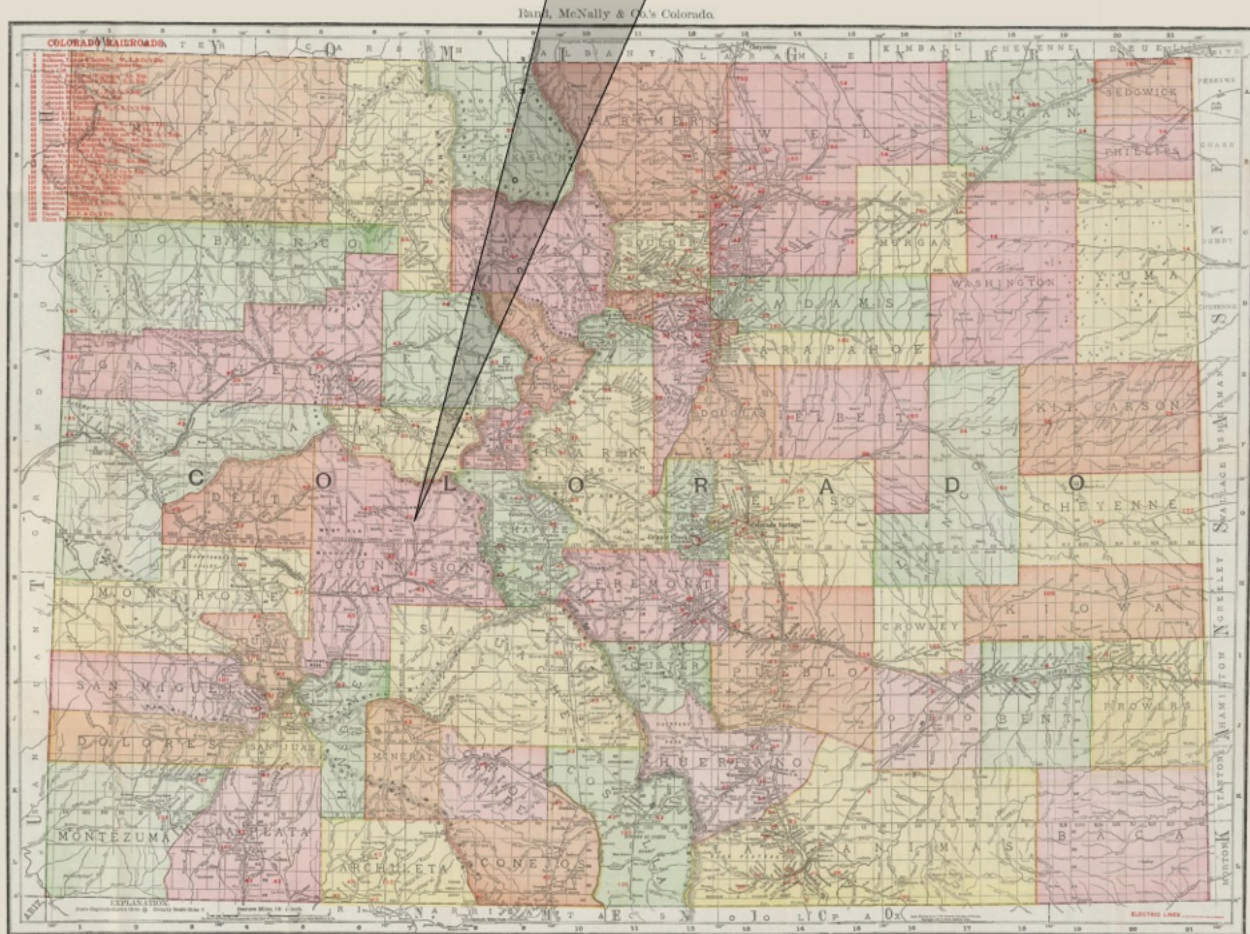


# Gunnison County



Map courtesy of <http://www.davidrumsey.com>

*Established: March 9, 1877*

*County Seat: Gunnison*



## **GUNNISON COUNTY**

By William H. Bauer

Gunnison County lies west of the Continental Divide and occupies the northeastern corner of Southwestern Colorado. The shape of the county is a very rough square about seventy miles maximum in an east-west direction and seventy-five miles in the north-south direction. The northern and eastern boundaries are quite irregular, following the crests of mountain ridges and a portion of the Continental Divide. On the northwest corner Gunnison County is bounded by Mesa County for a short distance, then Pitkin County becomes the boundary east to the Continental Divide. At that point Chaffee County assumes the role and forms the eastern boundary of Gunnison County. The southern boundary is with Saguache County to the point where after a nineteen-mile turn due south, the boundary county becomes Hinsdale until the western end of the county is reached. The western boundary is with first Ouray County, then Montrose County and finally with Delta County north to the intersection with the Mesa County line.

Gunnison County is largely mountainous in topography. The elevation varies from a maximum of over 14,000 feet on several peaks along the northern boundary to about 7,400 feet where the Gunnison River exits into Montrose County.

Throughout Gunnison County the mountain scenery is spectacular. To the north the Elk Mountains dominate. On the east it is the Sawatch Range and Continental Divide that rise well above timberline. On the south, the Cochetopa Hills and the Uncompahgre Mountains form the northern edge of the San Juan Mountains. The Blue Mesa dominates the western portion of Gunnison County south of the Gunnison River and Black Mesa on the north side of the river. The West Elk Mountains, including the West Elk Wilderness Area occupy a large, virtually uninhabited portion of west central Gunnison County.

Ultimately the Gunnison River drains almost the entire county. From the north, the East River and the Taylor River join at Almont to form the Gunnison River. Tomichi Creek joins the Gunnison at the city of Gunnison. From the south, Cochetopa Creek, Cebolla Creek and the Lake Fork are the principal tributaries. The North Fork of the Gunnison drains the northwest corner of the county and flows southwest to join the main river at Delta. A small portion of the county, north of Schofield Pass is drained by the Crystal River, which flows north into the Colorado River.

Reasonably level terrain is confined to the valleys of the principal streams. Taylor Park is a minor exception, however it is much more uneven than the larger "parks"; North Park, Middle Park and South Park.

There are two other major features of western Gunnison County: one ancient, one modern. The deep, very narrow Black Canyon of the Gunnison River was an impassible obstacle to travel and required long diversions for westbound travelers. This spectacular canyon was first declared a National Monument and has now been upgraded to the status of a National Park. At the east end of the canyon, the construction of a dam that formed the Blue Mesa Reservoir created a large lake and drowned the old Rio Grande railbed and the sites of several communities along the railroad. However, the economic effect of creating a major recreational asset has been significant to Gunnison County.

Early travel into and through Gunnison County was difficult. The high mountains that surround the county diverted travel to other, easier paths. One of the first routes through the county was from the south, over Cochetopa Pass, down to Tomichi Creek and west along the Gunnison River. Even this route required additional effort to bypass the deep Black Canyon of the Gunnison and leave the county over a shoulder of Blue Mesa.

Other routes came through the Cottonwood and Tin Cup Passes into Taylor Park and then north over Taylor Pass to Ashcroft and Aspen. Routes over Monarch and Marshall Passes descended to

Tomichi Creek and then west to Gunnison. The route over McClure Pass did not become important until well into the twentieth century. Schofield Pass provided another, but very difficult route north to the Aspen area.

Settlement of Southwestern Colorado quickly raised interest in developing rail service into the area. The Denver, South Park, and Pacific, and the Denver and Rio Grande both rushed to be the first to reach Gunnison. The South Park chose to build up Chalk Creek and to tunnel under the Continental Divide descending to Pitkin and then on to Gunnison. The Rio Grande chose a longer route, from Salida over Marshall Pass to Sargents and then on to Gunnison.

The construction of the Alpine Tunnel was far more difficult than the South Park anticipated, and although they took the longer route, the Rio Grande won the race to Gunnison. The difficulty and the expense of maintaining the Alpine Tunnel and of keeping the railroad open in winter months eventually led to that portion of the South Park being abandoned and the western portion being turned over to the Rio Grande.

From Gunnison, the Rio Grande built west along the river to Cimarron, then to avoid the impassible Black Canyon, over Cerro Summit to Montrose, Grand Junction and eventually to Salt Lake City.

Branch lines were built from Gunnison north to Baldwin and to Crested Butte. From Crested Butte spurs ran to the coal mines at Floresta and Anthracite. Another short spur ran south from Gunnison to the granite quarry at Aberdeen. A major branch line followed the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River to Lake City in Hinsdale County. Other railroads were planned, even graded, but never built.

By 1954, rail transport in Gunnison County was nearly finished. Today the only active stretch of rail in the county is an extension from Delta County along the North Fork of the Gunnison River to the coal mines at Somerset.

In the twentieth century, the old wagon roads were improved and became the modern highways. The major route is US Highway 50, which enters the county via New Monarch Pass and exits over Blue Mesa. From the south, Colorado Highways 114 (via Cochetopa Pass) and Colorado Highway 149 (from Lake City) provide easy access to Gunnison County.

From the north, there is no simple access. Colorado Highway 133 does come over McClure Pass to intersect Colorado 92 at Hotchkiss. From Hotchkiss you can continue on to US 50 at Delta. It is possible and not difficult to leave Colorado 133 and take the good gravel road over Kebler Pass to Crested Butte. Or, at Hotchkiss to take Colorado 92 along the north rim of the Black Canyon and eventually to US 50 at the west end of Blue Mesa Reservoir.

From Gunnison roads fan out to the north to the Ohio Creek Valley, Crested Butte, and Taylor Park. Another important road is from Parlin north to Pitkin. The county also has a network of good gravel roads that can be driven with a normal passenger car. For the 4-wheel enthusiast, there are many back roads of varying difficulty. Many of these climb to the high mountain passes. The most difficult (recommended only for short wheelbase vehicles and very experienced drivers) is from the north side of Schofield Pass to Crystal and Marble.

The lack of suitable land but more so the often long, hard winters have restricted agriculture in Gunnison County. The bottomlands along the streams provide hay and there is some fruit production along the North Fork of the Gunnison River but otherwise the raising of livestock is the dominant agricultural product.

Mining was important to the early development of Gunnison County. Gold, but more importantly silver, brought hundreds of prospectors to areas in the northern portion of the county around Irwin, Crystal, Gothic, Tin Cup, Pitkin and White Pine. The silver panic of 1893, combined with expensive transportation brought this mining activity largely to an end by the beginning of the twentieth century.



Around 1900, a series of gold discoveries in southern Gunnison County, the Gunnison Gold Belt, brought a brief revival of precious metal mining in the county. The mine at Vulcan was the best of the lot but others at Spencer and Chance produced for a few years. By the end of World War I most of this activity had ceased.

Coal mining enjoyed a longer run. The principal mines in the area around Crested Butte produced from the 1880's until the 1950's. Coal mining still continues in the vicinity of Somerset.

With the end of mining as an economic strength, Gunnison County continued to survive on agriculture. Following World War II, a rapid increase in tourism brought a new wave of growth to Gunnison County. The development of the large winter recreational facility at Mount Crested Butte and its associated resort developments have greatly changed the face of that portion of the county.

Other outdoor activities, particularly hunting and fishing, have long attracted visitors to Gunnison County and have become increasingly important. There are also numerous opportunities for hiking and exploring the back country by foot, bike or 4-wheel drive.

Like many other areas of Colorado, the climate, the scenery and the reasonable access have brought many part and full time residents to the Gunnison Country.

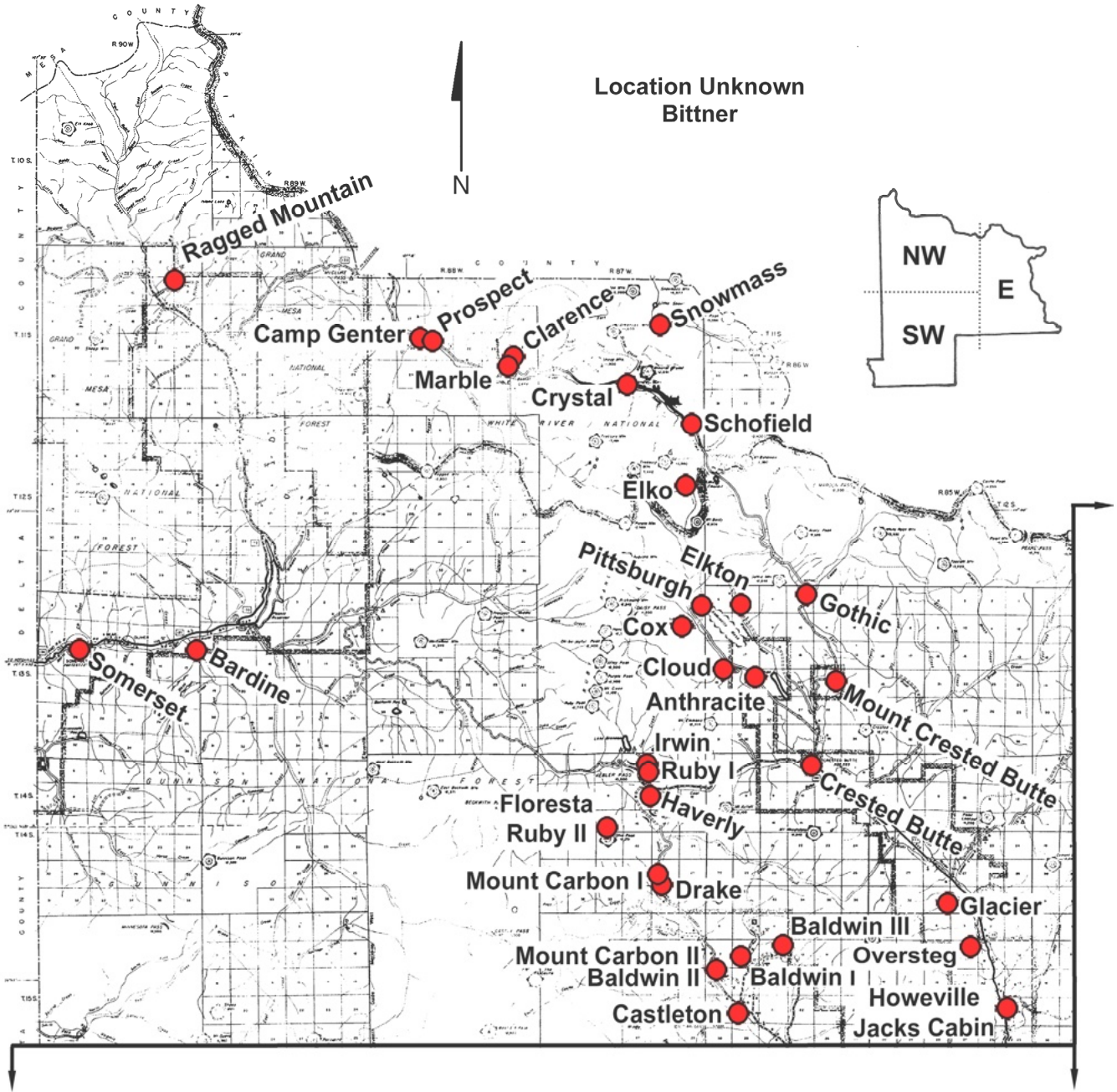
For many visitors to Colorado, Gunnison County continues to be one of their favorite areas and one to which they frequently return.



**Remains of Vulcan, Colorado**

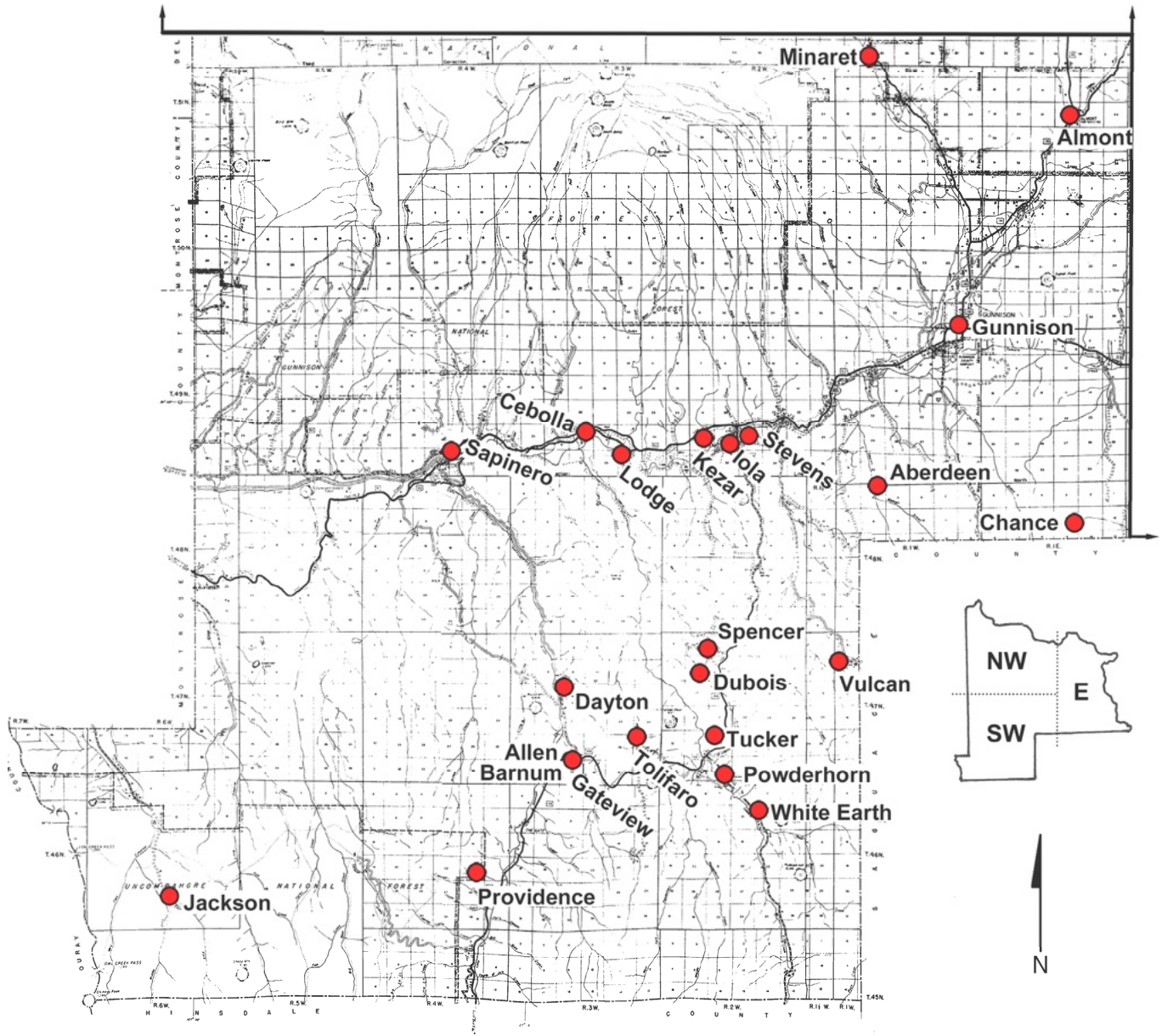
Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 20, 2003

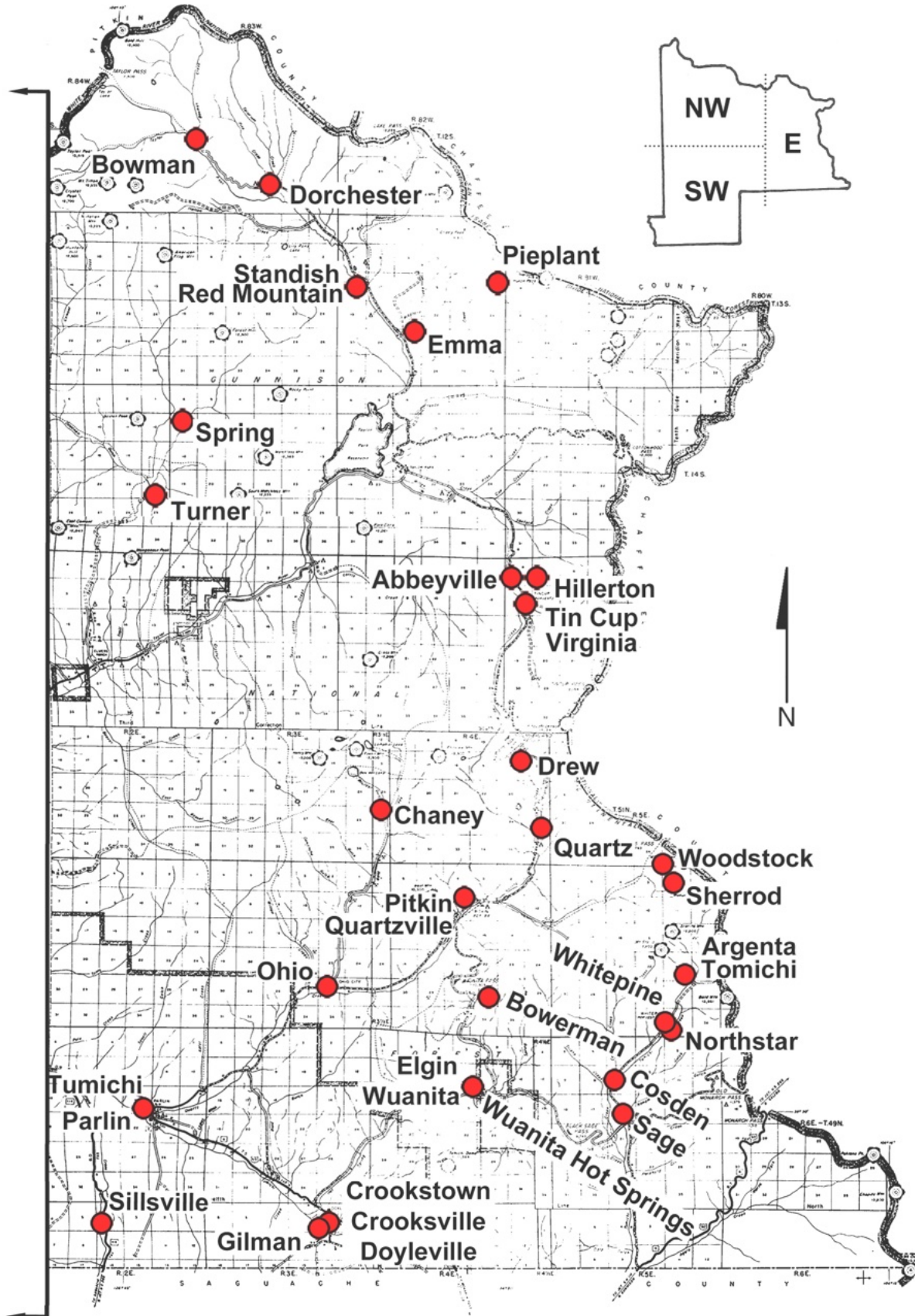


Post Office Location Map – Northwestern Gunnison County





Post Office Location Map – Southwestern Gunnison County



Post Office Location Map – Eastern Gunnison County

**ABBEYVILLE**

In early 1881, about one-half mile south of Hillerton, the small community of Abbeyville came into existence. Located on Willow Creek, near the mouth of Bertha Gulch it had a smelter, built by C. F. Abbey that served the silver mines on nearby Amazon Mountain. At its zenith, Abbeyville supported a modest community of mine and smelter employees, a butcher, at least one hotel and one or two general stores. Although the smelter operated only periodically, and the settlement struggled to exist, in 1882 it was sufficiently active to acquire the post office that had been in nearby Hillerton.

The failure to devise a satisfactory smelting process and a lack of good ore closed the smelter in 1883. The post office closed late in 1884 and by 1886 the site was reported to be essentially deserted. The buildings were either salvaged or moved to Tin Cup.

The community was named for C. F. Abbey.

In the later part of the twentieth century, the area was once again settled with some scattered mountain property homes for summer use. The site is on private property but a road leads into the development.

From Taylor Reservoir take Route 765 south a bit more than 5 miles. The private road is to the right. From the Town Hall in Tin Cup, it is two miles north on route 765 and on the left. Before reaching the homes, the road forks. The lesser traveled right hand fork crosses the creek and then follows the creek downstream to a mine dump and a couple of derelict structures. The remains of a gold dredge are still present in the willows along the creek near the mine dump.

Latitude = 38:46:39 North Longitude = 106:29:30 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- May 20 1879 --- **Unsurveyed Land One rod west side of Batty Creek, sometimes called Willow Creek Location of Hillerton Proposed postmaster - Edwin H. Hiller**
- Nov 20 1882 **Moved from Hillerton**
- Nov 20 1882 **Sutton, Seldon S.**
- Dec 24 1883 --- **NW/4 Sec 6 T15S R81W 20 rods east of Willow Creek**
- Dec 3 1884 **Discontinued Mail to Tin Cup**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 **ABBEYVILLE (GUNNISON CO., / S. S. SUTTON, P.M.) COLORADO. Dec 3 1882 Dec 7 1883**  
**CI 20T 31.0/29.0 Hstp Target, 4-ring, 20mm**



1

**ABERDEEN**

For a few years the quarry at Aberdeen was one of the most important in the state. From this quarry came the granite that was used to build the United States Mint and the State Capitol Building in Denver. There were two periods of major activity: first from 1889 to 1892 and then again from 1897 to 1902. The Aberdeen Post Office was in operation only during the first period.



### **ABERDEEN – Continued**

The quarry produced excellent, gray granite; however, the cost of transporting the stone out from the Gunnison area and over high mountain passes made it marginally economic except for large projects.

Because of the quantities needed for the Capitol and Mint buildings it was feasible for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad to build a spur line some six miles south from Gunnison. The railroad followed South Beaver Creek to the quarry. The railroad was abandoned in 1904. Portions of the railroad grade are still visible.

The settlement at Aberdeen was small, providing houses and services for the quarry workers. It appears to have been largely on the west side of South Beaver Creek, with the quarry on the east side.

It is claimed that the quarry and the town took their names from Aberdeen, Scotland and the quarries there.

My reading of historical literature led me to believe that the site of Aberdeen was not accessible to visitors. However, in the late afternoon of a day in May 2003, Jim Ozment and I decided to see how close we could get. We drove south from US 50 on a county road, turned off on a minimal, unmarked side road and with some difficulty reached a point on a granite ridge where we could look down into the South Beaver Creek Valley. We could see the old railroad grade, which appeared to end somewhere below the cliff on which we were standing. We headed back towards Gunnison and observed that the gate across the old grade was not padlocked. We returned to a ranch house a short distance south, explained our purpose and asked if we might go in to the quarry. The lady (Polly Bates) to whom we talked advised us that there was a way in to Aberdeen and that it was on public land, so off we went and some three and a quarter miles later we were in Aberdeen on the west side of South Beaver Creek. We found the remains of two buildings, one fairly large, and the other for which only the floor joists remain. The quarry is on the east side of the creek, which having been dammed by beavers we did not attempt to cross. So we did not get to the actual quarry. We could see large piles of scrap granite from the quarry.

To reach the site, go about three miles west from Gunnison and turn south on Gunnison County Road 32. Cross the Gunnison River and keep to the right. At about three miles you cross South Beaver Creek and go through the ranch complex. Two miles further south, the road forks; take the left fork another mile to a high-tension power line. At this point there is a "road" to east that wanders along the power line. It is a mile and a quarter to the creek and the site of Aberdeen. This road appears to be a service road for the power line and was likely constructed by just running a bulldozer cross county. It is rough, rocky, gullied and very steep in places with lots of loose gravel and rock. It requires a four-wheel drive vehicle. The total distance from US 50 is a little less than eight miles.

On our way back, we stopped again at the ranch and were introduced to Mrs. Bates' husband Jerry. We were given a tour of the ranch house. Although extensively remodeled, the basic building dates back to the original homestead. From the Bates we learned that there was a similar route of access to the quarry on the east side of South Beaver Creek. Perhaps some day we will try that road to Aberdeen. We were also told that the crossing of Beaver Creek was usually stirrup high on a horse, so don't try that unless you have a vehicle built for deep water.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jan 24 1890</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NE/4 Sec 5 T48N R1W From the sketch map, it seems to be located on South Beaver Creek, south of the Gunnison River. Is on the Aberdeen Branch of the D&amp;RG</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Albert H. Edwards</b>
<b>Feb 15 1890</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Feb 15 1890</b>		<b>Edwards, Albert H.</b>
<b>Jun 16 1891</b>		<b>Discontinued Papers to Gunnison</b>

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ABERDEEN**

**ALLEN**

B. F. Allen bought the Halfway House, which until then, was known as Barnum. Later the site would change its name again, to Gateview. There was a brief break in postal operation between Barnum and Allen. Allen/Barnum, or the Halfway House was on the stage route from Saguache in the San Luis Valley, over Los Pinos Pass, through White Earth, and from Allen/Barnum south along the Lake Fork of the Gunnison to Lake City. The “Halfway” was a reference to its position between White Earth and Lake City. The eventual construction of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad to Lake City reduced the importance of Allen as a stage station. The site continued to exist for a few years to serve ranchers in the area and travelers who passed through other than on the railroad.

The exact location of Allen is a bit indefinite. The Post Office Department places it a half-mile east of the Lake Fork near Indian Creek. Colorado Highway 149, from Lake City turns east as it approaches Indian Creek. It crosses Indian Creek just before a side road; The Blue Mesa Cutoff departs to the north. At the junction, the remains of a small stone structure can be seen on the nearby hillside. A bit further east, on the south side of Colorado 149 (mile post 93), are a foundation and the remains of two or three structures. It seems possible that this was the site of Allen/Barnum.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 1 1881	Established
Aug 1 1881	Allen, Benjamin F.
Jul 19 1882	--- Ute Reservation 1/2 mile east of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison Near Indian Creek? Postmaster - B. F. Allen
Mar 24 1888	Mendenhall, Miss Alla M.
Oct 7 1889	--- Unsurveyed lands 3/4 mile east of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, on the east bank of Indian Creek
Mar 11 1892	Moved to Gateview Postal guide listing not changed until 1895

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

0.1	Allen Col	Sep 24 1881
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel
1	ALLEN, / COLO. CI 20P 32.0/30.0	Apr 27 1882 Sep 10 1883 Hstp Fancy, Maltese Cross

*Allen Col*  
*9/24/81*  
0.1



**ALMONT**

Shortly after the establishment of Gunnison and in the early stages of the mining excitement north of Gunnison near Gothic, Samuel C. Fisher took a load of goods north to Gothic. At the Taylor River he found a rickety bridge. Returning from Gothic Fisher brought a load of lumber and decided to homestead at the point where the Taylor and East Rivers join to form the Gunnison River. From the County Commissioners he secured permits for a toll road and toll bridge. His competitor soon left the area and a small community soon developed at Fisher’s Ranch and the toll bridge.

By October 1881, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad had reached Fisher’s Ranch with construction of the Crested Butte branch. The railroad, in order to receive ore from the Doctor Mine built a station, siding and loading facilities at Fisher’s Ranch. A post office was requested for the community.

**ALMONT – Continued**

The story is that Samuel Fisher owned a prize stallion named Firmont. The horse was foal of a famous Kentucky stallion, Almont, a direct descendent of Hambeltonian. Fisher chose to remember the sire, Almont, and gave that name to the new post office.

Fisher remained at Almont until 1893 when he sold his property to Vernon Davis of Denver, who turned it into a summer resort and continued to run it as a resort for many years. The next owners were the Knights of Pythias, who in turn sold it to John W. Brittain.

Almont was never a mining town. It did serve as a transshipment point for ore from mines up the Taylor River and Spring Creek. Its principal economic basis has long been as a resort located in heart of the excellent hunting and fishing territory along the upper Gunnison River and its tributaries.

Almont is located on Colorado Highway 135 at the junction with the road to Taylor Park. The post office was first in the lodge of the Almont Resort. Later the store and post office moved across the river to the Taylor Resort. The modern post office is a short distance east of the community on the road to Taylor Park.

Latitude = 38:39:53 North Longitude = 106:50:44 West



ALMONT, COLO. July 16, 1882 With fancy POD monogram killer

**Chronology of the Post Office**

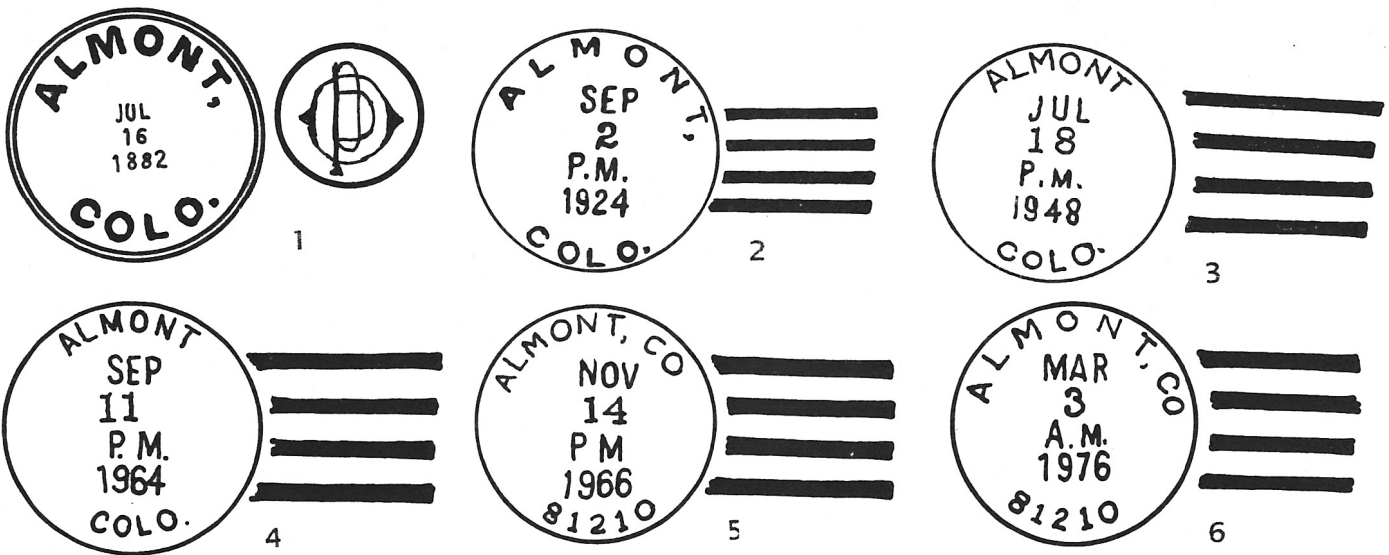
Mar 6 1882	Established
Mar 6 1882	Fisher, Samuel C.
May 3 1893	Discontinued Mail to Gunnison
Apr 21 1904	Re-established
Apr 21 190	Davis, Vernon
Jun 8 1908	Kemper, Morris D.
Oct 10 1908	Ordered closed
Oct 31 1908	Discontinued Mail to Gunnison
Apr 28 1910	Re-established
Apr 28 1910	McKee, Arthur D.
Apr 27 1911	McClanahan, Theodore
Jan 31 1913	Discontinued

**ALMONT – Continued**

Jul 21 1913	Re-established	
Jul 21 1913	Graham, Fred	
Jun 23 1916	Brittain, John W.	
Jan 11 1924	Salisbury, Frank H.	Acting
Aug 30 1923	Salisbury, Frank H.	
Jan 10 1924	--- SE/4 Sec 22 T51N R1E	200 feet east of the Taylor River 600 feet east of the D&RG tracks
Jan 11 1924	Salisbury, Frank H.	Confirmed
Dec 4 1926	Salisbury, Mrs. Anna	Assumed charge
Dec 15 1926	Salisbury, Mrs. Anna	Acting
Jul 23 1926	Salisbury, Mrs. Anna	Confirmed
Sep 16 1926	Salisbury, Mrs. Anna	Commissioned

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	ALMONT, / COLO. CI 20P 33.0/31.0	Hstp Fancy, POD monogram	Jul 16 1882
2	ALMONT, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x14mm	Aug 13 1910 Jun 18 1943
3	ALMONT / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-22x18mm	Sep 3 1947 Aug 22 1949
4	ALMONT / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Aug 20 1956 Sep 11 1964
5	ALMONT, CO / 81210 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	May 27 1966 May 27 1975
6	ALMONT, CO / 81210 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Jun 13 1975 Nov 1 1977
7	ALMONT, CO / 81210 CI 10P 33.5	4bars S-25x19mm	Apr 15 1988 Jun 26 1991
8	ALMONT CO / USPO CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 26 1991
9	ALMONT, CO / 81210 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Sep 18 2002
10	ALMONT CO 81210/ USPS CI 11P 27.0/17.5	Hstp No killer	Sep 18 2002



## ALMONT – Continued



## ANTHRACITE

One of the largest coal mines in the Crested Butte region was located opposite Oh-Be-Joyful Creek, on Smith Hill, some 1,600 feet above the Slate River. Howard Smith with George Holt and William Bell acquired the property after investigations had discovered a large deposit of high quality anthracite coal.

With the difficulty of access, a small community developed around the mine and both the community and mine took Smith's name. However, when a post office was secured, it adopted the name Anthracite.

There is no doubt that the community of Anthracite was located at the mine, near the crest of Smith Hill. However, the post office of Anthracite was not there. It was located in the valley a tenth of a mile east of the Slate River and 100 feet east of the tracks of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. That is the location given in the initial Geographic Site Location Report to the Post Office Department.

It is possible that later in its existence the post office did move up the hill to the mine and town.

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad built a spur from Crested Butte to large level area below the mine. Coal was brought down from Smith Hill by an aerial tramway for loading to railcars. It seems likely that mail for the miners went up the hill by the same tramway.

To reach the site of Anthracite, drive east from Crested Butte towards Mount Crested Butte. A short distance from Crested Butte, turn north on Gunnison County Road 732. From the junction it is three and a half miles to the location of the coal loading facilities and the Anthracite Post Office. Although most of the debris from the coal mining activity has been removed, there is ample visible evidence of what once was there. By looking east, the mine site can be seen near the crest of the ridge that is Smith Hill. Supposedly there is a road that accesses the mine site. I have not attempted to find or drive it and what little information I have says that it is a poor and difficult road at best.

## Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 1 1884	---	NE/4 Sec 20 T13S R86W One tenth mile east of the Slate River, one tenth mile east of Oh-Be-Joyful Creek East side of D&RG 100 feet from track	
		Proposed postmaster - Henry Otis	
Nov 14 1884		Established	
Nov 14 1884		Otis, Henry A.	
Apr 12 1886		Lawton, Charles F.	
May 14 1887		Carter, Harry	
Oct 9 1888		Haas, Edwin	
Apr 23 1890		Wheeler, Nathaniel C.	
Dec 7 1893		Olney, Jerry S.	
Nov 2 1895		Rickelmann, Frank H.	Declined
Jan 27 1896		Brickland, Charles S.	
Sep 29 1896	---	NE/4 Sec 20 T13S R86W 1/2 mile north of the Denver & Rio Grande RR	
Dec 30 1896		Discontinued Mail to Crested Butte	



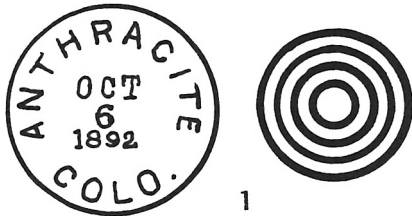
**ANTHRACITE – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 ANTHRACITE / COLO.  
CI 10P 27.0

Sep 20 1887 Mar 6 1898

Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm



**ARGENTA**

The initial settlement at Argenta was in May of 1880 and by July a post office was in operation. However, in less than two months the name was changed to Tomichi.

Argenta was an obvious reference to the silver that had been discovered along the upper reaches of Tomichi Creek. Please refer to the discussion of Tomichi for the extended history of this mining community and directions to the site.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 2 1880	Established
Jul 2 1880	Eastman, Phillip H.
Aug 8 1880	--- On the west side of Tomichi Creek Chaffee, seven miles easterly The Site Location Report is filed under Chaffee County
Aug 23 1880	Name changed to Tomichi

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ARGENTA**

**BALDWIN (I)**

Baldwin was a coal mining complex northwest of Gunnison in the angle formed by Ohio Creek and Carbon Creek. Over the course of its existence, the post office moved several times. The moves were in response to the major mining activity shifting to a new location that would provide more efficient access to the coal seams that were being exploited.

This complex is reached from Gunnison by driving north on Colorado Highway 135 and turning west on Ohio Creek Road. Follow Ohio Creek Road west about twelve miles and across Carbon Creek to a road junction. The road to the north parallels Carbon Creek, on the east side of a modest hill. Approximately two miles from the junction is a valley in which you can see remnants of the mining activity. This was the initial site of Baldwin (1883). This site was closed in 1902 and the post office moved to Mt. Carbon (the second location of Mt. Carbon).

In 1909, the Mt. Carbon Post Office was renamed Baldwin and in 1915 it was moved a short distance east, from the west side of Ohio Creek Road to the east side of the road. This location is easy to find. As you continue northwest on Ohio Creek Road and around the hill, you will pass a large mine dump on the northeast side of the road and will see several abandoned cabins in the shallow valley beyond the mine dump. These buildings are on private property but are easily visible from the Ohio Creek Road.

In 1948 Baldwin moved once again, this time about two miles to the northeast and was once again on Carbon Creek. This final site can be reached by continuing north on the road that passes the original Baldwin site, bearing right through a ranch complex, down a short grade and crossing Carbon Creek into

**BALDWIN (I) – Continued**

a reasonably large level area. The mine was up the side valley that you face as you cross the creek but there is evidence of coal mining activity throughout the level area. The mine and community at this location were named Kubler but the post office continued to be called Baldwin.

The initial mine was the South Park Mine, operated by the Denver, South Park, and Pacific Railroad. The second location was at the Alpine Mine and the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company operated the third, at the Kubler Mine. All three locations were served by the railroad, at first the Denver South Park and Pacific, next called the Denver, Leadville, and Gunnison, then the Colorado and Southern, and finally the Denver and Rio Grande. The Union Pacific also had a hand in the operations to Baldwin.

The chronology and postal markings of the three incarnations of Baldwin are here presented as separate listings. However, the history of the Baldwin complex is best told as the single story as told above.



**Overview of the remaining cabins at the second location of Baldwin. The mine dump is off the photo to the right and the location of Mount Carbon (II) was also to the right of this scene.**

Photograph by James L. Ozment

September 2002

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 22 1883	---	NW/4 Sec 8 T15S R86W 1/4 mile west of Mt. Carbon Creek Proposed postmaster - Evridge Passmore Seeley
Sep 17 1883		Established
Sep 17 1883		Seeley, Evridge P.
Nov 30 1885		Plumminskey, Joseph
Jun 2 1888		McCracken, Benjamin F.
Dec 15 1890		Dove, Able

**BALDWIN (I) – Continued**

Jun 12 1895	Order of appointment rescinded
Jan 15 1896	Quinn, Michael
Dec 14 1901	Morton, James L.
Mar 13 1902	Ordered closed
Mar 31 1902	Discontinued Papers to Mount Carbon



**BALDWIN, COLORADO**

**December --, 1901**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	BALDWIN, / COLORADO. CI 20P 28.0/25.0	Aug 21 1888 May 25 1892 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
2	BALDWIN / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Nov 6 1898 Hstp Not present



1



2

**BALDWIN (II)**

In the seven years, 1902-1909, the Mount Carbon Post Office was the one that served the miners in the area of Baldwin. The history of Baldwin is given above under Baldwin (I) but refer also to Mount Carbon (II) for some additional information.

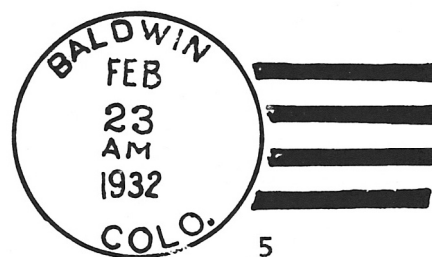
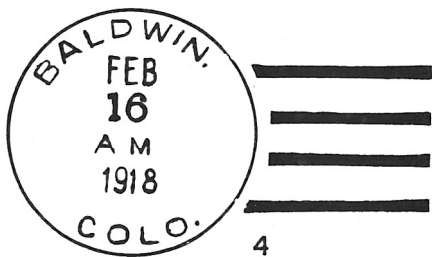
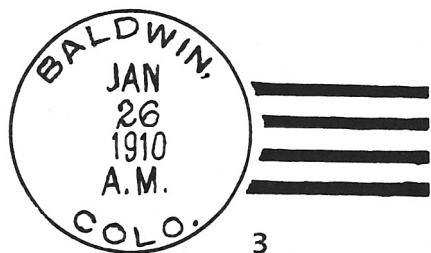
Latitude = 38:45:50 North Longitude = 107:02:50 West

**BALDWIN (II) – Continued**  
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 26 1909	Site moved from Mount Carbon and name changed	
Jun 26 1909	Shackleford, John J.	
Feb 2 1915	--- SE/4 SW/4 Sec 7 T15S R86W 1/4 mile east of Ohio Creek 300 feet east of the D&RG R A move 2 miles southwest of the previous location (Shown on sketch map as being in the NW/4 NE/4 Sec 5)	
Jun 9 1917	Sanders, James H.	
Jan 14 1925	Ball, Harry	
Feb 28 1925	Pagnette, Samuel	Acting
Apr 2 1925	Pagnette, Samuel	
Jul 9 1930	Hardin, Mrs. Ottie Leon	Confirmed
Jul 26 1930	Hardin, Mrs. Ottie Leon	Commissioned
Aug 11 1930	Hardin, Mrs. Ottie Leon	Assumed charge
Jul 9 1930	Hardin, Mrs. Ottie Leon	
May 22 1937	--- SE/4 SW/4 Sec 7 T15S R86W 750 feet east of Ohio Creek A move 580 feet southwest of the previous location NOTE: "Was moved on April 7, 1937. Post Office quarters destroyed by fire on April 7, 1937 and this is nearest available quarters."	
Oct 29 1941	--- Location unreliable Note: In a separate paper, dated 1937, P. M. Hardin states her location as SE/4 SW/4 Sec 7 T15S R86W Ohio Creek 1/8 mile west of post office	
Jul 21 1943	Hardin, Loerandsy	Assumed charge
Aug 3 1943	Hardin, Loerandsy	Acting
Oct 28 1946	--- NE/4 Sec 7 T15S R86W (or Sec 5 ??) A move 1185 feet northeast of a previous location Ohio Creek west 1/4 mile, Carbon Creek east 2 miles from post office site	
Sep 29 1946	Oprandi, Vince	Assumed charge
Jul 23 1947	Free, Mrs. Julia G.	Assumed charge
Sep 15 1947	Free, Mrs. Julia G.	Confirmed
May 19 1948	Leonard, Mrs. Vera E.	Assumed charge
Sep 30 1948	Ordered closed	
Oct 15 1948	Discontinued Mail to Gunnison	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

3	BALDWIN, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x14mm	Jan 26 1910 Dec 28 1910
4	BALDWIN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 17 1915 May 15 1919
5	BALDWIN / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Feb 23 1932 May 2 1941



**BALDWIN (III)**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 23 1947 --- SE/4 Sec 4 T15S R86W A move 4-1/2 miles southeast of a previous location  
Carbon Creek is 100 yards east of the post office  
May 18 1948 --- SW/4 Sec 4 T15S R86W 1/8 mile west to Carbon Creek Kubler Mine  
A move 1-1/2 miles north of a previous location  
Sep 30 1948 Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

6 BALDWIN / COLO. Aug 6 1948 Sep 1 1948  
CI 10P 33.0 4bars S-24x20mm



**BARDINE**

Very little is known about Bardine. Other than the Post Office Department records, I have found only two brief mentions of the place. One reference describes it as a, "Railroad stop close to Somerset on a 1923 map." The other claims that it was at the modern location of Oliver (?) and, "not west of Somerset as previously noted." This is from a 1924 map.

