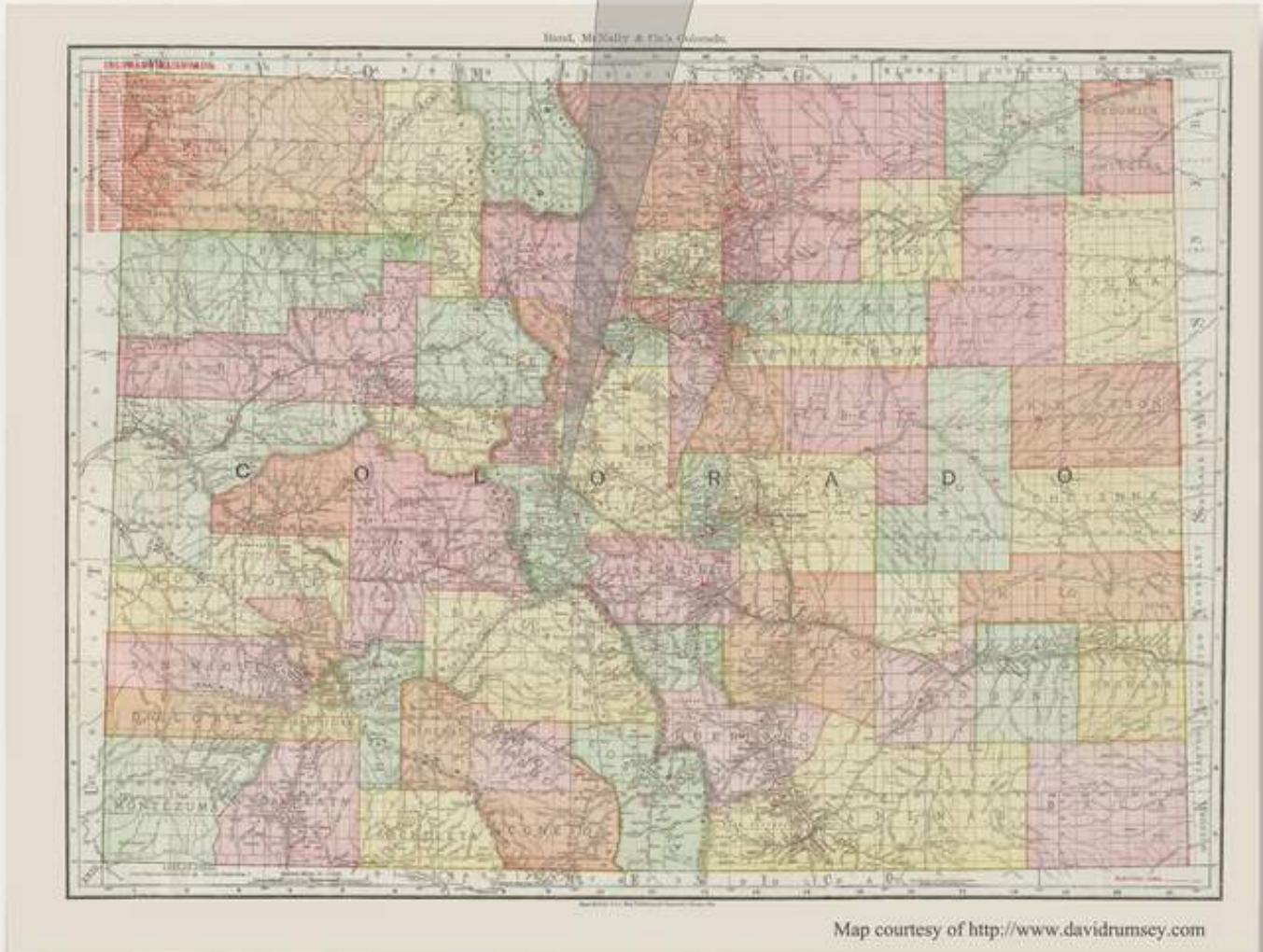


Chaffee County



Established: February 10, 1879

County Seat: Salida

CHAFFEE COUNTY

By William H. Bauer

Chaffee County lies near the center of the state of Colorado. The area was first included in the larger Lake County that was one of the seventeen original counties authorized in 1861 by the Territorial Legislature. Through subsequent reductions in size, the future Chaffee County remained a part of Lake County until February 10, 1879 when it was established with what are essentially its present day boundaries. The creation of Chaffee County was a reaction to the explosive growth of the Leadville area in the late 1870's. The boundaries of Chaffee County have remained largely unchanged. Modern surveys of the divide on the east side of the county have resulted in some adjustments to the boundary. This resulted in some confusion as to the proper county of location for Whitehorn, Manoa and Shavano (II).

For the most part the county boundaries are irregular. The eastern boundary, with Park and Fremont Counties, follows the drainage divide between the Arkansas River and the South Platte River. The western boundary, with Gunnison County, follows the Continental Divide. The northern boundary is with Lake County and the Southern Boundary with Saguache County.

Chaffee County is one of the smaller counties in Colorado. The maximum north south distance is forty-five miles and it is only twenty-eight miles from east to west.

From 1870 until 1879 Granite was the county seat of Lake County. In 1879, when Chaffee County was created, Granite found itself within the boundaries of the new county. Leadville assumed the position as county seat for Lake County and Granite became the Chaffee County Seat. For only a short time Granite retained that position. In 1880 the county seat was moved to Buena Vista.

Buena Vista held the position of county seat until April 11, 1932 when, following an election, the county seat was moved to Salida.

Geographically Chaffee County lies entirely within the drainage of the Arkansas River. The Arkansas River enters from Lake County to the north. It flows south, somewhat east of the center of the county and exits into Fremont County in the extreme southeast corner of Chaffee County.

The major tributary streams have served as transportation routes and for access to mining on the east slope of the Continental Divide. From the east, only Trout Creek is a major tributary and a significant transportation route. From the west, beginning at the north, Clear Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Chalk Creek and the South Arkansas River are the tributaries. Each of these streams was also the location for nineteenth century mining camps.

In the history of Central Colorado, Chaffee County was slow to develop. There were early explorations and fur trappers were frequent visitors. As the 1859 Colorado Gold Rush developed, prospectors found their way into the Upper Arkansas Valley, but continued on north to the placer deposits at Oro City, near present day Leadville. There was also some traffic across the Continental Divide to the Western Slope.

The traffic north to Oro City did result in the development of a stage road along the Arkansas River and stage stations such as Helena, Mahonville and Granite developed.

The rich silver discoveries at Leadville became an instant magnet to the developing Colorado Railroads. The Denver and Rio Grande, the Denver, South Park and Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroads all sought to be the first to reach the prize.

The Rio Grande and the Santa Fe chose to follow the Arkansas River to Leadville. That resulted in a conflict over the right-of-way through the Royal Gorge. The conflict came close to a shooting war but was resolved with the Rio Grande gaining the right-of-way, but being forced to abandon plans for future expansion deep into New Mexico and beyond.

The South Park chose to come from Denver, across the South Park and down Trout Creek to the Arkansas River. They intended to then follow the river north; however, the South Park did not extend its

tracks beyond Buena Vista. Eventually the South Park reached Leadville by way of Boreas Pass, Dillon and Fremont Pass, coming into Leadville from the north.

Quickly the South Park began another competition with the Rio Grande, this time to extend their tracks to the Western Slope. The Rio Grande decided to build west from Salida and cross Marshall Pass to the Western slope. The South Park took a more direct route: west from Nathrop along Chalk Creek and to construct the Alpine Tunnel under the Continental Divide. This proved to be a not so wise choice. The tunnel was much more difficult to dig than predicted and the route itself was difficult and near impossible to keep open in winter. Once again the Rio Grande was the winner, reaching Gunnison before the South Park.

In the late 1880's a third railroad entered the Chaffee County transportation picture. The Colorado Midland Railroad built west from Colorado Springs and also chose the route down Trout Creek to the Arkansas River. The Midland then turned north towards Leadville and would first use the Hagerman Pass and then the Busk-Ivanhoe Tunnel to cross to the Western Slope.

In addition to the main line railroads, the Rio Grande constructed a branch line along the South Arkansas River to the mines and quarries at Monarch. That branch remained in operation until the late twentieth century. There was a short-lived spur to the mines at Calumet. Mears (Junction) a short distance north of the Chaffee-Saguache county line was the point at which a Rio Grande track began the climb over Poncha Pass and into the San Luis Valley.

None of these railroads are currently operating. The South Park and Midland tracks have been long removed, as has the Rio Grande track from Poncha Springs over Marshall Pass. The tracks of the Rio Grande main line along the Arkansas River remain in place, but have not been in use for several years.

The twentieth century saw the shift from rail travel to highway travel. The traditional routes through Chaffee County soon became highways. Three major US Highways cross the county. US 50 enters the county along the Arkansas River, but at Salida it turns west and follows the South Arkansas River to cross the Continental Divide at Monarch Pass (11,386 feet).

US 285 and US 24 enter the county from the east, crossing Trout Creek Pass (9,346 feet) and descending along Trout Creek to the Arkansas River. At the river, US 24 turns and follows the river north into Lake County. US 285 turns south, through Poncha Springs and exits over Poncha Pass (9,010 feet) into Saguache County and the San Luis Valley.

There is a good network of county roads in the valley and extensions into the mountains, but most do not leave the county. It is possible to drive over Cottonwood, Tin Cup and Hancock Passes but these are primarily Jeep roads and they can be difficult at best.

The economy of Chaffee County has been varied. Initially it focused on ranching and some farming. This served travelers along the river and sent produce to the nearby mining districts. The railroads introduced an industry and the Rio Grande had an important installation at Salida.

There were smelters at Salida that processed ores from the mines in Chaffee county and other nearby mining districts.

Mining did play an important part in the economy but it was not as significant as in other areas of Colorado and for the most part had a shorter life span. There were good mines along Clear Creek and some short-lived activity on Cottonwood Creek. The major mining activity was on Chalk Creek at Romley and the Mary Murphy Mine. Another significant mining area was on the upper end of the South Arkansas River, at Monarch. At first this was a gold-silver source, but later became a major quarry of limestone for the steel mills in Pueblo.

On the east side of the Arkansas River there was mining in the Turret-Calumet area, again it was initially gold and silver, but later iron ore took precedence.

The Arkansas River was the site of several placer deposits, but most were small and not long lasting. The best placer deposit was at Cash Creek with some hard-rock mining at nearby Granite.

With the decline of mining and the railroads, the economy of Chaffee County shifted back towards one supported by ranching and farming. Highway travelers also require services, which are provided largely at Salida, Buena Vista and Poncha Springs.

The hot springs at Poncha Springs, Mount Princeton Hot Springs and Cottonwood Springs were favorite camp grounds for the Indians and with white settlement resorts began to develop at each of these. Although they each enjoyed a period of prosperity, none has developed into a major resort.

Chaffee County does offer great opportunities to those who seek outdoor recreation. The mountains are laced with trails and campgrounds. Rafting on the Arkansas River has become an important activity and source of local income. Hunting and fishing are significant contributors to the modern economy of Chaffee County. A modest ski resort has developed at Monarch and winter snowmobiling or summer dirt biking in the mountains is becoming increasingly popular.

The spectacular scenery of the Collegiate Range is a great attraction to the tourist who is satisfied with a less active outdoor experience.

The Arkansas Valley enjoys a rather milder climate than many other portions of Colorado. The summers are not blistering hot and the winters are milder than at higher elevations, or more exposed locations. Because of this milder climate, the river valley, from Salida to Buena Vista, is often referred to as The Banana Belt.

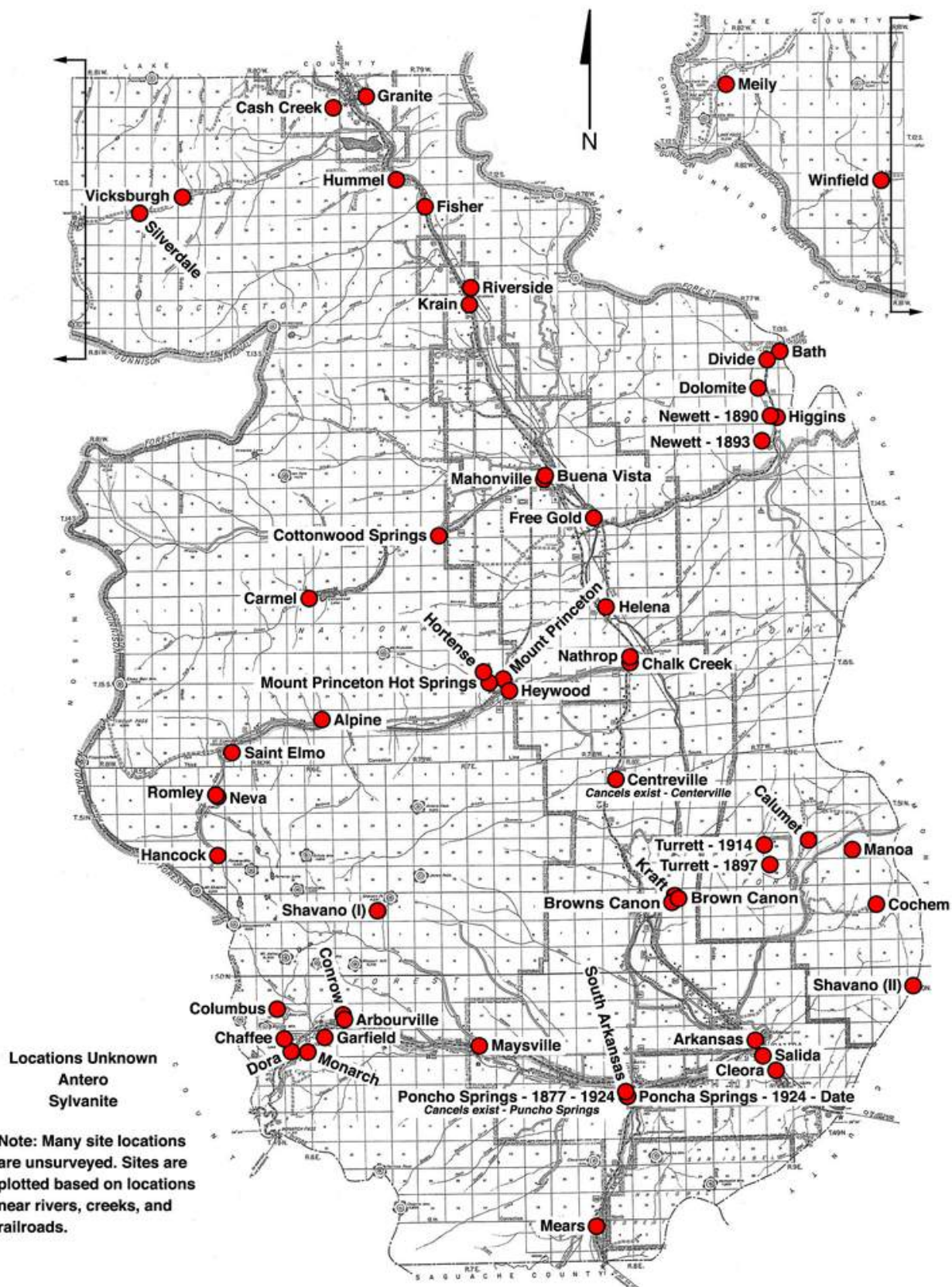
With the attractions of a good climate, spectacular scenery, opportunities for outdoor recreation, adequate services and good highway access to the “outside world” Chaffee County is drawing an increasing number of retirees to the Upper Arkansas River Valley.



North of Hancock townsite

Photograph by William H. Bauer

August 30, 2001



Post Office Location Map – Chaffee County

ALPINE

Alpine was an early mining camp located between the mouth of Chalk Creek Canyon and Saint Elmo. By September 1880 the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad had extended its tracks to Alpine. The depot was at milepost 148.85 and an elevation of 9,263 feet. The depot included a freight room and living quarters for the agent. In addition there were a water tank and a siding.

In 1877 a Mr. Riggins built the first house at Alpine. It was Col. Chapman who stimulated the town's development when he constructed a smelter. The smelter did not function properly and was converted to a sampling and concentration works. The thriving settlement had two hotels, the Badger and the Arcade, twenty-three saloons (With a peak population of 500 or 600 that seems high even for a mining camp), three banks and a two-story dance hall that reportedly cost \$4,000 to construct. Alpine was incorporated in 1879.

Alpine served as a supply town for other localities west along Chalk Creek. It was also the starting or ending point for travelers going over the Continental Divide to or from Pitkin and Tin Cup.

The mines near Alpine were not very productive and when the railroad reached Saint Elmo, four miles to the west, a large share of the population of Alpine moved on to the new town.

It is claimed that in June 1899 the name of the railroad station was changed from Alpine to Fisher. Supposedly this was to eliminate confusion with the Alpine station at the western end of the Alpine Tunnel that penetrated the Continental Divide. The post office remained Alpine until it closed in 1904.

Alpine struggled along through most of the twentieth century. For a time there were a few cabins, a gas station and a small store that served mostly fishermen and hunters. Eventually the townsite fell into the hands of Bird Fuqua. As the road up Chalk Creek Canyon was improved, transients frequently occupied the one remaining cabin. Preservation was hopeless and the cabin and the remains of other structures were removed. A scattering of modern homes now occupy the site of Alpine.

From the "T" intersection at Mount Princeton Hot Springs, drive west on Colorado Highway 162 seven and one half miles to Chaffee County Road 292B. This road drops down the hillside, crosses Chalk Creek and enters the site of Alpine at the east end of Alpine Reservoir.

Latitude = 38:42:40 North Longitude = 106:16:35 West

Chronology of the Post Office

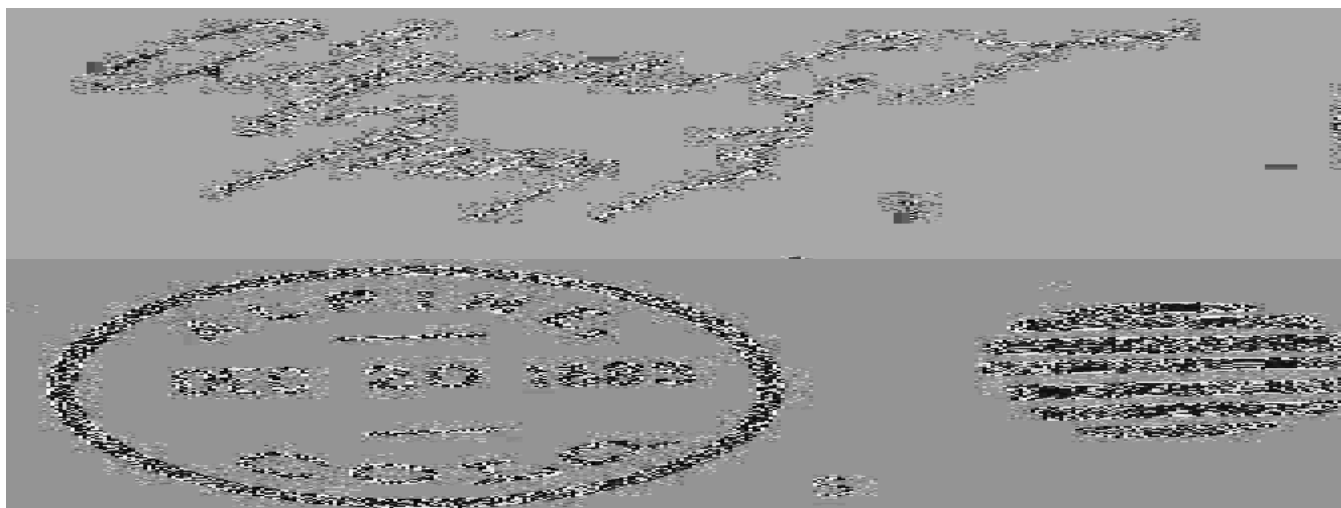
Aug 24 1874	---	Not in any surveyed township	On the north side of Chalk Creek
Oct 26 1874		Established	
Oct 26 1874		Gibbs, Emma J.	
Apr 26 1875	---	SW/4 Sec 25 T15S R80W	10 rods north of Chalk Creek
Mar 6 1876		Hestel, Lyman W.	
Nov 27 1876		McClure, Joseph E.	
Jun 20 1882		Lines, George	
Feb 6 1883		Newcomb, Frank B.	
Dec 26 1883		McDowell, G.	
Sep 28 1892		Somes, Frederick	
Oct 16 1895		Gilchrist, Annie	
Jun 18 1904		Ordered closed	
Jun 30 1904		Discontinued	Papers to St. Elmo

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Alpine C.T		May 3 187-
	MS	Mscp	Pen cancel
2	ALPINE / COLO.		Jul 5 187- Oct 25 188-
	CI 10P 25.0	Hstp	Cork, Negative X-roads, double grid; Fancy, framed negative Maltese Cross

ALPINE – Continued

3	ALPINE / COL. CI 10P 27.0	--- -- 187- Hstp Not present; Poor strike, date not legible
4	ALPINE, / COLORADO. CI 21P 30.0/26.0/17.0	Sep 21 1881 Oct 14 1882 Hstp Fancy, Wheel-of-fortune
5	ALPINE, / COLO. CI 20P 30.0/28.0	May 11 1883 Jan 17 1884 Hstp Grid, 7 bar circular
6	ALPINE, / COLORADO. CI 21P 30.0/27.0/17.0	Oct 14 188- Hstp Fancy, Wheel-of-fortune
7	ALPINE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Apr 27 1899 Hstp Cork, smudge

**ANTERO**

The only thing known for certain about this post office is that the name was that of the Uintah Ute Chief, Antero, one of the chiefs that signed the 1873 treaty ceding the rich mineral lands of the San Juan Mountains to the United States.

One source theorizes that it was intended to be a post office located at the Mount Princeton Hot Springs. Indeed, the Antero was the large hotel there in the 1890's. However there was already a post office at the hot springs - Mount Princeton - during the period in which the Post Office Department was trying to appoint a postmaster for Antero.

The Post Office Department made three attempts to select a postmaster. All three failed and the Post Office Department gave up. There is no evidence that Antero was ever a functioning post office.

There is no Geographic Site Location Report on file so the actual, intended location of Antero remains in doubt. Any information you can provide would be appreciated.

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 5 1895	Established	
Oct 5 1895	Berlin, Nellie	Not commissioned
Dec 23 1895	Wilsey, Oscar	Declined
Feb 20 1896	Duffey, Josephine	
Apr 3 1896	Duffey, Josephine	Appointment revoked
Apr 3 1896	Possibly never operational	

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ANTERO

ARBOURVILLE

Arbourville was a small mining camp four or five miles west of Maysville and a few miles from Chaffee. There was some mining but it was not important. There was a small smelter that treated the ores from the nearby mines.

The settlement was a stop on the stage line and a source of supplies; however, it is reported that Arbourville was especially popular for its brothel.

The logical source of the name is that it was a reference to the location in aspen and spruce forest along the South Arkansas River. Another possible source for the name is that it took the name of an early resident by the name of Arbour.

At various times the name has been spelled Aberville, Arbour Ville, Arboursville, Arbour Villa and Arbourville.

For an unknown reason in 1881 the name of the post office was changed to Conrow. However, most people continued to refer to it as Arbourville.

As best I can determine Arbourville was located along what is now US Highway 50 a short distance east of Garfield. Because of the passage of time and the construction of US 50 I could not identify anything that might date from the early days.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 30 1879	---	Not surveyed Chaffee 3 miles westerly, Maysville 5 miles easterly. On the north side of the South Arkansas Proposed postmaster - Jacob W. Leeds
Sep 12 1879		Established
Sep 12 1879		Leeds, Jacob U.
Jul 29 1880		Bryan, Adam
Aug 15 1881		Name changed to Conrow

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ARBOURVILLE

ARKANSAS

In early 1880 a 160-acre townsite to be named South Arkansas was laid out by former Territorial Governor A. C. Hunt who was in charge of such projects for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. With this action the Rio Grande bypassed Cleora and established a major railroad center on the north side of the South Arkansas River, where that river joins the main stream of the Arkansas River.

When a post office was acquired in June 1880 it was given the simpler name of Arkansas. That name had a short life and in less than a year the town and the Post Office were known as Salida.

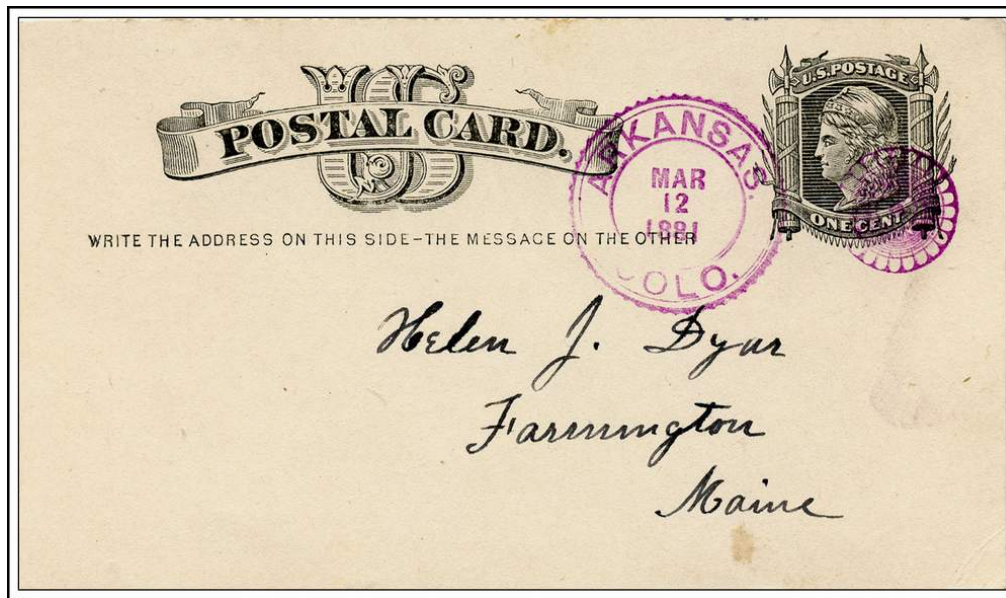
The railroad station was first known as South Arkansas and continued to be so known for some time after the town and post office became Salida. This is somewhat confusing, as South Arkansas was the first name for the community and post office that are now Poncha Springs.

Arkansas, now Salida is on US Highway 50 where that highway turns westward away from the Arkansas River and begins the long ascent to the summit of Monarch Pass.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 16 1880		Established
Jun 16 1880		Blake, John T.
Jul 17 1880	---	T50N R9E, section not reported On southwest side of Arkansas River one mile north of South Branch of Arkansas River
Mar 28 1881		Name changed to Salida

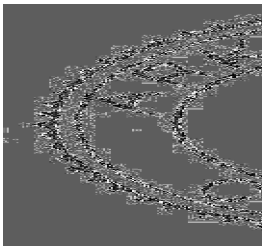
ARKANSAS – Continued



ARKANSAS. / COLO. March 12, 1881

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 ARKANSAS. / COLO. Jul 27 1880 Mar 12 1881
 CI 21T 29.0/26.0/17.5 Hstp Fancy, Wheel-of-fortune

**BATH**

Bath was purely a railroad community located at the summit of Trout Creek Pass (9,435-feet). The Denver, South Park and Pacific was the first railroad to come through Trout Creek Pass. The town was located in the area where later the tracks of the Colorado Midland Railroad passed over those of the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad.

During the time the Bath Post Office was in operation, the Higgins/Newett Post Office was also in operation, less than two miles away, at the lower end of Chubbs Park. It appears that the post office at Bath was for the use of railroad employees stationed at the summit of Trout Creek Pass.

At the summit of the pass there is a side road to the north that leads to a small parking lot, rest stop and an historical marker. The fill that supported the Midland in its overpass of the South Park is still in place. The side road continues to the north on the grade of the Colorado Midland and loops around the edge of Chubbs Park, passing the site of Higgins-Newett, *et al.* and reconnecting to US Highway 24/285 at the entrance to the Trout Creek Canyon. This road is a pleasant drive and should be no problem for standard vehicles.

BATH – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 16 1893	---	NW/4 Sec 23 T13S R77W 25 rods from Bath Depot Proposed postmaster - William O. Rawlings NOTE: Bath is in Chaffee County about 50 rods from Park County line... Location is 40 feet south of Depot on DSP&P RR.
Jul 25 1893		Established
Jul 25 1893		Rawlings, William O.
Nov 27 1893	---	This office is at a distance of 10 feet from the Bath station of the C.M. & D.S.P.& P. Railroad, on the north side of it. NOTE: Higgins office C.M. agent was sworn in as assistant. He was transferred by C.M. to Bath. He brought P.O. with him, however, he has since been discharged by C.M. NOTE: In spite of this note, the post office at Higgins continued in operation until the name was changed to Newett in 1895
Feb 20 1894		Discontinued Mail to Higgins
Jul 8 1901	---	Sec 23 T13S R77W On Colorado Midland Railway, Office south of track 20 feet Proposed postmaster - Henry Chapman Smith Sketch map indicates it to be at top of grade, well above the long curve
Nov 15 1901		Re-established
Nov 15 1901		Smith, Henry C.
Mar 27 1903		Clover, Richard D.
Jun 5 1903		Tyler, Harry M. Declined appointment
Sep 12 1903		Ordered closed
Sep 30 1903		Discontinued Papers to Newett
Apr 18 1904		Re-established
Apr 18 1904		James, James D.
Jul 28 1904		Re-establishment rescinded Mail to Higgins

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BATH

BROWN CANON

On March 9, 1904 a post office reopened at a location on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad at what had first been known as Kraft and then as Browns Canon. Reflecting the Post Office Department standards for naming, the “s” was dropped and the new office was simply Brown Canon.

