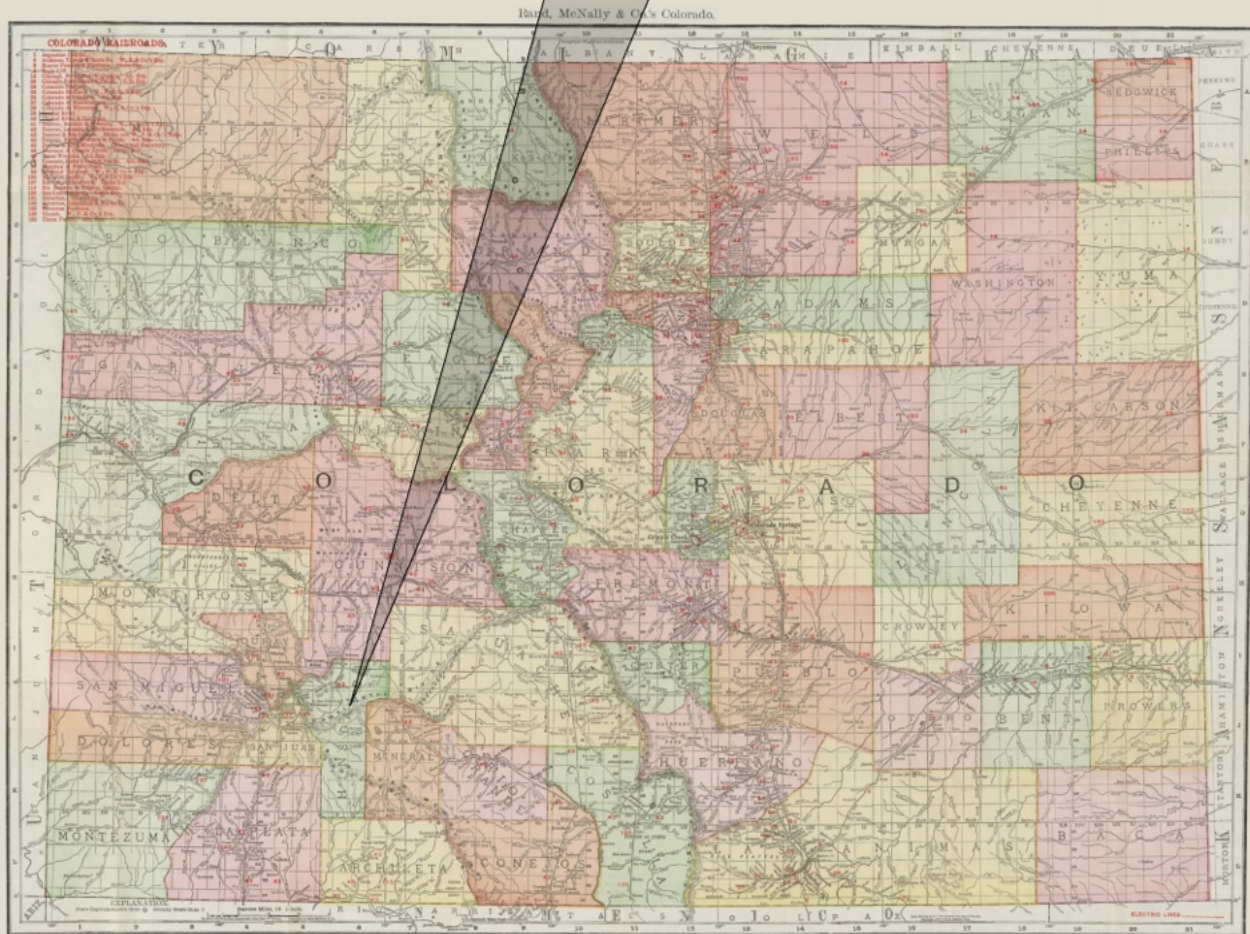


# Hinsdale County



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

*Established: February 10, 1874*

*County Seat: San Juan*



## **HINSDALE COUNTY**

By William H. Bauer

Hinsdale County lies in the heart of the San Juan Mountains. Until 1873 it was the province of the Ute Indians. White prospectors had entered the area and found that there were potential silver and gold prospects. The early explorations generated a demand to open the mountain area for prospecting. The Brunot Treaty of 1873 did so and prospectors soon flooded the area.

The initial mineral discoveries were in the northern portion of what is today Hinsdale County, almost all of them along either the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River or Henson Creek that drains into the Lake Fork.

The future county was also on the routes of travel deeper into the mountains to the silver mines along the Animas River and around Silverton. One such route of travel from the south, followed the Rio Grande River west and crossed over Stony Pass. Other routes from the north followed the Lake Fork to cross Cinnamon Pass or Henson Creek to Engineer Pass. These difficult routes were heavily used until 1881 when the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad reached Silverton, thus providing an easier and safer route to the Silverton area.

The settlements that developed in Hinsdale County were, with only two exceptions, tied directly to either mining or the early trails. Cathedral, in the extreme northeast corner of the county and Debs in the extreme southeast corner were both in areas that could support livestock ranching.

In 1861, when the Colorado Territorial Legislature created the original sixteen counties, the future Hinsdale County was shared between Lake, Costilla and Conejos Counties. In 1866 the creation of Saguache County somewhat altered the boundaries.

On February 10, 1874 the Territorial Legislature authorized the creation of Hinsdale County. There were subsequent minor adjustments to the county boundaries but they remained largely unchanged until March 27, 1893 when Mineral County was authorized and a portion of Hinsdale County was included in that new county. Since then the boundaries of Hinsdale County have remained unchanged.

Today the county is a north-south oriented, rough "T" shape with stubby arms. The county is approximately 50 miles north to south. On the northern boundary the width is about 30 miles and on the southern edge only seventeen miles. A good portion of the county is now in protected wilderness areas and even more within National Forests.

Hinsdale County is bounded on the north by Gunnison County, on the east by Saguache and Mineral Counties, on the south by Archuleta County and on the west by La Plata, San Juan and Ouray Counties.

Topographically Hinsdale County is mountainous. There are areas in the north and the south that are suitable for ranching and also a limited area on the eastern edge along Colorado Highway 149. In addition the high meadows are used for pasturage during the short summers.

There are several mountain peaks that rise above 14,000 feet and the lowest elevations are in the south but still above 7,500 feet altitude.

Hinsdale County is unique in that the Continental Divide twice crosses the county from east to west. The result is that the northern and southern portions of the county are in the Pacific Drainage while the central portion is in the Atlantic Drainage. The central portion is drained by the Rio Grande River. The northern streams flow north to the Gunnison River and the southern streams flow south to the San Juan River.

Travel through Hinsdale County has been restricted to the principal stream valleys. Colorado Highway 149 enters the county from the east (Creede) and goes north through Lake City and on towards the Gunnison River. County roads follow the Lake Fork west to Stony Pass, Henson Creek to Cinnamon and Engineer Passes, and another county road goes from Slumgullion Pass eastward to the Cebolla Creek Valley. There are a few other short roads but most of those are not suitable for standard automobiles.

In the southern portion of the county there is a minor network of county roads but nearly the entire portion is wilderness area and devoid of roads.

The only railroad to enter Hinsdale County was the Lake Fork Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. That railroad began at Lake Fork Junction on the Gunnison River near Sapinero and followed the Lake Fork to Lake City. The railroad was graded in 1881 but the rails did not reach Lake City until 1889. The Lake Fork Branch was abandoned in 1932.

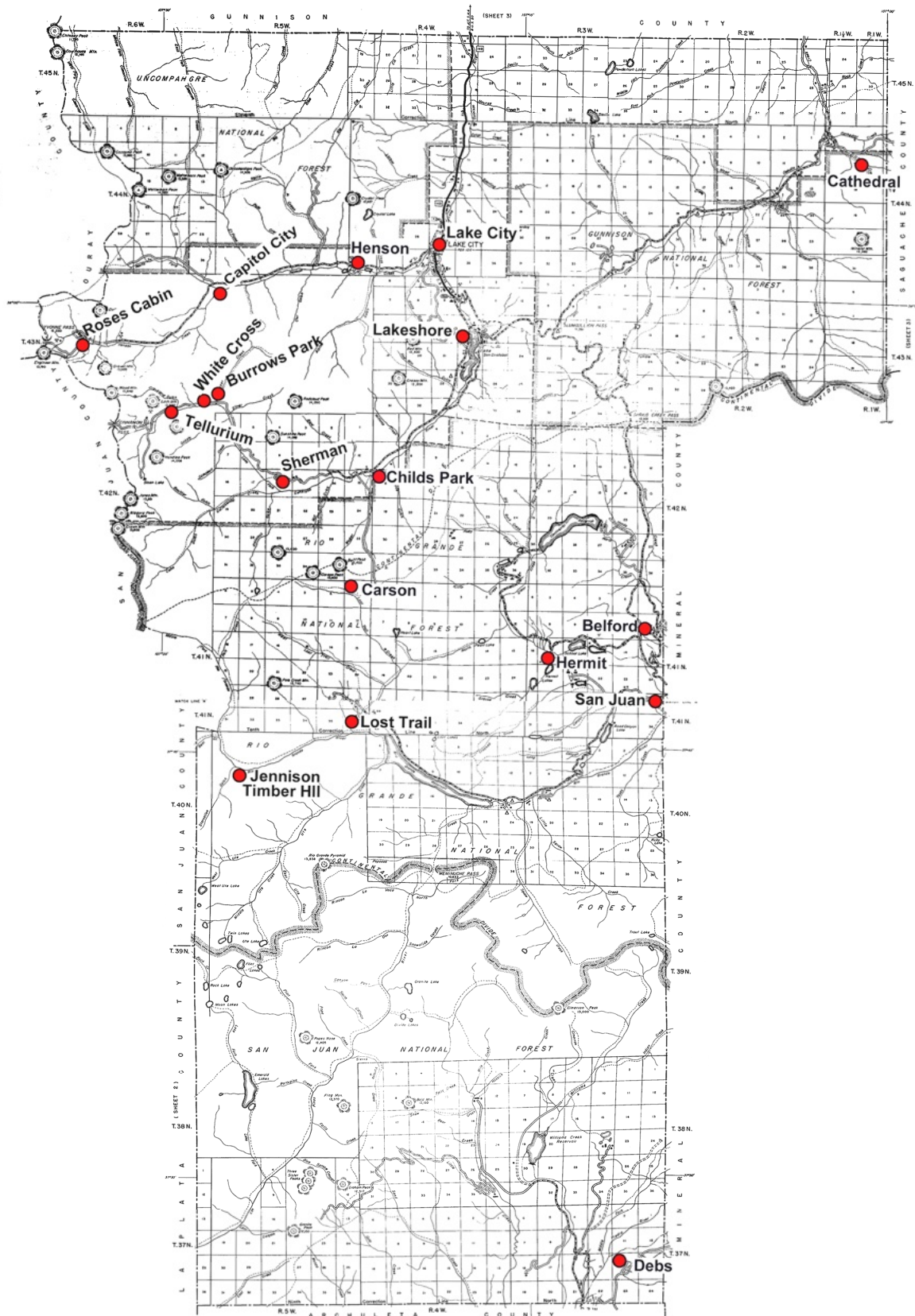
The nineteenth century economy of Hinsdale County was based almost entirely on mining. Silver was the main metal produced with gold, lead and copper also contributing to the values recovered. In 1893 the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act struck a blow to the mining economy. The small mines closed. Only the richest mines and those that were also producing good amounts of gold continued to operate. The decline in mining continued into the twentieth century and by the time of World War II mining in Hinsdale County was virtually at an end. Since then there have been attempts to revive some of the mines but none has succeeded.

Even in the best days of mining, Hinsdale County attracted tourists. They came to enjoy the scenery and to hunt and fish. There were small resorts at Lake City and on Lake San Cristobal. Following World War II the emphasis on tourism and summer residents increased and the county now relies heavily on this seasonal activity.

Hinsdale County remains the least populous of Colorado's counties with only a few hundred year round residents.



**Abandoned cabins along the road from Burrows Park to Whitecross**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer  
September 5, 2001



Post Office Location Map – Hinsdale County

**BELFORD**

For a short period of time Belford was an important stage station on the road from Alamosa to Lake City via Spring Creek and Slumgullion Passes. The site of Belford was reported as, "about five miles east of Hermit" and, "on the north side of Clear Creek." From its brief period of existence it seems doubtful that there was much more than the stage station at the site. Reportedly, by 1885 it had disappeared.

Ray Newburn in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan* suggests that the station was named for James B. Belford, judge of the Territorial Supreme Court and the first member of the U. S. House of Representatives from Colorado Territory. In 1884 there was a Belford Post Office in Clear Creek County, south of Idaho Springs. From the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report it appears that Clear Creek Falls was the first choice for the post office name.