The Post Office Department Records place the office on the north side of the West Gunnison River about four miles east of Somerset, a little more than halfway to the Paonia Reservoir. In September 2002 Jim Ozment and I attempted to locate and photograph the site. I am not certain that we found it. The best we could do was two small buildings on the south side of Colorado Highway 133, two and one-half miles west of the junction of Highway 133 with the road to Kebler Pass. A short distance west of these buildings there are the remnants of a failed ski lift operation.

If the references to Oliver and the railroad are correct, then contrary to the Post Office Department description, Bardine may have been about one and half miles east of Somerset at or near the power plant.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 3 1902 --- SE/4 Sec 12 T13S R90W North bank of the North Fork of the  
Gunnison River 2 miles west of Anthracite Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Joseph Bardine  
Mar 11 1903 Established  
Mar 11 1903 Bardine, Joseph  
  
Mar 30 1905 Bardine, Anna M.  
Sep 12 1908 Ordered closed  
Oct 15 1908 Discontinued Mail to Somerset

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BARDINE**



**BARNUM**

Barnum was a junction point on the Saguache-San Juan Toll Road. The road came from Saguache, through Los Pinos and Powderhorn, and then south to Lake City. A branch that originated at Barnum crossed the Lake Fork of the Gunnison and went over Blue Mesa and eventually reached Ouray. There was also a connection to Gunnison.

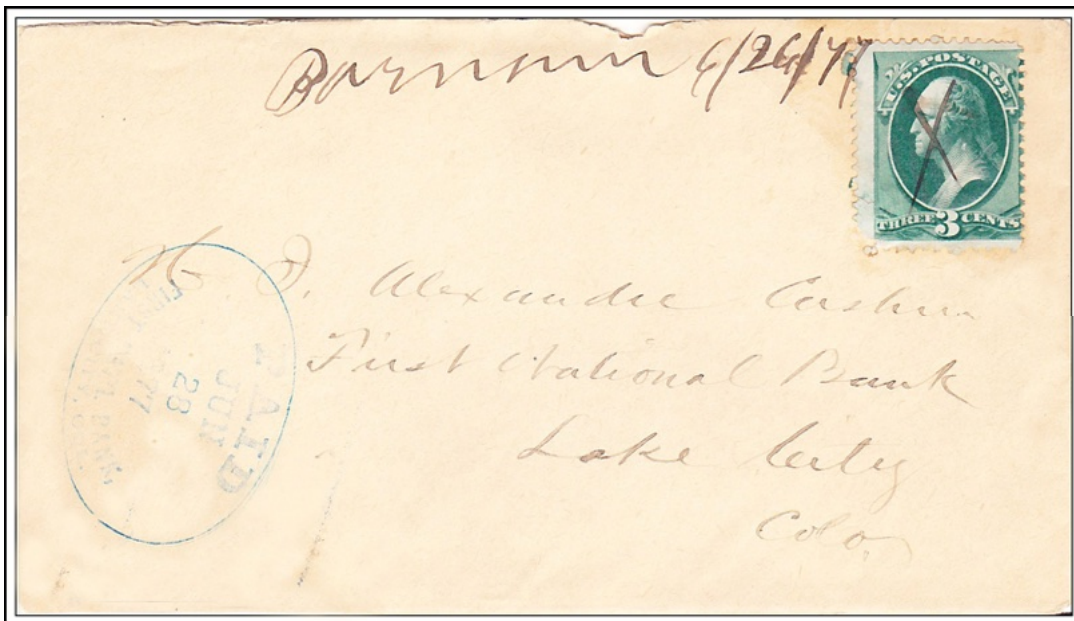
The location was about twenty miles north of Lake City and it served as a stage stop and a supply center for travelers and local residents.

Some references have claimed that Barnum was named for the famous showman, P. T. Barnum. However, *Place Names in Colorado* prepared by the Colorado Writers Project and serialized in *The Colorado Magazine* (Volumes 17-20) states that Barnum was, "named for a Mr. Barnum who owned a large ranch nearby." I believe the later derivation to be more likely.

There is no clear location for the Barnum Post Office. The Post Office Department records describe it as being three miles east of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison and north of Indian Creek. This information combined with its being a road junction point would place Barnum in the vicinity of where the Blue Mesa Cutoff departs from Colorado 149. In September 2001 Jim Ozment and I investigated the area. There is a remnant of a stone structure in sight of the junction. A short distance east of the junction near Mile Post 93, and on the south side of the highway, are the remains of another foundation and a couple of cabins. This seems a likely location for Barnum and for the later Allen Post Office.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 17 1876	---	None reported 3 miles east of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison 1/8 mile north of Indian Creek
Mar 10 1876		Established
Mar 10 1876		Pearson, Henry F.
Jun 19 1876		Sargent, Joseph
Dec 27 1878		Miller, Edgar L.
Sep 8 1879		Allen, Benjamin F.
Jun 7 1881		Discontinued

**Barnum****June 26, 1877**

**BARNUM – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 Barnum  
MS

Feb 5 1877 Jun 26 1877

Mscp Pen cancel



**BITTNER**

I have found no mention of this place in any of the historical literature. The Post Office Department records do not contain a Geographic Site Location Report, however that is normal for an office whose establishment was rescinded. The location of Bittner remains a mystery.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 7 1905	Established
Sep 7 1905	Bittner, Everest F. A.
Dec 7 1905	Establishment rescinded The records give the year as 1904, an obvious error

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BITTNER**

**BOWERMAN**

In May 1903 J. C. Bowerman found gold on a branch of Hot Springs Creek about four miles north of Waunita (Waunita Hot Springs). This was along the road over Waunita Pass to Pitkin.

Bowerman staked the Independence Mine and there was a rush of prospectors to the new gold camp. It was touted as, “the new Cripple Creek” and the population became sufficient to briefly support a newspaper, *The Bowerman Herald*. The quality of the ore was greatly overstated and the population of Bowerman quickly declined, although there was continued activity in the vicinity for a few more years and the post office remained open until May 1910 when it was moved to Waunita Hot Springs.

From Parlin, drive north on Gunnison County Road 887 (8 miles) going a short distance beyond the Waunita Hot Springs Guest Ranch. Turn left on Forest Road 763 towards Pitkin and Waunita Pass. The site of Bowerman is in a meadow to the east of the road, four miles from the junction. The ruins of several cabins can still be seen there.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 10 1903	---	SE/4 Sec 27 T50N R4E On west side of Hot Springs Creek Proposed postmaster - Ambrose Caufmann
Oct 28 1903		Established
Oct 28 1903		Caufman, Ambrose
Nov 1 1905		Burgess, Lena
Jan 22 1906		Dice, Parker C.
Nov 23 1909		Allison, Eva M.
Mar 2 1910	---	Location not reported A move five miles south of the previous location
May 27 1910		Moved to Waunita Hot Springs

**BOWERMAN – Continued**

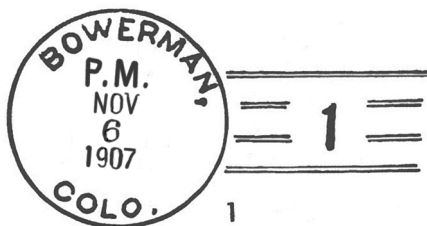


**Remnants of one of the cabins at Bowerman, Colorado**  
 Photograph by James L. Ozment May 2002

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 **BOWERMAN, / COLO.**  
 CI 10P 28.0

Jan 16 1907 Aug 1 1909  
 Doane Type 2 with 1, S-24x13mm



**BOWMAN**

For a place that has almost totally disappeared from the landscape, Bowman has been often mentioned in historical discussions of Gunnison’s Taylor Park. Only a few pieces of lumber and some depressions that represent partial dugouts or cellars remain in a meadow at the upper end of Taylor Park at the beginning of the climb to Taylor Pass along the early road to Aspen.

**BOWMAN – Continued**

From the various reports it is certain that Bowman was an important supply and rest stop on the road from St. Elmo to Aspen, at least until the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad reached Aspen by way of Glenwood Springs.

There was apparently some mining in the area and it is claimed that this supported a small population until as late as 1915. Much of the mining was placer mining, and like the town, evidence of the activity is difficult to find.

The settlement was first known as Grandville or Granville. When a post office was acquired the name was changed to Bowman. There are three opinions for the source of the name. The first is the statement that John Bowman filed a land claim and built cabins for travelers and facilities for their animals. The second opinion is that it was named for J. H. Bowman who served as sheriff in 1882. Perhaps this was the same person as John Bowman who is credited with filing for the land. The third, and least likely attribution, is to honor a General Bowman who conducted the Ute Indians to their Uintah Reservation.

To reach the site of Bowman drive north through Taylor Park and approximately two and one half miles north of the Dorchester Campground. The location is near where the road crosses Bowman Creek and that creek, from the northeast, joins the Taylor River. When I visited the site in 1991, a sign marked the location and scattered debris could be found in the sloping meadow to the east of the road.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>May 18 1880</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Unsurveyed Government Land On the east side of the Taylor River, on the east side of Italian Creek The sketch map places it about two miles northwest of the intersection of Italian Creek with the Taylor River</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Hiram K. Lusk</b>
<b>Jun 7 1880</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jun 7 1880</b>		<b>Lusk, Hiram K.</b>
<b>Jul 26 1880</b>		<b>Thompson Jr., Smith</b>
<b>Sep 23 1880</b>		<b>Tibbetts, C. H.</b>
<b>Apr 28 1882</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BOWMAN**

**CAMP GENTER**

Genter, or Camp Genter as it was better known, was an anthracite coal camp at the junction of Rapid Creek with the Crystal River. The location is on Gunnison County Road 3, approximately three miles from Colorado Highway 133 where that road begins the climb to McClure Pass. It is also a little more than three and one half miles west of Marble. The location is fairly easy to find, as it is where County Road 3 makes a sharp turn to the north and then crosses to the north side of the Crystal River. The dumps from the coal mine are still visible, on the south side of the road, just before the turn.

The mine was established in the early 1920's by Edward W. Genter, owner of the Rapid Creek Mining, Tunnel and Power Company. It is claimed that the small community that developed at Camp Genter had thirty identical houses, all painted red and white and each with marble slab doorsteps from the quarry at nearby Marble, Colorado.

In early 1924 the Post Office discontinued service on the Star Route from Carbondale to Marble. Mr. Genter then applied for a post office to be established at Camp Genter, which would be serviced from the Crystal River and San Juan Railroad.



**CAMP GENTER – Continued**

The post office was granted, with Edward W. Genter as the postmaster. However, that was just the beginning of Mr. Genter's postal problems. For well over a year Genter was in a constant battle with the Post Office Department to provide the supplies for operation and with the railroad to transport and deliver mail in compliance with their contract.

A good many years back, John H. "Jack" Willard came into possession of an extensive correspondence between Mr. Genter and the Post Office Department. The correspondence, with a wry sense of humor, details the trials and tribulations of providing mail service to a remote mountain valley. For the details of this saga, I refer you to *The Post Office Named "Camp Genter"* by John H. Willard, in *The American Philatelist*, Volume 93, Number 5, pages 421-422, 477, May 1979.

In 1929, Edward Genter died in the Glenwood Springs Hospital, from bronchial pneumonia. The Camp Genter Post Office survived until January 1930. The railroad lasted a while longer but as the Depression gained strength and the demand for marble faded, the railroad also closed down. Without a railroad the coal mine became uneconomic and it too closed. Today all that remains of Camp Genter is the mine dump.

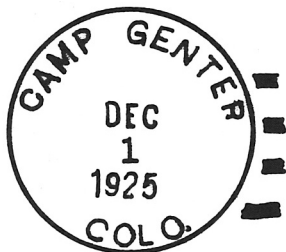
Camp Genter was not the first post office at this location. It was preceded in the 1880's by the Prospect Post Office. It also seems that there was some early coal mining at that location, at least during the operation of the Prospect Office.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 22 1924	---	NE/4 Sec 20 T11S R88W 500 feet south of the Crystal River 300 feet west of Rapid Creek North side of the Crystal River & San Juan Railroad, 300 feet from it Applicant for postmaster - E. W. Genter
Feb 12 1925		Established Actually opened for business on March 4 1925
Feb 12 1925		Genter, Edward W.
Nov 21 1928		Davies, Dave Acting
Jan 15 1930		Discontinued Mail to Marble

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	CAMP GENTER / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Dec 1 1925 Jan 15 1930
2	CAMP GENTER, COLO. SL 00R 415x4.5	Hstp No killer	Aug 1- 1927



1

Camp Genter, Colo.

2

**CASTLETON**

Castleton was located at milepost 216.47 of the Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad. This was a junction point with the Baldwin, later the Kubler, Branch of the railroad. The Denver and South Park had intended to build on up the Ohio Creek Valley, over Ohio Pass and on to Irwin. Although grading was done as far as the final approach to the pass, the railroad never made it much beyond Castleton and its neighbor Baldwin.



**CASTLETON – Continued**

Like Baldwin, Castleton was directly connected to the coal mining activity in this portion of the Ohio Creek Valley. As the mining declined, so did Castleton. Today, only a few, small remnants of foundations mark the site in the valley flats around the intersection of the roads to Ohio Pass and the sites of Baldwin. The intersection is about 12 miles west of Colorado Highway 135. Carbon Peak dominates the horizon to the northeast of the junction.

On November 1, 1882, Henry Payton, acting for the Castleton Town Company, platted the town site and gave it the name Castleton. The name was a tribute to the “castle-like” cliffs that dominate the horizon on the south side of the Ohio Creek Valley. James May, Walter Miller and Lon Warnsley were also partners in the Castleton Town Company.

The town was never very large but it did have a school and a freight station. After the move of the principal entrance to the Baldwin Mine to the west side of Carbon Peak, Castleton became little more than a gathering place for local ranchers.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 20 1882	---	NW/4 Sec 20 T15S R86W	On the east side of Ohio Creek
			Proposed postmaster - Henry Payton
Dec 8 1882		Established	
Dec 8 1882		Payton, Henry	
Aug 11 1882		Emerson, Thomas A.	
May 16 1889		Hinkley, L. F.	
Jul 12 1889		Emerson, Laura	
Jul 30 1894		Allison, Mary	
Oct 11 1894		Discontinued	Mail to Gunnison

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	CASTLETON, / Gunnison Co., Colo. CI 11P 29.5/20.5	Hstp No killer	Dec 3 1883 Feb -- 1885
2	CASTLETON, / Gunnison Co., Colo. CI 21P 28.0/26.5/18. 0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Apr 24 1886 Sep 29 1893



1



2

**CEBOLLA**

Cebolla was a stop on the main line of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad from Pueblo to Grand Junction and on to Salt Lake City. It was located on the south side of the Gunnison River a short distance east of where Cebolla Creek joins the river.

Cebolla served as a supply town for the small mining camps and ranches to the south of the Gunnison River and in the Powderhorn Valley.

More significant at Cebolla, was the hotel built by J. J. Carpenter, which became a noted stopping place for hunters and fishermen plying their pursuits in this portion of Gunnison County. Members of the Carpenter family served as postmaster, hosts and advisors to the many visitors. The railroad ceased operation in the early 1950's and in the 1960's the completion of the Blue Mesa Dam flooded the river valley and put the site of Cebolla under one hundred or more feet of water.

**CEBOLLA – Continued**

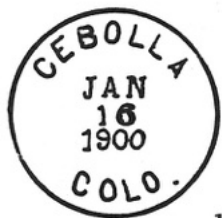
Although you cannot visit the actual site of Cebolla, you can overlook its watery grave from US Highway 50. The location is about eight miles west of where Colorado Highway 149 intersects US 50 and is a little more than two miles east of where US 50 crosses to the south side of the reservoir. Based on what was left at Iola, it is possible that some foundations are still present on the reservoir floor.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 10 1894	---	NE/4 Sec 29 T49N R3W 1/16 mile south of the Gunnison River 1/2 mile east of Cebolla Creek 1/8 mile south of the railroad A hotel, no village	
		Proposed postmaster - Jacob Jahn (sic) Carpenter	
Mar 20 1894		Established	
Mar 20 1894		Carpenter, Jacob J.	
May 8 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 29 T49N R3W 150 feet from the Gunnison River 1/2 mile from Cebolla Creek 150 feet from the Denver & Rio Grande	
Jul 2 1931		Carpenter, Mrs. Louise D.	Possession
Jul 22 1931		Carpenter, Mrs. Louise D.	Acting
Sep 30 1931		Carpenter, Mrs. Louise D.	
Oct 12 1931		Carpenter, I. Paulus	Confirmed
Nov 2 1931		Carpenter, I. Paulus	Commissioned
Nov 10 1931		Carpenter, I. Paulus	Assumed charge
Aug 30 1935		Ordered closed	
Sep 14 1935		Discontinued Mail to Sapinero	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

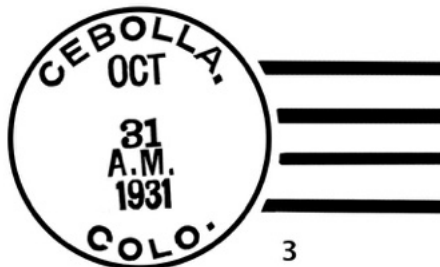
1	CEBOLLA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp No killer	Jan 16 1900
2	CEBOLLA / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Hstp No killer	Jan 29 1907 May 22 1909
3	CEBOLLA, / COLO. CI 10- 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Nov 20 1927 Oct 31 1931



1



2



3

**CHANCE**

Chance was a small, short-lived mining camp in the “Gold Belt” of southern Gunnison County. Its site was about one mile north of the Gunnison County line and Iris (located in Saguache County). Although smaller than Iris, Chance reportedly produced more gold than did its larger neighbor.

The mining settlement was established in 1894 and reportedly was first called Diamond City. It is claimed that the name Chance was chosen by the early residents for “the luck of the camp.” The mine owners must have had a sense of humor: one of the mines was named the Last Chance and another was the Only Chance.

By 1897 Chance was nearly abandoned. There was a brief revival in 1900-1901 but then it faded to obscurity. The location was still marked on maps into the 1930’s and is shown on the 1976 USGS map of Gunnison County.

**CHANCE – Continued**

Chance is one of the sites in Gunnison County that I have not visited. The maps show roads leading south to the site but there are numerous reports that locked gates block them. Perhaps on a future visit to the Gunnison Country I will see if those reports are true or like we learned about Aberdeen it is possible to visit the location of Chance.

The attempt to reach Chance would begin about two miles west of where Colorado Highway 114, the road to Cochetopa Pass, intersects US Highway 50. From there it is about seven miles south to the location. If you attempt this trip, be sure to have a good road map as the USGS maps show an interwoven complex of roads (trails) through the area. In 1961 it was said that there were a few log cabins still standing with a few summer residents.

Latitude = 38:26:14 North Longitude = 106:50:57 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Nov 3 1894 --- SE/4 Sec 10 T48N R1E 8 miles south of the Tomichi River  
4 miles west of Cochetopa Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Joseph H. Block
- Nov 24 1894 Established
- Nov 24 1894 Block, Joseph H.
- Apr 2 1895 Hurley, Patrick J.
- Nov 22 1901 Ordered closed
- Dec 14 1901 Discontinued Papers to Gunnison

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 CHANCE / COLO. Aug 3 1896 Jun 15 1901
- CI 10P 27.5 Hstp No killer



**CHANEY**

The only reference to Chaney that I have encountered is to a Chaney Lake on the southeast slope of Fossil Peak. Fossil Mountain and Fossil Ridge are north and west of Ohio and Pitkin. According to the USGS Gunnison County map, there are a few small lakes on the southeast slopes of these features but none is named Chaney. In August of 2003, Jim Ozment and I drove north from Ohio along Gold Creek on Forest Service Road 771. We went north seven miles to the Gold Creek Campground. The superintendent at the campground had never heard of Chaney.

On the way to the campground, we passed several mine sites, some of which were quite large. Any of these could have been the site of Chaney but given our choice, we felt that the one called the Sandy Hook Mine, about a mile south of the campground was a good possibility. At that location there is a two-story boarding house on the east side of the road and at least three smaller buildings on the west side of the road. There is a mine dump, nearly hidden by the trees, also on the west side.

Our principal reason for preferring and selecting this as the site of Chaney is that since it was six miles from Ohio, it could more easily have justified a request for a post office than the mines that were further south and much closer to the post office in Ohio.

**CHANNEY – Continued**

The notation in the Records of Postmaster Appointments, that when Chaney was discontinued, “No papers were sent” may be an indication that the office was never actually in operation. Until someone provides more definitive information that is the best we can do for a location of Chaney.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

	<b>No entry was found in the Gunnison County Geographic Site Location Reports</b>
<b>Aug 25 1892</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Aug 25 1892</b>	<b>Murdie, Lizzie</b>
<b>May 10 1894</b>	<b>Discontinued No papers</b>
	<b>Was not listed in postal guides Likely never in operation</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CHANEY**

**CLARENCE**

In 1880 John Mobley and W. F. Mason, acting for the Clarence Town Company, laid out the settlement of Clarence near the junction of Carbonate Creek with Rock Creek (the Crystal River). Soon thereafter a rival town, taking the name of Marble, grew up adjacent to Clarence. Neither location had a post office until 1890 when Marble acquired one. In 1892, for one month, the post office either moved a short distance to Clarence or it was renamed Clarence. The change was quickly reversed and it is entirely possible that the post office never operated under the name of Clarence.

The actual location of Clarence is almost indistinguishable from that of Marble. To reach the site, from Colorado Highway 133, drive south on Gunnison County Road 3, through the site of Camp Genter about six miles to Marble. It seems most likely that the site of Clarence was on the east side of Carbonate Creek along the road that continues up the Crystal River to Crystal and beyond.

There are still a number of occupied residences in Marble/Clarence, many of which are summer homes.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

	<b>No entry was found in the Gunnison County Geographic Site Location Reports</b>
<b>Feb 4 1892</b>	<b>Moved from Marble</b>
<b>Feb 4 1892</b>	<b>Reyland, Eugene E. L.</b>
<b>Mar 2 1892</b>	<b>Returned to Marble The records seem to indicate that this may have been a change in name that was quickly rescinded</b>
	<b>Marble and Clarence were adjoining townsites</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CLARENCE**

**CLOUD**

Cloud was a short-lived community on the Slate River, north of Crested Butte. It is often connected to the coal mining camp of Anthracite. At least one reference claims that Cloud, or Cloud City was the original name for the settlement that developed around the anthracite mine located near the crest of Smith Hill.

However, this assumption does not agree with the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report which places Cloud on the west side of the Slate River (Anthracite is on the east side), and north of Oh-Be-Joyful Creek.



**CLOUD – Continued**

It has also been claimed that Cloud disappeared as the result of unspecified litigation. A more logical assumption is that without a railroad, mining was uneconomic. However, when some two years later a railroad spur did reach the site, a new community, known as Anthracite was established, with the post office on the railroad but the town high up on Smith Hill.

To reach the location of Cloud, follow the directions that have been given for the drive to Anthracite. The site of Cloud would be west of the river across from the area where the coal loading facilities were placed.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>May 4 1881</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>T13S R86W On the west side of the Slate River On the north side of Oh-Be-Joyful Creek</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - David C. Scribner</b>
<b>May 18 1881</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>May 18 1881</b>		<b>Scribner, David</b>
<b>Nov 3 1881</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CLOUD**

**COSDEN**

Cosden was established in 1880 at the upper end of the wider portion of the Tomichi Creek Valley and where Canyon Creek joins Tomichi Creek. At this point, the valley becomes a narrow gorge. Lacking decent a road to White Pine, early prospectors had to leave their wagons here and proceed on foot or horseback. This activity gave the site its first name - Wagon Town. Apparently it was also called Healsburg, El Tinjos and Redwood before adopting the final name of Cosden. According to one reference, this name was for Dan Cosden, a Pueblo prospector and miner. Other references attribute the name to a Dr. Cosden. To me, the reference to Dan Cosden seems the more plausible.

With the completion of a road along Tomichi Creek to White Pine and beyond, Cosden became a rest stop for travelers and teamsters. It was also the site for an early sampling works. The proximity to White Pine led to Cosden's slow decline. Following the closure of the sampling works and the silver panic of 1893 Cosden was nearly abandoned. Around 1900, a smelter was built at Cosden and there was a brief revival for the community, however that lasted only a few years.

During the 1880's Cosden was also a tie camp for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad.

Beginning at US Highway 50 at the western foot of Monarch Pass and just north of Sargents, take Gunnison County Road 888 north towards White Pine. For most of the distance (eight miles) the road is on the east side of Tomichi Creek. At the point where the road crosses to the west, or now the north side of the creek, you have reached the site of Cosden. Very little remains to mark the site. There is one small building hidden in the brush. Scattered slag and a small dump provide evidence of a smelter having been here. It is another two miles from the Cosden location to White Pine.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Aug 1 1883</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SW/4 Sec 9 T49N R5E On Tomichi Creek</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Thompson J. Hindle</b>
<b>Aug 28 1883</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Aug 28 1883</b>		<b>Hindle, Thompson J.</b>
<b>Feb 4 1885</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to White Pine</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM COSDEN**

**COX**

Very little is known about the settlement of Cox. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report places Cox on Poverty Creek a mile west of Pittsburgh. In September 2002, Jim Ozment and I took the road up Poverty Creek. The first portion is quite steep. At seven-tenths of a mile and after a tight switchback it becomes a narrow shelf road. There is a small area above the switchback that could have supported a small settlement. Beyond that point the steep valley sides and narrow gorge seem to preclude another possible town site. Unfortunately the night before we made this trip, there had been several inches of snow. The narrow, rocky road was slick and I chose not to chance going further up the Poverty Creek Valley - perhaps another time.

It seems most likely that Cox served as the residence for a few small mines in the area northwest of Pittsburgh.

From Crested Butte, drive a short distance north towards Mt. Crested Butte. Turn onto Gunnison County Road 732 and go six and a half miles to the marked site of Pittsburgh. Just south of Pittsburgh a side road to the left fords the Slate River and enters the Poverty Creek Valley.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Oct 14 1902</b>	---	<b>T13S R87W (Township not subdivided) One mile west of the Slate River 200 feet east of Poverty Creek If the sketch map is reliable, Cox was about one mile northwest of Pittsburgh (NW/4 Sec 2) Proposed postmaster - Winfield Scott Hummason</b>
<b>Apr 25 1903</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Apr 25 1903</b>		<b>Hummason, Winfield S. Declined</b>
<b>Jul 23 1903</b>		<b>Robinson, Sanford C.</b>
<b>Jan 13 1905</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>Feb 15 1905</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Crested Butte</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM COX**

**CRESTED BUTTE**

In the mid 1870's coal deposits were discovered in the area some twenty miles north of Gunnison. At the time gold and silver mining were of greater interest to the prospectors and developers. By 1879, Howard F Smith had acquired rights to much of the potential coal producing land in the area and he chose to settle at a location in the broad, open valley near the junction of Coal Creek and the Slate River. There he built a sawmill, the first in the area, and laid out the town of Crested Butte.

The town was named for the 12,162-foot mountain, east of the townsite, the ragged top of which is said to resemble a cock's comb or a helmet. The peak was named by the Hayden Survey in 1874.

Crested Butte soon became the principal supply center for the gold and silver mines at Irwin, Pittsburgh and Gothic. But, Crested Butte quickly came to rely on coal production for its primary economic success. The town was incorporated in 1881 and at noon on November 21, 1881 the first Denver and Rio Grande train entered Crested Butte.

Coal mining at Crested Butte soon became the domain of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company and eventually the company controlled the town. For more than seventy years coal from Crested Butte would help supply the smelters at Pueblo and fuel the engines of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

By the early 1950's the best of the coal deposits had been exploited and coal mining was becoming uneconomic. Also, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was in the process of abandoning its rail operations over Monarch Pass to Gunnison and Montrose. By 1952 coal mining at Crested Butte had nearly ended and the town faced gradual extinction.

**CRESTED BUTTE – Continued**

In 1963, Dick Elfin and Fred Rice, two men from Kansas, purchased the Malensek Ranch some three miles northeast of Crested Butte and announced that they would construct a major winter recreation resort in the vicinity. Although this development, to be known as Mount Crested Butte was separate from old Crested Butte, the economic benefits quickly revived Crested Butte.



**Elk Street, Crested Butte, Colorado, looking west  
The building at center right is the Crested Butte Post Office.  
Photograph by James L. Ozment September 2002**

Today, Crested Butte is a thriving winter resort with many year-round residents. Although it offers all modern conveniences, it has managed to retain a good deal of the charm and history of a Rocky Mountain mining town, a decided contrast to the condominiums of Mount Crested Butte.

Crested Butte is about twenty-five miles north of Gunnison on Colorado Highway 135. Another way, and very scenic road to Crested Butte, is to turn east from Colorado Highway 133 just below the Paonia Reservoir Dam and take the mostly unpaved road over Kebler Pass. This is about a thirty-mile trip but well worth the drive.

Latitude = 38:52:11 North Longitude = 106:59:14 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 26 1879	Established
May 26 1879	Wood, Warren G.
Jul 11 1879 ---	NE/4 Sec 3 T14S R86W
Oct 10 1879	Smith, Howard F.

## CRESTED BUTTE – Continued

Jan 23 1884	Smith, Howard F.	P&S
Feb 2 1885	Solover, Sidney	P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
Jan 25 1886	Newton, Henry C.	
Apr 12 1887	Spencer, Samuel P.	
Oct 19 1889	Phillips, John E.	
Mar 6 1894	Reynolds, L.	P&S
Mar 16 1895	Block, Joseph	P
Jul 2 1895	Block, Joseph	P
Aug 1 1896 ---	NE/4 Sec 3 T14S R86W Southwest about 1/3 mile from Depot	
Jun 18 1898	Van Ostern, William V.	
Jun 24 1901	Olney, Jerry S.	P
Jan 20 1902	Olney, Jerry S.	P&S
Nov 19 1903	Songer, Frank E.	P&S
Dec 15 1904	Wheeler, Eva T.	P&S
Jan 11 1909	Kelly, Robert P.	P&S
Jan 19 1910	Curren, Mabel F.	P&S
Apr 9 1912	Sloan, David	P&S
Aug 18 1913	Haran, A. J.	P&S
Apr 22 1914 ---	NE/4 Sec 3 T14S R86W 1/2 mile west of the Slate River 400 feet southeast of Coal Creek	
Jan 24 1918	Haran, A. J.	P&S
Mar 1 1920	Baker, Maude S.	Acting
Jun 4 1920	Miller, Anna C.	P&S
Dec 17 1921	Campbell, Alexander	Acting
Apr 17 1922	Dyer, F. Julian	Acting
Apr 10 1922	Dyer, F. Julian	P&S
May 28 1926	Dyer, Fred J.	
Feb 20 1931	Dyer, Fred J.	P&S
Jun 3 1935	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Acting
Jun 17 1935	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Assumed charge
Jul 10 1935	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Nominated
Jul 17 1935	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Confirmed
Jul 22 1935	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Appointed Presidential
Aug 28 1935	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Commissioned
Sep 3 1935	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Possession
Jul 26 1939	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Nominated
Jul 29 1939	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Confirmed
Aug 3 1939	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Appointed Presidential
Aug 31 1939	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1939	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Possession
Nov 18 1941 ---	SE/4 NE/4 Sec 3 T14S R86W Elk Ave is part of state Highway 135. P.O. is on Elk Ave.	
Aug 31 1954	Johnson, Mrs. Marie G.	Assumed charge
Sep 20 1954	Johnson, Mrs. Marie G.	Acting
Nov 15 1954	Malensek, Matthew	Acting
Dec 22 1954	Malensek, Matthew	Assumed charge
Jul 13 1955	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Nominated
Jul 28 1955	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Confirmed, Apptd Presidential & Commissioned
Oct 31 1955	Verzuh, Rudolph G.	Possession & Assumed charge
Aug 13 1971	Reycraft, Russell G.	Officer in charge
Oct 23 1978	Trujillo, Dennis P.	Officer in charge
Jan 19 1979	Lancaster, James R.	Officer in charge
Jul 28 1979	Casados, Ross	Appointed
Oct 4 1980	Palanuk, Gary	Officer in charge
Dec 10 1980	Canterbury, Gary H.	Officer in charge
Mar 7 1981	Meredith, Chanda C.	Appointed



**CRESTED BUTTE – Continued**

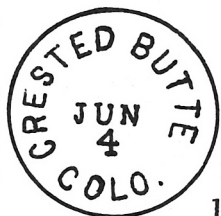
**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork smudge	Jun 1(4?) 1880 <a href="#">Orig image not available</a>
2	Crested Butte, / Colorado. RC 20P 37x28/34x25	Hstp Cork, doughnut, Target, 4-ring 20mm	May 2 1881 Aug 2 1881
3	CRESTED BUTTE, / COLO. CI 00R 26.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 20mm	Oct 11 1881 Oct 19 1886
4	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. OV 10P 42.0x25.0	Hstp No killer	--- -- 188-
5	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 00R 29.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm	Apr 29 1886
6	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Dplx 8 straight lines with "N" between lines	Jun 3 1886 Aug 6 1886
7	CRESTED BUTTE COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Dec 16 1887 Jul 31 1888
8	CRESTED BUTTE COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Waffle grid (3x3)	Oct 10 1889 Oct 25 1889
9	Crested Butte, Colo. / REGISTERED SL 00R 41.0x18.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge, manuscript date	Mar 1 1890 Dec 3 1903
10	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Waffle grid (3x3)	Jun 30 1892 Jan 22 1894
11	CRESTED BUTTE COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	May 22 1893 Dec 16 1893
12	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Apr 29 1899 Dec 19 1900
13	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Grid, 8 bar oval	Jan 17 1901 Jun 8 1904
13.1	CRESTED BUTTE, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 7 1904
14	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 8 bar oval	Jul 31 1909 Mar 14 1917
14.1	CRESTED BUTTE, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.5/19.5.0	Hstp, Not present	Feb 19 1918
15	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 10P 22.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Oct 3 1935 Aug 20 1940
15.1	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. RC 10P 34.0x16.5	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box	1930s
16	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Dec 2 1929 Jul 1 1947
16.1	CRESTED BUTTE, / COLO. RC 10P 34.0x18.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box	1930s
16.2	CRESTED BUTTE, COLO. / PARCEL POST CI 11P 28.0/19.0	Hstp Type 16.1, On cover with 16.1 above	On cover with 16.2 below Jul 17 1934
17	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Feb 5 1948 Feb 13 1951
17.1	Crested Butte, / Colo. RC 10P 35.0x17.5	Hstp No killer	--- -- 195-
17.2	Crested Butte, / ---- CI 11P 36.0/28.0	Hstp No killer	Jan 25 1960
18	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Mar 8 1961 Apr 19 1963
19	CRESTED BUTTE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Aug 20 1964 Dec 16 1964
20	CRESTED BUTTE, CO / 81224 CI 10P 20.5	Mach 7 wavy lines (inverted dial)	Oct 20 1970 Nov 9 1970

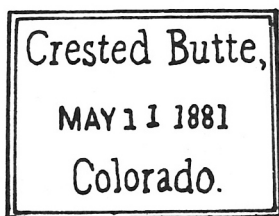
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]

CRESTED BUTTE - Continued

21	CRESTED BUTTE, CO / 81224 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Sep 6 1966 Feb 20 1979
21.1	CRESTED BUTTE, CO / 81224 C10P 30.0	4bars S-22x17mm	Jun 6 1986
22	CRESTED BUTTE CO / 81224 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-20x16mm	Jan 28 1991 Apr 19 1993
23	CRESTED BUTTE, CO 81224 / USPO CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 26 1991
24	CRESTED BUTTE CO / 81224 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-20x18mm	Apr 17 1995



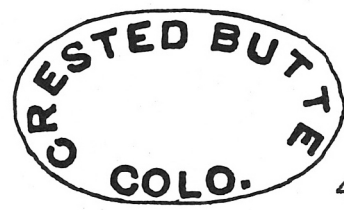
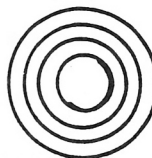
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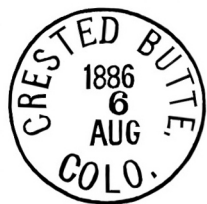
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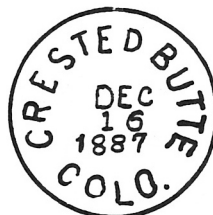
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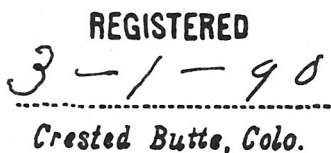
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7



8



9



10



11



12



13



13.1



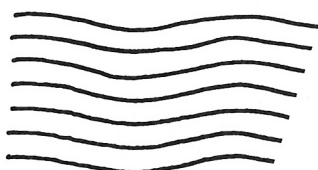
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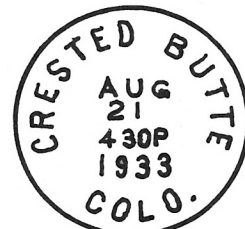
14.1



15



15.1



16



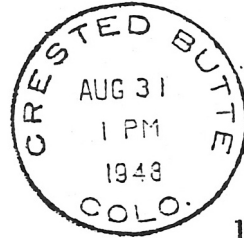
CRESTED BUTTE – Continued



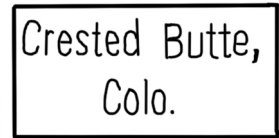
16.1



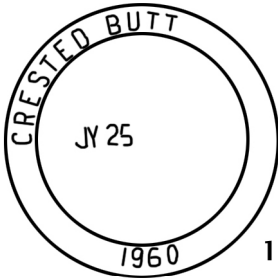
16.2



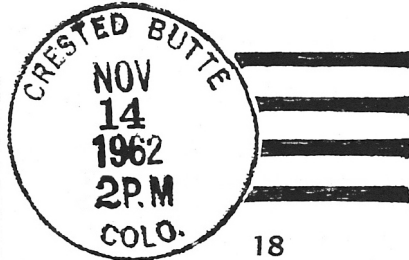
17



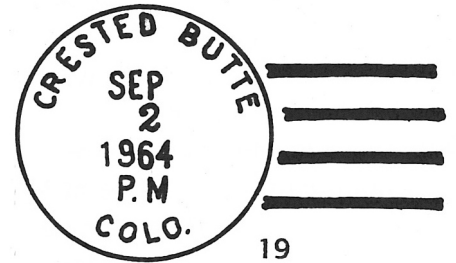
17.1



17.2



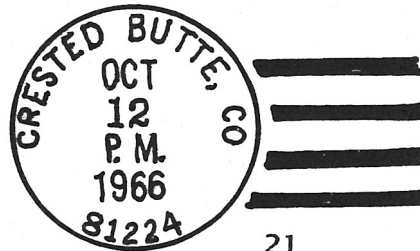
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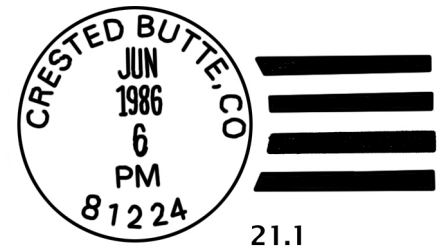
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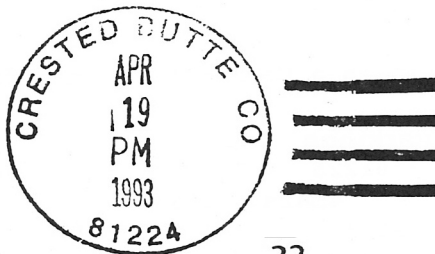
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21



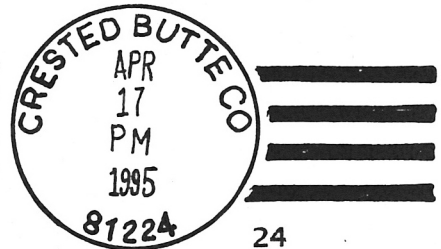
21.1



22



23



24

AUXILIARY MAKINGS

A 1 Crested Butte, Colo. // MISSENT TO  
SL 00R 35.0x8.0

Jun 7 1904

Aux No killer

[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]

CRESTED BUTTE – STATIONS

AL JOHNSON MEMORIAL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 8 1987 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

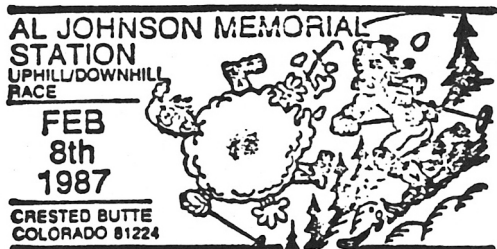
Confirmed types of postal markings

1 CRESTED BUTTE / COLORADO 81224 // AL JOHNSON MEM STA Feb 8 1987

IR 00R 63.0x32.0

Pict Scene - Comic skiers; AL JOHNSON MEMORIAL /  
STATION / UPHILL/DOWNHILL / RACE

CRESTED BUTTE STATIONS– Continued  
AL JOHNSON MEMORIAL STATION – Continued



1

**MOUNT CRESTED BUTTE COMMUNITY POST OFFICE**

Mount Crested Butte is the newest incorporated town in Gunnison County. In 1963 Dick Elfin and Fred Rice purchased the Malensek Ranch and began development of a major winter resort.

Located three miles northeast of Crested Butte, the town which now stretches more than two miles north to south along the road from Crested Butte to Gothic is a compact development of condominiums, apartments and service businesses supporting the ski trails on the western side of the Crested Butte.

In 1973 the town of Mount Crested Butte was incorporated.

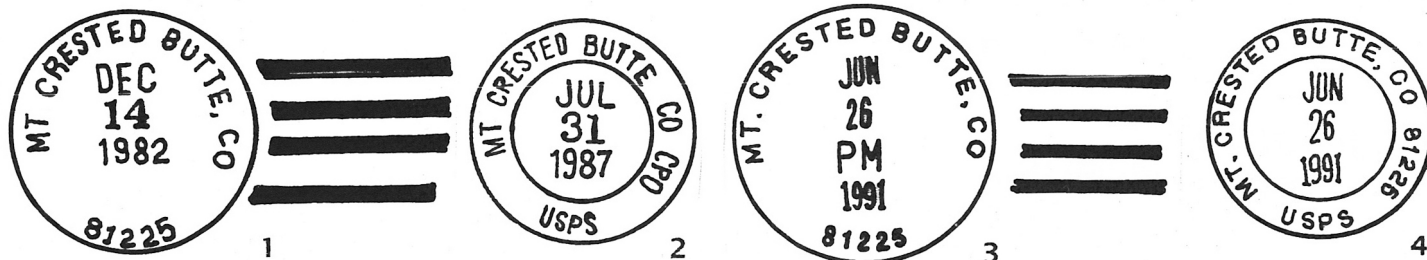
Even though Mount Crested Butte rivals its neighbor in size, it has never had an independent post office. Beginning in 1981 there was a Community Post Office at Mount Crested Butte but that is no longer in operation and the resort depends on Crested Butte for postal service. The Community Post Office was in the Three Seasons Quest Inn at the intersection of Marcellina and Gothic Roads.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec -- 1981 Established as a Community Post Office of Crested Butte

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	MT. CRESTED BUTTE, CO / 81225 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Dec 2 1982 Nov 13 1987
2	MT CRESTED BUTTE CO CPO / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 31 1987
3	MT. CRESTED BUTTE, CO / 81225 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-20x16mm	Jun 26 1991
4	MT. CRESTED BUTTE, CO 81225 / USPS		Jun 26 1991



**CRESTED BUTTE STATIONS – Continued**

**WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 24 2004 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 CRESTED BUTTE, CO 81224 / WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL STATION Jan 24 2004  
CI 00R 45.0 Pict Scene - Flower in center, above dateline



**CROOKSTOWN**

There are four Gunnison County Post Offices whose history is intertwined and confusing: Crookstown, Crooksville, Doyleville and Gilman. All of these names were applied to locations that were only a short distance east of where Hot Spring Creek joins the Tomichi Creek.

Crooksville, established in 1878, was the first post office in the area. It was on the north side of Tomichi Creek. When it closed in 1885 mail for Crooksville was directed to Doyleville.

The Doyleville Post Office opened in 1881 and was on the south side of Tomichi Creek and the north side of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad at what the railroad called Doyle or Hot Spring Station. For a brief time, April 1882 to March 1883, the name of this post office was changed to Gilman.

In 1904, a new post office with the name Crookstown opened at the previous site of Crooksville. This office lasted a little less than two years before it closed and again the mail was directed to Doyleville.

The final event in this saga was the move of the Doyleville Post Office one and a quarter miles north to a location on the county highway. This new location appears to have been the previous location of Crooksville/Crookstown. It was at the ranch complex that is still present on the south side of US Highway 50 a quarter mile east of the county road north to Waunita Hot Springs.

At present-day Doyleville, there is a road south that crosses Tomichi Creek and intersects a road along the south side of the creek. The original Doyleville/Gilman Post Office was in the vicinity of this road intersection.

Some further confusion is interjected by the description in the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report for Crookstown. That report locates Crookstown in the SW/4 of the NW/4 of Section 16, Township 48 North, Range 4 East, but also notes that it is the, “same place as Crooksville.” This does not make sense and I believe it is in error. The specified location would be about four miles east of the Crooksville site and actually in Saguache County.

To repeat, the site of Crooksville, Crookstown and the later Doyleville was on the south side of US Highway 50, a quarter mile east of Gunnison County Road 887.



**CROOKSTOWN – Continued****Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 6 1904	---	SW/4 NW/4 Sec 16 T48N R4E 1/4 mile north of Tomichi Creek 1/4 mile east of Needle Creek Same place as Crooksville Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Laura A. Walker
May 25 1904		Established
May 25 1904		Walker, Laura A.
Mar 15 1905		Glassner, Nettie E.
Feb 9 1906		Ordered closed
Feb 28 1906		Discontinued Mail to Doyleville

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CROOKSTOWN

**CROOKSVILLE**

Please refer back to the discussion of Crookstown for the location and geographic history of this post office.

Cyrus E. Crooks established the settlement here in 1877 as a combination ranch and stage station on the road to Gunnison. By 1880 it had a stage station for Barlow and Sanderson. When the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad built through the area in 1881, Crooksville enjoyed a short boom as an “end of track” town. The railroad built a siding and loading pens but these were on the south side of Tomichi Creek at what then became the original Doyleville.

Most historical references equate Crooksville and Crookstown, with Doyleville and the railroad station. Although separated by only a short distance they were on opposite sides of Tomichi Creek and were not the same place.

