

ALAMOSA COUNTY

By William H. Bauer

Alamosa County was one of the final Colorado counties to be created. It was authorized on March 8, 1913 and was created from portions of Costilla and Saguache Counties.

Alamosa County is situated in the east central portion of the San Luis Valley. At its maximum dimensions, the county is thirty-two miles from east to west and 27 miles from north to south. On the north lies Saguache County, to the northeast, at the crest of the Sangre de Cristo is Huerfano County, to the southeast Costilla County, to the south Conejos County and to the west Rio Grande County.

The county is traversed from east to west by US Highway 160 from Walsenburg over La Veta Pass, through Alamosa and on to Durango via Monte Vista, Del Rio and Wolf Creek Pass. From the Rio Grande County line to Alamosa, US-160 shares the road with US Highway 285, which at Alamosa turns south on its way to Santa Fe. From the north, coming over Poncha Pass and south through Saguache County is Colorado Highway 17 that terminates at Alamosa. Access to the Great Sand Dunes National Park is either east from Mosca on Colorado 17, or north from US 160, a short distance west of Blanca in Costilla County.

As the principal city of what would become Alamosa County, Alamosa came into being in 1878 when the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad reached the site after building west from Walsenburg over La Veta Pass. From Alamosa, the railroad turned south to Antonito, went over Cumbres Pass to Chama, New Mexico and then wound its way west to Durango and eventually to Silverton. A branch line was built west up the Rio Grande as far as Creede. Another branch of the Denver and Rio Grande separated from the main line at Mears Junction, north of Poncha Pass and then followed the future route of Colorado 17 to Alamosa. Alamosa thus became an important junction point for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad until service south and north of the city was discontinued. There is still intermittent traffic to Alamosa, but with the recent closure of the major lumber mill at South Fork, freight service beyond Alamosa is almost non-existent.

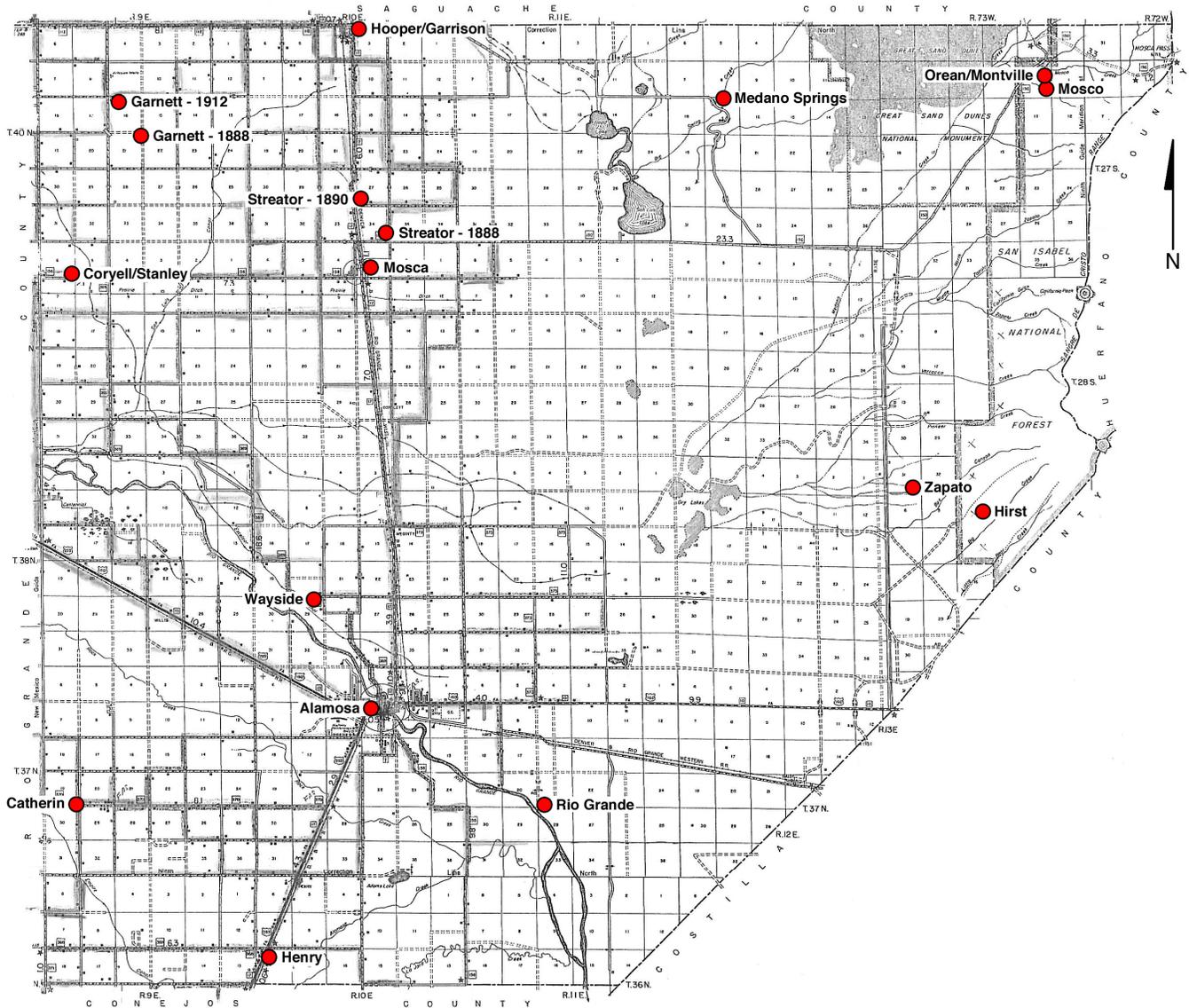
Most of the county is level to near level land sloping towards the Rio Grande River that enters the county from the west and curves to the southeast, exiting into Costilla County. The northeastern portion of the county reaches into the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and includes Mosca Pass (or Music Pass) which can no longer be traversed. Other than the Rio Grande, the other streams in Alamosa County are seasonal, with the water from most sinking rapidly in to the porous sand and gravel that make up the valley floor.

At the foot of the mountains, where the road from Mosca Pass once reached the valley floor are the Great Sand Dunes. For many years a National Monument, in 2000 Congress elevated the status to the "Great Sand Dunes National Park. The city of Alamosa is the primary hotel and restaurant service area for the park. Another local attraction is the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge located a few miles southeast of Alamosa. Alamosa is also the home of Adams State College.

In addition to tourism and the college, agriculture has been a principal activity in Alamosa County. Livestock are raised throughout the area and farming is extensive on land irrigated from the Rio Grande River or from wells. A new agricultural enterprise is also striving to succeed: The Colorado Gator Farm. Yes, alligators. The often frigid San Luis Valley seems an unlikely place to raise alligators, but some of the deep wells produce hydrothermal water that is sufficiently warm to nurture the reptiles. The Gator Farm also raises fish, tilapia, for sale to the market.

Mining was never a major activity in Alamosa County. There were some mines on the western slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, but none lasted for long or produced significant values of metals. However, as a railroad center, Alamosa was a major transshipment point for supplies going west to the San Juan mines and ore coming out of those mines.

The climate of Alamosa County is mild; however the temperature can go to extremes in winter or in summer. The basin of the San Luis Valley tends to hold air, allowing it to either heat in summer or cool in winter. Rainfall is modest as is to be expected in a semi-arid region and you are more likely to see dust devils in summer than steady rains.



Post Office Location Map –Alamosa County

ALAMOSA

Alamosa was a creation of the Denver and Rio Grande as the railroad built west into the San Luis Valley towards the San Juan Mountains. A. C. Hunt, President of the railroad, is credited with establishing the town in early 1878. Initially, Alamosa supplanted Garland (City) as the end of track. With that status, came the end of Garland. The buildings at Garland were dismantled or loaded on flat cars and moved to the new end of track. Within a few days the new town of Alamosa was on the map.

There was an earlier settlement and post office in the area by the name of “Wayside.” Some claim that Alamosa occupies the site of Wayside, but other reports indicate that it was slightly west of the townsite of Alamosa.

ALAMOSA – Continued

Wayside was a stage station, but the establishment of Alamosa sealed the fate of Wayside. The Post Office Department records indicate that both places had post offices for about six months in mid-1878. This fact could support the contention that they were at separate locations, or it might simply be tardiness of the Post Office Department in accommodating the presence of two post offices at the same place.

The railroad established shops at Alamosa and made it a division station. Eventually it would be a railroad hub with lines from Salida via Poncha Pass, Durango via Cumbres Pass, Walsenburg via La Veta Pass and a line west to Creede at the edge of the San Juan Mountains.

Alamosa is centrally located in the San Luis Valley, a rich agricultural land; thus it became a trading and shipping point for produce. It is also centrally located with respect to a number of mining districts and Alamosa became the central supply for the mines.

There is still some railroad activity while mining has nearly disappeared from the surrounding area. Agriculture has grown in importance and the establishment of Adams State College has helped Alamosa remain a prosperous community and continue to grow. Alamosa is also the tourist center for the nearby Great Sand Dunes National Park.

The name “Alamosa” was bestowed by A. C. Hunt and is a Spanish word meaning “cottonwood grove.”