There is no report or evidence that in the twentieth century the settlement was any more than it had been in the nineteenth century.

One strange quirk in the opening of this office is the list of alternate possible names that were submitted to the Post Office Department. Included were Campan, Cama, Daphne, Fawn, Fez, Halo and Herb. Is it possible that by offering this odd selection the people were trying to ensure the selection of Brown Canon?

Please refer to the discussions of Kraft and Browns Canon for directions to the site and a description of what little remains at the location.

Chronology of the Post Office

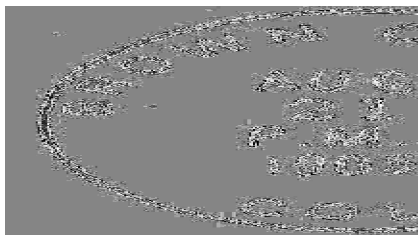
Jan 12 1904	---	SW/4 Sec 2 T50N R8E 100 yards east of Arkansas River, 3 miles north of Squaw Creek. 15 feet, west side of D&RG RR Proposed postmaster – Fletcher Bliss Homan
Mar 9 1904		Established
Mar 9 1904		Homan, Fletcher B.
Jul 17 1906		Smith, William J.
Feb 2 1907		Homan, Fletcher B.

BROWN CANON – Continued

Jun 6 1908	Ordered closed
Jun 30 1908	Discontinued Mail to Salida

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BROWN CANON, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Aug 21 1905	Nov 25 1907
		Doane Type 2 with 1, S-23x13mm	

**BROWNS CANON**

Browns Canon was the second name applied to a post office on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad north of Salida and near the southern end of the stretch of the Arkansas River that is known as Browns Canyon. It seems obvious that the post office name was taken from the nearby geographic feature.

This location was known as Kraft from its establishment in 1882 until May 8, 1888 when the name was changed to Browns Canon. It seems likely that someone, perhaps the railroad thought that because of the location, the new name was more appropriate.

One description of Browns Canon describes it as, "A small station on the Denver & Rio Grande Railway situated on the Arkansas River. Some hay is gathered for market otherwise the whole section is devoted to stock raising."

The Browns Canon Post Office closed July 25, 1893. A new post office opened March 9, 1904 but was now named Brown Canon.

Please refer to the discussion of Kraft for directions to the site and a description of what little will be found there.

Latitude = 38:36:43 North Longitude = 106:03:34 West

Chronology of the Post Office

May 8 1888	Name changed from Kraft
May 8 1888	Rubin, Robert P.
Jul 25 1893	Discontinued Papers to Salida

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BROWN'S CANON / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	May 11 1889	Nov 11 1889
		Hstp No killer	



BUENA VISTA

The original settlement in this area, Mahonville, was on the western edge of present day Buena Vista. That settlement is discussed under Mahonville.

The impetus for the establishment of Buena Vista was the impending arrival of two railroads as they competed in building north to Leadville. The first group of cabins may have been called Cottonwood an appropriate choice since it was situated between Cottonwood Creek and the Arkansas River.

By mid to late 1879 the community was known as Buena Vista. The stagecoaches that had regularly stopped in Mahonville were now stopping at Buena Vista. In July or August 1879, Major W. Marsh Kasson organized The Buena Vista Land Company. On September 18, 1879 the post office at Mahonville moved to Wade’s store in Buena Vista. On October 29, 1879 the town was declared incorporated and on November 18, 1879 the first election was held, at the post office in Wade’s store, with 182 votes being cast.

As a result of county elections in November 1880 the county seat was moved from Granite to Buena Vista. In 1928, another election would move the county seat again, to Salida at which place it has so far remained.

In addition to the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, the Denver, South Park and Pacific was also building grade towards Leadville. On February 22, 1880 the South Park was the first to reach Buena Vista. The Rio Grande did not enter the town until June 5, 1880. Within a few years a third railroad, the Colorado Midland would also arrive at Buena Vista. The South Park and the Rio Grande were both on the west side of the Arkansas, but the Midland located its tracks and depot on the east side of the river.

After the early, hectic times of railroad construction Buena Vista settled down to become a central shipping and supply point for ranchers along the Arkansas River and for miners working to the west in the mountains.

Buena Vista is still a major supply town for the surrounding countryside, but it is also becoming a favorite center for hunting, fishing and other recreational activities. It is the most significant access to food and lodging in the middle portion of the upper Arkansas Valley between Salida and Leadville.

Latitude = 38:50:32 North Longitude = 106:07:50 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 28 1877	---	SW/4 SE/4 Sec 8, NE/4 Sec 14 T14S R78W	
Sep 18 1879		Post Office moved from Mahonville	
Sep 18 1879		McPheleme, James	
Mar 26 1880		Pickard, Harry A. E.	
Oct 24 1881		Pickard, Harry A. E.	
Jul 1 1884		Wilson, Carlos B.	P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
Oct 10 1887	---	SE/4 Sec 8 T14S R78W	
Aug 14 1888		Graham, Joseph M.	P&S
Mar 26 1891		Wade, Aarron	Presidential
Jun 15 1896		Holt, Charles H.	P&S
Dec 19 1899		Wade, Charles T.	P&S
Dec 13 1903		Wade, Charles T.	P&S
Dec 11 1907		Wade, Charles T.	P&S
Dec 20 1911		Wade, Charles T.	P&S
Feb 25 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 8 T14S R78W	
Jan 5 1916		Logan, Charles S.	P&S
Mar 16 1917		Mason, Mary E.	P&S
Aug 24 1921		Roberg, Raymond	P&S
Jun 22 1923		Tompkins, Lillie N.	Acting
Dec 18 1923		Tompkins, Lillie N.	Appointed

BUENA VISTA – Continued

Dec 18 1928	Mear, Sadie	P&S
May 23 1934	Sexton, Thomas E.	Nominated
May 31 1934	Sexton, Thomas E.	Confirmed
Jun 24 1934	Sexton, Thomas E.	Commissioned
Dec 20 1934	Richards, Mrs. Rose	Acting
Dec 31 1934	Richards, Mrs. Rose	Assumed charge
Jul 10 1935	Richards, Mrs. Rose	Nominated
Jul 17 1935	Richards, Mrs. Rose	Confirmed
Jul 22 1935	Richards, Rose	Appointed Presidential
Aug 9 1935	Richards, Mrs. Rose	Commissioned
Aug 31 1935	Richards, Rose	Possession
Jul 27 1939	Richards, Mrs. Rose	Nominated
Jul 31 1939	Richards, Mrs. Rose	Confirmed
Aug 4 1939	Richards, Mrs. Rose	Appointed Presidential
Sep 12 1939	Richards, Mrs. Rose	Commissioned
Sep 30 1939	Richards, Rose	Possession
Oct 20 1941 - --	Main Street; SE/4 Sec 8 T14S R78W 1 mile southeast of Arkansas River ??? Map shows it to southwest, on south side of the old stage road.	
Jan 31 1952	Swedhin, Lloyd R.	Assumed charge
Feb 12 1952	Swedhin, Lloyd R.	Acting
Aug 2 1954	Swedhin, Lloyd R.	Nominated
Aug 16 1954	Swedhin, Lloyd R.	Confirmed & Appointed
Aug 16 1954	Swedhin, Lloyd R.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1954	Swedhin, Lloyd R.	Possession
Mar 29 1974	Sutton, William A.	Officer in charge
Apr 27 1974	Waterhouse, Gerald D.	Appointed
Apr 30 1979	Selvage, Carl T.	Officer in charge
Sep 7 1979	Lampley, Charles	Officer in charge
Dec 15 1979	Robb, Max T.	Officer in charge
Sep 11 1980	Lopez, Eliu A.	Officer in charge
Apr 4 1981	Graham, Edward L.	Appointed

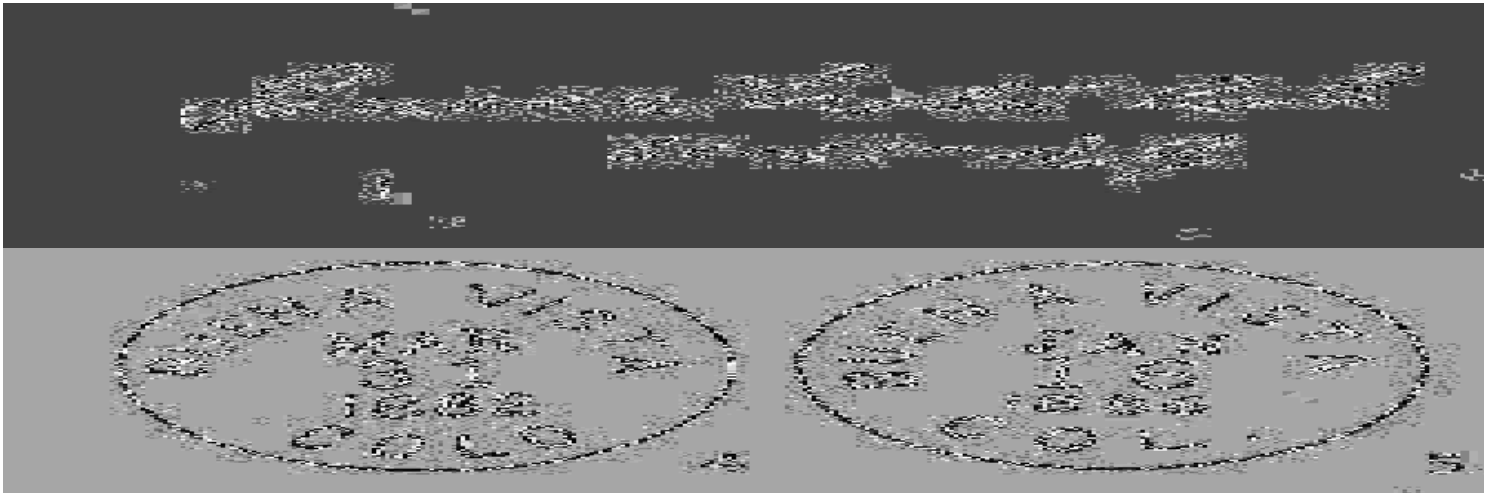


Manuscript postmark Buena Vista / Colo December 30, 1879

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Buena Vista Col MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Dec 10 1877 Jan 28 1880
2	BUENA VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Hstp Cork, smudge; target	Mar 16 1880 Apr 26 1880
3	BUENA VISTA. / COLO. CI 21P 30.0/26.0/17.5	Hstp Fancy, wheel-of-fortune	Jul 28 1880 Apr 1 1881
4	BUENA VISTA / COLO CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Mar 31 1882
5	BUENA VISTA / COL. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Oct 31 1884 Jan 16 1886
6	BUENA VISTA / COL. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Dec 15 1887 Jan 25 1890
7	BUENA VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge, negative X-roads	Jul 20 1892 Sep 6 1898
7.1	Buena Vista, Colo. / No. ___ / Registered, SL 00R 44.0 x 18.0	Hstp Not present	--- -- 1897
8	BUENAVISTA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not recorded	Jul 7 1898 Sep 6 1898
8.1	BUENA VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Quartered Cork?	Mar 27 1899
9	BUENA VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Aug 10 1899
10	BUENA VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	May 3 1901 Sep 21 1912
11	BUENA VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Dec 24 1910 Apr 20 1919
12	BUENAVISTA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Hstp Not present	May 16 1917
12.1	BUENA VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 21.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Nov 13 1919
13	BUENA VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Sep 13 1922
14	Buena Vista / COLO. RC 10P 36.0x17.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box	[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] --- -- 1940s
15	BUENA VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, oval with 1	Jun 5 1938 Apr 23 1958
16	BUENA VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 23.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Nov 22 1933 Mar 25 1954
17	BUENA VISTA, / COLO. CI 10P 21.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jul 6 1955 Aug 28 1964
18	BUENA VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Oct 22 1965
19	BUENA VISTA, CO / 81211 CI 10P 30.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 11 1965
20	BUENA VISTA, CO / 81211 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jun 26 1967 Oct 18 1974
21	BUENA VISTA, CO / 81211 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 17 1971 Jan 17 1973
22	BUENA VISTA / CO CI 10P 30.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 21 1986 Apr 15 1987
23	BUENA VISTA CO 81211 / USPS CI 10P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 31 1991 Mar 20 2004
24	BUENA VISTA CO 81211-9998 / USPS CI 11P 30.5/22.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 17 2000 Mar 20 2001
25	BUENA VISTA CO 81211 / USPS CI 10P 30.0/21.0	Hstp No killer	Jan 10 2007 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]

BUENA VISTA – Continued



8



8.1



9



10



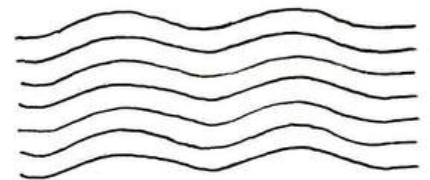
11



12



12.1



BUENA VISTA STATIONS – Continued

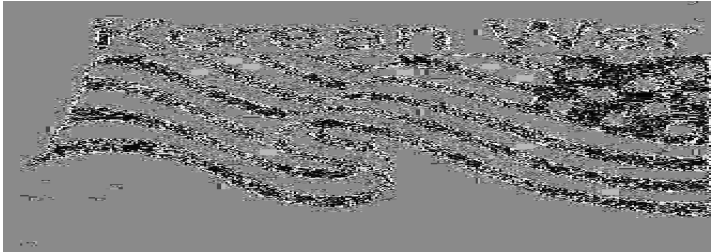
KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 4 2003 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Buena Vista CO 81211// Korean War Veterans Memorial Station | Aug 4 2003 |
| | IR 00R 92.0x26.0 | Pict Scene - Two soldiers in center, waving flag at each side |



GRANITE RURAL BRANCH

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 25 1966 Formerly an Independent Post Office
----- Converted to a Community Post Office

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 18 | GRANITE, CO / 81228 | Jun 9 1965 | Nov 1 1967 |
| | CI 10P 33.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | |
| 19 | GRANITE, CO / 81228 | Oct 1 1968 | Sep 23 1977 |
| | CI 10P 30.5 | 4bars S-24x18mm | |
| 20 | GRANITE, CO / 81228 | May 1 1989 | |
| | CI 10P 31.5 | 4bars S-24x20mm | |
| 21 | GRANITE, CO / 81228 | Sep 15 1994 | |
| | CI 10P 34.0 | 4bars S-20x15mm | |
| 22 | GRANITE CO / USPS 81228 | Jul 21 2001 | Aug 27 2001 |
| | CI 11P 36.0/25.0 | Hstp No killer | |



CALUMET – Continued

At Railroad Gulch, on a side road to the south from Road 184 there are a few abandoned buildings that were most likely related to the railroad spur to Calumet, or to the more recent, nearby quarry activity. This may have been the location sometimes referred to as Hematite (no post office).

From the junction of County Roads 184 and 185, continue north and west on Road 184, four miles to Turret.

Latitude = 37:41:34 North Longitude = 104:51:33 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 6 1882	---	NE/4 Sec 27 T51N R9E 9 miles north of Arkansas River. 1/2 mile beyond end of track Calumet station. (D&RG branch line to mines) Proposed postmaster - DeForest P. Fuller
Jan 24 1882		Established
Jan 24 1882		Fuller, DeForest P.
Nov 25 1884		Nelson, William D.
Feb 9 1885		Discontinued Mail to Salida

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CALUMET

CARMEL

Very little has been written about the small mining camp of Carmel. It was located on the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek, five or six miles west of the Cottonwood Hot Springs.

The persons applying for a post office may have desired the name Mount Carmel but the Post Office department established it as simply Carmel.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report does not provide a definitive location. From the rough location and an examination of the area I believe that Carmel was about a half-mile west from Cottonwood Lake and was likely stretched along the next half to three quarter mile of the valley.

The short life of the Carmel Post Office seems to prove that the double whammy of low-grade ore and high transportation costs worked against prolonged mining activity at Carmel.

In that section there are two old, but renovated buildings, close to the road. There are some other, more modern cabins in the general area. There are mine dumps on the hillside above the road on both sides of the valley. All of this supports the choice of this as the site of Carmel.

From Cottonwood Springs, continue west one and a half miles on Colorado 306 to the junction with Chaffee County Road 344. Turn left on to that road and go another mile and a half to the west end of Cottonwood Lake and the location of Carmel.

Because of the weak location for Carmel, our exploration party, consisting of Jim Ozment, Vern Rutherford and myself did drive a mile or so beyond the cabins, but we found nothing that would change our minds about the selected location.

Chronology of the Post Office

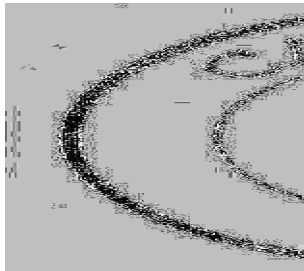
Mar 15 1881	---	Unsurveyed land, called South Cottonwood Mining district. 12 miles west of Arkansas River, on the north side of South Fork Cottonwood Creek. Buena Vista 13 miles northeast, Virginia City 13 miles westerly, Cottonwood Springs 5 miles northeasterly Proposed postmaster - Phillip Cook
Jun 15 1881		Established
Jun 15 1881		Cook, Phillip
Oct 26 1882		Discontinued Mail to Buena Vista

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

1 CARMEL / COL.
CI 11P 33.0/20.0

Jun 2- 1882

Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm

**CASH CREEK**

Cash Creek was a placer mining community that developed on Cache Creek approximately two miles west of the Arkansas River and the future site of Granite.

Placer mining may have begun as early as 1859 but was certainly active by 1860. In 1862 a post office was authorized but the name was spelled Cash instead of the proper Cache. The name Cache Creek is said to reflect a practice of early fur trappers to temporarily hide, “cache,” their furs for later retrieval. One story attributes the cache to a group of trappers that included Kit Carson and Lucien Maxwell who, in 1854, were ambushed by Indians. They hid their supplies along the creek to lighten their load during their escape. Another version simply claims that it was French fur trappers who cached their pelts along the stream.

Undoubtedly the influence of Anglo prospectors resulted in the altered spelling. Perhaps they considered it more appropriate as the placers were, for them, a source of cash money.

The placer operations lasted for a few years. It has been reported that the placers may have produced as much as \$200,000 in gold. Later the area was hydraulically mined and even dredged to glean the last traces of gold from the placers. That activity completely erased any sign of the early mining camp.

To visit, or at least to view the site of Cash Creek, start at Granite on US Highway 24. Lost Canyon Road begins immediately south of the Granite store and post office. It is a dirt road that climbs the embankment behind the store. One mile from US 24, turn left on to Chaffee County Road 398D. Another quarter mile will bring you to the end of that road at the Granite Cemetery. The cemetery is on a bluff from which you can overlook Cache Creek (the stream) and view the disturbed ground to the west that was the site of the mining community of Cash Creek.

Chronology of the Post Office

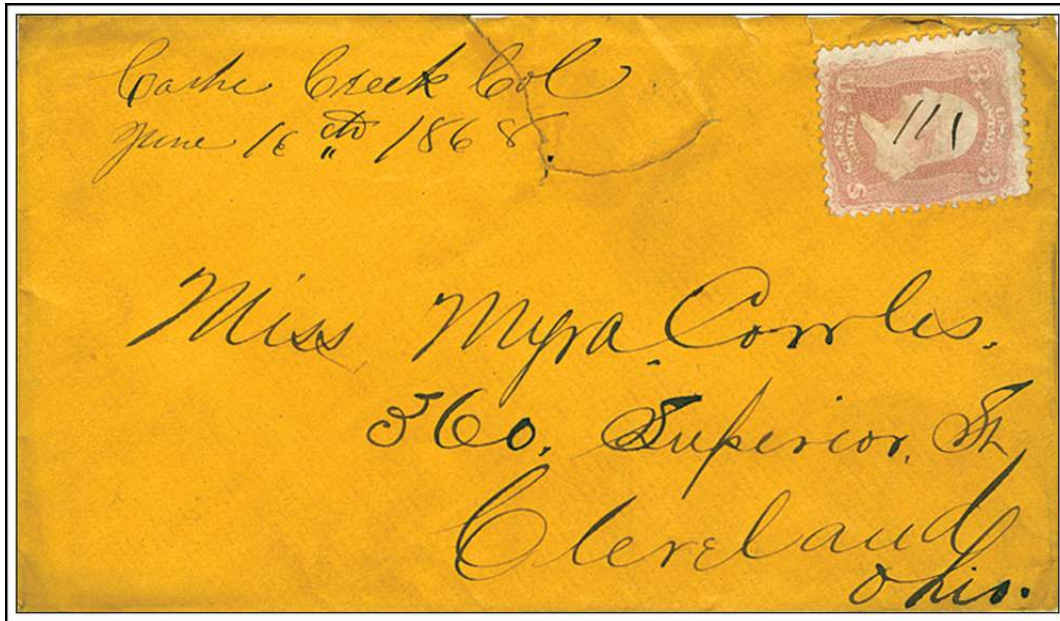
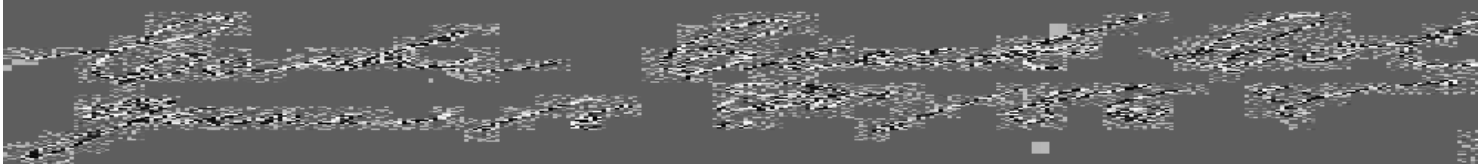
May 15 1862 ---	1/2 mile west of the Arkansas River
Aug 2 1862	Established
Aug 2 1862	McPherson, A.
Jan 7 1863	Geagher, Joshua
Apr 7 1863	Fosher, John
Dec 17 1863	Justice, Henry C.
Dec 20 1865	Kraft, William
Dec 10 1866	Hutchinson, Joseph
May 7 1868	Slater, Charles
Nov 2 1869	Henson, Henry

**CASH CREEK – Continued
Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 Cache Creek Col
MS

Jun 16 1868 Jul 21 1868

Mscp Pen cancel



Manuscript postmark Cache Creek Col June 16, 1868

CENTREVILLE

Settlement at Centreville began in the late 1860's. It developed into a cluster of ranches that were served by the Centerville Post Office starting in 1868.

George Harrington, one of the early settlers, built a small two-story home and ran a store at his ranch. That house still stands, on the west side of US Highway 285 at the northern foot of the hill where a series of elevated irrigation pipes cross the highway as it crests the hill in a road cut. In 1996 this was called the Hill Ranch.

Another location that has been reported for Centreville was at a ranch on the east side of US 285, after the highway has crested the aforementioned hill (in 1996 the Earhart Ranch). I observe that in the list of Centreville Postmasters there are a Thomas J Erhardt, a Margaret A. Ehrhart and a Mary S. Erhart. These three postmasters lend credence to the Centreville Post Office having been at this location, but I remain uncertain as to the correct spelling of the family name.

The Centerville Cemetery is another mile and a half to the south. The 1914 Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report places Centreville at about that location. Thus it seems that Centreville was indeed a "ranch post office" and that it frequently moved from one ranch to another.

The USGS Topographic map for Chaffee County (Sheet 2) locates Centreville on US 285, about two miles south of Nathrop and the road to Saint Elmo (Colorado Highway 162).

CENTREVILLE – Continued

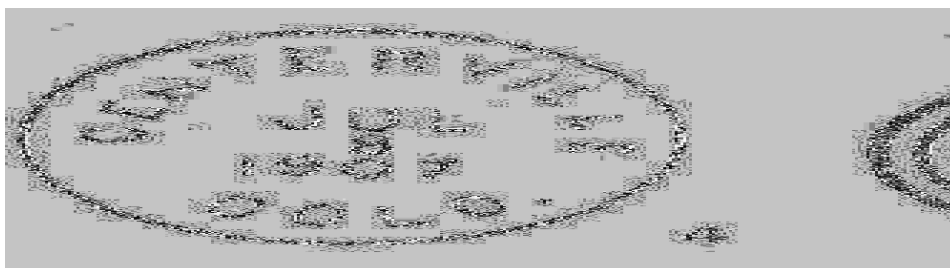
Although there was no official record, sometime in the 1890's the spelling of the name was altered from the British to the American version – Centerville.

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 7 1866	---	No survey yet	On the west bank of the Arkansas, 1-1/3 miles north of Browns Creek
Jan 26 1867	---	No Survey	1/8 mile west of the Arkansas River, 3 miles south of Chalk Creek
Apr 22 1868		Established	
Apr 22 1868		Berry, George B.	
Nov 27 1871		Morgan, Thomas	
Nov 12 1873		Harrington, George	
Dec 8 1874		Harrington, Helen	
Mar 12 1875		Evans, Griffith	
Jun 16 1875		Harrington, Helen	
Jul 13 1877		Land, Frank A.	
Jun 2 1879		Evans, Griffith	
Jan 17 1882		Erhardt, Thomas J.	
Dec 29 1906		Ehrhart, Margaret A.	
Dec 11 1913		Erhart, Mary S.	
Jul 16 1914	---	SE/4 SW/4 Sec 9 T51N R8E	5/8 mile south of Browns Creek
Apr 15 1930		Ordered closed	
Apr 30 1930		Discontinued	Mail to Nathrop

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Centerville Colo	Aug 1 1873
	MS Mscp Pen cancel	
1.A	Centerville, Colorado	Jan 11 1875
	CC	CCard Pen cancel, corner card and enclosure origin Centerville [NOT ILLUSTRATED]
2	CENTREVILLE, / COLO.	Nov 10 1878 Aug 3 1881
	CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Pen cancel, Cork, negative X-roads
3	CENTREVILLE / COLO.	Sep 10 1889
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
4	CENTERVILLE / COLO.	Jul 8 1907 Aug 24 1912
	CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring
5	CENTERVILLE, / COLO.	Mar 2 191- Nov 29 1914
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm



CHAFFEE

On July 6, 1879 Chaffee was the first of a grouping of seven post offices that have existed in a small area along the South Fork of the Arkansas River, a short distance below the summit of Monarch Pass. Chaffee was quickly followed by Arbourville (September 12, 1879) and then by Garfield (July 8, 1880) and Columbus on June 11, 1881. In 1881 Arbourville would become Conrow and In 1883 Chaffee became Monarch. The Monarch post office was discontinued on November 30, 1903, but in 1906, when a post office reopened supposedly at the same location it would be called Dora. Garfield and Columbus appear to have been satisfied with their original names.

The history of this group of post offices is further complicated by the lack of truly definitive locations for the early offices. When postal activity began in this area, the Federal Land Survey system had not yet been applied to the region. Therefore, the locations reported to the Post Office Department provided only approximate distances from other offices and a reference to the South Fork of the Arkansas River.

Chaffee sprang up near the Monarch Mine. Silver mining was the principal activity and a modest sized town did develop. The place was often referred to as Chaffee City. It took its name from the county, which had been authorized by the State Legislature on February 10, 1879, only four months before the town itself was founded. Both the county and the town were named for James B. Chaffee, the United States Senator from Colorado.

In May 1883 the post office name was changed to Monarch, duplicating the name of the most important mine in the area. There is one report that the change was made to eliminate confusion between the name of the town and the name of the county.

The best location that I can offer for Chaffee is based on a comment by Virginia McConnell Simmons in her book *The Upper Arkansas A Mountain River Valley*. On page 126 she writes, referring to Monarch, "...and Monarch Park, where the town stood is occupied by a peaceful U. S. Forest Service campground."

Three and eight tenth miles from the summit of Monarch Pass Chaffee County Road 231 departs from US Highway 50 and drops down to and crosses the River. It is about a mile to the campground in Monarch Park. There are no remaining buildings but there is a small cemetery at the edge of the woods on the south side of the valley.

Until I have more definitive information I will consider this to have been the location for Chaffee. I suggest you now refer to the discussion of Monarch for a continuation of the story.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 14 1879	---	Not surveyed On the west side of the South Arkansas Creek Proposed postmaster - Hugh C. Boon
Jun 6 1879		Established
Jun 25 1879		Boon, Hugh A.
May 11 1882		Harrington, Albert W.
Apr 25 1883		Smith, George L.
May 14 1883		Name changed to Monarch

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 **CHAFFEE, / COLO.**
 CI 21P 28.0/26.0/17.5

Mar 2- 1880 Nov 14 1882
Hstp Fancy, Double line Maltese cross



CHALK CREEK

Located on the ranch of Charles Nachtrieb, Chalk Creek was at first another of the stage and rest stops on the road to Leadville. In addition to the stage station, Mr. Nachtrieb ran a store and is said to have distributed rations to the Indians.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, as part of their plans to build from Canon City to Leadville, graded through Chalk Creek and planned a depot at the site. The competing Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was also grading north towards Leadville. In typical Rio Grande style, they planned to establish a depot and a townsite just short of Chalk Creek.

When the conflict between the Rio Grande and the Santa Fe was resolved, the Rio Grande site rose to local prominence. Charles Nachtrieb moved his store and post office to the new settlement and the new post office became Nathrop. This was an anglicized version of his name.