Crooksville and Crookstown were named for the Crooks family.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 18 1878	---	Unsurveyed 1/2 mile north of Tumichi creek 4 miles east of Hot Spring Creek On survey of Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Document signed by Nannie Crooks
Jun 3 1878		Established
Jun 3 1878		Crooks, Mrs. Nannie
Jul 25 1878	---	Not surveyed 1/4 mile north of Tumichi [sic] Creek, 1/4 mile east of Hot Spring Branch On survey of AT&S
May 16 1883		Arch, Matthew
Jul 3 1883		Arch, Matthew
Dec 15 1885		Discontinued Mail to Doyleville

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Crooksville Col	Jun 2 1883	Jun 8 1883
	MS	Mscp	None

*Crooksville Col*  
*6-2-1883 1*

## **CRYSTAL**

In 1880 prospectors found outcroppings of quartz crystals and silver ore near the junction of North Rock and South Rock Creek. They established a small community, which they named Crystal for the outcropping of crystal quartz. In the early 1900's the name of Rock Creek was changed to the Crystal River. In this case the river adopted the name of the town, not the more common reverse action.

The ores found at Crystal contained silver, lead, copper, zinc and some gold; however, silver was the principal product.

The town of Crystal was incorporated On July 8, 1881. The townsite consisted of 57 acres. There were only four blocks and three streets: Main, Center, Sixth and one alley. There were two general stores, a pool hall and the men-only Crystal Club, over seventy homes and of course, several saloons.

By 1917 the mines were out of economic ore and Crystal was dying. The spectacular mountain location encouraged a number of outsiders to purchase buildings in Crystal and to renovate them. Thus, a small summer residence community developed and has continued to preserve a portion of Crystal.

Initially the only access to Crystal was from Crested Butte to the south and over Schofield Pass. This was a difficult route, particularly the last three and a half miles. This road can still be driven but there are warning signs at Crystal and at Schofield restricting motorized travel to small 4-wheel drive vehicles driven by experienced drivers. Several people have been killed when their vehicles slid over the side and into the gorge when traversing the most difficult portion - "The Devil's Punchbowl."

By the mid-1880's Crystal was a prosperous little town. The camp was granted a post office with Al Johnson serving as the first postmaster. Johnson and his brother Earl, native Canadians, came to Crystal to prospect for silver in 1880. Both men were superb skiers and alternated carrying the mail between Crystal and Crested Butte. During the winter months the dangerous trek through the narrow Crystal Canyon and over Schofield Pass was known as the "Snowshoe Express," because only by skiing could the Johnson brothers and others bring needed supplies and mail into Crystal (from *The Gunnison Country* by Duane Vandebusch).

Al Johnson is still remembered in the Crested Butte area through an annual ski race. In 1987 the race was the subject of a special postmark from Crested Butte.

Eventually a road was opened down the river to Carbondale and this is now the principal access route for visitors to Crystal. However, even that road is not an easy one. It is in places steep, often narrow, in some places muddy and rocky through most of its length. It is definitely a 4-wheel drive road. It begins in Marble. The first mile and a half are easy. The next four miles took me nearly a half-hour to drive. In spite of that, the trip to Crystal is well worth the effort.

I expected to find very little at Crystal and was surprised to find that several buildings remain and are occupied during the summer months. A quarter mile west of Crystal is one of the best known and most photographed sites in Colorado: the Sheep Mountain Mill. This was actually used to generate power for the mines. Its setting, on cliff above the river, is spectacular.

Latitude = 39:03:33 North Longitude = 107:06:02 West

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jul 18 1882</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Not reported Perhaps in SW/4 Sec 2 T12S R87W At the junction of North and Main Rock Creeks Proposed postmaster - Albert A. Johnson</b>
<b>Jul 28 1882</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jul 28 1882</b>		<b>Johnson, Albert A.</b>
<b>Dec 29 1893</b>		<b>Melton, William H.</b>
<b>Oct 4 1898</b>		<b>Williams, Charles Ambrose</b>
<b>Dec 31 1900</b>		<b>Williams, Horace H.</b>
<b>Jun 13 1907</b>		<b>Brownell, Harry Y.</b>

**CRYSTAL - Continued**

Oct 30 1907	Ordered closed Mail to Marble effective Nov 30 1907
Nov 30 1907	Closing order rescinded
Dec 20 1907	Fischauser, Paul J.
Jul 31 1909	Ordered closed
Oct 31 1909	Discontinued Mail to Marble



Crystal, Colorado looking west down the Crystal River Valley  
Photograph by James L. Ozment September 2002

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

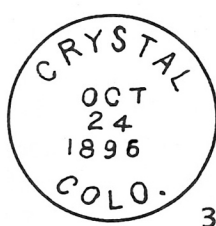
- |   |                                 |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | CRYSTAL / COLO.<br>OC 10P 28.0  | Jun 9 1883   |
| 2 | CRYSTAL / COLO.<br>CI 10P 27.0  | Hstp Not recorded<br>Feb 17 1885 Aug -- 1886   |
| 3 | CRYSTAL / COLO.<br>CI 10P 27.0  | Hstp Cork, Smudge<br>Oct 24 1896   |
| 4 | CRYSTAL, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 31.0 | Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm<br>Apr 24 1909<br>4bars Not present, but obviously Type A 4-bar |



1



2



3



4



**DAYTON**

Dayton was the last of the ranch post offices that served the area along the Lake Fork of the Gunnison near the junction of Indian Creek. The sequence was Barnum (1876-1881), Allen (1881-1892), Gateview (1892-1895) and then Dayton (1897-1911).

The Dayton Post Office was at two distinct locations. The first was at the Carr Ranch on the east side of the river, some two miles downstream (north) from the earlier sites. The second location was a similar distance south of the earlier sites and was at a ranch on the west side of the Lake Fork.



**Ruins of the Carr Ranch Buildings, the original site for the Dayton, Colorado Post Office**  
Photograph by William. H. Bauer August 2003

The early site is the most interesting and is accessible. From Colorado Highway 149 where it enters the Lake Fork Valley from the direction of Powderhorn, drive north two miles on the Blue Mesa Cutoff. A large historical sign that relates the history of the ranch marks the site of the Carr Ranch. A few hundred feet north of the marker a little used road leads to the remains of the Carr Ranch. The road is behind a locked gate but I have walked the quarter mile to the buildings to take pictures. Unfortunately there has been no attempt to preserve the log structures, which are now rapidly deteriorating.

The second location of Dayton is at small ranch on the west side of the Lake Fork. Access is not obvious but is likely by means of a private road a half-mile north of the site. The site is visible from Colorado Highway 149.

The original site of Dayton is a short distance south of the “Gate,” the entrance to the gorge through which the Lake Fork of the Gunnison and the Rio Grande Railroad descends to the main stream of the Gunnison River. You can drive down the gorge some five miles to the Gateview Campground on the Blue Mesa Reservoir. Also, just beyond Dayton, the Blue Mesa Cutoff crosses the Lake Fork and

**DAYTON – Continued**

climbs up onto Blue Mesa. It eventually joins US Highway 50 near the final site of the Sapinero Post Office. Both of these scenic side trips are recommended.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

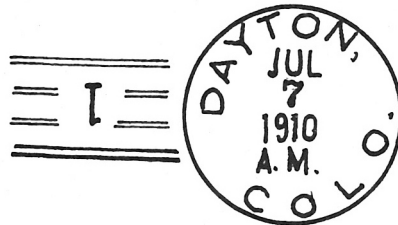
- Jan 3 1897 --- NW/4 Sec 16 T47N R3W Tolofaro 4-1/2 miles easterly 1/4 mile east of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison 2 rods south of Johnson Creek  
1500 feet from D&RG Lake Fork Branch  
Proposed postmaster - Dudley M. Carr
- Jan 26 1897 Established
- Jan 26 1897 Carr, Dudley M.
- Dec 4 1897 Allen, Jennie M.
- Oct 27 1898 Orser, Alexander T.
- Mar 18 1902 Carr, Nellie H.
- Sep 23 1902 Gratton, Catherine
- Mar 8 1904 Ordered closed
- Mar 31 1904 Discontinued Mail to Lake City
- Dec 5 1904 --- SW/4 SW/4 Sec 32 T47N R3W 1/8 mile west of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison 1/4 mile north of Spring Creek West side of D&RG track, 1320 feet  
Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Mabel J. Addington
- Jan 13 1905 Re-established
- Jan 13 1905 Addington, Mabel
- Oct 31 1911 Discontinued Mail to Lake City

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

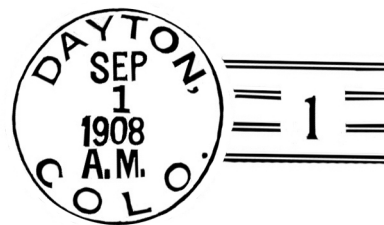
- 1 DAYTON / COLO. Dec 30 1898 Feb 1 1902  
CI 10P 28.0 Hstp No killer
- 2 DAYTON, / COLO. Jun 28 1907 Jul 7 1910  
CI 10P 28.0 Doane Type 2 with 1, S-23x13mm seen with dial normal and inverted



1



2



**DORCHESTER**

Nearly all of the small settlements in the Taylor Park area had their beginnings in the 1880's or earlier. By the turn of the century, many of them were already no more than faint memories. Dorchester was an exception. Dorchester did not arise until 1900 when gold mines were opened in the Italian Mountain District some four miles west of the Taylor River. The location that was selected for Dorchester is a bit odd, considering that it was to serve as an operational base for the mines on Italian Mountain west of the Taylor River. Access to those mines would be by way of Italian Creek; there is still a road of sorts up that valley. Italian Creek joins the Taylor River approximately a mile and a half southeast of the site that was chosen for Dorchester. However, the site was more convenient to the Enterprise Mine, located high up on the east side of the Taylor Valley. Perhaps the decision was made by a landowner that was willing to speculate on the new development.



**DORCHESTER – Continued**

The community began life as Taylor City but the name was soon changed to Dorchester, supposedly for Dorchester, Massachusetts, hometown of postmaster Charles Laughlin (not Clark McLaughlin according to some reports).

The town enjoyed a fairly long period of activity, serving as a supply center for mining in the area and as a rest stop for travelers going to and from the Aspen area by way of Taylor Pass. Dorchester had several cabins, at least two stores, a pair of liverys, two saloons, a two-story hotel, bunkhouses, a barbershop, a restaurant, and a post office. By 1910 mining activity had decreased and the post office closed. There was a brief revival of mining, for lead and zinc, during World War I and the Enterprise Mine operated as late as 1950.

From Almont take Gunnison County Road 742 through the Taylor River Canyon to the small resort on the east side of the Taylor Reservoir. Turn north (the road south leads to Tin Cup) and drive north approximately twelve miles. The site of the town of Dorchester is now adjacent to that of the Forest Service's Dorchester Campground. None of the original structures remain. There is a small, modern log building just south of the campground. This is the Forest Service ranger station. In the open field between the log building and the campground you can find several depressions that were cellar pits for buildings in Dorchester.

On the road to Dorchester, you will pass the sites of Emma, Red Mountain, Standish and the side road to Pieplant. The site of Bowman is about two miles north of the Dorchester Campground.

Latitude = 38:57:54 North Longitude = 106:39:45 West **DORCHESTER CAMPGROUND**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Jun 29 1900** -- **SE/4 Sec 27 T12S R83W 3/4 mile north of the Taylor River  
1/2 mile east of Tellurium Creek From the sketch map, Dorchester  
seems to have been the center for a number of mines scattered to the north and west  
Proposed postmaster - Charles Laughlin**
- Aug 2 1900** **Established**
- Aug 2 1900** **Laughlin, Charles**
- Mar 5 1901** -- **SE/4 Sec 28 T12S R83W A move 4 blocks west of previous site  
1/2 mile north of the Taylor River 1/4 mile south of Teluriam (sic) Creek**
- Apr 24 1902** **Schafer, George H.**
- Apr 20 1903** **Walmgreen, Alexander**
- Oct 25 1910** **Folsom, George B.**
- Jul 31 1912** **Discontinued Mail to Ashcroft**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 DORCHESTER / COLO.**
- CI 10P 27.0**
- Hstp Target (?)**
- Aug 10 1901 Apr 19 1910**



**DOYLEVILLE**

The geographic history of Doyleville has been reviewed under Crookstown.

The original location for Doyleville was south of Tomichi Creek, on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. A number of historical references claim that Crooksville was renamed Doyleville in 1885. Not true. Doyleville came into existence in 1881 with the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. In 1885, the Crooksville Post Office did close and its mail functions were transferred to the existing Doyleville Post Office, hence the confusion.

After a short period as an end of track construction town, Doyleville was left with a station, a siding, and loading pens for livestock to serve the surrounding area.

The name Doyleville apparently honors an early resident and sheep rancher, Henry Doyle.

By the early twentieth century, traffic on the county road north of Tomichi Creek had gained importance and the post office was moved to the former location of Crooksville/Crookstown on the south side of what eventually became US Highway 50.

Doyleville is still the site of a large, active ranch and is marked by sign on US 50.

Latitude = 38:27:06 North Longitude = 106:36:32 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 8 1881	---	NW/4 Sec 11 T48N R3E On north side of D&RG at Doyle Station or Hot Spring Station Proposed postmaster - Edwin A. Mitchell	
Oct 24 1881		Established	
Oct 24 1881		Mitchell, Edwin A.	
Apr 9 1882		Name changed to Gilman	
Mar 24 1883		Change in name rescinded	
May 9 1889		Wolfe, David E.	
Jun 26 1890		O'Fallon, Patrick	
Jul 15 1891		Prosser, William R.	
Jul 30 1894		McAllister, Charles E.	
Oct 13 1899		Bartlett, Carney F.	
Dec 14 1900		Shuckhart, John H.	
May 1 1902		McDowell, Henry M.	
Sep 28 1904		Shuckhart, John H.	
Jan 15 1908	---	From: NE/4 NW/4 Sec 11 T48N R3E To: SE/4 NW/4 Sec 2 T48N R3E A move 1-1/4 miles north of previous location (From railroad to the county highway)	
Feb 14 1908		Gibbons, Bessie	
May 2 1914	---	SE/4 NW/4 Sec 2 T48N R3E 1/2 mile north of Tomichi Creek 1/2 mile East of Hot Spring Creek 1-1/4 miles north of the D&RG	
Oct 20 1920		Stephenson, Edward D.	
May 28 1928	---	NW/4 Sec 2 T48N R3E 1/2 mile north of the Tomichi River 1/4 mile east of Hot Spring Creek 1 mile north of the D&RG RR	
Jun 25 1928		Stephenson, Mrs. Luvada	Confirmed
Jul 20 1928		Stephenson, Mrs. Luvada	Commissioned
Jul 31 1928		Stephenson, Mrs. Luvada	Assumed charge
Mar 21 1939		Stephenson, Mrs. Luvada	Assumed charge
Mar 27 1939		Stephenson, Mrs. Luvada	Acting
Apr 18 1939		Stephenson, Mrs. Luvada	Confirmed
May 2 1939		Stephenson, Mrs. Luvada	Commissioned
Oct 23 1941	---	NW/4 Sec 2 T48N R3E US 50 is 50 feet north of post office	
Sep 30 1948		Stephenson, Mrs. Helen M.	Possession
Oct 1 1948		Stephenson, Mrs. Helen M.	Assumed charge
Oct 20 1948		Stephenson, Mrs. Helen M.	Acting
Nov 18 1948		Stephenson, Mrs. Helen M.	Appointed
Dec 17 1948		Stephenson, Mrs. Helen M.	Commissioned
Dec 31 1948		Stephenson, Mrs. Helen M.	Possession

**DOYLEVILLE – Continued**

Feb 28 1869      Office temporarily closed  
Apr 4 1869      Discontinued Mail to Parlin

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	DOYLEVILLE, / COLO. CI 10P 27.5      Hstp Not recorded	Dec 31 1882 Jun 6 1883
2	DOYLEVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0      Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm	Feb 24 1892 Nov 19 1896
3	DOYLEVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 29.0      Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Aug 21 1902 Jan 11 1906
4	DOYLEVILLE, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0      Doane Type 3 with 2, S-??x13mm	Jun 25 1906 Dec 5 1909
5	DOYLEVILLE, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0      4bars S-??x13mm	Nov 10 1910 Feb 8 1931
6	DOYLEVILLE, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0      4bars S-??x19mm	Jan 22 1941 Oct 13 1942
7	DOYLEVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0      4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 31 1948 Feb 8 1951
8	DOYLEVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0      4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 19 1962 Dec 28 1962
9	DOYLEVILLE, CO / 81225 CI 10P 31.5      4bars S-25x18mm	Nov 21 1967 Nov 28 1967



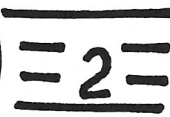
1



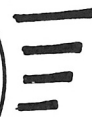
2



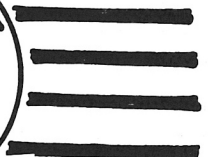
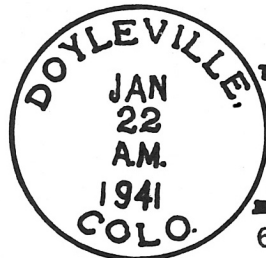
3



4



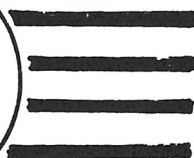
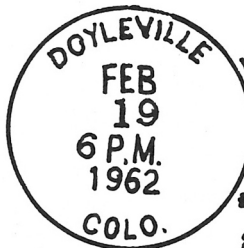
5



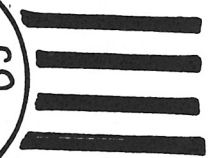
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## **DRAKE**

To my knowledge Drake has not been mentioned in Colorado's historical literature. From the scant information provided by the Post Office Department Records of Postmaster Appointments and the Geographic Site Location Report, it is my conjecture that Drake was most likely in the valley where the steep climb to Ohio Pass begins.

As such it would have been a predecessor to the original Mount Carbon and possibly served as a short-lived construction camp for the planned railroad over Ohio Pass to the mines at Irwin. Any additional information on the location and history of Drake would be greatly appreciated.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 8 1881	---	Not sectionalized On the route from Gunnison City to Irwin Will not have to leave present route Irwin five miles northerly Gunnison 25 miles southerly On the west side of Ohio Creek Proposed postmaster - David L. Markley
Sep 13 1881		Established
Sep 31 1881		Markley, David L.
Oct 5 1882		Discontinued Mail to Irwin

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM DRAKE**

## **DREW**

Drew is described as a, "small, obscure mining town at the southern end of Cumberland Pass." The town may have been small but the mine was anything but.

The above description and a similar one from the Colorado Historical Society's Rogers File give the impression that Drew was at the southern foot of Cumberland Pass. My first attempt to find the site of Drew was in 1991. From Pitkin I drove up the North Quartz Creek Valley to where the road begins its serious climb to Cumberland Pass. The valley at that point is choked with trees and willows and I saw nothing that would indicate the one time presence of a mining camp. The results of that visit were unsatisfactory but it was not until 2002 that an opportunity arose to revisit the area. Jim Ozment and I had spent the day in Taylor Park and chose to return to Gunnison by way of Cumberland Pass which would then give me the opportunity to again look for the site of Drew. Descending the east side of the pass, there are three sharp switchbacks. As we completed the third switchback we suddenly encountered a sizeable abandoned mining site. There were several deteriorating log buildings and some very large mine dumps. This is shown on the USGS maps as the Bon Ton Mine and it is sort of near the southern foot of Cumberland Pass, about a mile from the more level valley floor. I now have no doubt that this was the site of Drew.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report indicates that Drew was not the favored name for this post office. Gold Cup, Blaine and Drew were suggested, with a stated preference for Gold Cup. The postal officials in Washington assigned Drew.

From the above, you can see that the site is easy to find. Simply drive north from Pitkin on the Road to Cumberland Pass and you can't miss the location shortly after you begin the ascent to the pass. When we were there in 2002, it was late in the afternoon, the weather was deteriorating rapidly and there were even a few flakes of snow in the air. For me, another visit to Drew remains on my to-do list.

DREW – Continued



**Building ruins and mine dump at site of Drew, Colorado**

Photo by James L. Ozment

September 2002

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 21 1884 --- Tin Cup district, not sectionalized Quartz is nine miles southerly  
Tin Cup 3 miles northerly May be in Sec 25, T16S R81W (Very doubtful) or 15S  
Proposed postmaster - Andrew J. Biggs

Feb 7 1884 Established

Feb 7 1884 Biggs, Andrew J.

Apr 24 1884 Robinson, Alexander D.

Jul 21 1885 Discontinued Mail to Tin Cup

Nov 2 1885 Re-established

Nov 2 1885 Smith, Jasper W.

Dec 14 1885 LaJune, Andrew

Mar 29 1886 Discontinued Papers to Pitkin

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 Drew Colorado  
MS

Mscp Pen cancel

Aug 21 1884 May 4 1885

*Drew Colorado  
March 9/85*



## DREW – Continued



Drew, Colorado      March 9, 1885      Manuscript postmark

## DUBOIS

Dubois was one of the small mining camps that developed in 1892 in the “Gold Belt” of southern Gunnison County. Frank Dupuy and Anton Johnson were the first prospectors to locate in the area. Reportedly the town was named in honor of Senator Fred Dubois, a Republican from Idaho who was a strong supporter of the free and unlimited coinage of silver. Dubois was incorporated in 1894 but with a lack of operating capital and a lack of high-grade ore it soon disappeared from the landscape.

Where was the location of Dubois? Several references in the Colorado historical literature place the site of Dubois on Goose Creek, a mile and a half above the creek’s junction with Cebolla Creek, and also, “four miles by stage from Gateview.” This description does not fit with the Federal Land Survey location that is given on the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report. That location is some three miles east and slightly south of the location on Goose Creek. Adhering to my usual preference for the Post Office Department location over other choices, I believe Dubois was about a mile south of Spencer, which in turn is a mile west of Colorado Highway 149. It is possible that the location of Dubois has become confused with that of Tolifaro, which was on Goose Creek.

Following our visit to Spencer, which is easily accessible, Jim Ozment and I drove up onto the hills to the south. We could not get to where I have plotted the location of Dubois, which would have been a half-mile or more uphill and into the woods. We could see nothing from where we turned around to return to Spencer.

Therefore, the location of Dubois does remain open to question and to additional research.

Latitude = 38:20:58 North    Longitude = 107:10:48 West    DUBOIS MINE

## Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 21 1893 ---      SE/4 Sec 8 T47N R2W (or R3W ?) 2 miles west of Cebolla Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Zachariah M. Harris

**DUBOIS – Continued**

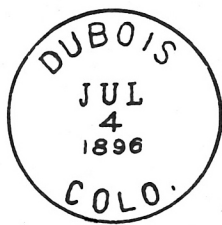
Jan 9 1894      Established  
 Jan 9 1894      Renner, Theodore  
 Jun 16 1905     Gabrielson, Elmira J.  
 Feb 28 1910    Discontinued Mail to Powderhorn



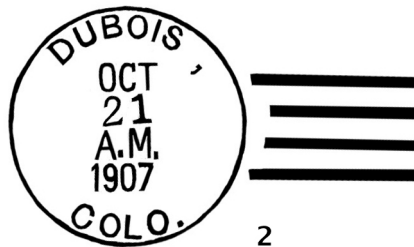
**DUBOIS / COLO.    December 25, 1901**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                                |   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | DUBOIS / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.0  | May 10 1894 Dec 25 1901<br>Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm |
| 2 | DUBOIS, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 30.0 | Oct 21 1907<br>4bars S-22x14mm                      |



1



2

**ELGIN**

In 1879 Colonel R. S. Moore settled near the Tomichi Hot Springs. There were upper and lower springs. Moore settled at the upper spring and the following year Charles Elgin settled at the lower spring. Elgin began development of a small settlement that served the scattered mining activity in the area, had a sawmill and provided shelter for visitors to the hot springs.

Named Elgin, the place soon became popular with invalids and others seeking rest and recuperation from the harsh life in early Gunnison County.

**ELGIN – Continued**

A post office was assigned to Elgin in 1882 but in September 1885 the name was changed to Waunita. A later name change would create Waunita Hot Springs, as it is still known. For the later history of this place, refer to the discussions of Waunita and Waunita Hot Springs.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 29 1882	---	SW/4 SE/4 Sec 10 T49N R4E 20 feet north of Hot Springs Creek "Watering place and mining camp." Proposed postmaster - Charles H. Elgin
Oct 11 1882		Established
Oct 11 1882		Elgin, Charles H.
Dec 7 1883		Pugh, George E.
Dec 1 1884		Berdel, Charles A.
Sep 10 1885		Name changed to Waunita

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ELGIN

**ELKO**

Elko was a small mining camp contemporaneous with Schofield and a little more than a mile south of Schofield in an area known today as Elko Park. On October 1, 1881 D. F. McGlothlen, Willis McGlothlen, R. J. Walter, John Engstrom and Sam Bachtel filed a plat, for the town of Elko. Muriel Sibelle Wolle refers to Elko as, "consisting of two cabins and great expectations." Elko was abandoned even before Schofield.

The name Elko was derived from the location in the Elk Mountains.

In 1903 there was a brief revival. A 3,000 foot tunnel was dug and a small mill was constructed to process the ore. The complex nature of the ore and excessive transportation costs put an end to that short-lived adventure at Elko.

The site is easy to reach. A few feet north of the summit of Schofield Pass a side road to the west will take you down the hill and into Elko Park. At one time there was a small lake on Rock Creek, which drains the park but that has either filled in or been breached. There is a fairly wide meadow along the stream and the ruins of a cabin are visible on the slope on the north side of the creek. In the trees on the south side of the creek there is a cabin, undergoing reconstruction; however, it appears that this has been moved here from some other location.

The road into Elko Park continues south over Paradise Divide and down to the Slate River at Pittsburgh.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 2 1881	---	Not surveyed On the east bank of Rock Creek Schofield is 3 miles northwesterly Proposed postmaster - John Engstrom
Aug 15 1881		Established
Aug 15 1881		Engstrom, John
Sep 24 1884		Discontinued Mail to Schofield

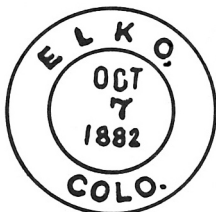
**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 ELKO, / COLO.

CI 11P 27.0/17.5

Oct 7 1882

Hstp Grid, circular



## **ELKTON**

Elkton, at the head of Washington Gulch, is a little over a mile northeast of Pittsburgh but separated from it by Anthracite Mesa.

Reportedly there was some very early (1861) placer mining here and a settlement developed by the name of Minersville. Considering the remoteness of the location and that in 1861 this was definitely Indian country, I am very skeptical of that claim.

In 1881, M. J. Gray and Joseph McCoy found some good outcroppings of silver and laid out a townsite near the head of Washington Gulch. Like Elko, five or six miles to the north, the town was named for its location in the Elk Mountains. The town was the property of the Elk Mountain Consolidated Mining Company.

Although the activity at Elkton was brief, it was apparently quite strong. The USGS maps of the area indicate a good number of mines and prospect pits in the area at the head of Washington Gulch.

To reach the vicinity of Elkton, begin just south of the Mount Crested Butte resort community where the main road crosses a branch of the Slate River. A side road to the north goes back up the hill and over into Washington Gulch.

I made this trip in 1991. At that time the road quickly degenerated into little more than two ruts going up the valley. For some perverse reason, and even driving a Ford Pinto, I went ahead and eventually clawed my way to the Elkton vicinity and then up onto Anthracite Mesa to Paradise Divide and down to Pittsburgh. With all of the development that has swept through this general area since 1991 I suspect the road is much improved.

In 1991, nothing other than evidence of the mining was visible.

A word of caution. Do not confuse either Elko or Elkton with other places in Colorado. There was a railroad siding named Elco (with a "C") in La Plata County and another mining town post office named Elkton in Teller County (1895-1926).

Latitude = 38:57:49 North Longitude = 107:01:58 West

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jun 27 1881</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SW/4 Sec 5 T13S R86W 2-1/2 miles west of East River (over the mountains), at the head of Washington Creek Gulch</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Marcellus J. Gray</b>
<b>Jul 14 1881</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jul 14 1881</b>		<b>Gray, Marcellus J.</b>
<b>Nov 15 1882</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Pittsburg</b>

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ELKTON**

## **EMMA**

There is no evidence that Emma was anything more than a ranch and stage station on the road through Taylor Park. In its brief existence of fourteen months the Geographic Site Location Reports place Emma at two different locations. The first location is on Texas Creek, approximately a half mile north of the road to Cottonwood Pass and St. Elmo. The second location is another two miles north, at Pieplant Creek. There are no signs of habitation at the Texas Creek site but at the Pieplant site there are a couple of log buildings and a corral. The larger of the buildings has recently been renovated and expanded. The buildings are west of the main road on the north side of Pieplant Creek. The side road to the east, to Pieplant, is a hundred yards farther north.

**EMMA – Continued**

The source of the name is evident. The postmaster, for the Texas Creek site, was Emma Garrison. In fact the suggested name was Garrison but Emma was the name assigned. The name can be a bit confusing as this Emma was followed in 1883 by another Emma located in Pitkin County, which lasted much longer - until 1939.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 24 1881	---	Country just being sectionized 4 miles northeast of the Taylor River 20 feet east of Texas Creek Proposed postmaster - Emma D. Garrison
Sep 27 1881		Established
Sep 27 1881		Garrison, Emma D.
Apr 4 1882		Austin, John O.
Sep 18 1882	---	SE/4 Sec 21 T13S R82W 50 yards east of the Taylor River 250 yards north of Pie Plant Creek Proposed postmaster - John S. Flickner
Sep 20 1882		Flickner, John S.
Nov 10 1882		Discontinued Mail to Tin Cup

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM EMMA**

**FLORESTA**

This site was originally known as Ruby-Anthracite. It was formed to exploit a large deposit of anthracite coal south of Irwin and west of the Ohio Pass, Kebler Pass road.

In 1880, a town began to develop near the headwaters of Ruby Anthracite Creek. The previous year, acting for the Osage Coal and Mining Company, W. V. Osborn had filed on the land. In 1882, Thatcher, Reynolds and the Thompson brothers acquired the property from the Osage Company. They would in turn sell to the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.

In 1883 the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad constructed an eleven-mile track from Crested Butte to Ruby-Anthracite. For many years there was extensive production of anthracite coal. In 1918 the mine closed, although there was sporadic activity as late as 1936. The tailings pile was sold for use as flux and the railroad continued to operate until 1929.

At first the post office serving the Floresta Mine was known as Ruby. Since the silver mining community, some four miles northeast of Ruby-Anthracite was popularly known as Ruby-Irwin there was undoubtedly confusion in the proper direction of mail to the two communities. In 1896 the post office at the coal mine took the name of Floresta. The name is loosely derived from "forest," descriptive of its location.

The access to the Floresta site begins a short distance south of the junction of the road to Ohio Pass with the road from Crested Butte to Kebler Pass, and where the Ohio Pass Road crosses the old railroad grade. Unfortunately, the access road enters private property and is blocked by a substantial, locked gate. Because of that, I have not visited the actual site, which is about a mile beyond the gate.

Latitude = 38:50:31 North Longitude = 107:07:20 West

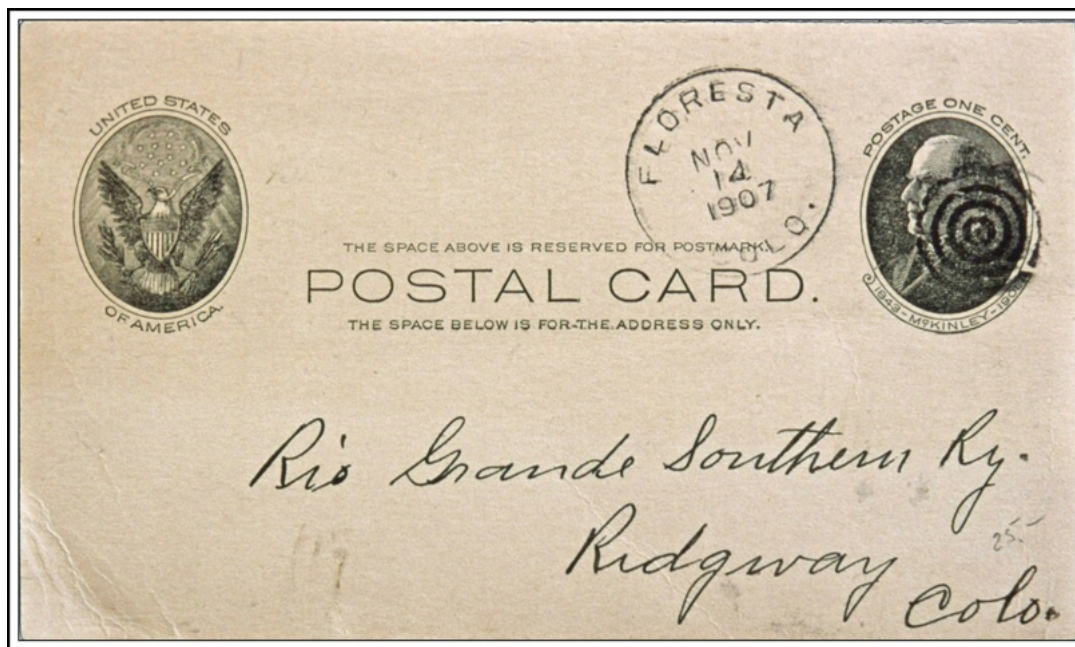
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 30 1896	---	NW/4 Sec 16 T14S R87W 1/4 mile east of Anthracite Creek Proposed postmaster - Charles Andrew Myers
Jan 16 1897		Established
Jan 16 1897		Myers, Charles A.
May 17 1898		McLaughlin, Thomas



**FLORESTA – Continued**

Dec 3 1906	McWilliams, Charley C.	
Jan 5 1912	Rees, William H.	
Apr 21 1914	Chambers, Charles C.	Declined
Aug 7 1914	Mascon, Horine B.	
Nov 15 1919	Discontinued Mail to Crested Butte	



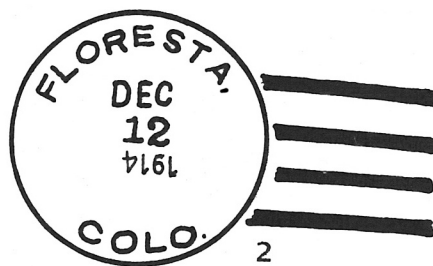
**FLORESTA / COLO.      November 14, 1907**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                                  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | FLORESTA / COLO.<br>CI 10P 27.5  | Jul 9 1900 Aug 9 1909<br>Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm |
| 2 | FLORESTA, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 33.0 | Sep 10 1914 Aug 17 1915<br>4bars S-25x19mm        |



1



2

**GATEVIEW**

Gateview was the last in the succession of names to be applied to the stage and rest stop on the Saguache to Lake City road, in the area where Indian Creek joins the Lake Fork of the Gunnison. First established in 1876 as Barnum, it became Allen in 1881. In 1889, with the departure from the area of Benjamin Allen and the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad the name was changed to Gateview. The post office may have then moved a short distance west to be closer to the railroad.

**GATEVIEW – Continued**

The settlement was a halfway house on the stage road and included a large horse and hay barn, corrals, pasture for livestock and an eating house for travelers.

The site is where Colorado Highway 149 exits from Indian Creek Valley into the valley of the Lake Fork. A short distance east of where the Blue Mesa Cutoff Road begins, the remnants of some log buildings remain on the south side of the highway. I believe that they are the remains of Barnum-Allen-Gateview.

Latitude = 38:17:37 North Longitude = 107:13:05 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 7 1889	--	Unsurveyed lands 3/4 mile east of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River on the east bank of Indian Creek [from the report for Allen]
Mar 11 1892		Moved from Allen Listing in Postal Guides was not changed until 1895
Mar 1 1892		Mendenhall, Alla M.
Oct 2 1894		Mendenhall, Francis M.
Nov 7 1895		Discontinued Mail to Powderhorn

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	GATEVIEW / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp No killer	Nov 4 1895
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**GILMAN**

Gilman was the name applied to a stop on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad east of Parlin. For a few months in 1882-1883 the Doyleville Post Office was officially known as Gilman. However, that change in name was rescinded and I have doubts that the post office ever operated as Gilman.

For more information on the post offices in this area, please refer to the discussions of Crookstown, Crooksville and Doyleville.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 4 1882	Name changed from Doyleville
Sep 4 1882	Mitchell, Edwin A.
Feb 5 1883	Discontinued Mail to Gunnison
Mar 24 1883	The orders changing the name and site to Gilman, and discontinuing Gilman were rescinded and Doyleville was re-established It is doubtful the office was ever moved from Doyleville or operated as Gilman

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GILMAN

## **GLACIER**

Glacier was a siding on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad between Almont and Crested Butte. The siding held only four cars. Ore from the Star and Bull Domingo Mines on the east side of Italian Mountain was brought by wagon down Cement Creek by way of a very difficult road. Cattle and hay were also shipped from this siding.

The site was on the west side of the East River and a half-mile north of Cement Creek. The place was originally called Bockers because it was located on the H. E. Bocker ranch. Supposedly it was given the new name for a, "glacier on a nearby mountain." I do not put much faith in that claim, as I doubt that any of the nearby mountains still supported a glacier in the nineteenth century.

The location of Glacier was north of where a modern road crosses the East River to an expanding development of new homes, apartments and condominiums. A short distance north of this junction and on the east side of Colorado Highway 135 is an older ranch, likely related to Glacier. A little farther up the highway and on the west side is a small, red building, the Red Mountain Log Furniture Showroom. This building was once the Glacier School but it has been moved to its present location.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Feb 5 1914</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NE/4 Sec 33 T14S R85W 1/4 mile west side of the East River 1/2 mile north of Cement Creek 500 feet east of the D&amp;RG track Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Leda McKinley</b>
<b>Apr 20 1914</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Apr 20 1914</b>		<b>McKinley, Leda</b>
<b>Nov 9 1914</b>		<b>Wise, Maud</b>
<b>Nov 30 1915</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Crested Butte</b>

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GLACIER**

## **GOTHIC**

In 1879 John and David Jennings discovered silver ore on Copper Creek and named their discovery the Sylvanite Mine. The mine was noted for the presence of wire silver. Following quickly on the heels of the discovery was the development of a town in the valley where Copper Creek joined the East River. On June 9, 1879 Gothic City held its first town meeting. Gothic was incorporated July 17, 1879. Samuel Wait and Tom Weil have both been given credit for establishing the town.

The name Gothic was taken from the Gothic Mountain (12,625 feet) that towers above the town west of the East River. The mountain was so named because its crest was perceived to resemble Gothic style architecture.

For several years, Gothic was more than a mining town. Its location on the East River allowed it to function as supply center for the mining activity to the north and east, and as a rest stop for travelers bound north to the mining districts on the Crystal River and around Aspen. The development of better roads and alternate routes soon reduced that activity to a trickle. The mines produced well for a short period of time but the good ore soon ran out and with the difficulties of transportation and harsh winters Gothic soon faded.

In April of 1928 the efforts of Dr. John C. Johnson, professor of Biology at Western State College in Gunnison resulted in the establishment of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory at Gothic. For \$200 in taxes, the college purchased the entire town. Some buildings were demolished and those in better condition were restored for use as classrooms and residences for students and staff. The Laboratory conducts studies of the high altitude ecology and environment. Summer academic studies include courses in biology, parasitology and related subjects.

**GOTHIC – Continued**

Thanks to the efforts of the Laboratory, Gothic, at least during the summer months is still a small but active community. Improvement in the roads and the development of campgrounds in the area has brought increased summer tourist and recreational business to the area. There are minimal services available at Gothic but the modern Mount Crested Butte resort community is only a few miles to the south.

From Crested Butte, take the main road north to Mount Crested Butte. Stay on the main road, around the west side of the resort town and continue north to Gothic. This road continues north, over Schofield Pass and on to Crystal and Marble. However, beyond Schofield Park it is one of the most difficult 4-wheel drive roads in Colorado and is not recommended for anyone other than the most experienced drivers and even those should not drive that road alone.

Latitude = 38:57:33 North Longitude = 106:59:21 West

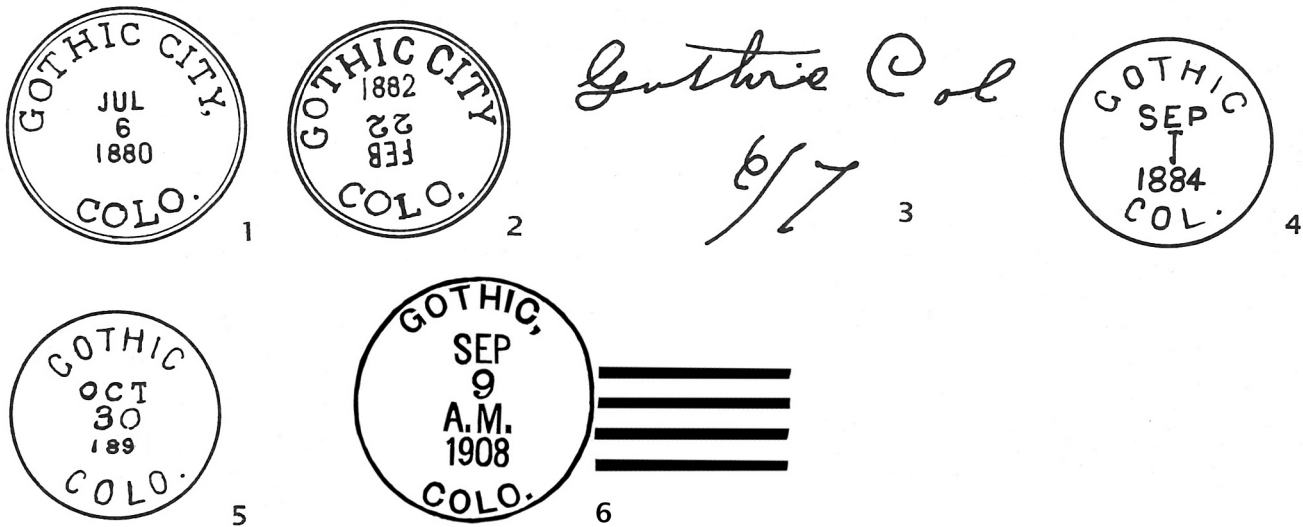
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 21 1879	---	NE/4 Sec 34 T12S R86W (About ???) East side of East River north side of White Rock Creek Proposed postmaster - Lewis A. Wait	
Aug 5 187		Established	
Aug 5 1879		Wait, Lewis A.	
Feb 7 1881		Fuller, Ebenezer W.	
Jan 26 1883		Stark, Charles B.	
Sep 10 1883		Jarvis, W. E.	
Dec 7 1883		Crawford, Thomas	
Jan 28 1888		Steinmeyer, Mrs. Josephine	
Sep 9 1889		Flagg, Mrs. Phoebe E.	
Oct 1 1894		Kincaid, John	Declined
Oct 31 1894		Madden, Jerry	
Jun 22 1896		Discontinued Mail to Crested Butte	
Apr 29 1907	---	NE/4 Sec 3 T13S R86W On the East River and Copper Creek (run through Gothic) GOTHIC CITY (City crossed out)	
Jun 20 1907		Re-established	
Jun 20 1907		Vagg, Edith C.	
Dec 20 1907		Thomas, Eliza V.	
Jan 31 1914		Discontinued Mail to Crested Butte	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	GOTHIC CITY, / COLO. CI 20P 31.0/29.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring; Cork, smudge	Jul 6 1880 Aug 8 1881
2	GOTHIC CITY / COLO. CI 20P 28.0/26.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm	Apr 26 1881 Feb 22 1882
3	Gothic Col MS	Mscp Pen cancel	May 21 1880 Jun 7 1881
4	GOTHIC / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	May 27 1884 Jul 27 1885
5	GOTHIC COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm	Sep 30 1891 Oct 30 189-
6	GOTHIC, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-25x14mm	Sep 9 1908

**GOTHIC – Continued**



**GUNNISON**

The first settlement in this area came in 1871 when, in the person of Alonzo Hartman, the Federal Government established a cow camp for beef that was to be distributed to the Ute Indians. Later, Hartman would become the first postmaster for Gunnison. His cabin and post office have been moved and reconstructed on the grounds of the Gunnison Pioneer Museum on the east end of Gunnison.

On April 21, 1874 a party of settlers led by Sylvester Richardson arrived at the junction of the Gunnison River with Tomichi Creek. The land was surveyed into quarter sections (160 acres). A town was laid out on Richardson's lot and a town company formed. In 1879 Sylvester Richardson, Governor Evans, Captain Mullin and others reorganized the Gunnison Town Company. The townsite of Gunnison was surveyed and incorporated the following year.

The county, the river and the town are named in honor of Captain James W. Gunnison who led an exploration party through the area in 1853 seeking a feasible route over the Continental Divide for a trans-continental railroad. On October 26, 1853, Captain Gunnison and several of his party were killed in a battle with Indians in Utah.

The town first developed as two communities, only a short distance apart. The smaller was called West Gunnison and the larger Gunnison, which soon swallowed the smaller settlement. No independent post office was ever established at West Gunnison but that designation is occasionally found in return addresses.

In the mid and late 1870's gold and silver were discovered throughout a large area surrounding Gunnison. The central location, in a broad valley, made Gunnison a logical place for the development of a major supply center. The discovery of good coal deposits to the north of Gunnison also added to the economic strength of the developing town.

The resources of the Gunnison Country were an attraction for Colorado's developing railroads. The Denver, South Park, and Pacific, and the Denver and Rio Grande both began construction with Gunnison as a destination. The South Park had the initial lead but on August 8, 1881 the Rio Grande was the first to reach Gunnison. The South Park would not enter Gunnison until September 24, 1882. Gunnison would become a modest rail center with branch routes north to the Ohio Creek Valley and to Crested Butte. The Denver and Rio Grande would build on to the west tapping the mines of the northern San Juans and eventually reaching Salt Lake City.



## GUNNISON – Continued



**GUNNISON, / COLORADO. August 2, (1881)**

Throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century Gunnison's economy was dominated by the mining and ranching activity in the surrounding countryside. The designation of Gunnison as the county seat helped to solidify its position as the principal town of Gunnison County.

Even from its early days the Gunnison Country was an attraction for tourists, hunters and fishermen. As time passed a number of resorts were developed in and around Gunnison. With the decline of mining activity, the importance of tourism increased. In the twenty-first century tourism and summer residences make major contributions to the county's economy.

Gunnison, as the home of Western State College, is also a college town.

