

The Brief History of the Colorado P.E.O. Chapter House

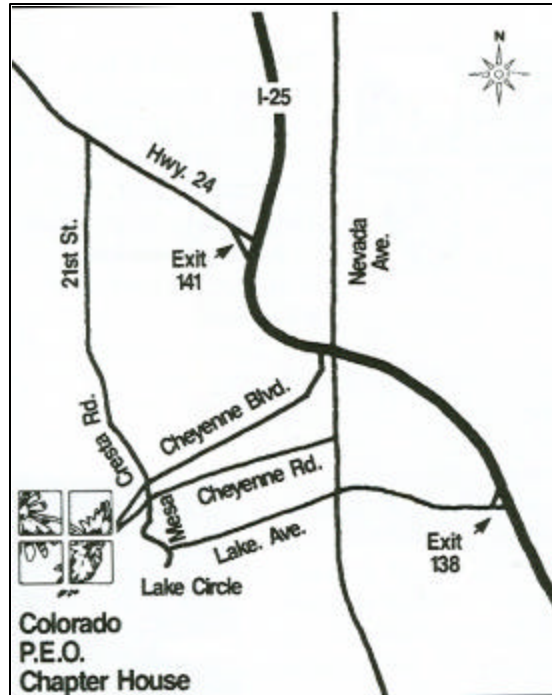
Winfield Scott Stratton, a millionaire Colorado miner and philanthropist, died in 1902. He came to Colorado Springs in 1869 from Indiana. In 1901 he made claim to the Independence Mine in Cripple Creek, CO. This venture plus investments in four other mines, netted him millions. He contributed much of his fortune to civic projects in Colorado Springs including the development of 20 acres of land named Cheyenne Park, later known as Stratton Park in his honor, for use by summer tourists and residents of the city. The Colorado P.E.O. Chapter House was developed in 1966 on half of this parkland. It celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2006.

The first owner to settle in the Cheyenne Canon area on which the Chapter House was built was William F. Dixon. He sold 20 acres of the land to Stratton in 1900. Stratton oversaw the early development of the park. The first construction was a 30-foot rustic arched bridge across one of the low places to connect two ends of a footpath. Smaller bridges were later added. He also supervised the construction of a wall along each side of the creek along the entire 20 acres. He bought the old street rail system and expanded it, including a loop designed to bring people to the park. The area became very popular with students and professors of the Colorado College. Stratton Park was dedicated on June 6, 1901. Every Sunday a band played a concert on the bandstand. At the dedication of the park, John Phillip Sousa conducted his band on the bandstand. The rock wall in front of the dining room of Chapter House is a remnant of this. The dance pavilion was incorporated into the design of the house.

On July 22, 1949, a Certificate of Incorporation was filed for this P.E.O. home in Colorado. In 1964 the Board of Trustees received approval to proceed with construction of a P.E.O. Chapter House. In January of 1965, 8.84 acres of Stratton Park were purchased and groundbreaking was held in October of 1966 attended by more than 400 P..E.O.s.

Directions When coming from the North:

Drive South on I-25 to Exit #141 (Hwy. 24 West). Turn left (West) there and drive to 21st Street. Turn left (South) on 21st Street (which becomes Cresta Rd.) approximately 3 Miles to Cheyenne Road. Turn right (West) on Cheyenne Road for 0.6 Miles. Cross the bridge on the left at the Chapter House sign.



When coming from the South:

Drive North on I-25 to Exit #138 (Circle Drive) There turn right (West) and go straight on Circle Drive (which becomes Lake) to the Broadmoor Hotel. On the round-about in front of the hotel grounds, take the first exit to the right and continue to the next round-about where you again take the first exit to the right to the traffic light at Cresta. Turn left on Cresta to the next traffic light at Cheyenne Road. Turn left (West) on Cheyenne Road for 0.6 Miles. Cross the bridge on the left at the Chapter House sign.

Retirement living in a comfortable and enjoyable environment



Colorado P.E.O. Chapter House, Inc.



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A Proud Colorado State P.E.O. Philanthropy Since 1966

Organization of Chapter House

The Colorado P.E.O. Chapter House, Inc. was established in 1949 as a non-profit corporation by the Colorado P.E.O. Sisterhood.

Chapter House was built in 1966. Management of the corporation is under the supervision of a Board of Trustees. Members of the Colorado P.E.O. Sisterhood provide financial support through dues, contributions, gifts, memorials, honorariums, and bequests.

The Chapter House Facility & Activities

In 2006 the Colorado P.E.O. Chapter House celebrated its 40th year of operation. Several types of residences are offered to P.E.O.s, B.I.L.s, and residents sponsored by P.E.O.s. There are suites, expanded suites, and one-bedroom apartments. Each residence has its own private entrance, a private bath, and a patio with a small garden area. The expanded suites and one-bedroom apartments have kitchenettes.

Residents decorate their apartments with their own furniture and belongings, reflecting their own tastes and preferences. Telephone and cable TV connections as well as utilities are furnished. Activities are available to those wishing to participate.



Three meals are served daily in the beautiful dining

room. It has a seating capacity of 40 and is one of the common facilities. Others are the living room with a fireplace, a library with TV and audio-visual equipment, an exercise room with equipment, sitting areas, and a laundry room. A family atmosphere prevails.

The facility is single level throughout. A pager system for emergencies is provided for a modest refundable deposit.



Chapter House is not a Medical Facility

All residents at the Colorado P.E.O. Chapter House must be capable of maintaining an independent lifestyle. The criteria for fulfillment of this requirement are available on request.



Guests are Welcome at Chapter House

While mainly operated as a retirement home and meeting facility, the Chapter House has two Bed and Breakfast rooms. These are available to residents' guests and other P.E.O.s who are visiting Colorado Springs.

Educational Meetings at Chapter House

Indoors and outdoors Chapter House offers facilities for many educational activities of larger and smaller groups. P.E.O.s and non-P.E.O.s are welcome to share meals or to hold their meetings, receptions, club gatherings, art exhibits, shows of various kinds, lectures and seminars at Chapter House. Donations are requested in return. Please contact the Executive Director or Administrative Assistant for information.

The Grounds of Chapter House

The grounds of Chapter House are located in what was known as Stratton Park in Colorado Springs. The park was originally dedicated in 1901. The wooded lot of the Chapter House is home to birds, squirrels, foxes and deer that provide enrichment to the lives of Chapter House residents. A spring-fed pond is part of the garden area. Level walk ways allow for easy and enjoyable walks through the garden and wooded 10-acre property of the home.