The post office of Chalk Creek took its name from the stream on which it was sited. In turn the stream had been named for the high, chalky looking cliffs on the north side of the creek a short distance before the stream exits from the mountains into the Arkansas Valley. In fact, the cliffs are composed of volcanic tuff and not chalk.

There are two Geographic Site Location Reports for Chalk Creek. The first is no help in determining its location; in fact the distance from the Arkansas River is incorrect. The second report carried over to the Nathrop Post Office.

From that information it may be that there was no move of the Chalk Creek Post Office when the name changed. At best, it can be assumed that the Chalk Creek Post Office was on the northern edge of present day Nathrop, on the east side of US Highway 285 between Salida and Buena Vista.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 18 1879	---	NW/4 Sec 14 T15S R78W 3-1/2 Miles from Arkansas River, on Chalk Creek Rail Road (Atcheson, Topeka & Santa Fe) is graded and depot located at Chalk Creek - office will be on west side of RR. Proposed postmaster - Charles Nachtrieb
Aug 29 1879		Established
Aug 29 1879		Nachtrieb, Charles
Aug 11 1880	---	SW/4 Sec 14 T15S R78W 3/4 mile west of Arkansas River, 1/4 mile north of Chalk Creek
Sep 8 1880		Name changed to Nathrop

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Chalk Creek, Colo.	Jan 19 1880	Nov 19 1880
	MS	Mscp	Pen cancel



CLEORA

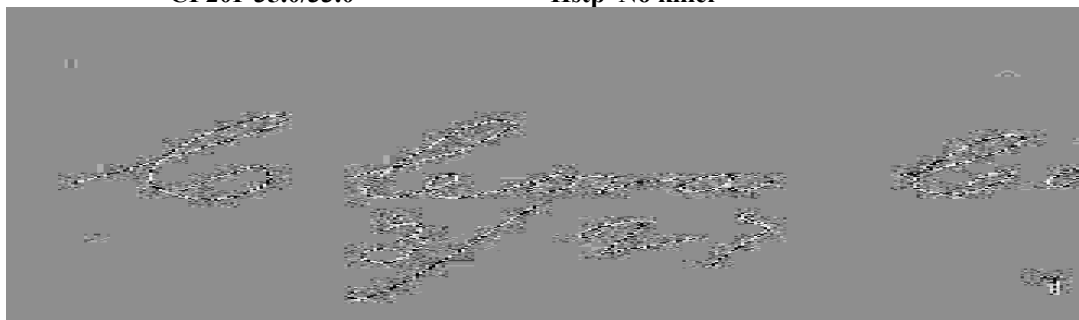
William Bale first settled near Buena Vista, but reportedly a grasshopper plague forced him to leave that ranch. He re-settled near the entrance to the Canyon of the Arkansas and opened a roadhouse, rest stop and tavern. At first the place was known as Bale's Tavern. As a small community developed around the tavern it took the name of Cleora for William Bale's daughter.

CLEORA – Continued

Dec 5 1876	Bale, William
Jul 18 1879	Blake, John T.
Jun 16 1880	Whiting, Horace, B.
Nov 16 1880	Crawford, Hugh C.
Jul 18 1881	Hanford, Ann C.
Mar 7 1882	Discontinued Mail to Salida

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Cleora Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Mar 27 1877
2	CLEORA, / COL. CI 10P 23.0	Hstp Fancy, 5-pointed star	Jul 20 187- Nov 17 187-
3	CLEORA, LAKE CO., / COLO. CI 20P 35.0/33.0	Hstp No killer	May 20 1878 Mar -- 1879

**COCHEM**

Starr Nelson was a rancher and also a railroad engineer for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. His ranch was located on the south flank of Cameron Mountain a mile or so from the Chaffee-Fremont County line.

In the spring of 1897 prospectors, attracted to the area by discoveries further east on Badger Creek in Fremont County and at Whitehorn to the north, did find some promising prospects. Soon a small community sprang up taking the name of Nelson. It had eight to ten cabins, a restaurant and of course a saloon.

Application was made for a post office and one was authorized with the name Cochem. The source and reason for that name are uncertain. One suggestion is that it was to honor Dr. Frank Cochem, a Salida physician.

The prospects did not prove valuable. Cochem had a brief existence and was gone by the turn of the century.

Later there would be a number of small granite quarries developed in the same general area. Drive north from Salida on Colorado Highway 291 to Mears Lane. Turn north on Mears Lane. Two tenths of a mile should bring you to a road to the right. I believe it will be marked as Chaffee County Road 175 and/or Ute Trail. Turn on to this road. Cross to the east side of the Arkansas River and you should now be on Road 175 (Ute Trail), headed north into the mountains. Go six miles to County Road 181. Continue on Road 175 for an additional four tenths mile to County Road 182. Turn on County Road 182 and two and a half miles later you should be at the end of the road and an abandoned granite quarry. A short distance back from the quarry and on the south side of the road are the ruins of a few structures. I believe this was the location of Cochem.

From Cochem, return to County Road 175, Ute Trail. Turn north and begin the trip to Calumet.

COCHEM – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 26 1897	---	SW/4 Sec 6 T50N R10E 10 miles north of the Arkansas, 12 miles east of Badger Creek Proposed postmaster - Henry Alford Alright
Jun 5 1897		Established
Jun 5 1897		Alright, Henry A.
May 28 1898		Meier, Laura O.
May 8 1899		Discontinued Papers to Salida

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM COCHEM

COLUMBUS

Columbus was a small, satellite mining camp a mile and a half up the Middle Fork of the South Arkansas River from Garfield. The town was a creation of the Columbus Mining Company and took its name from the mining company.

By 1881 the company was operating a small stamp mill at the site and there were cabins for the miners. It is not clear what brought an end to mining at Columbus. Most likely it was either low-grade ores or a small deposit that was soon depleted.

There is a report that the settlement was hit by a snowslide that killed some of the residents and nearly destroyed the town. Perhaps it was that disaster, together with declining economics that turned Columbus into a ghost town.

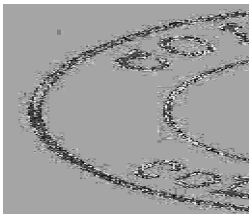
The site of Columbus is not an easy one to visit. It is on what can best be described as a Jeep Trail. On the north side of US Highway 50, opposite the Monarch Lodge there is a parking and service area. At the west end of that lot there is a narrow road that heads up hill. It is steep, rocky and in places barely passable. In one mile the road climbs some 500 or more feet in elevation. At that distance from US 50 there is considerable rubble, stone work and the remains of a structure that was likely the mill belonging to the Columbus Mining Company.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 11 1881	---	NE/4 Sec 29 T50N R6E Garfield 1-1/2 miles ESE Very near, north side of Middle Fork of the Arkansas Proposed postmaster - Charles E. Grapewine
Apr 10 1882		Established
Apr 10 1882		Grapewine, Charles E.
Jul 26 1882		Cummins, Jasper N.
Jan 29 1884		Overton, Mrs. Amelia V.
Aug 11 1884		Discontinued Mail to Garfield

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	COLUMBUS, / COLORADO.	Jul 18 1882 Oct 17 1882
	CI 21P 27.0/26.0/16.0	Hstp Grid, 7-bar circular



CONROW

The name of the Arbourville Post Office was changed to Conrow. The reason for the change is unknown and the Conrow Post Office lasted only a little more than a year after the change in name.

One of the few references to Conrow mentions that, "school sessions were held."

A reasonable assumption is that the growth of nearby Garfield was the cause of the closure of the post office and the absorption of the community into Garfield.

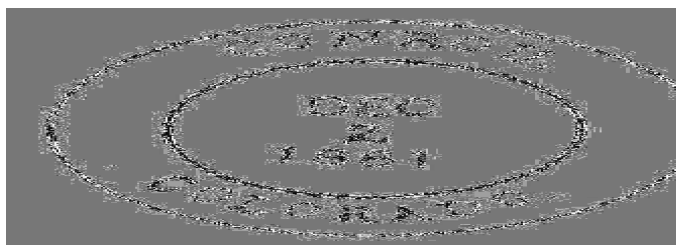
The history and directions to Conrow (Arbourville) are covered in the discussion of Arbourville.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 30 1879	---	Not surveyed (Report filed for Arbourville) Chaffee 3 miles westerly, Maysville 5 miles easterly On the north side of the South Arkansas Proposed postmaster - Jacob W. Leeds
Aug 15 1881		Name changed from Arbourville
Aug 15 1881		Bryan, Adam
Jul 14 1882		Swasey, George C.
Nov 9 1882		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	CONROU, / COLORADO. CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Dec 2 1881 Hstp Fancy, positive star [ERROR IN SPELLING]
2	CONROW / COLORADO CI 11P 27.0/19.0	--- -- 188- Apr 1 1882 Hstp Fancy, positive star, no killer

**COTTONWOOD SPRINGS**

Cottonwood Springs developed early as a small, but popular resort six miles west of Buena Vista. It provided a place to relax and enjoy the numerous hot springs that fed into Cottonwood Creek near the mouth of Cottonwood Canyon. As early as the 1870's a hotel and bathhouse were built at the main site. In the 1890's another hotel was operating a mile farther west at another hot spring. The early resort survived for many years and in the early 1900's it was converted to a sanatorium. The hotel-sanatorium burned to the ground in 1911. Reportedly the owner put it to the torch in the hopes of collecting insurance.

Drive west from Buena Vista on Colorado Highway 306. The Cottonwood Hot Springs Resort is on the north side of the creek and the highway. In 1996 it was a fairly large, two-story, motel style building, so it should be easy to identify. There are also a number of small cabins along the creek, near the hotel.

Chronology of the Post Office

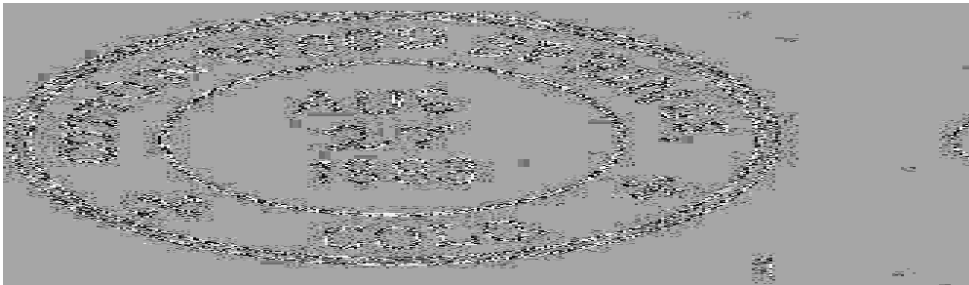
Jul 3 1879	---	Not surveyed yet; 6 miles west of Arkansas River and close to Cottonwood Creek Proposed postmaster - Joseph Adams
Jul 21 1879	---	Not surveyed; 5 miles west of the Arkansas River on the south Bank of Cottonwood Creek Proposed postmaster - Joseph Adams

COTTONWOOD SPRINGS - Continued

Jul 28 1879	Established	
Jul 28 1879	Adams, Joseph	
Feb 9 1880	Adams, Julia A. D.	
Apr 11 1881	Stafford, Elam H.	
Jan 15 1883	McGill, Charles H.	
Aug 13 1883	Newhard, William P.	
Dec 10 1884	McCampbell, George B.	
Nov 23 1885	Discontinued Papers to Buena Vista	
Dec 7 1889	--- SE/4 Sec 22 T14S R79W	
	Proposed postmaster - George Burgess McCampbell	
Mar 5 1890	Re-established	
Mar 5 1890	McCampbell, George B.	
Oct 30 1891	Ranger, Hannah E.	
Jul 8 1892	Alden, Jennie	Declined appointment
Sep 28 1892	Batten, William H.	
Nov 11 1895	Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | COTTONWOOD SPRINGS, / COLO. | Aug 27 1883 |
| | CI 21H 32.0/30.0/20.0 | Hstp Target, small Maltese Cross each side of CDS |
| 2 | Cottonwood Springs Colorado | --- -- 189- |
| | MS | Mscp Not visible, undated |



DIVIDE

The initial settlement in the broad mountain meadow on the west side of Trout Creek Pass was the ranch belonging to Chubb Newett. The community, first known as Chubbs Ranch, became a stage stop on the road from the South Park into the upper Arkansas River Valley.

The history of this location has become rather complicated as various historians have attempted to sequence the various names that were applied to the settlement in the lower portion of Chubbs Park. There have been four post offices in the area below the summit of the Pass: Divide, Dolomite, Higgins and Newett.

If the records of the Post Office Department can be trusted, and I do trust them, then the sequence given above is the correct sequence. However, that does not preclude the local residents intermixing the names over the course of the forty plus years of activity in the area.

In 1874, Divide was the first post office authorized in Chubbs Park. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports are indeterminate as to the precise location. It seems very likely that it was near the lower end of the Park.

When the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad came over Trout Creek Pass a station was established at Divide. The station was at milepost 123.53 and an elevation of 9,135 feet. That elevation confirms a location at the lower end of the park where Trout Creek and US Highways 24 and 285 enter the Trout Creek Canyon.

DIVIDE – Continued

Eventually Divide consisted of a sawmill, the post office, several stores and a population approaching 100. Chubb Newett operated a store at his ranch.

With the arrival of the railroad and its construction crews much of the populace that had been at Platte Station in South Park, when that was the end-of-track construction camp, now moved to Divide. Among these enterprises were the famed gambling house, the Tontine run by Johnny Nugent and the tents owned by prostitutes who hung their red lanterns outside to announce their business.

In 1885 Chubb Newett put his store on South Park flat cars and moved it to Garo in Park County. Possibly this move was because he had sold out to interests that were about to develop quarries in the hills on the west side of the Park.

At the point where southbound US Highways 24 and 285 enter Trout Creek Canyon there are dirt roads to the east and to the west. Those roads are on the abandoned grades of the South Park and the Colorado Midland Railroads. The road to the west, that heads back into Chubbs Park is the road to Divide, Dolomite, Higgins and Newett. The location was on the west side of the road and approximately a half-mile from US 24/285. From the road you can look west and see a portion of the quarry operations and a couple remaining structures. All that is on private property and reportedly the owners are not friendly to visitors.

The next chapter in the history of this location is the Dolomite Post Office.



Manuscript postmark

Divide Colo

April 4, 1880

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 26 1874	---	No survey	On the head of Trout Creek
Jun 24 1874		Established	
Jun 24 1874		Perry, Robert	
Jul 11 1874	---	No survey given	On the head of Trout Creek.
Apr 6 1875		Newitt, Robert B.	
Aug 19 1885		Discontinued	Mail to Buena Vista

DIVIDE – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Divide Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Apr 4 1880
2	DIVIDE, / COLORADO RC 20P 36x27/34x25	Hstp Cork, smudge	Sep 5 1880
3	DIVIDE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm	Apr 13 1883



DOLOMITE

Quarrying of limestone at Dolomite may have begun while the site was still the property of Chubb Newett. In 1885 Newett moved out of the area and the post office named Divide was closed. In late 1886 a new post office opened, taking the name of Dolomite. The name is an obvious reference to the quarrying activity. However, it is not completely appropriate. It was limestone that was being quarried to be used as flux in the smelters. Limestone is calcium carbonate (calcite). Dolomite is magnesium carbonate. Limestone is often a mix of calcite and dolomite, the descriptive name depending on which is the dominant fraction.

As the quarrying operations increased the community enlarged from the small collection of cabins and a store that were Divide, to include a school and more substantial residences.

In 1890 the quarries became known as the Higgins Lime Quarries and in the same year the post office name was changed from Dolomite to Higgins.

The first location reported to the Post Office department places Dolomite about a mile and a half from US 24/285 near a small pond and on the line of the South Park. The second report moves the location much closer to the highway, to a point where a portion of the quarry can be viewed from the road. By 1890 that was at a Colorado Midland station named Higgins.

To view the site, follow the directions previously given for Divide.

The next chapter in this story is the history of Higgins.

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 20 1886	---	SW/4 Sec 27 T13S R77W 1/2 mile north of Trout Creek. 25 feet east of Denver & South Park RR Proposed postmaster - Joseph Newett
Oct 11 1886		Established
Oct 11 1886		Newett, Joseph
Aug 12 1890	---	SE/4 Sec 34 T13S R77W 1/2 mile north of headwaters of Trout Creek. North of tracks at Colorado Midland Depot (Higgins) Proposed postmaster - Edward Jones Jr. Sketch map with report shows two locations: Present site - NW/4 Sec 27 T13S R77W Proposed site - SE/4 Sec 34 T13S R77W
Aug 27 1890		Name changed to Higgins

DOLOMITE – Continued**Confirmed types of postal markings**1 Dolomite Colo
MS

Dec 13 1886

Mscp Pen cancel

**DORA**

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report for Dora is the same one as was reported for the Monarch Post Office. The Monarch Post Office was discontinued in 1903. It is not known why the office did not reopen with the old name. It should be noted that beginning in February 1907 there was a Monarch Post Office in Grand County. However, that seems unlikely to have had any influence on the choice of names for this post office. Also, note that there was a Dora Post Office in Custer County from 1879 to 1883.

This post office lasted less than a year and the name has escaped mention in any of the Colorado historical literature I have read.

Assuming that the site of Dora is the same as that of Monarch, follow the directions to the Monarch site to visit Dora. Please read the discussion of the Chaffee and Monarch post office for more of the history of this location.

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 4 1905	---	SW/4 Sec 33 T50N R6E Directly on the north side of the South Fork of the South Arkansas River. North side of D&RG, within 500 feet of depot. Proposed postmaster - R. O. Leavitt
Jan 10 1906		Established
Jan 10 1906		Leavitt, Ruth A.
Jun 30 1906		Gunning, Jessie
Nov 30 1906		Discontinued Mail to Poncho Springs

Confirmed types of postal markings**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM DORA****FISHER**

The name Fisher appears in Chaffee County historical literature in conjunction with Alpine, being claimed as an early name for the settlement that became Alpine, on the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad along its route to Saint Elmo.

However, the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report for Fisher clearly places it on the Arkansas River and the Colorado Midland Railroad. That same report mentions a quarry operation with the post office to be in the office of the quarry. The report also expressed a preference for the office to be named Malvern. That was rejected but there is no information as to the source of the approved name.

From Chaffee County Road 385, the road to the site of Riverside, continue north on US Highway 24 three miles to a side road that leads east and crosses the Arkansas River to the old grade of the Colorado Midland Railroad. The Tumble Creek Ranch is a short distance to the east and could have been the location of the Fisher Post Office. No sign of a quarry was visible from where we stopped, but given the short life of Fisher, that should not be surprising. The site is about a quarter mile east of US 24.

FISHER – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 19 1889	---	SW/4 Sec 22 T12S R79W 40 rods east of the Arkansas, 2 miles west of Pine Creek. On the east side of the Colorado Midland, 3 rods from the track forty rods from the station. Proposed postmaster - George Weaver NOTE: The post office will be located in our office at quarry.
Sep 12 1889		Established
Sep 12 1889		Weaver, George
Aug 15 1890		Discontinued Papers to Riverside

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM FISHER

FREE GOLD

Free Gold was a small mining camp on the east bank of the Arkansas River, southeast of Buena Vista. There was silver in some small veins and placer gold in the gravels along the river and Trout Creek.

The name was taken from the Free Gold Mine, on Gold Hill. The Free Gold Company of New York operated the mine.

The small community that developed had a store, the usual saloon, a short-lived post office and a school. The red-brick schoolhouse remodeled and painted white (1996) is now a private residence on the flats south of US Highway 24.

There are stories that the location for Free Gold was chosen by a spiritualist who claimed psychic powers. Apparently the psychic's powers weren't very good as the mining activity at Free Gold lasted very few years.

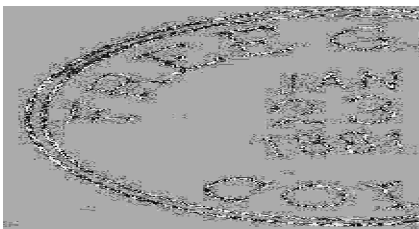
Free Gold was located where US Highway 24 exits from Trout Creek Canyon to cross the Arkansas River. The Location from the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report is north of the highway. The old schoolhouse is south of the highway.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 29 1880	---	NW/4 Sec 22 T14S R78W 150 yards east of Arkansas River, one mile north of Trout Creek Proposed postmaster - Samuel Alsop, Jr.
Apr 12 1880		Established
Apr 12 1880		Alsop, Samuel Jr.
Apr 6 1881		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	FREE GOLD, / COLO. CI 20P 28.0/26.5	Jan 23 1881 Mar 1 1881 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
---	--	--



GARFIELD

When a post office was proposed for this new mining camp, Monarch was the name offered. That would have been an appropriate choice as the camp was within the Monarch Mining District.

There has long been confusion as to the point in time when Garfield came into existence and also the source of the name.

The settlement was first known as Junction City, because it was located at the junction of the Middle Fork of the South Fork of the Arkansas River with the main branch of the South Fork. When a post office was obtained in 1880 it took the name of Garfield. There have been many claims that the name of Junction City was changed to Garfield in 1883 to honor President James Garfield who had been assassinated in 1882. That story does not fit the date of establishment for Garfield. However, it is possible that the name does honor President Garfield who would have been campaigning for office in 1880.

Garfield began as a mining camp and supply center for the surrounding mines and mining camps. When silver mining collapsed in 1893 the economy of the area also declined rapidly. Within a few years the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company began quarrying limestone near the site of Monarch and Garfield underwent a revival as a residential town for workers at the quarry. The presence of a Denver and Rio Grande Railroad branch line also helped to support the revived activity.

Later in the twentieth century the construction of US Highway 50 over Monarch Pass brought a modest amount of tourist business to the town. In addition the Colorado Department of Transportation operates a storage and equipment facility at Garfield.

The Monarch Ski Area, a short distance up the highway also contributes to the continued existence of the community of Garfield.

The post office has had a rocky road. It existed as an independent office from 1880 until December 1963 when it was converted to a Rural Branch of Salida. Later it became a Community Post Office, also under the jurisdiction of Salida. During most of the time it was a branch of Salida, the office was in the Garfield Store. At some point it was moved to a room in the lower level of the Monarch Lodge and in December 1990 became the Monarch Community Post Office. It has since been closed.

Garfield is located on US Highway 50 and is well marked on the highway. In addition to the roadside businesses, there are some side streets with a number of residences. Some of the buildings are old and likely remain from the early days of Garfield. The store building has been converted to other purposes, but the Monarch Lodge is still in operation.

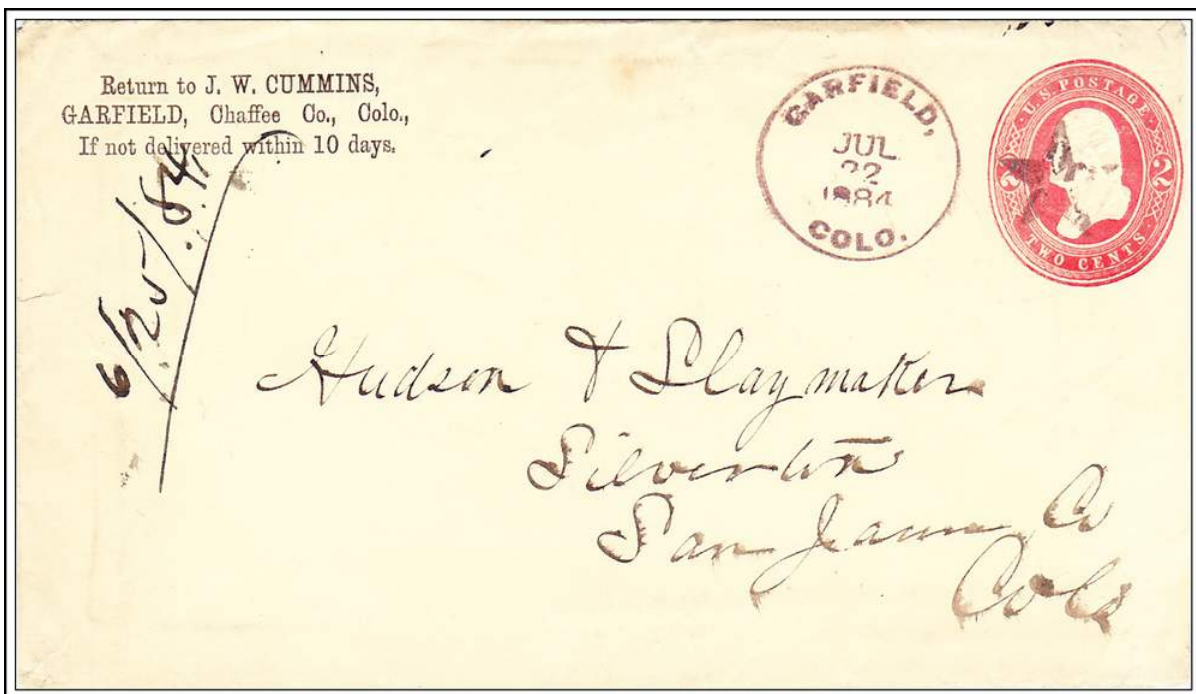
Latitude = 38:33:06 North Longitude = 106:17:30 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 18 1880	---	Survey not reported On north side of the South Arkansas River. Arbourville 1-3/6 miles easterly, Chaffee City 1-5/6 miles westerly. A good sketch map places it at the junction of the Middle and South Forks of the Arkansas River, west of Taylor Gulch. Proposed postmaster - Eli G. Bettis
Jul 8 1880		Established
Jul 8 1880		Bettis, Eli G.
Oct 2 1892		Sperry, Edward A.
Jun 10 1884		Cummins, J. W.
May 27 1886		Waltermire, Elmer B.
Nov 1 1886		Gimlet, Edward
May 29 1889		Knowlton, Everet P.
Nov 9 1889		Discontinued Papers to Monarch
Dec 15 1904	---	NE/4 Sec 27 T50N R6E 100 yards north of the Little Arkansas. On north side of D&RG, 200 yards from track. Proposed postmaster - Mrs Susie A. Hyland

GARFIELD – Continued

Jan 11 1905	Re-established	
Jan 11 1895	Hyland, Susie A.	
May 28 1908	Charbonnier, Josephine F.	
Feb 28 1911	Discontinued Mail to Salida	
May 2 1911	---	SE/4 Sec 34 T50N R6E 400 yards from D&RG
Sep 9 1911	Re-established	
Sep 9 1911	McCrary, Jennie M.	
Mar 23 1914	---	South/4 Sec 27 T50N R6E 200 feet north of the Little Arkansas River/Creek
Sep 10 1914	Felton, Jennie	
Sep 28 1918	Fisher, Emery W.	
Mar 30 1920	Wainious, Rella F.	
Aug 25 1924	Watson, Fred C.	Acting
Aug 30 1924	Watson, Fred C.	Appointed
Aug 30 1932	Burton, Mrs. Margaret	Assumed charge
Sep 29 1932	Burton, Mrs. Margaret	Acting
Dec 8 1932	Burton, Mrs. Margaret	Confirmed
Apr 24 1933	Burton, Mrs. Margaret	Commissioned
Nov 3 1941	---	S/2 Sec 27 T50N R6E On south side of US-50, 100 feet north of Railroad, 300 feet north of South Arkansas.
May 1 1948	---	Move 200 feet south of previous location, 60 feet south of US-50
May 1 1948	Winey, Mrs. Bessie	Assumed charge
Aug 3 1948	Malchi, Mrs. Colene P.	Assumed charge
Oct 13 1948	---	Move 400 feet east from old site to location 25 feet north of US-50
Dec 17 1948	Malchi, Mrs. Colene P.	Confirmed
Feb 1 1948	Malchi, Mrs. Colene P.	Commissioned
Apr 24 1954	Swafford, Mrs. Geraldine B.	Assumed charge
Jul 16 1954	Swafford, Mrs. Geraldine B.	Acting
Jul 20 1954	Swafford, Mrs. Geraldine B.	Confirmed
Sep 29 1954	Swafford, Mrs. Geraldine B.	Commissioned
Dec 30 1963	Converted to a Rural Branch of Salida Now a Community Post Office	



GARFIELD, / COLO.