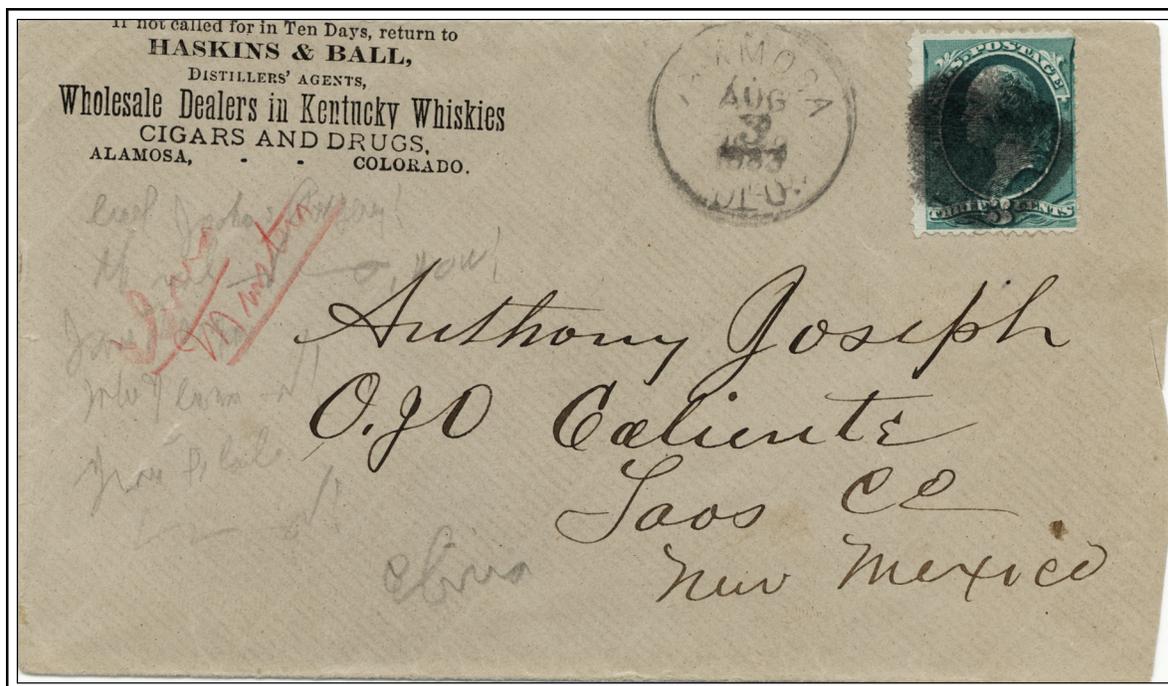
Latitude = 37:28:10 North Longitude = 105:52:10 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 12 1878	Established	
Mar 12 1878	Hoyt, Charles D.	
Mar 12 1878	Hoyt, Charles D.	P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
Jul 12 1879	---- Center Sec 10 T37N R10E N.M. PM	
Dec 22 1880	Finley, Theodore M.	P&S
Dec 11 1884	Brickenstein, Thomas H.	P&S
Aug 31 1885	Gault, Julius	
Sep 28 1885	Gault, Julian V.	
Dec 20 1886	Gault, Julian V.	P&S
Jan 09 1890	Dubendorff, Horace H.	P&S
Mar 19 1894	Hirst, W.H.	P&S
Mar 22 1898	Dubendorff, Horace H.	P&S
Jun 30 1902	Dubendorff, Horace H.	P&S
Mar 11 1903	Shone, George H.	P&S
Jun 18 1903	Reaugh, Earle H.	P [Appointed by the President]
Nov 19 1903	Reaugh, Earle H.	P&S
Dec 18 1907	McDonald, James A.	P&S
Feb 7 1912	Wilder, Rose E.	P&S
May 18 1914	Sabine, Herbert R.	P&S
Jul 13 1914	---- NE/4 Sec 10 T37N R10E	
Jan 15 1915	---- NE/4 Sec 10 T37N R10E	
Jul 1 1918	Mullins, Henry C.	Acting
Aug 5 1919	Roper, James R.	P&S
Dec 18 1923	Fisher, Eldon J.	
Apr 12 1928	Harron, John E.	Nominated
Apr 27 1928	Harron, John E.	Confirmed
May 22 1928	Harron, John E.	P&S
May 28 1928	Harron, John E.	Commissioned
Feb 4 1936	---- NW/4 Sec 10 T37N R10E One block southwest of old site ???	
Apr 16 1936	Saunders, Richard D.	Acting
May 1 1936	Saunders, Richard D.	Assumed charge
May 7 1936	Saunders, Richard D.	Nominated

ALAMOSA - Continued

May 14 1936	Saunders, Richard D.	Confirmed
May 19 1936	Saunders, Richard D.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 4 1936	Saunders, Richard D.	Commissioned
Jun 06 1936	Saunders, Richard D.	Assumed charge
May 8 1940	Saunders, Richard D.	Nominated
May 14 1940	Saunders, Richard D.	Confirmed
May 19 1940	Saunders, Richard D.	Appointed Presidential
May 31 1940	Saunders, Richard D.	Assumed charge
Jun 3 1940	Saunders, Richard D.	Commissioned
Oct 17 1941 ----	NW/4 Sec 10 T37N R10E E OF N.M. PM Fourth and San Juan Streets	
Apr 30 1958	May, Hubert E.	Assumed charge
May 6 1958	May, Hubert E.	Acting
Mar 5 1959	May, Hubert E.	Nominated
Jul 30 1959	May, Hubert E.	Confirmed
Jul 31 1959	May, Hubert E.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 4 1959	May, Hubert E.	Assumed charge
Sep 25 1959	May, Hubert E.	Commissioned
May 15 1964	Allbee, Claudius E.	Acting
May 21 1965	Allbee, Claudius E.	Confirmed
May 25 1965	Allbee, Claudius E.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 4 1965	Allbee, Claudius E.	Assumed charge
Jun 8 1965	Allbee, Claudius E.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1972	Lenberg, Douglas	Officer in charge
Nov 25 1972	Lenberg, Douglas	Appointed



ALAMOSA / COLO. August 3, 1883

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 ALAMOSA / COLO.
CI 10P 26.0

Jul 16 1878 Aug 23 1879
Hstp Cork, Smudge, Negative "X", Negative "H" (?)
Negative X-roads, Large 3 ring target 25mm

ALAMOSA - Continued

2	ALAMOSA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Oct 11 1881 Jul 17 1886 Hstp Cork, smudge, Negative X-roads, Double negative X-roads, Target, crude 3-ring
3	ALAMOSA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Dec 1 1890 Nov 18 1892 Hstp Cork, smudge, Negative X-roads
4	ALAMOSA, / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Aug 25 1893 Hstp Cork, Not present
5	ALAMOSA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Mar 19 1893 Mar 10 1894 Hstp Cork, Smudge, Negative X-roads
6	ALAMOSA / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Aug 18 1894 Dplx Grid, oval
7	ALAMOSA, COLO. / REGISTERED RC 10P 45.0x32.0	Nov 20 1894 Hstp No killer
8	ALAMOSA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Apr 15 1895 Aug 5 1899 Hstp Cork, Smudge, Negative X-roads [seen with and without time slugs]
9	ALAMOSA, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Nov 12 1907 Hstp No killer
10	ALAMOSA / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Nov 12 1907 Mar 8 1914 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
11	ALAMOSA / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	May 3 1917 Oct 10 1950 Dplx Grid, oval with 1 & circle
11.1	ALAMOSA, / COLO. RC 10P 43.0x19.0	--- -, 192- Hstp Distorted Parcel Post Box cancel on piece
12	ALAMOSA / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Jul 4 1930 Dec 26 1962 Mach 6 wavy lines
12.1	ALAMOSA, / COLO. CI 10P 21.0 nrrw O in Alamosa	Sep 11 1964 Mach 7 wavy lines
13	ALAMOSA COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/18.0	Oct 4 1941 Hstp No killer
14	Alamosa / COLO. RC 10P 36.0x16.0	--- - 1940's Hstp Parcel Post Box style
15	ALAMOSA, COLO. CI 11P 35.0/27.0	May 22 1951 Hstp No killer
16	Alamosa / COLO. RC 10P 36.0x16.0	--- - 1950's Hstp Parcel Post Box style
17	ALAMOSA / COLO. CI 10p 21.0 / 1878 – 1953	Oct 17 1953 Oct 17 1953 Mach Slogan in box with bars: 75 YEARS OF PROGRESS
17.1	ALAMOSA, / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x17.0	--- - 1950's Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
18	ALAMOSA, CO 81101 CI 11P 32.0/23.0	Oct 10 1961 May 28 1975 Rolr 6 wavy lines
19	ALAMOSA, CO / 81101 CI 10P 21.0 USE / ZIP CODE	Apr 29 1976 Jun 19 1978 Mach Slogan in box with bars: MAIL EARLY / ALWAYS
20	ALAMOSA, CO / 81101 CI 10P 21.0 THE CENTENNIAL STATE / 1876 -- 1976	Aug 4 1976 Jul 27 1977 Mach Slogan between straight lines - COLORADO /
21	ALAMOSA, CO / 81101 CI 10P 21.0	Aug 28 1967 May 28 1975 Mach 7 wavy lines
21.1	ALAMOSA, CO / 81101 CI 10P 23.0	Oct 25 1985 Aug 22 2005 Mach 7 wavy lines
21.2	ALAMOSA, CO / 81101 CI 10P 33.0	Jun 1 1991 4bars S-??x20mm

ALAMOSA - Continued

22 ALAMOSA CO / 81101 Jan 30 1996

CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-??x17mm

23 ALAMOSA, CO 81101 Jun 24 2000

CI 10P 23.0 Mach 7 wavy lines

24 ALAMOSA CO 81101-9998 / USPS Apr 18, 2006

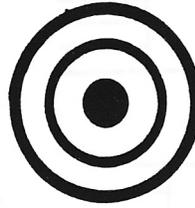
CI 11P 30.0/22.0

Hstp No killer

[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]



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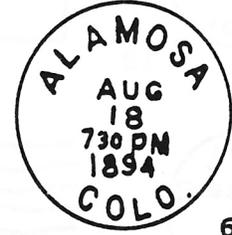
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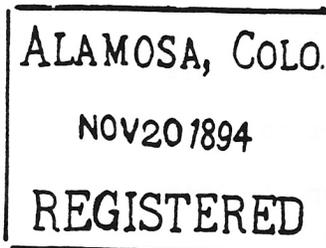
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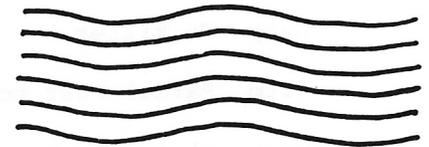
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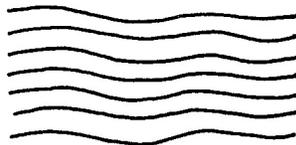
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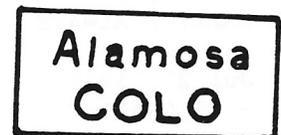
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12.1

