

History Tours

SUMMER 2022



HISTORIC NORTHEAST WESTMINSTER

September 10 2022, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Experience history and art in northeast Westminister. This tour will start and end at City Hall. It will include a stop at the Savery Savory Mushroom Farm, Wesley Cemetery, Metzger Farm, and a tour of public art at City Hall.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Savery Savory Mushroom Farm produced 10,000 pounds of mushrooms per day at the height of its operations. It was the largest operation of its kind in the Rocky Mountain Region.
- Two Civil War Veterans are buried at the Wesley Cemetery.
- Metzger Farm received a Model Farm Award in 1940. John Metzger served as the Colorado State Attorney General. His daughter Karen served as a judge in the area.
- The City of Westminister owns 100+ works of art.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
the Westminister
Historical Society



Savery Savory Mushroom Tower

2002

Westminster Historical Society Historic Preservation Award recipient

Charles William Savery was born **1878** in Chester County Pennsylvania which was the center of the US mushroom growing business. After lumberyard and security business ventures, he invested in a molybdenum mine in Colorado and then purchased an 80-acre irrigated farm in unincorporated Adams County (now Westminster).

In the early **1920's**, Charles started his mushroom growing and canning business in Denver in the 20th Street Viaduct. This facility was closed by the Denver Police Chief due to complaints about unpleasant odors produced by large amounts of horse manure used to grow the mushrooms.

After this closure, Charles moved the mushroom business to his farm in Adams County. The Colorado Agricultural College in Fort Collins told him that mushroom crops would fail in Colorado's dry environment and they did for three years. But, Charles didn't give up. Charles took his son Robert (who had just graduated from high school) to Chester County, PA to learn everything they could about the mushroom business. After 8 weeks, they returned and Savery built a small mushroom house at the farm to test growing techniques.



By 1930: Great Western Mushroom Company had grown to the size of a company town and included:

- 32 mushroom buildings known as "caves" (200' in length & 25' tall)
- Water tower
- 15 residences for employees: 84 men, women, and children lived on the site
- 4-acre baseball field and tennis court, a pond
- The Savery home had an indoor croquet course
- The Saverys lived on the farm during its operation

Savery Savory water tower (still there today!)



Savery Savory FUN FACTS

- Mushrooms had green cans with yellow lettering
- By **mid-1930's** company was producing 10,000 pounds of mushrooms daily between three plants.
- Denver residents consumed 300+ pounds daily then, eventually 500+ pounds
- Savery's farm continued to operate until Charles Savery retired in **1953**. The business weathered intense summer heatwaves and two fires.
- The farm also produced honey, pickles, candied fruits, canned luxury foods (over 90 different items), canned mushroom sauce and soup, and medicinal tablets.
- Largest facility of its kind in the Rocky Mountain region
- Savery pioneered commercial mushroom growing and marketing in Colorado
- The water tower has served as a prominent landmark for the Westminster area for 80+ years



Wesley Cemetery

Wesley Chapel Cemetery served as the burial ground of many of rural Adams County, Colorado, pioneers from approximately **1891 through 1939**. The cemetery originally was associated with a church, the Wesley Chapel, which occupied the now-vacant space between W. 120th Ave. and the graves to the north, from approximately **1891 to 1934**. The church has been gone for decades; however, the cemetery has remained in place and persevered.

Wesley Chapel Cemetery was first dedicated as a family graveyard in **October 1891** with the death of 37-year-old Francis Moxley, who was buried on the Moxley farm in Arapahoe County (now Adams County). The Moxley family cemetery was later dedicated as a cemetery for the larger community. The wood frame Morey Chapel (later renamed Wesley Chapel) was constructed just south of the cemetery around **1891-1892** and became a community gathering place for the surrounding region.



Wesley Cemetery

The Wesley Chapel Cemetery Association, composed of surviving family members, continued to own and maintain the site throughout the remainder of the 1900s. In the final decades of the 20th century, the area surrounding Wesley Chapel Cemetery was incorporated into the City of Westminster. To ensure future maintenance and that the burial ground remain historic and undeveloped, the Cemetery Association donated the site to the City of Westminster in **2001**. This pioneer cemetery is located at 120th & Huron Street in Broomfield, CO. In the interest of preserving this historic cemetery, the City of Westminster purchased the property from the Wesley Chapel & Cemetery Association in **2001**. The Cemetery Association was incorporated on **December 22, 1894**. Current members of the Association maintain the cemetery. The Westminster Historical Society maintains the graves of the two Civil War veterans.



Two Union Civil War veterans - Ambrose Langston and Theodore Hutchinson - are buried in the cemetery.

Metzger Farm

John Metzger became a lawyer through apprenticeships and served as the Colorado State Attorney General from **1949-1950**. John Metzger had two children – Bill and Karen. After law school, Karen became a judge in the area.

John Metzger fell in love with what is now Metzger Farm when he visited James T. Burke who was the previous owner of the farm. He made a down payment on the spot and purchased the farm. The Metzgers raised wheat, barley, corn, alfalfa and then expanded into dairy and show cattle.

Metzger Farms



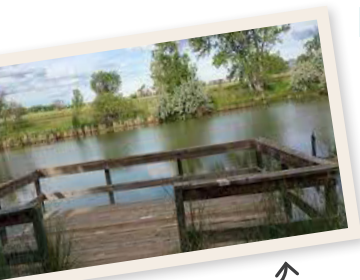
John Metzger passed away in **1989** and the City of Westminster purchased the farm in **2006** with three grants and partnership with Broomfield. The site includes the original home, outbuildings, fertile farmland, two ponds, and wetlands. In **2007**, Metzger Farm became part of the Big Dry Creek Trail system. Currently, there are plans for more trails, tours, and an educational facility.

The Legacy of Farms in Westminster

HEATH/CARLSON FARM AND HYLAND PONDS

• The farm was founded in **1911** and is representative of early 20th Century farm land found in northern Jefferson County.

- The City of Westminster purchased these properties in **1987, 1990, and 1995** so that residents can enjoy these ponds which also attract wild birds: white egrets, great blue herons, duck, geese, white pelicans.



Hyland Ponds

FRED THOMPSON RANCH

- The ranch was established in **1882**. They raised cattle, hay, and straw.
- In **1899** Fred raised summer-fallowed wheat with a technique learned from a Montana farmer whereby every other year the ground is fallow (unfarmed) for an entire crop year

Repentance



Precious Moments



Challenge



Jungle Gym

Public Art in Westminster

The City of Westminster is home to more than 100 individual works of art, including larger-than-life cast bronzes to kinetic "wind sculpture" and brick-masonry murals to beautiful frescos. These pieces provide beauty and a sense of community in both public spaces and commercial centers.

Funds from the City's hotel/motel tax were used to create the Community Enhancement Fund. This fund has provided the City with the ability to purchase public art. Additionally, private art installations are the result of the City's requirement that commercial developments greater than 1 acre include public art.

Because of these investments, residents and visitors alike may find themselves standing in the middle of a mosaic compass, posing to have their photo taken with a majestic elk or simply struck by a pod of dolphins leaping from a fountain. All of the program installations encourage awareness of, and interest in, public art as a means to create identity and a sense of community in Westminster.

FUN FACT!

Sheridan Blvd. is the dividing line between Adams and Jefferson counties.

Westminster is actually in TWO counties!

JEFFERSON COUNTY

SHERIDAN BLVD.

ADAMS COUNTY