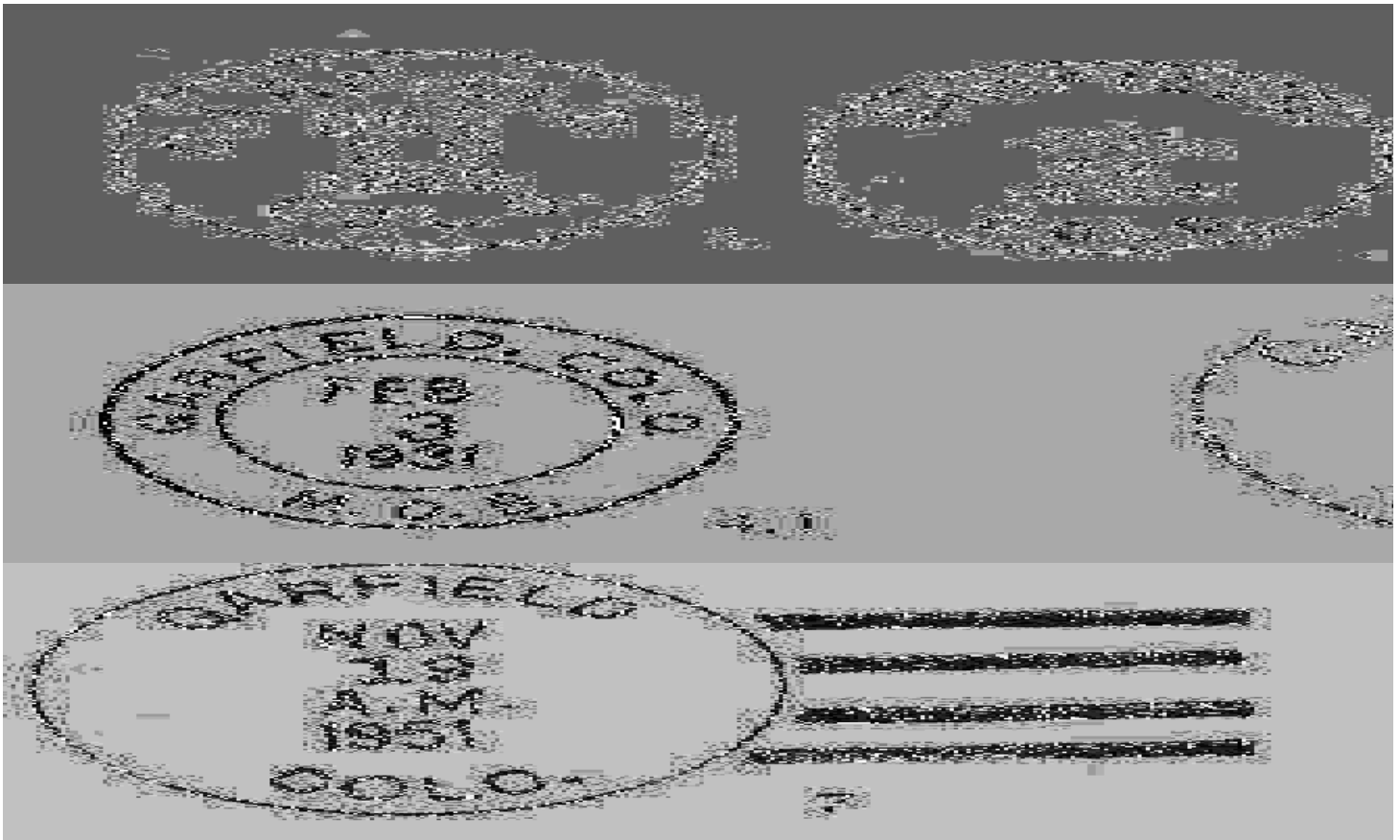
July 22, 1884

GARFIELD - Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	GARFIELD / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	Dec 20 1882
2	GARFIELD, / COLO. CI 10P 26.5	Hstp Fancy, positive star	Mar 21 1884 Nov 23 1886
3	GARFIELD / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Doane Type 2, with 1, S-??x13mm	Aug 15 1906 Jul 21 1909
4	GARFIELD, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Nov 1 1911 May 25 1926
4.1	GARFIELD, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Feb 8 1931
4.2	GARFIELD. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm, Large wide letters [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Feb 8 1931
5	GARFIELD, / COLO. CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-??x21mm	May 3 1935
6	GARFIELD. / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-26x20mm	Nov 16 1936 Sep 6 1948
7	GARFIELD / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20m	Jun 7 1951 Jun 1 1957
8	GARFIELD / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Sep 19 1961 Jan 16 1962

For subsequent markings see: Salida, Garfield Rural Branch



GRANITE

In the autumn of 1859 A. G. Kelley panned a few flakes of gold from the gravels near where Cache Creek from the west enters the Arkansas River. A mining district was organized and was named the Kelley's Mining District. The small settlement that developed was popularly known as Kelley's Bar or Kelleysburg. The more permanent settlement of Granite soon developed a short distance north of the original discovery by Mr. Kelley.

Initially the placer mining spread upstream along Cache Creek and led to the establishment of the Cash Creek Post Office in August 1862.

The real development of Granite began in 1867 with the discovery of free quartz gold on the east side of the Arkansas River. Originally Granite was within the larger Lake County. In 1868 the county seat of Lake County was moved to Granite from the declining mining camp of Dayton. When Chaffee County was created in 1879 Granite was included within the boundaries of the new county and became the county seat of Chaffee County, but in 1880 the county seat was moved to Buena Vista.

For many years mining played a part in the economy of Granite. Also important was its position as the only place of any significance between Buena Vista and the rapidly growing city of Leadville. The construction of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad up the Arkansas River to Leadville reduced Granite's importance as a roadside rest and supply point. There was a brief revival with construction of a road over Independence Pass to Aspen and later with construction of the Colorado Midland Railroad.

The first industry at Granite was a small, two-stamp mill built by W. L. Millard and S. B. Kellogg. Lewis Hayden built a larger mill.

Granite is a small community, straddling the Arkansas River. There is a small store and gas station, that is home to the post office and a small number of occupied residences, some of which are likely summer homes or fishing camps.. The surrounding area supports some ranching but there is more emphasis on recreational activities including hunting and fishing.

Granite is on US Highway 24, about one mile south of the Lake-Chaffee County line.

Latitude = 39:02:37 North Longitude = 106:15:46 West



GRANITE, / COLO.

September 19, 1886

GRANITE – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 26 1868	--	Not surveyed Cash Creek (PO) 2 miles westerly. On east side of Arkansas River, 2-1/2 miles south of Lake Creek	
Nov 30 1868		Name changed from Dayton	
Nov 30 1868		Keys, Thomas	
Nov 2 1869		Colwell, James	
Dec 8 1870		Mater, Charles	
Feb 7 1871	--	No survey reported On the east bank of the Arkansas River, and 1/8 mile north of Cache Creek	
Apr 8 1878		Johnston, James H.	
Aug 20 1880	--	SE/4 Sec 31 T11S R79W 300 feet east of the Granite Station of the D&RG Railroad	
Apr 4 1881		Johnston, Aarron M.	
Apr 26 1881		Vinette, Arthur	
Oct 16 1882		Ball, Charles E.	
Dec 1 1884		Curtis, Albert G.	
Feb 5 1886		Hannigan, William D.	
May 10 1887		Ball, Charles E.	
Jul 30 1888		Hughes, J. C.	
May 3 1897		Campbell, Daniel C.	
Jun 13 1899		Madden, Charles F.	
Oct 13 1899		Metcalf, Charles H.	
Jan 6 1910		Hoffman, Julius	
Jul 10 1914	--	SE/4 Sec 31 T11S R79W 200 feet east of the Arkansas River, 1/4 mile north of Cache Creek. 175 feet east of the D&RG railroad	
Sep 10 1914		Hoffman, Martha K.	
Jan 14 1925		Morgan, Christine	Confirmed & Acting
Jan 16 1925		Morgan, Christine	Appointed
Jan 29 1925		Morgan, Christine	Commissioned
Mar 31 1925		Morgan, Christine	Assumed charge
Nov 4 1941	--	SW/4 Sec 31 T11S R79W 25 feet west of the Arkansas River	
May 4 1943		Miller, Mrs. Sara M.	Assumed charge
May 12 1943		Miller, Mrs. Sara M.	Acting
Sep 14 1943		Miller, Walter	Confirmed
Oct 25 1943		Miller, Walter	Commissioned
Oct 30 1943		Miller, Walter	Assumed charge
Nov 22 1950		Shore, Floyd M.	Assumed charge
Dec 1 1950		Shore, Floyd M.	Acting
Jan 8 1951		Shore, Floyd M.	Confirmed
Jan 24 1951		Shore, Floyd M.	Commissioned
Nov 30 1957		Clavert, Clarence E.	Acting
Jun 24 1958		Clavert, Clarence E.	Commissioned & Assumed charge
Jun 24 1958		Clavert, Clarence E.	Possession
June 27 1958		Clavert, Clarence E.	Appointed
Oct 22 1965		Merriman, Ernest E.	Acting
Mar 25 1966		Converted to a Rural Branch of Buena Vista	Now a Community Post Office

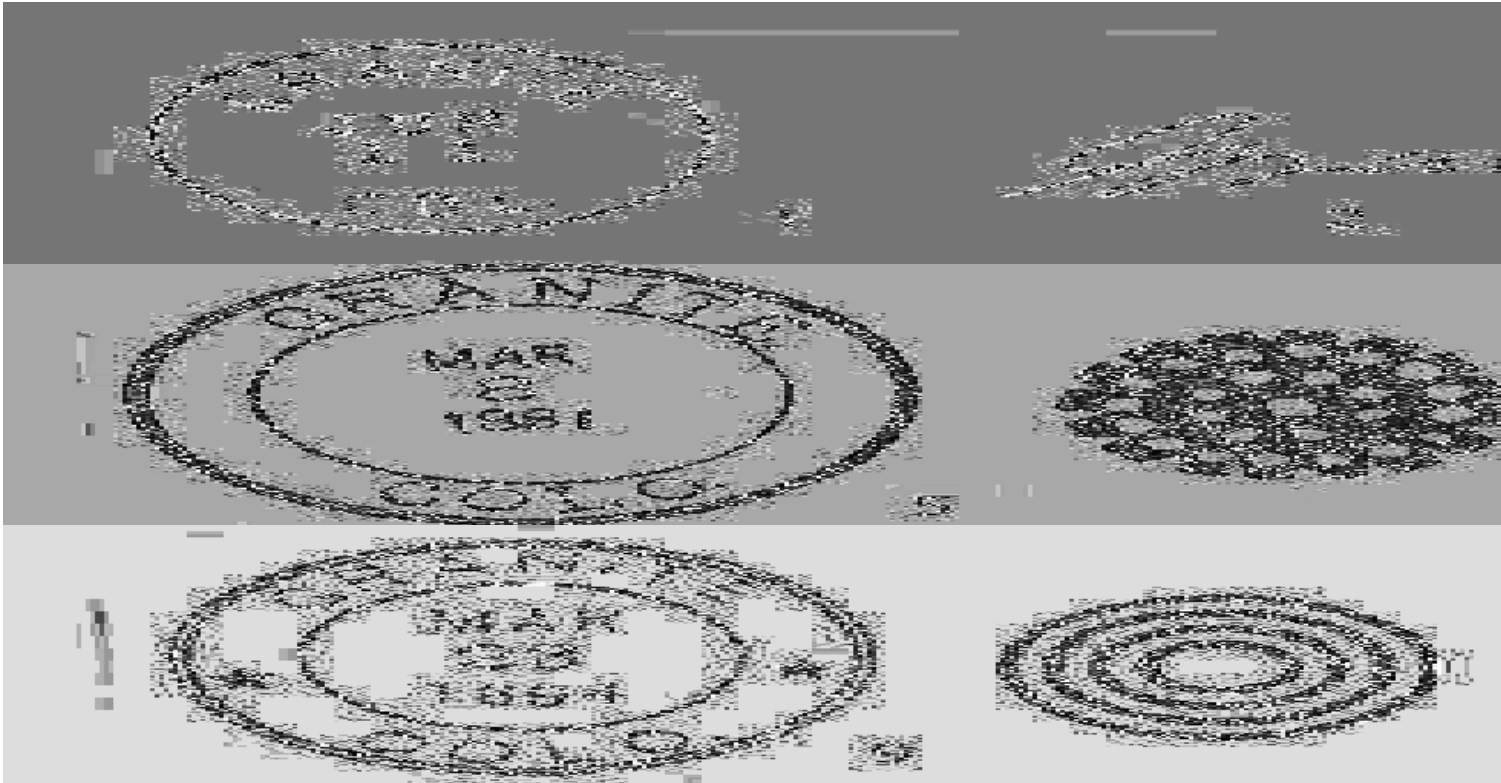
Confirmed types of postal markings

1	GRANITE / COL. CI 10P 24.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Jun 11 187- Sep 20 1873
2	Granite Colo. MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Jun 15 18-- Jun 28 1879
3	GRANITE / COLO. CI 10P 25.5	Hstp Cork, smudge	May 25 187-
4	GRANITE / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Not recorded	Oct 6 1880

GRANITE – Continued

5	GRANITE, / COLO. CI 21P 33.0/32.0/22.0	Hstp Fancy Honeycomb	May 8 1881 Nov 19 1881
6	GRANITE / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/22.00	Hstp Target	Dec 11 1882 Oct 13 1884
7	GRANITE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target	Sep 20 1885 Feb 4 1886
8	GRANITE, / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Sep 19 1886 Aug 10 1887
9	GRANITE / COLO. CI 21P 30.5/29.0/20.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring,	Dec 14 1892 Mar 23 1894
10	GRANITE, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp No killer, backstamp [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Oct 13 1888
11	GRANITE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Jun 5 1891 Jul 8 1899
12	GRANITE / COLO. CI 21P 32,5/30.0/19.0	Hstp Target	Jun 12 1896 Aug 12 1898
13	GRANITE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Apr 28 1909 Mar -- 1911
14	GRANITE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Nov 13 1913
15	GRANITE / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x13mm	May 14 1928
16	GRANITE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jun 10 1936 Feb 12 1941
17	GRANITE / COLO CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jun 21 1943 Dec 4 1962

For subsequent markings see: Granite Rural Station of Buena Vista



GRANITE – Continued

**HANCOCK**

Hancock began in 1880 when prospectors working their way up Chalk Creek discovered placer Gold. The site became known as Hancock Placer, but no one seems to know the source of the name. Perhaps one of the prospectors was named Hancock.

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report offered other choices for the post office name: Camila, Arvilla and Osier.

Shortly after the discovery of the placer, the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad reached the location and Hancock entered its peak period. The town served as the construction camp for the workers digging the Alpine Tunnel through the Continental Divide. After the tunnel was completed, Hancock continued to serve the railroad as a station, water tank and staging point for trains making the final climb from the east to the tunnel.

In addition to the placer, there were a few mines on the mountainsides near Hancock. The Iron Chest was high above the town. The Flora Bell and the Allie Bell were along the railroad. The mine structures of the Allie Bell can still (2001) be seen above the road. Part of the foundation has collapsed and two sections of the building are balanced above the road: a spectacular sight.

By 1910 the Alpine Tunnel had been closed and Hancock was fast disappearing.

From Saint Elmo, take Chaffee County Road 295. Hancock is five miles from Saint Elmo and two and a half miles beyond the site of Romley.

The location is in a broad flat valley and is identified as the “Hancock Historic Site.” In 2001 the remnants of one cabin are all that was left at Hancock. Beside those ruins was a sign: *“This saloon is the last remaining structure in the town of Hancock. Please do not destroy it.”*

A short distance beyond Hancock there is a parking lot from which a hiking trail continues up the old railroad grade to the east portal of the Alpine Tunnel. The Tunnel itself has been sealed off.

Latitude = 38:38:25 North Longitude = 106:21:55 West

Chronology of the Post Office

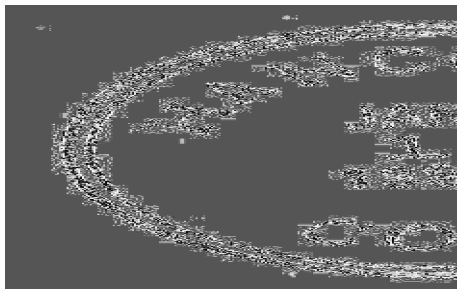
Aug 31 1880	---	Unsurveyed Mineral Land East side of Chalk Creek. East side, 10 rods from depot of Hancock Station on DSP&P RR. Proposed postmaster - Charles E. Parlin
Sep 10 1880		Established

HANCOCK – Continued

Sep 10 1880	Parlin, Charles E.
Mar 17 1884	Gloyd, Albert M.
Nov 28 1884	Ghodle, Frederick
Jun 24 1887	Discontinued Papers to Romley
Oct 26 1903 ---	SE/4 Sec 25 T51N R5E 300 feet east of Chalk Creek. The post office will be 330 feet easterly from Hancock Station. Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Pearlina Jane Zabriski
Nov 14 1903	Re-established
Nov 14 1903	Zabriski, Pearlina J.
Dec 5 1904	Ordered closed
Dec 31 1904	Discontinued Mail to St. Elmo

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HANCOCK, / COLO.	May 23 1881 Jul 12 1883
	CI 20H 32.5/29.0	stp Grid, 10-bar circular



HELENA

Helena was one of the earliest settlements along the upper Arkansas River. At first it was a series of scattered ranches along the river, As travel north to the mines at Oro City and later Leadville increased, Helena became a stage and rest stop on the road and developed into a small community.

In late 1866 a post office was established at the ranch owned by John McPherson. He named the office for his wife, Helen.

When the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad supported the town of Chalk Creek (Nathrop), a couple miles south of Helena, there was a rapid movement from Helena to Nathrop and by 1880 the Helena Post Office was closed and Chalk Creek Post Office moved, taking the name of Nathrop .

To visit the site of Helena, from US Highway 24, just east of the bridge over the Arkansas River, turn south on Chaffee County Road 301. Drive south, passing the Colorado State Reformatory, to Chaffee County Road 300. At that point, on the east side of County Road 301 there are several foundations and cellar depressions in the open field. One collapsed structure remains. This matches with the 1875 Post Office Department location for Helena.

Chronology of the Post Office

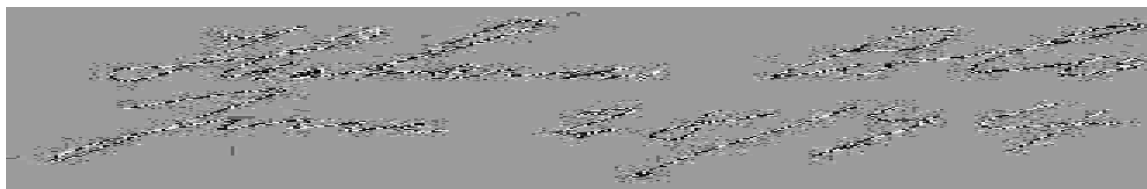
Sep 10 1866 ---	No survey Made 3/4 mile westerly of the Arkansas, 2 miles south of Cottonwood Creek.
Oct 16 1866	Established
Nov 16 1866	McPherson, John
Feb 18 1869	Luengen, Peter M.
Mar 9 1870	Anderson, Harrison
Aug 7 1871	Bard, Andrew
Apr 24 1873	Denning, James D.
Jul 27 1874	Cole, Judson E.

HELENA – Continued

May 21 1875	---	SE/4 Sec 3 T15S R78W 1/4 mile north of the Arkansas, 1/32 mile west of Trout Creek. Sketch map places it in the "V" of the junction of the two streams.
Jan 7 1878		Needles, William C.
Nov 26 1878		Cole, Judson E.
Dec 29 1879		Gray, Garrett R.
Mar 10 1880		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1.A	Helena Colo		Jan 26 1868	Nov 30 1879
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel		
1.B	Helena Col		Jan 2 1868	Nov 30 1879
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel, "3"		

**HEYWOOD**

Heywood was the second post office in the group of offices at the lower end of the Chalk Creek Canyon. Postal records seem to indicate that Heywood was a name change from Hortense, however it also appears that there was a move of a short distance.

The Hortense Hot Springs are the upper or westernmost group of hot springs in the canyon. A half mile or so down the canyon is a group of springs now called the Mount Princeton Hot Springs. Originally these were called the Heywood Hot Springs.

In 1877 the Methodist preacher, John L. Dyer, filed a claim on the group of springs. After Father Dyer was reassigned to another region and left the area, D. H. Heywood, a surveyor, owned his claim. Heywood operated a stage station and the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad station took the name Heywood. Another railroad station, a little further on (Hortense?), was called Mount Princeton.

By the 1880's the hot springs had become an attraction for miners seeking a respite from their arduous labors. Small resorts were developed and baths were provided.

The name is obviously taken from D. H. Heywood who at the time owned the springs.

Please refer to the listing for Hortense for a discussion of the location of the Heywood Post Office and its associated offices.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 20 1884		Name changed from Hortense
Jun 20 1884		Lee, George D.
Sep 15 1884		Platt, Mrs. M.
Oct 10 1884		Platt, Ruth
Apr 5 1885	---	SW/4 NW/4 Sec 19 T15S R78W 360 feet from the Heywood Station of the DSP&P on the north side of the railroad.
Sep 29 1886		Rutherford, Kate
Feb 15 1888		Discontinued Papers to Nathrop

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM HEYWOOD

HIGGINS

In August 1890 the name of the Dolomite Post Office was changed to Higgins. This was at about the time that the quarries became known as the Higgins Lime Quarries.

There was little or no change in the activities at the community. The Colorado Midland Railroad had arrived, in 1892 and built a 162-car spur. In addition to the main tracks of the Midland and the South Park, there were short spur lines to the quarries.

During its existence as Higgins, the post office did move once, probably only a short distance north across the line from Section 3 Township 13 South to Section 34 in Township 14 South.

The Midland named its station Newett, in reference to the original settler, Chubb Newett. In 1895 the post office name was changed to agree with the railroad station name.

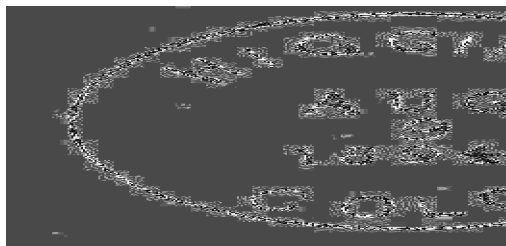
The next and final chapter of this story is the history of Newett.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 12 1890 ---	SE/4 Sec 34 T13S R77W 1/2 mile north of headwaters of Trout Creek. North of tracks at Colorado Midland Depot (Higgins) Proposed postmaster - Edward Jones Jr. Sketch map with report shows two locations: Present site - NW/4 Sec 27 T13S R77W Proposed site - SE/4 Sec 34 T13S R77W
Aug 27 1890	Name changed from Dolomite
Aug 27 1890	Jones, Edward Jr.
Jan 23 1892	Woolery, J. F.
Oct 12 1892	Ritter, George W.
Jan 19 1893 ---	SW/4 Sec 3 T14S R77W 1/2 mile northwest of Trout Creek. 1/3 of a mile on west side of Colorado Midland. Proposed postmaster - John Cunningham
Mar 3 1893	Cunningham, John
Dec 4 1894	Gooding, Charles E.
Nov 21 1892	Discontinued Mail to Buena Vista
Apr 22 1895	Name changed to Newett

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 HIGGINS / COLO. Aug 9 1894
 CI 10P 28.5 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm

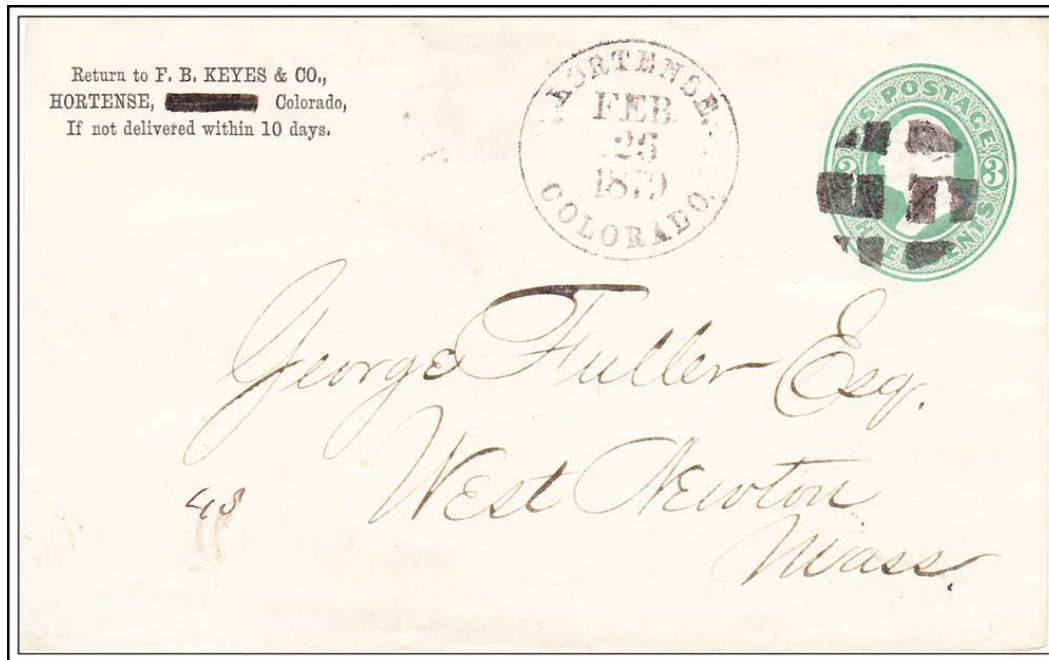


HORTENSE

Hortense, established in 1877 was the first of a group of post offices that existed at the mouth of the Chalk Creek Canyon.

In 1871 J. A. Merriam and E. W. Keyes filed the Hortense Mining Claim. The mine was at an elevation of 12,000 feet, high on the slopes of Mount Princeton. A small settlement developed at the foot of the mountain. Two hotels, some cabins and some mine buildings were built. A post office opened and by July 1880 the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad reached Hortense as it was building west towards the Gunnison Country.

HORTENSE – Continued



HORTENSE, / COLORADO. February 26, 1879

Beginning near the entrance to the Chalk Creek Canyon there are a number of hot springs along the next two miles of the valley. Over the course of the years the springs have been known as the Chalk Creek Hot Springs, Hortense Hot Springs, Heywood Hot Springs and Mount Princeton Hot Springs. The latter name has become the one now in common usage and is applied to all of the springs along the valley.

From contemporary descriptions reported in the historical literature it appears that Hortense and the Hortense Hot Springs were located about a mile west of the present day Mt. Princeton Hot Springs complex. That would be about where Colorado Highway 162 makes a short, southerly jog before continuing west up the canyon.

The name of the post office was taken from the mine, but I have no information as to ultimate source of the name. Perhaps it was for the wife of one of the principals in the mining venture.

Because of the close relationship of the post offices named Hortense, Heywood, Mount Princeton and Mount Princeton Hot Springs it seems logical to discuss their locations and changes in name as a single unit.

All four of these offices were located in a stretch of some three miles that begins near the Chalk Cliff Fish Hatchery and stretches west along Chalk Creek into the Chalk Creek Canyon. The portion within the canyon includes a series of Hot Springs that have in total, or in part, been called the Chalk Creek Hot Springs, the Hortense Hot Springs, the Heywood Hot Springs and the Mount Princeton Hot Springs. Colorado Highway 162 from Nathrop to Saint Elmo passes through this area.

To follow the moves of these post offices it is necessary to rely on the descriptions provided by the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports.

The 1877 report for Hortense describes the post office as less than a quarter mile north of Chalk Creek. When plotted on a map, that places it short distance up the tributary Merriam Creek. This is on a side road to the north from Colorado 162, opposite the modern Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort.

HORTENSE – Continued

The next Report was filed in 1885 and was for HEYWOOD, after the name had been changed from Hortense to Heywood. From the stated location it appears that the post office had also moved to a site near the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad. This plots at the location of the Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort.

On February 15, 1888 the Heywood Post Office was discontinued. The area was without a post office until September 17, 1889 when a new post office, named MOUNT PRINCETON was opened. The 1889 Report for this office is a little less specific but places it in the same general area as its predecessor, Heywood and only 50 yards north of Chalk Creek.

In 1891 a second Report was filed for Mount Princeton. The post office seems to have moved about a mile to the west and is now one eighth of a mile north of Chalk Creek and 1,034 feet from the railroad station. This location plots on the north side of Colorado 162 and near the base of the ridge that separates Merriam Creek from Chalk Creek before the two streams join.

The Mount Princeton Post Office closed June 19, 1899 and once again the area was without a post office.

On May 24, 1901 a new post office opened, reverting to the old name of HORTENSE. The site Location Report places this office 400 feet from Chalk Creek and 400 feet from the railroad station. This plots on the map as being in the vicinity of where Colorado 162 curves from a westerly direction to a southerly direction before again turning to the west. This version of Hortense lasted until September 14, 1907.

For the third time the Hot Springs area was without local postal service, but this time it would be nineteen years before a new post office appeared. On August 21, 1926 the MOUNT PRINCETON HOT SPRINGS Post Office opened for business. The first report places the post office 100 feet north of Chalk Creek and in about the same location as the earlier locations of Heywood and Mount Princeton.

A second Report, dated September 28, 1931, moves the post office out of the canyon. It is now a quarter mile south of Chalk Creek and near the location of the Chalk Cliff Fish Hatchery. On July 15, 1934 the Mount Princeton Hot Springs Post Office moved again, back to its 1926 location. The report includes a note that the move was, "So as to be in center of territory supplied at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs." The post office remained at that location for less than a year and by June 5, 1935 it was back at the location outside the canyon. The move this time was because, "previous quarters not available." It remained there until it was discontinued on May 15, 1936 and the story ends.

Visiting this area today you will find a complex of small cabins, the good-sized Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort and other small business spread along the highway. Most of this development is recent, but there are older buildings scattered among the newer ones.