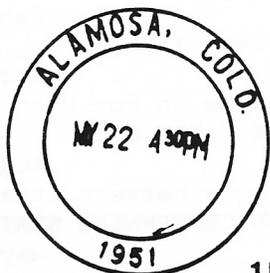


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ALAMOSA - Continued



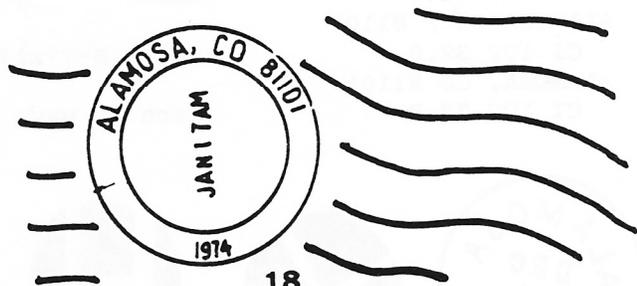
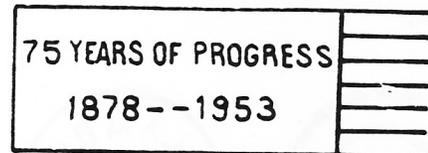
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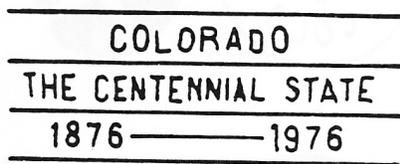
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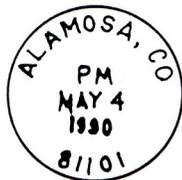
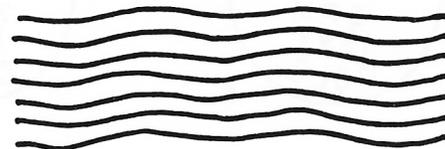
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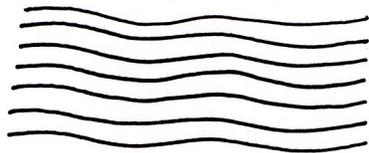
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21.1



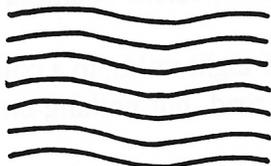
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22



23



ALAMOSA - Continued

ALAMOSA STATIONS

ADAMS STATE COLLEGE STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

??? Established

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ADAMS STATE

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 12 2006 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Alamosa, CO 81101 // Chinese New Year / Station Apr 12 2006
RC 10T 67.0x33.0 Pict Scene - Dragon. Frame line simulates stamp perforations



WAL*MART STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 17 1999 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 ALAMOSA, CO / 81101 :: WAL*MART / STATION Apr 17 1999
CI 10P 24.0 Pict Scene - Sylvester, Tweety, Daffy Duck, Bugs Bunny



CATHERIN

I have found no information relative to Catherin in the historical literature. From what remains at the site, I expect that it was at best a cluster of farmsteads probably with a combination store and post office. I have no information on the source of the name. Pure speculation would attribute it to the wife, daughter, or other relative of the first postmaster.

CATHERIN - Continued

To reach the site of Catherin, drive south from Alamosa on US-285 about two and one-half miles to Colorado Highway 370. Drive west seven miles on Colorado 370 to the location of Catherine. At this location is a grouping of farm and ranch buildings of mixed vintage.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 18 1888 ---- NE/4 Sec 30 T37N R9E NM PM (Document filed in Conejos County)
Proposed postmaster - Adelbert L. Gorham
Sep 25 1888 Established
Sep 25 1888 Gorham, Adelbert L.
Jan 15 1889 Fountain, William E.
Oct 18 1890 Discontinued Papers to Alamosa

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CATHERIN

CORYELL

Coryell was a small rural community and post office in northwestern Alamosa County. The area is ranch and farmland in the central portion of the San Luis Valley.

To reach the site of Coryell, from Mosca drive west on Lane 5 eight miles to a point one mile east of the County Line. There is one older building on the south side of the road, but nothing on the north side where Coryell was reported to be located.

The first postmaster was George E. Coryell, so it seems obvious that the post office took his family name. By 1890 Mr. Coryell was no longer postmaster and the office name was changed to Stanley.

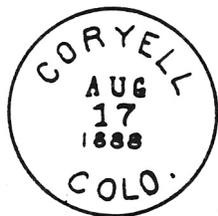
Chronology of the Post Office

May 11 1887 ---- SE/4 Sec 6 T39N R9E (Document filed in Costilla County)
Farming settlement
Proposed postmaster - George E. Coryell
Aug 29 1887 Established
Aug 29 1887 Coryell, George E.
Apr 20 1889 Felt, Ella W.
Aug 9 1889 Moore, Arthur
Nov 11 1889 Hathaway, Seth W.
Jan 8 1890 Name changed to Stanley

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 CORYELL / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0

Aug 17 1888
Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm



1

GARNETT

Goudy was a ranch community in the northwestern corner of Alamosa. The name was changed to Garnett when a post office was established there in 1888. The name "Goudy" was that of an early settler, but I have not found any information as to the origin of the name Garnett.

GARNETT - Continued

From Hooper, drive six and one-half miles west to Road 102 North, then two miles south to Lane 9 North. The southeast corner of this intersection was the location of Garnett in 1913. One mile south and one mile east was the location in 1888, however, nothing remains at that site.

Chronology of the Post Office

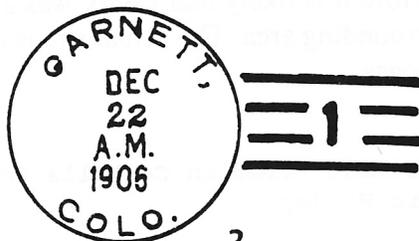
Feb 20 1888	----	NE/4 Sec 21 T40N R9E (Document filed in Costilla County) Proposed postmaster - Dennis D. Bloom
Mar 3 1888		Established
Mar 10 1888		Bloom, Dennis D.
Jun 20 1898		Bannister, Oswin E.
Aug 21 1901		Bachtell, Howard H.
Jan 27 1906		Speiser, Charles
May 12 1912		Ordered to close this date Order rescinded May 3 1912
May 3 1913	----	NW/4 Sec 16 T40N R9E
Sep 30 1921		Discontinued Mail to Hooper

Confirmed types of postal markings

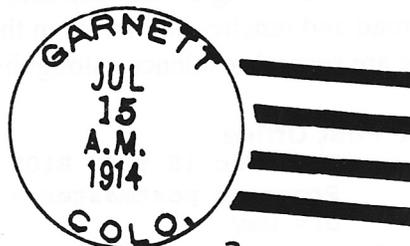
1	GARNETT / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Jun 9 189-
2	GARNETT, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 3 with 1; S-25x13mm	Dec 22 1906 Aug 9 1910
3	GARNETT / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 15 1914 Mar 12 1919



1



2



3

GARRISON

Garrison was surveyed and platted in February 1881. It was located on the Denver and Rio Grande Railway and has served as a supply and shipping point for ranches in northern Alamosa County and southern Saguache County.

In 1896, to eliminate confusion between "Garrison" and "Gunnison" within the mail and railroad systems the name of the settlement was changed to "Hooper."

Garrison was named for William Garrison, a homesteader who sold his land to the Garrison Town Company.

Garrison/Hooper is on Colorado Highway 17, north of Alamosa and straddles the Saguache-Alamosa county line.

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 30 1890	----	NE/4 Sec 4 T40N R10E (Document filed in Costilla County) 15 rods west of D&RG Track Proposed postmaster - John A. Alexander
Jan 26 1891		Established
Jan 26 1891		Alexander, John A.
Jun 30 1894		Jennison, John L.
Jul 17 1896		Name changed to Hooper

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

1 GARRISON / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0

Mar 2 1894 Dec 16 1894

Hstp Cork, smudge



1

HENRY

This community has generated considerable confusion in Colorado historical literature. There was a community of the same name in Rio Grande County and most historical references are to that community and not to the one in Alamosa County.

The Alamosa “Henry” is about seven miles southwest of Alamosa on US Highway 285, at a location more commonly known as “Estrella.” Estrella is just south of the intersection of US-285 with Colorado Highway 368 to the west.

There was a railroad siding at this location, therefore it is likely that Henry was a small community that served both the railroad and ranches and farms in the surrounding area. The actual site is on a by-pass to the east of US-285 and there are several residences along the by-pass.

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 18 1889	---	NW/4 Sec 18 T36N R10E (Document filed in Costilla County) Proposed postmaster - Ellis W. Joy
Nov 29 1889		Established
Nov 29 1889		Joy, Ellis M.
Dec 5 1891		Glynn, Charles W.
May 11 1892		Discontinued 1892 Mail to La Jara
May 15 1895	---	SW/4 Sec 17 T36N R9E 200 feet west of D&RG tracks. NOTE - WHB: This location does not fall in Section 17. Proposed postmaster - Cephus F. Mosher NOTE - WHB: Neither of these locations matches to the site currently identified as "HENRY" on the USGS maps.
Jun 11 1895		Re-established
Jun 11 1895		Mosher, Cephas F.
Feb 21 1896		Discontinued Mail to Alamosa

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 HENRY / COL.
CI 10P 27.0

Mar 23 1895

Target, 4-ring 18mm



1

HIRST

Hirst was established as a camp to serve the Commodore Mine on Big Bear Creek. Activity centered on one large building that served as a combination store, boarding house and post office, run by Gard Howe. There were a few other cabins.

The camp was initially named "Commodore" for the mine, but when a post office was requested, several names were proposed: Beckwith, Howe, Bear, Calkins and Hirst. Hirst was chosen in honor of W. R. Hirst, editor of the Alamosa newspaper.