Latitude = 38:32:45 North Longitude = 106:55:29 West

### Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 20 1876	---	Unsurveyed land At the junction of the Gunnison River and Tomichi Creek	
Oct 2 1876		Established	
Oct 2 1876		Hartman, Alonzo	
Feb 5 1878		Site moved 1 mile NE	
Mar 22 1882		Hartman, Alonzo	P&S
Mar 29 1886		Adams, Frank	P&S
Feb 25 1890		Shackleford, Sprigg	P&S
Mar 19 1894		Daley, Patrick	P&S
Jun 3 1898		Deering, Matthew C.	P&S
Sep 8 1898	---	SW/4 & SE/4 Sec 36, SE/4 Sec 35 T50N R1W and NE/4 Sec 2 and N/2 Sec 1 T49N 5 blocks from D&RG RR and 3 blocks from DL&G RR on north side of both roads, 400 feet to each block	
Jan 16 1901		Summers, George W.	P&S

**GUNNISON – Continued**

Jan 20 1905	Summers, George W.	P&S
Mar 1 1905	Summers, Nellie R.	P&S
Apr 19 1909	Summers, Nellie R.	P&S
Dec 20 1911	Martin, B. Frank	P&S
May 6 1914	--- SW/4 Sec 36 T50N R1W 3/4 miles east of the Gunnison River, 1/2 mile north of Tomichi River 3125 feet north of the D&RG	
Jul 8 1915	Wenger, Martin G.	Acting
Oct 20 1915	Aikin, Harry R.	P
Dec 16 1915	Aikin, Harry R.	P&S
Mar 7 1919	Hurley, P. J.	Acting
Feb 18 1920	Boyles, Paul C.	P&S
Mar 1 1924	Boyles, Paul C.	P&S
Mar 1 1928	Boyles, Paul C.	P&S
Mar 4 1932	Boyles, Paul C.	Nominated
Mar 18 1932	Boyles, Paul C.	Confirmed
Apr 23 1932	Boyles, Paul C.	Commissioned
Mar 16 1936	Schmitz, Mathias J.	Nominated
Mar 27 1936	Schmitz, Mathias J.	Confirmed
Apr 1 1936	Schmitz, Mathias J.	Appointed Presidential
Apr 23 1936	Schmitz, Mathias J.	Commissioned
--- -- ---	Schmitz, Mathias J.	Did not take possession
Feb 17 1937	Snyder, Benjamin H.	Acting
Apr 1 1937	Snyder, Benjamin H.	Assumed charge
Mar 16 1938	Snyder, Benjamin H.	Nominated
Mar 23 1938	Snyder, Benjamin H.	Confirmed
Mar 25 1938	Snyder, Benjamin H.	Appointed Presidential
Apr 15 1938	Snyder, Benjamin H.	Commissioned
Dec 16 1938	--- SW/4 Sec 36 T50N R1W Virginia & Wisconsin Streets	
Nov 6 1941	--- SW/4 Sec 36 T50N R1W Corner of Virginia & Wisconsin Streets	
May 15 1942	Snyder, Benjamin H.	Nominated
Jun 4 1942	Snyder, Benjamin H.	Confirmed
Jun 5 1942	Snyder, Benjamin H.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 29 1942	Snyder, Benjamin H.	Commissioned
Dec 30 1965	Frasier, Forrest F.	Acting
Aug 24 1967	Frasier, Forrest F.	Confirmed
Aug 25 1967	Frasier, Forrest F.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 8 1967	Frasier, Forrest F.	Commissioned

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

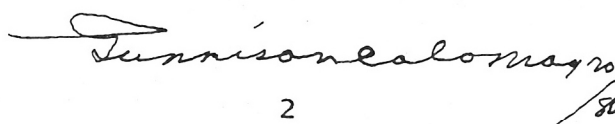
1	GUNNISON / COL. CI 10P 25.0	Hstp Not recorded	Jun 25 187- Jul 26 1879
2	Gunnison Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	May 20 1880
3	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	Aug 18 1880 Nov 1 1880
4	GUNNISON, / COLORADO. CI 20P 34.0/31.0	Hstp Fancy, Positive star	Apr 6 1881 Aug 2 1881
4.1	GUNNISON, / COLORADO CI 20P 32.0/17.0	Hstp Fancy, Positive star	May 27 1885
4.2	GUNNISON, / COLO. / RECEIVED. CI 20P 32.0/29.0	Hstp Not present	Jan 29 1882 Nov 11 1883
5	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Double grid, Smudge	Nov 2 1881 Oct 3 1886
6	GUNNISON / COL. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Double grid, smudge	Jun 16 1883 Feb 21 1884

GUNNISON – Continued

7	GUNNISON, / COLO. CI 21H 32.0/28.0/19.0	Jan 8 1887 Sep 6 1889 Hstp Cork, Square double grid
8	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Jun 9 1887 Jun 18 1890 Hstp Target, 4-ring, 21mm; Cork smudge
9	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Aug 15 1890 Hstp Not present
10	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Sep 1 1891 Dec 16 1893 Hstp Cork, Smudge
11	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Sep 18 1893 Mar 15 1898 Hstp Cork, Circular geometric, smudge
12	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Sep 25 1893 Jul 21 1896 Hstp Cork, Smudge, Negative X-roads
13	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Oct 21 1896 Mar 20 1899 Hstp No killer
14	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Apr 24 1899 May 6 1912 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
14.1	GUNNISON, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 29.0	May 23 1905 Feb 13 1906 Hstp No killer
15	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dec 29 1912 Aug 8 1914 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
15.1	GUNNISON, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 28.0/19.0	Jan 11 1913 Jul 6 1929 Hstp No killer
15.2	GUNNISON, / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x18.5	1910s Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box
16	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Dec 24 1920 Feb 9 1949 Dplx Grid, oval with circle & 1
17	GUNNISON, COLO. CI 10P 23.0	Aug 2 1921 Aug 2 1927 Flag 13 star waving flag
18	GUNNISON, COLO. / PARCEL POST CI 10P 29.0/19.0	Jul 18 1934 Hstp No killer



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2



3



4



4.1



4.2



5



GUNNISON – Continued



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



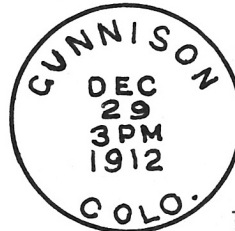
13



14



14.1



15



15.1



15.2



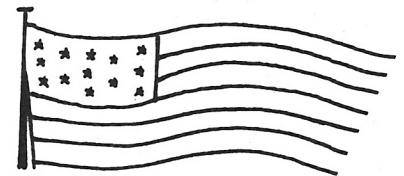
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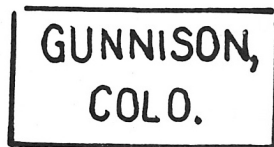
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17



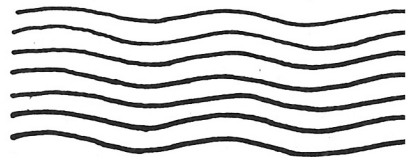
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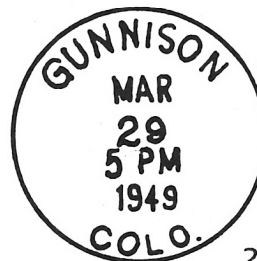
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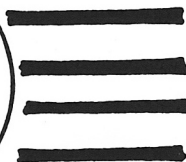
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21

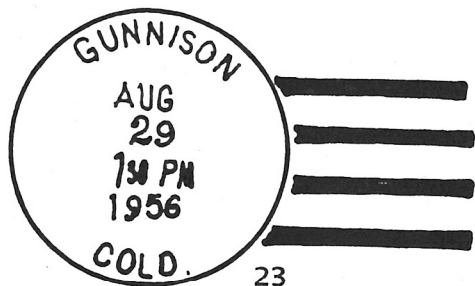


22



GUNNISON – Continued

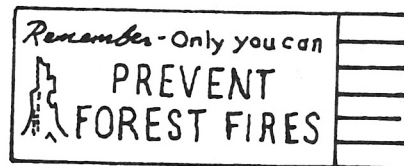
19	GUNNISON, / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x18.0	Jan 11 1913 Jul 18 1934 Hstp Parcel Post Box style
20	GUNNISON, COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mar 1 1928 Nov 21 1962 Mach 7 wavy lines
21	GUNNISON, COLO. SL 00R 42.0x3.0	--- -- 1940s Rolr Continuous impression between wavy lines; 1 above, 2 below
22	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Apr 21 1946 May 28 1949 4bars S-24x20mm
23	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 36.0	Aug 29 1956 4bars S-26x21mm
24	GUNNISON, COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Jul 2 1957 Aug 18 1965 Mach Slogan in box with bars; Tree stump, Remember - Only you can /PREVENT / FOREST FIRES
25	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Jun 22 1956 Jun 22 1956 Hstp 2 bars / FIRST DAY OF ISSUE / 2 bars; 3 cent Pronghorn Antelope First Day Covers
26	GUNNISON / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Dec 31 1962 4bars S-25x20mm
27	GUNNISON, CO / 81230 CI 10P 33.0	Oct 7 1965 Nov 30 1985 4bars S-23x20mm
28	GUNNISON, CO 81230 CI 10P 21.0	Apr 13 1966 Mar 13 1971 Mach 7 wavy lines
29	GUNNISON, CO / 81230 CI 10P 21.0	Jun 22 1966 Dec 8 1966 Mach Slogan in bars; NATIONAL PARK SERVICE / 50TH ANNIVERSARY
30	GUNNISON, CO 81230 CI 10P 21.0	Jul 31 1967 Oct 21 1974 Mach Slogan in box with bars; Tree stump, Remember - Only you can /PREVENT / FOREST FIRES
30.1	GUNNISON, CO 81230 CI 10P 21.0	Oct 7 1985 Oct 16 1985 Mach 7 wavy lines [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
31	GUNNISON, CO / 81230 CI 10P 33.0	Jan 9 1991 Jun 1 1993 4bars S-20x15mm
32	GUNNISON, CO / USPO CI 11P 30.0/20.0	Jun 26 1991 May 29 1993 Hstp No killer
33	GUNNISON CO / 81230 CI 10P 30.	Jul 21 2000 4bars S-27x16mm



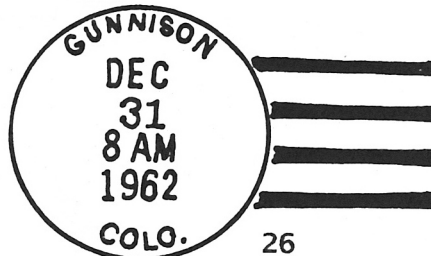
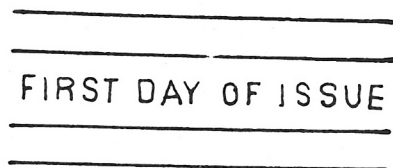
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24



25



26



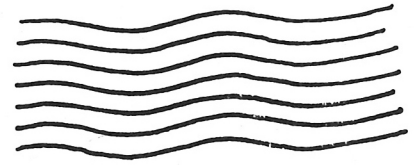
GUNNISON – Continued



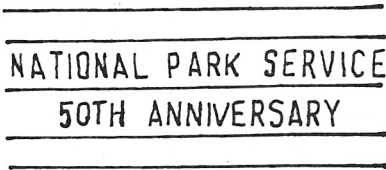
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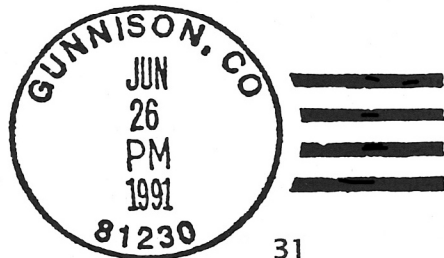
28



29



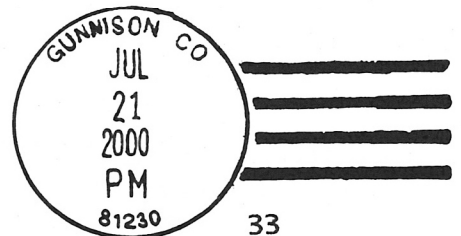
30



31



32



33

AUXILIARY MARKINGS

A 1 Gunnison Sta., D AND R G RY / J.P. HUNTLEY, Agent  
CI 20P 31.0/28.0 Hstp No killer

Nov 27 1882



A-1

GUNNISON STATIONS

BREAST CANCER STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 15 2005 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 GUNNISON CO 81230 // Breast Cancer Station  
IR 00R 27.0x48.0

Mar 15 2005  
Pict Scene - The wording is within the symbolic ribbon  
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]

## GUNNISON STATIONS – Continued

## CATTLEMEN'S DAYS STATION

## Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 15 2000 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Gunnison CO 81230 // Cattlemen's Days Station	Jul 15 2000
	IR 00R 76.0x37.0	Pict Scene - Cowboy boot; Text - 1900-2000 / Celebrating 100 Years

## GUNNISON STATIONS – Continued

## CATTLEMEN'S DAYS STATION – Continued

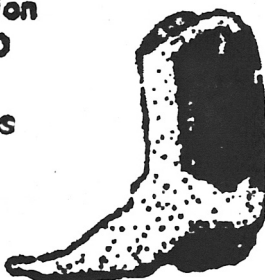
Cattlemen's Days Station

Gunnison CO 81230

1900-2000

Celebrating 100 Years

July 15, 2000



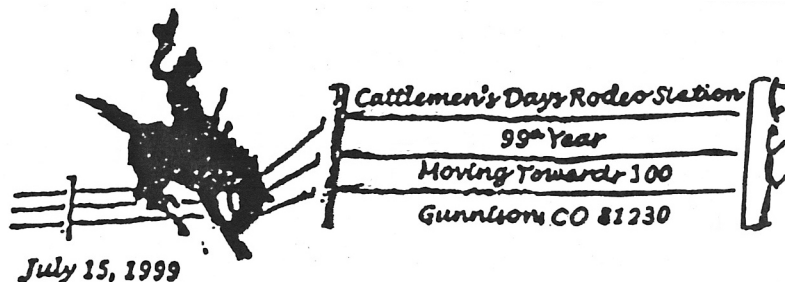
## CATTLEMEN'S DAYS RODEO STATION

## Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 15 1999 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Gunnison, CO 81230 // Cattlemen's Days Rodeo Station	Jul 15 1999
	IR 00R 103.0x36.0	Pict Scene - Bronc rider, Fence; Text - 99th Year / Moving Towards 100



## CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION

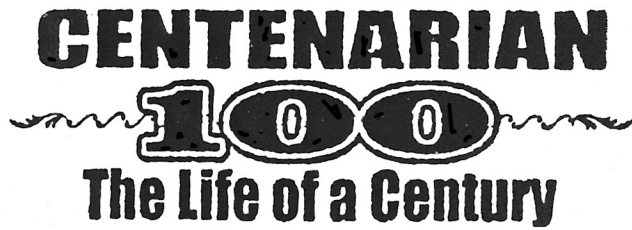
## Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 15 2000 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Gunnison, CO 81230 // Celebrate the Century Station	Jun 15 2000
	SL 00R 97.0x3.0	Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / -- 100 -- / The Life of a Century

GUNNISON STATIONS – Continued  
CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION – Continued



June 15, 2000 – Celebrate the Century Station, Gunnison, CO 81230

1

GUNNISON STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 1 2002 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 GUNNISON, CO 81230 (GUNNISON) STATION Jun 1 2002  
CI 10P 21.5 Pict Scene - Tree, buildings and mountains profile;  
Text - Greetings from / AMERICA



1

SAPINERO RURAL BRANCH

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 11 1967 Established as a Rural Branch of Gunnison  
--- -- 1986 Ceased operations when the store in which it was located underwent foreclosure  
Nov 24 1988 Officially discontinued

See Sapinero Independent Office for previous markings  
The use of the Type 11 marking spanned the change in status.

Confirmed types of postal markings

11 SAPINERO, CO / 81247 Jul 8 1966 Sep 8 1980  
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x19mm



11

## GUNNISON STATIONS – Continued

## WAL\*MART STATION

## Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 17 1999 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1 GUNNISON, CO / 81230 :: WAL\*MART / STATION Apr 17 1999  
CI 10P 24.0 Pict Scene - Sylvester, Tweety, Daffy Duck, Bugs  
Bunny



1

## "WEST GUNNISON"

## Chronology of the Post Office

Non-postal designation seen as a return address

## Confirmed types of postal markings

0 West Gunnison --- -- 187-  
CC Cork, Negative X roads, return address, corner  
card, no town marking [NO ILLUSTRATION]

## HAVERLY

Some eight miles west of Crested Butte the road up Coal Creek to Kebler Pass enters a more level meadow area just below the summit of the pass. In this upper portion of the Coal Creek Valley there are junctions with the road south to Ohio Pass and one north to Irwin Lake and to the site of Irwin. Coal Creek also makes a sharp bend to the north.

During the early development of the silver mining town of Irwin, there was additional development to the south. There is considerable confusion about the names applied to the developments that were associated with Irwin. There are references to Ruby, Ruby Camp, Silver Gate, Hopewell, White Cloud and Haverly. Irwin was often referred to as Ruby-Irwin and is sometimes confused with nearby Ruby-Anthracite.

I have found a reference to a Haverly Station on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in 1883 but that postdates the brief existence of a Haverly Post Office.

Most references to Haverly attribute the name to J. H. (Jack) Haverly, a minstrel show producer, and it seems possible that if he was associated with the community, that it was promotional scheme and never amounted to anything. The brief life of the Haverly Post Office supports such a conclusion.

In any case, it seems that Haverly was in the vicinity of the road junctions. As of 2002 there was nothing in that immediate area, although there is one, older cabin about a half-mile to the east and on the south side of Coal Creek.

**HAVERLY– Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jul 10 1880</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Not yet sectionized by government survey Irwin 1-1/2 miles northwesterly 1/4 mile east of Coal Creek</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Cornelius Christopher</b>
<b>Aug 30 1880</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Aug 30 1880</b>		<b>Christopher, Cornelius</b>
<b>Nov 22 1880</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM HAVERLY**

**HILLERTON**

By the fall of 1878 development was underway along Willow Creek in the southern end of Taylor Park. Edwin H. Hiller had organized a town company to start a new town near the Gold Cup and Tin Cup Mines; however, nothing was attempted until the following spring. In March 1879 Hiller came to his proposed townsite only to find that it was already occupied by group of men from the Dakotas under the leadership of Colonel L. J. Morris and A. J. Sparks. Frustrated, Hiller and his associates, Nelson Hallack and Frank Church, moved two miles north of the new Virginia City and formed the town of Hillerton.

Edwin Hiller was a banker with an excellent reputation. For many years he had been associated with the Colorado National Bank in Denver. On May 5, 1879 the Hillerton Town & Improvement Company submitted incorporation papers to the Colorado Secretary of State.

During its short life Hillerton had a hotel, The New England Town House, famed for its, “high prices and very common food and lodging,” a number of small businesses, several saw mills and a newspaper, the *Occident*.

There were some promising mines at Hillerton but they were quickly worked out. That left Hillerton some distance from the major mining activity at Virginia City, now called Tin Cup. A smelter had been built but it was on the opposite side of the valley and not in Hillerton. Soon the residents of Hillerton moved on, many to the thriving Tin Cup and others including the post office, to the smelter site which became Abbeyville.

From the Town Hall in Tin Cup, Hillerton is two miles north on Gunnison County Road 765. This area is an open sagebrush covered park. To the west was the site of Abbeyville, where there are several occupied cabins, a mine dump and the remains of a small dredge. To the east was the site of Hillerton.

My first visit to Hillerton was in 1991. At that time, there was a marker along the road for Hillerton. The area was open but only a few scattered pieces of broken glass and pottery provided any evidence for previous occupation. At the mouth of a small gulch was a single, unoccupied log building. On a return visit in September 2002, the marker sign was gone, the area had been fenced and it appeared that the log building had been repaired and was now in use. A couple of small associated buildings had been added to the cabin site.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>May 20 1879</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Unsurveyed Land One rod west side of Batty Creek, sometimes called Willow Creek</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Edwin H. Hiller</b>
<b>May 26 1879</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>May 26 1879</b>		<b>Hiller, Edwin H.</b>
<b>Aug 25 1879</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Unsurveyed 1/4 mile east of Willow or Batty Creek</b>
<b>Jun 27 1881</b>		<b>Klauber, Simon J.</b>
<b>Sep 8 1881</b>		<b>Lumpkin, Silas J.</b>
<b>Nov 21 1881</b>		<b>Klauber, Simon J.</b>
<b>Nov 20 1882</b>		<b>Moved to Abbeyville (day is questionable)</b>

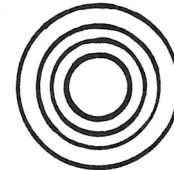


**HILLERTON – Continued****Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |  |                          |                         |
|---|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Hillerton Gunnison Co Col<br>MS                | Mscp Pen cancel          | Jun 17 1879             |
| 2 | HILLERTON, GUNNISON CO. / COLO.<br>CI 10P 30.0 | Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm | Oct 22 1879 Apr 20 1881 |

*Hillerton Gunnison Co Col  
June 17 1879*

1



2

**HOWEVILLE**

Howeville was a halfway point between Gunnison and Crested Butte. It was on Jack Howe's Ranch about six miles north of where the Taylor River and the East River join to form the Gunnison River (now Almont).

This was a junction point with the early road that came over Cottonwood Pass and down the Taylor River to the Gunnison Valley. Today this is known as the Jacks Cabin Cutoff Road. The cutoff road bypassed about five miles of road through the lower portion of the Taylor River Canyon.

A small community developed on Jack Howe's Ranch and included two hotels, two groceries, two saloons, two restaurants and the post office, "all contained in two buildings." Jack Howe ran one of the establishments.

The hotels at Howeville soon began to cater to fishermen and hunters and also to serve as a supply point for ranchers in the surrounding area.

As the area developed, and with the construction of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, the post office moved around. Initially, it was on the east side of Roaring Judy Creek, about a mile west of present day Colorado Highway 135. It moved from there to a location on the railroad and what is now the modern highway.

Drive north from Almont to the Jacks Cabin Cutoff Road to the east. There are two ranches here. The one at the junction was Howeville; however, the one to the south is called Jacks Cabin on USGS maps.

After a four-year hiatus, a new post office opened in this location but took the name of Jacks Cabin. The names of both offices honor the original settler - Jack Howe.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- |             |     |  |
|-------------|-----|--|
| Jun 25 1879 | --- | SW/4 Sec 13 T15S R85W 1/2 mile east of the East River<br>20 yards east of Roaring Judy Creek<br>Proposed postmaster - Benjamin F. Sherwood |
| Jun 26 1879 |     | Established  |
| Jun 26 1879 |     | Murphy, Jonathan H.  |
| Jul 23 1879 |     | Sherwood, J.   |
| Aug 4 1879  |     | Sherwood, Benjamin F.  |
| Sep 8 1879  | --- | SW/4 Sec 13 T15S R85W 3/4 mile east of East River 4 rods east of Roaring Judy Creek  |
| Mar 11 1880 |     | Discontinued   |
| Dec 10 1900 | --- | NW/4 NE/4 Sec 23 T15S R85W 3/8 mile east of East River<br>140 feet east of the Railroad<br>Proposed postmaster - Benjamin F. Melton        |
| Dec 28 1900 |     | Re-established   |

**HOWEVILLE – Continued**

Dec 28 1900	Melton, Benjamin F.
Sep 23 1903	Willis, William A.
Oct 2 1904	Ordered closed
May 14 190	Discontinued Mail to Oversteg Later re-established as Jacks Cabin

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Howeville Col.	Aug 10 1879
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel

*Howeville Col*  
*Aug 10/89*  
1

**IOLA**

Iola was chronologically the third, and longest surviving, in a sequence of post offices that were situated along the Gunnison River and the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in the area north of the modern Iola Boat Launch Ramp and Campground on Blue Mesa Reservoir.

The first in the series was Stevens (1881-1882), next came Kezar (1882-1896) and finally Iola (1896-1963). The site of Iola was between the locations of Kezar and Stevens. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports provide the evidence that these were at three separate locations and were not simply changes in name.

Since the early 1960's all three sites are usually hidden beneath the waters of the Blue Mesa Reservoir. However, in September 2002, following the extreme drought of that year, the remains of two foundations, in the location of Iola, were once again visible.

Iola came into being in 1896 when cattleman Amos K. Stevens moved all of the buildings from Kezar to a new location, a mile to the east. It is probable that this new location was more convenient to the railroad shipping point and the road south to Spencer and Powderhorn.

Iola was a supply and shipping point on the Rio Grande for the ranchers south of the river and for the mines at Vulcan and Spencer in the Gunnison Gold Belt. It also served as a station for fishermen and tourists who came from throughout the country to fish the Gunnison River or to marvel at the scenery of the surrounding countryside.

The source of the name Iola is open to question. The common claim is that it was chosen by a local rancher who simply thought, "The name had a pretty sound." In the absence of any other claim, that will have to suffice.

Drive west from Gunnison on US Highway 50 to the intersection with Colorado Highway 149. Turn south, crossing the reservoir and continue about two miles to the entrance to the Iola Boat Launch Ramp and Campground. From the group of picnic tables at the east end of the boat ramp, Iola was due north. The site of Stevens was east of where Colorado 149 turns south away from the reservoir. Kezar was northwest of this viewpoint, in the direction of the modern RV park on the north side of the Blue Mesa Reservoir.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

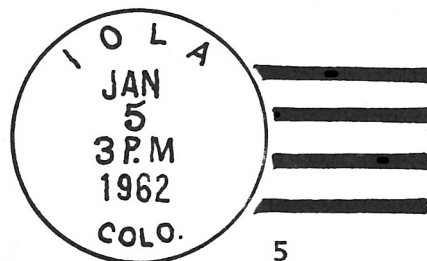
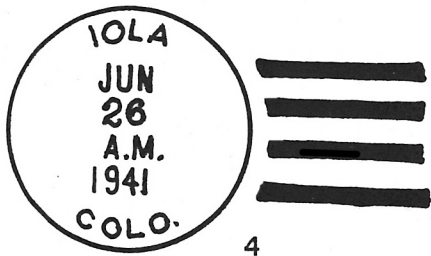
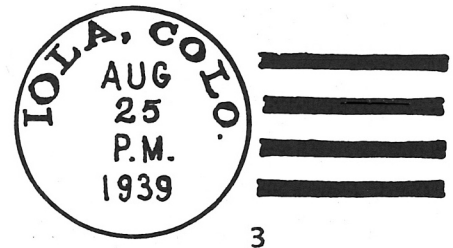
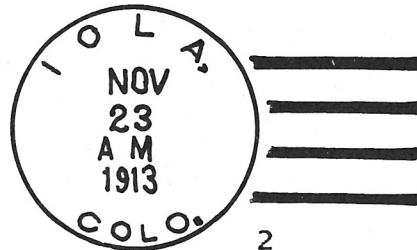
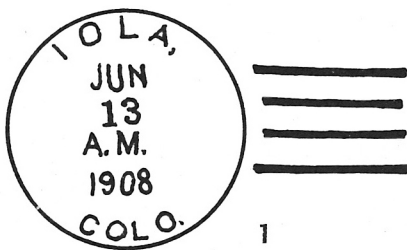
Jun 24 1896	Moved from Kezar
Jun 24 1896	Pomel, Anthony
Aug 3 1896 ---	Along RR, Sec 29 T49N R2W 1 mile south of Gunnison River 420 feet south of D&RG
Jun 20 1902	Green, Chester A.
Oct 20 1906	Ziegler, Sanford N.

IOLA – Continued

Dec 30 1907	Meek, William H.	
Nov 23 1909	Wilt, Otis A.	
Apr 12 1914 ---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 29 T49N R2W 1/4 mile south of the Gunnison River 200 feet south of Willow Creek 198 feet south of the D&RG track	
Feb 13 1917	Lee, James E.	
Feb 6 1920	Mullin, Jennie C.	
May 31 1924	Sanders, James H.	Acting
Feb 5 1925	Sanders, Mrs. Annie E.	Confirmed
Feb 19 1925	Sanders, Mrs. Annie E.	Commissioned
Feb 26 1925	Sanders, Mrs. Annie E.	Assumed charge
Jan 18 1941	Sanders, James H.	Assumed charge
Jan 21 1941	Sanders, James H.	Confirmed
Jan 24 1941	Sanders, James H.	Acting
Jan 30 1941	Sanders, James H.	Commissioned
Feb 28 1950	Kleitz, Mrs. Edith I.	Assumed charge
Apr 24 1950	Kleitz, Mrs. Edith I.	Confirmed
May 24 1950	Kleitz, Mrs. Edith I.	Commissioned
Oct 20 1941 ---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 29 T49N R2W D&RGW RR 75 feet north Gunnison River 3/4 mile north of post office	
Aug 16 1963	Discontinued Mail to Gunnison	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	IOLA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x13mm	Jul 23 1907 Dec 17 1910
2	IOLA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x19mm	Jan 18 1912 Feb 15 1916
3	IOLA, COLO. CI 10P 30.5	4bars P-25x19mm	Nov 15 1931 Feb 19 1948
4	IOLA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm, small close spaced letters	Jun 26 1941 Oct 26 1955
5	IOLA / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm, wide spaced letters	May 23 1960 Aug 16 1963



**IRWIN**

In 1879 Canadian prospector Richard Irwin discovered good silver ore near the headwaters of Coal Creek, west of Crested Butte. Two mining camps quickly came to life: Ruby Camp and Irwin, which was named for Richard Irwin. For a year or two the two camps competed for domination of the Ruby Mining District but eventually Irwin prevailed.

The appellation of “ruby” refers to a form of silver ore known as ruby silver. This is a sulphide of silver that has a distinct reddish color.

Within a few months, Irwin had a population estimated to be several thousand with all of the facilities and services of town that size. Irwin was surveyed and platted by mining engineers Frank Swindler and Harry Cornwell. The plat was completed on November 20, 1879 but was not filed until February 1880.

By 1881 the boom at Irwin had peaked, however strong activity continued for a few years. The mines were not worked out but lower grade ores and high transportation costs and in 1893 the collapse of silver prices, brought an end to extensive mining at Irwin.

Irwin was home to *The Elk Mountain Pilot* newspaper. One of its writers once complained that the post office was, “hidden away in such a manner as to appear as an outhouse for the barbershop.”



**IRWIN, Gunnison Co., / COLORADO. July 17, 1888**  
**With a fancy “star-in-star” killer**

From Crested Butte drive west some eight miles on Gunnison County Road 12. Turn north on Forest Service Road 826. A half-mile north of that junction, the road forks. The left-hand fork continues on to Irwin Lake, which is worth a visit. The right hand fork continues up the creek and into the site of Irwin. Several mine dumps can be seen on the valley sides and there are a number of residences in the valley, however, none of them appear to be of an age that would date back to the early days of Irwin. This road does continue on to Irwin Lake.

Latitude = 38:52:25 North Longitude = 107:05:47 West

IRWIN – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 12 1879	Established	
Sep 12 1879	Stevens, Charles E.	
Nov 7 1879	---	Not reported 5 miles west of the Slate River On both sides of the head of Coal Creek
Mar 1 1880		Soule, William S. G.
Sep 27 1880		Stevens, Edson P.
Mar 18 1881		Van Osteen, William V.
Oct 24 1881		Van Osteen, William V. P&S
Dec 31 1883		Van Osteen, William V.
Nov 17 1885		Fraser, Alexander
Dec 28 1889		Shaw, Sarah R.
Aug 1 1892		Doyle, John J.
Jun 21 1894		Coke, Edward
Apr 29 1895		Discontinued Papers to Crested Butte
Jun 28 1895	---	NE & NW/4 Sec 3 T14S R87W On both sides of Coal Creek Proposed postmaster - William S. Hinckley
Jul 16 1895		Re-established
Jul 16 1895		Hinckley, William S.
Jun 20 1898		Hahn, E. L. Declined
Jun 27 1899		Kelly, Robert R. Failed to qualify
Jan 19 1900		Welch, William A.
May 25 1900		Ordered closed
Jun 5 1900		Discontinued Papers to Crested Butte

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 IRWIN / GUNNISON CO., COLORADO. Jul 19 1880 Apr 18 1882  
CI 11P 29.0/17.5 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
- 1.v IRWIN / GUNNISON CO., COLORADO. Aug 5 1880  
CI 10P 28.5 Hstp Fancy, Skull and Cross Bones The inner circle did not print
- 2 IRWIN, / COLO. Sep 9 1880 May 5 1882  
CI 21P 33.0/31.0/18. 0 Hstp Target, 3-ring 20mm
- 3 IRWIN, / COLO. Jul 21 1882 Aug 21 1888  
CI 21P 28.0/26.5/18. 0 Hstp Grid, 10 bar circular  
Examples exist where the double outer circle appears to be a single circle
- 4 IRWIN, Gunnison Co., / COLORADO. Sep 14 1883 Jun 6 1889  
CI 20P 31.0/29.0 Hstp Fancy, Star in star
- 5 IRWIN / COLO. Sep 12 1893 Aug 31 1896  
CI 10P 28.0 Hstp Target, 4-ring





**JACKS CABIN**

Please refer to discussion of Howeville for information on the early history and location of this post office.

The Jacks Cabin Cutoff Road turns east from Colorado Highway 135 along the line between Sections 14 and 23. The location descriptions for Howeville (NW/4 of NE/4 Section 23) and Jacks Cabin (SW/4 of SE/4 section 14) indicate that when the post office was re-established here under the new name of Jacks Cabin it was across the road from the older Howeville location.

The modern USGS maps apply the name Jacks Cabin to a location a half-mile south of the Jacks Cabin Cutoff Road. That does not fit the description given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report. It could reflect local terminology that developed after closure of the post office in 1918.

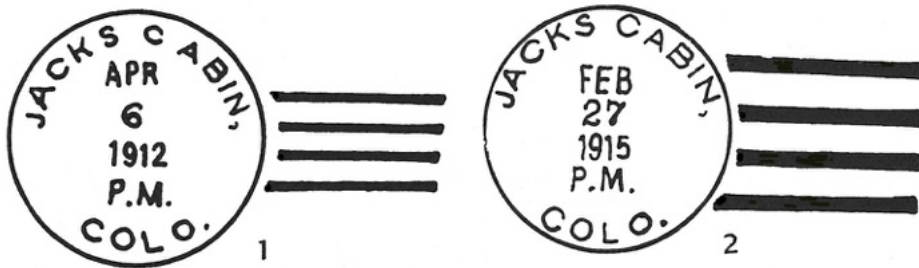
Latitude = 38:43:56 North Longitude = 106:51:06 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Nov 14 1908 --- Not reported 1/4 mile east of the East River  
Denver & Rio Grande is 40 rods west of post office
- Jan 25 1909 Established
- Jan 25 1909 Spann, Olive
- Mar 19 1909 --- SW/4 SE/4 Sec 14 T15S R85W 1/4 mile east of the East River  
About 150 yards east of the railroad track
- Mar 30 1918 Discontinued Mail to Almont

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 JACKS CABIN, / COLO. May 3 1909 Apr 6 1912  
CI 10P 33.0 4bars S-25x14mm
- 2 JACKS CABIN, / COLO. Jul 20 1914 Apr 2 1917  
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x19mm



**JACKSON**

Jackson is described as, “an isolated mining camp on the Uncompahgre Plateau.” That description is somewhat misleading as the location is near the headwaters of the Cimarron River in the far southwest corner of Gunnison County.

From the short life of the post office it can be assumed that a combination of low-grade ores and lengthy transportation made mining at Jackson uneconomic. Today, nothing remains at the site. However, it is relatively easy to visit as the location is in the flats at south end of the Silver Jack Reservoir, near where the road crosses the Cimarron River on the way to Owl Creek Pass.

To visit Jackson, begin on US Highway 50. About two miles west of the Gunnison-Montrose County line turn south on Big Cimarron Road. It is twenty-nine miles to the Silver Jack Reservoir. The gravel road is good, if somewhat narrow in places, and can be easily driven with a passenger car. Drive to the fork in the road at the south end of the reservoir and you are in the vicinity of Jackson.

**JACKSON – Continued**

This is another of Colorado's very scenic drives. I have made two visits to the location. The first was in May 2003 when there was still a lot of snow on the surrounding peaks, which made for great photography. At that time Jim Ozment and I chose not to challenge the Owl Creek Pass Road, as we could not determine if it was open. We returned in August specifically to go over Owl Creek Pass. It is a spectacular drive with many views of the complexly eroded cliffs and peaks in this portion of the San Juan Mountains. The aspen were just beginning to show color. I can imagine the brilliant display they would be making in a few weeks.

The Owl Creek Pass Road eventually intersects US Highway 550 a mile north of Ridgway. Starting the trip at Ridgway is an alternate and equally desirable choice.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

-----	<b>Established</b>
	<b>No date recorded for establishment of this office Post Office Department Records confuse this office with a similarly named office in Pueblo County</b>
<b>Feb 26 1890</b>	<b>Thomas, William H. Appointment of this postmaster probably represents the date of establishment</b>
<b>Jul 3 1890</b> ---	<b>On unsurveyed land Cimarron 25 miles in a northerly direction 1/2 mile north of the Cimarron Creek/River Proposed postmaster - William A. Thomas</b>
<b>Feb 25 1891</b> ---	<b>Unsurveyed 1/4 mile north of the Cimarron River or Creek The name of the nearest office on route No. ___ is Cimarron, and its distance is 25 miles, by the traveled road, in a south direction from this, my Office</b>
<b>Feb 20 1893</b>	<b>Discontinued Mail to Gunnison</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM JACKSON**

**KEZAR**

Kezar was the second in the sequence of post offices along the Gunnison River and the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad near the modern Iola Boat Launch Ramp and Campground.

At first Kezar was a railroad construction camp in the vicinity of several cattle ranches. Gardner H. Kezar, president of the Kezar Town Company, filed a town plat on August 16, 1881 and an amended plat was filed June 24, 1882. The original townsite consisted of fourteen blocks.

Mr. Kezar envisioned that his town would become a ranching, resort and supply town. However, when the railroad construction camp moved on to the west, most of Kezar followed the railroad. Eventually, in 1896, the remainder of the town, then largely owned by Amos Stevens, packed up and moved a mile east to become the more successful and longer lasting town of Iola.

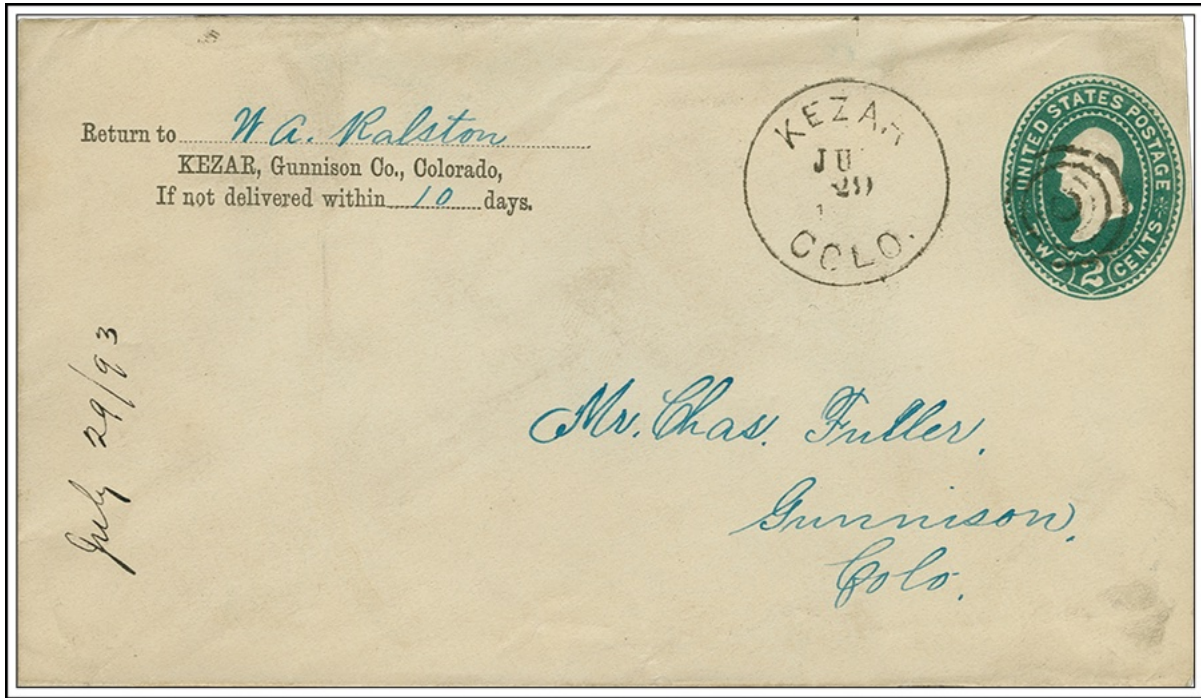
The site of Kezar now lies beneath the waters of the Blue Mesa Reservoir. Please refer to the discussion of Iola for a description of the location of Kezar.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>May 8 1882</b> ---	<b>NE/4 Sec 30 T49N R2W Proposed postmaster - G. H. Kezar</b>
<b>May 17 1882</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>May 17 1882</b>	<b>Kezar, Gardner H.</b>
<b>Jan 3 1883</b>	<b>Stevens, Amos K.</b>
<b>Feb 19 1884</b> ---	<b>SE/4 Sec 30 T49N R2W Local name - Stevens Ranch On the south bank of the Gunnison River 1/3 mile south of Willow Creek 60 yards north of the D&amp;RG Railroad Signed by Postmaster A. K. Stevens</b>

**KEZAR – Continued**

Jan 8 1886	Charles, Henry O.
May 9 1889	Nikirk, Charlie O.
Jun 8 1891	Pomel, Anthony
Jun 24 1896	Moved to Iola



**KEZAR / COLO. July 29, (1893)**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

0.1	Kezar Colo	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	May 5 1886
1	KEZAR / COLO.	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm	Jun 28 1890 Dec 4 1894

*Kezar Colo  
5-5-86*

0.1



1

**LODGE**

In spite of its having existed for nearly ten years, Lodge has escaped mention in any of the considerable volume of Colorado historical literature that I have studied. The site of Lodge, from the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports, is less than two miles east of the site of Cebolla in the area where the Blue Mesa Reservoir abruptly narrows.

**LODGE – Continued**

The original request was for the post office to be called Elk Creek. That suggestion was rejected in favor of Lodge. The name is perhaps a clue that the settlement was a small resort to serve fishermen on the Gunnison River.

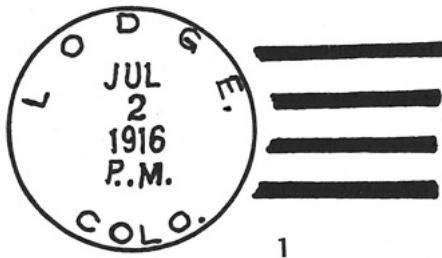
Anything that remained at Lodge when the reservoir was formed in the early 1960's is now hidden beneath the water of the reservoir. The area of the location is best viewed from US Highway 50, west of Elk Creek and the Elk creek Campground, which is also a decent viewpoint for the site of Cebolla. A short hike west from the Elk Creek Campground should provide a closer overview.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 7 1911	---	Not reported	Cebolla 2 miles west	200 feet from railroad
Apr 13 1911		Established		
Apr 13 1911		Spain, William S.		
Jul 1 1911	---	NW/4 NW/4 Sec 34 T49 R3W	300 feet south of the Gunnison River	
		At the mouth of Elk Creek which is on the north side of the Gunnison River		
		About 800 feet south of the D&RG RR		
Feb 14 1920		Discontinued	Mail to Cebolla	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1      LODGE, / COLO.      Jul 2 1916  
           CI 10P 32.0      4bars S-25x20mm

**MARBLE**

The first discovery of marble in this area is attributed to Sylvester Richardson in 1873. Since he was seeking gold and silver, the marble held little interest for him. In 1874, George Yule rediscovered the marble and left his name behind for the creek where the deposits were found and ultimately for the rock itself: the Yule Marble.

About 1881 settlement activity began in the small valley where Carbonate Creek from the north and Yule creek from the south join the Crystal River (at first called the Rock River). William Woods and W. D. Parry founded the town. It was quickly engaged in competition with the adjoining development known as Clarence - a competition that would last for several years before the two communities became the one town of Marble.

In their book, *Marble, Colorado, City of Stone* Duane Vandebusch and Rex Meyers report the following story:

*“Clarence and Marble both waited for a post office early in 1892. Each community was still hoping that its settlement would secure the post office. The story has it that William Woods sold one half interest in the Marble townsite to Dr. R. H. Kline, who had become interested in the marble deposits in 1889. Dr. Kline was a personal friend of John Wanamaker, the Postmaster General of the United States from 1889 to 1893. Kline exercised a little influence, and Wanamaker gave the nod to the requests for a post office at Marble. The two towns realizing that it was useless to exist side by side as rivals, joined on July 4, 1892.”*

**MARBLE – Continued**

This is a bit out of line with the Post Office Department records. Marble was first granted a post office in January 1890 but it did take the name of Clarence for the month of February 1892. In March 1892 it reverted permanently to Marble.

Exploitation of the marble deposit was slow to develop, transportation being the major difficulty to be overcome. J. C. Osgood began development of the quarry in the 1890's but substantial production did not begin until 1905.

Colonel Channing F. Meek, with eastern financial backing acquired the deposits and organized the Colorado Yule Marble Company. A huge stone processing mill, 1,700 feet in length, was constructed and a standard gauge railroad was extended to Marble from Placita. The Crystal River and San Juan Railroad reached Marble on November 23, 1906. The arrival of the railroad solved the transportation problem and extensive quarrying began. Marble became a company town with worker housing built by the marble company. A small number of these homes remain and are still occupied by a few permanent residents and by summer residents.

Quarry operations were never easy and throughout the first half of the twentieth century the company had its economic ups and downs. World War II brought about the closure of the quarries. The mill was dismantled and the post office closed. A major flood of the Crystal River destroyed many buildings and Marble became a tiny, remote mountain community.

Yule Marble was used in construction of the Lincoln Memorial, the Colorado State House and many other buildings in Colorado and throughout the country. Kenneth Jessen in *Ghost Towns, Colorado Style, Volume Two - Central Region* recounts the following:

*“A fire in 1925 damaged the finishing mill and the Vermont Marble Company took over the Colorado Yule Marble Company in 1928. The company then received a contract for the largest single block of marble ever quarried. Unfinished it weighed 124 tons and required a custom-built derrick to hoist it to the surface. The 3.9-mile trip down the steep electric tram grade took four days. The large block was sent across the United States in February 1931. It was to become the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington National Cemetery outside of Washington, D. C.”*

I first visited Marble in 1972. Although there were a few residents, there was no sign of significant quarry activity. A second visit in September 2002 found more activity in the town and it was evident that some quarrying and shipment of marble was taking place. Recently I was told that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has developed a crack and that plans are underway to quarry a replacement block from the Yule Marble Quarry.