Latitude = 38:43:58 North Longitude = 106:10:29 West HORTENSE HOT SPRING

Chronology of the Post Office

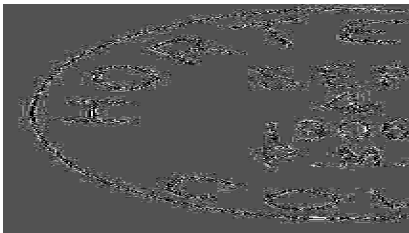
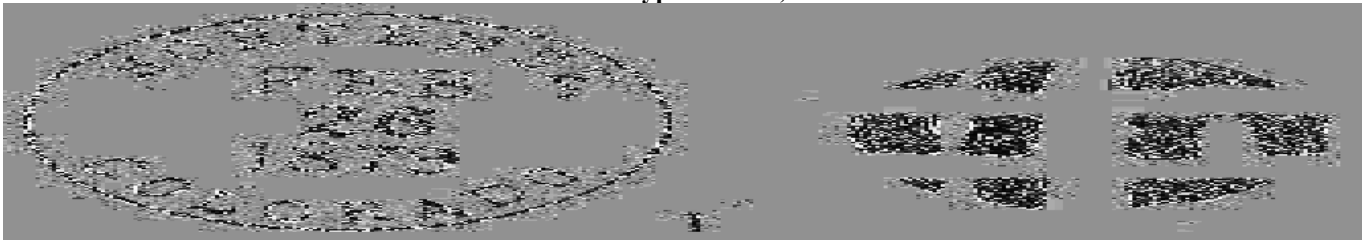
- Apr 16 1877 --- SW/4 Sec 13 T15S R79W (78 crossed out)
Less than 1/4 mile north of Chalk Creek. Near line of proposed DSP&P RR
NOTE: Proposed post office to be on north side of Chalk Creek and
opposite Mt. Antero at the foot of Mt. Princeton.
- May 11 1877 Established
- May 11 1877 Merriam, George D.
- Oct 16 1882 Fletcher, William W.
- Jun 20 1884 Name changed to Heywood
- Apr 1 1901 --- SW/4 Sec 24 T15S R79W 400 feet north of Chalk Creek, Colorado
Southern, north side about 400 feet, Hortense station
Proposed postmaster - H. C. Johnson
- May 24 1901 Re-established

HORTENSE – Continued

May 24 1901 Johnson, Hans C.
 Aug 17 1907 Ordered closed
 Sep 14 1907 Discontinued Mail to Buena Vista

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HORTENSE, / COLORADO. CI 10P 28.5	Feb 26 1879 Feb 25 1880 Hstp Cork, hobnail grid; Fancy, Positive star; Target, 4-ring 18mm
2	HORTENSE / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Jan 2 1882 Hstp Fancy, positive star
3	HORTENSE, / COLORADO. CI 11P 29.0/18.0	Nov 5 1881 Jan 27 1884 Hstp Fancy, 'rounded' Maltese Cross
4	HORTENSE, / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Sep 4 1906 Doane Type 2 with 1, S-24x13mm

**HUMMEL**

I have found no historical information concerning a settlement with the name of Hummel. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report does provide a location. The report also indicates that it was likely associated with the Pine Creek station on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

The first and only postmaster was Jacob Hummel, thus the post office was named for him. The original proposal was for Hummelville, but in the Post Office Department shortened that to Hummel.

From the location it would appear that this was an area devoted to ranching.

Please refer to the directions that have brought you north from Buena Vista to Krain, Riverside and Fisher. From the side road that took you to Fisher, continue north on US Highway 24 about two miles. The highway crests on small hill, from which you can look down on the Princeton Siding of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. There is a small open area west of the railroad and the highway. Pine Creek crosses this area to join the Arkansas River. Hummel was 200 yards north of the creek. There are no visible remains in the area.

As a further guide to the location, it is four miles south of the Granite Post Office and just south of the Gold Park Trailer Camp.

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 22 1882 --- SW/4 Sec 16 T12S R79W 50 yards south of the Arkansas River.
 200 yards north of Pine Creek (Columbis (sic) Creek ??). South side,
 50 yards from track, 500 yards from Pine Creek Station.
 Application submitted by Jacob Hummel

HUMMEL – Continued

Oct 3 1882	Established
Oct 3 1882	Hummel, Jacob
Jan 26 1883	Discontinued Mail to Riverside

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM HUMMEL

KRAFT

Kraft was the first post office located about five miles up the Arkansas River from Salida. The Federal Land Survey description in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report seems to place the location of Kraft on the west side of the Arkansas River. All other evidence, including the same report places it east of the river and along the tracks of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The later (1904) Brown Canyon Site Location Report does have a Federal Land Survey description on the east side of the river.

It seems most likely and it is the conclusion of other historians that Kraft, Browns Canyon and Brown Canyon were all at virtually the same location - on the east side of the river and along the tracks of the Rio Grande.

The settlement had a boarding house, store, school and saloons that served railroad crews and workmen operating charcoal burners. There is a drainage ditch along the railroad and east of it there is evidence of several foundations. No structures remain, but there is debris from one small building.

I have found no information as to the source of the name Kraft.

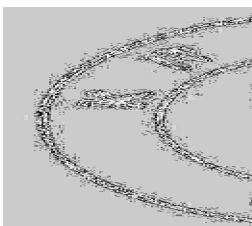
From the junction of US Highway 285 and Colorado Highway 291, drive about three-quarters of a mile towards Salida to Chaffee County Road 291, to the northeast. The county road descends towards the river and crosses the river (1996) on an old stone bridge to the railroad on the east side of the river. The post office location was north of the point where the road reaches the tracks.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 31 1882	---	NE/4 Sec 3 T50N R8E On east side of Arkansas River. On D&RG RR, east side, 15 feet from track Proposed postmaster - Seth W. Gilbert
Feb 14 1882		Established
Feb 14 1882		Gilbert, Seth W.
Nov 6 1882		Russell, Madison J.
Jun 21 1883		Pedrick, Madison J.
Apr 23 1886		Werner, John
Mar 3 1887		Ruben, Robert B.
May 19 1887		Ruben, Robert P.
May 8 1888		Name changed to Browns Canon

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	KRAFT, / COLO.	Sep 1 1887	Nov 5 1888
	CI 21P 27.5/26.0/17.5	Hstp Fancy, outline star in circle	



KRAIN

Twelve years after closure of the Riverside Post Office a new office opened in the same area, but with the name of Krain. Very little has been written about this establishment so I have no information as to the source of the name.

Well before 1917, when this post office opened, the Post Office Department would not permit the duplication of a post office name in Colorado with one in California, thus a new name was needed to substitute for Riverside.

Although Krain was near the Riverside siding on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad it was a few hundred feet to the southwest of the siding.

The Vista Inn, on the north end of Buena Vista was my starting point to reach the site of Krain Drive six and a half miles north on US Highway 24. At that point there is a dirt road (1996) that provides access to a trailer park between the highway and the Arkansas River. About 200 feet from the highway there was a small building on the left hand (north side of the road and set back in a grove of trees. The building seemed abandoned, but since 1996 that may have changed.

I have been shown an early photograph that identifies this building as the Riverside Post Office, however the location matches the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report for Krain, not the report for Riverside.

Please refer to the discussion of Riverside for more information on this general location.

Chronology of the Post Office

KRAIN Originally asked as RIVERSIDE - crossed out

Jan 23 1917	---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 11 T13S R79W 1700 feet south of the Arkansas River, 10 feet south of Frenchman's Creek. West side of the D&RG, 800 feet from track. 300 feet east from County Line (???) Settlement also known as Lakeside Applicant for Postmaster - Mary Lanich
Mar 24 1917		Established
Mar 24 1917		Lanich, Mary
Jun 14 1919		Discontinued Mail to Buena Vista

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM KRAIN

MAHONVILLE

In 1864 William Bale, John McPherson and J. E. Conell settled on land immediately west of present day Buena Vista. The following year James and Hugh Mahon filed on nearby land and soon a small community developed taking the name of Mahonville.

Mahonville was on the stage route along the Arkansas River to the mining district at Oro City that would eventually become Leadville. In addition to the stage station there was the post office and it was a supply point for travelers and surrounding ranchers.

Mahonville was on the south-southwest side of Cottonwood Creek. In the late 1870's the town of Buena Vista began to develop on the eastern side of the creek. Anticipating the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Buena Vista grew rapidly and in 1879 the Mahonville Post office moved to Buena Vista.

From US Highway 24 in Buena Vista, turn west on Colorado Highway 306; go to James Street and turn north. Drive north to Neighbors Lane, to the left. As best I can determine this is the approximate area where the Mahonville Post Office was located. Since the days of the Mahonville Post Office the area has been radically altered. Nearly all of the buildings are of twentieth century construction

MAHONVILLE – Continued

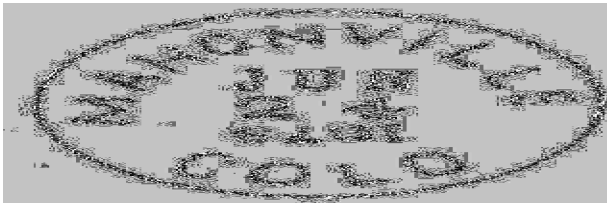
and I suspect even the course of Cottonwood Creek may have been altered. I did find one old building on the north side of James Street.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Jan 29 1876 --- E/4 Sec 17 T14S R78W; "The proposed office will be directly on creek on the S.W. side of it and will be one half miles from said nearest creek, on the S.W. side. Reference is to the nearest River (Arkansas) and nearest Creek (Cottonwood) The sketch map shows it southwest of both streams
- Feb 28 1876 Established
- Feb 28 1876 McPhelemy
- Feb 28 1877 --- SW/4 SE/4 Sec 8, NE/4 Sec 14 T14S R78W
1 mile southeast of Arkansas River ??? Map shows it to Southwest, on south side of the old stage road.
- Sep 28 1878 --- SW/4 SW/4 SE/4 Sec 8, Sec 17, T14S R78W Two miles southwest of Arkansas River, 1 mile south of Cottonwood Creek
- Sep 18 1879 Moved to Buena Vista

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | MAHONVILLE / COLO.
CI 10P 25.0 | Hstp Pen cancel | Dec 5 1878 Aug 17 1879 |
| 2 | Mahonville, Colo.
SL 00R 37.0x4.0 | Hstp Pen cancel | Jan 4 1879 |



MANOA

Manoa was a small mining camp about a mile and a half east of Calumet but nearly 1,000 feet higher in elevation. The camp began to form in 1897 when there were some mineral discoveries in the surrounding area.

By 1902 the camp was operating with a post office, a store and a few cabins. The Sunset Consolidated Mining Corporation developed the American Flag Mine. The Lizzie and Prairie Mines were under independent operation. In 1907 the store closed and was moved to Whitehorn. The post office also closed. After this brief period as a mining camp Manoa settled back to its former role as a ranch in the Arkansas Hills.

I am assuming that if you are planning to visit the site of Manoa you will also have plans to visit Calumet, Turret and Cochem which are all south and west of Manoa. Follow the directions given for the trip to Cochem and then Calumet. However, at the intersection with Chaffee County Road 184, continue north on Road 175, (Ute Trail). Go three miles on Road 175. This is a steep and sometimes narrow road, but should be passable for normal vehicles. You will pass through an area with a number of mine dumps, prospect pits and small quarries and come out on top of the ridge in a broad meadow about a mile short of the Chaffee-Fremont County line. At the north end of the meadow, there is an occupied building east of the road. Manoa Springs is mapped in the meadow to the west of the road. Manoa was located in this area.

MANOA – Continued

After visiting Manoa, you can continue across the county line and go by the site of Whitehorn, which on private property is not accessible.

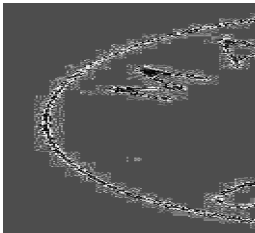
Latitude = 38:38:37 North Longitude = 105:56:31 West MANOA SPRING

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 29 1900	---	SW/4 Sec 25 T51N R9E The sketch map places it on the road from Salida to Whitehorn, and where the road to Turret begins. This document was filed under Fremont County. Proposed postmaster - Mrs Jane Whitmore
May 14 1900		Established
May 14 1900		Whitmore, James
Jan 17 1906		Crabbs, Amanda
Dec 16 1907		Ordered closed
Dec 31 1907		Discontinued Mail to Whitehorn

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	MANOA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Sep 5 1901	Hstp Not present
---	------------------------------	------------	------------------

**MAYSVILLE**

In mid-1879 a townsite was platted on the ranch of Amasa Feathers. Tiny communities known as Feathers Ranch and Crazy Camp preceded Maysville. Both of these were merged to form Maysville.

It is generally accepted that Maysville was named for the hometown, Maysville, Kentucky, of General William Marshall, who discovered the route over the pass named for him - Marshall Pass.

Maysville soon became somewhat of a transportation center. It was a station on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad when a branch line was constructed up the South Fork of the Arkansas River to tap ores coming from the mines to the west. Tollgates, for the road over Monarch Pass and for the road to Shavano were also located at Maysville.

There was some mining nearby, but most of the ore came from mines to the west in the vicinity of Chaffee and Monarch. In addition to the rail facilities and residences, there were two smelting works and a number of stores. In 1880 a fire gutted much of the town.

The smelters proved to be inefficient and were soon shut down. In 1893 the crash in the price of silver put an end to silver mining in the area and the population and economy of Maysville rapidly diminished.

Maysville has not disappeared from the map. It is still identified on maps, located on US Highway 50, six and a half miles west of the junction of US 50 and US 285 at Poncha Springs. There are still a number of homes at Maysville. The Maysville School building, handsomely renovated, is on a side road south of US 50.

Latitude = 38:32:19 North Longitude = 106:11:23 West

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

Jul 21 1879 --- Unsurveyed On the north bank of the south Arkansas, one fourth of a mile west of the North Fork of the South Arkansas.
Proposed postmaster - Amasas Feathers

Jul 28 1879 Established

Jul 28 1879 Feathers, Amasa

Jun 17 1880 Lunt, Edward D.

Sep 6 1880 Elliott, Elmer

Mar 22 1882 Hynes, George A. P&S

Nov 6 1882 --- T49N & T50N R7E (From W/4 Sec corner 6-49-8)
On the north side of the South Arkansas and on the South side of the North Fork of the south Arkansas.

Dec 31 1883 Hynes, George A.

May 5 1884 Edwards, W. H.

Apr 16 1886 Platchford, George E.

Sep 26 1887 Morrison, Anne M.

Feb 11 1889 Harrington, Albert W.

Dec 23 1893 Discontinued Papers to Poncho Springs

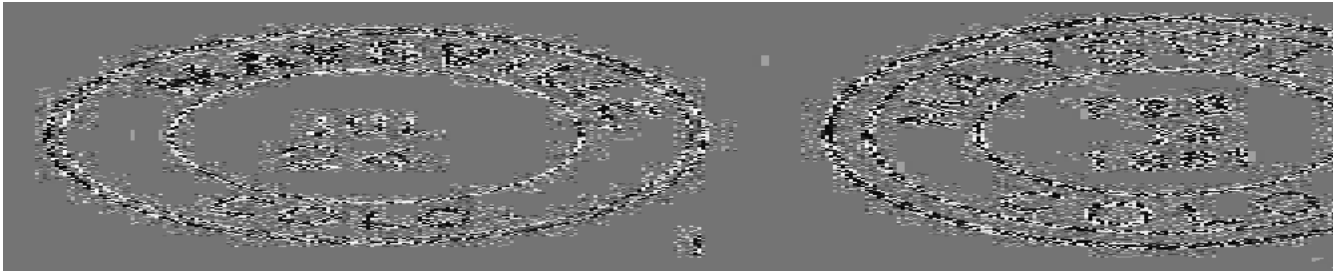


MAYSVILLE / COLO. March 14, 1883

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | MAYSVILLE, / COLO.
CI 21P 29.0/28.0/18.0 | Jul 24 1880
Hstp Target, 4-ring |
| 2 | MAYSVILLE, / COLO.
CI 21P 30.0/26.0/17.0 | Feb 7 1881 Jun 12 1882
Hstp Target, 5-ring 17mm |
| 3 | MAYSVILLE / COLO.
CI 10P 26.5 | May 1 1882 Mar 14 1883
Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads |
| 4 | MAYSVILLE, / COLO.
CI 20P 35.0/33.5 | Feb 7 1892
Hstp Not recorded |

MAYSVILLE – Continued



MEARS

The first activity at this location was the Owens Sawmill. When the Marshall Pass Toll Road was constructed, the small community that developed around the sawmill was given the name Mears. There is controversy concerning the name. Lieutenant William L. Marshall, who discovered the pass and for whom the pass is named stated that the community was named for the packer on his expedition - one Dave Mears. The more commonly accepted explanation is that it was named for Otto Mears, the builder of the toll road.

In the process of constructing its line over Marshall Pass, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad acquired land for a depot at Mears. This became the point where the subsequent line south over Poncha Pass departed from the main line of the railroad and Mears became more familiarly known as Mears Junction. The post office never adopted the longer name.

The site of Mears Junction is on Silver Creek, east of US Highway 285. Beginning at the junction of US 285 and US 50, in Poncha Springs, drive south six miles to Chaffee County Road 200 on the west side. On Chaffee Road 200 and one-half mile from US 285, you are at the site of Mears. Portions of the railroad grades are all that remain from the community of Mears. There are a couple of modern buildings and a small transformer substation next to the road marks the site.

Latitude = 38:26:50 North Longitude = 106:06:30 West

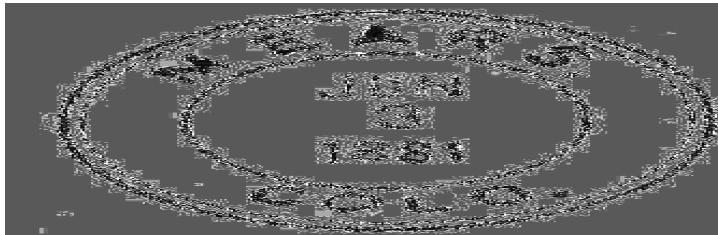
Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 10 1879	---	NE/4 Sec 5 T48N R8E On the east bank of Puncho Creek	
		Proposed postmaster - Francis Owens	
Sep 29 1879		Established	
Sep 29 1879		Owens, Francis	
Mar 10 1881		Davis, Carrie S.	
Nov 11 1881		Owens, Francis	
Jun 6 1882		Discontinued Mail to Salida	
Jan 31 1883		Re-established	
Jan 31 1883		Sneed, James W.	
Jun 14 1883		Bontecon. Phillip D.	
Apr 15 1884		Graham, E. D.	
Sep 15 1884		Rogers, Albert L.	
Dec 2 1885		McQuarle, Hugh	
Apr 25 1888		Discontinued Mail to Poncha Springs	
Sep 25 1907		Re-established	
Sep 25 1907		Burtiss, William S.	Declined appointment
Sep 27 1907		Establishment rescinded	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	MEARS, / COLO.	Jun 8 1881 Jun 14 1881
	CI 21P 28.5/27.0/18.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm
2	MEARS / COLO.	Feb 3 1883
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present; very poor strike

MAYSVILLE – Continued



MEILY

Meily was a small, obscure mining camp on the South Fork of Lake Creek, a little more than three miles south of Colorado Highway 82, the road to Independence Pass.

The community did have a post office, intermittently, for three years. There was some mining in the area but most likely the ores were not of sufficient value to warrant the lengthy transport down to the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad at the Arkansas River.

The U. S. Geological Survey Topographical Map for Chaffee County shows a symbol for a mine a short distance from where I believe Meily was located. There is another mine symbol a mile and a quarter further southwest as the road approaches Lake Creek Pass.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report for Meily was signed by a S. M. Meily, so it is likely that the office was named for him. His business or relation to the community is unknown to me.

From the center of Twin Lakes, drive eight miles west on Colorado 82 to a dirt road to the south: South Lake Fork Road. This is a rough road which requires the fording of the South Fork of Lake Creek. It is not suitable for passenger cars.

Three miles from the highway you will come to a fork in the road. In 2001, during my visit to the site with Jim Ozment, we found a shack/lean-to that looked to have been constructed from scavenged remnants of other, older buildings. It appeared to have been there for some time and there was other evidence of habitation. That evidence may simply be trash from later campers.

The intersection of South Lake Fork Road with Colorado 82 is just west of the site of Everett, in Lake County. There is a short loop of road to the south of the highway, but on private property. In 2001, there were still remnants of a couple of cabins in the woods, between the highway and the private road.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 15 1882	---	Unsurveyed, on route from Leadville to Independence On both sides of the South Fork of Lake Creek Document signed by S. M. Meily
Jun 2 1882		Established
Jun 2 1882		McArdle, John H.
Nov 19 1882		Elder, David H.
Aug 23 1883		Jamison, R. D.
Oct 30 1883		Discontinued Papers to Everett
Apr 9 1884		Re-established
Apr 9 1884		Jamison, Robert D.
Jun 16 1885		Discontinued Papers to Everett

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MEILY

MONARCH

In 1883 the name of the Chaffee Post Office was changed to Monarch. It remains somewhat uncertain as to whether this was simply a name change, or a move to a new location. A Geographical Site Location Report was filed and it describes the location according to the Federal Land Survey System. That location is approximately a mile and a half northeast of the Monarch Park Campground, which Virginia McConnell Simmons identifies as the location of Chaffee. This location is just southeast of the large limestone quarries that were operated late into the twentieth century by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. In October 1883 the Rio Grande Railroad extended its tracks from Maysville to Monarch.

The name Monarch was to associate the town with the principal silver mine of the area. Discovery of the mine in 1878 is attributed to Nicholas B. Creede who was later responsible for the silver rush at Creede in Mineral County.

The crash of silver prices in 1893 led to the end of major activity at Monarch. There was some activity into the twentieth century, but the post office closed in 1903. A few years later the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company entered the area and began quarrying limestone at a site just west of the mines at Monarch. That operation continued until late in the twentieth century.

To reach this site, after visiting the site of Chaffee, return to US Highway 50 and go east for one mile. A side road will take you down across the river and into the area of the limestone quarries. At the west end of this area there is a large mine dump and the buildings of the Madonna Mine (2001). There are other mine dumps on the mountainside south of the river.

There is an alternate route from the site of Chaffee to the site of Monarch. Returning towards US Highway 50 from the Monarch Campground there is an unimproved road to the right, just before Chaffee County Road 231 crosses to the north side of the river. It is less than a mile to the mine dumps at Monarch, but this road is very rough and very steep. It can be driven with a four-wheel vehicle, but definitely not with a passenger car.

You should be aware that access into and around the Monarch site and the limestone quarries may be restricted.

Now, for the next chapter in this saga, go to the discussion of Dora.

See also the brief discussion of the Monarch Community Post Office, administered by Salida.

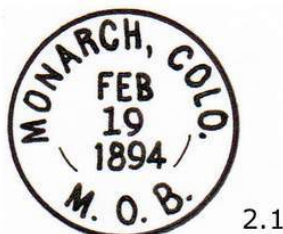
Chronology of the Post Office

May 14 1883	Name changed from Chaffee	
May 14 1883	Smith, George L.	
Jun 7 1883	SW/4 Sec 33 T50N R6E	Name lately changed from Chaffee
	On the north side of the South Fork of the South Arkansas	
Jun 25 1884	Laws, A. C.	
Dec 1 1884	Harrington, A. W.	
Feb 25 1886	Hatfield, David O.	
Nov 18 1886	Newman, Caleb A.	
Aug 9 1888	Blatcheford, George E.	
Jun 20 1898	Schmidt, Magdalene S.	
Apr 17 1899	Bogart, Lorain	
Jun 20 1898	Schmidt, Magdalene	
Jun 30 1899	Gimlet, Elizabeth	
Apr 3 1903	Jaynes, Arthur L.	Declined
Nov 9 1903	Ordered closed	
Nov 30 1903	Discontinued	Mail to Poncho Springs

MONARCH– Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

A	Monarch Colo MS	--- - 1888 Mscp Stampless; Denver & Rio Grande Railway Express (Wax Seal) [NOT ILLUSTRATED] Nov 15 1886 Nov 30 1888
1	MONARCH, / COLO. CI 11P 27.0/17.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 20mm
2	MONARCH / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Mar 4 1889 May 1 1894 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
2.1	MONARCH, COLO. / M. O. B. CI 10P 30.0	Feb 19 1894 Hstp No killer
3	MONARCH / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Apr 1 1899 Hstp Not recorded



MOUNT PRINCETON

This was the first of the post offices near the mouth of Chalk Creek Canyon to actually use the name Mount Princeton.

I refer you to the listing for Hortense for a discussion of the sequence of post offices in the vicinity of the hot springs and their locations

Mount Princeton and the springs were named for Mount Princeton which lies north of Chalk Creek. The mountain, part of the Collegiate Range, was named for Princeton University.

In 1879, a group of miners, using silver money from the Mary Murphy Mine at Romley, established the Mt. Princeton Hot Springs and Improvement Company. Charles W. Price headed this group. The company had plans for a large-scale hotel and resort establishment centered at the hot springs. The original four-story hotel was built in 1889 at a cost of \$75,000. This was the first of a series of hotel operations at the Mount Princeton Hot Springs. In the following years the hotel underwent several changes in ownership.

Please refer to the following discussion of Mount Princeton Hot Springs for a continuation of the history of this place.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 3 1889	---	NW/4 Sec 19 T15S R78W 6 miles west of Arkansas River, 50 yards north of Chalk Creek Proposed postmaster - Willis (?) Thomas
Sep 17 1889		Established
Sep 17 1889		Thomas, Willis
Jul 17 1890		Evans, Cornelia C.
Aug 22 1891		Fletcher, William W.
Sep 27 1891	---	NW/4 Sec 24 T15S R79W 1/8 mile north of Chalk Creek, 5-1/2 miles west of Arkansas River. 1034 feet northwest of the station of the Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad
Jun 19 1899		Discontinued Papers to Buena Vista

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MOUNT PRINCETON

MOUNT PRINCETON HOT SPRINGS

The early history of this site has been discussed with the listings for Hortense, Heywood and Mount Princeton. I refer you to those listings.

Following the construction in 1889 of the large four-story hotel at the Mount Princeton Hot Springs improvements to that hotel were made over several years. By 1917 the fabulous Antero Hotel had been completed and had become a popular resort destination. By 1925, activity at the resort seems to have peaked.

On November 15, 1913 the Mt. Princeton Hot Springs property was acquired by the Carlsbad Hot Springs Corporation. On December 8, 1915 J. C. Gafford purchased the hotel.

During the late 1920's the success of the hotel declined and it may have been closed from time to time. Surprisingly, during what seems to have been the peak of activity at Mount Princeton Hot Springs there was no post office in operation. The Mount Princeton Hot Springs Post Office opened in 1926 and somehow continued to operate well into the depression years.

In 1930 the hotel opened for a new season, under a new name - The Buena Vista Hotel. Soon the hotel was taken over by a Mrs. Cole and was renamed the Antero Hotel. It continued to operate under that name through the 1930's. By 1940, operation of the hotel had ceased except for occasional operations of the pool

On May 19, 1944 George C. Roche, Jr. and his father purchased the property and began remodeling the hotel. Under an arrangement with the Roches, Charles and Dessamary Black together with their sister and brother-in-law opened a school in the former hotel building. From 1946 through 1949 the school, Mt. Princeton Commonweal, was home to many children, but financial obstacles could not be overcome and in 1949 the school ceased operation.

In 1950 the large hotel was sold for the last time, to John Crowe of Abilene, Texas. He dismantled the building taking more than one million board feet of lumber to Abilene to be reused in a housing development.

In the late twentieth century the resort has been redeveloped, however, not to the prominence that it once enjoyed. There is an attractive, modern hotel-resort complex and the hot springs pools are in use. Some of the older cabins have been renovated and new ones have been built. There are a few other subsidiary businesses, all scattered along the first mile or two of Colorado Highway 162 after it enters the Chalk Creek Canyon.

Latitude = 38:43:59 North Longitude = 106:09:59 West

Latitude = 38:59:36 North Longitude = 106:13:10 West

Chronology of the Post Office

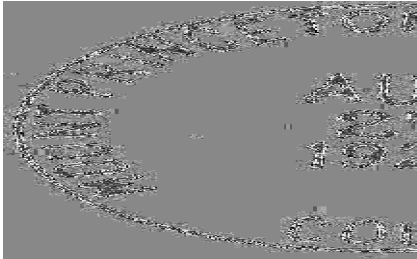
May 14 1926 ---	NW/4 Sec 19 T15S R78W 6 miles west of Arkansas River, 100 feet north of Chalk Creek Applicant for Postmaster - Grace Chitwood Thiele
Aug 21 1926	Established
Aug 21 1926	Thiele, Grace C.
Sep 28 1931 ---	SE/4 Sec 17 T15S R78W 3-1/2 miles west of Arkansas River, 1/4 mile south of Chalk Creek
Jul 15 1934 ---	NW/4 Sec 19 T15S R78W Move 2-1/5 miles northwest of previous location 6-1/2 miles west of the Arkansas River, 200 feet northwest of Chalk Creek. Sketch map shows it southwest of previous location. Reason for move: "So as to be in center of territory supplied at Mt. Princeton Hot springs." Cancellations: 1stQ - 61.25; 2ndQ - 63.30; 3rdQ - 52.50; 4thQ - 49.45

MOUNT PRINCETON HOT SPRINGS – Continued

- Jun 5 1935 --- SE/4 Sec 17 T15S R78W 3 miles west of the Arkansas River, 1/2 mile south of Chalk Creek. This was a move as "previous quarters not available."
- April 16 1936 Order closed
- May 15 1936 Discontinued Mail to Nathrop

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 MOUNT PRINCETON HOT SPRINGS . / COLO. Feb 3 1927 May 15 1936
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-??x20mm



NATHROP

Originally known as Chalk Creek, the settlement was a stop for stagecoaches on the road from Canyon City to Leadville. The arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroads led to the development of a new town, a short distance south of the Chalk Creek stage station.

Charles Nachtrieb, the Rio Grande and the South Park Railroads jointly owned the site of the new settlement. Nachtrieb was a rancher, freighter and merchant. He had been postmaster at Chalk Creek and became the first postmaster at Nathrop when the Chalk Creek Post Office moved, or changed names.