Locating the site of Hirst on the maps of today is not a simple task. The U.S.G.S. Topographic Map of Alamosa does not show a "Big Bear Creek" in the area of Hirst. Nor does the map indicate a mine site. From the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports, the location plots on "Chimney Gulch." A Jeep trail leads into the area, but not to that canyon. According to the U.S.G.S. map there may still be remnants of a building in the vicinity. There is a road east from Colorado Highway 150 which I started on, but after three-quarters of a mile, it became obvious it would not go where I wanted to go, so I went no further.

From U.S. Highway 160, drive north a little more than three miles. You will see the road to the right, trending northeast towards the site of Hirst on the lower slopes of Blanca Peak.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 3 1899	---	SE/4 Sec 4 T29S R73W (Document filed in Costilla County) Suggested names : BECKWITH, HOWE, BEAR, CALKINS, 300 feet south of Bear Creek. Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Lillie Howe
Jun 19 1899		Established
Jun 19 1899		Howe, Lillie
Jul 20 1901		Ordered closed
Jul 31 1901		Discontinued Papers to Fort Garland

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM HIRST

HOOPER

The townsite of Hooper was originally owned by William Garrison who sold the land to the Garrison Town Company. In 1890, the Town Company established a community on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and named it after William Garrison. The similarity of Garrison and Gunnison caused confusion for both the Post Office Department and the railroad, so in 1896 the name was changed to "Hooper." The new name honored Major Hooper, General Agent of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

Hooper remains a small, agricultural based community on Colorado Highway 17, nineteen miles north of Alamosa and on the county line with Saguache County. Hooper is also the home community for the Colorado Gator Farm: yes, alligators. Hot water from wells provides the environment to raise alligators in this most unlikely location. The "farm" also raises tilapia (fish) for market.

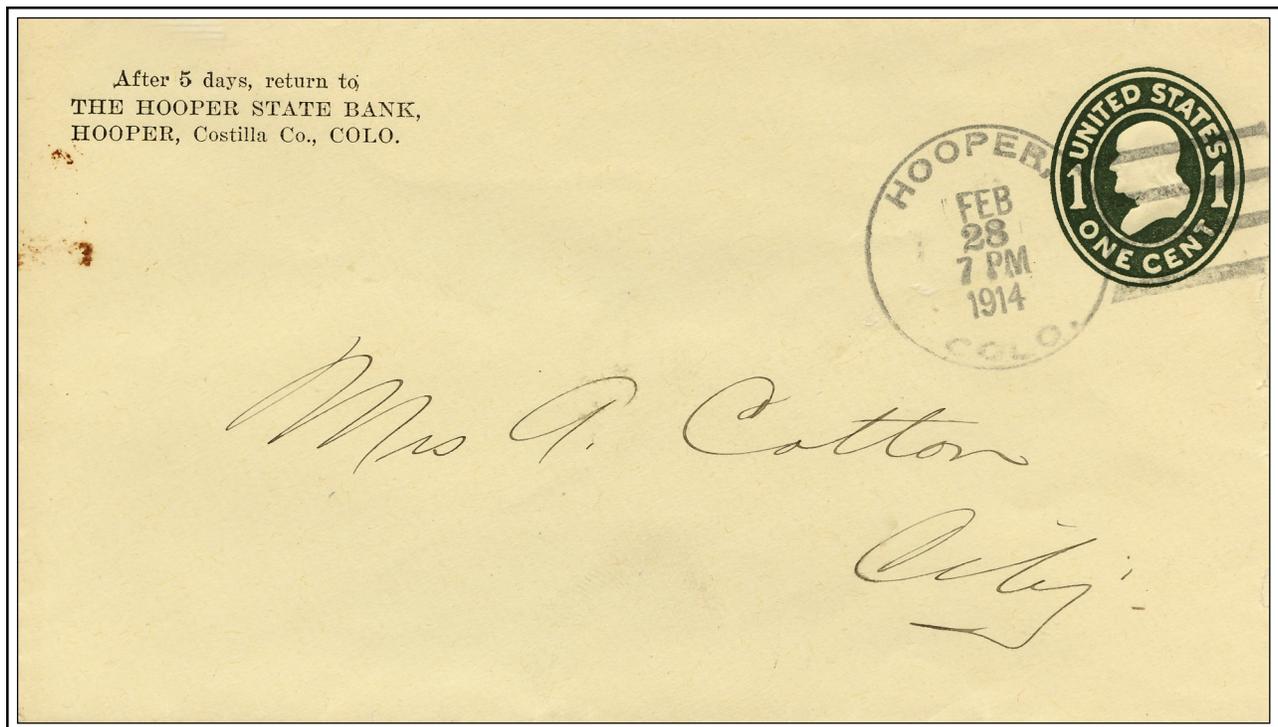
Latitude = 37:44:34 North Longitude = 105:52:29 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 17 1896	Established	Formerly named Garrison
Jul 17 1896		Jennison, John L.
Sep 18 1897		Chapman, Pliny S.
Jan 3 1902		Breckenridge, Loyal L.
Jan 5 1904		Chapman, Charles F.
May 1 1913	----	NW/4 Sec 3 T40N R10E 723 feet east of D&RG RR

HOOPER - Continued

Feb 25 1914	----	NE/4 Sec 4 T40N R10E, N M PM 605 feet east of D&RG track, 1150 feet south of county line	
Jan 1 1924		Chapman, Charles F.	Presidential
Feb 11 1924		Chapman, Charles F.	
Jul 1 1925		Chapman, Charles F.	Relegated
Aug 28 1931		Carper, Charles E.	Confirmed
Sep 25 1931		Carper, Charles E.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1931		Carper, Charles E.	Assumed charge
Jul 11 1932		Geiger, Warren PE.	Assumed charge
Sep 10 1932		Geiger, Warren PE.	Acting
Feb 25 1939		Mincks, Mrs. Edna L.	Assumed charge
Mar 3 1939		Mincks, Mrs. Edna L.	Acting
Oct 6 1939		Mincks, Edna L.	Confirmed
Oct 16 1939		Mincks, Edna L.	Commissioned
Oct 20 1939		Mincks, Edna L.	Possession
Oct 25 1941	----	NE/4 Sec 4 T40N R10E	
Apr 13 1945		Lewis, Mrs. Margaret L.	Possession
May 10 1945		Lewis, Mrs. Margaret	Appointed
Oct 15 1946		Ingraham, Margaret	Name changed by marriage
Sep 22 1947		Reddin, Gordon O.	Confirmed
Oct 17 1947		Reddin, Gordon O.	Commissioned
Nov 21 1947		Reddin, Gordon O.	Assumed charge
Dec 19 1947	----	NE/4 Sec 4 T40N R10E 425 feet east from D&RG Station & tracks	
Jul 1 1969		Reddin, Gordon O.	Office made Presidential
?		Reddin, Gordon O.	Relegated



HOOPER - Continued



Post office building, Hooper, Colorado

Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 8, 1999

Confirmed types of postal markings

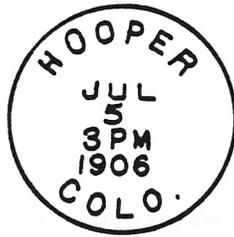
1	HOOPER / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Dec 12 1898 Oct 9 1899
2	HOOPER / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx, Grid, oval 9-bar	Feb 1 1904 Jul 5 1906
3	HOOPER, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x13	Mar 10 1909 Mar 23 1912
4	HOOPER, COLO. / M.O.B CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 10 1912 Sep 28 1925
5	HOOPER, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Dec 14 1912 Nov 13 1914
6	HOOPER, COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Feb 15 1933 Nov 22 1934
7	HOOPER. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 8 1935 Sep 30 1941
8	HOOPER. / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jun 12 1940 Feb 2 1945
9	HOOPER / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Apr 24 1950 Feb 19 1962
10	HOOPER / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Oct 27 1952 Nov 16 1953
11	HOOPER, CO / 81136 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Jun 23 1967 Jun 19 1978

HOOPER - Continued

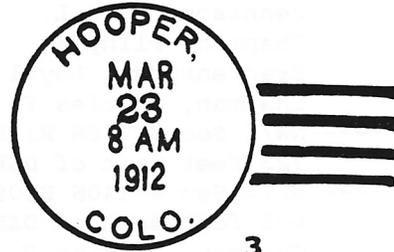
- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|---|
| 11.1 | HOOPER, CO / 81136 | ??? ?? 1985 |
| | CI 10P 38.0 | 4bars S-??x24mm [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |
| 12 | HOOPER, CO / 81136 | Feb 26 1987 Dec 10 1991 |
| | CI 10P 30.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm |
| 13 | HOOPER CO / 81136 | Apr 5 1995 Jul 13 1998 |
| | CI 10P 34.0 | 4bars S-21x17mm |
| 14 | HOOPER, CO / 81136 | Sep 9 2004 |
| | CI 10P 35.0 | 4bars S-18x16mm |
| 15 | HOOPER, CO / 81136 | Aug 14 2006 |
| | CI 10P 31.0 | 4bars S-12x16mm [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |



1



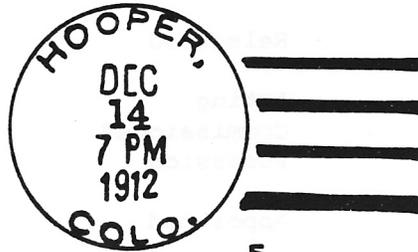
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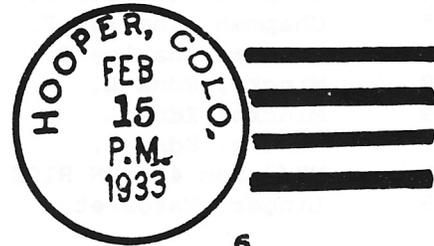
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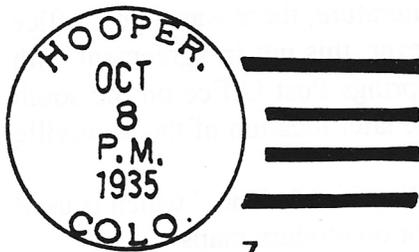
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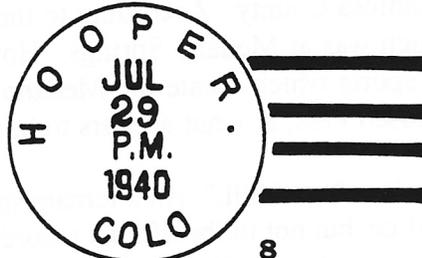
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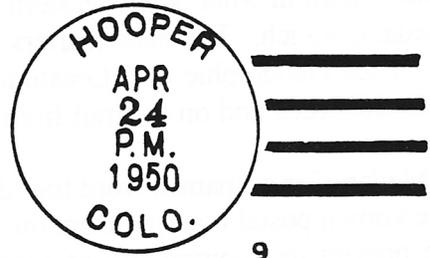
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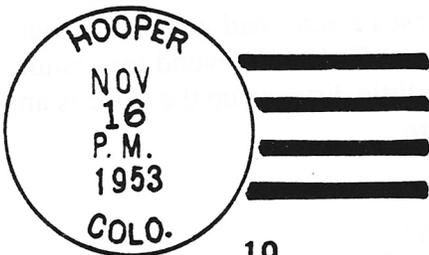
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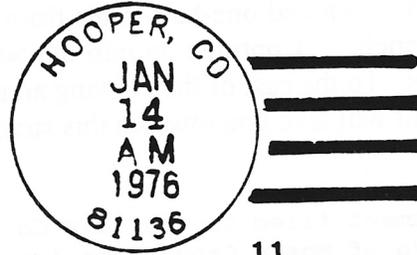
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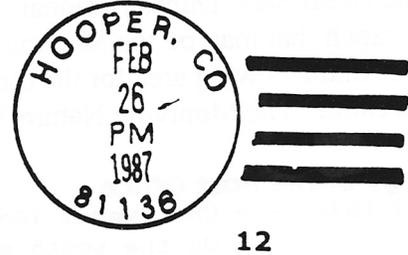
9



10



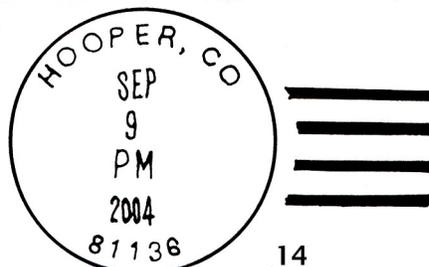
11



12



13



14

HOOPER – Continued
HOOPER STATIONS

COSMIC HIGHWAY SUB-STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 12 2006 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 HOOPER, COLORADO 81136 / Cosmic Highway Sub-station Aug 12 2006
RC 10T 68.0x36.0 Pict Scene: Alien; Text - UFOlympics / San Luis Valley /
2006 UFO Conference / UFO WATCHTOWER



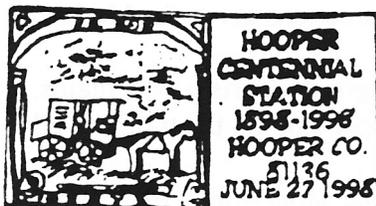
HOOPER CENTENNIAL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 27 1998 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 HOOPER, CO / 81136 // HOOPER / CENTENNIAL / STATION / 1898-1998 Jun 27 1998
RC 10P 50.0x26.0 Pict Scene: Rural mail wagon



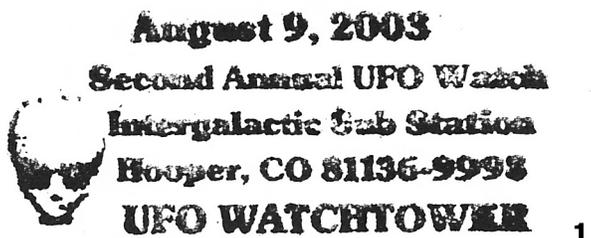
INTERGALACTIC SUB STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 9 2003 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 Hooper, CO / 81136-9998 // Intergalactic Sub Station Aug 9 2003
IR 00R 70.0x29.0 Pict Scene - Alien Face; Text - Second Annual UFO Watch /
UFO WATCHTOWER



**HOOPER STATIONS – Continued
MOTHERSHIP SUB STATION**

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 14 2004 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 Hooper, CO / 81136-9998 / Mothership Sub Station Aug 14 2004
IR 00R 67.0x32.0 Pict Scene - Alien Face; Text - San Luis Valley 2004 UFO Event /
UFO WATCHTOWER

August 14, 2004

San Luis Valley 2004 UFO Event



Hooper, CO 81136-9999

Mothership Sub Station

UFO WATCHTOWER 1

ODYSSEY SUB STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 9 2008 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 Hooper, Colorado 81136 / Odyssey Sub Station Aug 9 2008
IR 00R 63.0x34.0 Pict Scene: - Alien; Text - UFOlympics / San Luis
Valley / 2008 UFO Conference / UFO Watch Tower



UFOlympics

**San Luis Valley
2008 UFO Conference**

August 9, 2008

**UFO Watch Tower
Hooper, Colorado 81136
Odyssey Sub Station 1**

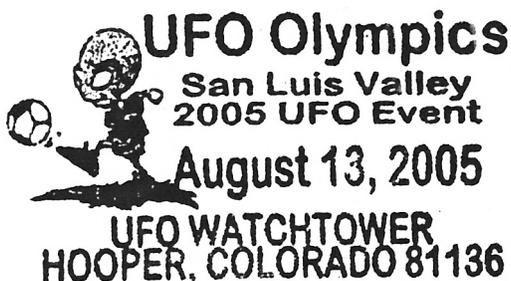
UFO WATCH TOWER

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 13 2005 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 HOOPER, COLORADO 81136 // UFO WATCHTOWER Aug 13, 2005
IR 00R 64.0x35.0 Pict Scene: Alien kicking a soccer ball; Text –
UFO Olympics / San Luis Valley / 2005 UFO Event



UFO Olympics

**San Luis Valley
2005 UFO Event**

August 13, 2005

**UFO WATCHTOWER
HOOPER, COLORADO 81136 1**

MEDANO SPRINGS - Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Madano Springs Col MS ? ? 187? Mscp Pen cancel, no date on cover



MONTVILLE

Montville has escaped mention in the historical literature, but has been memorialized by the “Montville Nature Trail” in the Great Sand Dunes National Park. To reach the site, follow the directions given for Medano Springs.

The origin of the name appears to reflect its location at the foot of the Sangre de Christo Mountains. The location on the Mosca Pass trail makes it likely that Montville was a rest and supply stop on the trail as well as a ranch location. There may also have been some mining in the area.

The remnant buildings at this location, previously mentioned, most likely date from the Montville period, rather than from an earlier era. The postal history of this site is rather complex, with four different names having been used for what may be either the same site or four sites in very close proximity. There simply isn't much room between the mountains and the dunes for an extensive community or group of ranches.

First was Medano Springs (1874-1879). Next was Mosco (1880-1882), overlapped by Orean (1881-1887) and followed finally by Montville (1887-1900). From the overlapping dates, it appears the Mosco and Orean may not have been at the same place, or perhaps it is a reflection of a slow reaction of the Post office department to a changing situation and a new postmaster. It is also probable that Montville came to an end when the Mexican Land Grants were confirmed and the settlers were forced out.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 25 1885	---	SW/4 Sec 2 T27S R73W One mile east of Mosco Creek. Sketch maps seems to place it at the mouth of the canyon from Mosca Pass
Feb 28 1887	Established	Formerly named Orean
Feb 28 1887		Holly, Douglas K.
Aug 3 1894		Holly, Minnie M.
Apr 23 1896		King, John W.
Feb 7 1899		King, Coley M.
Jan 15 1900		Ordered closed
Jan 31 1900		Discontinued Papers to Blanca

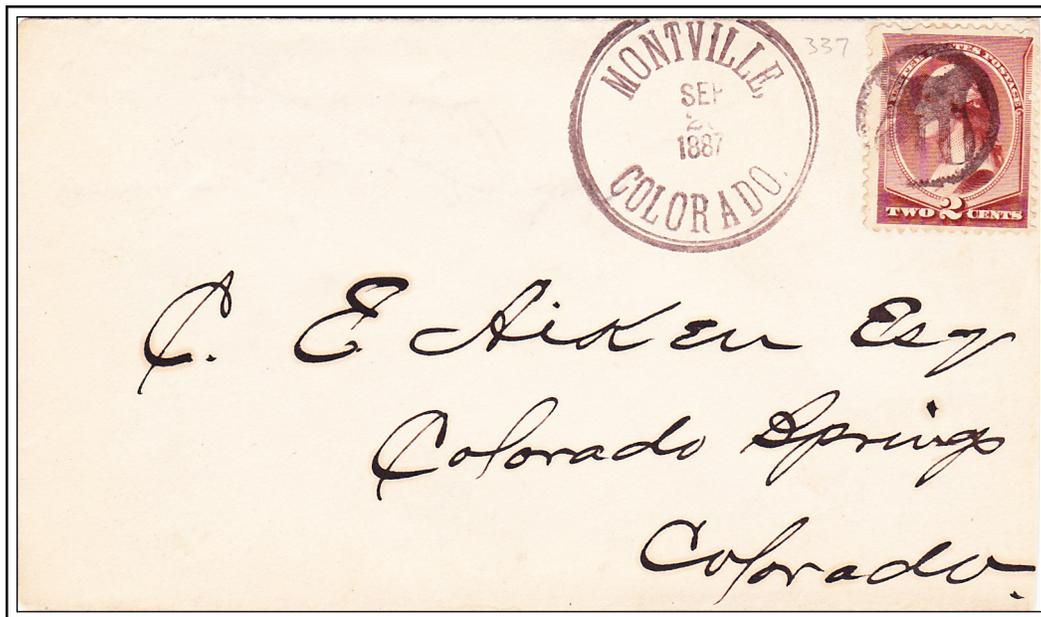
Confirmed types of postal markings

1 MONTVILLE, / COLORADO CI 20P 33.0/31.5 Sep 21 1887 Jan 23 1888 Hstp Fancy, shield in circle



1

MONTVILLE – Continued



MONTVILLE, / COLORADO. September 21, 1887 Fancy “Shield” cancel



Abandoned building at the site of Montville, Colorado,
within the boundaries of the Great Sand Dunes National Park.
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 8, 1999

MOSCA

When the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad surveyed the route from Poncha Pass to Alamosa, T. J. Henry organized the Mosca Town Company. At first it was proposed that the new town be called Patterson for the original owner of the site, however, the residents preferred the name "Mosca" for the nearby, well-known pass over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Please refer to "Mosco" for a discussion of the derivation of the name. It should be mentioned that Mosca Pass has often been called "Music Pass" because of the musical sounds originating from the nearby sand dunes.

