



1 Santa Fe Railway Station

On September 17, 1901 the first steam-driven train rolled into Grand Canyon Village after a relatively smooth trip from Williams, Arizona. The 3-hour trip cost \$3.95. What is now Grand Canyon Village was immediately more accessible than Hance Ranch or Grandview to the east and Bass Camp to the west. At the time an all day and rather rigorous stage ride to the village from Flagstaff, Arizona cost \$20.00.

The Santa Fe Railway Depot was completed in 1909. It is one of only three remaining log depots in the country and one of an estimated fourteen log depots ever constructed in the United States. It was designed by Santa Barbara architect Francis Wilson. The timbers are unique for a log structure. The logs are squared on three sides giving a flat surface for adjacent logs and a flat interior wall. To prevent moisture from entering, the logs are sealed with building paper wrapped around wood strips seated in grooves between the logs. This was Wilson's only log structure and was described in a newspaper article in 1909 as being "patterned after the El Tovar Hotel."

Rooms on the first floor of the depot were designed to handle passengers and included a passenger waiting room, ticket office, luggage room, and restrooms. The second floor contained the apartment occupied by the station agent. It had a living room, kitchen, pantry, bathroom, and two bedrooms.

2 El Tovar Hotel

The El Tovar Hotel was once described as "the most expensively constructed and appointed log house in America." The Santa Fe Railroad commissioned its construction in 1902. Charles Whittlesey, a Chicago architect, styled it as a cross between a Swiss chalet and a Norway villa. It is built on concrete and rubble masonry with a wood



El Toyar Hote

frame structure hewn of Oregon pine. The first floor has log slabbed siding with corners carefully notched to give it the appearance of solid logs. The interior is supported by a peeled log framework topped with decorative corbels throughout the mezzanine. Originally it was to be named "Bright Angel Tavern."

By the time it was completed on January 14, 1905 it had been renamed El Tovar in honor of Pedro de Tovar, of the Coronado Expedition.

The El Tovar cost \$250,000 to construct and was considered by many to be the most elegant hotel west of the Mississippi. Electric lights were powered by the hotel's own coal-fired generator. It had its own greenhouse for fresh fruits and vegetables. A chicken house supplied fresh eggs for hotel guests. Even fresh milk was supplied by its own dairy herd. Inside the El Tovar was a barbershop, solarium, amusement room, club room, large dining room, art, and music rooms. The dining room had large picture windows overlooking the canyon. The porch on the north side probably dates back to the 1950's when the dining room was enlarged and the cocktail lounge was added.

6 Hopi House

Hopi House was completed on January 1, 1905, just weeks before the completion of the El Tovar. Designed by Mary Colter, Hopi House start-

ed an association with the Fred Harvey Company, that spanned more than 40 years.

It is a multi-story structure of stone and adobe masonry typical of the Pueblo buildings in Old Oraibi. The ceilings on the inside are thatched with successive layers of saplings and timbers. It



Hopi House inte



ioni family on mot of Honi House

4 Verkamp's Curios

The first curio shop opened at the Grand Canyon in 1898. It was a rented tent on the grounds of Bright Angel Hotel where John G.

Verkamp sold Indian crafts and curios for Babbitt Brothers' Trading Company. Visitation to the Grand Canyon was not brisk enough to support the business and he closed down after a few weeks, selling his remaining stock to the Bright Angel Hotel.

In 1905 he returned to the Grand Canyon to build Verkamp's Curios at its present location



north.

also features wall niches,

corner fireplaces, and

adobe walls typical of Hopi

pueblos. Even the construc-

tion was done mainly by

Hopi Indians. The Hopis,

who lived and worked

there, entertained guests

with nightly dances on the

dance platform to the

John Verkamp next to curio shop in tent

next to the Hopi House. The building is a wood-shingled, "modified-mission" design with a roof that conducts rainwater to a cistern under the porch. The main floor contains the curio shop with storage rooms in the rear. The second floor contained family living quarters.

6 Bright Angel Lodge

With the completion of the Desert View Watchtower in 1932, Mary Colter started work on Bright Angel Lodge. It was to be located on what was then Bright Angel Camp, with its old hotel and clusters of cabins and tents. Bright Angel Camp had been built by James Thurber in the 1890's.

The design concept of Bright Angel Lodge was unique for park visitors throughout the west. Its mission was to provide moderately priced accommodations for tourists with moderate incomes. Bright



Mary Colter

Angel Lodge, built by Myers Brothers Construction Company from Los Angeles, was dedicated on July 22, 1935. It followed the general theme of the El Tovar Hotel, boasting curio shops, a restaurant, and an openframed lobby with peeled log supports. It also had a cluster of cabins to the west which included some with historical significance, such as Buckey O'Neill Cabin and Red Horse Station. To the west of the lobby was the lounge with two large picture windows framing the canyon. Inside the lounge was the famous ten foot high geologic fireplace, designed by Mary Colter, representing the rocks and

order of strata inside the canyon. The top of the fireplace is constructed of Kaibab Limestone found on the rim of the canyon. The base of the fireplace has smooth river stones from the bottom of the canyon. Each stone was carefully selected from the strata inside the canyon and packed out by mule. Mary Colter decorated the lobby with various styles of period hats including Pancho Villa's sombrero. Mary Colter was always particular about the colors used in her buildings. The color she had selected for the interior trim of the Bright Angel was a particular shade of blue. Her insistence on the right shade prompted the painters to call it 'Mary Jane Blue.' The opening of the lodge was celebrated by a barbecue with 2,000 people in attendance.