Nathrop was not a mining town, but it did flourish as a supply point for the mining camps to the west along Chalk Creek. Nathrop was also the point at which the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad left the Arkansas River and headed west, up Chalk Creek to the Alpine Tunnel and then down to Gunnison west of the Continental Divide. The railroad activity contributed greatly to the economy of Nathrop, both during and after construction.

When mining declined and eventually the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad ceased operations, the importance of Nathrop also declined. Nathrop had always been a supply town for surrounding ranches along the Arkansas River. It still performs that function and does offer some services to the small communities and summer residents along Chalk Creek, as far west as Saint Elmo.

Rafting on the Arkansas River and other recreational activities also contribute to the economy.

With all of the railroad facilities gone, Nathrop has been greatly reduced in size. But, it is still home to a fair number of people. It is on US Highway 285 between Salida and Buena Vista. In recent years, the Nathrop Post Office has been located on the west side of US 24, opposite the town.

Latitude = 38:44:50 North Longitude = 106:04:30 West

Chronology of the Post Office

- Aug 11 1880 --- SW/4 Sec 14 T15S R78W
3/4 mile west of Arkansas River, 1/4 mile north of Chalk Creek
- Sep 8 1880 Name changed from Chalk Creek
- Sep 8 1880 Nachtrieb, Charles
- Oct 12 1881 Kennemur, John R.

NATHROP – Continued

Jun 6 1882	Bailey, Samuel P.	
Mar 13 1884	Schuckhardt, Jacob W.	
Aug 6 1889	Caldwell, M. A.	
Feb 12 1890	Spotts, Sarah R.	
Apr 4 1895	Stewart, Samuel J.	
Mar 20 1896	Robinson, Alla H.	
May 26 1898	Roberts, Charles	
May 15 1901	Pearman, Charles L.	Not commissioned
May 26 1898	Roberts, Charles	
Dec 3 1901	Ray, Joseph A.	
Apr 3 1903	Kuhn, Albert	
Apr 15 1904	Pearman, Charles L.	
Aug 19 1905	Williams, William H.	
Jun 24 1907	Williams Louis E.	
Feb 24 1914 ---	NW/4 Sec 14 T15S R78W 1/4 mile west of Arkansas River, 1/4 mile north of Chalk Creek	
Nov 18 1918	Carson, John H.	Confirmed
Dec 9 1918	Carson, John H.	Commissioned
Dec 13 1918	Carson, John H.	Assumed charge
Nov 18 1918	Carson, John H.	
Mar 23 1933 ---	NW/4 Sec 14 T15S R78W 1/2 mile west of Arkansas River, 1584 feet north of Chalk Creek. 2245 feet from station of D&RG, on west side of tracks A move 1,320 feet west, so as to be on main highway. Cancellations: 1stQ - 38.97; 2ndQ - 54.20; 3rdQ - 43.61; 4thQ - 43.64	
May 12 1941	Carson, Ella J.	Possession
May 13 1941	Carson, Ella J.	Assumed charge
Jun 3 1941	Carson, Ella J.	Acting
Jul 9 1941	Carson, Ella J.	Appointed & Confirmed
Jul 18 1941	Carson, Ella J.	Commissioned
Jul 31 1941	Carson, Ella J.	Possession
Nov 1 1941 ---	Not reported 2 miles west of Arkansas River, 1/2 mile north of Chalk Creek	
May 31 1956	Anderson, William C.	Assumed Possession
Jun 14 1956	Anderson, William C.	Acting
Oct 26 1956	Anderson, William C.	Commissioned
Nov 2 1956	Anderson, William C.	Possession
Nov 8 1956	Anderson, William C.	Appointed
Jul 1 1965		Office made Presidential
Mar 6 1971	Anderson, Elizabeth M.	Commissioned

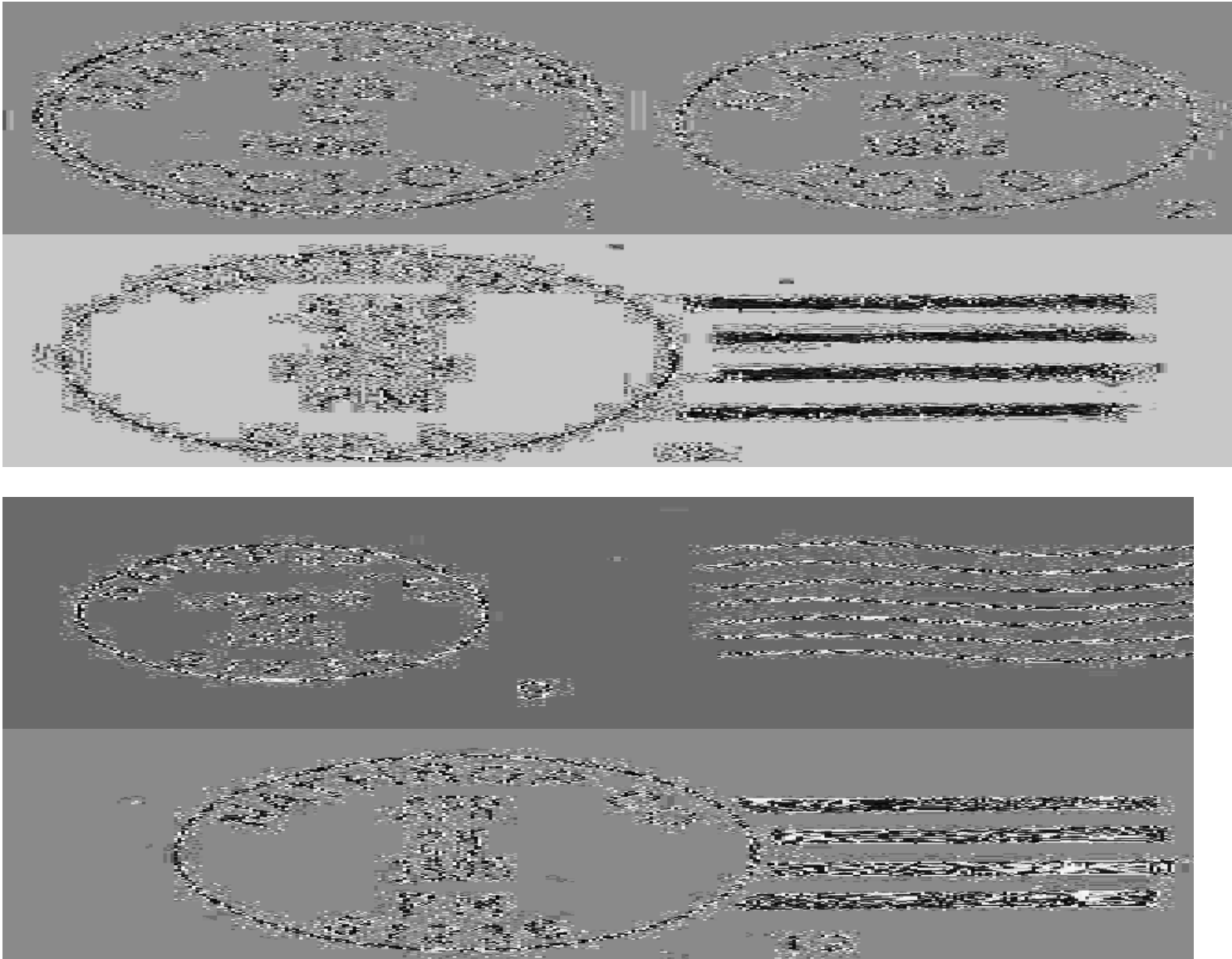
Confirmed types of postal markings

1	NATHROP, / COLO. CI 20P 30.0/28.0	Hstp Not recorded	Jan 1 1882 Feb 2 1882
2	NATHROP / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Apr 3 1883
3	NATHROP / COLO CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Indistinct	Feb 27 1903 Aug 22 1903
4	NATHROP, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Jun 15 1915
5	NATHROP, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Dec 14 1934
6	NATHROP / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Dec 14 1938 Feb 2 1957
7	NATHROP / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	May 28 1958 Sep 19 1961

NATHROP – Continued

8	NATHROP / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Oct 18 1965
9	NATHROP, CO / 81236 CI 10P 21.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Oct 10 1972 Oct 5 1981
10	NATHROP, CO / 81236 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 30 1969 May 24 1975
11	NATHROP, CO / 81236 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-26x20mm	Jun 4 1983 Apr 12 1990
12	NATHROP CO / 81236 CI 10P 30.5	4bars S-23x18mm	Jun 1 1993 Apr 25 1995
13	NATHROP CO / 81236 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-19x15mm	Sep 13 2000 Jul 18 2002
14	NATHROP CO 81236 / USPS CI 11P 27.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 4 1993 Sep 13 2000
15	NATHROP CO / 81236 CI 10P 30.0	4bars S-27x16mm	Jan 4, 2007

[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]



NEWETT

In 1895 the name of the Higgins Post Office was changed to Newett. This was the final stage in a progression of post offices that began with Divide in 1874 and passed through Dolomite and Higgins and finally to Newett. The change in name was most likely to bring the post office name into agreement with the name of the Colorado Midland Railroad station name.

The major industry at Newett was the quarrying of limestone for use as flux in smelters. In addition, Newett consisted of the depot, telegraph office, water tank, section house and stock pens.

During World War I the operations of the Colorado Midland Railroad were terminated. The end of railroad service left the quarries with no viable means to transport their product to the smelters. The quarries closed, the community of Newett dissolved and the post office was discontinued in 1918.

Directions to the site of Newett have been provided in the discussion of Divide, the first post office in this area.

Latitude = 38:52:00 North Longitude = 105:59:18 West

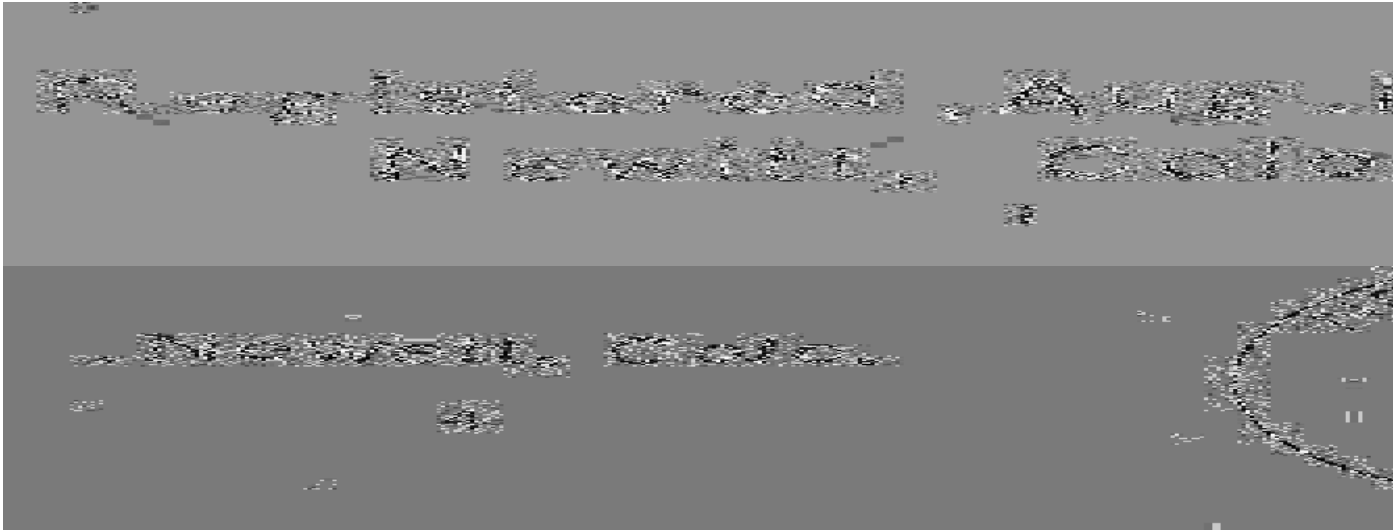
Chronology of the Post Office

- Aug 12 1890 --- SE/4 Sec 34 T13S R77W 1/2 mile north of headwaters of Trout Creek.
North of tracks at Colorado Midland Depot (Higgins)
Proposed postmaster - Edward Jones Jr.
Sketch map with report shows two locations:
Present site - NW/4 Sec 27 T13S R77W
Proposed site - SE/4 Sec 34 T13S R77W
- Jan 19 1893 --- SW/4 Sec 3 T14S R77W 1/2 mile northwest of Trout Creek. 1/3 of
a mile on west side of Colorado Midland.
Proposed postmaster - John Cunningham
- Apr 22 1895 Name changed from Higgins
- Apr 22 1895 Garfield, Alexander H.
- Apr 22 1895 Garfield, Alexander H.
- Aug 13 1898 --- N/2 NE/4 Sec 3 T14S R77W At the head of Trout Creek. West side
of Colorado Midland, close to track.
- Apr 29 1899 Stewart, James R.
- Jul 3 1902 Withrow, J. T.
- Apr 14 1903 Ordered closed
- Apr 30 1903 Discontinued Papers to Bath
- Apr 30 1903 Order of closure rescinded
- May 2 1903 Perry, Earl T.
- Mar 21 1907 Veverka, Joseph Declined
- Jun 15 1907 LaLonde, Mable E.
- Dec 11 1908 Downing, Ada
- Nov 10 1910 McConnell, Robert H.
- Jan 10 1912 Fredeen, Victor
- Feb 18 1915 Colson, Gustav H.
- Aug 10 1918 Discontinued Mail to Buena Vista

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | NEWETT, COLO. // REGISTERED
SL 00R 75.0x14.0 | Hstp Not recorded | Aug 18 1896 |
| 2 | NEWETT / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0 | Hstp No killer, backstamp | Jan 20 1896 Oct 7 1897 |
| 3 | NEWETT, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.0 | Doane Type 2 with 2, S-23x13mm | Jun 30 1907 Aug 23 1912 |
| 4 | Newett, Colo.
SL 00R 32.0x4.0 | Hstp No killer | Jun 4 1911 |
| 5 | NEWETT, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-25x20mm | Apr 13 1914 Sep 16 1917 |

NEWETT – Continued



PONCHA SPRINGS

South Arkansas was the first post office at the junction of Poncha Creek and the South Arkansas River. Established in 1868 it retained that name until 1877 when it became Poncho Springs. In 1924 the spelling was altered from Poncho to Poncha. The early history and derivation of the name are discussed in the listings for South Arkansas and Poncho Springs.

Through the first half of the twentieth century Poncho/Poncha Springs served a dual purpose. It was a junction point for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad branch to Gunnison and on to Utah and the spur line west up the South Arkansas River to the mines and quarries at Monarch and Garfield. In the 1950's the Gunnison Branch was discontinued and the tracks removed. Service continued on the spur to Monarch, but by the 1990's quarrying had ended and the line was shut down. The tracks are still in place but it is unlikely they will be used in the future.

Throughout this time Poncho Springs has been a supply center for surrounding ranches and for those living and working at the mines and quarries to the west. The town still supplies the ranchers but there has been a steady shift to an economy more focused on tourism, skiing and other outdoor recreational activities.

Poncha Springs lies at the junction of US Highway 50 and US Highway 285 about five miles west of Salida. Slowly the countryside between the two towns is being developed and it seems likely that some day soon they will form a continuous strip of development.

Latitude = 38:30:46 North Longitude = 106:04:36 West

Chronology of the Post Office

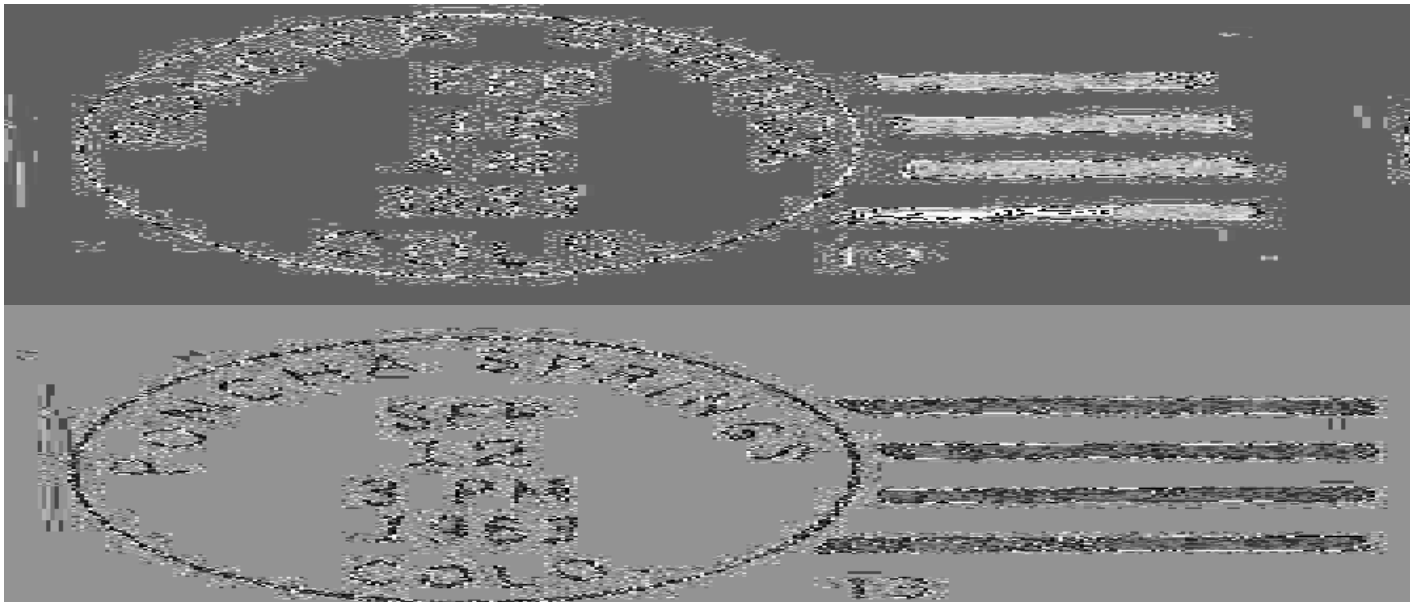
Mar 1 1914	---	NW/4 NE/4 SW/4 Sec 10 T49N R8E 86 rods south of the D&RG Railroad	
Apr 21 1923		Oatman, Clara E.	Confirmed
May 2 1923		Oatman, Clara E.	Commissioned
May 9 1923		Oatman, Clara E.	Assumed charge
Nov 22 1924		Name changed from Poncho springs	
Feb 1 1940		Carignan, Mrs. Florence	Assumed charge
Feb 15 1940		Carignan, Mrs. Florence	Acting
Feb 27 1940		Carignan, Mrs. Florence	Confirmed
Mar 21 1940	---	Main Street; E/2 W/2 E/2 Sec 9 & W/2 W/2 10	Move 120 feet south of old site
Mar 28 1940		Carignan, Mrs. Florence	Commissioned

PONCHA SPRINGS – Continued

Jan 13 1942	---	Main Street; NW/4 SW/4 Sec 10 T49N R8E	
Apr 9 1945		Perry, Mrs. Peggy L.	Acting
Apr 12 1946		Perry, Mrs. Peggy L.	Confirmed
May 31 1946		Perry, Mrs. Peggy L.	Commissioned
May 31 1945	---	Highway 285, west side	Move office 112 feet northwest of previous site
Jan 23 1951		Coots, John R.	Assumed charge
Jan 23 1951		Coots, John R.	Possession
Feb 8 1951		Coots, John R.	Acting
Jul 12 1951		Coots, John R.	Appointed & Confirmed
Aug 8 1951		Coots, John R.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1951		Coots, John R.	Possession
Jul 1 1964			Office made Presidential
Dec 31 1972		Kapelke, William H.	Officer in charge
May 12 1973		Kapelke, William H.	Appointed
Mar 71 1981		Aragon, John L.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

10	PONCHA SPRINGS, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Feb 15 1933 Jul 10 1934
11	PONCHA SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 21 1937 Aug 16 1943
12	PONCHA SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jul 5 1948 Apr 13 1959
13	PONCHA SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	May 30 1957 Sep 12 1963
14	PONCHA SPRINGS, CO / 81242 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-25x20mm	Nov 28 1967 Oct 14 1976
15	PONCHA SPRINGS, CO / 81242 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x18mm	Aug 26 1981 May 5 1993
16	PONCHA SPRINGS CO / USPO CI 11P 27.0/17.0	Hstp Not present	Apr 14 1993
17	PONCHA SPRINGS, CO / 81242 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Sep 13 2000
18	PONCHA SPRINGS, CO 81242 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 13 2000 May 23 2002
19	PONCHA SPRINGS CO 81242 / USPS CI 10P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	May 23 2002



PONCHA SPRINGS – Continued



PONCHA SPRINGS STATIONS

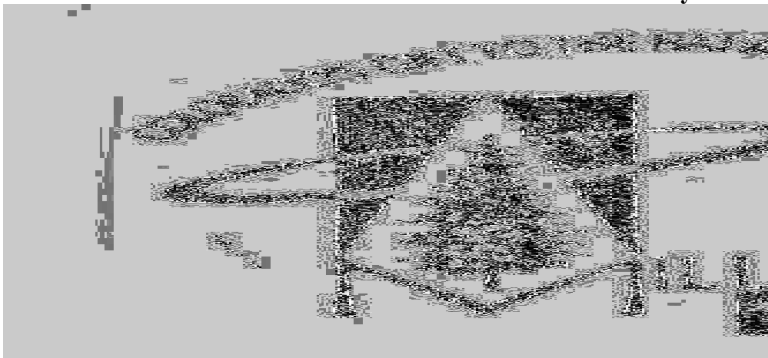
HOLIDAY TREE STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 22 2000 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Poncha Springs / CO 81242 // Holiday Tree / Station
IR 00R 90.0x40.0 | Nov 22 2000
Pict Scene - Tree emblem; Text - COLORADO'S
GIFT TO THE NATION VALUING THE PAST
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE / MILLENNIUM /
Holiday / Tree |
|---|---|---|



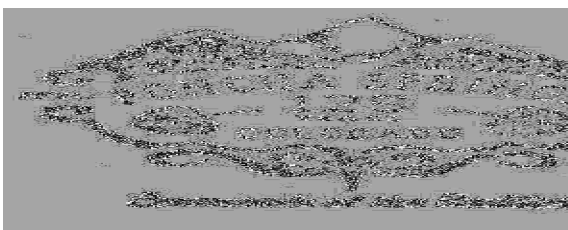
125th ANNIVERSARY STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 8 2005 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Poncha Springs, CO / 81242 // 125th Anniversary / Sta.
IR 00R 70.0x26.0 | Dec 8 2005
Pict Scene - Emblem; Text - PONCHA SPRINGS / 125 /
YEARS / COLORADO / Crossroads of the Rockies |
|---|--|--|

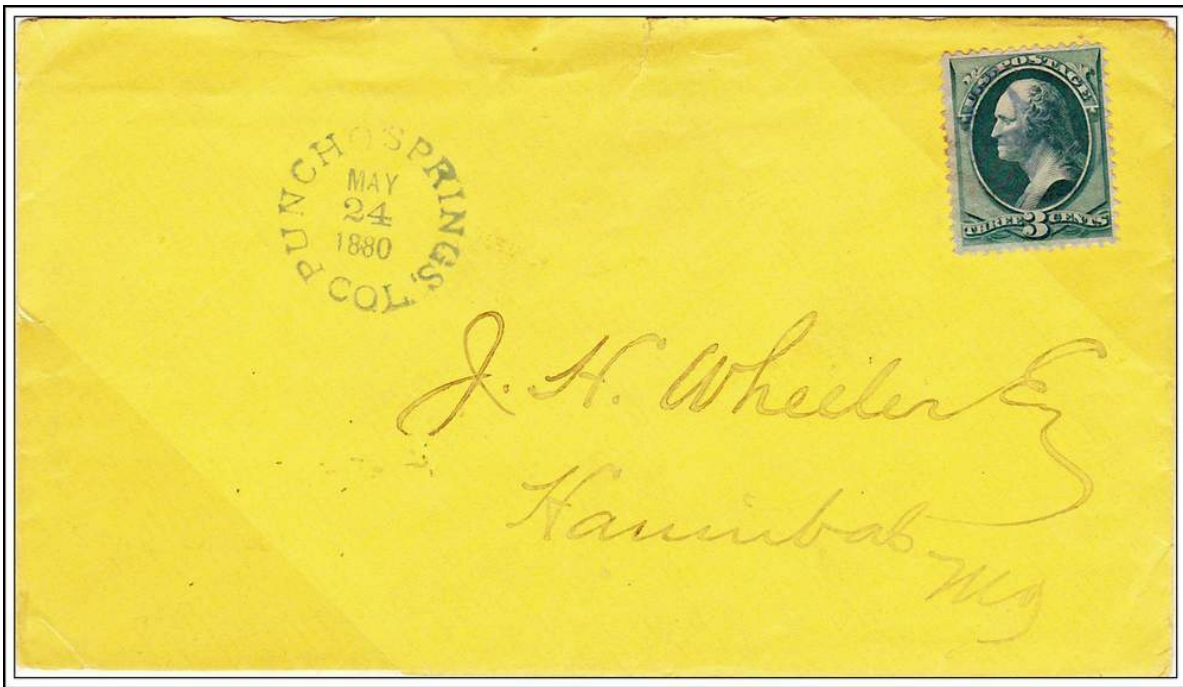


PONCHO SPRINGS – Continued

About three-quarters of a mile south of the settlement, on the western slope of Poncho Mountain, is a group of hot springs, once numbering more than ninety. The springs were long known to the Indians and were considered to be “Medicine Waters.”

A small resort did develop at the hot springs, but it did not live up to the claim that, “The Poncho Hot Springs were the equivalent of the famous hot springs in Arkansas.” There are still baths using water from the springs and water is piped to the community swimming pool in Salida.

As mentioned, in 1924 the spelling was changed to Poncha and is so spelled today. Please refer to the discussions and listings for South Arkansas and Poncha Springs for other portions of this story.



PUNCHO SPRINGS, / COL.

May 24, 1880

Chronology of the Post Office

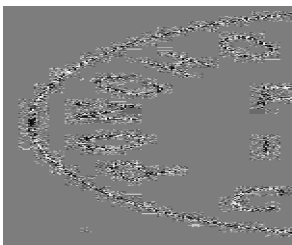
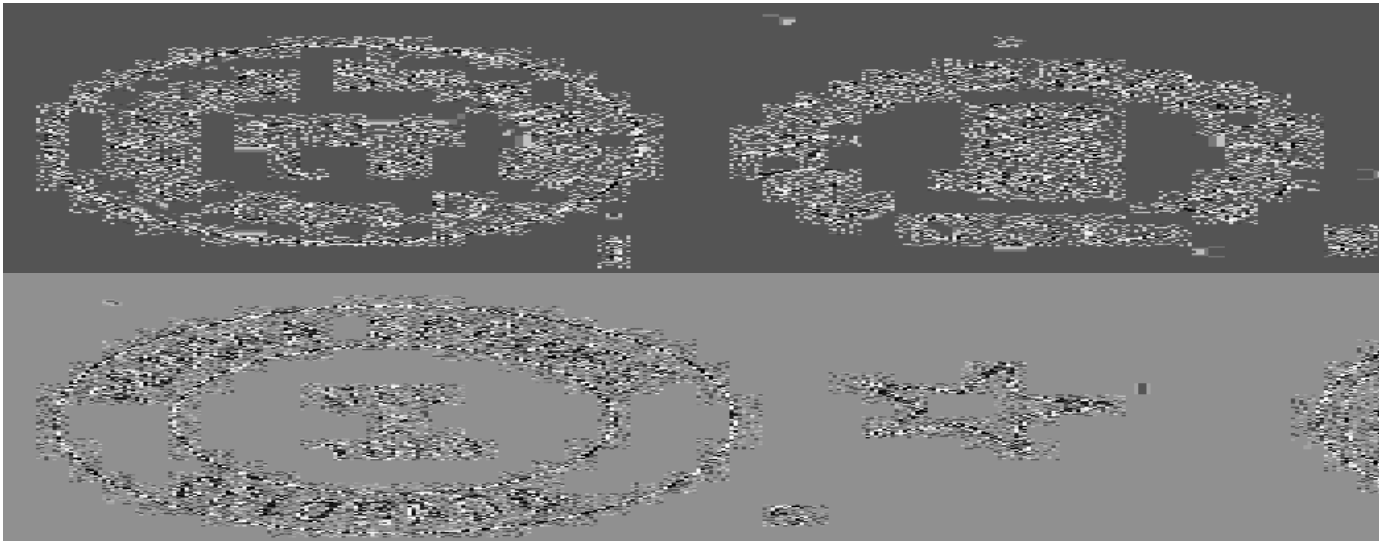
Feb 5 1877 ---	NW/4 SW/4 Sec 10 T49N R8E
Mar 13 1877	Name changed from South Arkansas
Mar 13 1877	McPherson, John
Dec 13 1880	Fulton, Hugh H.
Sep 22 1882	Mickey, John T.
Oct 22 1883	McLean, James
Mar 31 1885 ---	NW/4 SW/4 Sec 10 T49N R8E
Sep 9 1885	Eubank, C.
Jul 31 1889	Wilson, Mary
Sep 22 1892	Evans, Sophie K.
Apr 17 1894	Appleby, William
Jan 19 1900	Appleby, Antonia N.
Feb 6 1920	Oatman, Charles
Sep 30 1922	Ordered closed Mail to Salida
??? ?? ????	Ordered rescinded
Mar 16 1923	Oatman, Charles E.
Nov 22 1924	Spelling changed to Poncha Springs

PONCHO SPRINGS – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	PUNCHO SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 26.5	Feb 19 187- Jul 21 1877 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
2	PUNCHO SPRINGS, / COL. CI 00R 25.0	Feb 23 1880 Aug 22 1880 Hstp Fancy, Positive star in circle; Cork, smudge
3	PONCHO SPRINGS / COLO. OC 20P 32x32/28x28	Nov 20 1880 Jul 16 1881 Hstp Cork, smudge
4	PONCHO SPRINGS, / COLORADO. OV 30P 46.0x26.0/44.0x24.0,	Jul 17 1881 Feb 22 1885 Hstp Cork smudge, Target, 4-ring 18mm, ornaments above and below the dateline
5	PONCHA SPRINGS, / COLORADO. CI 11P 29.0/19.5	Aug 28 1883 Aug 20 1886 Hstp Fancy, outline star SRM: Note spelling of name as PONCHA
6	PONCHO SPRINGS, / COLORADO. CI 20P 28.0/25.0	Sep 11 1886 Jul 25 1887 Hstp Fancy, outline star
7	PONCHO SPRINGS / COLO CI 10P 28.0	Oct 15 1887 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
8	PONCHO SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Oct 29 1894 Apr 16 1900 Hstp Cork, smudge
9	PONCHO SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Feb 9 1901 Hstp Not present

See PONCHA SPRINGS FOR SUBSEQUENT LISTINGS



RIVERSIDE

The first settler in this area was Frank Mayol who in 1863 he established a ranch. He sold his property to George Leonhardy. Mr. Leonhardy continued ranching and also operated a tollgate on a road to the east that was a shortcut to the south Park mines.