With no firm data to establish a location it is my best guess that the site of Belford was in the vicinity of the Silver Thread Campground (2001). The campground is on the east side of Colorado Highway 149, across from the entrance to South Clear Creek Road. This is approximately two miles north of the Hinsdale-Mineral County line. Because of the recent activity, there are no visible remains from the early days of Belford.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 15 1879	---	Unsurveyed 4 miles north of the Rio Grande Del Norte On north side of Clear Creek Antelope Springs 10 miles southeast Lake City 23 miles northwest Sketch map places it south of the Continental Divide Proposed postmaster - George N. Barrett
Dec 10 1879		Established
Dec 19 1879		Barrett, George N.
Nov 21 1881		Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Belford Colo	Mar 26 (1880) May 2 1881
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel

*Belford*  
*Colo 3/26*  
1

**BURROWS PARK**

The name Burrows Park now applies to the meadowland along the upper end of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River. The mining camp of Burrows Park began in 1874, taking its name from Charles Burrows who prospected in the area in 1873. Initially it was known as Argentum, a reference to the silver ore mined in the vicinity. Some historians have equated Burrows Park with Tellurium but that is incorrect as both post offices were in operation at the same time.

Physically Burrows Park is about five miles in length and a half-mile wide. The surrounding scenery is impressive.

As a post office Burrows Park lasted only six years before the office was moved about a mile west to White Cross. Quite likely that move reflected increased mining activity at White Cross and a decline at Burrows Park.

**BURROWS PARK – Continued**

Burrows Park is on Hinsdale County Road 30, a part of the Alpine Loop, on the way to Cinnamon Pass. It is a bit more than four miles from the fork where one branch leads to Sherman. This stretch of Road 30 is also, appropriately, named Shelf Road as for more than a mile it is carved into the side of the mountain. There are turnouts but a lot of blind corners, so caution is well advised. A four-wheel drive vehicle would be advisable for this section of the road.

In 2001 the location of Burrows Park was largely occupied by a campground, trailhead and parking area. Two stabilized log buildings were on the south side of the road. One is claimed to have been the post office, the other a hotel and stage station. I suspect both structures have been moved to their present location.

From Burrows Park, continue west to White Cross and on to Tellurium.

Latitude = 37:56:38 North Longitude = 107:28:43 West



**Stabilized buildings at Burrows Park – According to a sign, the building on the left was a hotel and the building on the right was the post office. Both buildings may have been moved to this location.**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

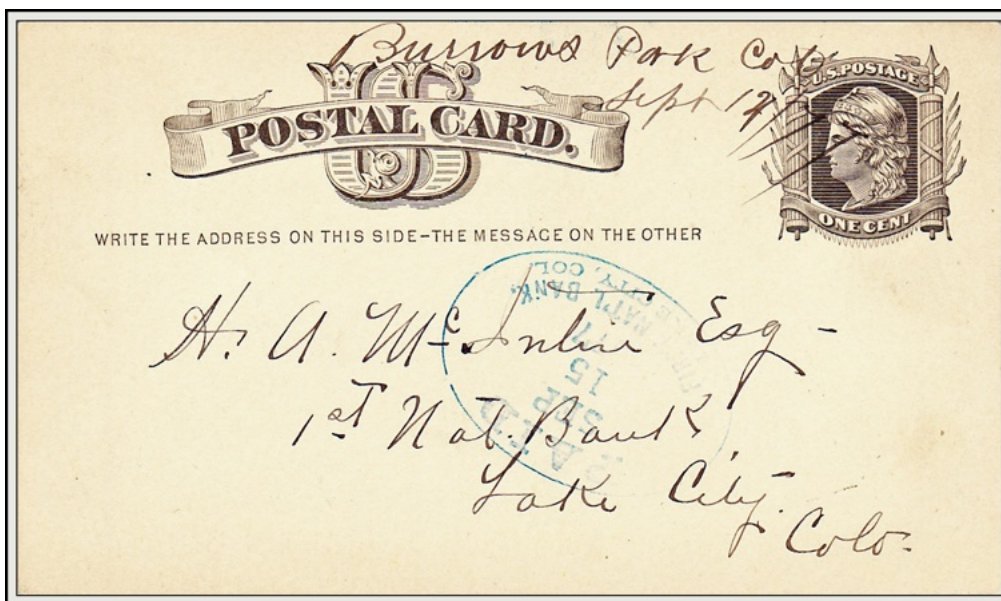
September 5, 2001

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 5 1876	---	Not reported 1/8 mile north of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison, on both sides of Cooper Creek Tellurium 4 miles north of west
Sep 26 1876		Established
Sep 26 1876		Stewart, James W.
Jul 27 1877		Holt, W. P.
Dec 19 1877		Andrew, Henry W.
May 24 1880		Lester, Thomas H.

**BURROWS PARK – Continued**

Jul 28 1880                      Clawson, Timothy  
Sep 28 1882                      Moved to White Cross



Burrows Park Colo

September 14, 1877

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Burrows Park Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Apr 10 1877 Sep 14 1877
2	BURROWS PARK / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not recorded	May 24 1879
3	BURROWS PARK, / COLO. CI 20H 33.0/29.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Jul 1 1879 Sep 30 1879
4	BURROWS PARK, / COLO. CI 20P 28.0/26.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Mar 18 1882 Jul 1 1882

*Burrows Park Colo.  
Sept 14/77*

1



**CAPITOL CITY**

The initial discoveries in the vicinity of Capitol City were made in 1877. They were of sufficient richness to bring a number of prospectors to the location. Initially the settlement took the name of Galena City. At the time a post office was requested there was a Galena Post Office in Fremont County, hence a different name was needed.



**CAPITOL CITY – Continued**

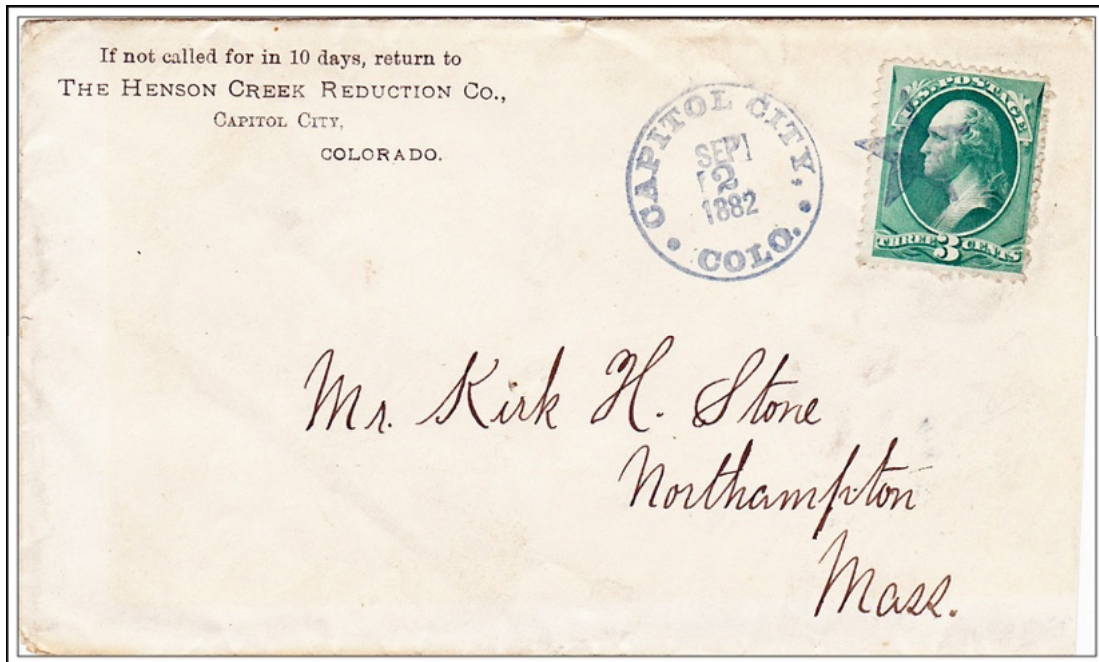
One of the early settlers was George S. Lee. Lee operated a sawmill and a smelter. He, and others, had grandiose plans for the new mining camp, even believing that it would grow to surpass Denver and could become the capitol of Colorado. To promote this idea the community was renamed Capitol City and an extensive townsite was laid out.

George Lee built a large brick mansion that survived well into the twentieth century before finally collapsing.

Capitol City never did meet expectations. The ores were good enough that mining continued beyond the turn of the century. But like mining throughout Hinsdale County it eventually ended.

From the location of Henson, continue west on Hinsdale County Road 20 five and one-half miles. Capitol City was located at the junction of the forks of Henson Creek in a fairly large, reasonably level, meadow in the Henson Creek Valley. There is some scattered debris and the Forest Service has restored two cabins. There are also some new summer cabins on the fringe of the open area.

Latitude = 38:00:26 North Longitude = 107:27:58 West



**CAPITOL CITY, / COLO.**

**September 2, 1882**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Apr 28 1877 --<br/><br/>May 18 1877<br/>May 18 1877<br/>Aug 31 1877<br/>Oct 17 1877<br/>Apr 19 1881<br/>May 20 1881<br/>Oct 24 1881<br/>--- ---</p> | <p>None reported 9 miles south of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison<br/>1 furlong south of Henson or Godwin Creek<br/>NOTE: "Some other name must be selected for the proposed office.<br/>Galena P.O. was established in Fremont Co. Colo. Feb 16/77."<br/><br/>Established<br/>Hughes, Jonathan W.<br/>Kuhn, Peter P.<br/>Calloway, D. R.<br/>Flora, Mrs. E. H.<br/>Calloway, Xenophon R.<br/>Lee, George S.<br/>McKenzie, Daniel</p> | <p>Date of appointment not available</p> |
|--|---|--|

**CAPITOL CITY – Continued**

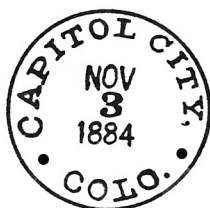
Aug 28 1884	Wilcox, Barnaby P.	
May 1 1886	Guiormeau, Benjamin	
Dec 28 1889	Owen, William B.	
Oct 30 1895	Bruner, Lydia C.	
Jul 2 1898	Salisbury, Edward L.	Declined
Dec 9 1898	Walsh, Peter A.	
Aug 15 1901	Donelan, Patrick	
Jun 20 1902	Truesdale, Harry F.	
Oct 19 1903	Donelan, Patrick E.	
Oct 23 1907	Witherite, Margaret R.	
Dec 17 1913	Thompson, Robert B.	Declined
Sep 1 1917	Guiormeau, Benjamin	
Nov 30 1920	Discontinued Mail to Lake City	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

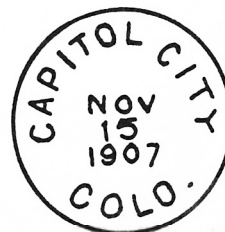
0.1	Capital City / Col MS	Jul 11 1880
1	CAPITOL CITY, / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Mscp Pen cancel Aug 15 1882 Nov 3 1884
2	CAPITOL CITY, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Fancy, Positive star, `nail' heads at lower R & L of cds Mar 29 1907 Oct 12 1909
3	CAPITOL CITY, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval Feb 2 1916 4bars S-24x20mm

*Capital City, Col.  
July 11-1880*

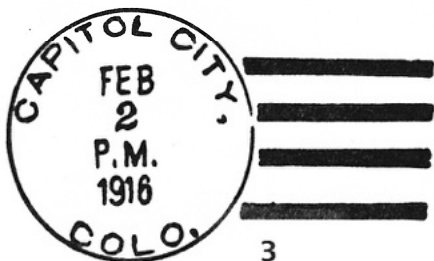
0.1



1



2



3

**CARSON**

Carson was a mining camp named for Christopher J. Carson, a nephew of the famous Kit Carson. Due to an early historical error, Mr. Carson has often been referred to as J. E. Carson.

Christopher Carson made the first silver discovery near the crest of the Continental Divide and by 1881 the camp had taken his name, as had the mining district. Originally Carson was on the crest of the Continental Divide at an altitude of 12,300 feet. A portion of the town was in the Pacific Drainage and another portion in the Atlantic Drainage. Roads to Carson came from the south up Lost Trail Creek and from the north by way of Wager Gulch. Neither road was a pleasant ride. This lack of decent transportation was a continual problem and likely contributed to the ultimate demise of Carson in the early twentieth century.

The mines along the Divide produced silver and the silver crash of 1893 was a blow to the community. However, the discovery of the Bachelor Mine, which produced gold, helped to sustain Carson for several years.

**CARSON – Continued**

Together with the change from silver production to gold there was a move of the town from the Divide down to a location at timberline in Wager Gulch at an elevation of 11,800 feet. This move may have been in progress even before the discovery of the Bachelor Mine at the lower elevation.

Travel to Carson was always difficult and for many years after it became a ghost town there was nothing more than a trail. In the 1950's the road was reopened to 4-wheel drive vehicles only and remains so even today.

Jim Ozment and I first visited Carson in September 2001. Within sight of the town, a county road crew "improving" the road delayed us for a half-hour. Talking with the workers we learned that the County Commissioners were debating about how much improvement should be made. The question revolved around whether or not they really wanted to encourage tourist visits to the site. The road crew broke for lunch and we went on to Carson. Facing a resumption of the roadwork and a threatening storm we took some quick pictures and went back down the mountain.