Latitude = 39:04:20 North Longitude = 107:11:18 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jan 14 1890</b>	---	<b>NE/4 Sec 26 T11S R88W</b>	
		<b>Proposed postmaster - E. E. L. Reyland</b>	
<b>Mar 19 1890</b>		<b>Established</b>	
<b>Mar 19 1890</b>		<b>Reyland, Eugen E. L.</b>	
<b>Feb 4 1892</b>		<b>Name changed to Clarence</b>	<b>Clarence and Marble were adjoining townsites</b>
<b>Mar 2 1892</b>		<b>Change in name rescinded</b>	
<b>Apr 13 1894</b>		<b>Reyland, Eugen E. L.</b>	
<b>Feb 21 1895</b>		<b>Evans, William</b>	
<b>Mar 26 1901</b>		<b>Fuller, Ebenezer W.</b>	
<b>Aug 31 1905</b>		<b>McCling, Charles A.</b>	
<b>Feb 21 1906</b>		<b>Parry, Mary E.</b>	
<b>Mar 5 1910</b>		<b>Williams, John A.</b>	<b>P&amp;S</b>
<b>Mar 19 1914</b>		<b>Williams, C. C.</b>	<b>P&amp;S</b>
<b>Apr 18 1914</b>	---	<b>SE/4 NE/4 Sec 23 T11S R88W</b>	<b>2400 feet north of the Crystal River</b>
		<b>400 feet east of Carbonate Creek</b>	



MARBLE – Continued

Feb 28 1919	Discontinued Mail to Carbondale	Closure not effected
Jun 30 1919	Discontinued Mail to Carbondale	Closure not effected
Jul 1 1919	Office relegated	
Aug 13 1919	Williams, John A.	
May 19 1921	Flogans, John P.	
Nov 7 1922	---	NE/4 Sec 26 T11S R88W A move 33-13/33 rods west of a previous location 600 feet north of the Crystal River 200 feet west of Carbonate Creek
Nov 18 1922	Williams, John A.	
Apr 1 1924		Office made Presidential
May 5 1924	Williams, John A.	P&S
Jul 1 1924		Office relegated
Jul 22 1927	Williams, John A.	
Feb 1 1940	Reheuser, Miss Anna	Assumed charge
Feb 15 1940	Reheuser, Miss Anna	Acting
Jul 18 1940	Reheuser, Miss Anna	Confirmed
Aug 8 1940	Reheuser, Miss Anna	Commissioned
Oct 24 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 23 T11S R88W Main Street
Jul 11 1942	Harris, Miss Anna	Name changed by marriage
Oct 21 1942	Ordered closed	
Oct 31 1942	Discontinued Mail to Carbondale	

Confirmed types of postal markings

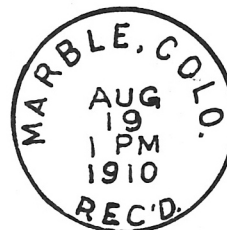
1	MARBLE / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Aug 6 1892 Apr 24 1899 Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm
2	MARBLE / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Feb 4 1907 May 29 1911 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
3	MARBLE, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 29.0	Aug 19 1910 Hstp No killer
4	MARBLE / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dec 28 1915 Dplx Grid
4.1	MARBLE, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Nov 13 1917 Hstp No killer
5	MARBLE / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Mar 11 1926 May 7 1928 Dplx Grid, 6 bar oval
6	MARBLE / COLO. CI 10P 35.0	Feb 7 1935 Aug 1 1941 4bars S-25x20mm



1



2



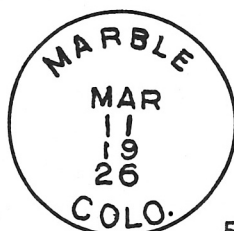
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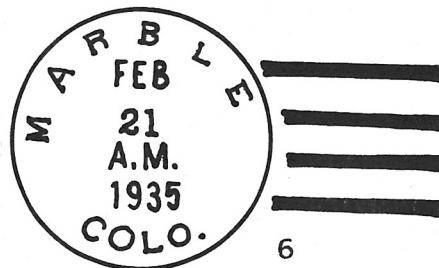
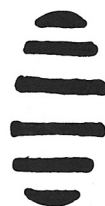
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4.1



5



6

## **MINARET**

Minaret was located just above Hinckles Spur on the Baldwin Branch of the Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad. It was at the junction of Mill Creek from the west with Ohio Creek.

Minaret was never very large but apparently it was the location for several sawmills. It served as a meeting center for ranchers of the region and had a saloon, which never lacked for customers.

The growth of the communities of Castleton and Baldwin to the north eventually eliminated the need for Minaret and its post office.

The name Minaret was for the famed "Castles," the rock spires that form the crest of the mountain ridge to the south.

The location of Minaret is a bit confusing. It seems that Mill Creek may now have a new name: Davis Creek. It is accessed by Gunnison County Road 727 from the Ohio Creek Road about two miles southeast of the site of Castleton.

Assuming that this is the same place I visited in 1991, it appears that there have been changes in the vicinity of the road. In 1991, there was a large, abandoned log building just below the Ohio Creek Road. I could find no sign of the structure in the fall of 2002. Perhaps previously I was at the wrong location.

The best viewpoint is from the hill on the south side of Ohio Creek. There is a small ranch a quarter mile northwest of the road intersection.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 7 1889	---	NE/4 Sec 33 T15S R86W About 20 rods west of the Denver, Leadville & Gunnison RR
		Proposed postmaster - John S. McGlashan
Feb 25 1890		Established
Feb 25 1890		McGlashan, John S.
Sep 28 1892		Eberhart, Harry C.
Dec 6 1894		Frahm, Mrs. Nellie
May 10 1895		Allen, Edward C.
Nov 14 1896		Discontinued Mail to Gunnison

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Minaret Colo	Nov 13 1894
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel

*Minaret Colo*  
*11-13-94*

1

## **MOUNT CARBON (I)**

Mount Carbon is another of the Gunnison County post offices that existed at two separate locations. The original location was about six miles further up the Ohio Creek Valley from the second location and at the base of the steep grade to Ohio Pass.

In the shadow of Ohio Peak, William Hinds attempted to produce coal for making coke. By April of 1886 he had tunneled 1,600 feet into the side of a hill, formed the Ohio Creek Anthracite Coal Company and established a town he named Mount Carbon. By 1887 it became obvious to Hinds that he could not produce a satisfactory coal for coking. Some timber was also produced for shipment over the pass to Irwin.

**MOUNT CARBON (I) – Continued**

The Denver, South Park, and Pacific Railroad planned to build over Ohio Pass to the mines at Irwin. However that plan was abandoned after a portion of the line had been graded and a palisade for the roadbed constructed above the site of Mount Carbon. The failure to construct the railroad to Mount Carbon combined with the poor results of the mining brought an end to the original Mount Carbon. In 1891 the post office was closed and moved about six miles down the valley to the Alpine Coal Mine near Baldwin.

To reach the original site of Mount Carbon, follow the directions from Gunnison to Baldwin. Continue on past Baldwin about five miles to where Ohio Creek Road makes a strong turn to the north and begins the ascent towards Ohio Pass. Mount Carbon was in the upper reaches of this portion of the valley before the road enters the timber.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 16 1884	---	Sec 26 T14S R87W 100 feet on northwest side of Ohio Creek Proposed postmaster - William L. Hinds
Aug 26 1884		Established
Aug 26 1884		Hinds, William L.
Jul 19 1887		Youle, William L.
Jul 28 1891		Moved to Baldwin
		Each period of operation was at a different location

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Mt. CARBON / Gunnison Co. Colorado CI 10P 29.0	Nov 11 1880 Hstp Fancy, Positive star, Maltese cross at each side of the cds
2	MT. CARBON, GUNNISON CO., / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jul 21 1890 Hstp Not recorded



1



2

**MOUNT CARBON (II)**

Following the failure of William Hinds' mining venture at the upper end of Ohio Creek the Mount Carbon Post Office was moved southwest to the Alpine Coal Mine near Baldwin and Castleton. The location description in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report implies that the new Mount Carbon Post Office was near Ohio Creek. When the name was changed to Baldwin, the office was moved a short distance, apparently to the mine headquarters.

Refer to the description of Baldwin for additional details of this location.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 6 1901	---	SW/4 Sec 7 T15S R86W 1/2 mile east of Ohio Creek about 200 yards east of the Colorado & Southern RR Sketch map shows it on the west side of creek (or is that for the Railroad Station?)
Mar 16 1901		Established
Mar 16 1901		Watson, Joseph

**MOUNT CARBON (II) – Continued**

Mar 11 1907	Shackleford, John J.
Jul 26 1907	Ordered Closed Mail to Gunnison effective Aug 15 1907
Jul 26 1907	Closing order rescinded
Jun 26 1909	Discontinued Moved to Baldwin (II)

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

3	MOUNT CARBON / COLO.	Oct 8 1908	Oct 8 1909
	CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring, 17mm	



3

**NORTH STAR / NORTHSTAR**

This community, first known as Lakes Camp, was established in 1878. The principal mine, the North Star Lode was discovered in 1879. Henry Lake, W. L. Conerr and John Staley were the ones responsible for both the town and the mine. The camp was incorporated in 1886 but the silver panic of 1893 turned it into a virtual ghost town. In subsequent years there was sporadic activity at the North Star and other nearby mines but the community never recovered to any extent.

The mine location was no more than a half-mile east of White Pine but separated from the town by a prominent ridge. It is said that the town of North Star was not at the mine but was actually at the south end of White Pine on property of the May Mazeppa Mine. That location is visible from the road as you enter White Pine. There is a large mine dump and debris from several structures. A side road crosses Tomichi Creek to the mine dump. That road continues up the hill but is very steep, rough and poorly maintained. I have not driven more than a short distance beyond the large mine dump.

Other references claim that the community of North Star was in a small basin below the North Star Mine. Even though I have not been to the site of the North Star Mine, I am inclined to accept the lower site as the location of the town of North Star.

From US Highway 50, just east of Sargents, drive ten miles north on Gunnison County Road 888. On this road you will pass the sites of Sage and Cosden. As you enter White Pine you will see the large mine dump to your right. Take the side road down and cross over Tomichi Creek to the dump. This road may or may not be open depending on the whims of local residents.

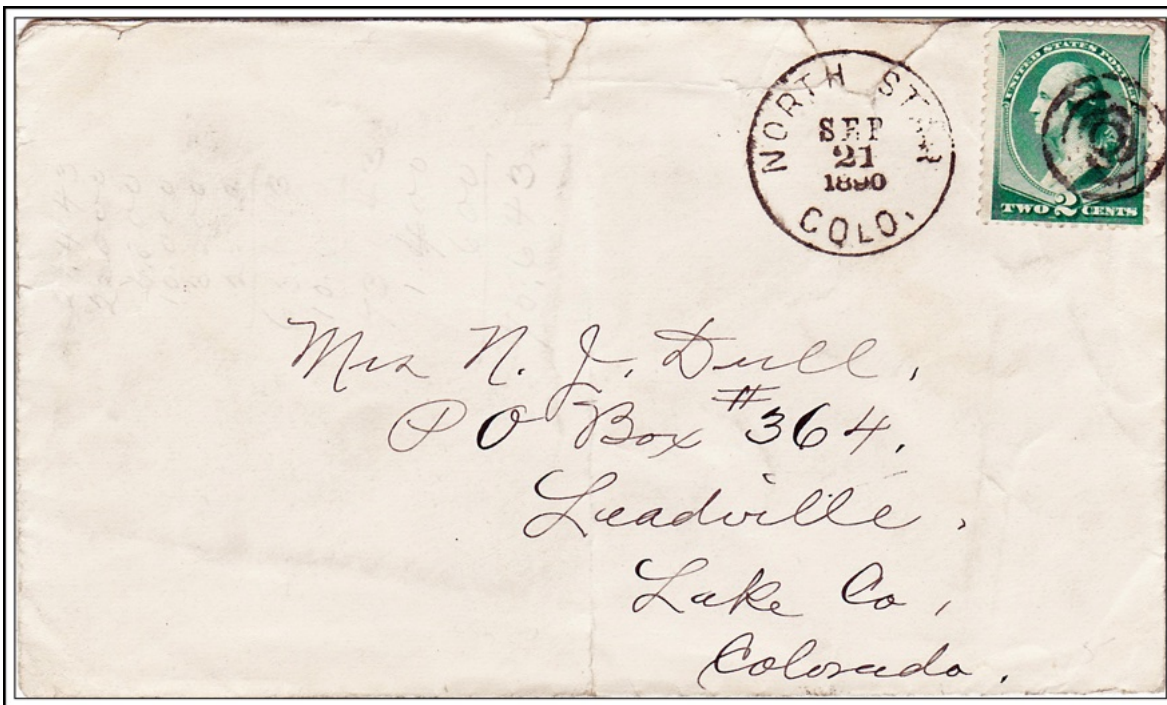
Latitude = 38:32:28 North Longitude = 106:23:04 West NORTH STAR MINE

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 6 1889	--	SW/4 Sec 35 T50N R5E NOTE: "Patrons desire the name of North Star for the office on account of the town being incorporated under that name, and being an old established camp, well known throughout Colorado and adjoining states under that name." Proposed postmaster - Leonard William Bailey
Oct 11 1889		Established
Oct 11 1889		Bailey, Leonard W.
Aug 13 1890		Gee, Fred W.
Jan 14 1891		Bailey, Leonard W.
May 18 1894		Discontinued Papers to White Pine

**NORTH STAR – Continued**

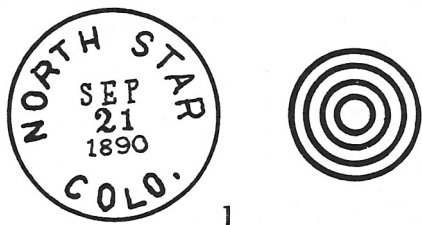
- Sep 15 1900 --- SW/4 Sec 35 T50N R5E 3/4 mile south of Tomichi Creek  
White Pine 3/4 mile northwesterly  
Proposed postmaster - James H. Golden
- Oct 16 1900 Re-established as Northstar
- Oct 16 1900 Golden, James H.
- Mar 9 1903 Hyland, Susie A.
- Apr 14 1903 Ordered closed
- Apr 30 1903 Discontinued Papers to White Pine



**NORTH STAR / COLO.    September 21, 1890**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1    **NORTH STAR / COLO.**    Sep 21 1890 Nov 6 1891  
       CI 10P 27.0    Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm



**OHIO**

During the 1860's a group of prospectors found a small amount of placer gold in the area of what is today Ohio. A majority of the party (the Lottis Party) was from Ohio so they chose that name for the creek. The gold was small in amount and it was not until silver was found here in 1879 that a community developed.



**OHIO – Continued**

In the Gold Brick Mining District, the original settlement was named Eagle City but it soon took the name Ohio from the nearby creek. This change may have taken place at the time a post office was acquired, as there was already an Eagle Post Office in Eagle County. A Nicholas Meyers is credited with starting the community. For a brief time during the late 1890's, after the collapse of the silver market in 1893, and after gold had been discovered in the area, there was an attempt to change the name Ohio to Gold Creek. Ohio Creek had earlier been renamed Gold Creek in order to eliminate confusion with the Ohio Creek northwest of Gunnison (See Baldwin and Mount Carbon).

The principal mining activity was along Gold Creek and it continued into the early twentieth century. There are at least four major mining sites along Gold Creek and there is evidence that they may have had sporadic activity even to recent times. Each site has a large mine dump and several buildings in varying condition.

Although map makers and postal officials chose to use the short name Ohio, the local residents preferred the more prestigious Ohio City. The locals still prefer that form of the name.

As mining activity faded, the economy of Ohio gradually shifted to hunting, fishing and other summer recreational activity.

The post office at Ohio, established in 1880, continued as an independent office until 1972 when it was converted to a Rural Station of Salida. From 1927 until 1972 the postmaster was Pearl Wright and the office was located in the Ohio City Store which still operates on the east side of Gunnison County Route 76 which runs through the center of town. More recently, the post office was in the front portion of the home of postmaster Muriel "Timi" Ray. When I visited the post office in 1991, the post office occupied the left half of a room that spanned the front of the small house. The right half contained a stove, a table with chairs, a coffee pot and a rack where the patrons hung their coffee mugs. When, due to Timi Ray's retirement, the post office closed for good on July 31, 2001, Ohio City lost its public gathering place.

The final site of the Ohio Post Office is the small house on the west side of Route 76, opposite the Ohio City Store.

To reach Ohio, drive east from Gunnison on US Highway 50 to Parlin. At Parlin turn north on Gunnison County 76, eight miles to Ohio City. It is well marked as you enter the town, which still has the store and several residences.

Latitude = 38:34:00 North Longitude = 106:36:40 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jun 3 1880</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Unsurveyed Land On the north bank of Quartz Creek Proposed postmaster - Jacob Hess</b>
<b>Jun 15 1880</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jun 15 1880</b>		<b>Hess, Jacob</b>
<b>Mar 30 1885</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NE/4 Sec 26 T50N R3E 1/8 mile north of Quartz Creek 1/8 mile north of the Denver &amp; South Park Station</b>
<b>Sep 15 1886</b>		<b>Dodge, Isabel W.</b>
<b>Feb 9 1888</b>		<b>McWilliams, John</b>
<b>Dec 5 1889</b>		<b>Wood, Robert W.</b>
<b>Mar 21 1891</b>		<b>Caufman, Abraham</b>
<b>Feb 26 1898</b>		<b>Tarkington, Samuel M.</b>
<b>Aug 20 1904</b>		<b>Tarkington, Clara</b>
<b>Feb 8 1907</b>		<b>Tarkington, William</b>
<b>Jul 1 1910</b>		<b>Caufman, Ambrose</b>
<b>Aug 23 1912</b>		<b>Lanore, Alfred M.</b>
<b>Sep 10 1914</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 26 T50N R3E 400 feet west of Gold Creek 500 feet north of the Colorado &amp; Southern Railroad</b>

## OHIO – Continued

May 5 1915	Johnson, Luella [?]	
May 5 1915	Johnson, Christine [?]	
May 7 1923	McDonald, Alice	Appointed
May 10 1923	McDonald, Alice	Acting
Jul 18 1923	McDonald, Alice	Commissioned
May 16 1924	Conklin, Hattie	Appointed
Jun 3 1924	Conklin, Hattie	Commissioned
Jun 13 1924	Conklin, Hattie	Possession
Feb 25 1925	Werner, Oscar F.	Possession
Mar 7 1925	Werner, Oscar F.	Acting
Aug 1 1925	Werner, Oscar F.	Appointed
Aug 31 1925	Werner, Oscar F.	Commissioned
Oct 1 1925	Werner, Oscar F.	Possession
Dec 17 1927	Wright, Pearl J.	Appointed
Feb 13 1928	Wright, Pearl J.	Commissioned
Feb 18 1928	Wright, Pearl J.	Possession
Oct 24 1941	--- NW/4 Sec 26 T50N R3E Quartz Creek 1 block south, and Gold Creek 1 block east of post office	
Dec 31 1972	Flick, John	Officer in charge
Dec 29 1972	Converted to a Rural Branch of Salida	
Jul 31 2001	Rural Branch Discontinued	

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	OHIO, P.O. / COLO. CI 20H 32.5/29.0	Hstp Grid, 11 bar circular	Apr 19 1881 Jan 4 1884
2	OHIO / COL. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 7 188- Nov 26 188-
3	OHIO / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target	May 12 1893 May 17 1898
4	OHIO / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Jul 17 1900 Jul 7 1903
5	OHIO, / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Doane Type 1 with 3, S-23x14mm	Nov 11 1903 Jul 14 1905
6	OHIO, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x13mm	Sep 13 1907 Dec 31 1934
7	OHIO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Sep 28 1939 Jan 2 1962
7.1	OHIO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	May 22 1964
8	OHIO, CO / 81237 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x20mm	Oct 28 1965 Jun 24 1967
9	OHIO, CO / 81237 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Sep 20 1969 Oct 1 1985
10	OHIO, CO 81237 / CPO CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-26x21mm	Oct 26 1989 May 14 1993
11	SALIDA, CO OHIO CPO / USPO CI 11P 28.5/18.5	Hstp No killer	Jun 28 1991 Aug 18 1994
12	OHIO CITY CO / 81237 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x18mm	Aug 18 1994 Jul 31 2001
13	OHIO CITY CO 81237 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 31 2001

OHIO – Continued



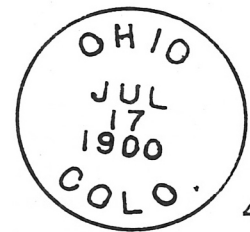
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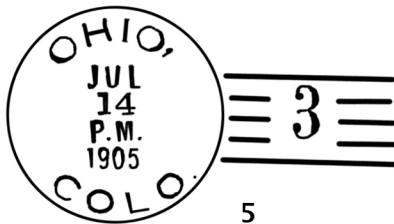
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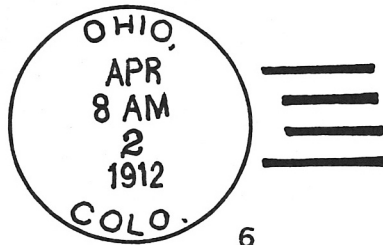
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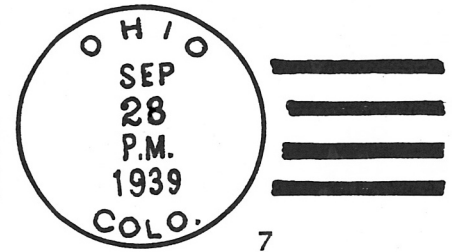
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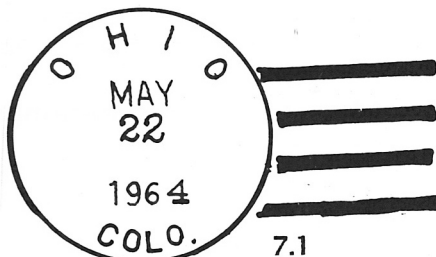
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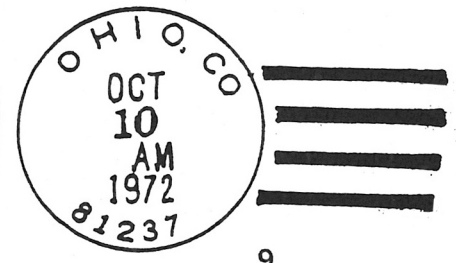
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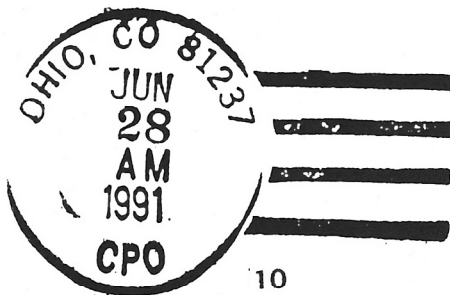
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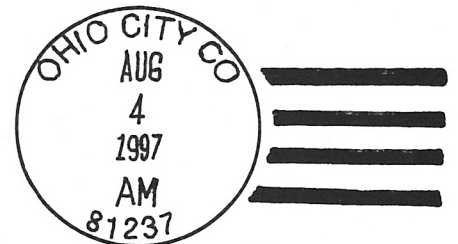
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12



13

OVERSTEG

Oversteg, about two miles south of Glacier, was another stop and siding on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad from Gunnison to Crested Butte. Robert Imobersteg settled there in 1880 and began ranching. With the arrival of the railroad, his ranch became a small supply center for other ranches and for prospectors in the area south of Cement Creek.

**OVERSTEG – Continued**

Oversteg has been described as being on Slate Creek. That name does not appear on the modern USGS maps. It appears to have been changed to Oversteg Gulch. Changes in the names of geographic features are a common event and create problems in matching historical descriptions to modern maps.

There were some early reports of mineral discoveries near the Oversteg Ranch but they never developed. Eventually the Imobersteg family Anglicized the spelling of their name to Oversteg.

The Oversteg location is on Colorado Highway 135, south of the road along Cement Creek. It is easy to find. It is a large, two-story house on the west side of the highway. Recently the building has undergone considerable remodeling. A wing was added to the south end and the grounds have been extensively landscaped with some new outbuildings added. The place is surrounded by a white-painted rail fence and although it has lost some of its historical charm, it is a most attractive residence.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 1 1882	Established
Jul 17 1882	--- SE/4 Sec 3 T14S R85W 120 feet west of the East River 1-1/2 miles south of Cement Creek 100 feet west of the Denver & Rio Grande RR Proposed postmaster - Robert Imobersteg
Aug 1 1882	Imobersteg, Robert
Feb 16 1905	Ordered closed
Mar 15 1905	Discontinued Mail to Crested Butte

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	OVERSTEG / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Oct 2 1890 Oct 2 1893 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
---	---------------------------------	---



1

**PARLIN**

John Parlin settled on Tomichi Creek in 1877 and began operating a dairy ranch. In 1880 he acquired a post office which took the name Tumichi. Note the spelling of the name, which is different from that of the mining camp Tomichi that was north of White Pine many miles to the northeast.

Parlin's ranch was at the junction of Quartz Creek with Tomichi Creek and this became a prominent junction point for wagon roads coming to the Gunnison Country from the east by way of Marshall Pass and other more northerly passes over the Continental Divide.

In 1880 the Denver and South Park Railroad approached John Parlin seeking to acquire land to build a station for the approaching railroad. The story is that Parlin told the railroad emissaries that they could have the land for free if they would stop their trains long enough for the train crew and travelers to buy milk from him. The railroad agreed. The station, named Parlins by the railroad, was built and the post office soon changed its name to Parlin. The Parlins Station was at milepost 189.78 on the Denver, South Park, and Pacific at an elevation 7,933 feet.

Even though Parlin was a busy road intersection and shipping point for freight and livestock it was never more than a small community with a few scattered residences.

**PARLIN – Continued**

Parlin is on the north side of US Highway 50, twelve miles east of Gunnison. It still has a combination store, café, motel and post office but no longer sells gasoline. There are a few cabins that comprise the motel and a couple of residences.

Latitude = 38:30:10 North Longitude = 106:43:40 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 23 1880	Formerly named Tumichi	
Aug 23 1880	Parlin, John T.	
Feb 25 1881	---	SW/4 SW/4 Sec 14 T49N R2E On north side of Tomichi Creek and west side of Quartz Creek
Dec 2 1890	Glaze, Nancy	Officer in charge
Jan 23 1908	Lobdell, Roy S.	
May 4 1914	---	SW/4 SW/4 Sec 14 T49N R2E 300 feet north of Quartz Creek 100 rods north of Tomichi Creek 120 rods from the D&RG
Dec 11 1914	Vader, Nellie G. K.	
Sep 12 1917	Deering, Melvin A.	
Nov 28 1930	Vauga, Sophie	Confirmed
Dec 17 1930	Vauga, Sophie	Commissioned & Assumed charge
Jul 5 1932	Deering, Melvin A.	Assumed charge
Jul 12 1932	Deering, Melvin A.	Acting
Sep 20 1932	Deering, Melvin A.	Appointed & Confirmed
Oct 10 1932	Deering, Melvin A.	Commissioned
Oct 15 1932	Deering, Melvin A.	Possession
Oct 17 1941	---	Sec 14 T49N R2E 1/4 mile southeast of D&RG railroad station US 50, 50 feet Tomichi Creek 500 feet south of post office
Jan 1 1942	Deering, Mrs. Rosamie H.	Assumed charge
Jan 14 1942	Deering, Mrs. Rosamie H.	Acting & Appointed
Mar 26 1942	Deering, Mrs. Rosamie H.	Confirmed
Apr 9 1942	Deering, Mrs. Rosamie H.	Commissioned
Apr 15 1942	Deering, Mrs. Rosamie H.	Possession
May 10 1950	Deering, Mathew H.	Possession & Assumed charge
May 25 1950	Deering, Mathew H.	Acting
Jul 12 1950	Deering, Mathew H.	Appointed & Confirmed
Jul 28 1950	Deering, Mathew H.	Commissioned
Aug 16 1950	Deering, Mathew H.	Possession
Dec 2 1980	Glaze, Nancy	Officer in charge

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

0.1	PARLIN, / Colo CI 20P 28.5/26.0	May 15 1881 Feb 8 1884 Hstp Indistinct fancy cancel Last of Colorado possibly removed
1	PARLIN / COL. CI 10P 27.5	Dec 17 1887 Dec 18 1889 Hstp Cork, Smudge
2	PARLIN / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Dec 6 1893 Apr 19 1894 Hstp Target
3	PARLIN, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Feb 25 1906 Sep 19 1908 Doane Type 2 with 2; S-??x13mm
4	PARLIN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Aug 12 1908 May 1 1910 4bars S-25x14mm
5	PARLIN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Aug 6 1915 Aug 10 1923 4bars S-25x19mm
6	PARLIN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Sep 15 1924 Oct 12 1931 4bars S-19x14mm
7	PARLIN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	Dec 15 1934 Apr 4 1940 4bars S-24x20mm



PARLIN – Continued

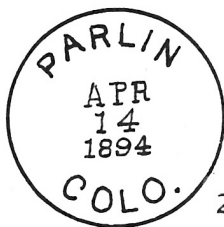
8	PARLIN / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Aug 5 1940 Sep 20 1948
9	PARLIN / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Aug 27 1953 May 5 1954
10	PARLIN / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Aug 23 1960 Feb 15 1963
11	PARLIN, CO / 81239 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Nov 17 1966 Sep 11 1978
12	PARLIN, CO / 81239 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x18mm	Dec 4 1985 Sep 20 2000
13	PARLIN / COLO. CI 11P 26.0/17.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 28 1991 Jul 25 2002



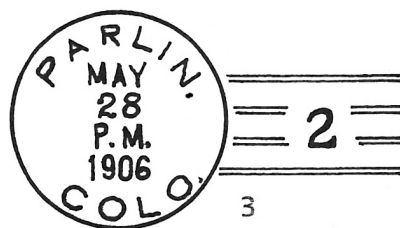
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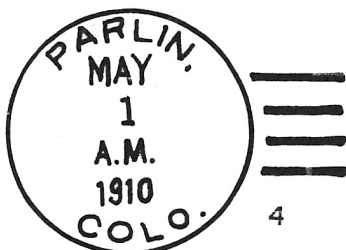
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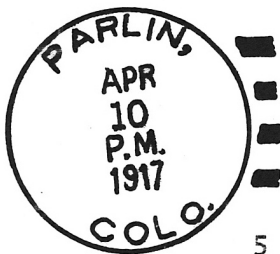
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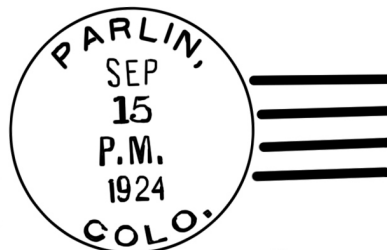
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4



5



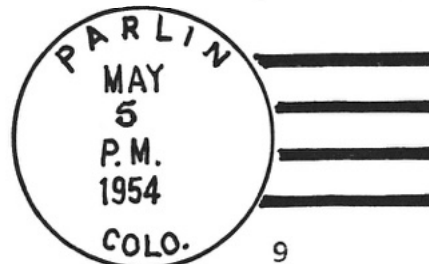
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7



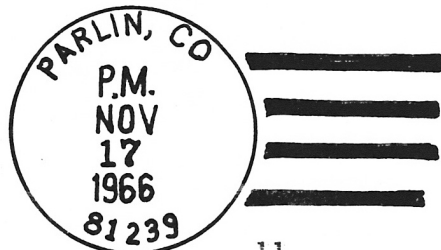
8



9



10



11



12



13

**PIEPLANT**

Pieplant was a small mining community on the west side of the Sawatch Range, southeast of Dorchester. Like Dorchester, the principal period of activity was in the very early years of the twentieth century. The Pieplant Mine produced lead and silver and was of sufficient quality for the Woods Mining Company to erect a 200-ton per day stamp mill. The mine and mill supported a population of perhaps 100. After only a few years the mining declined but there was enough activity to keep the town (but not the post office) in operation until the end of World War I. After the mining ended, the buildings at Pieplant were used as headquarters for summertime cattle ranching.

The Pieplant community and mine took their names from abundant clumps of wild rhubarb growing in the area.



**Ruins of one of the cabins at Pieplant, Colorado**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

September 2002

The road to Pieplant begins just north of Pieplant Creek and the site of Emma, from the east side of the road north to Dorchester. In 1991 it was merely two ruts and not suitable for passenger cars. By 2002 the road had been improved considerably and most cars could make the trip. The last quarter mile does cross a swampy area and in spring or after heavy rains might not be passable. However, from there the townsite is visible and it would be a short walk the rest of the way.

Pieplant is worth the trip. There are several cabins, in various states of repair in the valley and the ruins of the mill are on the hillside a short distance east of the settlement. If you can drive into the townsite, then you can drive on to the mill.

Latitude = 38:56:17 North Longitude = 106:33:32 West PIEPLANT MILL

**PIEPLANT – Continued****Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 8 1904	---	NE/4 Sec 13 T13S R82W 4 mile north of the Taylor River at the source and on north side of Pie Plant Creek Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Minnie Wonser
Aug 24 1904		Established
Aug 24 1904		Wonser, Minnie Declined
Jan 18 1905		Wood, John W.
Apr 23 1906		Ordered closed
May 14 1906		Discontinued Mail to Tin Cup

**Confirmed types of postal markings \***

1	PIEPLANT / COLO	Apr 26 1906
	CI 10P 28.0	Doane Type 2 with 1, s-??x??mm.

\*WHB NOTE: This cover was offered for sale as a Pieplant postmark, however, after examining it, I believe it is actually from PIERCE, COLO.

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED FROM PIEPLANT

**PITKIN**

The mining town that became Pitkin was founded in early 1879 by Frank Curtis, George P. Chiles and Wayne Scott. The settlement was first named Quartzville for its location on Quartz Creek. However, that name lasted only a few months before it was changed to Pitkin, to honor Colorado Governor Frederick W. Pitkin. The townsite was surveyed by A. J. Sparks and the plat was filed July 16, 1879. Pitkin was incorporated in July 1880.

Continued mining development in the surrounding countryside sustained Pitkin for many years. A variety of metals: iron, copper, lead, gold and silver were produced. The ores were initially quite rich but as with most mining districts the ores were eventually worked out or became uneconomic and Pitkin declined from an important mining center to a small community that would depend on being a supply center for the surrounding ranches and lumber operations. Although hit hard by the silver collapse of 1893 Pitkin survived as gold mining replaced silver. In 1891 the State of Colorado opened a fish hatchery near Pitkin and in the 1890's lumbering became important to the economy. As the twentieth century progressed, the economic focus shifted to recreation: hunting, fishing, hiking and camping.

A railroad was important to any mining town. The Denver, South Park, and Pacific Railroad entered Pitkin on July 13, 1882. Even after closure of the Alpine Tunnel, a railroad connection was retained for many years via the Denver and Rio Grande.

As with most Colorado mountain towns, fire was no stranger. Major fires in 1898 and another in 1903 destroyed large portions of the town. Some were rebuilt but each time Pitkin shrunk in size.

Pitkin's population declined from several thousand to less than 100 by the late twentieth century. However, a visit to Pitkin in August 2003 found several new buildings and many of the older buildings have been renovated. As an indication of Pitkin's recent revitalization, the former depot of the Denver, South Park, and Pacific Railroad, located on a small lot of only .21 acres was (August 2003) being offered for sale at \$290,000! Not too many years ago, it is likely that sum could have bought most if not all of the town.

I cannot confirm the following but it could be correct. In 1972, when I first visited Pitkin, the postmaster told me that the Pitkin Post Office had always been in the same building. In 1991, the new postmaster did not know that story. In any event, in 2003, the post office is still in the same building as in 1972, so if the story is true, that might be some sort of a record. Contrary to this story is the 1949 Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report that indicates there was a move that year.



**PITKIN – Continued**

Pitkin remains a viable community with a small business district, in the heart of a large and beautiful recreational area with a wide variety of available activities. It is easy to visit. From Parlin on US Highway 50, drive north fifteen miles on Gunnison County 76. From Pitkin you can visit the Alpine Tunnel (see Sherrod and Woodstock) or continue north over Cumberland Pass to Tin Cup and the Taylor River Valley.

Latitude = 38:36:33 North Longitude = 106:30:58 West



**The Pitkin, Colorado Post Office**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

August 2003

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 27 1879	---	None reported	On north side of Quartz Creek
		Proposed postmaster -	George B. Chiles
Sep 1 1879		Formerly named	Quartzville
Sep 1 1879		Curtiss, Frank	
Jul 18 1882		Curtiss, Frank	P&S
Nov 10 1885		Fulton, William M.	
Apr 30 1886		Kinport, Jesse E.	
Jun 22 1887		Dempsey, John	
Jun 13 1889		Deroy, Mrs. Nettie	
Nov 24 1891		Peck, Henry E.	

## PITKIN – Continued

Feb 17 1895	---	NE/4 Sec 9 T50N R4E 450 feet north of Quartz Creek 325 feet north of the Colorado & Southern RR	
Nov 21 1895		Dempsey, John	
Mar 17 1898		Fellows, Margaret	
Jan 5 1905		Bruner, Robert	
May 6 1907		Burnside, Melissa M.	
Jun 29 1911		Williams, Melissa M.	
Jun 10 1912		Langston, J. Sterling	
Apr 21 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 4 T50N R4E 2 blocks east of Quartz Creek	
Oct 28 1920		Metcalf, Charles O.	
Jan 12 1921		Harklerode, Ruth O.	Declined
May 10 1921		Wallace, Ethel R.	Confirmed
Jun 8 1921		Wallace, Ethel R.	Commissioned
Jul 25 1921		Wallace, Ethel R.	Assumed charge
Jan 6 1942	---	Sec 3&4 T50N R4E Quartz Creek is 1/4 mile east of post office	
Oct 4 1944		Elliott, Mrs. Lorraine E.	Assumed charge
Oct 19 1944		Elliott, Mrs. Lorraine E.	Acting
Jan 31 1945		Potter, Mrs. Tillie E.	Assumed charge & Possession
Feb 12 1945		Potter, Mrs. Tillie E.	Acting
Jun 4 1945		Potter, Mrs. Tillie E.	Appointed
Jul 21 1945		Potter, Mrs. Tillie E.	Commissioned
Jul 31 1945		Potter, Mrs. Tillie E.	Assumed charge
May 31 1946		Hollenbeck, Mrs. Dorothy A.	Possession
Oct 14 1946		Hollenbeck, Mrs. Dorothy A.	Acting
May 21 1947		Hollenbeck, Mrs. Dorothy A.	Appointed
Jun 19 1947		Hollenbeck, Mrs. Dorothy A.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1947		Hollenbeck, Mrs. Dorothy A.	Assumed charge
May 19 1948		Arvidson, Mrs. Fannie Dewitt	Possession
Jun 20 1948		Arvidson, Mrs. Fannie Dewitt	Acting
Aug 18 1948		Arvidson, Mrs. Fannie Dewitt	Appointed
Sep 23 1948		Arvidson, Mrs. Fannie Dewitt	Commissioned
Feb 17 1949		Arvidson, Mrs. Fannie Dewitt	Assumed charge
May 31 1949	---	NE/4 Sec 9 T50N R4E A move 1-1/2 blocks (995 feet) north east of previous location Quartz Creek is 2 blocks south	
Nov 30 1954		Mustain, Mrs. Anna G.	Possession
Jan 4 1955		Mustain, Mrs. Anna G.	Acting
May 6 1955		Mustain, Mrs. Anna G.	Appointed
Jun 8 1955		Mustain, Mrs. Anna G.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1955		Mustain, Mrs. Anna G.	Assumed charge

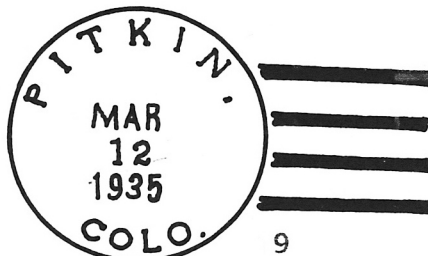
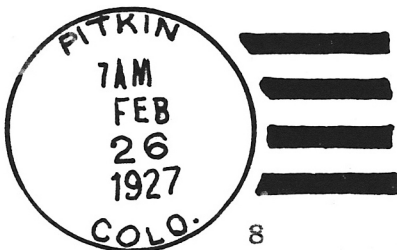
## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Pitkin Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Feb 2 1880
2	PITKIN, / COLORADO. CI 21P 30.0/28.0/17. 0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Jul 7 1880 Jan 5 1881
3	PITKIN / COLORADO. CI 11P 27.0/17.5	Dplx Grid, oval without number	Jan 26 1881 Jun 17 1889
3.1	PITKIN. COL. / UNION PACIFIC / RAILWAY SL 00R 28.0x24.0	Hstp No killer. On cover with Type 3, dated Jan 13, 1883	Jan 12 1883
		[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	
4	PITKIN, COLO. CI 10P 24.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 21 1885
5	PITKIN / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Dec 15 1893

**PITKIN – Continued**

6	PITKIN / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Nov 12 1895 Sep 12 1899
7	PITKIN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm, cds is badly distorted	Dec 21 1910 Dec 22 1915
8	PITKIN / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x21mm	Feb 26 1927 Oct 28 1948
9	PITKIN, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 12 1933 Feb 25 1938
10	PITKIN / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Sep 19 1938 Sep 30 1948
10.1	PITKIN / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x18mm	Jan 20 1962 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
11	PITKIN, CO / 81241 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Jun 24 1967 Mar 11 1986
12	PITKIN, CO / 81241 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jun 28 1991 Aug 18 1994
13	PITKIN, CO / USPS CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 28 1991 Aug 18 1994
14	PITKIN CO 81241 / USPS CI 11P 30.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 18 2001

*Pitkin Colo Feb 2/88*





PITKIN – Continued



14

UNCLAIMED

A-1

AUXILIARY MARKING

A-1 Pitkin  
SL 00R 37.0x4.0

Apr 21 1885

Hstp No killer

PITTSBURGH

First settled in 1881 at the upper end of the Slate River Valley, Pittsburgh was a gold and silver mining camp. The Augusta Mine with a rich vein of gold, silver and lead ore was the best known mine in the area. Harvey Robinson is credited with establishing the town. He ran a sawmill and was also the first postmaster.

The name of the town is believed to relate to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, however, the initial Post Office Department Geographic Site Location seems to indicate that the original choice for a name was Adelm.

By 1886 the population of Pittsburgh had peaked and ore production from the mines was declining. Harsh winters, avalanches that killed several people and difficult transportation contributed to the town's decline.

A short distance north of Crested Butte, turn left onto Gunnison County Road 732. Drive seven miles north, through the site of the Anthracite Post Office to the head of the Slate River Valley. In 2002 there was a "Welcome to Pittsburgh" sign to mark the location. There is little remaining from the days of mining. A couple of mine dumps are visible and there is one building at the tree line on the east side of the valley that may date to the early days. There are also a few modern cabins scattered in the valley. From Pittsburgh it is possible to continue north, over Paradise Divide to Schofield Park and from there back to Crested Butte by way of Schofield Pass and Gothic.

Latitude = 38:57:08 North Longitude = 107:03:43 West

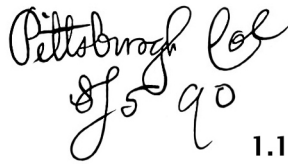
Chronology of the Post Office

- Jul 7 1881 --- Unsurveyed On both sides of the Slate River, from Poverty Gulch  
There is a good sketch map of the overall area  
Proposed postmaster - Harvey S. Robinson
- Jul 22 1881 Established
- Jul 22 1881 Robinson, Harvey D. [or S.?] ]
- Jan 29 1886 --- Unsurveyed Land Office is located within 300 yards of forks  
of Poverty & Slate Creeks
- Aug 4 1886 Robinson, Sanford C.
- Dec 30 1896 Discontinued Mail to Crested Butte

**PITTSBURGH – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	PITTSBURGH / COLORADO. CI 11P 29.5/20.0	Apr 9 1885 Sep 28 1887 Hstp Target 4-ring 20mm
1.1	Pittsburgh Col MS	Aug 5 1890 Mscp Pen cancel
2	PITTSBURGH / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	May 17 1895 --- -- 189- Hstp No killer SRM note: The 189- cvr may be a forgery; it's on an unused envelope



**POWDERHORN**

Powderhorn is located in the broad flat valley where Powderhorn Creek joins Cebolla Creek. There are two claims for the origin of the name. The fanciful claim is that either the shape of the ridge between the creeks or the shape of Cebolla Creek resembles that of a powderhorn. If you examine a modern topographic map of the area, you will need a very good imagination to find such a configuration. The second proposal is that early visitors to the area found a powderhorn on the banks of the creek and thus gave it the name Powderhorn Creek. This seems a more logical explanation for the name.

With the exception of a few days in early 1881 there has continuously been a post office in the Powderhorn Valley. It has moved several times from one ranch to another and in 2003 it was at a ranch south of Colorado Highway 149 a mile west of the bridge over Cebolla Creek. The post office has been at that location for many years and the duties of postmaster for Powderhorn have been in a single family since the mid-1930's: the Rouviere and Wilson names.

One of the earlier sites of the post office was on a side road that connects from Colorado 149 through the valley to the road south along Cebolla Creek. It was in a log building, close to the road and although deteriorating and unused, the building still stands on the north side of the unpaved road.

In 1876 the initial settlements at Powderhorn were on the stage and wagon road from Saguache to the San Juans and the Uncompahgre Valley. Enos Hotchkiss, a prominent early settler in Southwestern Colorado was the first postmaster. Powderhorn was never a large community but was a scattering of ranches in the valleys and included a small resort at the nearby Cebolla Hot Springs. There was some early mining but it was not important. In the early twentieth century the discovery of high grade columbium (SRM: niobium) ore and some other rare earth minerals led to a brief mining boom in the surrounding countryside.

The raising of livestock continues to be the main economic activity and there are small guest ranches in the area and along Cebolla Creek to the south. Powderhorn is shown on maps, about twenty miles south of US Highway 50 on Colorado Highway 149, the road to Lake City.