(6) Buckey O'Neill Cabin

Next to Bright Angel Lodge is Buckey O'Neill Cabin. It is the oldest continuously standing structure on the rim. It was built in the 1890's by William Owen O'Neill. Everyone knew him as "Buckey." He acquired the name by "bucking the odds" in the card game faro. Buckey O'Neill was born in Missouri and moved to Arizona in 1879. He became an author, journalist, miner, politician, and judge. His prospecting ventures eventually led him to a copper deposit near Anita about 14 miles south of what is now Grand Canyon Village. Like other prospectors who followed him at the Canyon, the cost of shipping the ore kept mining unprofitable. He eventually sold his land to the Santa Fe and Grand Canyon Railway Co., leading the way to train service to the south rim.

Buckey O'Neill was elected mayor of Prescott, Arizona and soon volunteered to fight in the Spanish American War. He became one of Teddy Roosevelt's rough riders and lost his life from sniper fire the day before the assault on San Juan Hill.



Old Bright Angel Lodge, Buckey O'Neill Cabin, 1910

O Lookout Studio

Lookout Studio was yet another building designed by Mary Colter at the Grand Canyon. It was completed in 1914, the same year Hermit's Rest was completed eight miles west of the Village. In keeping with her style of architecture, Lookout Studio was carefully designed with native stone and an irregular roofline to blend into the rim of the Grand Canyon. On the porch of Lookout Studio was a high power telescope, now on display in the History Room of the Bright Angel Lodge. Here visitors could view the features of the Grand Canyon and watch mule riders descending into the Canyon. Like Hopi House, it was designed to imitate the stone dwellings of the Pueblo Indians of the southwest. The chimney was made of irregular stones, which allowed soil and debris to collect between the cracks. Plants found a niche for growing, which further blended the building into its surroundings. A lounge was inside the studio with a fireplace and an artroom where postcards and artwork were for sale.

3 Kolb Studio

Ellsworth L. Kolb and Emery C. Kolb played an important role in the early development of visitor services to the Grand Canyon. Ellsworth and Emery came to the Canyon in 1902. Ellsworth worked as a bellman in the Bright Angel Hotel. The brothers eventually bought a photographic studio in Williams, Arizona and brought the equipment to

the Grand Canyon. Their business started out photographing parties going down the Bright Angel Trail. Because water supplies were limited on the rim of the Canyon, they would photograph the mule passengers then run 4 1/2 miles to indian Garden where they had set up a photographic lab. Water was available here for



Kolb Studio

processing the film. Then they returned to the rim of the Canyon with the processed pictures ready for the mule passengers on their return.

Kolb Studio was constructed on this site from 1904 through 1926. It was a 2 1/2 story structure with the upper level on the rim of the Canyon. This building saw 23 years of expansion and alterations that brought it to its present day appearance.

9 Red Horse Station

Prior to train service in 1901 most visitors reached the Grand Canyon by horseback or stagecoach. The first stage line started May 19, 1892. The eleven hour trip from Flagstaff left on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It returned to Flagstaff on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. There were three stations along the stage line from Flagstaff where visitors rested and dusted themselves off, while fresh horses were hooked up to the stagecoach. Red Horse Station was the last of three stations located on the stage line from Flagstaff.

Built in the 1890's, it was originally known as Moqui Station and located about 16 miles south of Grand Canyon village. In 1902 Ralph Cameron moved Red Horse Station to its present site and converted it into a 2-story hotel, called the Cameron Hotel. The first story was squared logs while the upper story was wood shingled. There was a covered porch around three sides of the first floor with a stairway along the porch to the ground. In 1907 it became a U.S. Post Office. It was slated to be destroyed in the early 1930's but Mary Colter, aware of its historical significance, insisted it be saved together with Buckey O'Neill Cabin and incorporated into the Bright Angel Lodge. The cabin is now one story and has been remodeled into a 2-room guest cabin. It sits on a stone foundation. The once mudchinked logs are now chinked with cement. The walls and ceilings are still uncovered logs with plaster chinking on the ceiling. The floor is made of pegged oak boards.



Cameron's Hotel & Camp (Red Horse Station)

The numbers used are for reference only and do not indicate any particular order. You may enjoy this self-guided tour by starting at any point.

By Dennis Reason, Grand Canyon National Park Lodges Training and Development. Historical photos courtesy of Grand Canyon National Park Museum Collection. Courses on Grand Canyon human history are offered by Grand Canyon Field Institute at 638-2485. For an up-to-date appreciation of Grand Canyon's natural and human history, the

following books are available at local retail shops or through the Grand Canyon Assoc. at 520-638-2481 or www.grandcanyon.org.

Living at the Edge, Michael F. Anderson.

Introduction to Grand Canyon Prehistory, Christopher M. Coder.