**Stabilized buildings at the second site of Carson**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer                      September 5, 2001

In August 2004 Jim and I made a second trip to Carson in order to spend more time there and to take more pictures. We were at the lower or second Carson and did not go on another two miles to the location on the Continental Divide. From where we were we could see a number of tailing piles scattered above timberline.

The road to Carson begins at Hinsdale County Road 30, two tenths of a mile west of the entrance to the Childs Park Guest Ranch. For a short distance the road is Hinsdale County Road 9 but it soon becomes Forest Service Road 568.

**CARSON – Continued**

From Road 30 it is four miles to the site of Carson and the road climbs nearly 3,000 feet in that distance. Yes, it is very steep, and yes, it is very rough. Apparently the County Commissioners decided against any major road improvement, because in 2004 the road was no better than in 2001. As a measure of the difficulty of this road, it took us thirty minutes to return from Carson to Road 30 and even in four-wheel low my brakes were getting very hot.

If you have a good four-wheel vehicle and a strong nerve the trip is worth the effort. There are several buildings still standing at Carson. They have new roofs that offer some protection but with no doors or windows the buildings are open to the weather and I wonder for how many more years they will remain standing.

Latitude = 37:52:09 North Longitude = 107:21:42 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 10 1889	---	NW/4 Sec 1 T41N R5W 1 mile north of Lost Trail Creek Proposed postmaster- Marcus Lee Child
Sep 16 1889		Established
Sep 16 1889		Child, Marcus L.
Oct 11 1892		Cochran, John F.
Sep 29 1903		Ordered closed
Oct 15 1903		Discontinued Papers to Lakeshore

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	CARSON / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Dec 20 1890 Hstp Not present; large letters
2	CARSON / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Aug 25 1893 Hstp Not present; small letters



1



2

**CATHEDRAL**

Cathedral, in the remote northeastern corner of Hinsdale County, was not a real town. But it did serve as a supply point for ranches in the surrounding area including portions of Gunnison and Saguache Counties. Until 1960 there was a rural school at Cathedral.

The name is a reference to two tall, isolated rock formations near the junction of Cathedral and Spring Creeks.

The general location of Cathedral is best accessed from Colorado Highway 149 at Powderhorn. Go south on Gunnison County Road 27, which becomes Hinsdale County Road 5. Four miles from the Gunnison-Hinsdale County line you come to a road junction. One branch goes to the east over Los Pinos Pass and on to Colorado Highway 114. The western branch goes back to Colorado Highway 149, a short distance north of Slumgullion Pass. To this point the road is decent and presents no problem. From the junction on to Slumgullion Pass it is a bit more challenging but in 1991 I did drive it with a standard automobile.

**CATHEDRAL – Continued**

At this point, Pasture Creek from the southwest, Spring Creek from the south and Cathedral Creek from the east join to form the north flowing Cebolla Creek.

The first location of the Cathedral Post Office was about two miles southeast of the road junction at the Forest Caldwell Ranch (1980) and on a dead end side road from the Los Pinos Pass Road. The second location of Cathedral was two miles southwest of the road junction, at another active ranch, along the road to Slumgullion Pass. That site is a short distance upstream from a short but narrow and scenic gorge.

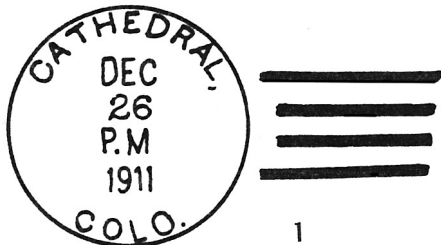
Latitude = 38:05:45 North Longitude = 107:02:00 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- May 4 1898 --- NW/4 Sec 8 T44N R1W 2 miles southeast of Cebolla Creek, on Spring Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Ambrose H. Doering
- Jul 18 1898 Established
- Jul 18 1898 Doering, A. H.
- Apr 23 1903 Doering, Guy M.
- Sep 25 1920 Stavely, Maybell L.
- Nov 23 1920 --- NW/4 SW/4 Sec 12 T44N R2W 1/4 mile southeast of Cebolla Creek  
Site changed 1.25 miles west / 1.75 miles [south?]
- Sep 30 1921 Discontinued Mail to Powderhorn

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 CATHEDRAL, / COLO. Jan 12 1909 Aug 18 1916  
CI 10P 31.0 4bars S-24x14mm



**CHILDS PARK**

Child's Park was at Childs Ranch on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison near the mouth of Wager Gulch. In the early days there may have been a stage station at the location, not unreasonable as it was near the junction of the roads south to Carson or west to Burrows Park and other mining camps.

The source of the name is unknown; however, in 1902 M. L. Childs gained control of the most important properties at Carson, four miles to the south.

From the road junction at the southern end of Lake San Cristobal, continue west four and eight tenths miles on Hinsdale County Road 30 to where a side road crosses the river. That road leads into a guest ranch and resort known as Childs Park. The resort buildings are of log construction and at least one appears old enough to date from the time the Childs Park Post Office was in operation.

Take note that two tenths of a mile west of the entrance to the Childs Park Resort there is a road to the south that goes up Wager Gulch to Carson.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Apr 27 1914 --- NE/4 Sec 18 T42N R4W 30 yards north of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River
- May 9 1912 Established

**CHILDS PARK – Continued**

May 9 1912                Stephen, George C.  
Feb 28 1919            Discontinued Mail to Lake City

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CHILDS PARK**

**DEBS**

Debs was a rural post office in the extreme southeastern corner of Hinsdale County. Apparently it served a number of ranches in this somewhat remote area of southern Hinsdale and northern Archuleta Counties. There was a rural school that has been converted into the sometimes-used Debs Community Hall.



**The Debs Community Hall**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

August 21, 2003

It appears that Stevens was the desired name for this post office but Debs was substituted. I have no information as to the source of either name.

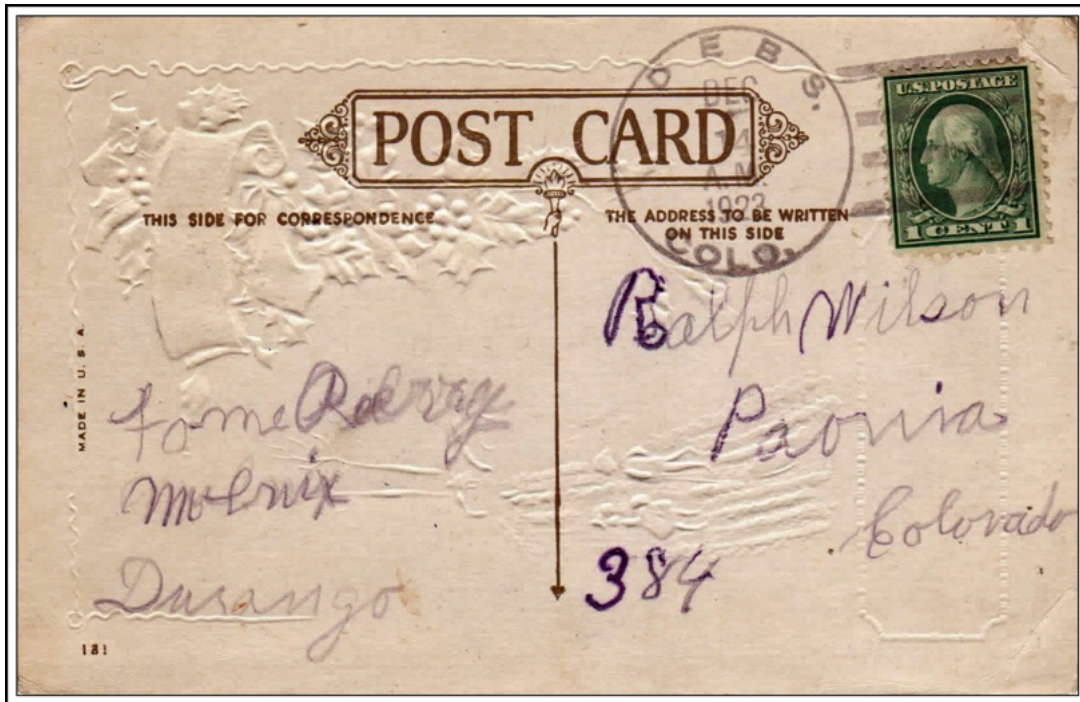
Access to Debs is only from the south. On the western edge of Pagosa Springs turn north from US Highway 160 on to Piedra Road. This road is just east of the Holiday Inn. Go thirteen miles north to McManus Road, (Forest Service Road 633). Continue three miles north into Hinsdale County to the Debs Community Hall and turn right. A short distance beyond the Community Hall a ranch road leads down towards the river and a grouping of ranch buildings. The buildings are at the stated location for Debs.

The trip to Debs is through scenic country in an area off the beaten tourist track. To the north of Pagosa Springs there is some development taking place but it has not yet spread north into Hinsdale County.

**DEBS – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

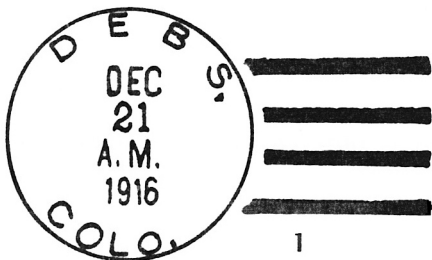
- Apr 26 1915 --- SE/4 NW/4 Sec 14 T37N R3W 1/8 mile south of the Piedra River  
3/4 mile west of Pagosa Creek  
Applicant for postmaster - B. O. Thayer
- Sep 10 1915 Established
- Sep 10 1915 Thayer, Bradford O.
- Sep 1 1917 Thayer, Cora E.
- Jan 10 1925 Ordered closed
- Jan 31 1925 Discontinued Mail to Pagosa Springs



**DEBS, / COLO.      December 14, 1923**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1      DEBS, / COLO.      Dec 21 1916    Dec 14 1923
- CI 10P 32.0      4bars S-25x20mm



**HENSON**

In 1871 Henry Henson, prospecting with Joel K. Mullen, Charles Goodwin and Albert Mead made the discovery that would become the Ute-Ule (Ulay) Mine. They were forced to abandon their strike until after the Brunot Treaty with the Ute Indians was signed in 1873. That treaty opened the San Juan Mountains to prospecting and development.

Henson and his associates returned and began development of the Ute-Ule Mine. It quickly became the most significant producer in the area.

A townsite was laid out in 1880 and was named for Henry Henson. The creek that passed through the settlement was similarly named Henson Creek. Henry Henson was a native of Kentucky who came to Colorado in 1860. In 1876 Henson was elected to the Senate of the first state General Assembly. He is often referenced as "Judge" Henry Henson.

Several times the Ute-Ule Mine changed owners and over the years other properties were incorporated with it, most significantly the Hidden Treasure Mine.

The location of the Ute-Ule Mine and the town of Henson were in a rather narrow stretch of the Henson Creek Canyon, which did not provide room for much growth of a town. There was housing for the miners and the usual saloons and other businesses. The rapid growth of Lake City, less than four miles away, soon attracted much of the commercial activity from the town of Henson.

In the twentieth century the Ute-Ule Mine continued to operate but not continuously. In 2001 there was still some activity at the site of Henson but it was not possible to tell whether the mine was being operated or if it was merely a residence and a small, marginal contracting business.

Begin the trip up Henson Creek at the corner of Second and Bluff streets in Lake City. Go west on Hinsdale County Road 20, the road that leads to Engineer Pass. It is three and seven tenths miles to the site of Henson. There is ample evidence of mining activity and several of the mine and mill buildings are still standing.

One interesting object at Henson is a small reinforced concrete dam that was built across Henson Creek. At some point in time, the dam was breached and the creek now flows through a large hole at the base of the dam.

