

The Neighborhoods of West Corridor: The Eiber Neighborhood

The West Corridor project impacts the lives of many residents. Local neighborhoods and community organizations have been helpful throughout the project. This new newsletter segment will highlight the history and community contributions of the West Corridor neighborhoods. To view more information on West Corridor history, view the [History Fun Facts fact sheet](#), on the West Corridor website.



The Eiber neighborhood, located between Wadsworth Boulevard and Oak Street and Colfax Avenue and 6th Avenue, developed from open farm land to rural residential use in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The area still holds many clues to its agricultural past in the form of ditches and ponds that diverted water from Clear Creek to irrigate the orchards and farms that supplied Denver with produce. Many of these farms were subdivided into five-acre lots and the lots on Carr Street, Garrison Street and Kipling Street reveal many of the oldest homes, some of the first to be situated on the newly subdivided farms.

One of the last farms to be subdivided was the Smith farm, located in the vicinity of Colfax Avenue and Garrison Street (known at the time as Smith Road). With the advent of the trolley line in the 1890s, a stop known as Smith Station was constructed at Smith Road (Garrison Street) and what is now 13th Avenue. Smith Station was primarily used to get local produce, including sugar beets, apples, corn, cherries, poultry, and a variety of vegetables to the Denver markets.

Shortly after Lakewood was incorporated in 1969, another housing boom occurred and several apartment complexes and a supermarket replaced the golf course which used to occupy the area. Most of the homes on Garrison Street were torn down in the process and all that remains to identify the Smith farm's original location is a single corner fence post made of cobblestone; presently located at 13th Ave. and Garrison St. at the site of the old Smith Station.

When the farms broke up, the use of Smith Station changed from a produce landing to a drop-off point for workers commuting to the Remington Arms factory located at the Denver Federal Center during

WWII. The rail line transitioned from trolley to freight use, ferrying materials and munitions between the Federal Center and Denver's rail yards. As the war effort waned, the use of the rail line decreased to one or two trips per week. The old rail line was formally abandoned in the late 1970s and was then purchased by the Regional Transportation District in 1988 to build the future West Corridor line. Today the Eiber Neighborhood organization or "Eiberhood" is focused on maintaining a low-density, single-family residential character, improving the appearance and condition of apartments in the area, and mitigating the impacts of the West Corridor light rail line. Eiberhood Board meetings are open to the public and are typically scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Lakewood United Methodist Church at 1390 Brentwood Street. Our thanks go out to Paul Ditson for his assistance in providing the historical data on the Eiber Neighborhood.