Mosca was less than two miles south of the older community of Streator and with the presence of a railroad station, Streator faded and its post office was closed and moved to Mosca assuming the name of that town. Mosca is on Colorado Highway 17, seven miles south of Hooper and the Alamosa County Line.

Mosca became a supply and shipping point for ranches and farms in the surrounding portion of the San Luis Valley. Although the railroad is gone, the town continues as a small supply center.

Latitude = 37:39:04 North Longitude = 105:52:08 West

Chronology of the Post Office

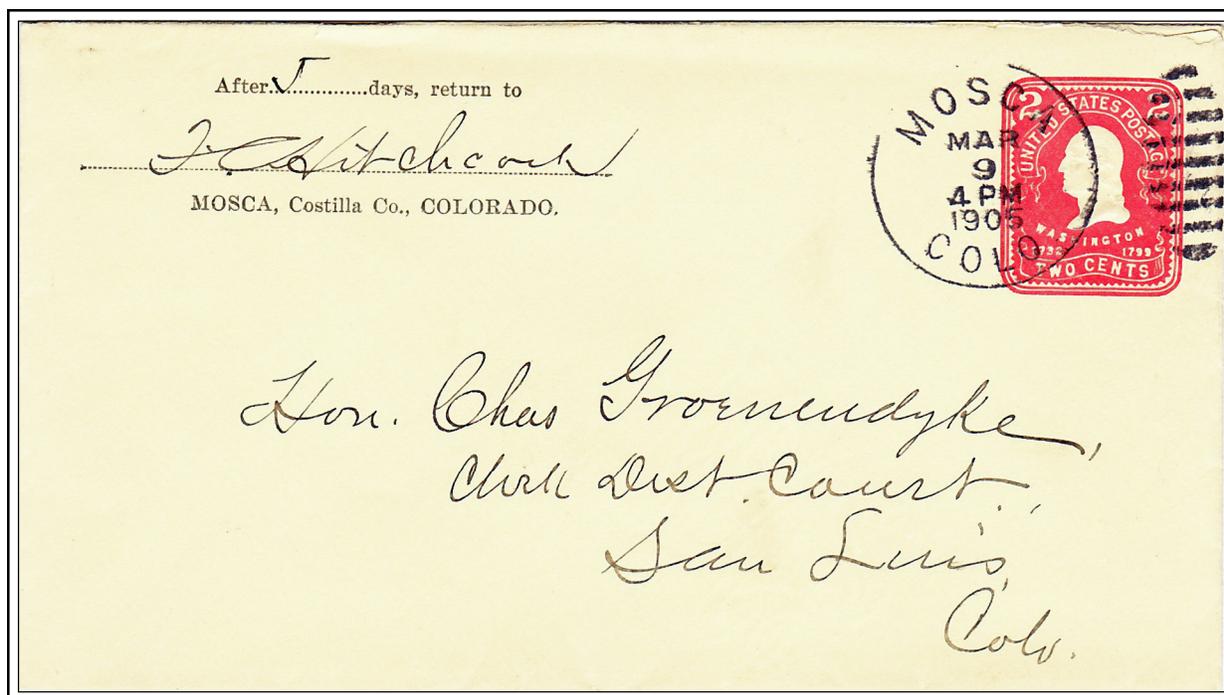
Dec 20 1890	----	NW/4 Sec 34 T40N R10E 1-1/4 miles west of D&RG RR. Sketch map shows it east of RR and 1-1/2 miles north of Mosca settlement STREATOR - "chg n. to "Mosca" Jan 13, 1891	
Dec 30 1890		Established	Formerly named Streator
Dec 30 1890		Kieffler, Ira I.	
Oct 24 1891		Crandell, Lewis F.	
Dec 6 1893		Crow, John S.	
Aug 27 1897		Harrison, Walter L.	
Jul 26 1900		Hitchcock, Frank L.	
Apr 24 1907		Knight, Charles F.	
Dec 3 1908		Bledsoe, E. Buford	
Jan 19 1910		Sealy, Edward M.	
Apr 17 1912		Cooley, Arthur B.	
May 2 1913	----	SE/4 Sec 3 T39N R10E 1/4 mile west of D&RG Depot	
Mar 4 1914	----	SE/4 Sec 3 T39N R10E 1/4 mile from D&RG	
Dec 21 1914		Cooley, Samuel E.	
Mar 30 1916		MacDonald, Lawrence C.	
Jan 30 1917		Meisenheimer, Martin P.	
Dec 14 1921		Meisenheimer, Mary E.	
Feb 14 1928		Meisenheimer, Martin P.	Acting
May 5 1928		Brooks, Nancy A.	Appointed
May 17 1928		Brooks, Nancy A.	Commissioned
May 21 1928		Brooks, Nancy A.	Possession
Nov 2 1934		Dudley, Mrs. Nancy A	Name changed by marriage
Jun 29 1937		Brooks, Mrs. Nancy A.	Name changed by court decree
Mar 18 1938		McClintock, Nancy A.	Name changed by marriage
Oct 24 1941	----	West 1/2 lots 1-4 block 28, town of Mosca, SE/4 Sec 3 T39N R10E 700 feet south of station, 200 feet from D&RG tracks	
Jun 30 1945		Owsley, Sherman Paten	Assumed charge
Jul 12 1945		Owsley, Sherman Paten	Acting
Feb 25 1947		Owsley, Sherman Paten	Confirmed
Mar 10 1947		Owsley, Sherman Paten	Commissioned
Mar 24 1955		Owsley, Alice J.	Assumed charge
Apr 26 1955		Owsley, Alice J.	Acting
Oct 7 1955		Washington, Mrs. Cecil E.	Confirmed
Oct 28 1955		Washington, Mrs. Cecil E.	Commissioned
Nov 30 1955		Washington, Mrs. Cecil E.	Assumed charge

MOSCA - Continued

Mar 12 1976	Hale, Eva O.	Officer in charge
Mar 24 1979	Hale, Eva O.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	MOSCA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4 ring 17mm	Dec 10 1893 Dec 9 1896
2	MOSCA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	Jan 15 1898 May 16 1900
3	MOSCA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Dec 18 1903 Nov 1 1907
4	MOSCA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, negative X-roads: NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION	Jan 15 1908
5	MOSCA. / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Jan 16 1914 Feb 4 1921
6	MOSCA, COLO. CI 10P 30.0	4bars P-25x19mm	Feb 6 1933 Sep 23 1941
7	MOSCA / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-23x19mm	Mar 11 1942 Jul 3 1947
8	MOSCA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Feb 12 1948 Feb 21 1956
9	MOSCA / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 19 1962 Mar 17 1964
10	MOSCA, CO / 81146 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Oct 12 1967 Feb 27 1987
11	MOSCA, CO / 81146 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-20x16mm	May 29 1990 May 26 1993
12	MOSCA, CO 81146-9998 / USPS CI 11P 30.0/22.0	Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Jun 26, 2006



MOSCA / COLO. December 6, 1895

MOSCA STATIONS - Continued



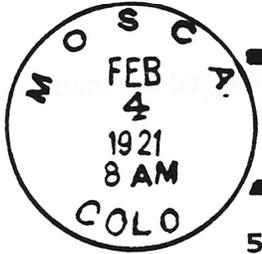
1



2



3



5



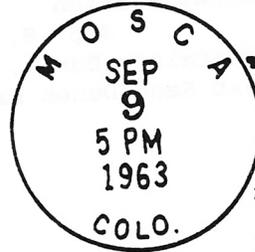
6



7



8



9



10



11

MOSCA STATIONS

EGGFEST STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 6 2002 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Mosca, CO 81146-9717 // Eggfest Station
IR 00R 67.0x30.0

Jul 6 2002
Pict Scene – Gator hatching from egg; Text – THIRD ANNUAL EGGFEST / Celebrating the beginning / of the mating season at / COLORADO GATORS



COLORADO GATORS 1

MOSCA STATIONS - Continued

GREAT SAND DUNES

In 2001, the status of the Great Sand Dunes changed from that of a National Monument to that of a National Park. There has never been a post office by the name of "Great Sand Dunes," however the National Park service has provided a handstamp for visitors to record their visit in a Park "Passport." This marking has sometimes been applied to post cards and other items that if sent through the mail received the postmark of another location. The marking is included here as a record of its purpose and existence.

Chronology of the Post Office

Non Postal Operation

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 MOSCA, COLO. // GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL MONUMENT Jan 26 1987
CI 10P 31.0 Hstp No killer; not a postal cancel; Park Service
handstamp used on visitor passports



1

GREAT SAND DUNES STATION

This station was to commemorate the first anniversary of the Act of Congress that changed the status of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument to that of a National Park.

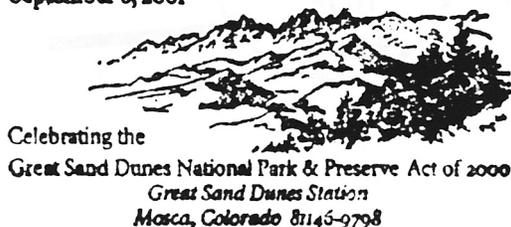
Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 8 2001 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
Jun 24 2006

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 Mosca, Colorado 81146-9798 // Great Sand Dunes Station Sep 8 2001
IR 00R 68.0x32.0 Pict Scene - Mountains, Dunes, Trees; Text -
Celebrating the / Great Sand Dunes National
Park & Preserve Act of 2000
- 2 Mosca, CO 81146 // Great Sand Dunes / Station Jun 24, 2006
RC 10T 67.0x33.0 Pict Scene - View of the Great Sand Dunes.
[For the 39c stamp in the Wonders of America Pane of 40]

September 8, 2001



1



2

MOSCO

Mosco was a stage station and supply center at the foot of Mosca Pass over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. At times it was referred to as "Moscow City," but it was never officially known by that name. When the road over La Veta Pass was improved, Mosca Pass declined in importance and so did Mosco, however, it remained to serve cattle and sheep ranchers in the area.