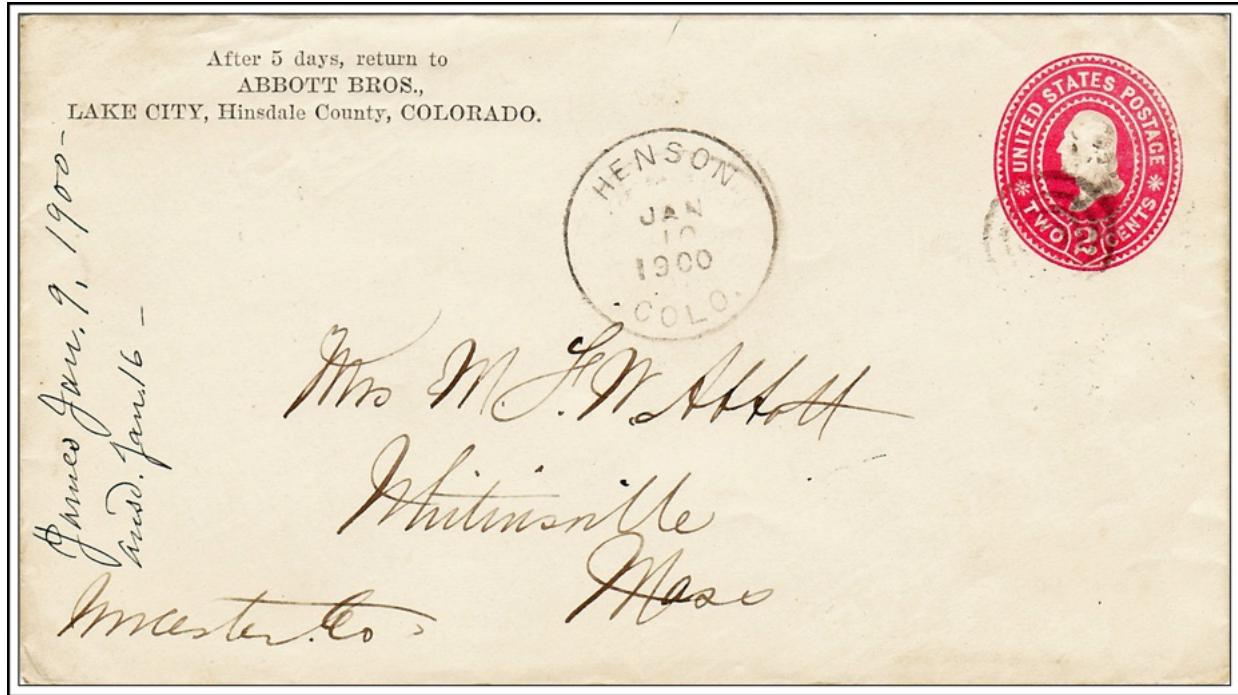
Latitude = 38:01:15 North Longitude = 107:22:35 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 7 1883	---	None reported On west side of Henson Creek Proposed postmaster - James Cruse
May 17 1883		Established
May 17 1883		Cruse, James
Apr 22 1884		Discontinued Mail to Lake City
Nov 12 1892		Re-established
Oct 12 1892		Weichselbaumer, Joseph
Oct 24 1894	---	Unsurveyed Land 200 yards northerly from Henson Creek NOTE: "The proposed office is on unsurveyed public land on Henson Creek at the Ulay Mine four miles from Lake City, Colo. and 5 miles from Capitol City." Proposed postmaster - Joseph Weichselbaumer
Feb 13 1895		Myers, William G.
Jun 8 1900		Salisbury, Edward L.
Jul 10 1902		Myers, Lena
Nov 30 1913		Discontinued Mail to Lake City



**HENSON – Continued**



**HENSON / COLO.**

**January 10, 1900**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                                |   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | HENSON, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 29.0 | Jul 31 1894 Sep 4 1894<br>Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm  |
| 2 | HENSON / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.0  | Jan 10 1900 Mar 16 1901<br>Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm |



1



2



**HERMIT**

The headwaters of South Clear Creek include a string of small lakes known as the Hermit Lakes. The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report does not provide a definitive location but it does indicate that the post office was on the north side of Clear Creek. Ray Newburn, in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan* places Hermit on the north side of South Clear Creek where it leaves the lower (northern) of the Hermit Lakes.

**HERMIT – Continued**

To reach this site, start at the Hinsdale-Mineral County line and drive north on Colorado Highway 149 to South Clear Creek Road. Four miles from Highway 149 you will reach a large guest ranch, Hermit Lakes. When I visited there in 2001, a locked gate blocked entrance to the property. From that point I could see that it was a large ranch complex. I suspect that the purpose of the Hermit Post Office was to serve an early resort and the vacationers spending time around the Hermit Lakes.

There was a rural school so there must have been some permanent population in the area.

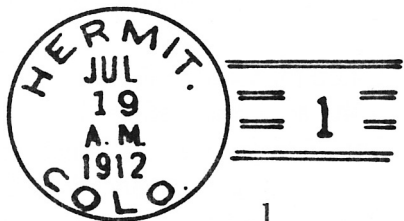
The Hermit Post Office was discontinued in 1920 but in 1921 a new Site Location Report was submitted for Hermit. The location provided in that report is about three miles south of the Hermit Lakes near Regan Lake on House Creek. Nothing further seems to have developed relative to that application.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 20 1904	---	SW/4 Sec 17 T41N R3W 8 miles north of the Rio Grande on the north side Clear Creek Proposed postmaster - Charles C. Mason
Jul 6 1904		Established
Jul 6 1904		Mason, Charles C.
Oct 18 1918		Bentm Herbert C.
Sep 15 1920		Discontinued Mail to Creede
Apr 4 1921	---	NW/4 Sec 32 T41N R2W 1/2 mile north of the Rio Grande 1/8 mile north Crooked Creek Applicant for postmaster - Annah R. Wright Nothing more is recorded relative to this proposed location

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	HERMIT, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Jul 6 1907 Jul 19 1912 Doane Type 2 with 1; S-22x13mm
---	--------------------------------	--

**JENNISON**

Jennison was another of the way stations on the road that followed the Rio Grande River and crossed over Stony Pass to the Animas River and Silverton. From 1875 to 1879 the Jennison Post Office was established, twice discontinued and re-established, and finally renamed Timber Hill. There exists a possibility that the name change also involved a move to another location; however, Mrs. Lucy J. Brewster continued as the postmaster for Timber Hill.

Initially the location was known as Carr's Ranch. The origin of that name is uncertain and it soon took the name of Jennison for Charles and Irene Jennison who then operated it as a wayside station on the Stony Pass Road. The openings and closings of the post office may indicate that the ranch and way station did not operate on a year round basis

The exact location of Jennison (and Timber Hill) is questionable. It was on the south side of the Rio Grande and likely some four or five miles west of Lost Trail.

**JENNISON – Continued**

Access to the Lost Trail Ranch is no problem. Beyond there the road is most assuredly a Jeep road and not a very good one. In September 2001, after stopping at Lost Trail, Jim Ozment and I set off for Jennison. An hour and a half later and after a lunch break, we had come two difficult miles to the top of a ridge. From there, and well below us, we could see the continuation of the road along the Rio Grande River. With the weather threatening we made a decision that there was unlikely anything to be seen should we get to our nebulous destination. Thus we decided it would not be worth the effort. Turning around we headed back to civilization and on to Lake City. Therefore I can not describe what if anything does remain at Jennison.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Feb 10 1875</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>None reported</b>	<b>On the south side of the Rio Grande</b>
		<b>Howardsville 22 miles west</b>	<b>San Juan City 25 miles east</b>
<b>Jan 15 1875</b>		<b>Established</b>	
<b>Jan 15 1875</b>		<b>Jennison, Charles</b>	
<b>Apr 15 1875</b>		<b>Jennison, Mrs. Irene</b>	
<b>Dec 20 1875</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>	
<b>Apr 11 1877</b>		<b>Re-established</b>	
<b>Apr 11 1877</b>		<b>Brewster, Mrs. Lucy J.</b>	
<b>Dec 10 1877</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>	
<b>May 20 1878</b>		<b>Re-established</b>	
<b>May 20 1878</b>		<b>Brewster, Mrs. Lucy J.</b>	
<b>Apr 25 1879</b>		<b>Name changed to Timber Hill</b>	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**LAKE CITY**

In 1871 Henry Henson, Joel Mullin, Albert Mead and Charles Goodwin made the discovery that would become the Ute-Ulay Mine at Henson and would lead to the establishment of Lake City. However, the property could not be developed until after the 1873 signing of the Brunot Treaty that officially opened the area to prospecting and development.

In 1874, Enos Hotchkiss discovered the Hotchkiss Mine, later to be called the Golden Fleece.

These two important discoveries brought a flood of prospectors to the area and before the end of 1874 Eugene Bartholfs, Finley Sparling and others laid out the Lake City townsite at the junction of Henson Creek with the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River. In September of 1875, largely financed by Otto Mears and his associates, Henry Finley, F. Newton Rouge and William T. Ring formed the Lake City Town Company.

The location chosen for Lake City was one of the few areas that offered sufficient open ground for the platting of a sizeable townsite. Lake City expanded rapidly and became the principal supply point for the mining camps that grew up along both Henson Creek and the Lake Fork of the Gunnison.

The Colorado Territorial Legislature authorized Hinsdale County on February 10, 1874. The first county seat was at San Juan but by 1876 the county seat had been moved to Lake City where it has remained to the present time.

The mining activity in the area fluctuated. After the initial flurry of mining there was a decline, partially due to decreasing ore values but more related to the difficulties in transporting ore to the outside world. That changed in 1889 with the arrival of the Lake Fork Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. There was increased production from the surrounding mines. This lasted until the 1893 repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act. Some of the mines were able to continue operating, relying on rich silver ores and subsidiary production of gold.

**LAKE CITY – Continued**

Mining slowly decreased and the population of Hinsdale County and of Lake City declined. When mining finally ended, Lake City came close to dying. The railroad was abandoned in 1932.

By 1970 there were only 91 full time residents; however the summer population does increase substantially. Today Lake City survives as a resort community catering to hunters, fishermen and others hiking and camping in the San Juan Mountains.

Latitude = 38:01:48 North Longitude = 107:18:53 West



**The First National Bank of Lake City**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

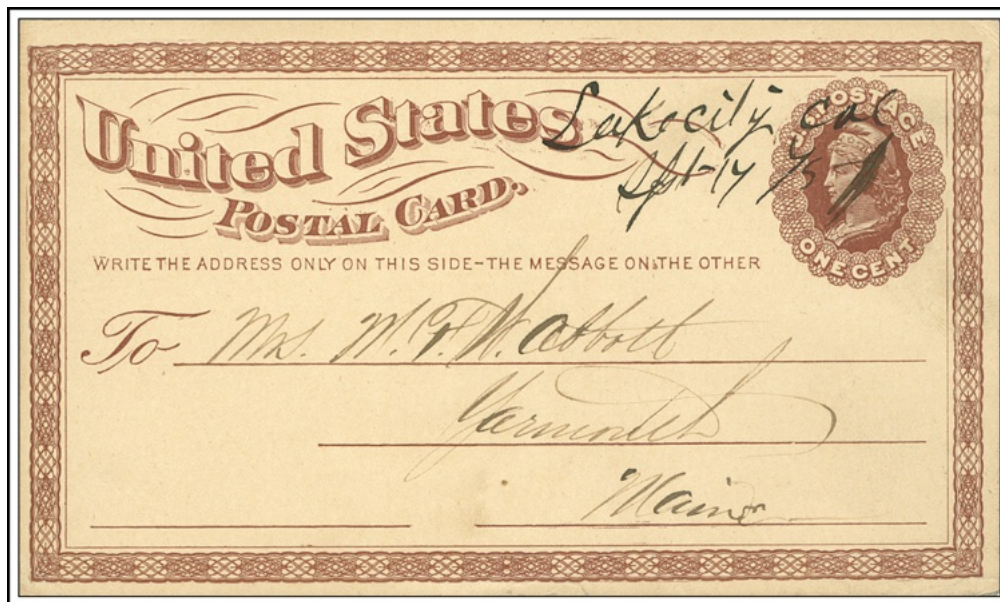
September 5, 2001

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 4 1875	---	Unsurveyed On west side of Lake Fork of the Gunnison On north side of Godwin Creek	
Jun 18 1875		Established	
Jun 18 1875		Dole, Stephen A.	
Jun 19 1876		Howell, Robert S.	
Jul 17 1876		Dole, Stephen A.	
Apr 16 1877		Werkheiser, John H.	
Apr 23 1877		Ruggles, Henry D.	
Oct 19 1878		Gueders, Herman	
Jan 23 1879		Gueders, Herman	P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
Apr 21 1882		Mills, Jared W.	P&S
May 1 1886		Bell, Thaddeus P.	
Jan 28 1888		McKenzie, Daniel	
May 11 1889		Biggers, Edwin H.	
Mar 18 1891		Steinbeck, James F.	
Mar 23 1892	---	Not subdivided - southern part of T44N R4W 600 feet west from Lake Fork of the Gunnison 1/4 mile north of Henson Creek	

**LAKE CITY – Continued**

Jul 22 1892	Steinbeck, James F.	P&S
Jun 29 1896	Gardner, George F.	P
Mar 1 1897	Gardner, George F.	P&S
May 13 1897	Steinbeck, James F.	P&S
Feb 23 1899 ---	Sec 34 T44N R4W 1/5 mile west of Lake Fork 1/4 mile north of Henson Creek 650 feet west of Denver & Rio Grande	
Jul 18 1901	Ogle, Wesley H.	P
Feb 19 1906	Ogle, Wesley H.	P&S
Jul 1 1908		Change in class
Apr 28 1914 ---	SW/4 Sec 27 T44N R4W Lake Fork of the Gunnison 1060 feet east Henson Creek 1080 feet south of post office	
Jul 1 1934		Office relegated
Dec 31 1934	Snowden, William O.	Assumed charge
Jan 8 1935	Snowden, William O.	Acting
Aug 2 1935	Snowden, William O.	Confirmed
Sep 3 1935	Snowden, William O.	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941 ---	3rd and Silver Streets Lake Fork 3 blocks east Henson Creek 3 blocks south of post office	
Aug 12 1943	Lewis, Mrs. Ethel	Assumed charge
Aug 20 1943	Lewis, Mrs. Ethel	Acting
Aug 26 1944	Lewis, Mrs. Ethel	Confirmed
Nov 11 1944	Lewis, Mrs. Ethel	Commissioned
Dec 31 1951	Green, Mrs. Alice E.	Assumed charge
Jan 21 1952	Green, Mrs. Alice E.	Acting
May 31 1953	Colopy, Mrs. Ruby M.	Assumed charge
Jul 9 1953	Colopy, Mrs. Ruby M.	Acting
Jul 14 1954	Colopy, Mrs. Ruby M.	Nominated
Jul 31 1954	Colopy, Mrs. Ruby M.	Confirmed
Aug 2 1954	Colopy, Mrs. Ruby M.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Nov 15 1979	Hurd, Mona E.	Officer in charge