Latitude = 38:16:37 North Longitude = 107:05:43 West

## POWDERHORN – Continued



**This old log building was the home of the Powderhorn, Colorado Post Office  
for much of the early twentieth century.**

Photograph by James L. Ozment

September 2001

### Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 3 1880	---	No useable information on this report	
Jan 12 1880		Established	
Jan 12 1880		Hotchkiss, Enos	
Feb 13 1880	---	Unsurveyed Powderhorn Toll Gate 1 mile west of White Earth Creek, 100 yards northwest of Powderhorn Creek	
Apr 22 1881		Discontinued	
May 18 1881		Re-established	
May 18 1881		Stone, Andrew J.	
Sep 18 1882		Gray, R. Y.	
Nov 17 1882		Andrews, James H.	
Jan 26 1883		McGregor, Elijah A.	
Jul 30 1894		Stone, Andrew J.	
Jun 3 1895		Doyle, Elnora D.	
Oct 24 1896		Pace, Richard F.	
Nov 3 1897	---	SE/4 Sec 29 T47N R2W 1/4 mile east of Cebolla Creek 1/2 mile north of Powderhorn Creek Proposed postmaster - William Spencer	
Nov 18 1897		Spencer, Milton	
Mar 31 1899		McGregor, Elijah A.	
Dec 28 1909		Nichols, Sadie M.	Confirmed & Commissioned
Mar 1 1910		Nichols, Sadie M.	Possession & Assumed charge
May 15 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 33 T47N R2W 80 rods south of Cebolla Creek 100 yards east of Powderhorn Creek	

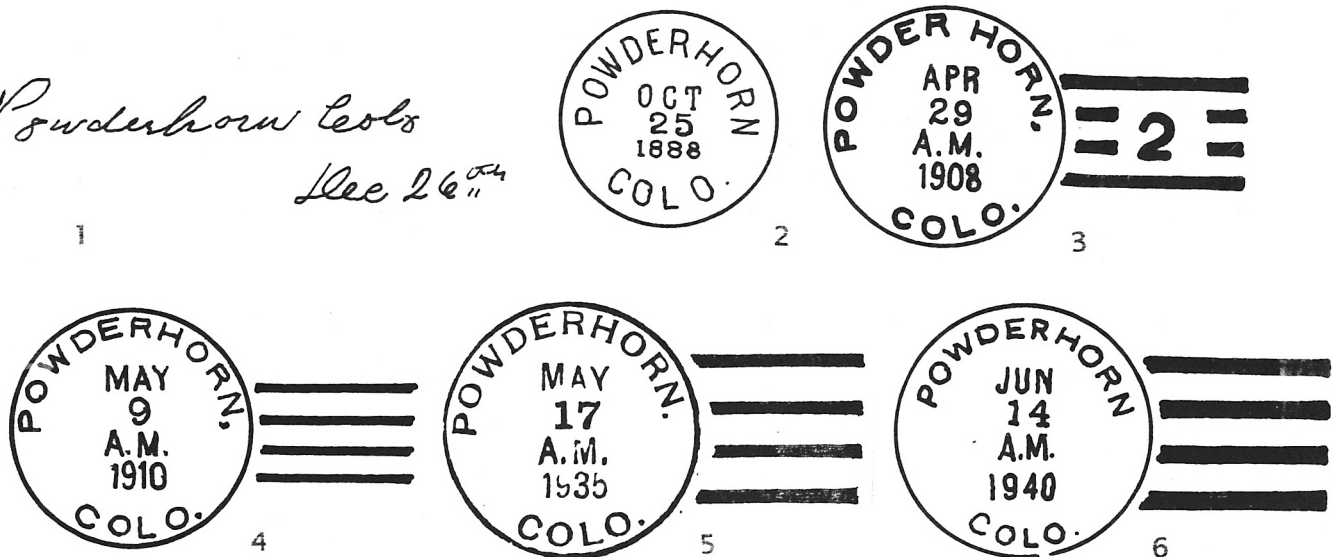
POWDERHORN - Continued

Jan 4 1937	Rouviere, May N.	Acting
Dec 17 1937	Rouviere, May N.	Possession
Jan 4 1938	Rouviere, May N.	Acting
Feb 25 1938	Rouviere, May N.	Appointed
Apr 5 1938	Rouviere, May N.	Commissioned
Apr 10 1938	Rouviere, May N.	Possession
Nov 12 1941 ---	NE/4 Sec 2 (WHB: I think PM meant 32) T47N R2W Powderhorn Creek 200 feet west Cebolla Creek 1/2 mile north of post office	
Jan 31 1958	Wilson, Mrs. Helen	Possession & Assumed charge
Feb 3 1958	Wilson, Mrs. Helen	Acting
Nov 7 1958	Wilson, Mrs. Helen	Commissioned
Nov 14 1958	Wilson, Mrs. Helen	Appointed & Possession
Jul 31 1970	Wilson, Judith K.	Officer in charge
Jul 31 1971	Wilson, Judith K.	Appointed, Commissioned & Possession

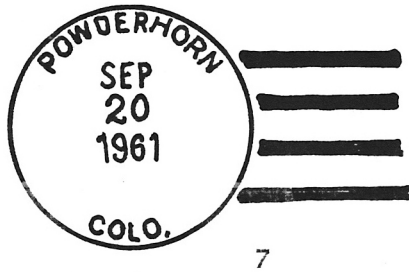
Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Powderhorn Colo MS	Dec 26 (1882)
2	POWDERHORN / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Mscp Pen cancel Oct 25 1888 Nov -- 1895
2.1	<b>POWDER HORN, / COLO.</b> <b>CI 10P</b>	Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm; Cork, smudge <b>Jul 5 1907</b>
3	POWDER HORN, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	<b>31.0 4bars S-24x14mm [Not clear, this could be a Doane]</b> <b>[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]</b> Dec -- 1907 Apr 6 1910
4	POWDERHORN, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Doane 4 bars with 2, S-23x14mm Two words May 2 1910 Jun 8 1914
5	POWDERHORN, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x13mm Mar 4 1932 May 17 1935
6	POWDERHORN / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm Jan 25 1939 Jul 1 1957
7	POWDERHORN / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm Sep 20 1961 Aug 4 1962
8	POWDERHORN, CO / 81243 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm Jul 27 1970 Sep 6 2001
9	POWDERHORN, CO / USPO CI 11P 26.0/17.0	4bars S-24x19mm Jun 25 1991 Sep 18 1993
		Hstp No killer

*Powderhorn Colo*  
*See 26<sup>th</sup>*



## POWDERHORN - Continued



## PROSPECT

Prospect has received only brief mention in Colorado's historical literature. It has been stated that it was a "freighting, mail, and supply town." There is little remaining evidence for the existence of an organized community. There was some coal mining in proximity to Prospect and in the 1920's that became Camp Genter, associated with the coal mine operated by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company.

There are two attributions for the name: an early settler found a mining pan near the creek or there was briefly some gold mining at the site.

I do not have a definitive location for Prospect, other than that it was at Rapid Creek and near the coal mine. After passing the mine dump at Camp Genter, the road takes a sharp turn to cross to the north side of the Crystal River. Just before the bridge, a side road to the east enters a small complex of buildings that appear to be operating as a modest guest ranch. It seems likely that these are remnants from either Prospect or Camp Genter.

To visit the site of Prospect, follow the directions to Camp Genter on the road to Marble.

## Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 22 1886	--	On unsurveyed land Nine miles below Crystal City on Rock Creek On westerly side of Rock Creek (now commonly known as Crystal River) and on northerly side of Rapid Creek The sketch map indicates the presence of a coal mine at the site Proposed postmaster - Daniel R. Booton
Nov 9 1886		Established
Nov 9 1886		Booton, Daniel R.
Dec 24 1890		Discontinued Papers to Marble

## Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM PROSPECT

## PROVIDENCE

This place has escaped any mention that I can find in the historical literature of Colorado. Its existence is known from the Post Office Department records and two recorded postmarks.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report places Providence a mile west of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, which would be a similar distance from Colorado Highway 149. This is about a half-mile south of where Colorado 149 crosses from the east side to the west side of the Lake Fork.

It seems most likely that the post office was at a ranch where one of the small streams from the west exits the slopes of Alpine Plateau. Unfortunately the location is not visible from the highway and a road that might once have led to or at least provided a view of the site is blocked off and has not been used for a considerable period of time.

**PROVIDENCE - Continued  
Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 3 1898 --- SE/4 Sec 23 T46N R4W One mile west of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison  
4 rods south of Providence Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Clinton (Mabel) Wilson  
May 17 1898 Established  
May 17 1898 Wilson, Mabel  
Mar 18 1900 Ordered closed  
Mar 31 1900 Discontinued Papers to Dayton

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 PROVIDENCE / COLO. Mar 1 1900 May 12 1900  
CI 10P 28.0 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm



1

**QUARTZ**

The settlement of Quartz began as a stopping place for travelers entering the Gunnison Country from the northeast. It was located on North Quartz Creek about three miles north and east of Pitkin. In 1882, the arrival of the Denver, South Park, and Pacific Railroad brought more extensive development and in July 1882, Bob Williams, A. M. Stevensen and P. W. Boubon formed the Quartz Town Company.

The railroad had a siding, depot, section house and telegraph office at Quartz. The location of Quartz, on the road over Cumberland Pass to Tin Cup helped Quartz to develop as a shipping point for ore from the mines in the Taylor Park District. Timber and milled lumber were also shipped from Quartz.

A study of the Colorado historical literature shows that frequently writers have been confused about what and where Quartz was. Some of the confusion is with Quartzville, which was an early name for nearby Pitkin (see below). Several references place Quartz farther north, near the summit of Cumberland Pass. I believe those references are to Drew, not Quartz. Even the location is sometimes misplaced. Quartz was on North Quartz Creek at the point where the Denver, South Park, and Pacific completed its steep descent from the Alpine Tunnel and began its approach along Quartz Creek to Pitkin. It was not at the junction of North Quartz Creek and Middle Quartz Creek. That location was more likely associated with Quartzville.

To reach the site of Quartz drive north through Pitkin on the road to Cumberland Pass and Tin Cup. About three miles beyond Pitkin, a side road crosses Quartz Creek. This is the road to the Alpine Tunnel. It is well marked and there is a descriptive Forest Service historical marker at a pullout just before the side road. The Quartz Campground is two miles north on North Quartz Creek.

Unfortunately, nothing remains at Quartz. All the buildings are gone but some small remnants of foundations can be seen in the area along the creek.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 25 1882 --- SE/4 Sec 25 T51N R4W On the south side of Quartz Creek  
600 feet north of Denver South Park & Pacific Station  
Proposed postmaster - William A. Gipson  
Aug 7 1882 Established  
Aug 7 1882 Gipson, William A.



**QUARTZ - Continued**

Oct 1 1883	Munson, James E.
Jan 29 1884	Cochran, Robert L.
Jun 24 1884	Hanshing, Fred M.
Sep 29 1884	Brogan, Patrick
Mar 29 1886	Discontinued Papers to Pitkin

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	QUARTZ / GUNNISON CO., COL CI 10P 29.0	Aug 13 1884 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
2	QUARTZ / COLO. CI 21P 27.5/26.0/17. 0	Sep 18 1885 Hstp Grid, 9 bar circular



1



2

**QUARTZVILLE**

In late 1878 there were discoveries of silver ore along Quartz Creek. Very little was done until the next spring. In the spring of 1879 a party led by Frank Curtis and including Wayne Scott, Jed Watson, William Jackson, William and A. B. Campbell returned and located a townsite that they named Quartzville. A post office with that name opened in May but by September the name had changed to Pitkin in honor of Colorado Governor Frederick W. Pitkin. Quartzville was in the broader portion of the valley below where the three forks of Quartz Creek join to form the main stream of Quartz Creek. Subsequent to 1879, the history of Quartzville is the history of Pitkin.

Latitude = 39:20:42 North Longitude = 106:04:36 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 27 1879	---	None reported On north side of Quartz Creek Proposed postmaster - George B. Chiles
Jun 9 1879		Established
Jun 9 1879		Chiles, George P.
Sep 1 1879		Name changed to Pitkin

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM QUARTZVILLE

**RAGGED MOUNTAIN**

Ragged Mountain was a ranch post office serving the area along Muddy Creek, northwest of the road over McClure Pass. During its history the post office was at more than one location and one site is still accessible.

From Colorado Highway 133, at the western foot of McClure Pass, turn northwest onto Gunnison County Road 265. Drive four miles along Muddy Creek to a side road that crosses the creek. Drive in about a half-mile to where a small bridge crosses a drainage and the ranch road climbs a hill to the left (north). A short distance up this road is the first of the ranch buildings, with the main buildings visible on the ridge to the north.

**RAGGED MOUNTAIN – Continued**

Jim Ozment and I visited Ragged Mountain in September 2002. We stopped near the first building to take our pictures and to not disturb anyone at the ranch. As we were finishing we observed an ATV start down the road from the ranch. We too drove off but the ATV caught up with us at the foot of the hill. It was the owner of the ranch, Joe Sperry, who inquired as to our business. When we explained, he informed us that the Ragged Mountain Post Office had last been in the basement level of his house and that they still had the post office box section in their ranch office. He invited us back to see it, an invitation we quickly accepted. We then spent nearly half-hour in pleasant conversation with him and his wife, Nancy. We learned that his concern about our presence was that he thought we might be environmentalists hoping to find a problem with a natural gas well that was being drilled near the ranch house. From the Sperrys we did learn that there had never been an organized community of Ragged Mountain.

This was another in a long line of encounters with residents proving that almost all of the people have an interest in their local history and that once they understand our purpose they will become quite helpful and willing to share their knowledge.

According to local legend, the name Ragged Mountain was the descriptive choice of an early resident, by the name of Wood, for the deeply eroded ridge of mountains that dominate the skyline to the east of Colorado Highway 133. They are still known as The Raggeds.



**The residence of Joe and Nancy Sperry. This was the final site of the Ragged Mountain, Colorado Post Office. The post office was in the basement and was entered from the right side of the building.**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

September 20, 2002

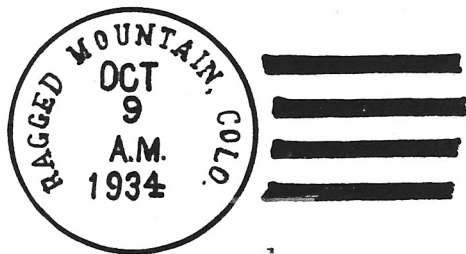
**RAGGED MOUNTAIN – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 13 1919	---	NE/4 Sec 12 T11S R90W 1 mile northeast of East Muddy Creek 200 yards south of Roberts Creek Applicant for postmaster - Angeline Shaeffer
Apr 11 1919		Established
Apr 11 1919		Schaeffer, Angeline <span style="float: right;">Confirmed</span>
May 27 1919		Schaeffer, Angeline <span style="float: right;">Commissioned</span>
Jul 2 1919		Schaeffer, Angeline <span style="float: right;">Assumed charge</span>
Jan 7 1924	---	NW/4 SW/4 Sec 12 T11S R90W A move 5/8 mile a little west of south of a previous location 1/4 mile east of Muddy Creek
Oct 21 1941	---	T11S R90W East Muddy Creek 1/4 mile southwest Roberts Creek 5/8 mile north of post office
Sep 30 1947	---	NE/4 Sec 12 T11S R90W 1 mile east of West Muddy Creek A move 2 miles north of a previous location
Sep 30 1947		Sperry, Lee W. <span style="float: right;">Assumed charge</span>
Nov 26 1947		Sperry, Lee W. <span style="float: right;">Confirmed</span>
Jan 30 1948		Sperry, Lee W. <span style="float: right;">Commissioned</span>
Mar 2 1956		Ordered closed
Mar 31 1956		Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	RAGGED MOUNTAIN, COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars P-25x18mm	Oct 9 1934 Dec 17 1940
2	RAGGED MOUNTAIN / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x19mm	Jun 20 1941 Mar 30 1956



1



2

**RED MOUNTAIN**

This settlement was on the Red Mountain Trail to Lake Pass on the Continental Divide. It was also on the road north to Taylor Pass and the Aspen area. Built by Miles Standish and W. W. Woll, it served a few years as a stage station and rest stop for a freight wagons until it was supplanted by the road from the east over Cottonwood Pass and easier access to Aspen from the north and east.

This reference to facilities built by Standish and Woll may really pertain to a period of activity in 1887 but at very close to the same location. Please refer to the discussion of Standish.

The area became a U. S. Forest Service special permit area and a few permit holders were permitted to build cabins a short distance up Red Mountain Creek from the Taylor River and the main road up the Taylor Valley.

The location is about two and a half miles northwest of the site of Emma and about four miles southeast of the Dorchester Campground. No structures remain at the site described in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report.

**RED MOUNTAIN – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 26 1880	---	Not reported On east bank of Taylor River 1/2 mile north of Pass Creek Proposed postmaster - George W. Searcy
Dec 13 1880		Established
Dec 13 1880		Searcy, George W.
Mar 10 1881		Liston, James O.
Nov 7 1881		Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM RED MOUNTAIN**

**RUBY (I) and RUBY (II)**

A careful examination of the descriptions contained in the two Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports for a Ruby in Gunnison County brings a conclusion that each refers to a different location. This supposition fits well with the geography and the history of the Ruby name in Gunnison County.

In the 1879-1880 period the southern portion of the silver mining town of Irwin was known as Ruby or Ruby-Irwin. This fits with the first location, one mile north of Coal Creek.

In 1893-1895, the name Ruby was hyphenated as Ruby-Anthracite and applied to the community that had developed around a large coal mine three miles south of Irwin. In 1897 that community became Floresta. The site of Ruby-Anthracite / Floresta fits with the description of being at Ruby Station on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and 300 feet south of Anthracite Creek.

Coal Creek flows east to meet the Slate River at Crested Butte. Anthracite Creek flows west to join the North Fork of the Gunnison River.

For more information about these two locations, please refer to the discussions of Floresta and Irwin. To add a little additional confusion to the matter, the Site Location Reports are filed under Hinsdale County.

WHB NOTE: Inadvertently, I omitted Ruby I from the map of the Gunnison County Post Offices (Volume 19, Number 2, page 83). The Ruby shown is Ruby II. Ruby I is located immediately south of Irwin. Further, do not confuse Ruby-Anthracite with the Anthracite Post Office. Anthracite is many miles to the northeast. For Ruby Anthracite, the anthracite is a reference to the type of coal that was mined there. SRM NOTE: This has been corrected in current map.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

**RUBY (I)**

Oct 10 1879	---	Unsurveyed Eight miles west of the Slate River One mile north of Coal Creek Proposed postmaster - William Yule
Oct 31 1879		Established
Oct 31 1879		Yule, William
Jan 8 1880		Discontinued

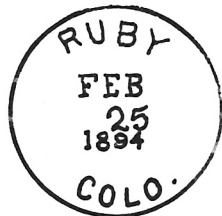
**RUBY (II)**

Sep 9 1893	---	NW/4 Sec 16 T14S R87W Irwin 4 miles northeast 2 miles south from Anthracite Creek 300 feet west of Ruby Station on Denver & Rio Grande Proposed postmaster - Roderick Thomas Lawther
Nov 1 1893		Re-established
Nov 1 1893		Lawther, Roderick T.
Apr 27 1895		Discontinued Mail to Crested Butte

**RUBY – Continued****Confirmed types of postal markings**1 RUBY / COLO.  
CI 10P 27.5

Feb 25 1894

Hstp Pen cancel and very light cds rim

**SAGE**

I have found no mention of this place in any of the Colorado historical literature I have reviewed. From the information provided by the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report, it was just north of the junction of No Name Creek with Tomichi Creek. That location is on the road from US Highway 50 to White Pine, Gunnison County Road 888. It was apparently in a wider section of the Tomichi Valley and near where Gunnison County Road 887 crosses the creek on the way to Black Sage Pass, Waunita Hot Springs and eventually back to US 50 at Parlin.

The application for a post office apparently requested the name Black Sage but that was shortened to Sage. Given the location, it is probable that the settlement here was a rest stop and way station on the road to and from White Pine and the shorter but difficult road over Black Sage and Waunita Passes to Pitkin.

I have twice visited this location and have not found any readily visible evidence of habitation.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 27 1880	---	SE/4 Sec 16 T49N R5E (or is it 6E?) 1/2 mile east of the Tomichi River, on north side of "No Name" Creek Proposed postmaster - Thomas Marion Boon
Nov 22 1880		Established
Nov 22 1880		Boon, Thomas M.
Sep 18 1882		Discontinued Mail to Sargents

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SAGE**

**SAPINERO**

Originally Sapinero was a stage stop known as Soap Creek on the road from Gunnison west to the Ouray and Grand Junction regions. Soap Creek became a construction camp for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. Its importance as a station and supply center increased and when late in 1882 a post office was acquired, the name was changed to Sapinero. When the branch railroad was built south to Lake City, Sapinero located at the mouth of the canyon of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison, became the railroad junction point.

The location was named for a sub-chief of the Ute Indians, Sapinero, who was the brother-in-law of Chief Ouray. Sapinero is taken from the Indian word Sabinero or Sabinal translating as, "juniper tree grove" or small cedar trees.

**SAPINERO – Continued**

Sapinero was the location of one of the best known landmarks along the D&RG from Salida to Montrose. The Rainbow Hotel, built in 1908 by H. S. Carpenter was a busy resort hotel through the 1920's and was a special favorite of weekend fishermen.

For many years Sapinero was a resort and supply area for the area south to Lake City and for the Black Canyon of the Gunnison to the west. In 1961, the construction of the Blue Mesa River doomed the town. Sapinero was re-established on the hillside above the reservoir a short distance north of where US Highway 50 crosses the drowned valley of the Lake Fork. In 1967 Sapinero became a Rural Branch of Gunnison. Sometime later, the post office moved about two miles west to another commercial establishment, close to where the Blue Mesa Cutoff road intersects US 50. It remained at that location until it officially closed for good in 1988.

The final days of the Sapinero Post Office were difficult. The best information is that the last operators of the Rural Branch gave up the operation sometime in 1986. The Post Office Department was unable to find a new operator and formally closed the office effective November 24, 1988.

Latitude = 38:27:34 North Longitude = 107:18:06 West



**SAPINERO, / COLORADO. July 14, 1888**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- |             |     |   |
|-------------|-----|---|
| Nov 10 1882 | --- | Not surveyed 1/8 mile north of the Gunnison River<br>1 mile west of Soap Creek or Sapinero Creek 80 rods south side of D&RG RR<br>Proposed postmaster - Howard W. Christopher |
| Nov 23 1882 |     | Established   |
| Nov 23 1882 |     | Christopher, Howard   |
| Apr 4 1883  |     | Frey, William H.  |
| Oct 18 1883 |     | McClure, J. G.  |
| Dec 11 1883 |     | Ball, George F.   |
| Jun 11 1884 |     | Montgomery, Andrew  |
| Jan 8 1886  |     | Butler, Abram C.  |
| Mar 13 1886 |     | Edwards, Rufus D.   |



## SAPINERO – Continued

Nov 14 1887	Towle, Rossiter I.	
Aug 1 1892	--- Sec 33 T49N R4W 1/8 mile north of the Gunnison River and 3/4 mile northwest of Sapinero Creek 200 yards south of the D&RG RR	An interesting sketch map does show everything as north of the Gunnison River
Sep 6 1892	McVean, Hugh M.	
Oct 30 1897	Montgomery, Kay	
Feb 28 1900	Bozman, Josie S.	
Mar 5 1903	Greenland, James F.	
Jan 9 1904	Powell, Sarah	
Dec 19 1910	McVean, Sarah	
Sep 10 1914	McVean, Jennie	
Oct 9 1914	--- NE/4 NE/4 Sec 32 T49N R4W	100 feet south of the D&RG tracks
Mar 6 1917	Santarelli, Nellie	Confirmed
Apr 2 1917	Santarelli, Nellie	Commissioned
Apr 7 1917	Santarelli, Nellie	Assumed charge
Nov 17 1941	--- NW/4 NW/4 Sec 33 T49N R4W	About 600 feet south of the Gunnison River
Oct 1 1948	Beaven, Mrs. Vivian Augusta	Assumed charge
Dec 17 1948	Beaven, Mrs. Vivian Augusta	Appointed & Confirmed
Feb 1 1949	Beaven, Mrs. Vivian Augusta	Commissioned
Feb 6 1949	Beaven, Mrs. Vivian Augusta	Possession
Apr 15 1949	Kern, Mrs. Vada Teague	Possession
May 4 1949	Kern, Mrs. Vada Teague	Acting
Jun 6 1949	Kern, Mrs. Vada Teague	Appointed
Jun 21 1949	Kern, Mrs. Vada Teague	Appointment rescinded
Jun 30 1949	Cotten, Mrs. Eva Moselda	Possession
Jul 1 1949	Cotten, Mrs. Eva Moselda	Assumed charge
Jul 13 1949	Cotten, Mrs. Eva Moselda	Acting
Jul 20 1949	--- SW/4 Sec 28 T49N R4W	A move 1/8 mile northeast of a previous location Gunnison River 1/4 mile south Soap Creek 1/2 mile east of post office
Sep 20 1949	--- NE/4 Sec 32 T49N R4W	A move 1/4 mile west of a previous location Gunnison River 100 yards south Soap Creek 3/4 mile east of post office
Sep 26 1949	Cotten, Mrs. Eva Moselda	Appointed & Confirmed
Nov 1 1949	Cotten, Mrs. Eva Moselda	Commissioned
Dec 31 1949	Cotten, Mrs. Eva Moselda	Possession
Mar 9 1962	Roth, Mrs. Donna M.	Possession & Assumed charge
Mar 13 1962	Roth, Mrs. Donna M.	Acting
Jul 13 1962	Roth, Mrs. Donna M.	Commissioned
Jul 20 1962	Roth, Mrs. Donna M.	Appointed & Possession
Aug 26 1966	Roth, Charles L.	Possession
Aug 11 1967	Converted to a Rural Branch of Gunnison	
--- -- 1986	Ceased operations when the store in which it was located underwent foreclosure	
Nov 24 1988	Officially discontinued	

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SAPINERO, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Nov 15 1883 May 15 1885 Hstp Grid, 7 bar circular
2	SAPINERO, / COLORADO. OV 11P 41.0x32.0/30.0/21.5	Apr 1 1885 Feb 24 1889 Hstp No killer, ornaments above and below dateline
3	SAPINERO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Feb 6 1890 Sep 10 1893 Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm, large letters
4	SAPINERO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Dec 23 1899 Dec 5 1900 Hstp Target 4-ring 16mm; small letters
5	SAPINERO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Jul 17 1907 Apr 17 1908 Doane Type 3 with 3?
6	SAPINERO / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	Jul 3 1916 Dec 29 1924 4bars S-24x19mm

**SAPINERO – Continued**

7	SAPINERO. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Dec 31 1934 Jun 1 1941
8	SAPINERO / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 24 1929 Nov 16 1949
9	SAPINERO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 27 1953
10	SAPINERO / COLO. CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Feb 14 1962 Feb 8 1963
11	SAPINERO, CO / 81247 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 8 1966 Sep 8 1980



1



2



3



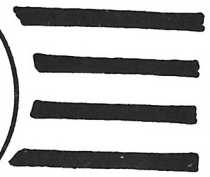
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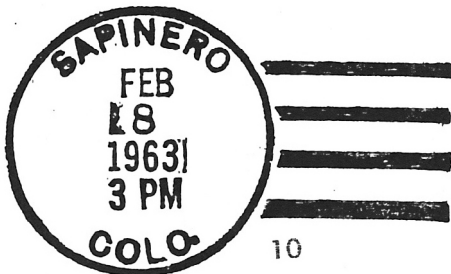
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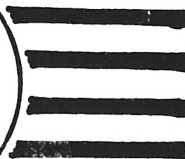
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10



11



**SCHOFIELD/SCOFIELD**

Silver ore was discovered in this area in the early 1870's. However, there was no serious activity until 1879 when a small party led by B. F. Schofield came to the area. On August 24, 1879 a townsite was platted and named for B. F. Schofield. [SRM: The spelling of both the man and the town's name is open to question. Local newspapers alternated in their spelling. One time including the "c", the next not. History seems to have decided that the town name was Schofield; the post office was Scofield.]

The location was in a fair-sized meadow on what is now called the South Fork of the Crystal River. The meadow is two and a quarter miles from the summit of Schofield Pass (10,717 feet).

There were a number of small mines in the surrounding area but as with many of the remote mining camps, low-grade ore and high transportation costs made them uneconomical and by 1887 Schofield was almost abandoned. It continued briefly as supply point for the surrounding area and a stop on the road from Gothic to Crystal.

From Crested Butte, to reach the site of Schofield, take the road north to Gothic. From the bridge where you enter Gothic, go through the town and it is six miles to the summit of Schofield Pass and another two miles to Schofield Park. In 1991, I visited Gothic with the intention of driving on to Schofield. One look at the road beyond Gothic and I turned around the passenger car I was driving. My next visit was in August 2003, driving a Jeep. The road has been greatly improved and when Jim Ozment and I reached Schofield we found a FEDEX truck making a delivery to some campers. However, this is not a winter road. In late August, there was still snow in the streambed left from avalanches of the previous winter.

This road is the infamous road to Crystal. It now presents no serious problem to travel, as far as the north end of Schofield Park. At that point there are bright yellow signs to warn the traveler that it is an extremely difficult road from there to Crystal. And beyond Crystal it is no "Sunday drive." Pay attention. There have been several people killed in accidents along that stretch of road.

All that remains of Schofield are some small, barely recognizable remnants of a foundation or two and some small mine dumps visible on the hillside east of the river. The Forest Service did a meticulous job of cleaning up the old town.

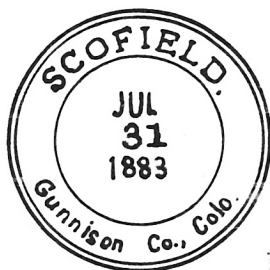
Latitude = 39:02:28 North Longitude = 107:03:16 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 7 1880	---	NE/4(?) Sec 1 T12S R87W On the west side of Rock Creek
		Proposed postmaster - Louis Buddee
Sep 20 1880		Established
Sep 20 1880		Buddee, Louis
Aug 17 1881		Buddee, Louis
Sep 14 1883		Scheer, Mrs. Louise C.
Sep 18 1886		Reyland, E. E. L.
Nov 19 1886		Discontinued Papers to Crystal

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 SCOFIELD, / Gunnison Co., Colo. Jul 31 1883  
CI 21P 34.0/32.0/21. 0 Hstp Target, 5-ring



## **SHERROD**

For a few years the small mining community of Sherrod existed at the mouth of the Brittle Silver Basin on the headwaters of Middle Quartz Creek. The site was on the Denver, South Park, and Pacific Railroad where it makes a sharp reversal of direction on its approach to the west end of the Alpine Tunnel. At first this was known as the Woodstock Curve or Woodstock Loop but soon Sherrod replaced the name Woodstock.

In 1903, W. H. Sherrod, F. E. Bushby and W. H. Combs came up Middle Quartz Creek and discovered gold ore said to assay as much as \$1,700 per ton. As a result of their discoveries a small mining camp was established and it was named for W. H. Sherrod, a veteran mining man who had previously worked at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and the Slocum District in British Columbia.

The Colorado and Southern Railroad, by then the operator of the Denver, South Park, and Pacific, built a short spur into Sherrod. But, even with transportation at its doorstep, the mines at Sherrod did not produce sufficient ore to operate beyond 1906.

To reach the site of Sherrod, drive through Pitkin and continue north along Quartz Creek on the road to Cumberland Pass. The turnoff for Forest Service Road 839 to the Alpine Tunnel (10 miles) is well marked. Almost all of the road is on the old grade of the Denver South Park, and Pacific Railroad. It is a sometimes rough road and often narrow but not a difficult one to drive. It is seven and a half miles to the Sherrod Loop, which is obvious. At the loop, the road switches back within the loop and a short stretch of track has been reconstructed to the south of the road. The buildings of Sherrod were a hundred feet or so above this point, where the Jeep trail from Hancock Pass joins the Alpine Pass Road. Remnants of a couple cabins and some stone foundations are still visible in the trees.

From Sherrod, it is about two miles farther to the parking lot for the Alpine Tunnel. The station building on the final approach to the tunnel has been reconstructed and there are remnants of other buildings. The actual entrance to the tunnel is a quarter-mile walk from the parking area and has been totally obscured, either intentionally, or by slide rock from the mountain above. Between Sherrod and the tunnel, the road is on the famous "Palisades." Stonework was laid up to support the railroad along a steep cliff face. One hundred and twenty years later it is still in place, a great testimony to the workmanship of the early stonemasons.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jun 15 1904</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>NW/4 SW/4 Sec 2 T50N R5E 1/4 mile on the right (north) side of Quartz Creek 100 feet from station, Colorado &amp; Southern, on left (south) side Proposed postmaster - Simeon M. Deardorff</b>
<b>Jul 18 1904</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jul 18 1904</b>		<b>Deardorff, Simeon M.</b>
<b>Sep 16 1904</b>		<b>Wade, Charles C.</b>
<b>Mar 24 1906</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>Apr 30 1906</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Pitkin</b>

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SHERROD**

## **SILLSVILLE**

The gold mining camp of Sillsville came into existence in 1903 in the Cochetopa District, about two miles north of the Gunnison-Saguache County line. It was named for Charley Sills, editor of the *Gunnison Republican* and a part owner of the Maple Leaf Mine that was the principal mine of the area.

**SILLSVILLE – Continued**

The townsite was laid out on the west side of Cochetopa Creek, opposite the Maple Leaf Mine. The small community was first known as Camp Ideal after the nearby Ideal Ranch but took the name Sillsville when a post office was acquired. Sillsville was a residence town for local miners and briefly a supply point for the surrounding ranching and mining activity.

Unable to find significant quantities of high-grade ore, the Maple Leaf Mine soon closed and the miners left. In 1926 the opening of the Alaska and Yukon Mines, three miles to the south, brought a short-lived revival to Sillsville.

The site of Sillsville is on the west side of Cochetopa Creek and Colorado Highway 114, two miles north of the county line and six miles south of US Highway 50. It is now (2003) the location of the Krueger Guest Ranch.

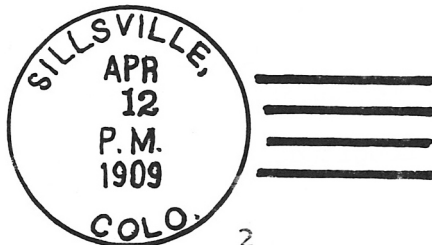
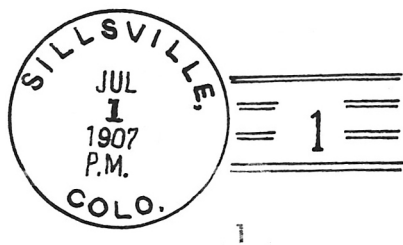
Latitude = 38:26:48 North Longitude = 106:45:38 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Oct 19 1903 --- SE/4 SW/4 Sec 4 T48N R2E On the west side of Cochetopa Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Evan Thiers Brown
- Nov 7 1903 Established
- Nov 7 1903 Brown, Evan T.
- Oct 11 1904 Herrick, Howard C.
- Nov 21 1905 Simon, Harry
- Sep 23 1907 Ordered closed
- Oct 15 1907 Discontinued Mail to Parlin
- Jan 10 1908 --- No useable description
- Feb 17 1908 Re-established
- Feb 17 1908 Sills, Charles T.
- Jun 15 1910 Discontinued Mail to Parlin

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 SILLSVILLE, / COLO. Dec 14 1904 Jul 8 1907  
CI 10P 28.5 Doane Type 2 with 1; S-24x13mm
- 2 SILLSVILLE, COLO. Apr 12 1909  
CI 10P 31.0 4bars S-??x13mm



**SNOWMASS**

Other than the name, this early Snowmass has no relation to the modern towns of Snowmass and Snowmass Village that are on Colorado Highway 82 in Pitkin County.

This small, short-lived mining town was established in the Lead King Basin on the east slope of Arkansas Mountain below Geneva Lake and a mile and a half northeast of Crystal. In 1882 it acquired a post office but in August of 1883 the post office was discontinued. Access to the location was extremely difficult and the quality of the ores did not warrant continued development.

**SNOWMASS – Continued**

This is one of the sites that I have not visited. According to 4-wheel drive guidebooks, it can be reached, but the road is classed as difficult and is recommended only for experienced drivers with accompaniment.

The road (315) to the Lead King Basin begins about a mile and a half south of Marble where the road to Crystal branches to the right. It is six and one half miles to the Lead King Basin. From the basin, you can drive down the creek that drains from Geneva Lake, to Road 314 a short distance east of Crystal. It is this last stretch that is the most difficult.

What little information I have makes no mention of any remaining structures in the Lead King Basin. Perhaps a small mine dump or two might be visible.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jul 11 1882</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>On unsurveyed Government Land Scofield 4 miles southeasterly 1-1/2 miles north of Rock Creek Proposed postmaster - Payne Brown</b>
<b>Jul 21 1882</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jul 21 1882</b>		<b>Brown, Payne</b>
<b>Aug 13 1883</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SNOWMASS (I)**

**SOMERSET**

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad established Somerset in 1902 when the coalfields along the North Fork of the Gunnison were opened to serious exploitation by the construction of the railroad into the area. It is believed that the new town was named for Somerset, Pennsylvania, another coal mining town.

Even in the twenty-first century, Somerset continues to be a coal-mining town. There are two large mines northeast of the town. One of the mines is the Bear Coal Mine. Unit trains of a hundred or more cars are brought here and loaded with coal for shipment to power plants in other parts of the country.

Somerset is a small but active community on Colorado Highway 133 and the North Fork of the Gunnison River, two miles east of the Gunnison-Delta County line. The town is also a supply center for fishermen and campers at the Paonia Reservoir, six miles farther to the east.

Latitude = 38:55:35 North Longitude = 107:28:11 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Mar 3 1903</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 17 T13S R90W On the north bank of the North Fork of the Gunnison River, 1/4 mile west of Elk Creek Proposed postmaster - George McDermaid</b>
<b>Mar 19 1903</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Mar 19 1903</b>		<b>McDermaid, George</b>
<b>May 18 1914</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Sec 17 T13S R90W 500 feet north of the North Fork of the Gunnison River</b>
<b>Feb 19 1920</b>		<b>Barnes, Frances E.</b>
<b>Mar 4 1922</b>		<b>Bohnet, Sherman</b>
<b>Jan 1 1924</b>		<b>Office made Presidential</b>
<b>Feb 11 1924</b>		<b>Bohnet, Sherman</b>
<b>May 25 1928</b>		<b>Bohnet, Sherman</b>
<b>Aug 4 1928</b>		<b>Office relegated</b>
<b>Aug 4 1928</b>		<b>Bohnet, Sherman</b>
<b>Jul 1 1929</b>		<b>Office made Presidential</b>



SOMERSET – Continued

Sep 18 1929	Bohnet, Sherman	
Jul 1 1931		Office relegated
Oct 12 1931	Bohnet, Sherman	Confirmed & Commissioned
Nov 1 1941	--- NW/4 Sec 17 T13S R90W North Fork is	100 feet south of post office
	Railroad station 500 feet	
Jan 28 1943	Johnson, Mrs. Charlotte	Assumed charge
Mar 16 1943	Johnson, Mrs. Charlotte	Acting
Jun 2 1944	Johnson, Mrs. Charlotte	Confirmed
Jun 23 1944	Johnson, Mrs. Charlotte	Commissioned
Dec 5 1945	Johnson, Mrs. Charlotte	Nominated
Dec 20 1945	Johnson, Mrs. Charlotte	Confirmed
Dec 21 1945	Johnson, Mrs. Charlotte	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jan 27 1948	Bartolo, Mrs. Elizabeth A.	Possession
Jan 27 1949	Bartolo, Mrs. Elizabeth A.	Appointed
Jan 28 1949	Bartolo, Mrs. Elizabeth A.	Assumed charge
Apr 28 1949	Bartolo, Mrs. Elizabeth A.	Nominated
Jun 1 1949	Bartolo, Mrs. Elizabeth A.	Confirmed
Jun 2 1949	Bartolo, Mrs. Elizabeth A.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jul 18 1949	Bartolo, Mrs. Elizabeth A.	Commissioned
Jul 25 1949	Bartolo, Mrs. Elizabeth A.	Possession
Jul 1 1953		Office relegated
Jul 1 1959		Office advanced
Jul 1 1960		Office relegated
Jun 29 1973	Tulio, Mrs. Shirley E.	Officer in charge
Nov 10 1973	Tulio, Mrs. Shirley E.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

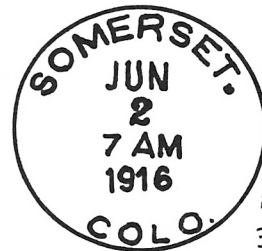
1	SOMERSET / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Jun 1 1904 Oct 20 1906
2	SOMERSET, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x14mm	Nov -- 1909 Dec 20 1912
3	SOMERSET. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 5 1913 Jun 2 1916
4	SOMERSET. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 15 1940 Sep 21 1948
5	SOMERSET / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Jul 15 1954 Oct 10 1962
6	SOMERSET / COLO. CI 11P 31.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 23 1953 Nov 13 1957
7	SOMERSET, CO / 81434 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Jul 24 1969 Sep 23 1995
7.1	SOMERSET, CO / USPO CI 11P 27.0x18.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 23 1995
8	SOMERSET CO / 81434-9998 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-17x26mm	Sep 17 2002



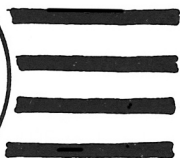
1



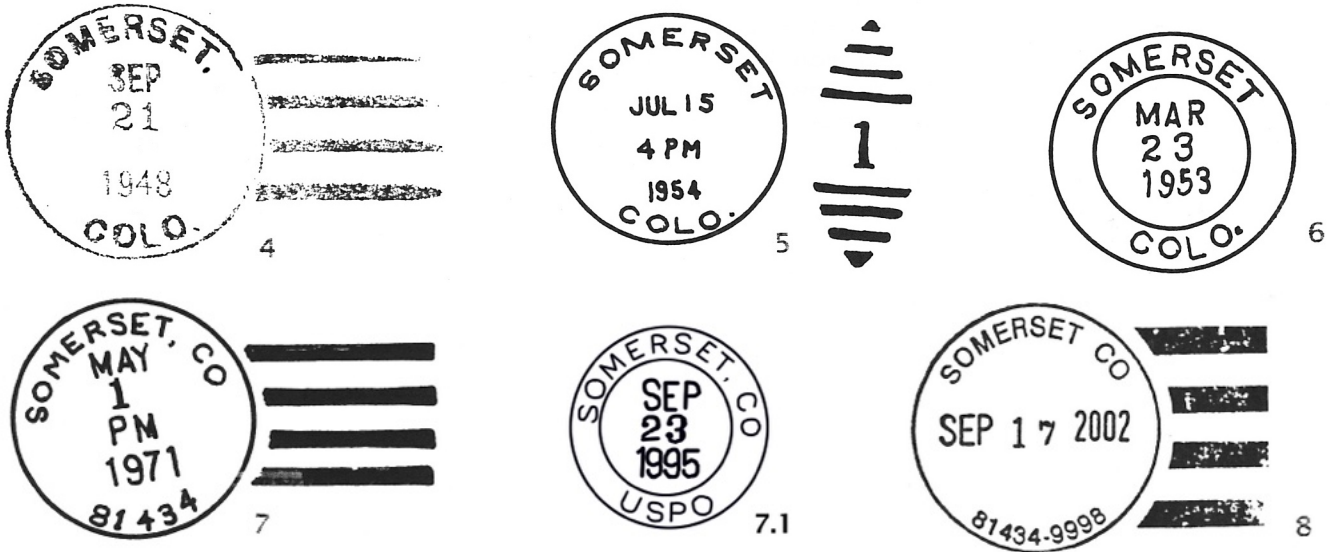
2



3



**SOMERSET – Continued**



**SPENCER**

Spencer, another of the Gunnison Gold Belt mining camps, was established in 1894. It was first called Cameron but because there was already a Cameron Post Office near Cripple Creek another name had to be selected to replace Cameron. Spencer was the choice and there are at least three possibilities for the source of the name. One choice is that of Samuel P. Spencer, Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder. Another choice is Milton Spencer, a local storeowner. A third possibility is W. B. Spencer, an early county resident who started the first telephone company in the area. The gold ore deposits were quickly exhausted and the residents moved on, dismantling and taking with them many of the buildings. Around 1900 some decent copper ore was found in the area and there was a brief boom related to that mining activity.

From the entrance to the Iola Boat Launch Ramp on Blue Mesa Reservoir, drive south 9 miles to just past the bridge over Wolf Creek. Turn west on a dirt road and drive about a mile down to the bottom of the grade. At that point, there is modern barn to the right, a good-sized, new residence on the hill to the west and to the left the restored Spencer School and two log cabins. One of these cabins has a strange appurtenance on the side that perhaps had something to do with mail deposit or delivery. These structures have been restored and are maintained with money from the Colorado State Historical Fund - your gambling dollars at work.

There is a dirt road that goes south from Spencer and does connect back up to Colorado 149. It was the road Jim Ozment and I explored unsuccessfully hoping to find some evidence of Dubois.

Latitude = 38:21:17 North Longitude = 107:06:42 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

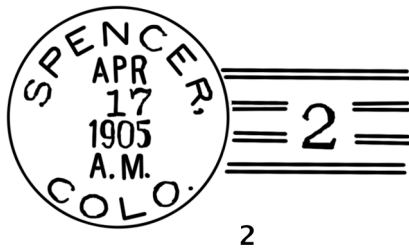
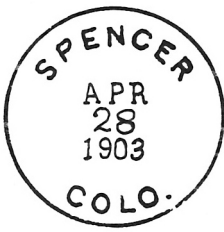
Apr 14 1894	---	W/2 Sec 4 T47N R2W 2 miles east of the Cebolla River, on Wolf Creek Proposed postmaster - Julia Reed
Sep 10 1894		Established
Sep 10 1894		Reed, Miss Julia
Jan 11 1905		Strouse, Theodore F.
Jun 14 1905		Ordered closed
Jul 31 1905		Discontinued Mail to Powderhorn

**SPENCER – Continued**

- Nov 23 1905 --- NE/4 Sec 8 T47N R2W Eleven miles south of the Gunnison River?  
On route from Iola to Powderhorn  
Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Ada Foster
- Dec 14 1905 Re-established
- Dec 14 1905 Foster, Ada
- Aug 23 1907 Ordered closed
- Sep 14 1907 Discontinued Mail to Iola

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 SPENCER / COLO. Feb -- 1895 Apr 28 1903  
CI 10P 27.5 Hstp Target
- 2 SPENCER, / COLO. Apr 17 1905  
CI 10P 29.0 Doane Type 2 with 2; S-25x14mm



**SPRING**

Spring was one of two small mining towns on Spring Creek, north of Almont. The other was locally called Moscow but was the Turner Post Office.

I do not have a precise location for the Spring Post Office. I have chosen to accept a location from the Colorado Historical Society's Rogers File that places Spring three miles north-northeast of Turner.

This chosen location is in an open area below the Spring Creek Reservoir and the Mosca Campground. No structures remain and the ground appears to have been re-sculpted, probably during construction of the Spring Creek Reservoir.

The original request for a post office suggested the name Petersburg, however that was in conflict with the Petersburg Post Office in Arapahoe County. The Post Office Department assigned the name Spring, undoubtedly for the location on Spring Creek.

From Almont, drive northeast up the Taylor River Canyon. About five miles from Almont there is a wide place in the canyon and there are a number of cabins there. The Jacks Cabin Cutoff Road joins the highway here and about a mile further on Spring Creek joins the Taylor River and there is a road to north that will take you up that valley to the Spring Creek Reservoir. It is ten to twelve miles to the reservoir and the location of the Spring Post Office.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Mar 11 1881 --- Unsurveyed Not sectionalized 4 or 5 miles west of Taylor River  
1/4 mile east of Spring Creek  
Proposed postmaster - George B. Spratt
- Apr 19 1881 Established
- Apr 19 1881 Spratt, George B.
- Oct 31 1881 Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SPRING

## **STANDISH**

The post office known as Standish is closely related to the slightly earlier one named Red Mountain. Miles Standish and W. W. Woll built a stage and rest stop on Red Mountain Creek. This was either very close to or was an improvement of an already existing facility at that location. Their settlement is mentioned in Colorado historical literature as having been called Red Mountain. However, for this period of the post office on Red Mountain Creek, we find that Miles Standish is the source for the new name and that William W. Woll was the postmaster.

The Red Mountain Post Office lasted only eleven months. Standish was a bit more successful, lasting thirteen months.