It is claimed that this place was also known as Orean, however, post offices existed at both Mosco and Orean for almost a year. Thus, while the two sites may have been very near one another, they were probably separate locations. To further complicate the situation, the Medano Springs (earlier) and Montville (later) post offices were also in the immediate area of Mosco.

The name, with a slightly different spelling refers to Mosca Pass. It is the Spanish word for "fly." Or perhaps it is a contraction of the name of a Spaniard named either Luis de Moscoso or Moscoso Alvarado who may, or may not, have led a Spanish expedition over the pass in 1542. Some even claim this was the remnant of the De Soto expedition.

Once again, refer to Medano Springs for directions to the site of Mosco.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 24 1880	Established
May 24 1880	Ackley, Samuel H.
Jul 17 1880	--- Unsurveyed (Document filed in Costilla County) Located on the south side of Mosco Creek Believed to be same location as MONTVILLE.
Jan 3 1881	Howes, Rosie B.
Apr 13 1881	Hastings, Frank S.
Feb 1 1882	Discontinued Mail to Orean

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MOSCO

OREAN

Orean was the third in the sequence of settlements and post offices on the east side of the Great Sand Dunes at the foot of Mosca Pass. There was a sawmill, a quartz mill and about 100 people living in the area. The post office was located in the home of Charles F Holly, Jr. the postmaster.

In spite of the sketch map included with the 1885 Geographic Site Location Report, the quarter-section location given would place Orean about a half mile south of its general location at the mouth of Mosca Creek and Canyon. Perhaps this explains the relation between Orean and Mosco. The same document is also reference to Montville.

The directions to Orean are the same as given for Medano Springs, Mosco and Montville. I have no information as to the probable origin of the name "Orean."

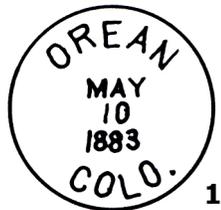
Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 22 1881	--- Unsurveyed 2-1/2 miles south of Mosco or Medano Creek, shown at junction of roads from Mosco Pass, Alamosa, Del Norte, at foot of mountains
Jun 22 1881	Established
Jun 22 1881	Holly, Charles F. Jr.
Mar 25 1885	--- SW/4 Sec 2 T27S R73W One mile east of Mosco Creek. Sketch maps seems to place it at the mouth of the canyon from Mosca Pass
Feb 28 1887	Name changed to Montville

OREAN - Continued**Confirmed types of postal markings**1 OREAN / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0

May 10 1883

Hstp Not present

**RIO GRANDE**

Very little is known about Rio Grande, even its location is uncertain. One historical reference calls it "a town at the junction of La Jara creek with the Rio Grande." This would locate it about a mile north of the southern boundary of Alamosa County. Another reference places it "about 8 miles southeast of Alamosa along the Rio Grande River below the junction with Alamosa Creek." In any event, both of these locations are within the boundary of the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge. This is a flat, very marshy area with few passable roads, none of which are open to the public. From US Highway 160 you can drive two and one-half miles south to the Refuge Visitor Center and from there look southeast across the marshes in the direction of Rio Grande.

The name is obviously that of the river upon which it was located: El Rio Grande Del Norte. If a purpose can be assigned to Rio Grande, it is most likely that of a stage station and roadside rest stop.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 24 1874	---	Unsurveyed (Document filed in Costilla County) On the north side of the Rio Grande, 12 miles north of Trinchera Creek
Mar 13 1874		Established
Mar 13 1874		Burch, James A.
Apr 19 1875		Perham, P.
May 24 1875		Kent, Jesse H.
Apr 18 1877		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM RIO GRANDE

STANLEY

In 1887 the name of the Coryell Post Office was changed to Stanley. No explanation is given for the change in name and no new Site Location Report was submitted to the Post Office Department. Perhaps Mr. Coryell fell out of favor with the local residents and they chose to honor another local personage.

The directions to the site of Stanley are the same as previously given for Coryell.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 11 1887	---	SE/4 Sec 6 T39N R9E (Document filed in Costilla County) Farming settlement Proposed postmaster - George E. Coryell
Jan 8 1890		Established Formerly named Coryell
Jan 8 1890		Hathaway, Seth W.
Feb 9 1891		Graves, Carleton
Sep 2 1891		Discontinued Papers to Garnett

STANLEY - Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM STANLEY

STREATOR

Streator was the name of the first settlement in the vicinity of present day Mosca. Two years after its establishment, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad built through the area, but chose to accept the new town of Mosca as a location for a station. Streator faded and the post office was moved to and renamed Mosca.

Streator was named by homesteaders Saul and Dick Asay, John Poundstone and George Dicus who had arrived in the San Luis Valley in 1887 from Streator, Illinois.

The first location of Streator was on the south side of Colorado Highway 150, one mile west of Colorado 17. It was later moved to a location on the east side of Colorado 17, one mile north of Colorado 150. A short time after that move, Streator gave way to Mosca.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Mar 17 1888 ---- NE/4 Sec 4 T39? R10? E.N.M.PM (Document filed in Costilla County)
Proposed postmaster Aaron G. Dicus
- Apr 23 1888 Established
- Apr 23 1888 Dicus, Aaron J.
- Nov 19 1888 Borden, Truman M.
- Jan 8 1890 Kieffler, Ira I.
- Dec 20 1890 ---- NW/4 Sec 34 T40N R10E 1-1/4 miles west of D&RG RR. Sketch map
shows it east of RR and 1-1/2 miles north of Mosca settlement.
- Dec 30 1890 Name changed to Mosca

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 STREATOR / COLO. Mar 4 1890
- CI 10P 27.0 Hstp Target, 4 ring



1

WAYSIDE

Wayside was a stage station established by the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Company. The name is a generic one indicative of its purpose as a stage and rest stop.

There has been a general consensus that Wayside was a predecessor to Alamosa and that its existence ended with the establishment of Alamosa. I have no doubt that the creation of Alamosa did soon result in the demise of Wayside, but the sketchy information available from the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports raises a question as to where the office was actually located.

The Site Location report gives a section (4) and a quarter/quarter (NW) but unfortunately does not give the Township and Range. There are two possibilities within a reasonable distance from Alamosa. The key would appear to be in the statement that Wayside was 3/8 of a mile north of the Rio Grande.

The northwest quarter of Section 4, Township 37 North, Range 10 East includes the northwestern portion of Alamosa, but is on the south side of the Rio Grande, at least as the Rio Grande exists today.

WAYSIDE - Continued

The second choice is in Township 38 North, Range 9 East. In this case section 4 is on the north side of the Rio Grande, about seven miles northwest of Alamosa. At this location there is one fairly new building and an old corral and a big cottonwood tree.

A further fact to be considered is that the Wayside Post Office continued in operation for six months after the Alamosa Post office was established. Since Alamosa came into existence with the arrival of the railroad, this would promptly eliminate the need for any nearby stage station, I doubt that Wayside would have survived for six months. However, if it was seven miles further west from Alamosa and still on the stage route to the San Juan Mines, it could have lasted for a while pending a restructuring of the stage route.

The question remains open and I would appreciate any definitive information for the location of Wayside that any of you can provide.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 28 1873	----	NW/4 SEC 4 Unknown T&R (Document filed in Costilla County) 3/8ths of a mile north of the Rio Grande del Norte. NOTE - WHB: Based on the description, I have mapped this several miles north-northwest of Alamosa. It is possible that it was actually in the northwestern corner of Alamosa proper.
Feb 15 1875		Established
Feb 15 1875		Williams, Elijah R.
Apr 18 1877		Sullivan, Jonathan
May 3 1878		Blair, William H.
Sep 10 1878		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM WAYSIDE

ZAPATO

The original name of this settlement was "Zapata." It was a Spanish-American community, settled in 1864 by former residents of Taos, New Mexico. The settlers raised sheep and sold the meat to nearby Fort Garland.

By the late 1870's a number of Mormon settlers had arrived in the area and when a post office was obtained, for some unknown reason the spelling had become "Zapato."

To reach the site of Zapato, from Mosca drive east on Six Mile Lane to the junction with Colorado Highway 150 and turn south. You will see signs advertising the Zapata Ranch and its entry is well marked on the west side of Colorado 150. In the same area, and on the east side of the highway, is a community also using the Zapata name. However, this community appears to be a modern one and I could find no buildings that might date from the late nineteenth century.

Early covers from Zapato often bear a corner card of the Zapato Ranch. It appears that the ranch continues to exist, but that it has now become a fine resort with modern pseudo-rustic buildings, a restaurant and a golf course. However, there are many signs that the site has been occupied for a long time, thus I conclude that this was the site of the Zapato Post office.

Latitude = 37:39:10 North Longitude = 105:35:34 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 19 1879	---	SW/4 Sec 7 T39N R13E (Document filed in Costilla County) Proposed postmaster - David H Howes
Apr 30 1879		Established

ZAPATO - Continued

Apr 30 1879	Howes, David H.
Jun 12 1880	Discontinued
Jun 22 1880	Re-established
Jun 22 1880	Adee, Niel G.
Dec 14 1885	Buell, Willard B.
Jul 16 1886	Layton, Legrand C.
Sep 9 1891	Husett, Niels C.
Apr 15 1895	Orton, Frank B.
May 22 1895 ---	NW/4 Sec 25 T39N R12E one mile west of Eurasca and Zapato Creeks
Jun 24 1897	Ramsey, Larkin E.
Sep 7 1898	Discontinued Papers to Montville
Sep 14 1898	Closure rescinded
Sep 14 1898	Ramsey, Larkin E.
Sep 14 1898	King, Wiley T.
Mar 5 1900	King, Coley M.
Jul 6 1900	Milburn, John
Sep 4 1900	Ordered closed
Sep 15 1900	Discontinued Papers to Alamosa

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | ZAPATO, / COLO.
CI 10P 24.0 | Mar 21 1881 Aug 27 1883
Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm, small "*" at each side of cds |
| 2 | ZAPATO, / COLORADO.
CI 11P 27.0/17.0 | Mar 18 1884 Mar
Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm with "*" at each side of cds |



1



2



ZAPATO, / COLORADO.