Lake City Col

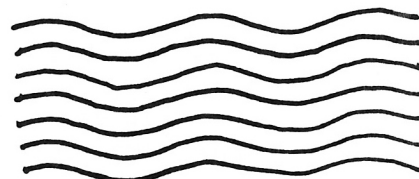
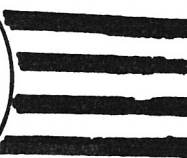
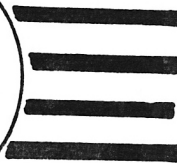
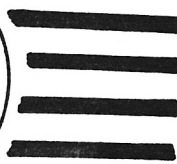
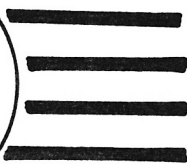
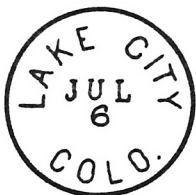
September 17, 1875

## Confirmed types of postal markings

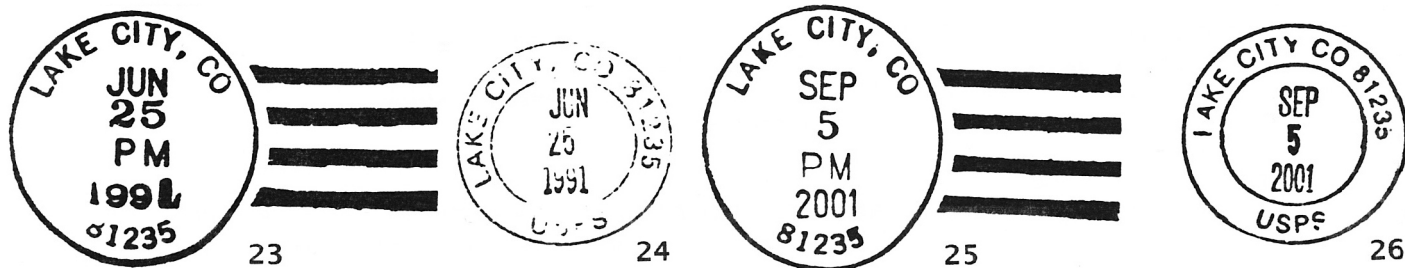
1	Lake City Col MS	Sep 17 1875 Dec 16 1875
2	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 25.5	Mscp Pen cancel Oct 16 1875 May 24 1877
3	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 24.0	Hstp Cork, smudge; Target 4-ring 17mm Apr 10 1876 Sep 25 1877
4	LAKE CITY / COL. CI 10P 25.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm; Cork, smudge May 4 1876 Sep 14 187-
5	LAKE CITY, / COLO. CI 11P 32.0/19.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm Nov 13 1877 Dec 19 1879
6	LAKE CITY, / COLO. CI 20P 32.0/29.0	Hstp Fancy, Maltese cross Apr 16 1880 Jun 22 1881
7	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Grid, 7-bar circular; Cork, negative X-roads Dec 7 1881 Jun 14 1888
8	LAKE CITY, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm Nov 28 1885
9	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm July 14 1889 May 10 1892
10	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge Aug 18 1891 Aug 25 1893
11	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads Nov 28 1892 Feb 12 1894
12	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge Apr 3 1893 Aug 11 1899
13	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present Sep 4 1894 Sep 26 1898
14	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Hstp Cork, smudge, Negative X-roads Apr 9 1898 Aug 29 1900
15	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Dplx No killer Feb 27 1901 Aug 23 1920
16	LAKE CITY, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval Aug 27 1906
17	LAKE CITY. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Hstp No killer Feb 27 1936 Jan 7 1942
18	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm Apr 3 1943 Jun 25 1954
19	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x20mm Jun 26 1957 Aug 2 1963
20	LAKE CITY / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm Jan 2 1963
21	LAKE CITY, CO / 81235 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-23x18mm Jul 18 1966 May 31 1991
22	LAKE CITY, CO / 81235 CI 10P 22.0	4bars S-25x21mm Mar 4 1976 May 27 1993
23	LAKE CITY, CO / 81235 CI 10P 32.0	Mach 7 wavy lines Jun 25 1991 May 20 1993
24	LAKE CITY, CO 81235 / USPS CI 11P 27.5/18.5	4bars S-24x19mm Jun 25 1991
25	LAKE CITY, CO / 81235 CI 10P 32.0	Hstp No killer Sep 5 2001
26	LAKE CITY CO 81235 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/18.0	4bars S-24x19mm Sep 5 2001
		Hstp No killer

LAKE CITY - Continued

*Lakecity, col  
Apr-14/5-*

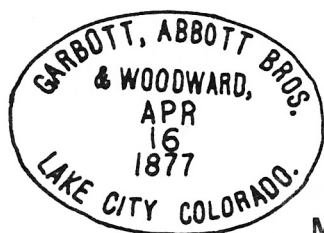


## LAKE CITY - Continued



## MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS

M 1 LAKE CITY COLORADO. / GARBOTT, ABBOTT BROS / & WOODWARD, Apr 16 1877  
OV 40.0x29.0 Hstp No other marking on this cover



M-1

## LAKESHORE

The Golden Fleece Mine was the principal producer in the area around the northern end of Lake San Cristobal. There were other small mines in the vicinity. The discovery of the Golden Fleece has been attributed to Enos Hotchkiss, perhaps as early as 1874.

A small community, including a school, did develop at Lakeshore. It seems likely that the settlement also provided some services to travelers going west to Burrows Park and other mining camps on the upper reaches of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison.

Remnants of the mining activity are still visible on the western side of Lake San Cristobal. In the twentieth century, as mining activity slowed and eventually ended, the northern end of the lake developed into a resort area. There are a number of seasonal homes along the lakeshore, a couple of larger resorts or condominiums and a small marina.

From Lake City, drive south on Colorado Highway 149 to Hinsdale County Road 30. This is the Road to Lake San Cristobal and is also marked as the southern portion of the Alpine Loop. There are roads along both sides of the lake that rejoin at the south end. From there you can continue on toward the locations of Carson, Childs Park, Sherman, Burrows Park, White Cross and Tellurium.

A massive landslide that blocked the Lake Fork of the Gunnison formed Lake San Cristobal. The scar of the slide is visible on the face of Slumgullion Mountain. The slide produced a jumbled topography, reminiscent of the contents of a slumgullion stew.

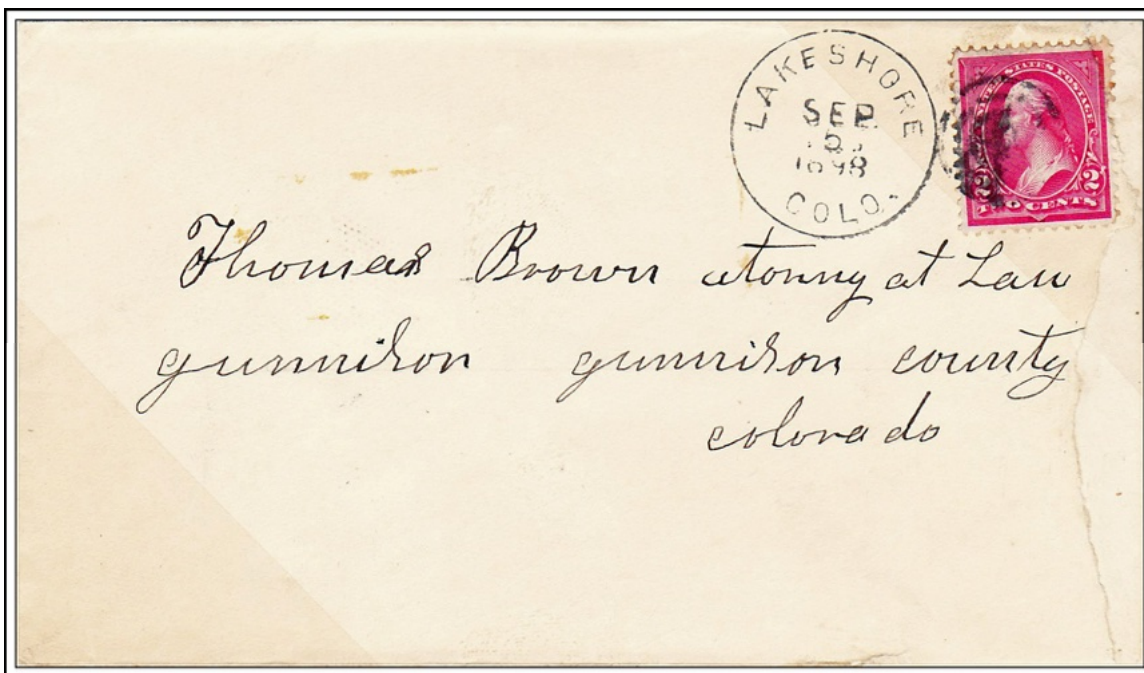
## Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 28 1896 --- SW/4 Sec 15 T43N R4W About 100 yards west of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison Sketch map places it at the north end of Lake San Cristobal, west of the lake and river  
Proposed postmaster - Jesse B. Clevenger  
Oct 19 1896 Established



**LAKESHORE – Continued**

Oct 19 1896	Clevenger, Jesse B.
Jul 28 1898	Mayer, Herman
Oct 30 1898	Cameron, Mary J.
Apr 23 1904	Ordered closed
May 14 1904	Discontinued Mail to Lake City



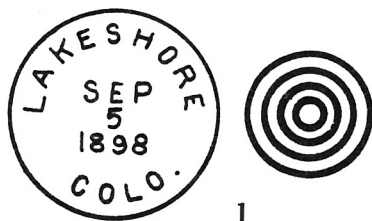
**LAKESHORE / COLO.      September 5, 1898**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1      LAKESHORE / COLO.  
         CI 10P 27.0

Jan 5 1898 Sep 15 1900

Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm



**LOST TRAIL**

Lost Trail was located a short distance beyond the western end of the Rio Grande Reservoir. It was on the north side of the Rio Grande River at the junction with Lost Trail Creek.

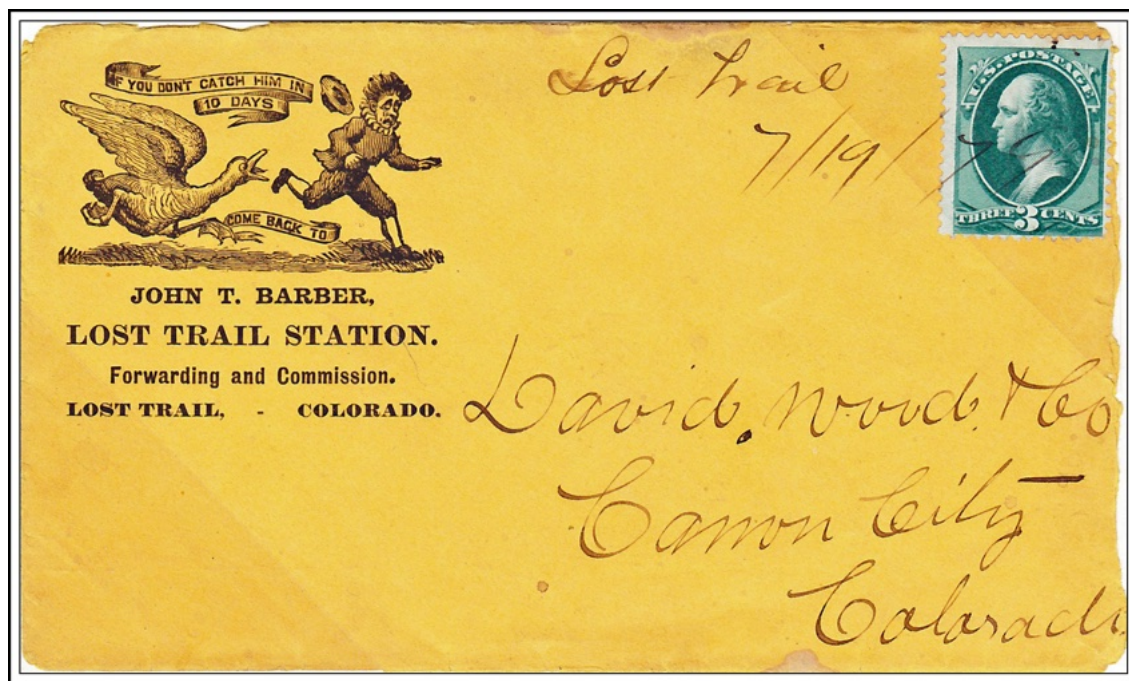
The name is attributed to an unnamed party of explorers or prospectors, who following the river through thick willows briefly “lost the trail” and thus arose the name of the creek.