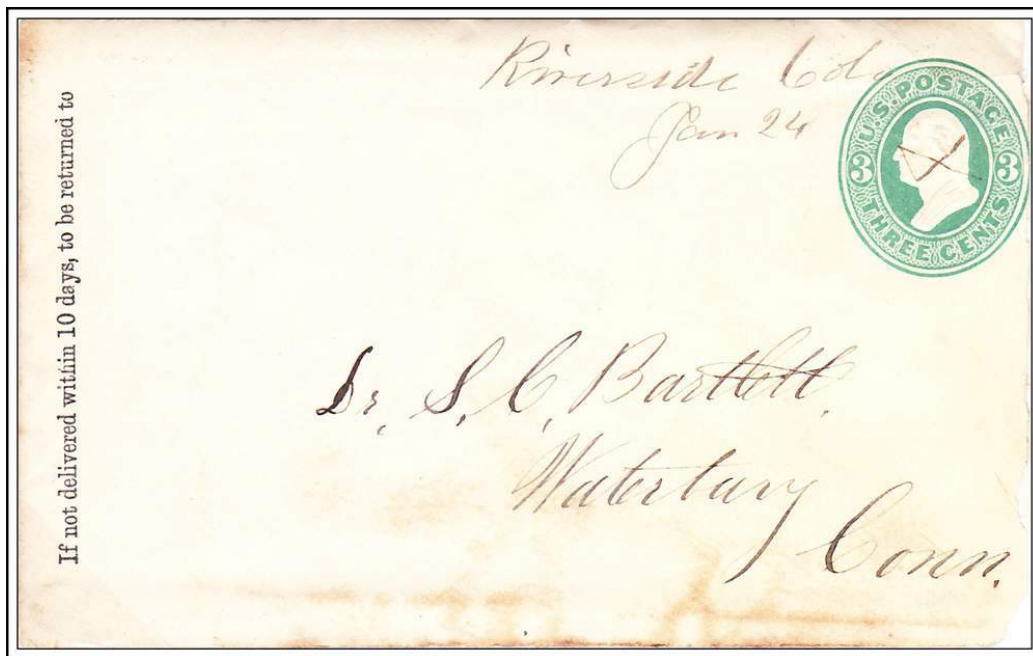
When the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad built north to Leadville they established a station on the Leonhardy ranch and named it Riverside. The Riverside Post Office had opened several years before the railroad arrived. The Rio Grande facilities included a depot, section house, bunkhouse for track maintenance workers and a water tank. There was a siding from which livestock and lumber were shipped to market.

In addition to the railroad activity there was a sawmill and a minor amount of placer mining in the river and nearby streams. At most Riverside may have had a population of about fifty people.

The Riverside Post Office closed in 1905. In 1917 there was an attempt to reopen the post office, but the name Riverside had been preempted by Riverside California so another name was chosen. The new office was named Krain. The Krain Post Office was a few hundred feet southwest of the Riverside Siding.

From entrance to the dirt road that leads to Krain and the associated trailer park, continue north on US Highway 24 one tenth of a mile to Chaffee County Road 385. Drive east to the railroad and then north along the tracks, eight tenths of a mile. Riverside was located between the railroad and the river. No structures remain at the location, but there is a ranch a half mile to the north.

Latitude = 38:56:18 North Longitude = 106:11:00 West



Manuscript postmark

Riverside Colo

January 24, 1879

Chronology of the Post Office

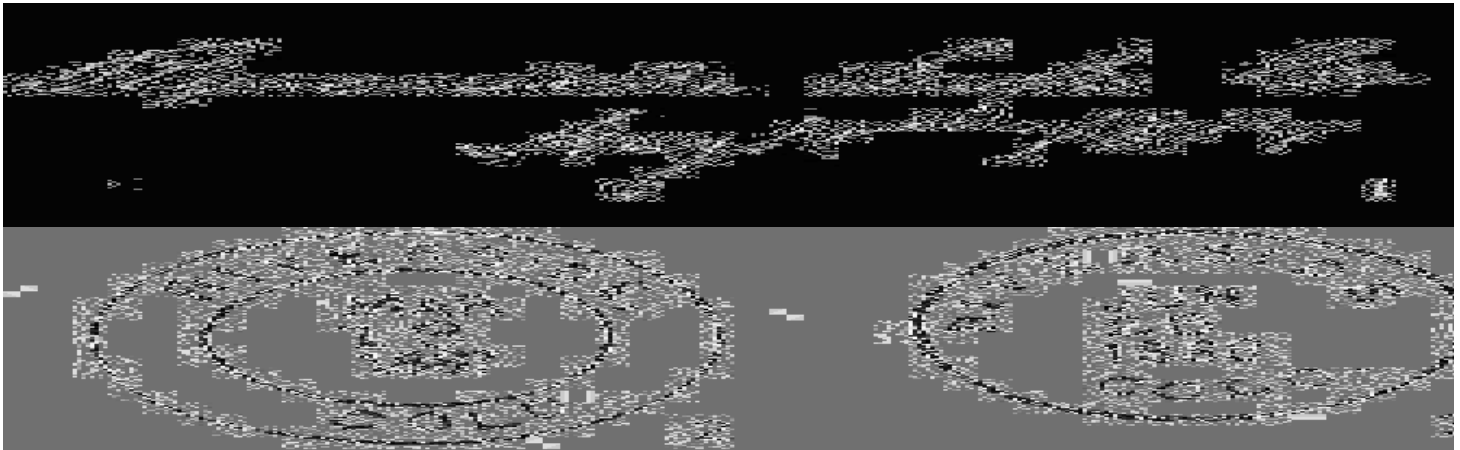
May 1 1872	--	Unsurveyed 100 feet west of Arkansas River, on the south bank of Mayol Creek
May 22 1872		Established
May 22 1872		Leonhardy, George
Mar 4 1879		Morrison, George
Aug 23 1883		Leonhardy, George

RIVERSIDE – Continued

Jan 13 1887	Kinman, Frank D.	
Mar 3 1887	Bartholomew, Samuel P.	
Jun 13 1889	Cook, David N.	
Aug 14 1891	Malone, Christopher F.	
Jun 13 1889	Cook, David N.	
May 9 1899	Trevor, Taylor S.	
May 29 1899	Trevor, Taylor S.	Order rescinded
May 29 1899	Trevor, Taylor S.	Resignation withdrawn
Oct 7 1899 --	N/2 SW/4 Sec 2 T13S R79W 25 rods west of Arkansas River, 5 miles south of Pine Creek, West side of D&RG, 12 rods from track	
Jan 8 1901	Cook, David N.	
Mar 18 1902	Allen, Walter E.	Moved away
Apr 4 1902	Gruver, Mary E.	
Jun 19 1905	Discontinued Mail to Buena Vista	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Riverside Lake Co Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Aug 10 1874
1.1	Riverside Col [& Colo] MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Jan 12 1879 Apr 25 1879
1.2	RIVERSIDE, / Lake Co., Colo. OV 20P 36x23/24x21mm	Hstp Target; Recorded and traced from a poor copy, perhaps not true scale	Jul 25 1879
2	RIVERSIDE, / COLO. CI 11P 27.0/17.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 18 1887 [or Mar 13?]
3	RIVERSIDE, / COLO. CI 10P 24.0	Hstp Grid, 9 bar circular	Jun 26 1888
4	RIVERSIDE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 17 1888 Dec 25 1903



ROMLEY

The settlement that became Romley was first known as Murphy’s Switch. It was at milepost 155.61 on the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad at an elevation of 10, 557 feet. There the South Park had a 1,688-foot siding and a small frame depot.

Although not mentioned in the literature, for a few months in 1882 there was a post office at Murphy’s Switch named Neva. Please refer to the previous brief discussion of Neva.

ROMLEY – Continued

The prime reason for Romley was the Mary Murphy Mine. The mine was located on the western slope of Chrysolite Mountain, a thousand feet above the railroad. There was very little at Romley other than the mill and office buildings for the mine. The Mary Murphy Mine used the freight room of the railroad's depot as a commissary.

Dr. Abner E. Wright and John Royal discovered the Mary Murphy lode. The name, Mary Murphy, was supposedly that of a Denver nurse who once cared for John Royal. He remembered her kindness and bestowed her name to the mine.

The Mary Murphy Mine continued to produce, even beyond the 1893 silver crash that closed most of the silver mines in Colorado. However, by the early 1920's the mine had closed, the post office closed in 1924 and Romley was dead.

The derivation of the name Romley is uncertain. There is a claim that the settlement was for a time known as Morley. Perhaps Romley is a distortion or typographical error of the name Morley.

As you approach Saint Elmo on Colorado Highway 162 there is a road to the left, Chaffee County Road 295. For the most part this road is on the abandoned grade of the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad from Saint Elmo to the site of Hancock where the road ends. The site of Romley is three miles from the junction at Saint Elmo.

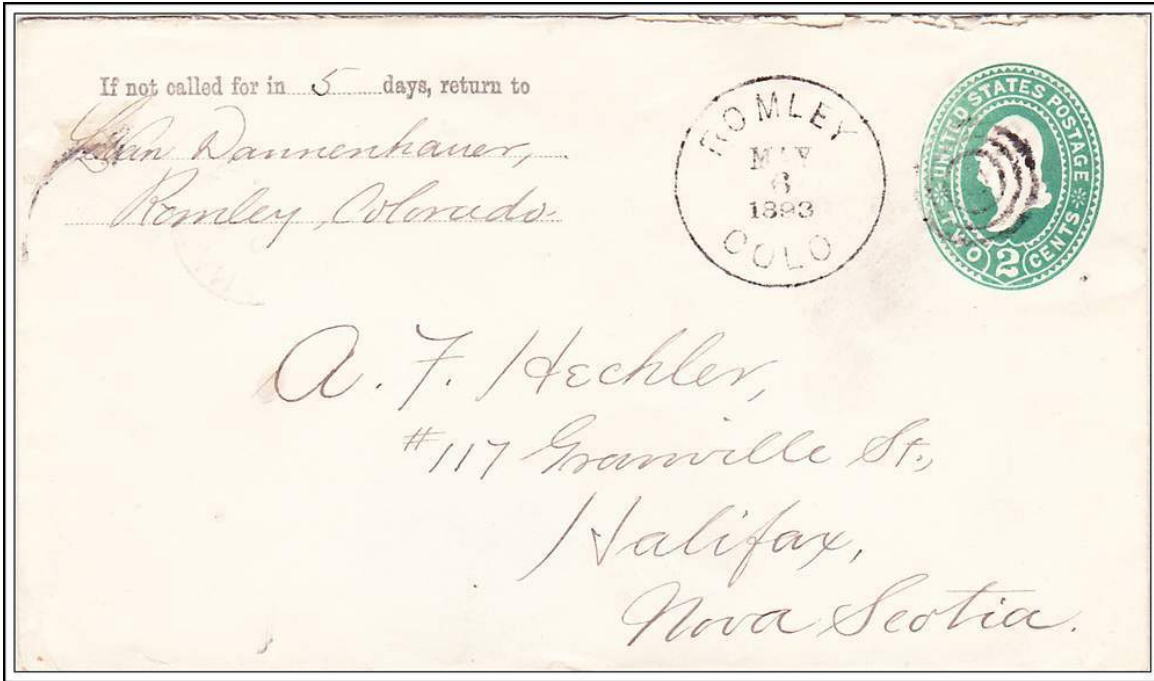
In 2001, a short distance before reaching the site of Romley, there was a detour around a damaged bridge. Other than that short interval, most of the road is decent, although rough. For safety I would recommend a four-wheel drive vehicle. From Romley, continue south to Hancock.

Latitude = 38:40:30 North Longitude = 106:22:10 West

Chronology of the Post Office

May 18 1885	---	NE/4 Sec 13 T51N R5E ¼ mile south of Chalk Creek on the line of the road (DSP&P) south side within one hundred feet Proposed postmaster – Robert J. Coleman Document appears to have been originally submitted as “Morley”, and altered to “Romley.”
Jan 15 1886		Established
Jan 15 1886		Colman, Robert J.
Nov 13 1886		Van Dannenhauer, L.
Oct 18 1893		Discontinued Papers to St. Elmo
Jan 1 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 13 T51N R5E 400 feet southeast of Chalk Creek. 750 feet north of the Colorado & Southern track Applicant for postmaster – M. H. Dunning
Jun 19 1914		Re-established
Jun 19 1914		Dunning, Mortimer W.
Mar 12 1917		Dickinson, Richard F.
Mar 12 1917		Ordered closed Mail to St. Elmo
---	----	Rescinded
Aug 30 1919		Discontinued
Feb 9 1920		Re-established
Feb 9 1920		Sympson, Henry B.
Jan 31 1921		Richards, Rose
Dec 24 1923		Tabor, Margaret E. Acting
Feb 19 1924		Tabor, Margaret E. Appointed
Oct 30 1924		Discontinued Mail to St. Elmo

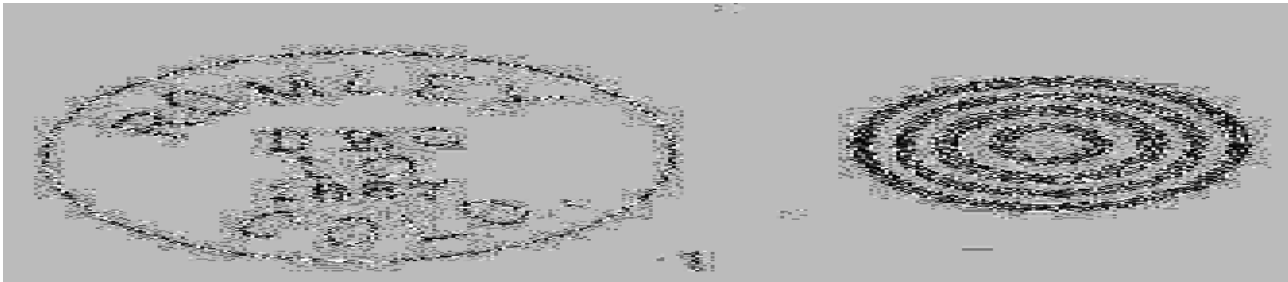
ROMLEY – Continued



ROMLEY / COLO. May 6, 1893

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ROMLEY / COLO CI 10P 27.5	Jul 10 18-- Dec 10 1887 Hstp Target, 4-ring
2	ROMLEY / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Apr 6 1892 Feb 19 1898 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
3	ROMLEY, / COLO . CI 10P 32.0	Dec 10 1914 Jun 12 1915 4bars S-??x20mm



SAINT ELMO

In 1871 prospector Dr. Abner Ellis Wright may have been the first person to settle on the headwaters of Chalk Creek. By 1875 he had become a partner of John Royal. Together they discovered a very rich vein of silver ore that became the Mary Murphy Mine. The discovery was on Chrysolite Mountain, four miles south of the future site of Saint Elmo. Captain William W. Campbell located a ranch in the area and built one of the first homes.

SAINT ELMO – Continued

The mountain mining town came into existence in 1880 and was first named Forest City, a tribute to the dense forest that had to be cleared to permit construction of the town. The Post Office Department rejected that name for the post office as it conflicted with a Forest City in Sierra County California.

Griffith Evans, operator of the first store in the community, had recently read the novel *Saint Elmo* by Augusta Jane Evans and he suggested that as a name for the town.

In 1880, the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad reached Saint Elmo. Saint Elmo became end of track and the principal supply town as the railroad continued construction south and then through the Alpine Tunnel into the Gunnison Country.

Saint Elmo quickly grew into the largest and most colorful town in the district on the headwaters of Chalk Creek. Much of the prosperity was derived from the nearby Mary Murphy Mine which was a prolific producer for many years. Saint Elmo was also at the base of the road that climbs up to cross the Continental Divide at 12,154-foot Tin Cup Pass. That road is passable, but difficult – strictly a four-wheel drive road.

Mining activity lasted into the twentieth century, but by 1922 the last of the mines had closed. Saint Elmo slowly drifted towards oblivion and has often been called a ghost town. But, the town never died. Many of the cabins have been maintained, or renovated and serve as summer cabins or as hunting and fishing lodges.

For many years in the mid-twentieth century the prominent business in Saint Elmo was the Home Comfort Hotel and the General Store run by the Stark Family. In 1914 Roy Stark became the Saint Elmo Postmaster and may have still been the postmaster when the post office closed in 1954.



Saint Elmo, Colorado – The large building is the Stark store that was home to the Post Office.

Photograph by James L. Ozment

August 30, 2001

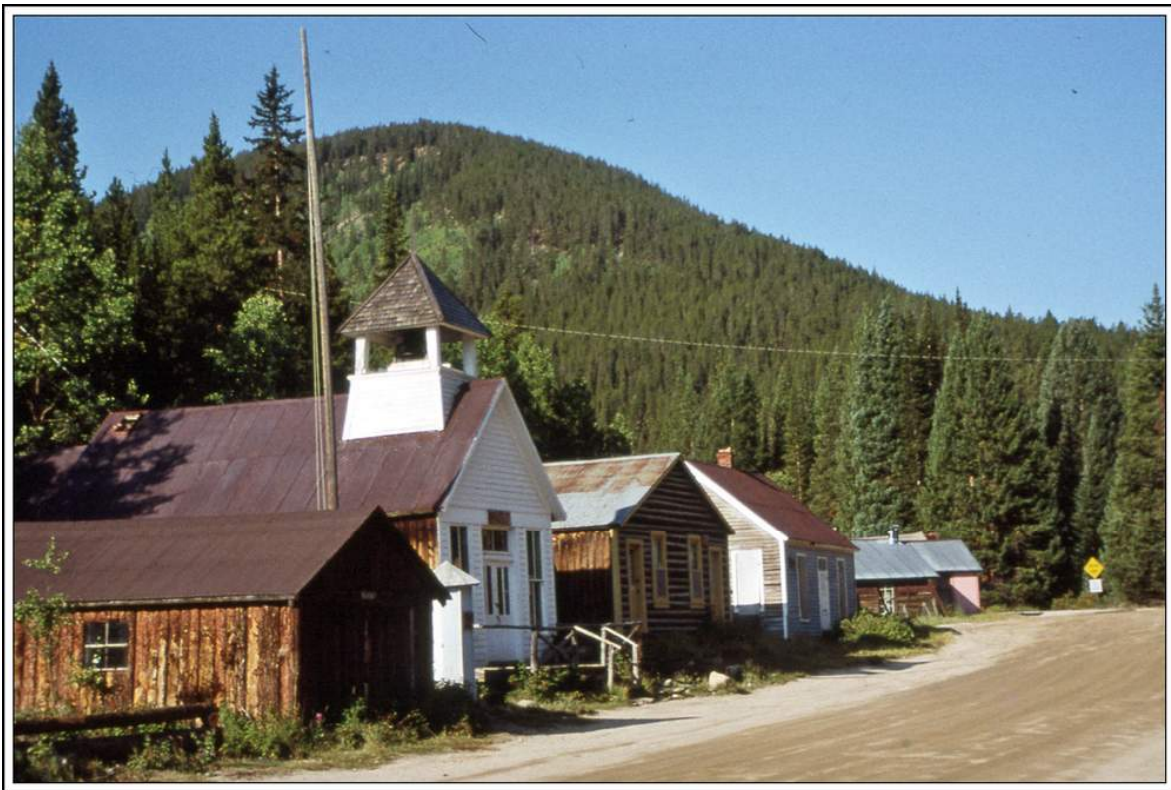
SAINT ELMO – Continued

As you enter Saint Elmo from the east there is a small “business district” on the north side of the road. The two-story, false-front building was the Stark Store and the location of the post office when it closed in 1954. I have twice visited Saint Elmo, in 1989 and again in August 2001. There is much to be seen: the business district and the many remaining cabins.

On the visit in 2001, fortunately Jim Ozment and I took several pictures of the buildings along the main street, including the town hall. From my standpoint that was lucky as on April 15, 2002 a fire, blamed on faulty electrical wiring, destroyed the town hall, a mule barn, one of the original homes and two other buildings.

Today Saint Elmo sits at the end of Colorado Highway 162. About forty of the original structures remain. In the summertime there can be dozens of people living in the cabins, but in winter only a single family remains full-time. Saint Elmo is eighteen miles from US Highway 285, just south of Nathrop.

Latitude = 38:42:17 North Longitude = 106:20:51 West



Main Street, Saint Elmo, Colorado – Most of the buildings in this photograph were destroyed by the April 15, 2002 fire.

Photograph by James L. Ozment

August 30, 2001

Chronology of the Post Office

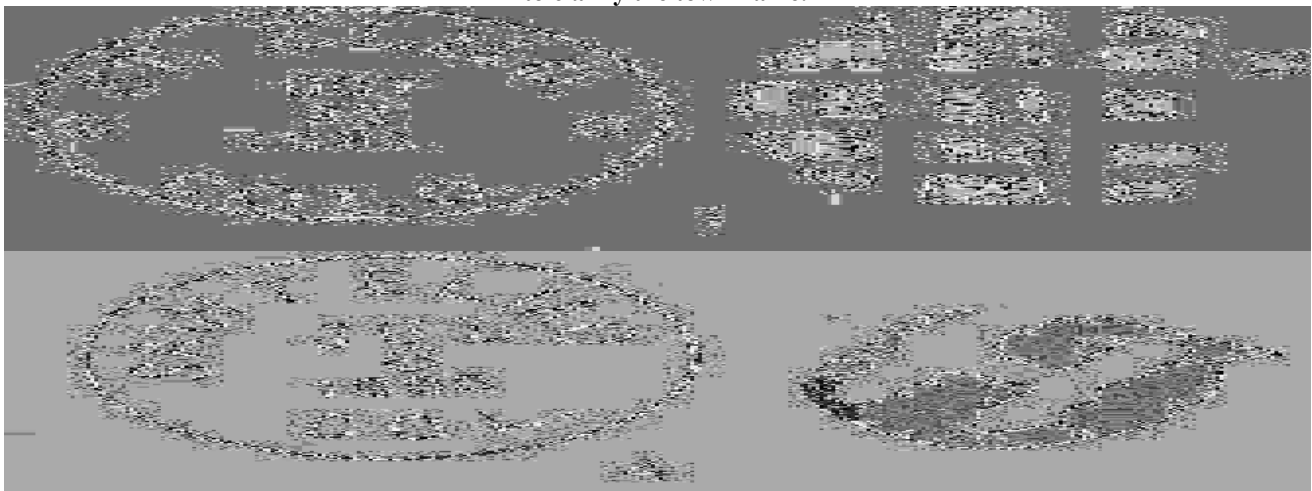
- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| May 12 1880 --- | Unsurveyed land Directly on south side of Chalk Creek.
R.R. line in course of construction through town, Depot not located.
Proposed postmaster – Charles Seitz |
| Jun 23 1880 | Established |
| Jun 23 1880 | Seitz, Charles E. |
| Dec 28 1880 | Dalrymple, Jacob W. |
| Jan 10 1881 | Helmer, August |

SAINT ELMO – Continued

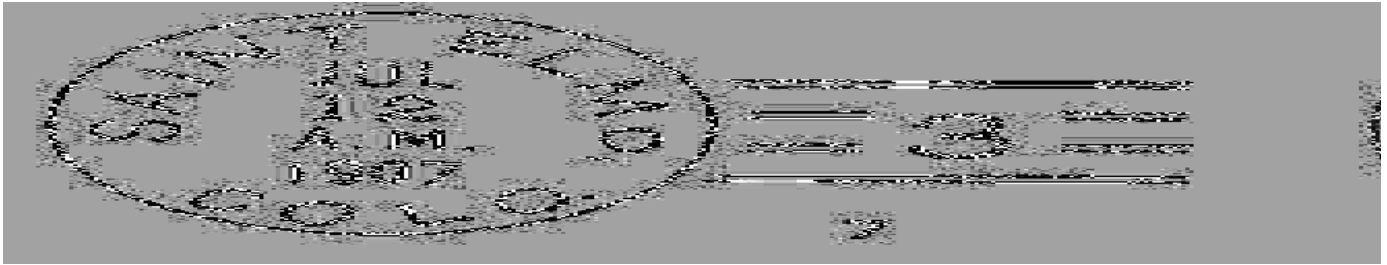
Aug 11 1884	Russell, Howard	
Dec 15 1884	Helmer, Augustus	
Apr 3 1885 ---	SW/4 Sec 6 T51N R6E	85 rods north of DSP&P RR. 200 feet south of Chalk Creek
Dec 16 1885	Brush, Fred W.	
Jul 17 1890	Whittenberger, J. M.	
Mar 21 1891	Westfall, Sherman S.	
Apr 16 1898	Viles, William R.	
Dec 26 1899	Lauder, Emma L.WTF??	
May 3 1909	Mongram, George P.	
Mar 20 1914 ---	NW/4 Sec 33 T15S R80W	125 feet south of Chalk Creek. About 350 feet north of the Colorado & Southern track
Sep 10 1914	Stark, Roy A.	Confirmed
Sep 25 1914	Stark, Roy A.	Commissioned
Nov 14 1914	Stark, Roy A.	Assumed charge
Jun 12 1935	Discontinued Effective Jun 29 1935 Mail to Mount Princeton Hot Springs?	
Jan 8 1942 ---	NW/4 Sec 33 T15S R80W; Main Street	
Jun 15 1943	Stark, Anthony Joseph	Acting
Jun 8 1943	Stark, Anthony Joseph	Confirmed
Dec 28 1943	Stark, Anthony Joseph	Commissioned
Sep 12 1952	Ordered closed	
Oct 15 1952	Discontinued Mail to Nathrop	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ST. ELMO, / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Feb 27 1881 Jan 27 1883 Hstp Cork, smudge, double grid; target. Screw heads visible at sides of CDS
2	ST. ELMO / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Feb 21 1883 Nov 2 1893 Hstp Cork smudge
3	SAINT ELMO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Mar 27 1884 Oct 21 1889 Hstp Cork, smudge, crude star
4	SAINT ELMO / COL. CI 10P 27.0	Jul 6 1885 Hstp Fancy, cork, negative "H"
5	SAINT ELMO / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Apr 21 1899 Dec 24 1901 Hstp Cork smudge
6	SAINT ELMO / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	May 6 1903 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
7	SAINT ELMO, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Jul 12 1907 Oct 30 1909 Doane Type 2 with 3, S-20x13mm
8	SAINT ELMO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Jul 23 1915 Oct 16 1952 4bars S-??x13mm
9	SAINT ELMO, COLO. SL 00R 36.0x6.0	Aug 13 1948 Hstp Used with 4-bar this date. Use may have been to clarify the town name.



SAINT ELMO – Continued



SALIDA

The city of Salida was first known as South Arkansas when the Rio Grande Railroad laid out a 160-acre townsite. The railroad reached the site on May 1, 1880 and the station – a boxcar – was opened for business on May 20. The plat for South Arkansas was filed on September 21, 1880.

When a post office was authorized it was called Arkansas. Later in the summer of 1880 former Territorial Governor Alexander Hunt suggested that the town be renamed Salida. Until the railroad and postal authorities sorted things out the post office was called Arkansas, the railroad station was South Arkansas and the residents proudly referred to the town as Salida.



SALIDA / COLO April 6, 1885

Note the odd markings at the left side of the CDS

Salida is Spanish meaning, “gateway” or “outlet,” symbolizing the town’s position at the southern end of the Upper Arkansas Valley and the entrance to the canyon of the Arkansas River.

SALIDA – Continued

The arrival of the Rio Grande was the impetus for the establishment of the town. The railroad was building north towards the rich mining district at Leadville, but was already planning a westward extension over the Continental Divide and on to Utah. Over time Salida became a significant railroad center servicing the Rio Grande's various branches in the Central Rocky Mountains. In addition, smelters and processing mills were in operation to refine ores from the surrounding mining districts.

At one time there was some agitation to move the state capitol from Denver to Salida. That proposal was promptly rejected.

Salida soon became the largest town in Chaffee County and continued to grow not only as a railroad and smelting center but also as a major supply center for the Upper Arkansas Valley and the surrounding mountain communities.