Please refer to the discussion of Red Mountain for some additional information.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Aug 13 1885</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Not surveyed 200 feet east of the Taylor River 6 miles north of Texas Creek Ashcroft 16 miles north Tin Cup 16 miles south Proposed postmaster - William W. Woll</b>
<b>Sep 10 1885</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Sep 10 1885</b>		<b>Woll, William W.</b>
<b>Oct 25 1886</b>		<b>Discontinued Papers to Tin Cup</b>

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM STANDISH**

## **STEVENS**

Stevens was the first post office established in the area ten miles west of Gunnison along the Gunnison River and what would be the route of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

The office was at the ranch of Amos K. Stevens who gave his name to the office and was its first and only postmaster. There is no information that Stevens was ever more than a small ranch post office. The history of Stevens is connected to that of Kezar and later to Iola. The Stevens Post Office closed in March 1882. By January of 1883 Amos K. Stevens was the postmaster at Kezar. And, a Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report filed in February 1884, states the local name of Kezar to be Stevens Ranch. From these facts, it would seem that following the closure of the Stevens Post Office, Mr. Stevens moved his operations to Kezar, which had become a booming construction camp for the railroad.

The site of Stevens was on the south side of the Gunnison River and one mile west of Willow Creek. The site is in the Blue Mesa Reservoir and would be about two miles west of where Colorado Highway 149 crosses the west end of the reservoir. For more information about the location of Stevens, refer to the discussions of Iola and Kezar.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>May 23 1881</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SW/4 Sec 28 T49N R2W 1/3 mile south of the Gunnison River One mile west of Willow Creek Proposed postmaster - Amos K. Stevens</b>
<b>Jun 9 1881</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jun 9 1881</b>		<b>Stevens, Amos</b>
<b>Mar 21 1882</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Gunnison</b>

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM STEVENS**

**TIN CUP / TINCUP**

Tin Cup began life as Tin Cup Camp but when a post office was established it was given the name Virginia. In less than a year the post office would change its name to Tin Cup but it was another two years before the community officially adopted that name.

The source of the name Tin Cup is one of legend. Conrad Schader in his book, *Colorado's Alluring Tin Cup* offers three stories that are worth repeating:

1) *Taylor subsequently descended into the park, no later than autumn of 1860 in the company of Ben and Charles Grey and Gus Lamb. A member of the party used his tin cup to scoop a sample of gravel from the gulch and soon found it contained gold. In prospecting the area, Taylor and his partners found gold in at least one other spot. Supposedly one of the locations was the present, periodically dry Tin Cup Gulch, while another was Bertha Gulch (page 9).*

2) *Gus Lamb and some companions prospected Dutch Flats, a short distance northwest of present day Pitkin as early as 1859. In autumn, while searching for horses that had strayed, Lamb crossed a high ridge in the vicinity of today's Cumberland Pass and tracked the animals down near the present Tin Cup Gulch. In that gulch he spotted some gravel. But, the gulch was dry and he could not immediately determine whether the gravel contained gold. Filling his tin cup with gravel, Lamb carried the sample back over the ridge to camp and washed from it a number of gold particles (page 11).*

3) *In the gulch just above the present town, back as far as 1860, a tin cup was found hanging on a snag. In those days, when Indians held sway in that area, a tin cup without its owner was a strange sight, according to Lejeune. He explained that the Indians did not use tin cups and the discovery of such a utensil indicated that a white man had lost both his tin cup and his life there. "The prospectors were very much interested over the discovery of the cup and they started an embryo town calling it by the name of the useful vessel they had found," said Lejeune (Andrew, page 13).*

Tin Cup was the most successful of the silver mining districts in Gunnison County. At its peak, it may have had a population of 6,000. Tin Cup survived the silver crash of 1893 but gradually slid downhill. In 1902 there was a strong revival but that soon fizzled. Mining activity did continue as late as 1936 and occasionally there is a fresh attempt to revive one of the old mines.

There were many reasons for Tin Cup's demise as a mining center. The ores were complex and difficult to refine. Transportation to the nearest railroad was long and difficult. The location is rather isolated and the winters are often fierce, making travel extremely difficult.

In spite of all this Tin Cup has not died, even though it may seem that way in mid-winter. The arrival of spring brings a returning flight of summer residents and weekend visitors. The Tin Cup Store reopens and the community is alive with activity - until the snow returns.

Many of the old cabins have been renovated. There is a charming community center and some nearby guest ranches. In spite of the opinions of some flatlanders (see Virginia) a visit to Tin Cup is worth the effort.

Depending upon your sense of adventure, you have several choices by which to reach Tin Cup. The longest and easiest is from the City of Gunnison: drive north on Colorado Highway 135 to Almont. From there take Gunnison County Road 742 into Taylor Park. At the fork in the road, on the east side of the Taylor Reservoir, take the right hand fork south to Tin Cup. The second choice is to begin on US Highway 50 at Parlin. Drive north on Gunnison County Road 76 through Pitkin and over Cumberland Pass (12,000 feet). Once over the pass, you descend into Taylor Park and are soon at Tin Cup. This is a good road, paved to Pitkin, but it is steep going over the pass and can be rather rough and rocky when, by late summer, all the dirt has been pounded or washed out from between the cobblestones.

If you are truly adventurous, you can cross the Continental Divide from Chaffee County by way of Cottonwood Pass (12,126 feet) or the even more difficult Tin Cup Pass (12,154 feet).

**TIN CUP / TINCUP – Continued**

No matter which route you choose, you will traverse historic mining districts and enjoy some spectacular Colorado mountain scenery.

Latitude = 38:45:16 North Longitude = 106:28:40 West



**The Tin Cup Store**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

September 12, 2002

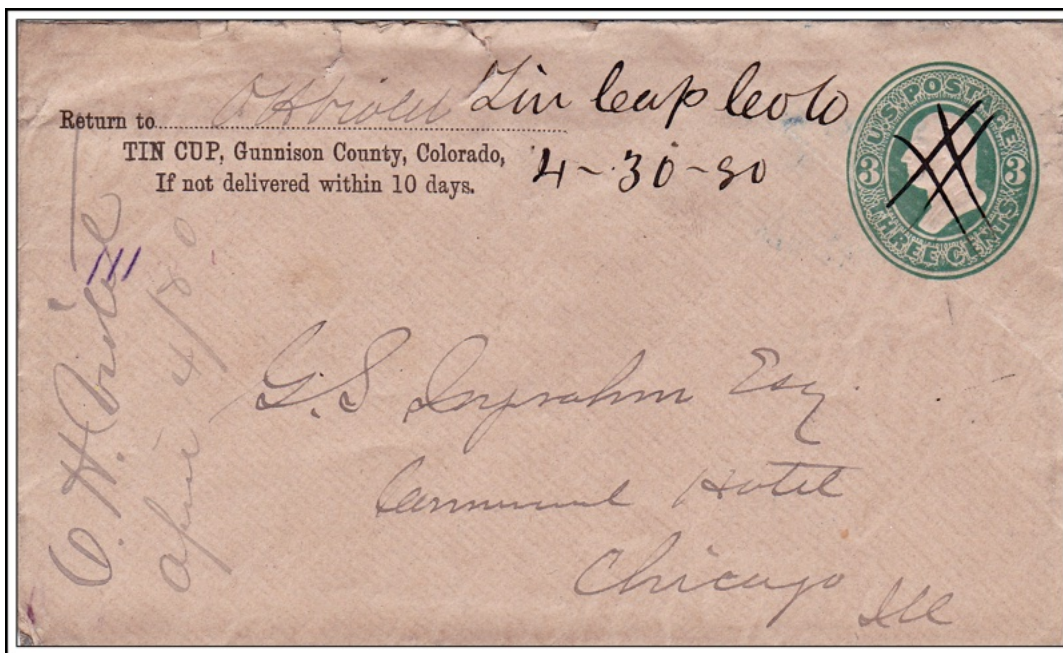
**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Jun 5 1879 --- No government survey On southeast side of Willow Creek  
Proposed postmaster - W. M. Wilson
- Aug 20 1879 --- Unsurveyed lands Hillerton 3 miles north
- Feb 28 1880 Established
- Feb 28 1880 Pettingill, Ancil F.
- Jun 27 1881 Cotten, Joseph
- Aug 31 1882 Uhren, William L.
- Sep 22 1882 Corsant, David
- Jun 1 1885 Mawhertee, David J.
- Oct 11 1886 Pettingill, Ancil F.
- Jun 13 1889 Whitfield, Charles E.
- Sep 9 1892 Morris, Harry R.
- May 7 1895 Spelling changed to Tincup
- May 7 1895 Gallagher, Samuel
- Sep 1 1896 Sutton, Seldon S.
- Sep 1 1899 Woll, William W.



TIN CUP / TINCUP – Continued

- Sep 28 1901 Churchill, Edmond O.
- Jul 12 1906 Chitwood, Joseph R.
- Sep 24 1906 Morris, Harry R.
- Sep 15 1908 Bauer, Anthony H.
- Jan 31 1918 Discontinued Mail to Saint Elmo

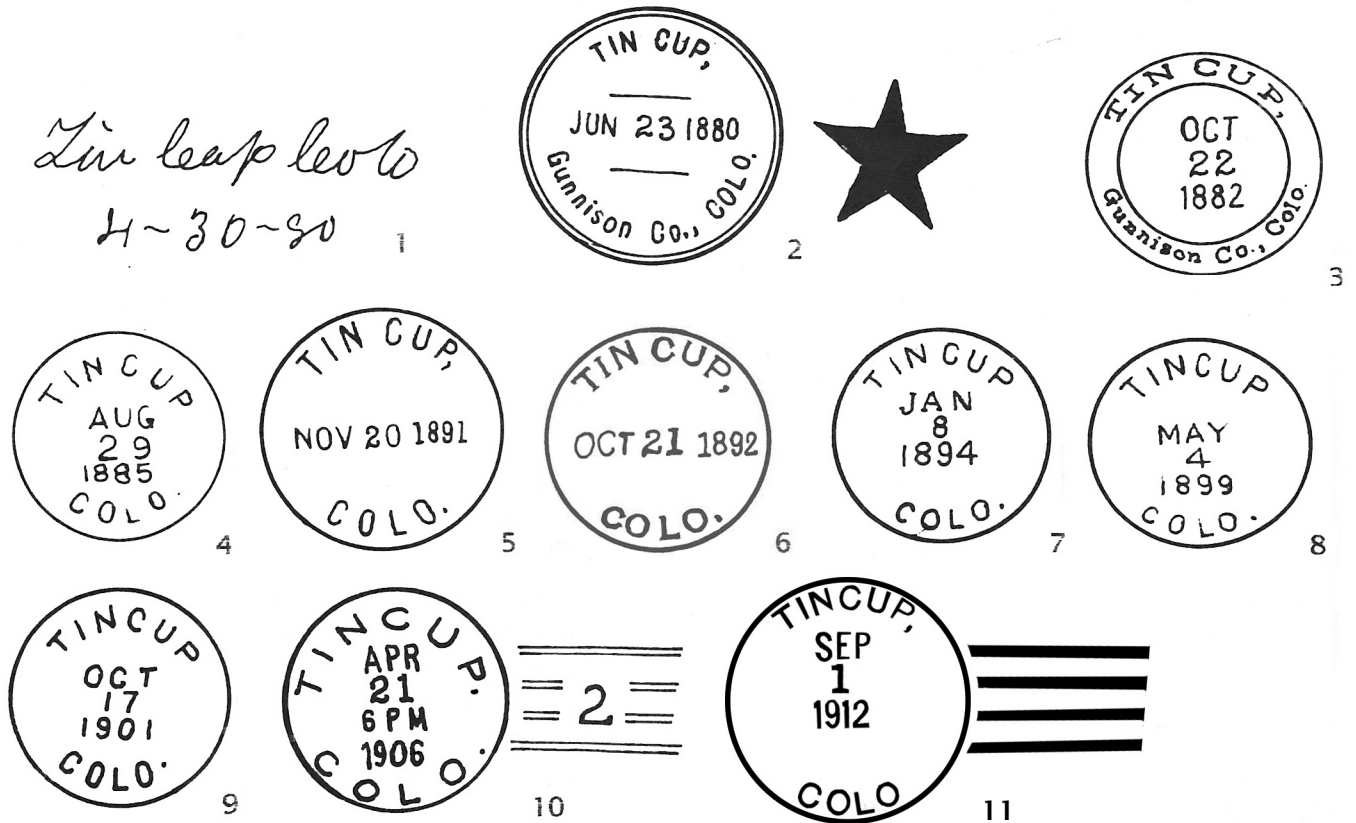


Manuscript postmark: Tin Cup Colo April 30, 1880

Confirmed types of postal markings

- |    |  |   |                         |
|----|--|---|-------------------------|
| 1  | Tin Cup Colo<br>MS                                 | Mscp Pen cancel                         | Apr 30 1880 May 3 1880  |
| 2  | TIN CUP, / Gunnison Co., COLO.<br>CI 20P 32.5/30.5 | Hstp Fancy, Star-in star; Target 4-ring | Jun 21 1880 Jul 29 1882 |
| 3  | TIN CUP, / Gunnison Co., Colo.<br>CI 11P 29.0/20.0 | Hstp Pen cancel                         | Oct 22 1882             |
| 4  | TIN CUP / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.0                     | Hstp Cork, Smudge                       | Nov 11 1883 Jun 24 1892 |
| 5  | TIN CUP, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0                    | Hstp Target, 4-ring                     | Mar 17 1891 Jun 18 1892 |
| 6  | TIN CUP, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 30.0                    | Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm                | Oct 21 1892 Mar 1 1897  |
| 7  | TIN CUP / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.5                     | Hstp Not recorded                       | May 9 1893 Jan 8 1894   |
| 8  | TINCUP / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.0                      | Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads             | May 4 1899              |
| 9  | TINCUP / COLO.<br>CI 10P 27.5                      | Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads             | Aug 16 1899 Oct 17 1901 |
| 10 | TINCUP, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 29.0                     | Doane Type 2 with 4; S-24X14mm          | Aug 11 1905 Dec 9 1907  |
| 11 | TINCUP, COLO.<br>CI 10P 31.0                       | 4bars S-??x13mm,                        | Feb 2 1909 Sep 1 1912   |

**TIN CUP / TINCUP – Continued**



**TOLIFARO**

Originally called Nugget City, this was one of the small mining communities that developed in the mid-1890's in the Gold Belt of southern Gunnison County. At first it showed good promise but the promise was never fulfilled and the settlement soon disappeared.

When a post office was requested, the name Nugget could not be used, as there was an operating post office of that name in Gilpin County. The chosen name was likely that of one of the residents and one suggestion is that it may be a corruption of the name Tolliver.

The location for Tolifaro is on the north side of Colorado Highway 149, approximately two miles west of Powderhorn on the headwaters of Goose Creek and slightly east of the crest of the ridge between Cebolla Creek and the Lake Fork of the Gunnison.

Nothing is easily visible; however there are some rocks in the field north of the highway that may be the remnants of a foundation. Unfortunately they are behind a high wire fence and can not be more closely examined.

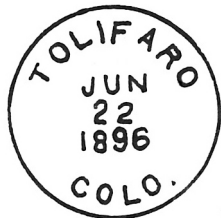
**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Feb 9 1896 --- NW/4 Sec 25 T47N R3W 4 miles east of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison,  
on both sides of Goose Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Benjamin F. Rawalt
- Feb 20 1896 Established
- Feb 20 1896 Rawalt, Benjamin F.
- Oct 30 1897 Farman, Elbert H.
- Apr 16 1898 Discontinued Mail to Powderhorn

**TOLIFARO – Continued****Confirmed types of postal markings**1 TOLIFARO / COLO.  
CI 10P 27.5

Jun 22 1896

Hstp Cork, smudge



1

**TOMICHI**

This mining settlement was originally established in May of 1880 and a post office with the name of Argenta opened in July of that year. By the end of August, the post office had been renamed Tomichi, an obvious reference to its location near the headwaters of Tomichi Creek.

The settlement was known by a variety of names. In addition to Argenta, Corning, Tomichiville and Tomichi City were in use before the residents finally settled on the simple Tomichi.

The town boomed for a short time and even had a smelter, which burned in 1883 and was not replaced. It is claimed that at one time the population of Tomichi exceeded that of nearby White Pine. A snowslide in 1884 destroyed a number of buildings.

Already in decline, the silver panic of 1893 reduced Tomichi to a near ghost town. There was a brief revival in 1898 but that came to an abrupt end when a massive avalanche from Granite Mountain destroyed the town. All that remains is the small cemetery that is well hidden in the forest.

I have twice visited the site of Tomichi. In June of 1991 I drove through White Pine and continued on a very rough road to a residence where the road turned up the side hill a short distance to the cemetery. I took pictures of the cemetery and returned to White Pine. In May of 2002 Jim Ozment and I made the same trip through White Pine. The road was somewhat improved; however, I was unable to relocate the cemetery. We drove up the road two and a quarter miles from White Pine to a locked gate. At that point we could see a few mine dumps and other evidence of mining activity. We concluded that we were within what had been the settlement of Tomichi.

The name Tomichi was first applied to the stream and was a Ute word meaning, “hot” or “boiling” and was a reference to the several hot springs in this portion of Gunnison County that feed the stream which eventually joins the Gunnison River at Gunnison.

Latitude = 38:34:17 North Longitude = 106:22:11 West TOMICHI CEMETERY

**Chronology of the Post Office**

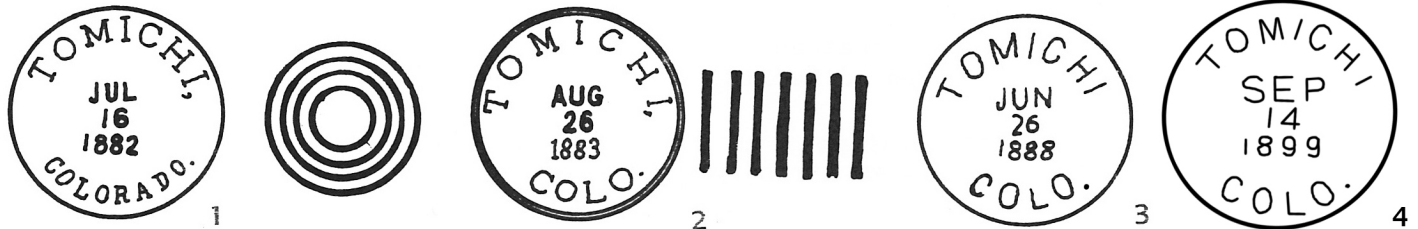
Jun 24 1880	---	Unsurveyed lands 1/10 mile east of Tomichi Creek Proposed postmaster - Philip H. Eastman
Aug 23 1880		Formerly named Argenta
Aug 23 1880		Eastman, Philip H.
Jul 10 1883		McDonell, John
Jan 30 1885		Blain, Edward F.
Apr 2 1885	---	SE/4 Sec 23 T50N R5E White Pine 2 miles southwest 200 feet east of Tomichi Creek
Dec 24 1891		Motschman, George P.
Aug 31 1893		Discontinued Mail to North Star

**TOMICHI – Continued**

- Aug 16 1898 --- SE/4 Sec 23 T50N R5E 500 feet east of Tomichi Creek  
Proposed postmaster - John R. Hicks
- Oct 27 1898 Re-established
- Oct 27 1898 Hicks, John R.
- Nov 18 1899 Ordered closed
- Nov 30 1899 Discontinued Papers to White Pine Was last listed in 1893 postal guide

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                                      |                              |                        |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | TOMICHI, / COLORADO.<br>CI 10P 27.0  | Hstp Target, 4-ring 20mm     | Jul 4 1881 Jul 16 1882 |
| 2 | TOMICHI, / COLO.<br>CI 20P 27.0/25.0 | Hstp Grid, 7 bar rectangular | Sep 2 188- Aug 26 1883 |
| 3 | TOMICHI / COLO.<br>CI 10P 27.0       | Hstp Target                  | Feb 23 1884 Sep 5 1892 |
| 4 | TOMICHI / COLO.<br>CI 10P 31.0       | Hstp Cork smudge             | Sep 14 1899            |



**TUCKER**

According to the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report, the location of the Tucker post office was on Cebolla Creek a short distance downstream from Powderhorn. The location is now on private property but a long distance overview from the hill on Colorado Highway 149 does not show any remaining structures.

This tiny community was first named Morris but that name was not accepted for the post office.

Two prospectors, men by the names of Home and Mallette dug a twenty-foot shaft called the Old Lot. A Michigan company purchased the mine and a small stamp mill was planned. Within a year it was obvious that there was no extensive gold deposit and the mine and site were abandoned. Prospecting and limited mining activity did continue in the area for many years but none of the deposits were sufficient to create a lasting town.

Nearby Powderhorn was, and still is, an agricultural and resort community.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Dec 16 1896 --- NW/4 Sec 28 T47N R2W 1/4 mile east of the Cebolla River  
3/4 miles northeast of Powderhorn Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Daniel D. Garvey
- Dec 28 1896 Established
- Dec 28 1896 Garvey, Daniel D.
- Nov 10 1897 Discontinued Papers to Powderhorn Was not listed in postal guides

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM TUCKER**

**TUMICHI**

This was the first name for the post office at the ranch of John Parlin. With the arrival of the Denver, South Park, and Pacific Railroad in 1880, the post office took the name of Parlin and continues to operate under that name today.

The location of Tumichi/Parlin is on the north side of US Highway 50, just east of the junction with Gunnison County Road 76, the road to Pitkin.

For additional information, please refer to the discussion of Parlin.

Do not confuse this site and post office with that of Tomichi. Tomichi came into existence when Tumichi was renamed but it is a considerable distance to the northeast, on Tomichi Creek, beyond White Pine. The Post Office Department Records of Postmaster Appointments have Tumichi closing and Tomichi opening on the same day - August 23, 1880.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 5 1879	---	Unsurveyed There is an unspecified reference to Quartz and Tomichi Creeks NOTE W.H.B. - With the proposed postmaster being John Parlin, I believe this to be at the same location as Parlin, two years later. Proposed postmaster - John Tufts Parlin
Oct 24 1879		Established
Oct 24 1879		Parlin, John
Aug 23 1880		Name changed to Parlin

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM TUMICHI**

**TURNER**

Turner was the second of the two mining camps located on Spring Creek north-northeast of Almont. The other office was Spring, three miles beyond Turner.

The Turner Post Office was at the mouth of Doctor Gulch. It served as a residential and supply community for prospectors and for the Doctor Mine, which was a mile or so south at the head of Doctor Gulch. The local name for the community was Moscow but that was not used for the postoffice. No one seems to know why the post office was called Turner and not Moscow. Perhaps it was a similarity with Mosco in Costilla County.

The Doctor Mine was the only mine in the area to have significant production and it did continue in operation until after World War I and off and on after that until 1952. Initially it was a silver mine but it was the production of lead and zinc that kept it going.

Both Turner (Moscow) and Spring were established in 1880. Spring was gone by the mid-1880's but Moscow developed into a small community and was incorporated in 1881.

Follow the directions previously given for the drive to Spring. Turner/Moscow was near the upper end of Spring Creek where the canyon begins to widen out. In 1991 there was still visible evidence of the mining activity, including the remains of a couple of log buildings. A dirt road crosses Spring Creek to go up Doctor Gulch.

The road along Spring Creek continues northeast from the Spring Creek Reservoir and descends along Trail Creek to join the road in Taylor Park near the former site of Red Mountain. It is a good road to the reservoir but it is steeper and may not be as well maintained from there to the Taylor River.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 19 1881		Established
Apr 19 1881		Shackleford, Sprigg

**TURNER – Continued**

May 26 1881 --- T14S R84W (Township has not been sectionalized)  
Spring Creek runs through the town Local name Moscow  
Oct 14 1881 Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM TURNER**

**VIRGINIA**

In 1878 the discovery of the Gold Cup Mine on the headwaters of Willow Creek brought a flood of prospectors to the area north of Cumberland Pass and at the south end of Taylor Park. The Tin Cup Mine was found at about the same time and gave its name to the new camp. A. J. Sparks planned and sponsored a city. In April 1880 he surveyed and recorded the town of Virginia City. When a post office was approved, it took the name of Virginia and the town was incorporated under that name on August 12, 1880.

Many believe that the choice of Virginia City was an attempt to draw comparison to the famous mining districts of Virginia City, Nevada and Virginia City, Montana. It is possible that the name also brought undesirable confusion with those better known towns and may have prompted the Post Office Department to request a change in name.

From the beginning, the name was a source of controversy as many of the miners preferred Tin Cup, the name for the mining district and one of the best mines. On April 4, 1882, after much debate, by a vote of 97 to 3 the change in name was approved. This was a little more than two years after the Post Office had adopted the name of Tin Cup. The change became official on July 30, 1882 and from then on the history of the town of Virginia is the history of Tin Cup.

For history, the change to Tin Cup was fortunate. Tin Cup is a more memorable name and for most conjures up a more romantic image than would Virginia.

Some visitors are not that appreciative of the scenery and history that Tin Cup has to offer. In September 2002 Jim Ozment and I were in the process of taking pictures in Tin Cup when a car with a Kansas license plate pulled up behind us. An elderly gentleman stepped out, looked around briefly and then said to his wife, "You mean this is what we drove all this way to see?" Having just driven over Cumberland Pass he was not a happy camper.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 5 1879 --- No government survey On southeast side of Willow Creek  
Proposed postmaster - W. M. Wilson  
Jul 22 1879 Established  
Jul 22 1879 Pettingill, Ancil R.  
Aug 20 1879 --- Unsurveyed lands Hillerton 3 miles north  
Feb 28 1880 Name changed to Tin Cup

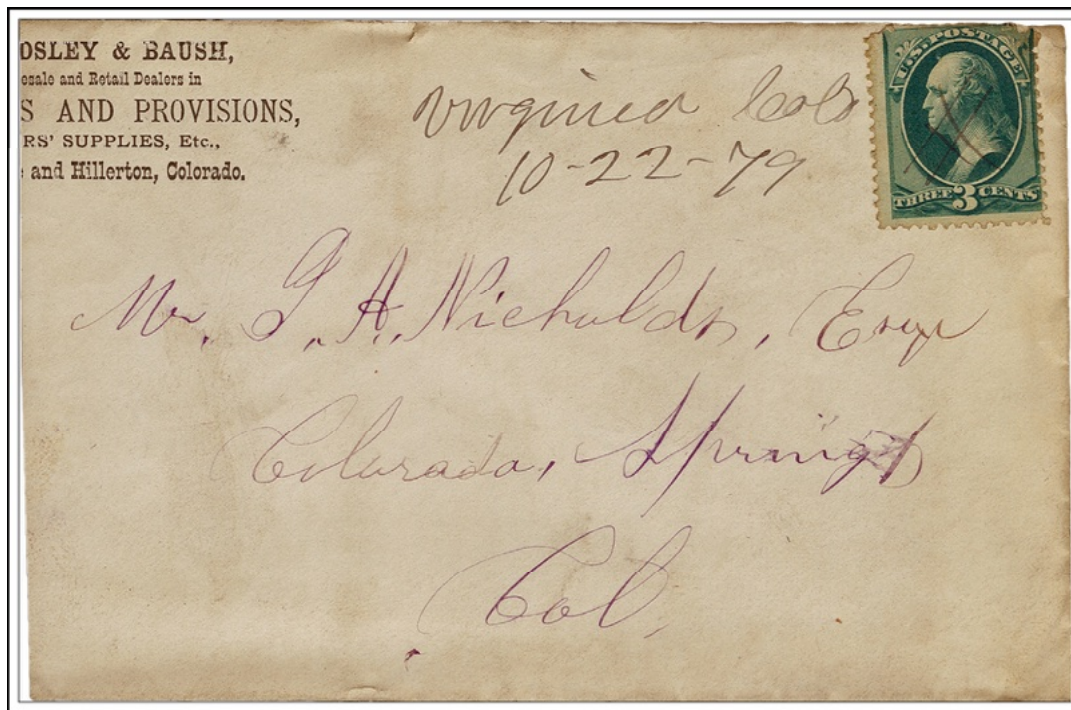
**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 Virginia Colo Oct 22 1879 Dec 12 1879  
MS Mscp Pen cancel

*Virginia Colo  
12-12-79*



## VIRGINIA – Continued



Manuscript postmark

Virginia Colo

October 22, 1879

## VULCAN

Vulcan was the most successful of the mines and mining camps in the Gold Belt of southern Gunnison County. It was the site of the Vulcan Mine and the Mammoth Chimney Mine that were discovered in 1895.

At first the community that formed around the mines was called Camp Creek but in 1897 when a post office was acquired it was given the name Vulcan for the largest of the mines. The name is that of the Roman God of Fire. The site may also have been briefly known as Fulton.

Initially gold was the principal product but there was a heavy concentration of sulphur and thousands of tons of sulphur were annually shipped to the Dupont Company. A refinery capable of processing ten tons of sulphur per day was built at Vulcan. On July 3, 1910 lightning struck the mine, setting fire to some twenty tons of sulphur. The resulting fire destroyed the mine buildings and brought production to an end.

There was a brief revival during World War I with limited production of copper but that lasted only briefly and the mines at Vulcan were reported to be closed. I do somewhat question that statement. My first visit to Vulcan was in June 1996. Although the mine was not active at that time, it did appear that there had been activity much more recently than the early twentieth century. Upon a second visit, in May 2003 there was no evidence of any activity at the mine site.

To reach the site of Vulcan, take US Highway 50 west from Gunnison to the junction with Colorado Highway 149. Turn south on that highway, cross the bridge and drive south a little less than a mile. Just before you cross over a small inlet from the Blue Mesa Reservoir there is a dirt road to the left. Be careful, as a low bluff on the east side of Colorado 149 hides the entrance. Stay on this dirt road for about nine miles. It would be difficult to miss the site of Vulcan as there is a very large mine dump on the ridge to the west of the road and above where the community of Vulcan was located.

**VULCAN – Continued**

There is a side road that descends to and crosses the Willow Camp Creek into Vulcan. The remains of several cabins are still present and visible. There are some smaller mine dumps in the vicinity and it is possible to drive up to the main mine dump. When the sun is shining brightly, the high concentration of pyrite in the ground and the roadbed give you a sensation that you are walking on a “street paved with gold”.

A word of caution, the road to Vulcan, although easily accessible with a passenger car is best driven in good weather. There are a couple crossings of the stream that could be easily washed out or flooded by a heavy rain or spring runoff. Anyhow, the trip to Vulcan is worth the effort.

Latitude = 38:20:44 North Longitude = 107:00:03 West



**VULCAN / COLO. February 13, 1906  
A Gunnison County collection on one ppc!**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Jul 12 1895 --- NW/4 Sec 7 T47N R1W  
Proposed postmaster - Charles M. Swinehart
- Aug 2 1895 Established
- Aug 2 1895 Swineheart, Charles M.
- Aug 16 1895 O'Hanlon, John F.
- Feb 3 1896 Rhamy, George W. Appointment rescinded
- Aug 16 1895 O'Hanlon, John F. Resumed post [??]
- Oct 7 1895 --- NOTE: "We are in Gunnison county. The county line runs about 100 yards east of the office."
- Jun 4 1896 Swineheart, Charles M.
- Oct 25 1899 Weiss, Julius H.
- Jun 24 1903 Harvey, Grace L.
- Oct 6 1904 Wilt, Otis A.
- May 8 1909 Gray, Dwight L.
- Aug 15 1912 Discontinued Mail to Iola

**VULCAN – Continued****Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                               |  |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | VULCAN / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.0 | Nov 29 1895 Apr 29 1899<br>Hstp Target, 3-ring 17mm, small letters |
| 2 | VULCAN / COLO.<br>CI 10P 27.5 | Sep 30 1901 Jun 18 1910<br>Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm, large letters |

**WAUNITA**

This post office was originally named Elgin, for Charles Elgin who settled at the lower spring of the Tomichi Hot Springs.

According to Indian Legend, Waunita was a beautiful Ute Indian maiden who loved a Shoshoni warrior. During a great battle Waunita's lover was slain. In her grief the young maiden spent her nights wandering throughout the Tomichi Valley grieving and calling for her fallen hero. After mourning for only a few days Waunita died of a broken heart and was buried in a small cave in what is today Hot Springs Park. After her burial, from out of the rocky earth, wherever Waunita's tears had fallen, came streaming forth many bubbling hot springs.

In 1885 a serious attempt was made to exploit the hot springs. A two-story hotel, swimming pool and bathhouses were built. The post office name was changed from Elgin to the more romantic Waunita. The hotel succeeded as a resort until the turn of the century but its rather remote location led to a slow decline in visitors. The Waunita Post Office closed in 1908; however, the resort never ceased operation.

After a two-year hiatus, the post office reopened but with the extended and more graphic name of Waunita Hot Springs.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

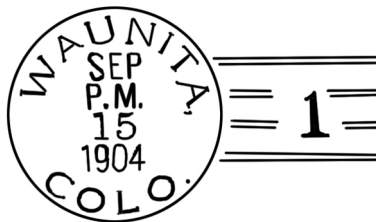
Sep 10 1885	Formerly named Elgin
Sep 10 1885	Berdel, Charles A.
Mar 12 1886	Discontinued Papers to Parlin
Jul 7 1886	Re-established
Jul 7 1886	Gleason, Mrs. Augusta H.
Nov 11 1886	Discontinued Papers to Parlin
Jun 8 1887 ---	NE/4 Sec 15 T49N R4E Proposed postmaster - R. S. Moore
Aug 11 1887	Re-established
Aug 11 1887	Moore, Robert S.
Oct 29 1891	Myers, Elisa G.
Nov 12 1892	Caufman, Clara
Jul 30 1894	Rivers, Annie
Oct 23 1895	Discontinued Mail to Doyleville
Jun 2 1896 ---	SE/4 Sec 10 T49N R4E On north side of Hot Springs Creek Proposed postmaster - Theodore Ashmead
Aug 8 1896	Re-established
Aug 8 1896	Ashmead, Theodore
Sep 7 1899	Braden, David A.

**WAUNITA – Continued**

Dec 1 1900	Turner, John B.	
Dec 26 1903	Ordered closed Papers to Doyleville, effective Jan 14 1904	
Jan 19 1904	Closing order rescinded	
Jan 23 1904	Lamb, Lawrence E.	
Feb 2 1904	--- SE/4 Sec 10 T49N R4E On northwest side Hot Springs Creek	
Oct 24 1905	Henry, Phylena	
Apr 24 1907	Berdel, Paul D.	
Oct 26 1907	Ordered closed Mail to Bowerman effective Nov 30 1907	
Nov 25 1907	Closing order rescinded	
Dec 5 1907	Kent, Mary S.	Declined
Mar 20 1908	Ordered closed	
Apr 15 1908	Discontinued Mail to Bowerman	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                                |  |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | WAUNITA / COLO.<br>CI 10P 27.0 | Feb 20 1900 Aug 21 1902<br>Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm              |
| 2 | WAUNITA / COLO.<br>CI 10P 29.0 | Sep 15 1904 Jun 14 1910<br>Doane Type 2 with 1, [Maybe with a 2] |



**WAUNITA HOT SPRINGS**

Initially established as Elgin and then renamed Waunita, the hot springs at this location were owned by Colonel Moore and Charles Elgin. A land dispute between these gentlemen was settled in 1883 with Elgin selling out to his rival. In 1884 Colonel Moore sold the springs to Dr. Charles Gilliland Davis, a prominent physician from Chicago.

Dr. Davis built a large hotel and exploited the hot springs as a health resort. With bathhouses and a swimming pool, the resort flourished for several years but by the early twentieth century it was in decline. For several years it was almost deserted. Beginning around 1916 there was a revival of interest in the springs but in 1927 the death of Dr. Davis marked the end of that period of prosperity for Waunita Hot Springs. The resort did struggle on until the restricted travel during World War II closed the resort.

In the later part of the twentieth century the site has been redeveloped into a good-sized guest ranch that caters to families. The ranch provides a variety of experiences including, hiking, trail riding, fishing, hunting and the hot springs. The young couple that operate the ranch are friendly and welcome guests.

From US Highway 50 at Parlin, drive north on Gunnison County Road 887 nine miles to the Waunita Hot Springs Western Dude Ranch. From there you have some alternate choices for continuing your trip. Road 887 continues over Black Sage Pass to join the road from Sargents to White Pine and Tomichi. Or you can turn north on Gunnison County Road 763, through the site of Bowerman and over Waunita Pass to Pitkin. All of this country is wide-open rangeland with forests at the higher elevations and only a scattering of ranches and residences.

Latitude = 38:30:51 North Longitude = 106:30:28 West



**WAUNITA HOT SPRINGS – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

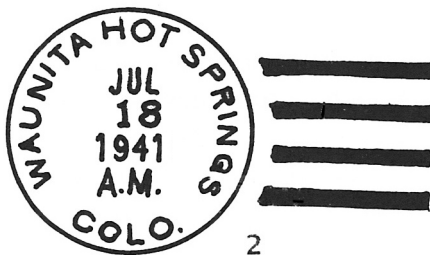
May 27 1910	Moved from Bowerman	
May 27 1910	Stitzer, Clifford C.	
Jan 19 1911	---	SE/4 Sec 10 T49N R4E 100 feet east of Hot Springs Creek
Dec 2 1930	Davis, Mrs. Carrie M.	
Jun 4 1939	Parlin, Mrs. Blanche	Assumed charge
Jun 19 1939	Parlin, Mrs. Blanche	Acting
Nov 7 1939	Parlin, Mrs. Blanche	Confirmed
Nov 24 1939	Parlin, Mrs. Blanche	Commissioned
Oct 31 1942	Discontinued Mail to Doyleville	
Nov 10 1942	Ordered closed	



The main lodge at the modern Waunita Hot Springs Guest Ranch and resort complex  
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 2002

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 WAUNITA HOT SPRINGS, / COLO. Aug 2 1913 Jun 8 1934  
CI 10P 31.0 4bars S-24x19mm
- 2 WAUNITA HOT SPRINGS / COLO. Oct 30 1940 Aug 9 1941  
CI 10P 31.5 4bars S-19x23mm, wide letters



**WHITE EARTH**

White Earth was located at the junction of Deldorado Creek with the larger Cebolla Creek. This is a short distance from Powderhorn and about two and one half miles southeast of Colorado Highway 149 along the road south up Cebolla Creek. There are still several buildings of various ages at the site on both sides of the road.

It was a stop on the early road that connected Saguache to Lake City. The growth of the Powderhorn community soon overshadowed the smaller White Earth. White Earth continues to exist as a ranch complex associated with Powderhorn.

The name White Earth is a reference to the color of the soil in the immediate area. The underlying rock is mostly an igneous carbonate which when weathered produces the white soil.

The Post Office Geographic Site Location Reports for White Earth are filed under Saguache County. Gunnison County was not created until after the White Earth Post Office had ceased operation.



**White Earth / Colo**

**April 24, 1877**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Dec 21 1875 --- Unsurveyed Los Pinos 20 miles northeasterly  
Lake City 32 miles westerly On eastern side of White Earth Creek
- Jan 24 1876 Established
- Jan 24 1876 Jones, Mrs. Elmira M.
- Jun 8 1876 --- Unsurveyed Local name CEBOLLA VALLEY  
On the east side of White Earth Creek Los Pinos 18 miles east  
Lake City 31 miles west "Cebolla on the Saguache and San Juan Toll Road"  
No sketch map
- Mar 15 1878 Wilson, Jonathan N.
- Apr 8 1878 Wilson, James N.
- Apr 23 1880 McBride, William
- Jun 24 1880 Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 White Earth / Colo  
MS

Jan 5 1877 Jun 13 1878

Mscp Pen cancel



## WHITE EARTH – Continued

*White Earth* Apr 24 77  
*Colo*

**WHITE PINE / WHITEPINE**

There are claims that the first mineral discoveries in the White Pine area were made in the 1860's; however, if true, the knowledge was lost or forgotten. Mineral deposits were rediscovered in 1879. On May 25, 1879 Harry Lloyd and Arthur Wavell reached the present site of White Pine. Two weeks later they located the Iron Duke and the Parole Mines. On the same day, Barney McCall and R. E. McBride located the Awilda Mine and White Pine was on its way. However it was not until 1881 that the town was formally organized. The principal metals produced were lead, silver and zinc, with some gold and copper. Iron ores in the area were not commercial.

White Pine appropriately named for the surrounding pine forests, was, and still is, essentially a one street town. The community lies along the steep eastern slope of Granite Mountain with Tomichi Creek bordering on the east side.

As happened in many mining towns, legal squabbles between mine owners contributed to White Pine's decline. The silver crash of 1893 nearly ended all mining there. There was a brief revival of mining around 1900 when the price of lead and zinc provided a reason to reopen some of the mines. This activity continued as late as 1953 but by then the profitable ores had been removed.

Since mining ceased at White Pine, the community has found other and more lasting enterprises to keep it on the map. It has become a modest sized community of summer homes and is a base on the upper Tomichi Creek for outdoor recreation – fishing, hunting, hiking, etc. In summer White Pine is an active community but it no longer has its own post office.

At the base of Monarch Pass, turn north from US Highway 50 onto Gunnison County Road 888. Drive north ten miles to White Pine. On the way you pass the locations of Sage and Cosden and just before entering White Pine, that of North Star. Tomichi (Argenta) was two miles beyond White Pine.

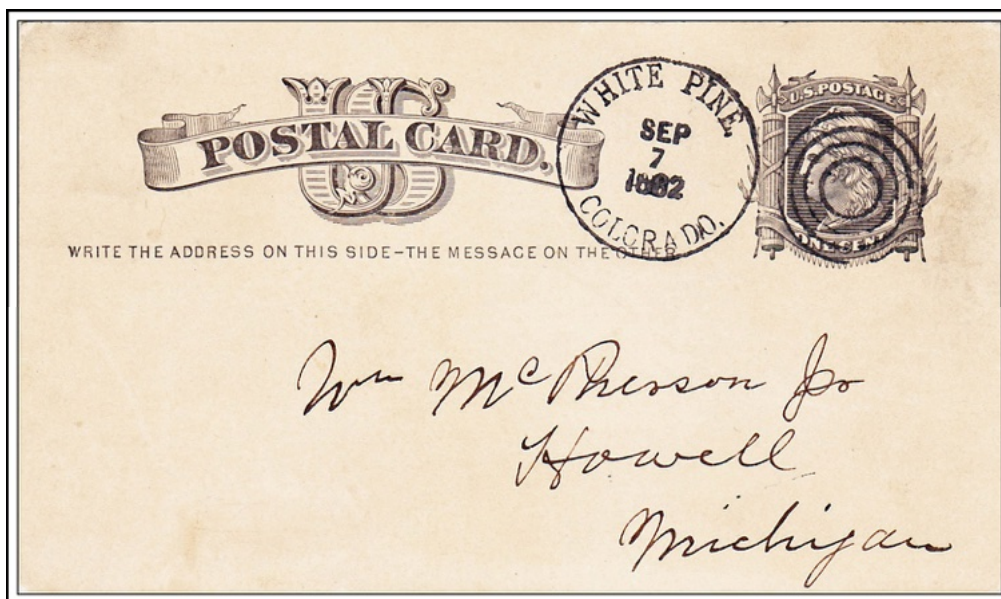
Latitude = 38:32:30 North Longitude = 106:23:35 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 29 1880	---	Unsurveyed Land On west side of Tumichi Creek (note spelling) Proposed postmaster - Edwin J. Meeker
Aug 12 1880		Established
Aug 12 1880		Meeker, Edwin J.
Jun 1 1881		Thomas, John J.
Feb 12 1882		Terrell, John K.
Apr 1 1884	---	NE/4 Sec 34 T50N R5E 400 feet west of Tomichi Creek
Jun 25 1884		Irwin, George S.
Oct 30 1885		Turner, John B.
May 11 1889		Ferrell, John H.
Feb 16 1892		Spencer, Milton
Apr 14 1894		Spelling changed to Whitepine
Apr 14 1894		Macy, Charles E.
May 10 1898		Bailey, Lenord W.
Mar 5 1901		Macy, Charles E.

**WHITE PINE / WHITEPINE – Continued**

Feb 28 1912	McMahan, Annie	
Jul 15 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 34 T50N R5E 250 feet northwest of Tomichi Creek
Apr 11 1928	Ordered closed	
Apr 30 1928	Discontinued Mail to Sargents	
Sep 20 1947	---	SE/4 Sec 34 T50N R5E A move 200 feet east of a previous location Tomichi Creek is 200 feet east of post office
Mar 21 1949	Marvin, Mrs. Rae	Acting
May 1 1949	Marvin, Mrs. Rae	Assumed charge
May 1 1949	Re-Established as White Pine	
Dec 19 1949	Marvin, Mrs. Rae	Confirmed
Jan 16 1949 [1950?]	Marvin, Mrs. Rae	Commissioned
Nov 30 1954	Ordered closed	??
Apr 30 1954	Discontinued Mail to Sargents	??