It has been claimed that in the early 1870’s the Vites brothers established a cow camp and in 1875 brought in a herd of 140 head of Missouri cattle, establishing what was described as a, “milk ranch.”

**LOST TRAIL – Continued**

Other descriptions acknowledge that Lost Trail was a stage stop and a place where freight was transferred from wagons to mules for the trek over Stony Pass to Silverton. It is stated by some that Lost Trail was a ranch office, a tourist center and in addition to the post office had a store, saloon and several cabins. This description is somewhat suspect as George Crofutt suggested that the best option at Lost Trail was “to camp out.”

With the decline and eventual cessation of traffic over Stony Pass, Lost Trail reverted to a ranch operation. In more recent times Lost Trail became a rustic guest ranch with a nearby campground.

**Lost Trail****July 19, 1879**

From Colorado Highway 149 turn west onto Rio Grande Reservoir Road, Forest Road 520. Stay on this road for about eighteen miles continuing beyond the reservoir and the campground. A side road leads into the Lost Trail Guest Ranch. In September 2001 Jim Ozment and I visited the site. We drove into the ranch and encountered the owner, Caroline Wetherill. Once she understood our purpose, she was happy to take us on a short distance to the ranch barns and corral. The barns were on the river side of the ranch road and Mrs. Wetherill claimed that a pile of boards on the north side of the road was all that was left of the Lost Trail Stage Station.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 18 1878	---	Unsurveyed Land 1/4 mile north of the Rio Grande 1 mile west of Lost Trail Creek
Jan 28 1878		Established Not listed in Postal Guides, perhaps because of short durations of operation
Jan 28 1878		Barber, John L.
Sep 30 1879		Discontinued
Apr 28 1883	---	Unsurveyed 1/2 mile north of the Rio Grande 1 mile west of Lost Trail Creek
		Proposed postmaster - Eugene C. Hamilton
May 14 1883		Re-established
May 14 1883		Hamilton, Eugene C.
Aug 14 1884		Discontinued Mail to San Juan

**LOST TRAIL – Continued**

Jun 27 1892	Re-established
Jun 27 1892	Hodredge, Harlow J.
May 10 1894	Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Lost Trail	Jun 2 1879	Jul 19 1879
	MS	Mscp	Pen cancel

*Lost Trail*  
*7/19/79*  
1

**ROSES CABIN**

In 1874, Charles Rose, more often referred to as Corydon Rose, built a cabin on the headwaters of Henson Creek, near the mouth of Schafer Gulch. Eventually the cabin grew into a combination stagecoach stop, bar, office and stable for livestock on the road over Engineer Pass. There was also a hotel that provided rudimentary accommodations for travelers. There were some other cabins and the settlement provided supplies to surrounding mines.

It has been stated that in 1880 Charles Schafer took over Corydon Rose’s operations and expanded the facilities. However, when it opened in 1878, Charles Schafer was the first postmaster for Roses Cabin and it seems likely that he may already have been operating the store.

There was some mining in the area but Roses Cabin never developed into a real town. For a time there was a small concentration and smelting works at Roses Cabin. By the mid 1880’s the Engineer Pass Road had declined to only occasional use and lacking good mines, Roses Cabin began to fade into history.

In the twentieth century the Golconda Mining Company attempted a revival of activity but that effort ended before 1920.

From the site of Capitol City, continue west on Hinsdale County Road 20 five miles to a fork in the road. The right hand fork climbs to Engineer Pass. The left-hand fork goes only a short distance further. This fork was part of the original road over the pass.

Roses Cabin was in the vicinity of the junction. The only remnants are a few logs from a building on the north side of the road, a tenth of mile from the road junction. This may be the ruins of the livery stable.

The trip from Lake City to Roses Cabin is not difficult. The road is good through most of the distance and the scenery is impressive. From Roses Cabin the drive over Engineer Pass should not be attempted with a passenger car.

Latitude = 37:58:35 North Longitude = 107:32:16 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

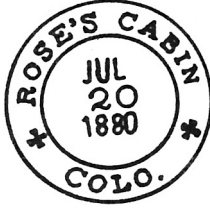
Jun 17 1878	---	In unsurveyed territory On north side of Henson Creek Mineral City 5 miles northeast Capitol City 5 miles easterly from site
Jun 27 1878		Established
Jun 27 1878		Schafer, Charles
Jul 17 1879		Lorrenson, August
Sep 3 1880		Schafer, Charles
May 14 1883		Sleeper, Ernest L.
Sep 19 1887		Discontinued Papers to Capitol City

**ROSES CABIN – Continued****Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 ROSE'S CABIN / COLO.  
CI 11P 26.0/17.0

Jul 20 1880 Jun 27 1882

Hstp Not recorded, 4-ring target Seen w/ & w/o apostrophe



1

**SAN JUAN**

From 1874 until its closure in 1895 the San Juan Post Office was at a location in present day Mineral County. This was a part of Hinsdale County until March 27, 1893 when Mineral County was authorized by the Colorado Legislature. For consistency I will repeat the discussion of San Juan as it appears in the section for Mineral County.

The location of the San Juan Post Office is another of the puzzles in Mineral County. In 1874 when the San Juan Post Office was authorized, the area was within the boundaries of Hinsdale County (formed February 10, 1874). San Juan was the first county seat of Hinsdale County, although it would soon lose that position to the rapidly growing Lake City which was more convenient to the mining excitement.

If the location described in the April 1874 Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report is to be believed, then San Juan was originally at a site that is now within Mineral County. The San Juan Post Office was closed in 1895 and when it reopened in 1900 the location was definitely in Hinsdale County at what is now the San Juan Guest Ranch.

It is generally accepted that one Harry Franklin took up a ranch claim and platted San Juan City centered on his ranch. Apparently a few other buildings were constructed, as the Hinsdale County Courthouse was in a building owned by W. H. Green. The settlement was on the road from Del Norte to the San Juan Mountains and may have been where the road to Silverton, via Stony Pass, split from the road to Lake City. San Juan is Spanish for Saint John. The loss of the county seat was a serious blow to the new settlement and if later reports are correct the "City" soon disappeared.

San Juan City was the site of a roadhouse, the Texas Club, operated by the Tafts. In the spring of 1875 the facilities were taken over by Clarence W. Brooks. The Galloway Ranch, a mile beyond Brooks' place, had cornered the business from the freight wagons coming to and going from the San Juan Mountains. The location of the Galloway Ranch could well be that of the present day San Juan Guest Ranch and with the heavy freighting activity it would be logical for the post office to move to that site. Anna Taft and Clarence W. Brooks were both postmasters at San Juan. In May 1877 James P. Galloway became the San Juan postmaster and that seems a likely time for the move to the location in Hinsdale County. However it appears the move was not reported to the Post Office Department in Washington.

The 1874 location fits best to a site in the NW/4, Section 32, Township 41 North, Range 1 West. Strangely that is the location on a 1921 report for a post office to be named Hermit. The original Hermit, well within Hinsdale County had been discontinued in 1920. Nothing seems to have come of this attempted revival. This location is one and a half miles east of the Mineral-Hinsdale County line and on a side road that leads in to a large, well-maintained guest ranch complex.

From the entrance to that site, drive west on Colorado Highway 149 to Rio Grande Reservoir Road to the southwest. The San Juan Guest Ranch is about a mile from Colorado 149. It is a large guest ranch complex. The combination stage stop and store is the dominant structure and houses the office for

**SAN JUAN – Continued**

the guest ranch. A small log structure that once housed the post office is still standing.

Latitude = 37:46:57 North Longitude = 107:08:37 West San Juan Ranch



**The San Juan Guest Ranch, final location of the San Juan Post Office.  
The building on the right was the stage station.**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

September 4, 2001

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Apr 27 1874 --- Unknown 1/2 mile east of the Rio Grande 1/4 mile south of Clear Creek  
This description places the site in Mineral County, approximately one mile  
east of the county line (W.H.B.)  
SAN JUAN (Or BRISTOL -crossed out)**
- Jun 24 1874 Established**
- Jun 24 1874 Taft, Anna E.**
- Jun 21 1875 Brooks, Clarence W.**
- May 16 1877 Galloway, James P.**
- Jul 3 1883 Abbott, Jacob J.**
- Aug 20 1884 Holmes, James H.**
- May 21 1894 Burdett, Herbert W.**
- Mar 18 1895 Discontinued Mail to Antelope Springs**
- Jan 31 1900 --- NE/4 Sec 25 T41N R3W One mile north of the Rio Grande,  
on north side of Crooked Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Herbert C. Bent  
This location is in Hinsdale County, a short distance west of the county line (W.H.B.).**
- Feb 28 1900 Re-established at a site in Hinsdale County**
- Feb 28 1900 Bent, Herbert C.**
- Apr 23 1904 Ordered closed**
- May 14 1904 Discontinued Mail to Amethyst**

## SAN JUAN – Continued

Jul 5 1922 Re-established  
 Jul 5 1922 Wright, Anna M.  
 Mar 8 1923 Re-establishment rescinded

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	San Juan Colo MS	Jun 22 1875 Jul 17 1881 Mscp Pen Cancel
2	SAN JUAN / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Aug 21 188- Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm
3	SAN JUAN / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Aug 17 1894 Aug 1 1901 Hstp Target, manuscript date
4	SAN JUAN / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Aug 1 1901 Hstp Not present

*San Juan Colo*  
 6-22-75

1



## SHERMAN

Sherman was a mining town that developed as a result of discoveries in the early 1870's. Both placer and lode prospects contributed to the development of Sherman.

In 1877 A. D. Freeman and others laid out the town of Sherman. The townsite was an ambitious one with a number of blocks and wide streets. The Sherman Hotel and some large storage buildings were the principal structures.

The source of the name is uncertain. Sources differ; claiming that it was for a man whose name was either F. S. Sherman or A. D. Sherman. There is also a claim that it was named after the famous Civil War general, William Tecumseh Sherman.

Early placer mining produced some gold but silver was the principal metal from the mines. The Black Wonder was the most productive of the mines at Sherman. It is ironic that the collapse of the town of Sherman was the result of the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act. There were later attempts to revive mining but the gold content of the ore was insufficient to override the cost of mining, processing and transportation.

Another factor contributing to the demise of Sherman was its location at the junction of Cataract and Cottonwood Creeks with the Lake Fork of the Gunnison. Snow was not a significant problem but the streams were the source of frequent torrential flooding. The final event was the failure of a large dam that had been built to provide storage for a hydroelectric plant supplying the town and the Black Wonder Mine and Mill. The resulting flood washed away much of the town and left a thick layer of rock and gravel.

From the location of Childs Park, continue west three miles on Hinsdale County Road 30 to a fork in the road. Take the left-hand fork along the river. Seven-tenths of a mile from the fork there is a sign (2001) that reads, "Sherman Townsite Founded in 1877." There are remains of a few log structures and a stone foundation for what was likely the Black Wonder Mill.

Latitude = 37:54:10 North Longitude = 107:25:20 West

**SHERMAN – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 1 1877	---	No government survey has been made here 20 rods south of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River 1/4 mile north of Cottonwood Creek Sketch map shows it in the junction
Jun 19 1877		Established
Jun 19 1877		Fraley, Benton
Sep 4 1877		Lakeman, Theodore J.
Sep 27 1877		Lakeman, Theodore J.
Apr 16 1880		Graham, Charles H.
Jun 20 1881		Franklin, George W.
Nov 13 1886		Discontinued Mail to Lake City
May 16 1895		Re-established
May 16 1895		Cochran, Cora J.
Aug 6 1895	---	Not reported On the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River At junction of Cottonwood Creek (?) Proposed postmaster - Cora J. Cochran
Jan 27 1896		Harrington, Homer A.
Apr 5 1898		Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	SHERMAN / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	May 3 1879 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
2	Sherman Colo MS	Oct 10 1879 Mscp Pen cancel
3	SHERMAN, / COLO. CI 21P 28.5/26.0/17.0	Jun 30 1881 Apr 27 1882 Hstp Fancy, double outlined Maltese Cross; Target
4	SHERMAN, / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/18.0	Sep 18 1882 Hstp Fancy, indistinct Serif lettering



*Sherman Colo  
Oct 10 1879*



**TELLURIUM**

Tellurium was the westernmost of the mining camps and post offices on the headwaters of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison. It was also the least successful of the operations in the area known as Burrows Park. Tellurium was never a large camp, although it did have a mill to process ore.

Tellurium was a reference to a type of silver ore, however that type of ore was not found in the Burrows Park area.

