried in Newcastle's Greenwood Cemetery.

No one cared enough to mark Slim's grave, so the exact location of it has been lost to time.



WESTON COUNTY BANK

Built in the early 1900s, this building's site has seen many uses over the years. In late 1912, the building, along with several others, burned in the "Thoeming Hardware Fire."

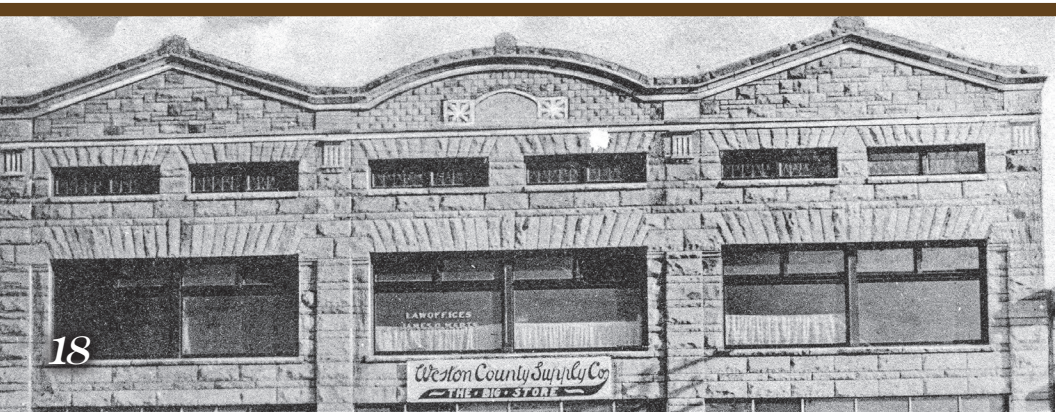
The building that stands today was redone in 1936 and housed the Ford motor dealership, owned by Joe Slenker. In 1939, the business failed and reverted back to the original owner of the building, Charles F. Martens. Martens, who also served as Newcastle's mayor at one time, ran the Ford dealership for the next 20 years.

The building then became the home of the National Bank of Newcastle and later the Pinnacle Bank of Newcastle. Today, it is the Weston County Courthouse Annex.

THE NICHOLS BLOCK

This building was constructed in 1910 out of native sandstone. Early photos of the town identify the building as the A.M. Nichols Block, which housed the Nichols Supply Company that brought groceries and hardware to the area.

Other early occupants were the Weston County Supply Company and the Land Offices. Today, it is called the Updike Building and houses various businesses.



POST OFFICE

Newcastle's U.S. Post Office was built in the early 1930s in the days of the Great Depression. It proved to be a boon to the town, both in getting an official post office building and especially in the job opportunities provided to local workers.

Prior to occupying this building, the post office had been located in various rental spaces. An interesting event every spring was the arrival of the season's baby chicks, shipped via the U.S. Mail. Their chirping would ring throughout the building as children would beg for a peek at the little fuzzy creatures.

The Newcastle Post Office was put on the National Register of Historic Places May 19, 1987.





CHINESE IMMIGRANTS

In the late 1800s when Chinese laborers came to the area to work, Newcastle was one of the towns where they settled. Present day Isabella's Restaurant was one of the sites of a Chinese laundry, according to early residents.

Newspaper accounts reported a raid on March 24, 1891, where opium was seized and eight Chinese men were arrested. They were fined a total of $480.55 that went to the school fund. Rumor had it that whenever the school fund was in need of a boost, an opium raid was executed.

This building later held a furniture store, mortuary and George Butler's photo and art supplies studio. Butler, a graduate of Newcastle High School's class of 1941, served the entire Weston County area as the only professional photographer for more than 40 years. He was sought by locals and people of other communities to photograph their weddings, reunions, school events and much more. His other talents included sculpting and painting in various media.

Butler's photography documented the area's history from the 1950s through the 1990s. Upon his retirement, he donated his negatives and photographs to the Anna Miller Museum so they could be preserved for future generations. The museum also owns and has on display some of Butler's orginal artwork. In 1999 Weston County residents voted George Butler *Citizen of the Century* in the Arts Category.

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

This church was built in 1892 on land donated by the Lincoln Land Company. Father Cassidy initiated the project while Father Ahern, and the others who followed, saw to the completion of the interior. The church officially opened January 8, 1893.

Between October 1896 and April 1898, funds were raised to plaster the walls and to install a good floor and ceiling. In 1902, the church acquired such luxuries as a furnace, electric lights, aisle carpets, fixtures and vestments. In 1951, plans for the present-day church were finally approved.

In 1980, the church underwent more construction. A two-story priest's residence with connecting administrative offices, classrooms and a double garage were added.





CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

This church is the oldest in Weston County, confirmed by the cornerstone with the date of 1889. The church has undergone some changes over the years, such as replacing the wood stove with a modern furnace, removing the fence around the churchyard, replacing the original wooden steeple with an exact replica in metal and replacing the pump organ that was used from 1891 until 1964. That organ in now on display at the Anna Miller Museum.

In 1989, the church celebrated its centennial anniversary.

WHILE YOU'RE IN THE NEWCASTLE AREA

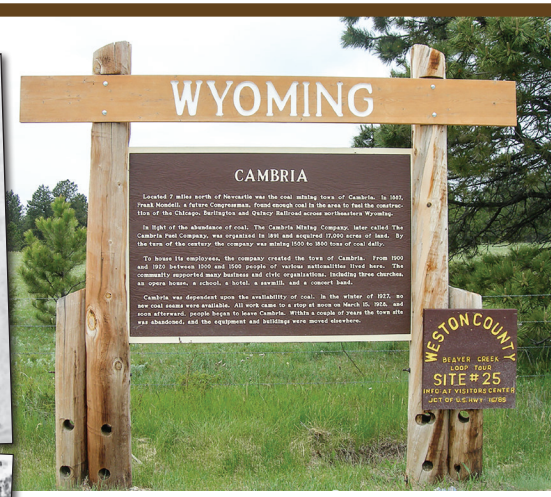
See these other great historic attractions!

As one travels north of Newcastle on US HWY 85, other historic sites can be observed. Historical markers tell of the Cambria Coal Mine camp, the Salt Creek Overlook, the Flying V Cambria Inn and the Cambria Salt Mine. A beautiful sight of the majestic "Red Butte" standing tall reaching for the sky is just a short distance north of the Cambria Salt Mine.

These sites and many others are highlighted in the Beaver Creek Loop Tour booklet. The booklets are available at the Anna Miller Museum and the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce office.







CAMBRIA COAL CAMP



CAMBRIA PARK CASINO



FLYING V CAMBRIA INN





SALT CREEK OVERLOOK





THANK YOU

DISCLAIMER

This brochure was financed in part by the Weston County Museum District Foundation and with funds granted to the Weston County Historic Preservation Commission from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office administers these federal funds as part of Wyoming's Certified Local Government program. This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. The contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, handicap or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

NEWCASTLE

Walk About Town

HISTORIC TOUR