**WHITE PINE, / COLORADO.**

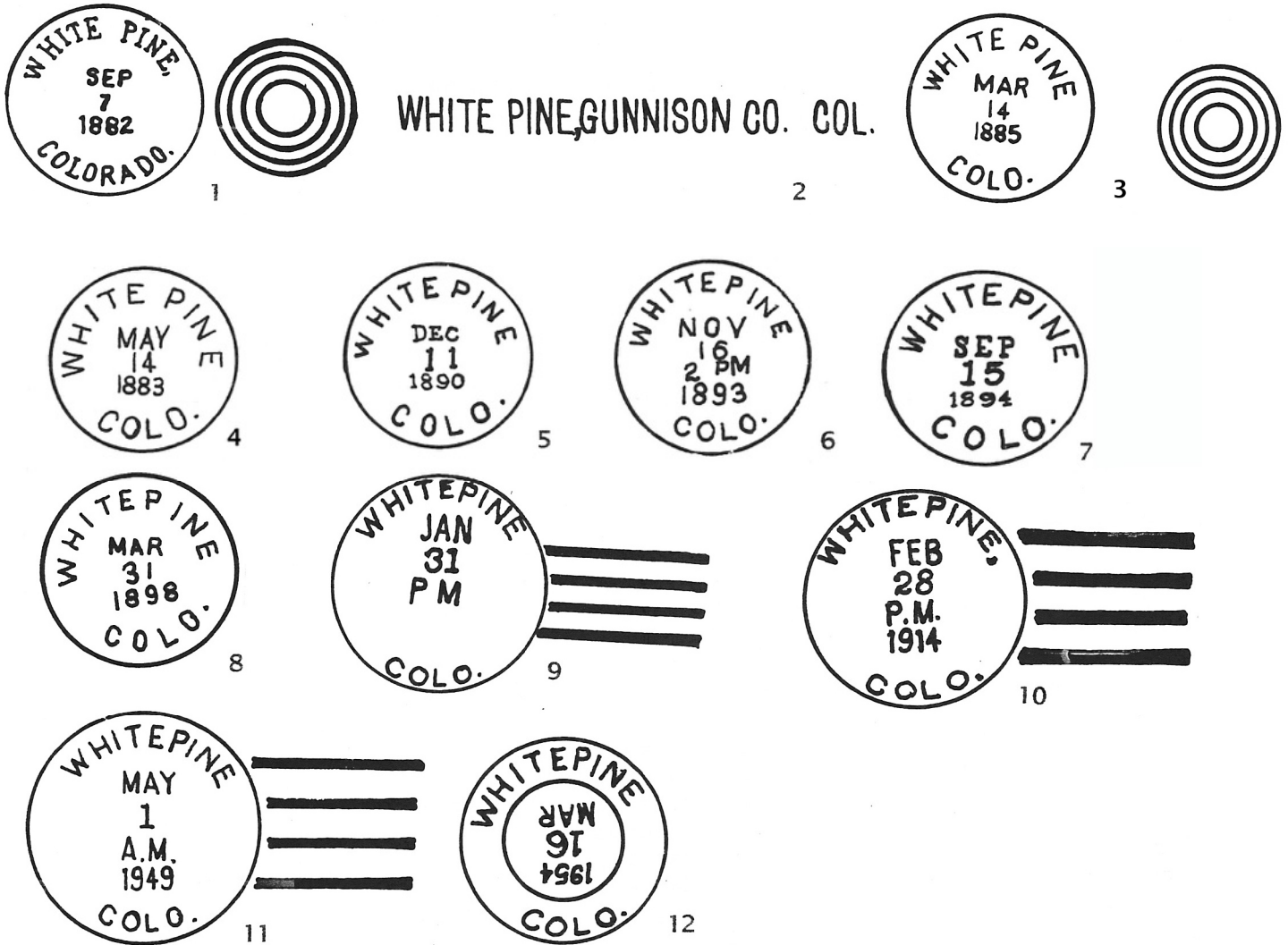
**September 7, 1882**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	WHITE PINE, / COLORADO. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 20mm	Aug 3 1881 Sep 7 1882
2	WHITE PINE, GUNNISON CO. COL. SL 00R 67.0x6.0	Hstp No killer, 2 piece handstamp	Jul 28 1883
3	WHITE PINE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Mar 14 1885
4	WHITE PINE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 3-ring 17mm	Wider space between W & C than type 4 May 14 1883 Mar 29 1886
5	WHITE PINE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Dec 11 1890 Dec 29 1890
6	WHITE PINE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Jun 3 1893 Jun 2 1894
7	WHITEPINE / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Sep 15 1894
8	WHITEPINE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Mar 31 1898 Sep 24 1906
9	WHITEPINE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x13mm	Jan 31 191-

WHITE PINE / WHITEPINE – Continued

- |    |                                       |                 |                       |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 10 | WHITEPINE, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0     | 4bars S-25x19mm | Feb 28 1914           |
| 11 | WHITEPINE / COLO.<br>CI 10P 34.0      | 4bars S-24x19mm | May 1 1949 Nov 2 1950 |
| 12 | WHITEPINE / COLO.<br>CI 10P 30.0/19.0 | Hstp No killer  | Mar 16 1954           |



WOODSTOCK

Woodstock was at milepost 165.00 on the Denver, South Park, and Pacific Railroad at an altitude of 11,039 feet. It was first a small mining camp established by G. P. Wright and Austin Badger. It provided living quarters for construction workers on the Alpine Tunnel and the railroad. During the railroad construction it was briefly a forwarding point for freight going to Pitkin and beyond.

The location was on the steep mountain slopes, before the sharp curve back to the north and on the final approach to the Alpine Tunnel. The site was below the famous "palisades" on that last stretch of railroad grade. The railroad had a passing track, water tank, coaling platform and telegraph station at Woodstock.

**WOODSTOCK – Continued**

During the railroad construction, the mountain slopes above Woodstock had been mostly stripped of timber to make ties for the railroad. That helped set the scene for a disaster. At 6:00 AM, on March 10, 1884 a massive snowslide struck Woodstock. Thirteen of the fifteen residents were killed and the small settlement was wiped out.

To replace facilities lost in the slide, the Tunnel Gulch Water Tank was erected a half mile farther down the grade but Woodstock was not rebuilt.

The location of Woodstock is a little more than a quarter-mile below the sharp turn at the Sherrod Loop. There is an open area above and below the road but nothing is visible along the road. A search in the trees below the road might turn up some fragments of boards and timbers.

From Pitkin, drive north on the road to Cumberland Pass. At the site of Quartz turn on the Alpine Tunnel Road, Forest Service Road 839. It is seven and a quarter miles to the site of Woodstock.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 5 1881	Established
Aug 5 1881	House, John
Jul 26 1881	--- Unknown On north side of Quartz Creek "The Denver South Park and Pacific is now grading but not yet completed about 10 rods from proposed office and their station ground about 60 rods distant." Proposed postmaster - John House
Aug 29 1881	House, John F.
May 9 1882	Discontinued Mail to Hancock
Dec 6 1883	Re-established
Dec 6 1883	Brown, John S.
Aug 12 1884	Discontinued Mail to Quartz

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM WOODSTOCK**

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*Place Names in Colorado* [Alternate Title: *The Names of Colorado Towns*]

Prepared by the Colorado Writers Project; *Colorado Magazine*; Serialized in Volumes 17-20

**ROGERS FILE**

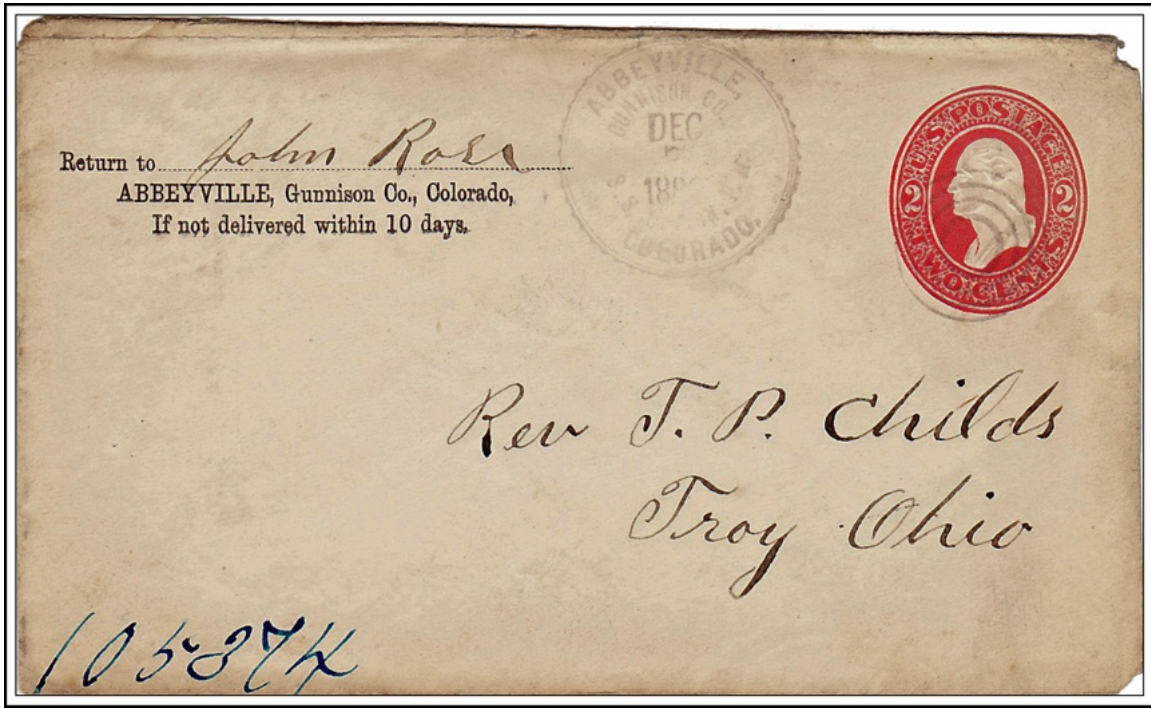
This is a card file of information on places and place names in Colorado, collected by James Grafton Rogers. It is located at the History Colorado Center, Denver and is available on microfilm.

**GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**

These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams and rivers, to railroads and to nearby existing post offices.



A GALLERY OF GUNNISON COUNTY COVERS



ABBEYVILLE, (GUNNISON CO. / S. SUTTON, P.M.) / COLORADO.

December 7, 1883



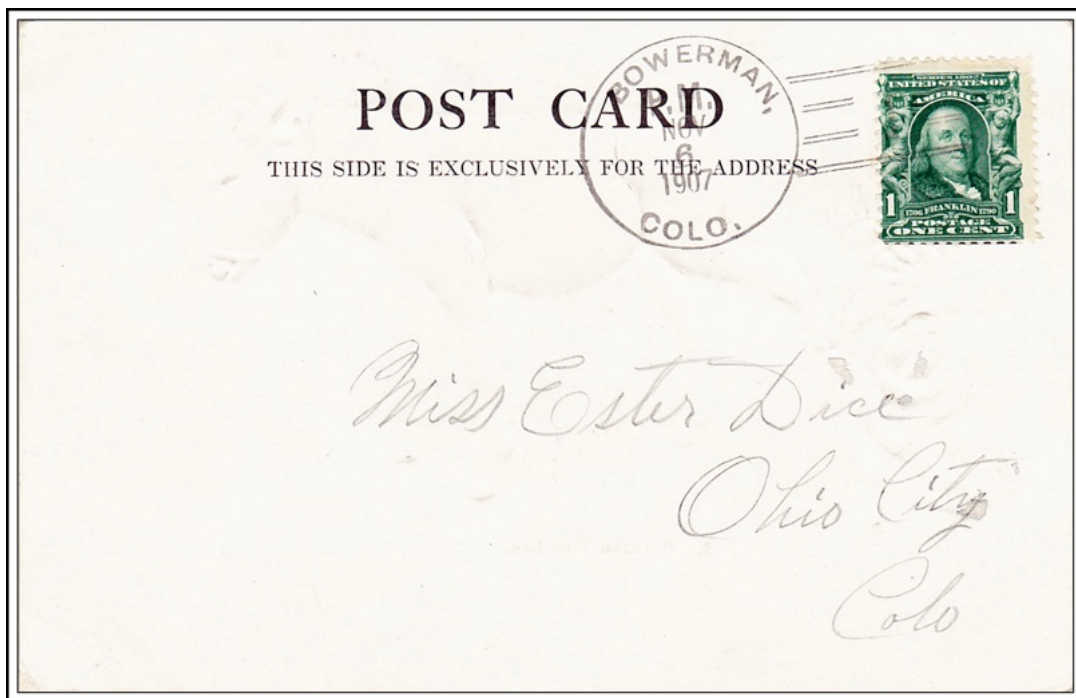
ALMONT, / COLO.

July 16, 1882



ALLEN, / COLO.

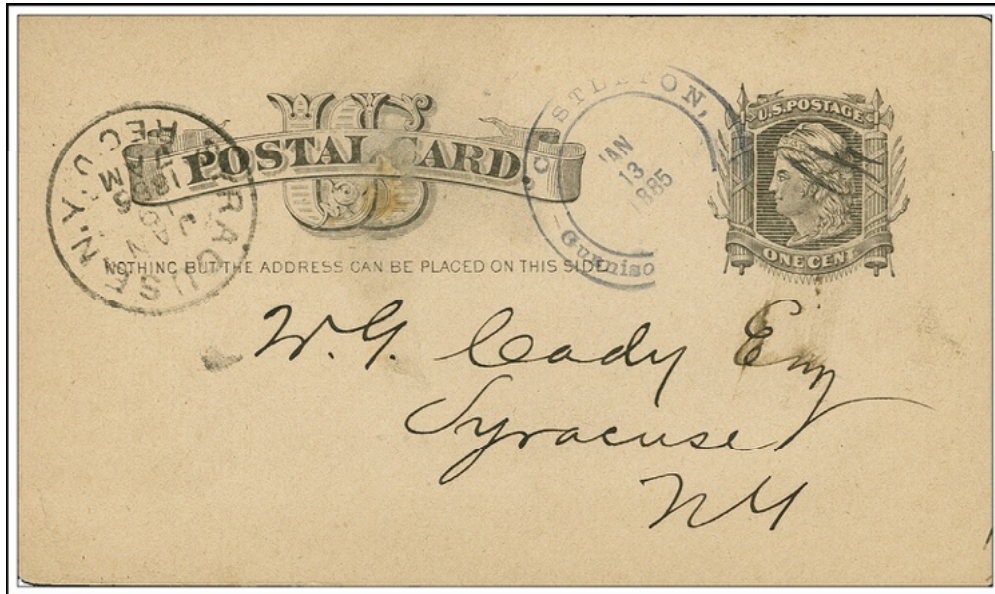
April 27, 1882



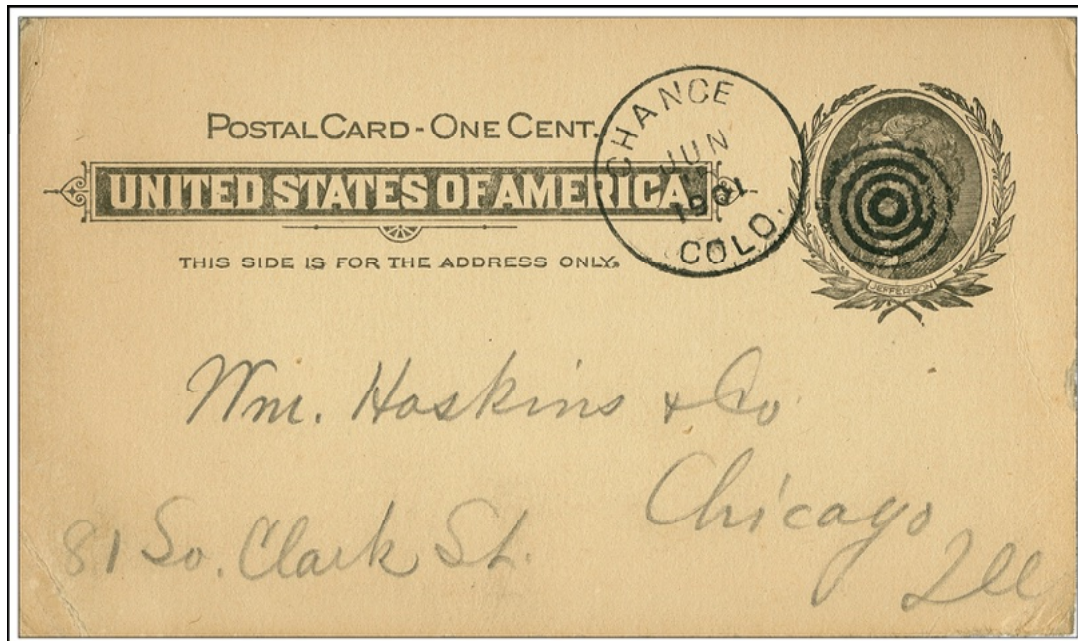
BOWERMAN, / COLO.

November 6, 1907

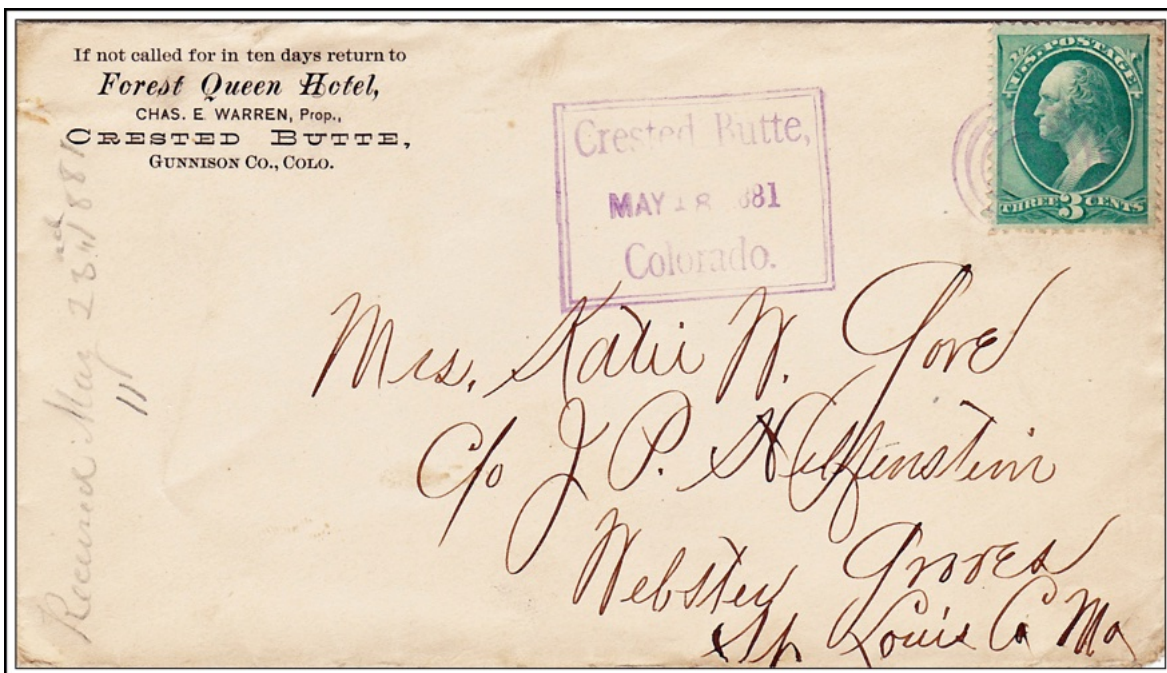




CASTLETON, / Gunnison Co., Colo.      January 13, 1885

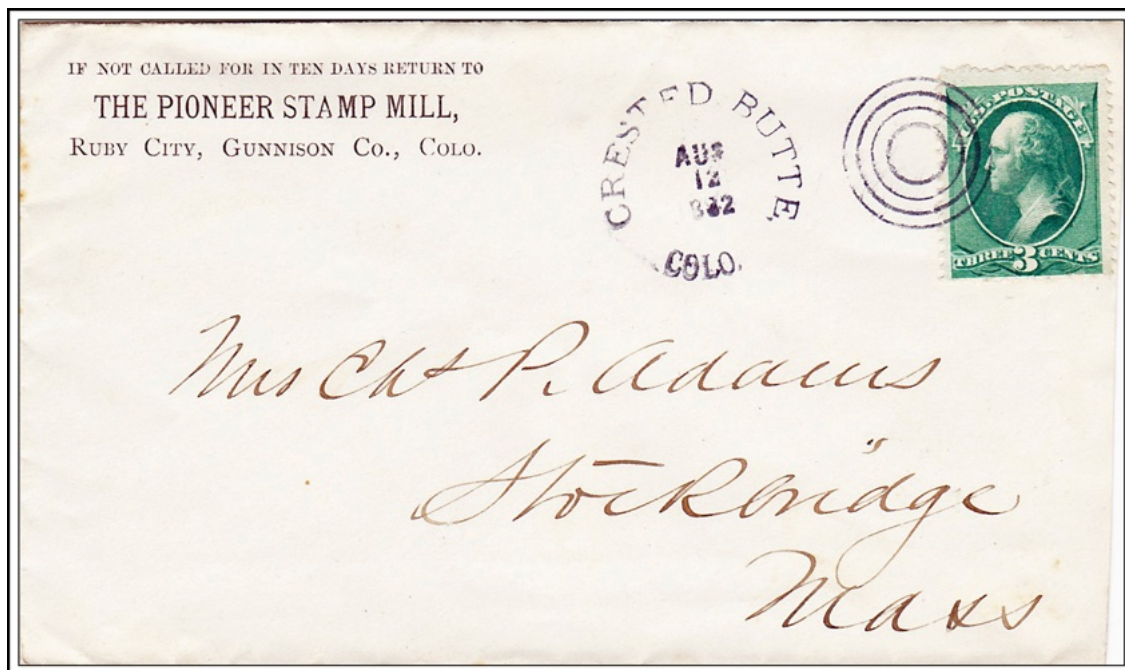


CHANCE / COLO.      June 15, 1901



Crested Butte, / Colorado.

May 18, 1881



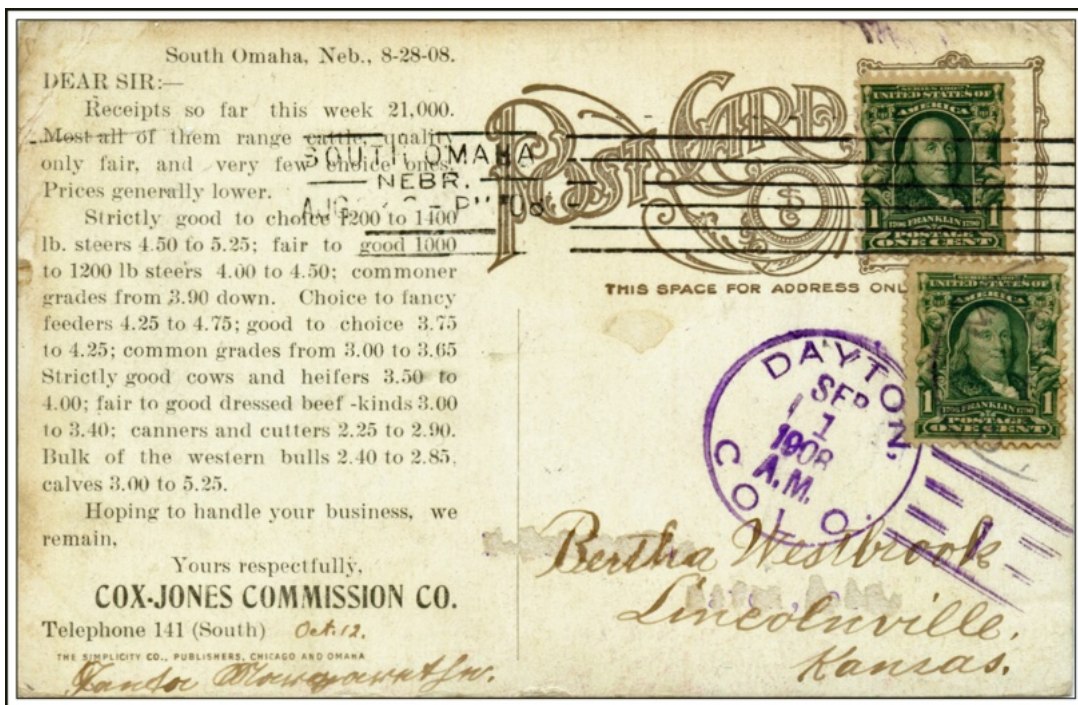
CRESTED BUTTE, / COLO.

August 12, 1882

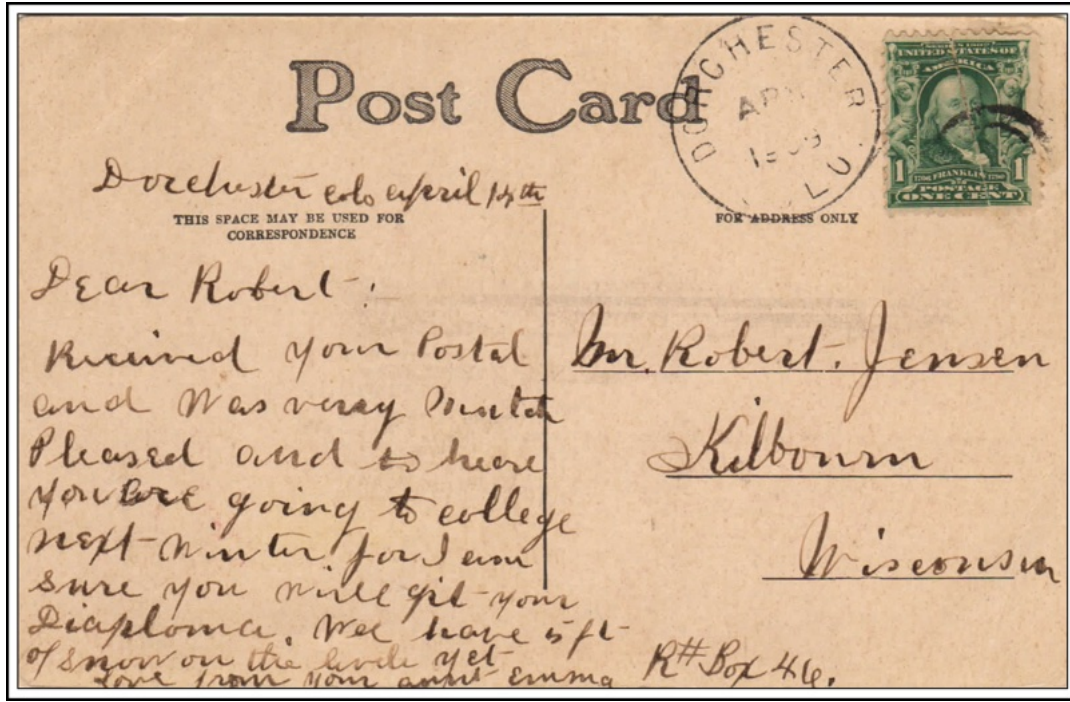




**CRYSTAL, / COLO.                      June 9, 1883**  
**With blind seal of The Orphan Boy Mining & Reduction Co.**



**DAYTON, / COLO.                      September 1, 1906**



DORCHESTER / COLO.

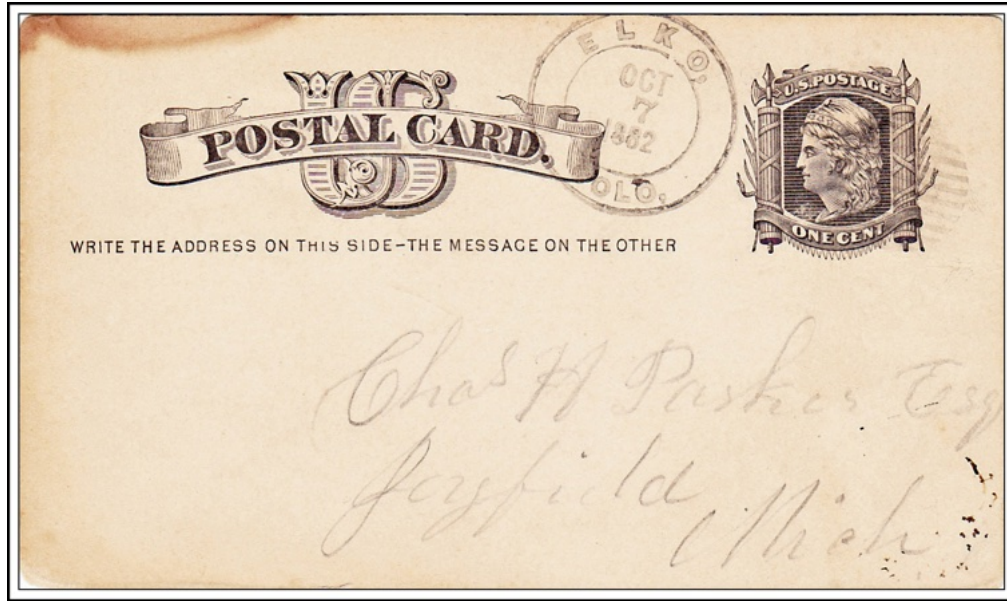
April (14), 1909



DOYLEVILLE / COLO.

January 11, 1906





ELKO, / COLO.

October 7, 1882



Gothic Col

May 21, 1880



IOLA, / COLO. & POWDER HORN, / COLO. April 16, 1908

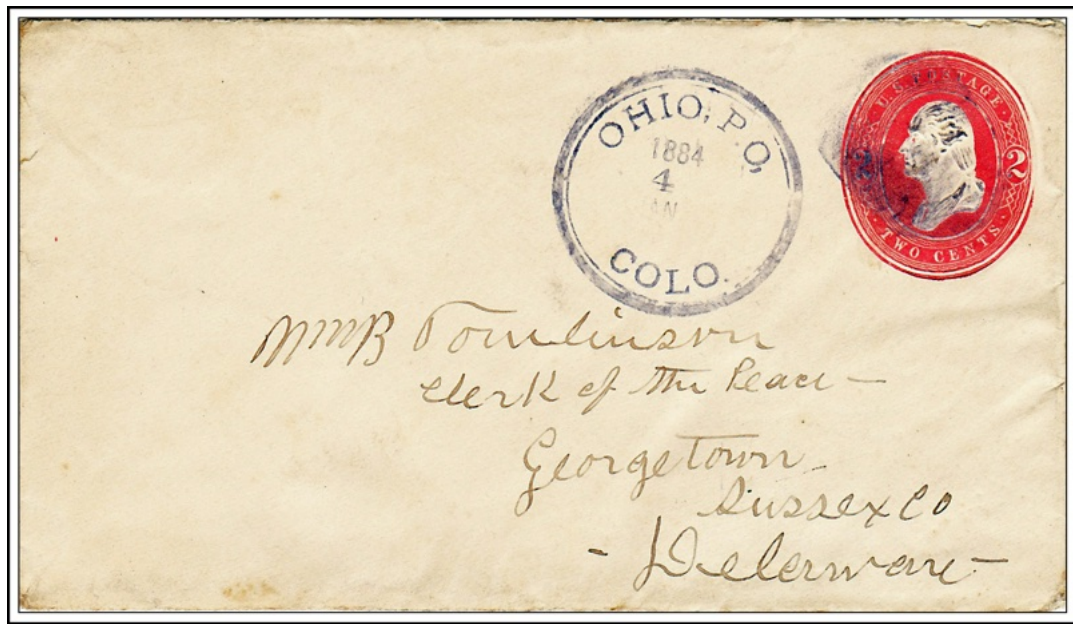


IRWIN / GUNNISON CO., COLO. August 5, 1880  
With skull & crossbones killer

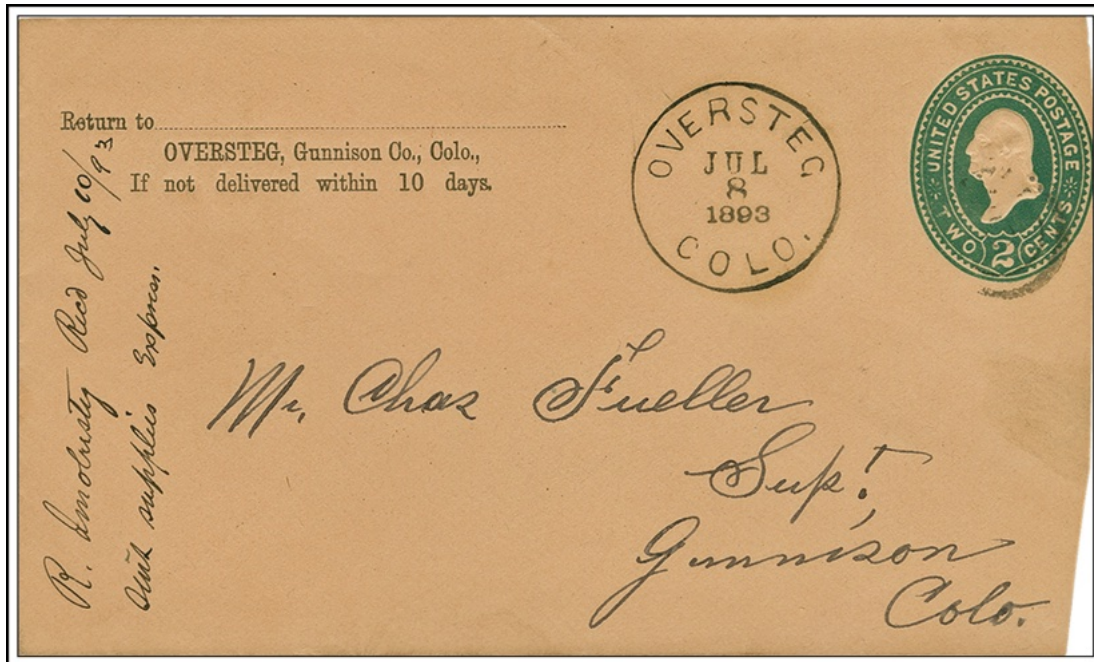




JACKS CABIN, / COLO.      July 5, 1909

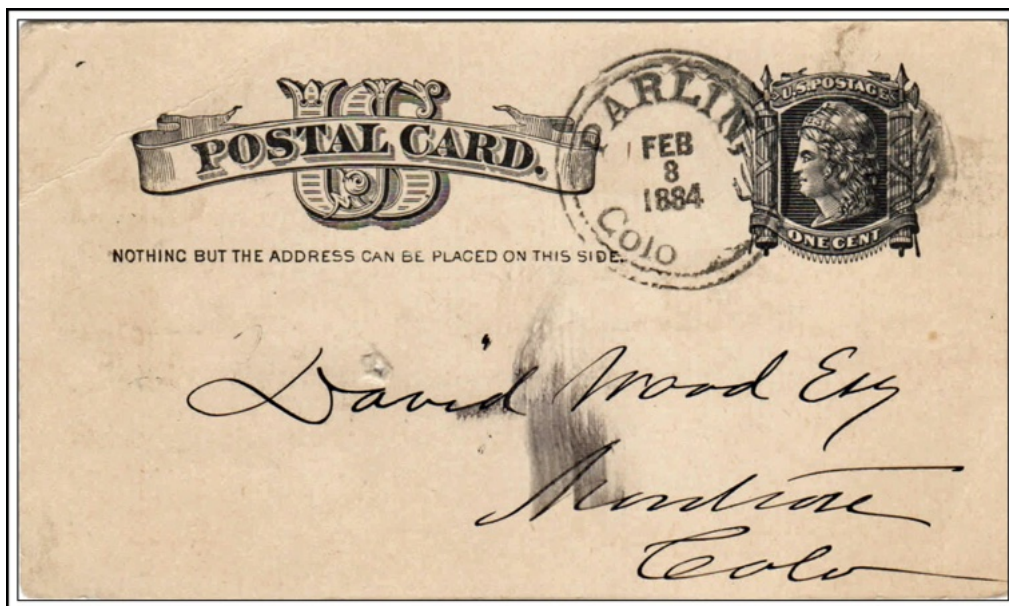


OHIO, P.O., / COLO.      With indistinct fancy cancel      January 4, 1884



OVERSTEG / COLO.

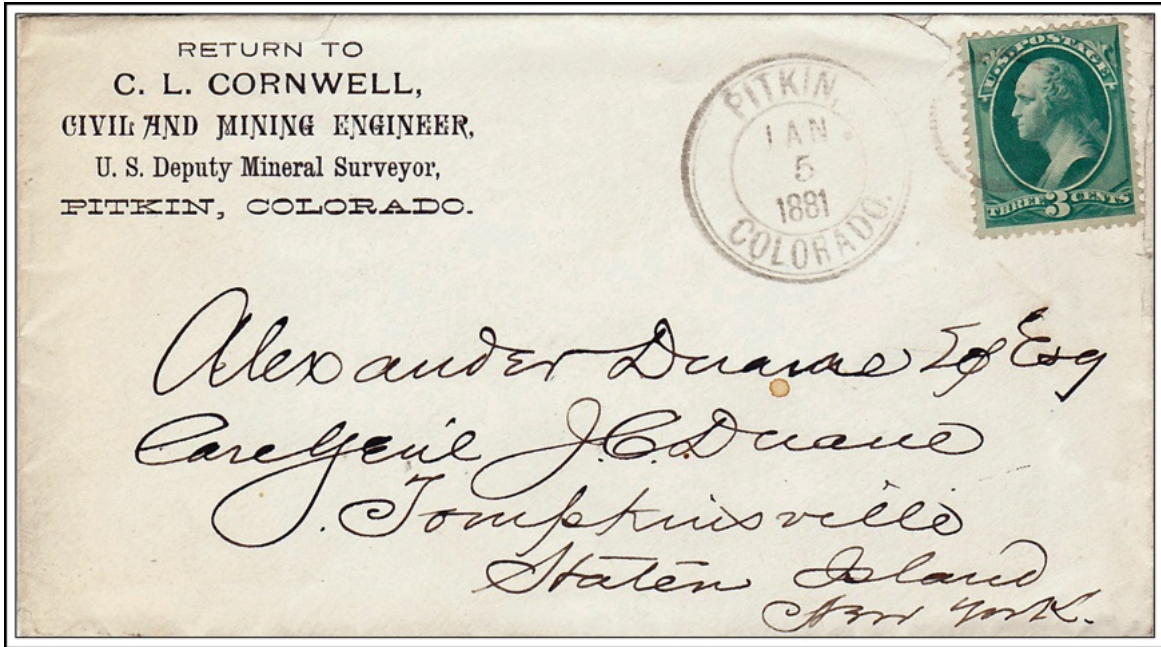
July 8, 1893



PARLIN, / Colo

February 8, 1884





PITKIN, / COLORADO.

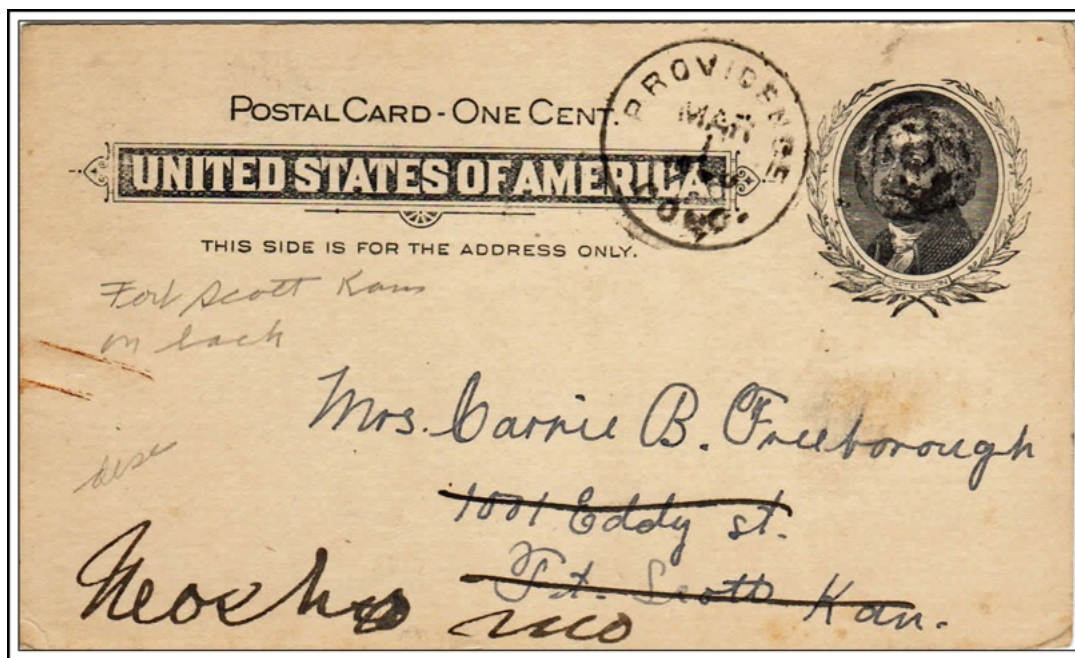
January 5, 1881



PITTSBURGH / COLORADO.

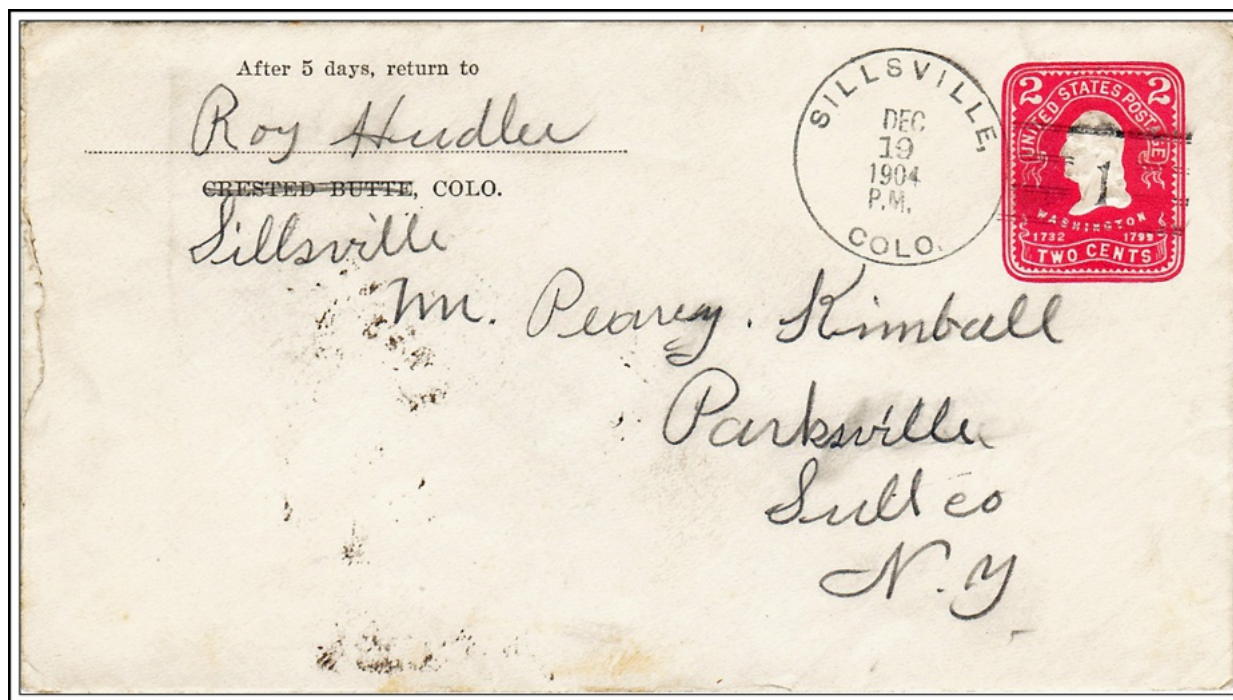
April 9, 1885





PROVIDENCE / COLO.

March 1, 1900



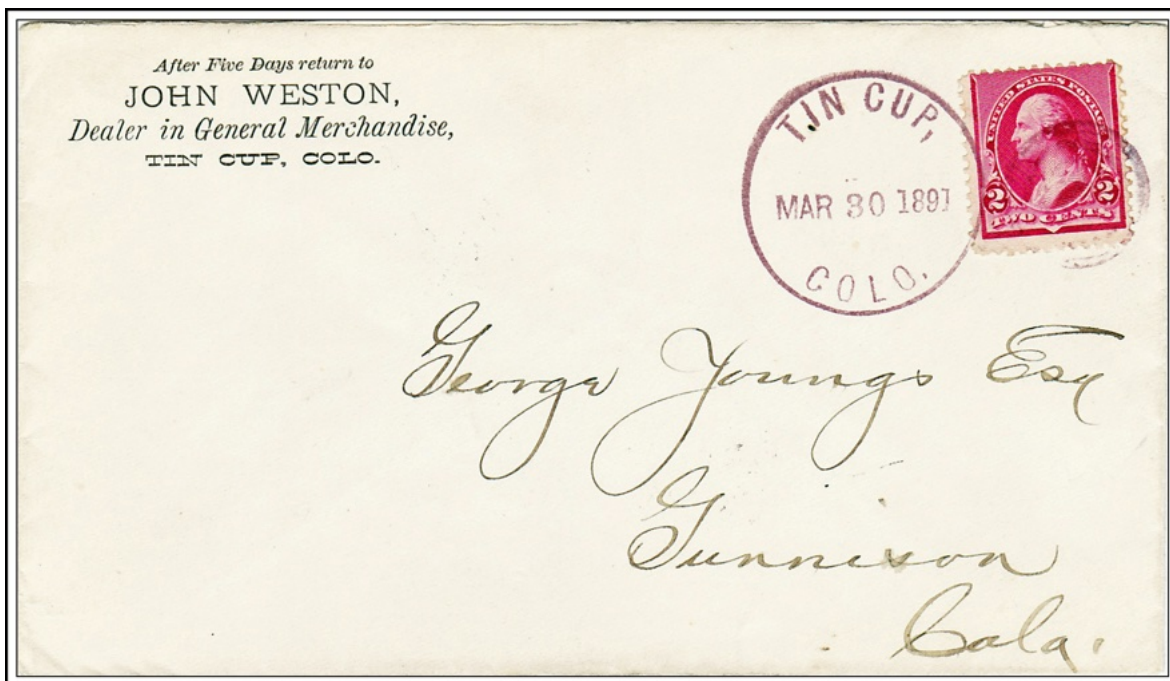
SILLSVILLE, / COLO.

December 19, 1904



SOMERSET, / COLO.

December 7, 1910



TIN CUP, / COLO.

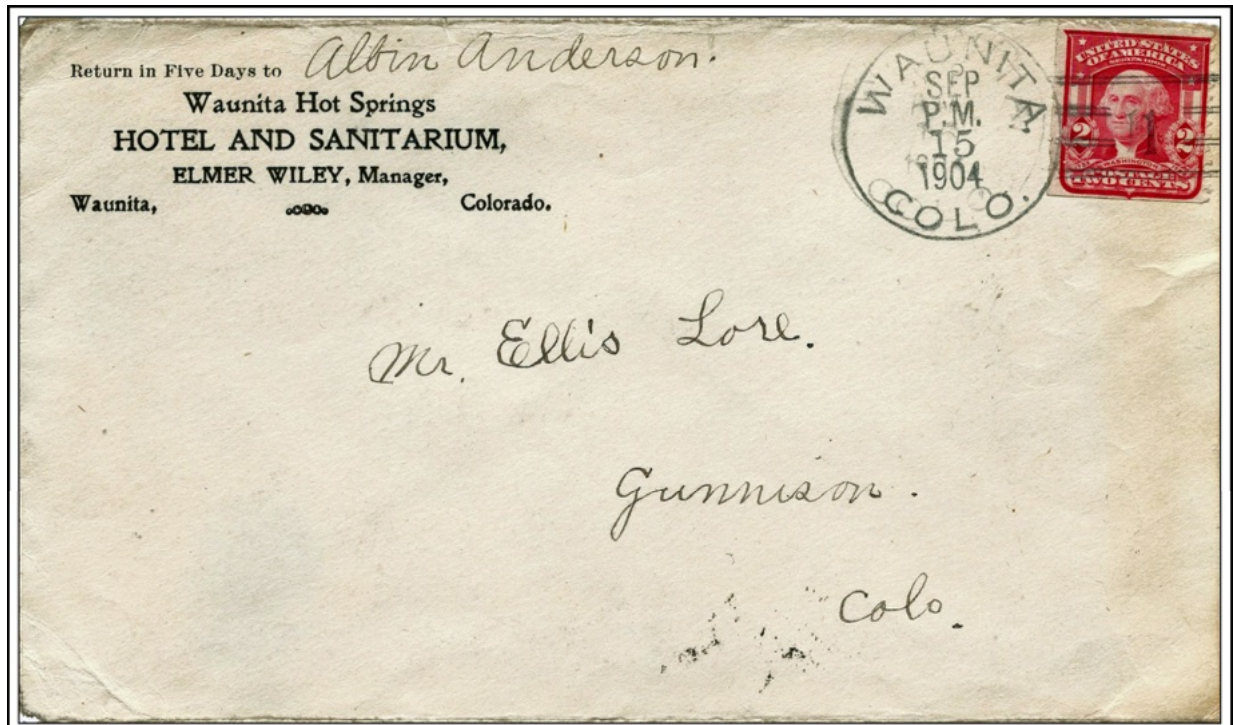
March 30, 1891





TOMICHI, / COLORADO.

August 1, 1881



WAUNITA, / COLO.

September 15, 1904