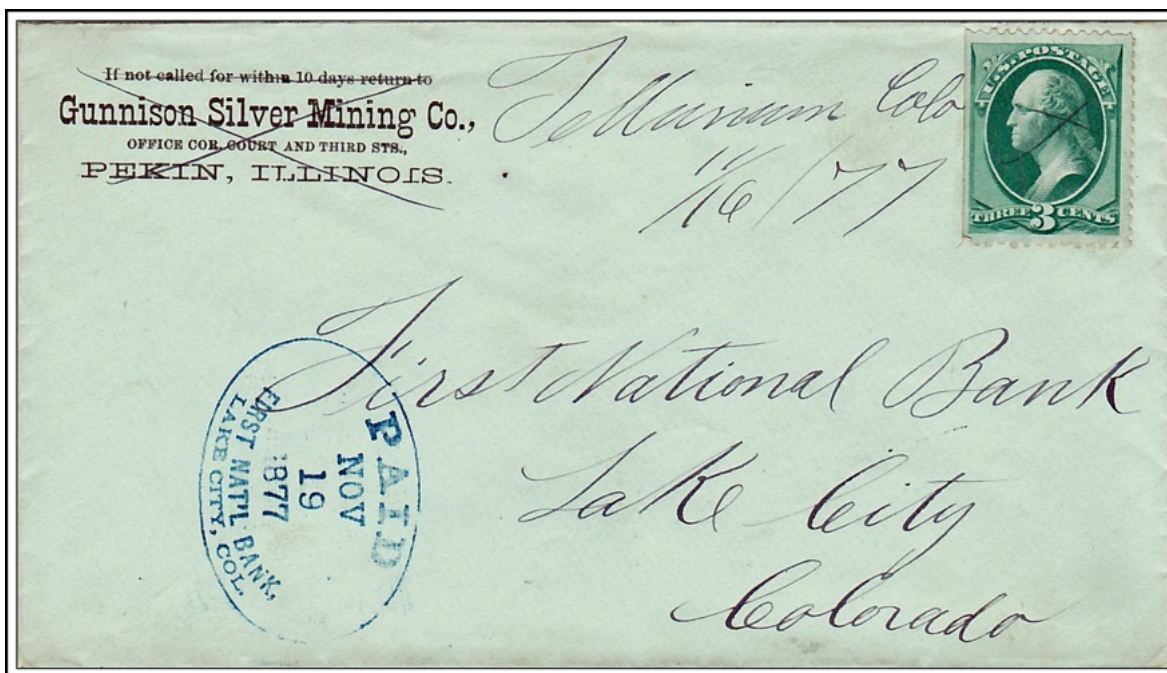
**TELLURIUM – Continued**

The exact location of Tellurium is open to some question. Some historical sources place it on Cleveland Creek. Other sources, including the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report place it just east of Adams Creek. This could be another instance of the same stream having more than one name through time.

If the location was at Cleveland Creek, then the site was about a mile beyond the location of White Cross and another mile from the first switchback on the climb to Cinnamon Pass.

One historical reference states that the principal mine at Tellurium was on the south side of the river. That description fits best to a location on a side road, a short distance from the aforementioned switchback. There is a mine dump there and evidence of other activity, although recent camping complicates the interpretation. My preference is for that location. The start of the switchback is three miles from the Burrows Park site and seven miles from the fork and side road to Sherman.

No matter how one interprets the locations of the Burrows Park, White Cross and Tellurium Post Offices, it is obvious that they were closely related to one another and to the overall mining activity in the Burrows Park region.



Tellurium Colo      November 16, 1877

**Chronology of the Post Office**

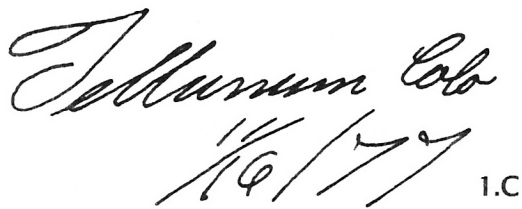
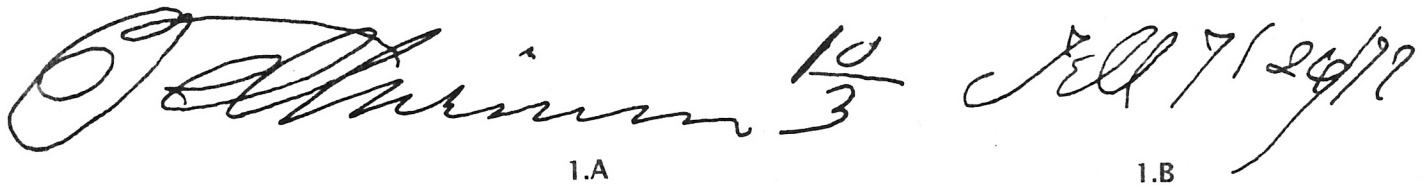
Aug 24 1875	Established
Aug 24 1875	Dowling, John F.
Oct 20 1876	Boley, Crawford
Oct 27 1876	Boley, Daniel C.
Feb 2 1877	Boughton, Jonathan P.
Sep 4 1877	Barnes, Frank J.
May 27 1878	Priddy, Charles N.
Aug 7 1878	--- None reported About 12 rods north of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison About 13 rods east of Adams Creek
Oct 4 1880	Discontinued



**TELLURIUM – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1.A	Tellurium MS	Mscp Pen cancel by date	Sep 6 1876 May 14 1878
1.B	Tell MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Oct 17 1876 Aug 29 1877
1.C	Tellurium Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Nov 16 1877



**TIMBER HILL**

The Timber Hill Post Office was a continuation of the Jennison Post Office. Mrs. Lucy J. Brewster was the last postmaster of Jennison and the only postmaster of Timber Hill.

It appears that the location of this post office was near the base of a steep climb on the road to Stony Pass; a grade that may have been known as Timber Hill and hence the post office name.

There remains a question as to whether the change in name was only that or if there was a move westward to the foot of the grade. In any event Timber Hill was a way station on the road over Stony Pass to Silverton. With the arrival in Silverton of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, freight traffic over Stony Pass virtually ceased and the way stations along the road passed into history.

Please refer to the discussion of Jennison for more of the history and directions to the site of Timber Hill.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

	No document was found in the Hinsdale County Geographic Site Location Reports
Apr 25 1879	Formerly named Jennison
Apr 25 1879	Brewster, Mrs. Lucy J.
Jan 3 1881	Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM TIMBER HILL**

**WHITE CROSS**

The White Cross Post Office was the successor to the Burrows Park Post Office. It was about a mile further west and in a more extensive portion of the physical Burrows Park. Silver mining was the major activity and it had its cycles of boom and bust. The silver crash of 1893 ended the initial period of prosperity and the mill at White Cross was moved to Sherman. In 1900 the Tobasco Company constructed a new mill and a tramway to the mine from which they were taking ore. The community of White Cross revived with a store, hotel, saloon, boarding house, two stables and thirteen cabins. By 1905

**WHITE CROSS – Continued**

the Tabasco operations had been abandoned, apparently having been little more than a stock promotion scheme.

Scattered through Burrows Park are a number of mine dumps, some of which appear to have had activity in the not distant past.

White Cross was named for a feature on the mountain to the south of the Burrows Park – a large cross formed by intersecting veins of white quartz.

From the parking lot at Burrows Park, continue west a mile, crossing over a low ridge. White Cross was to the west of the ridge and on both sides of Cooper Creek that comes from the north to the Lake Fork of the Gunnison.

Continue west on Hinsdale County Road 30 to the location of Tellurium.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Sep 28 1882 Moved from Burrows Park
- Sep 28 1882 Clawson, Timothy J.
- Oct 23 1882 --- Not surveyed Local name is Argentum or Burrows Park  
1/4 mile north of Lake Fork of Gunnison River 1/8 mile east of Cooper Creek
- Apr 2 1885 --- None reported Later map shows it in either SE/4 SE/4 Sec 25  
T43N R6W or the NE/4 NE/4 Sec 36 T43N R6W  
Formerly Burrows Park Town of Argentum 1/2 mile north of the  
Lake Fork of the Gunnison 1/52 mile east of Cooper Creek
- Aug 9 1889 Wright, Harry E.
- Aug 31 1903 Lynde, Herbert H.
- Dec 23 1905 Sloan, James H.
- May 15 1912 Discontinued Mail to Lake City

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |  |                         |               |
|---|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | WHITE CROSS, / COLORADO.<br>OV 10P 41.0x25.0 | Mar 26 1877 Nov 24 1888 |               |
| 2 | White Cross Colo<br>MS                       | Jun 4 1889 Dec 28 1889  | Maltese cross |
| 3 | WHITE CROSS / COLORADO.<br>CI 10P 28.0       | Dec 31 1892 Sep 17 1895 |               |
| 4 | WHITE CROSS / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.0           | Jan 20 1909             |               |



1



*White cross colo  
6-4-89*

2



3



4

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Chapter III - Hinsdale County, Part 1 - July 1975

Hinsdale County, Part 2 - October 1975

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

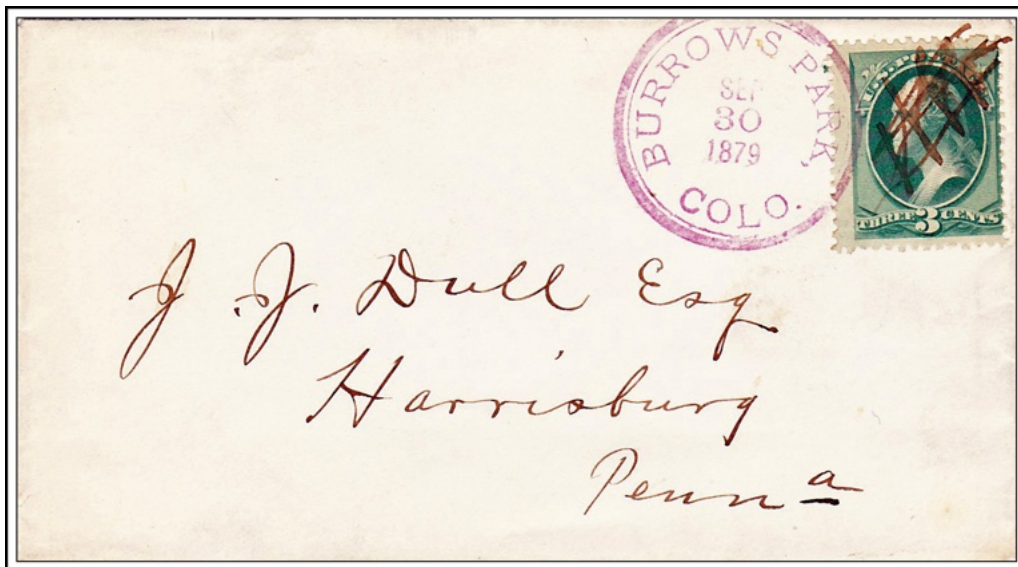
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distances to local streams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

A GALLERY OF HINSDALE COUNTY COVERS



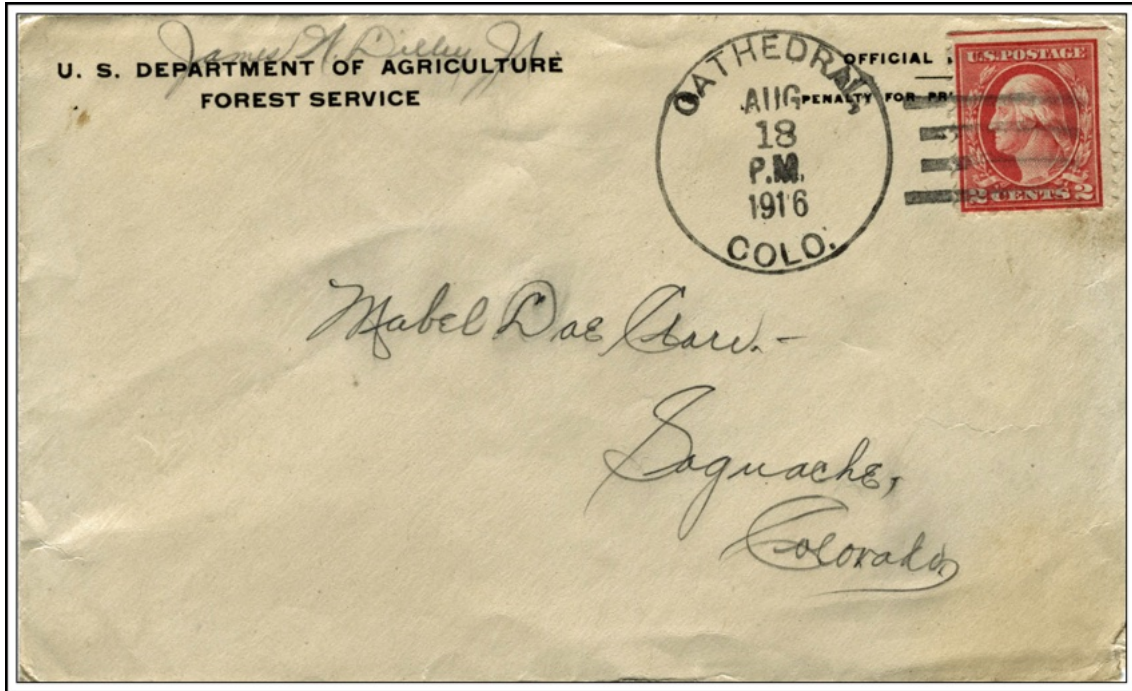
Belford / Colo

March 26, (1880)



