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William W. Hassell


As president of the Hassell Iron Works Company, Old North End resident William W. Hassell was responsible for the creation of many of the early iron fences in Colorado Springs.

Mr. Hassell came to Colorado Springs in 1885 seeking a cure for his tuberculosis. After his health improved, he purchased a foot-powered machine used for weaving wood pickets with wire to make

fencing. He soon branched out into light iron work and electrical supplies.

After his first two shops were destroyed in two separate fires, a new foundry was established on Sierra Madre Street adjoining the Midland Railroad tracks. The company dropped the electrical supply business and focused on the production of iron and brass castings, machinery, and structural and ornamental iron work. At its peak during World War I, Hassell Iron Works employed 125 people.

Following William W. Hassell's death in 1922, his son W. Bradford Hassell took over management of the iron works. He and his sister, Julia Hassell Lipsey, eventually sold the company in 1938.

Hassell Iron Works is perhaps best known for the numerous ornamental fences that still border the properties of historic Colorado Springs homes today. Examples of Hassell Iron Works fences in the Old North End are noted in the walking tours with a fleur-de-lis symbol , which was a common Hassell fence motif.



(Courtesy Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.)

1424 Wood Avenue

This c. 1895 house was the long-time residence of William W. Hassell and his family. Mr. Hassell was the president of Hassell Iron Works, manufacturer of the ornamental fencing that borders many homes in the Old North End and other historic neighborhoods in Colorado Springs. (See call-out, previous



1424 Wood Avenue



1424 Wood Avenue, c. 1900
(Courtesy Special Collections, Pikes Peak Library
District. Image 001-9535.)

page.) The photograph below shows that the house has been altered significantly since its construction. It was originally a Gable End Frame house with wood clapboard siding. It has since had several additions to the south elevation and has been clad in stucco. The porch has been replaced, and a balcony has been added above the new porch. ♣

1432 Wood Avenue

The cross-gambrel roof, leaded glass Palladian window, and full-width porch are distinctive features of this Dutch Colonial Revival house. It was built c. 1896 and was for many years the home of David N. Heizer and his family. He was a Cripple Creek mining investor and a director of Colorado Springs National Bank. He also served as mayor of Colorado Springs from 1906 to 1908. During his term, he initiated Pike's Peak Northslope water development, paved city sidewalks, and completed Monument Valley Park. The Heizer family owned the residence until 1945.



1432 Wood Avenue

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