March 18, 1884

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COLORADO HISTORY**

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

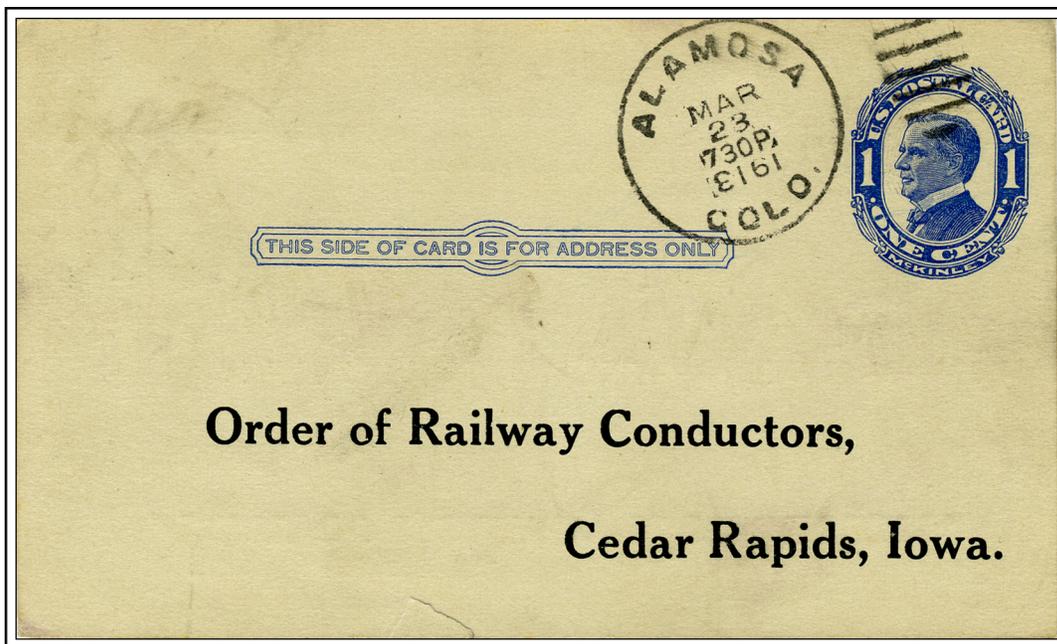
Prepared by the Colorado Writers Project; *Colorado Magazine*; Serialized in Volumes 17-20

SPENCER, Frank C. *Early Days in Alamosa*; March 1931, Vol. 8, No. 2, pp41-46

GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

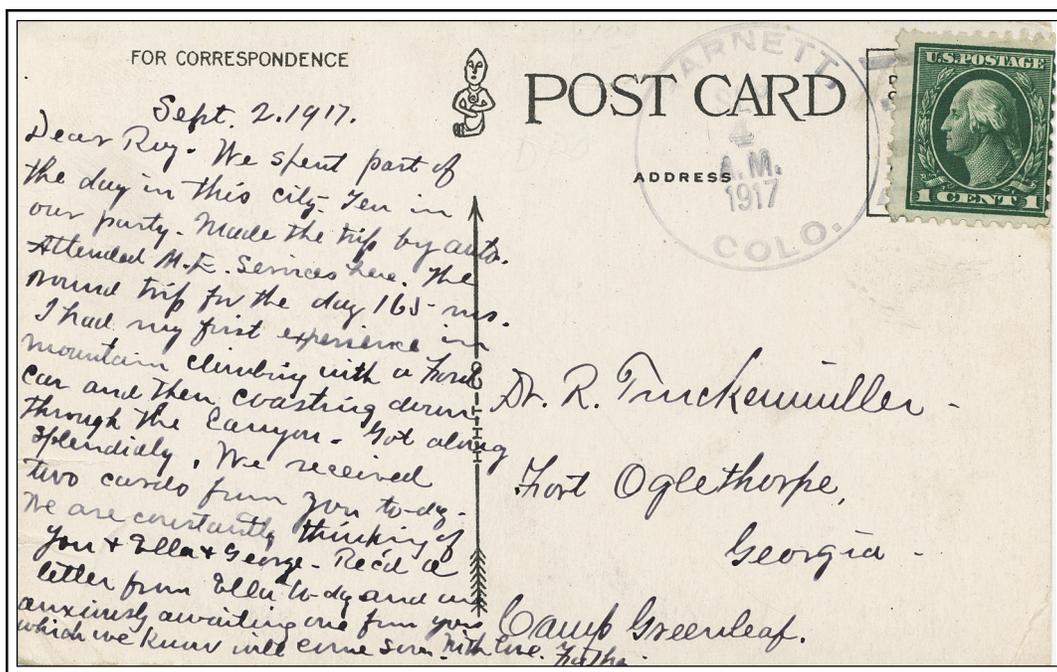
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams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

A COVER GALLERY OF ALAMOSA COUNTY



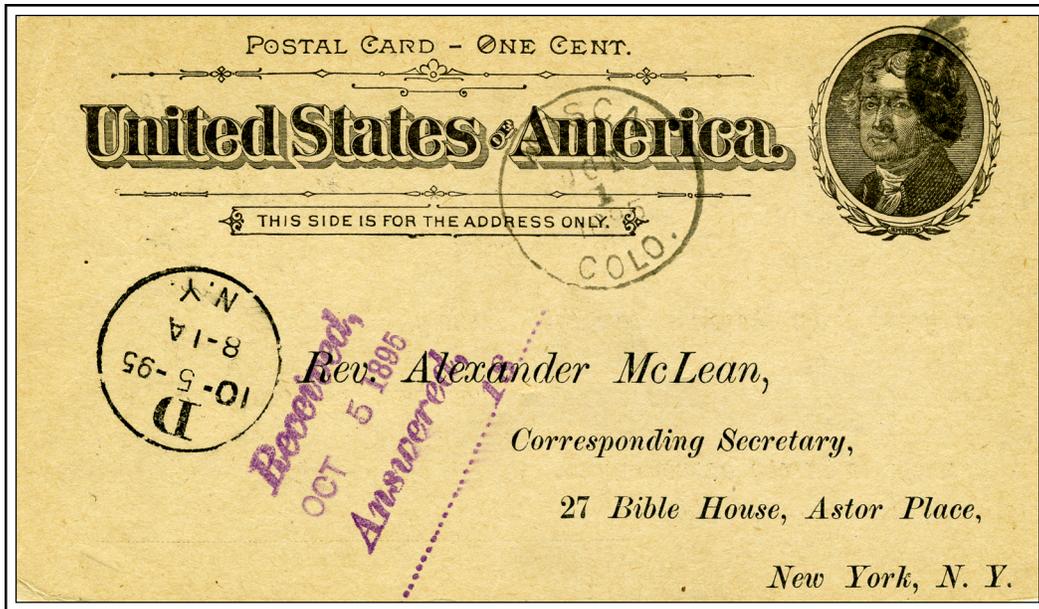
ALAMOSA / COLO.

March 23, 1913



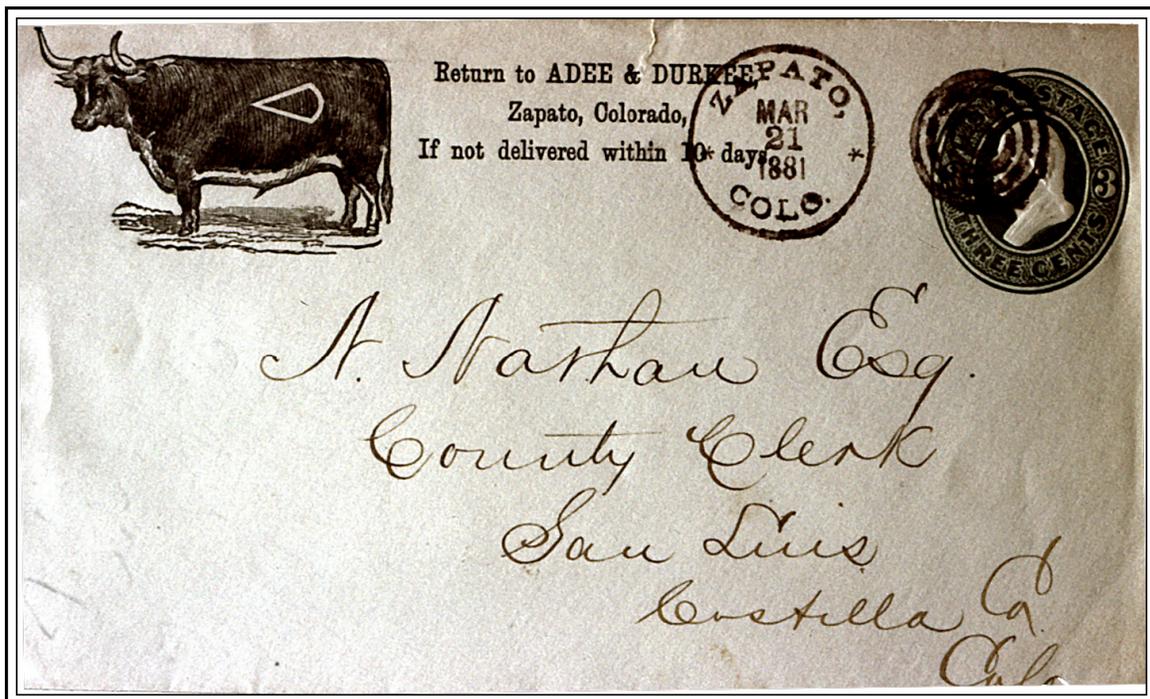
GARNETT, / COLO.

September 4, 1917



MOSCA / COLO.

October 1, 1895



ZAPATO, / COLO.

March 21, 1881