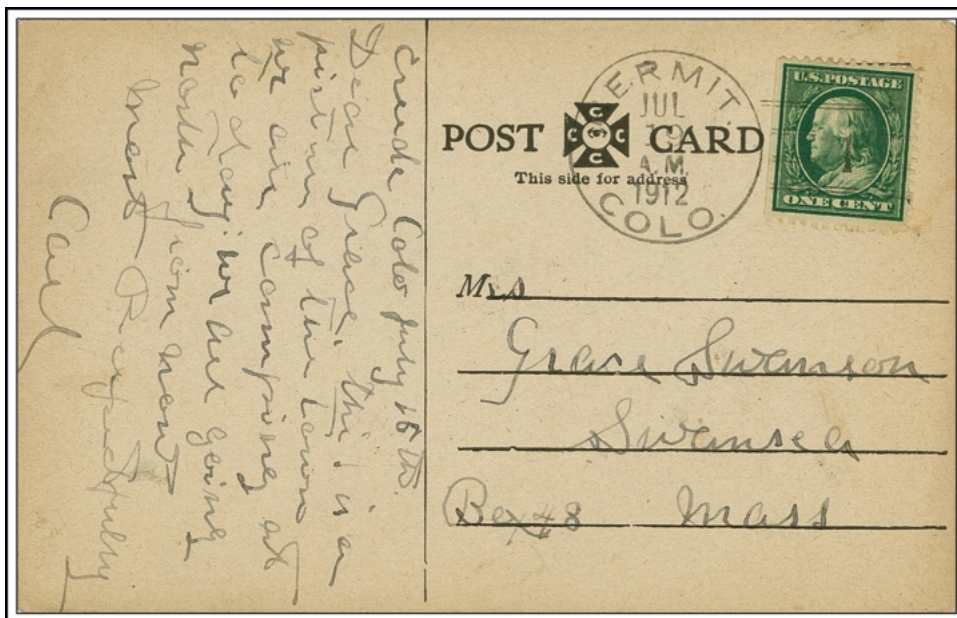
BURROWS PARK, / COLO.

September 30, 1879



CATHEDRAL, / COLO.

August 18, 1916



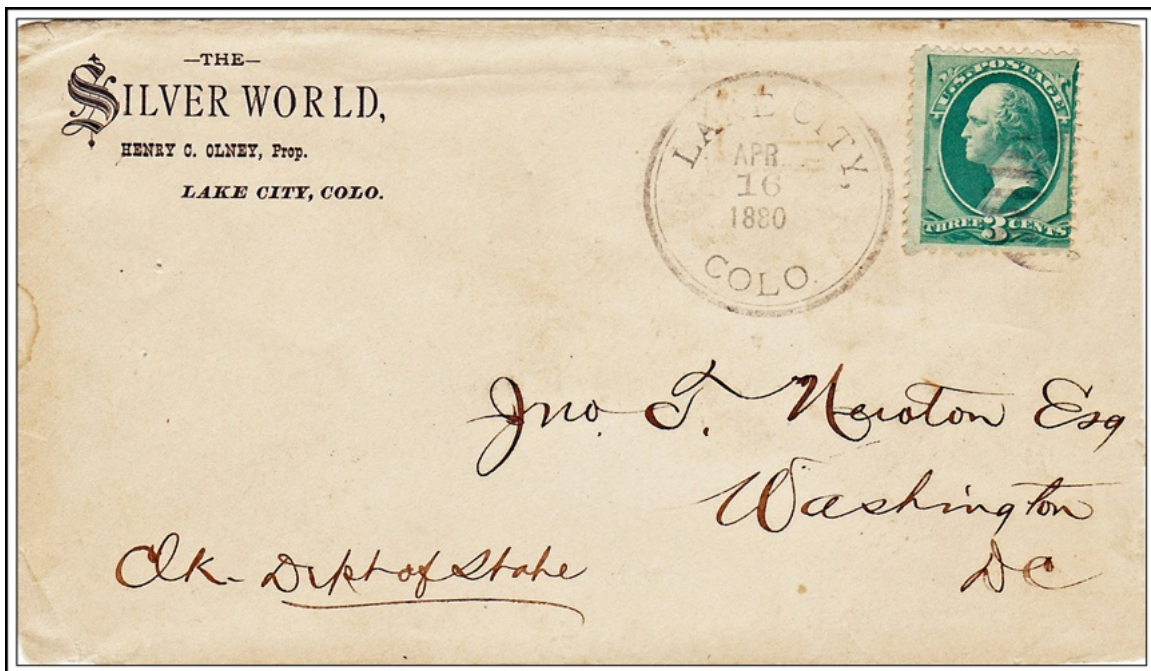
HERMIT, / COLO.

July 19, 1912



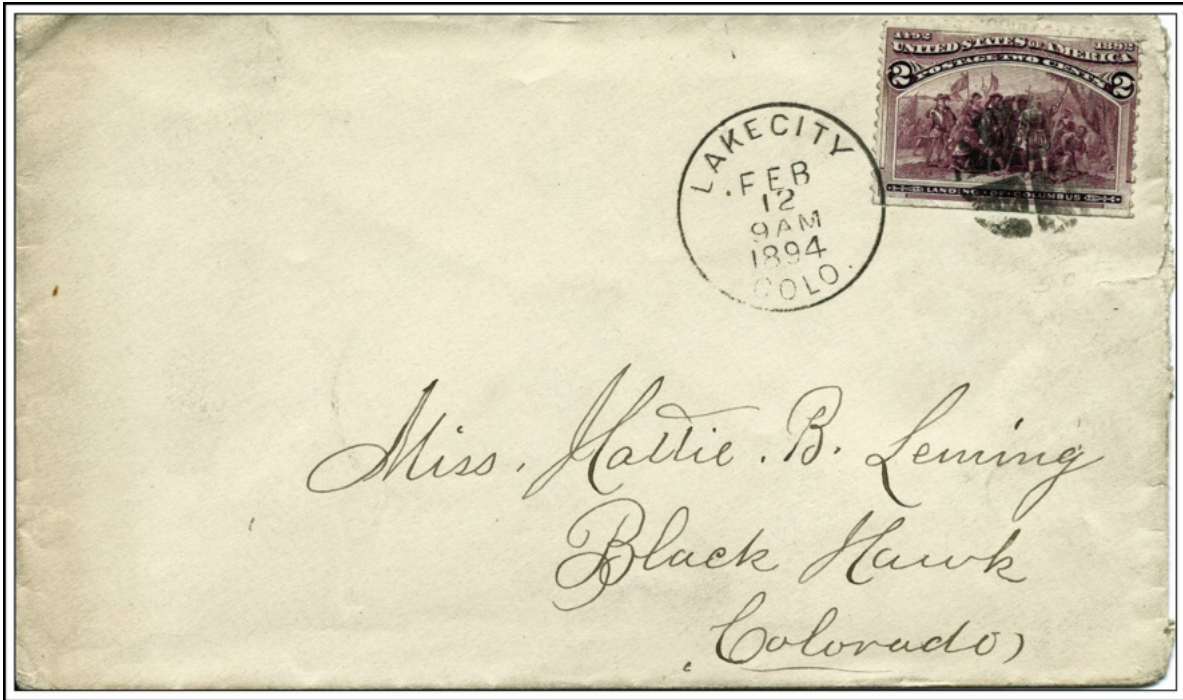
LAKE CITY, / COLO.

April 15, 1879



LAKE CITY, / COLO.

April 16, 1880



LAKE CITY / COLO.

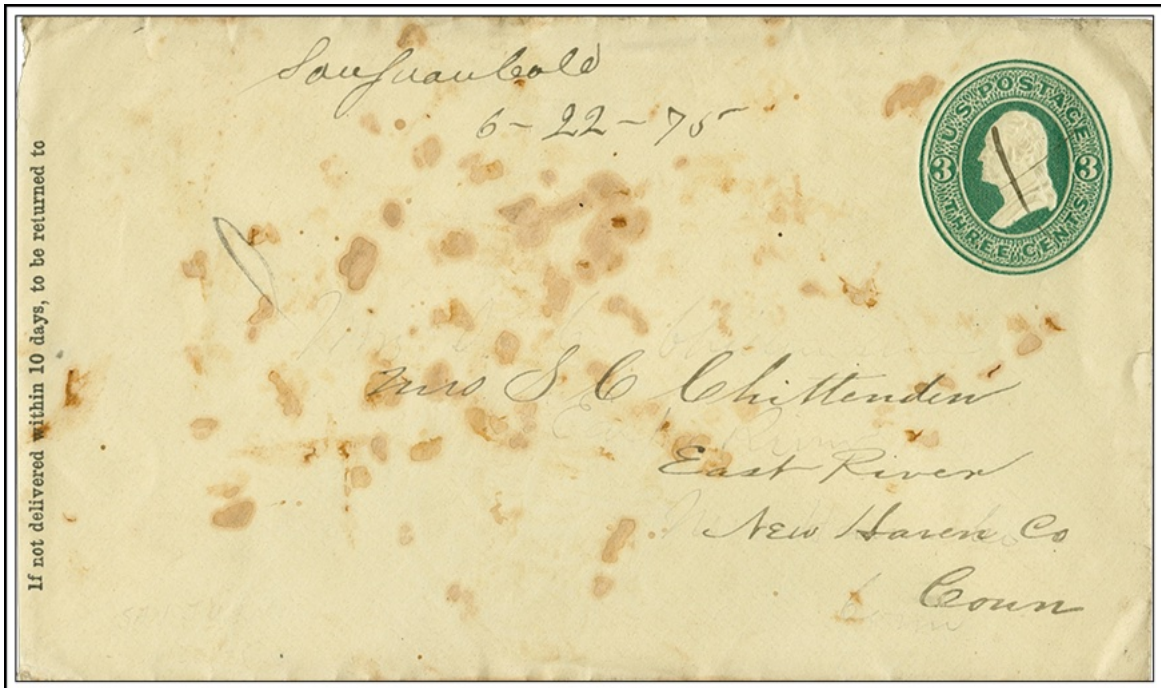
February 12, 1894



ROSE'S CABIN / COLO.

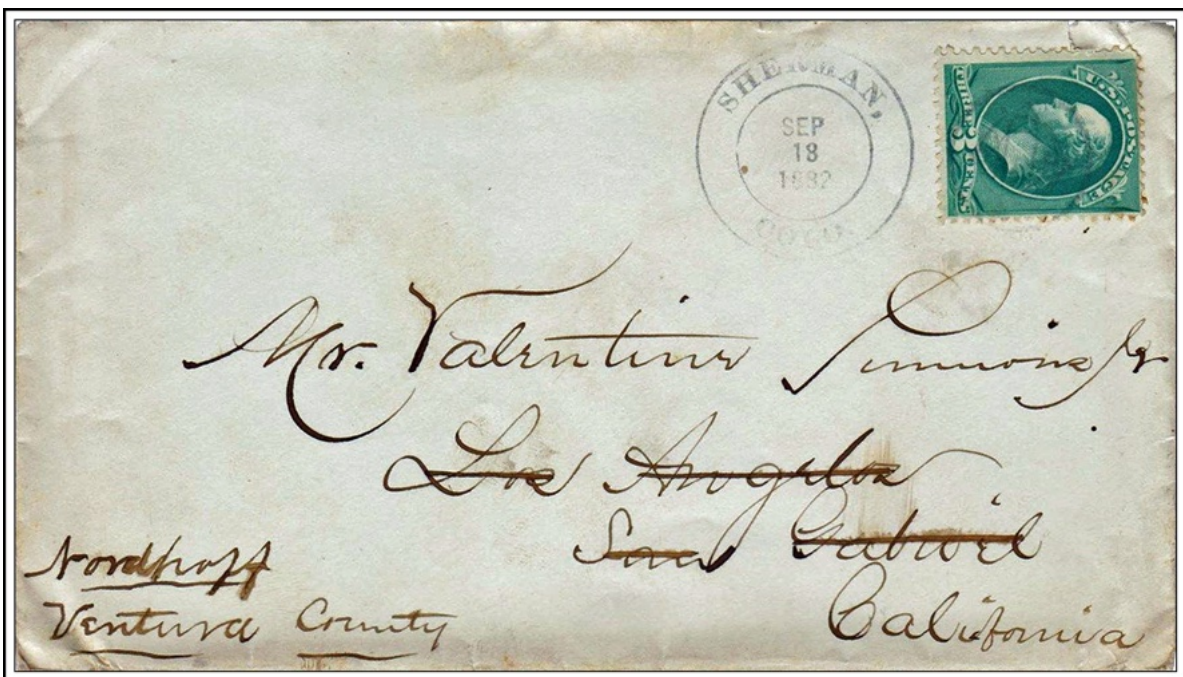
July 29, 1880





San Juan Colo

June 22, 1875



SHERMAN, / COLO.

September 18, 1882



Tell(urium, Colo.)

September 17, 1877



White Cross Colo    June 4, 1889



WHITE CROSS, / COLORADO.

March 26, 1887

