

American Museum of Western Art – The Anschutz Collection
Writing the West: Season 6, February 2025
From Boarding School to Jazz Club – The Navarre through the Decades

The Navarre building has gone through three main phases from its final completion in 1880 to 2025. We'll march through the decades, learning about Phase 1 – Boarding School, Phase 2 – Entertainment, and Phase 3 – Art Museums, asking questions and writing as we go.

You can find a timeline and historic photos of the building here:

<https://anschutzcollection.org/about-us/navarre-building>

Boarding School – 1880 to 1888:

Use these 19th century photos, sensory imagery (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch), and your imagination to write about what it might have been like to walk off Tremont Street and into Brinker Collegiate Institute. What was it like to earn an exclusive education in Denver in 1880?

Entertainment – 1889 to 1970's:

Hotel Richelieu, Navarre Café, the Johnny Ott years, Peanuts Hucko's Navarre, and Escape coffeehouse mark the longest lasting phase of 1727 Tremont. From sporting house, gambling den and brothel to restaurant and jazz club, the building's patrons sought entertainment in a variety of ways. Focus on one of these establishments and write a scene using the prompt: "If these walls could talk..."

Art Museums – 1980's to 2025:

Imagine you had the means to own an art museum. Find a painting on this floor you'd add to your collection. Describe it using sensory imagery while weaving in why the painting would hang in your museum.

Or:

Nothing lasts forever. Someday the third phase of the Navarre—*Art Museums*—will end and be replaced by a fourth phase. What is it? Name the phase and describe the building's new function on how it serves the city and Denver's visitors.