

Historic Hotels!

VII: Colorado Springs' Historic Antlers Hotel

The Antlers Hotel is truly a "landmark of excellence" in Colorado Springs, as historical as the city itself. General William Jackson Palmer founded Colorado Springs in 1871 and, soon after, tourists and health-seekers alike made it one of the country's top resort destinations. Palmer was at the forefront of establishing the luxury hotel, which opened on June 1, 1883. The name "The Antlers" came from the fact that the lobby was adorned with the General's numerous elk trophies.

The hotel was a Victorian mass of towers, turrets, balconies and porches. It featured 75 guest rooms, each completely unique in design. One of the most attractive aspects for that era's guests was the sanitary facilities -- two bathrooms on each floor. In 1893, Katherine Lee Bates penned "America the Beautiful" in her Antlers hotel room.

As with so many of the old hotels, The Antlers burned down in October 1898, but a new Antlers Hotel opened in July 1901. Over the years, famous visitors included John F. Kennedy, Eleanor Roosevelt, and President William Howard Taft. This second Antlers was eventually demolished in 1964, despite a furor from locals against the destruction of the landmark. The third, and present, Antlers opened in March 1967, and is now part of the Adam's Mark chain.

Today, the historic Antlers Hotel remains Colorado Springs' premier downtown hotel.

Spectators crowd the intersection of Cascade and Pikes Peak Avenues, near the Antlers Hotel.

