

Librarian's Shelf by Kelli Keyes

The Stories behind Nebraska's Landmark Buildings

Nebraska contains many very interesting works of architecture. Author Jeff Barnes put together a handsome photographic book of 150 landmark buildings across the state of Nebraska. His book, "150 @ 150 Nebraska's Landmark Buildings at the State's Sesquicentennial" just won the Nebraska Book Award from the Nebraska Center for the Book. He researched the history and stories behind each building and published a coffee table display-worthy book. This would be a wonderful gift for a Nebraska history buff this Christmas.

Jeff Barnes will be in the auditorium at the Columbus Public Library on Saturday, November 3 at 2 pm with copies of his book in tow, to give a presentation on the landmark buildings of Nebraska and especially those of Columbus. Looking for neat places to visit right here in Nebraska? Come and whet your appetite for touring Nebraska buildings while listening to Jeff Barnes and snacking on treats provided by the library.

Did you know that we have a castle here in Nebraska? John McDonald, who received inspiration for the castle while visiting mansions in Bar Harbor, Maine, and Newport, Rhode Island, built the Joslyn Castle in 1903. The magnificent structure boasts an 1,800-pound wrought iron front door that opens into a vestibule with a mother of pearl ceiling. You can schedule a special event or a tour at the castle.

Beatrice, Nebraska has a unique building that symbolizes the single bottom plow that settlers used to break the prairie sod. The Homestead National Monument Heritage Center houses a theater, information services, bookstore, office space, and research area. This building stands on land claimed by Daniel Freeman after the Homestead Act of 1862 went into effect.

I can personally attest to the grandeur of the Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska. My husband and I had the opportunity to dine in the rustic hall several years ago. Huge wooden beams and columns frame the large open staircase and highlight the immense stone fireplace that goes up the back wall. This beautiful building showcases how rich and warm a rustic wooden interior design can be. If you're ever in Nebraska City, this is one building you need to tour besides the Bellevue log cabin, the Otoe County Courthouse, the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, the Gar Memorial Hall, and of course, Arbor Lodge.

In Columbus, Nebraska, we have our own historical buildings of renown. There is the well-known Glur's Tavern, built in 1876 by Swiss immigrant brothers William and Joseph Bucher. After 50 years, they sold the business to Louis Glur, thus the name Glur's Tavern. During the prohibition, Glur continued to run his saloon as a soft drink and ice cream parlor. The building still has the original oak floors and limestone foundation.

Also in downtown Columbus, we have the striking Evans House. It was built in 1911 for Dr. Carroll and Lorena Evans. The 28 room, 17,000 square foot mansion now houses private offices. The architect, Charles H. Wurdeman, created other projects in Columbus, namely the Platte County Courthouse, Pawnee Park Stadium, St. Mary's Hospital, Third Ward School, St.

Anthony and St. Bonaventure Churches, the original Carnegie Library, Central National Bank, YMCA, and many others.

Learn all this and more on November 3 at 2 pm at the Columbus Public Library. Bring your friends and family. All are welcome for this free presentation. For more information, call the library at 402-564-7116 or like us on Facebook. Thank you!