A 1928 election moved the county seat from Buena Vista to Salida.

In the twenty-first century, there are no smelters in Salida. The main line railroad is no longer operating, the branch line to Monarch no longer runs and the tracks on the main line over Marshall Pass have been removed.

However, Salida is still the county seat and a supply center for a large area. Salida also enjoys a moderate climate that has encouraged residential development and a growing tourist and outdoor recreational economy.

Salida is on US Highway 50 where that highway turns west from the Arkansas River and begins the long ascent to Monarch Pass and the Continental Divide. From Salida, Colorado Highway 291 continues north along the river to intersect US 24 & US 285 eight miles to the north.

Latitude = 38:32:05 North Longitude = 105:59:54 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 17 1880	--	T50N R9E, section not reported	On southwest side of Arkansas River one mile north of South Branch of Arkansas River
Mar 28 1881		Name changed from Arkansas	
Mar 28 1881		Blake, John T.	
Sep 22 1882		Moore, M. R.	
Jan 29 1883		Moore, M. R.	P&S
Jan 6 1887		Israel, Joseph A.	P&S
May 21 1891		Jackson, Silas M.	P
Dec 16 1891		Jackson, Silas M.	P&S
Jan 15 1896		Brush, Fred W.	P&S
Dec 19 1899		Harbottle, William P.	P&S
Feb 22 1901		Stead, Frank O.	P&S
Feb 9 1904		Guerin, Michael J.	P&S
Jan 23 1908		Guerin, Michael J.	P&S
Dec 20 1911		Guerin, Michael J.	P&S
May 1 1913		Ryan, Thomas	P&S
Dec 3 1916	---	SE/4 Sec 32 T50N R9E	
May 7 1917		Buchanan, W. S.	P&S
Nov 15 1921		Montgomery, Ella B.	P&S
Dec 14 1925		Montgomery, Ella B.	P&S
Apr 3 1930		Mohler, Samuel A.	P&S
Apr 16 1930	---	SE/4 Sec 32 T50N R9E	
May 29 1934		Hollenbeck, Lewis	Nominated
Jun 6 1934		Hollenbeck, Lewis	Appointed & Confirmed
Jun 28 1934		Hollenbeck, Lewis	Commissioned
Jun 7 1938		Hollenbeck, Lewis	Nominated
Jun 8 1938		Hollenbeck, Lewis	Confirmed

SALIDA – Continued

Jun 23 1938	Hollenbeck, Lewis	Appointed Presidential
Aug 4 1938	Hollenbeck, Lewis	Commissioned
Jun 23 1938	Hollenbeck, Lewis	Appointed
Nov 7 1941	--- 203 E Street; NE/4 Sec 5 T49N R9E Northwest corner intersection of Second and E Streets	
Oct 2 1942	Hollenbeck, Lewis	Nominated
Dec 4 1942	Hollenbeck, Lewis	Confirmed
Dec 7 1942	Hollenbeck, Lewis	Appointed Presidential
Dec 26 1942	Hollenbeck, Lewis	Commissioned
Dec 31 1942	Hollenbeck, Lewis	Assumed charge
Mar 31 1949	Glenn, Lewis R.	Acting
Jul 6 1950	Stotler, Robert E. L.	Nominated
Aug 11 1950	Stotler, Robert E. L.	Confirmed
Aug 22 1950	Stotler, Robert E. L.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Sep 30 1950	Stotler, Robert E. L.	Assumed charge
Apr 12 1955	Mitchell, Robert B.	Assumed charge
May 9 1955	Mitchell, Robert B.	Acting
May 7 1956	Wieck, Willard W.	Nominated
Jun 20 1956	Wieck, Willard W.	Appointed Presidential, Confirmed & Commissioned
Aug 10 1956	Wieck, Willard W.	Assumed charge
Nov 9 1960	Tuttle, Richard C.	Assumed charge
Nov 14 1960	Tuttle, Richard C.	Acting
Feb 13 1961	Mitchell, Robert B.	Assumed charge
Feb 15 1961	Mitchell, Robert B.	Acting
Jan 22 1962	Mitchell, Robert B.	Nominated
Jul 12 1962	Mitchell, Robert B.	Confirmed
Jul 16 1962	Mitchell, Robert B.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 25 1962	Mitchell, Robert B.	Commissioned
Aug 3 1962	Mitchell, Robert B.	Assumed charge
Dec 30 1980	Tate, James D.	Officer in charge

Confirmed types of postal markings

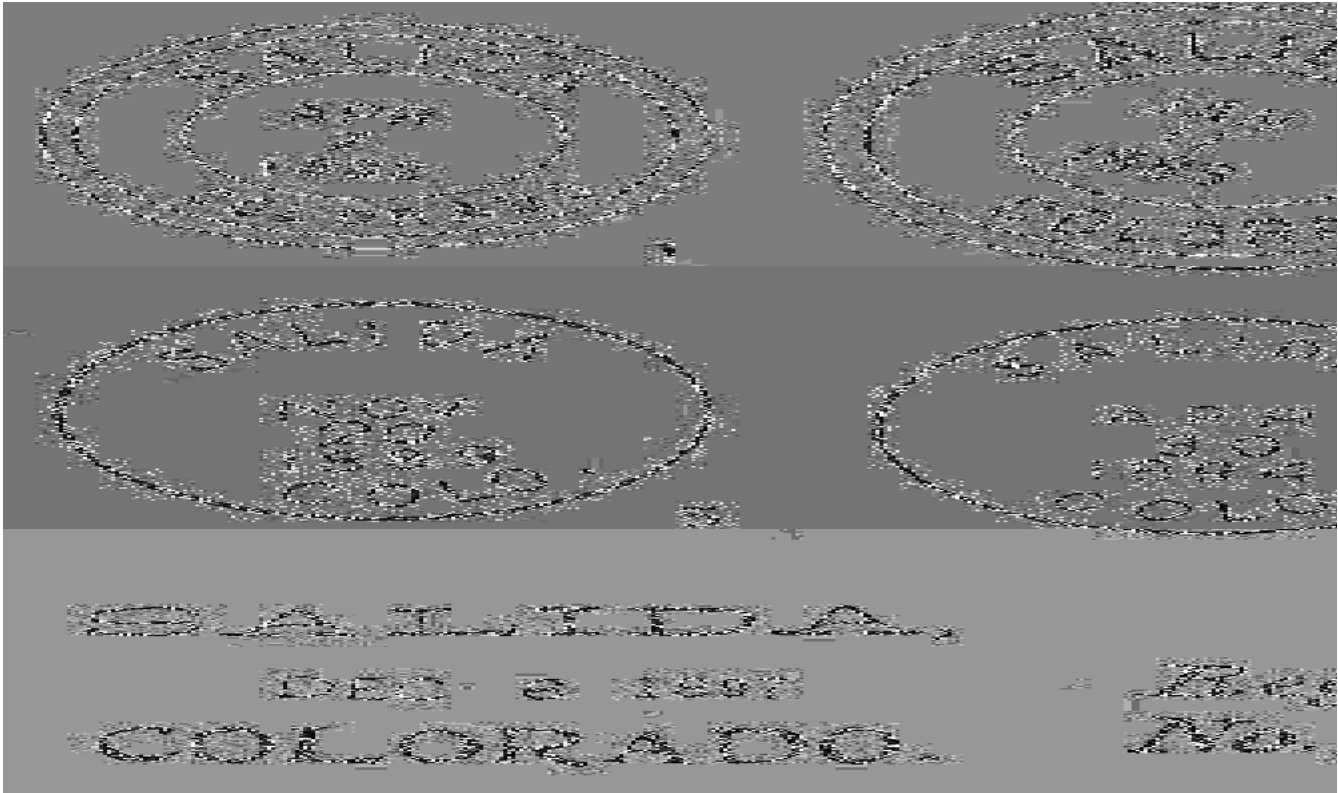
1	SALIDA / COLORADO CI 21P 29.0/26.0/17	Jun 23 1881 Dec 11 1882 Hstp Fancy, Wheel-of-fortune
2	SALIDA / COLORADO CI 11P 34.0/30.0/20.0	Jan 11 1883 Hstp Fancy, Wheel of fortune
3	SALIDA / COL. CI 10P 27.5	Aug 20 1883 Aug 30 1887 Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads, 8-piece pie
4	SALIDA / COLO CI 10P 27.5	Feb 21 1883 Apr 6 1885 Hstp Fancy, Wheel of fortune; 3 small "boxes" at left side of CDS
5	SALIDA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Jan 28 1886 Nov 20 1889 Hstp Cork, circle of wedges
6	SALIDA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Nov 20 1889 Sep 15 1898 Hstp Cork, smudge, small letters
7	SALIDA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	May 15 1891 Nov 4 1893 Hstp Target; cork, smudge
8	SALIDA, / COLORADO. SL 00R 38.0x20.0	Sep 17 1897 Apr 22 1904 Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads in black
9	SALIDA, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 29.0	Jan 11 1898 Hstp No killer
10	SALIDA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Sep 15 1898 Feb 12 1900 Hstp Cork, Smudge, negative X-roads
11	SALIDA, / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Nov 7 1901 Dec 11 1912 Dplx Grid, Oval with 1 and circle

SALIDA – Continued

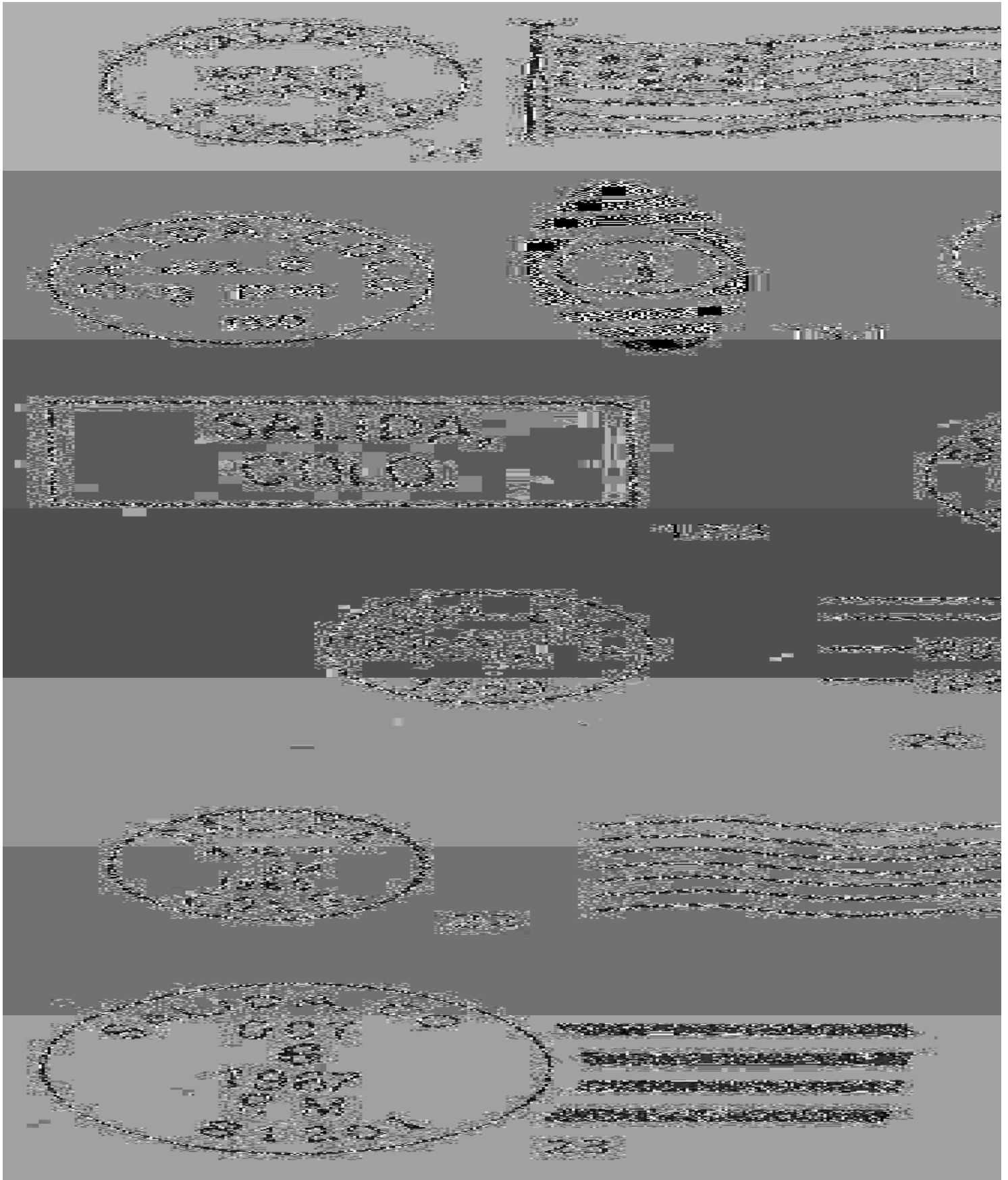
- | | | |
|------|--|--|
| 12 | SALIDA / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0 | Apr 28 1900 Dec 13 1900
Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval |
| 13 | SALIDA / COLO.
RC 10P 38.0x18.5 | Apr 22 1904
HStp No killer, on cover with Salida registered same date |
| 14 | SALIDA / COLO.
CI 10P 23.5 | Aug 28 1906 Dec 6 1911
Flag 13 star waving flag with 1; split year date |
| 15 | SALIDA, COLO.
CI 10P 22.0 | Jan 2 1913 Sep 10 1923
Flag 13 star waving flag |
| 15.1 | SALIDA, / COLO.
CI 10P xx.0 | Jul 6 1910 Nov 11 1910
Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle |
| 16 | SALIDA / COLO.
CI 10P 26.0 | Jul 28 1913 Mar 16 1943
Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle |
| 17 | SALIDA, COLO.
CI 10P 21.0 | Nov 14 1930 Nov 20 1962
Mach 7 wavy lines |
| 17.1 | SALIDA, / COLO.
RC 10P 39.0x20.0 | 1940s
Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box |
| 18 | SALIDA, COLO. / REGISTERED
CI 11P 28.0/18.0 | Jul 8 1922 Apr 12 1943
Hstp No killer |
| 18.1 | SALIDA, / COLO.
RC 10P 35.0x17.0 | 1950s
Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box |
| 19 | SALIDA, / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0 | Mar 14 1955
Dplx Grid, diamond with 1 |
| 20 | SALIDA, COLO
CI 10P 21.0 | Mar 16 1959 Jun 23 1959
Mach Slogan in bars; COLORADO / RUSH TO THE
ROCKIES / 1859 CENTENNIAL 1959 |
| 21 | SALIDA / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0/19.0 | Dec 13 1962
Hstp No killer |
| 22 | SALIDA, / COLO.
CI 10P 21.0 | Sep 14 1963 Aug 4 1965
Mach 7 wavy lines |
| 22.1 | SALIDA, CO 81201
CI 11P 32.0/23.0 | Oct 3 1967
Rolr 6 slanted wavy lines |
| 23 | SALIDA, CO / 81201
CI 10P 33.0 | Oct 6 1967 Aug 4 1968
4bars S-24x20mm |
| 24 | SALIDA, CO / 81201
CI 10P 21.0 | Jun 16 1966 Jun 3 1975
Mach 7 wavy lines |
| 25 | SALIDA, CO / 81201
CI 10P 31.5 | Jan 19 1973 May 29 1975
4bars S-23x19mm |
| 26 | SALIDA, CO / 81201
CI 10P 21.0 | Oct 10 1974
Mach 7 wavy lines |
| 27 | SALIDA, CO / 812
CI 10P 21.0 | Aug 9 1976 Dec 21 1976
Mach Slogan between bars: COLORADO / THE
CENTENNIAL STATE / 1876 ---- 1976 [Also seen with full zip code] |
| 28 | SALIDA, CO / 812
CI 10P 21.0 | Jun 29 1976 Jul 9 1977
Mach Slogan in box with bars: MAIL EARLY - /
ALWAYS USE / ZIP CODE |
| 29 | SALIDA, CO / 812
CI 10P 22.0 | Mar 26 1978 Feb 1 1979
Mach 7 wavy lines |
| 29.1 | SALIDA, CO / 81201
CI 10P 31.5 | Aug 7 1980
4bars S-24x18mm |
| 30 | SALIDA, CO / 812
CI 10P 36.0 | Dec 11 1980
Mach 8 bars |
| 30.1 | SALIDA, CO / 812
CI 10P 31.0 | [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
--- 31 1982
4bars S-22x18mm |
| 31 | SALIDA, CO / 812
CI 10P 21.0 | Apr 9 1984 Jun 27 1990
Mach 7 wavy lines |

SALIDA – Continued

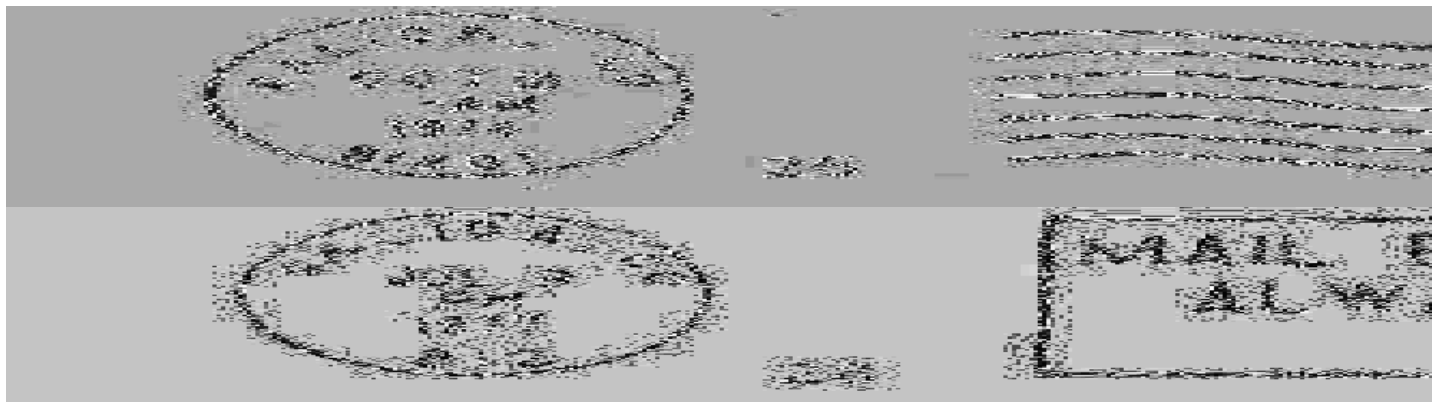
32	SALIDA, CO / 812 CI 10P 20.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	May 15 1990 Apr 28 1992
33	SALIDA, CO / 812 CI 10P 20.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jan 25 1991 Jun 3 1991
34	SALIDA / CO CI 10P 30.0	Hstp No Killer	May 31 1991 Jun 3 1991
35	SALIDA CO 812 // 1A CI 10P 23.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	May 25 1993 Mar 24 2004
36	SALIDA CO 812 // 1B CI 10P 23.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jun 1 1993 Jul 20 2006
37	SALIDA CO 81201 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No Killer	Jun 27 2000 Jan 6 2007
38	SALIDA CO 812 // 1A CI 10P 23.0	Mach Slogan: 2000 NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH / STAMP / COOL- / LECTING / YOUR WINDOW TO THE WORLD (Machine dial 1A)	Nov 13 2000



SALIDA – Continued



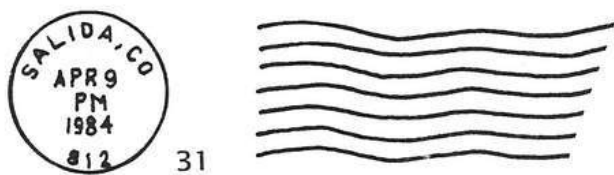
SALIDA – Continued



29.1



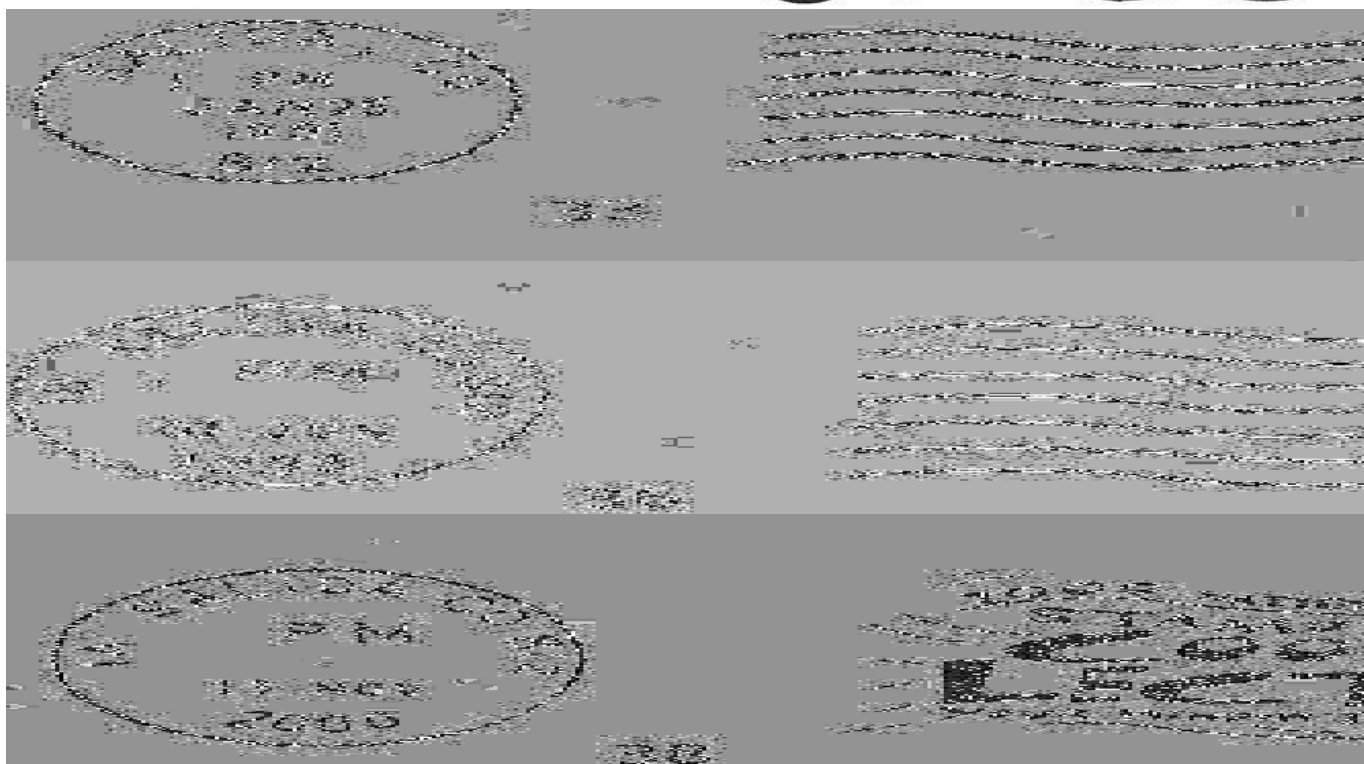
30.1



31



32



SALIDA STATIONS AND BRANCHES

CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 15 2000 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Salida, CO 81201 // Celebrate the Century Station Jun 15 2000
SL 00R 9.0x3.0 Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / -- 100 --
/ The Life of a Century
***** Announced but not used *****

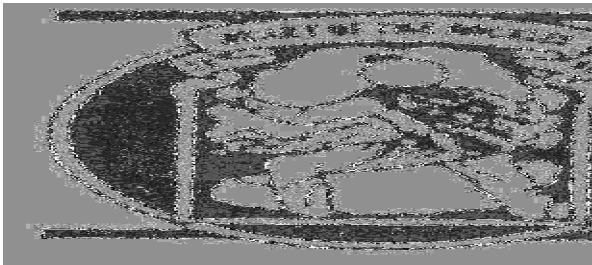
CONVENTION STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 5 1996 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Salida, CO 81201 // Convention Station Aug 5 1996
IR 00R 67.0x30.0 Pict Scene - Figure exiting cave, bat; Text -
HEART OF THE ROCKIES ::
National Speleological / Society



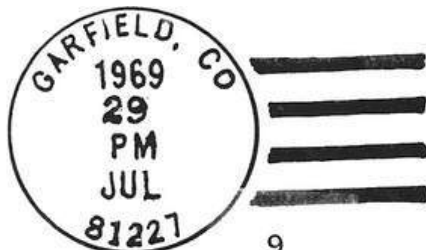
GARFIELD RURAL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 30 1963 Formerly an Independent Post Office
Feb 10 1966 Designated a Rural Branch
> > 1985 Converted to a Community Post Office
Mar 12 1990 Name changed to Monarch Community Post Office

Confirmed types of postal markings

8.1 GARFIELD / COLO. Jul 20 1964
CI 11P 29.0/18.0 Hstp No killer
9 GARFIELD, CO / 81227 Jul 29 1969
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-25x18mm
10 GARFIELD, CO / 81227 May 6 1971 Mar 25 1976
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-25x18mm
11 SALIDA, CO GARFIELD RUR BR / USPO Jan 19 1973
CI 11P 27.0/18.0 Hstp No killer



SALIDA STATIONS AND BRANCHES – Continued

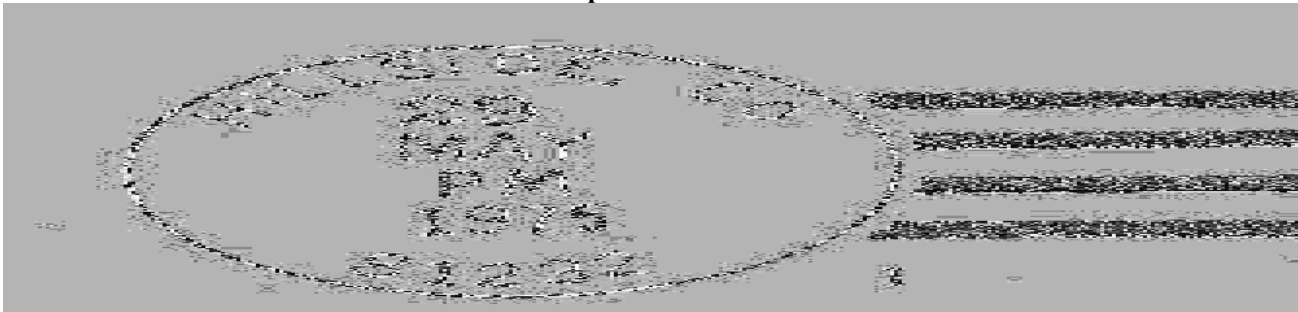
HILLSIDE RURAL BRANCH

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 25 1970 Formerly a Rural Branch of Canon City
--- --
 Converted to a Community Post Office

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | HILLSIDE, CO / 81232 | May 29 1975 | Apr 23 1976 |
| | CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x18mm | | |
| 1.1 | HILLSIDE, CO 81232 / CPO | Mar 20 1987 | |
| | CI 10P 34.0 4bars S-25x20mm | | |
| 2 | SALIDA, CO HILLSIDE RUR. BR. / USPO | Sep 17 1988 | |
| | CI 11P 27.0/18.0 Hstp No killer | | |



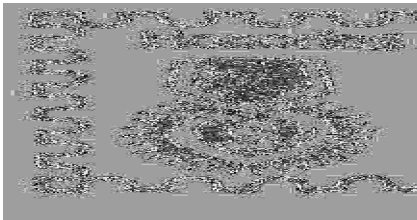
HONORING OUR VETERANS STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 8 2004 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Salida, CO 81201 // Honoring Our Veteran Station | Nov 8 2004 |
| | RC 10T 48.0 x 24.0 | Pict Scene – Purple Heart Medal; Text – Purple Heart
Frame simulates stamp perforations |



MONARCH COMMUNITY POST OFFICE

The Monarch Community Post Office was located in the main lodge of the Monarch Pass Ski Center. The change in name, from Garfield to Monarch, most likely took place when the post office was moved from the Garfield Store to the Ski Lodge. By 2001 the Garfield store had become some sort of a roadhouse, no longer a store.

Chronology of the Post Office

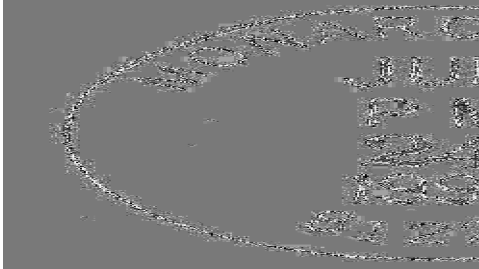
Mar 12 1990 Formerly the Garfield Community Post Office
--- --
 Discontinued

For previous markings, see Monarch Independent Post Office

SALIDA STATIONS AND BRANCHES – Continued
MONARCH COMMUNITY POST OFFICE – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

4	MONARCH, CO / 81227 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 18 1990 Apr 17 1995
---	------------------------------------	-----------------	-------------------------



OHIO RURAL BRANCH

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 29 1972	Formerly an Independent Post Office
-----	Converted to a Community Post Office
Jul 31 2001	Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	OHIO, CO / 81237 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Oct 10 1972 May 22 1976
2	SALIDA, CO OHIO CPO / USPO CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 28 1991
3	OHIO, CO 81237 / CPO CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-26x21mm	Jun 28 1991
4	OHIO CITY CO / 81237 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x18mm	Aug 4 1997 Jul 31 2001
5	OHIO CITY CO 81237 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 31 2001



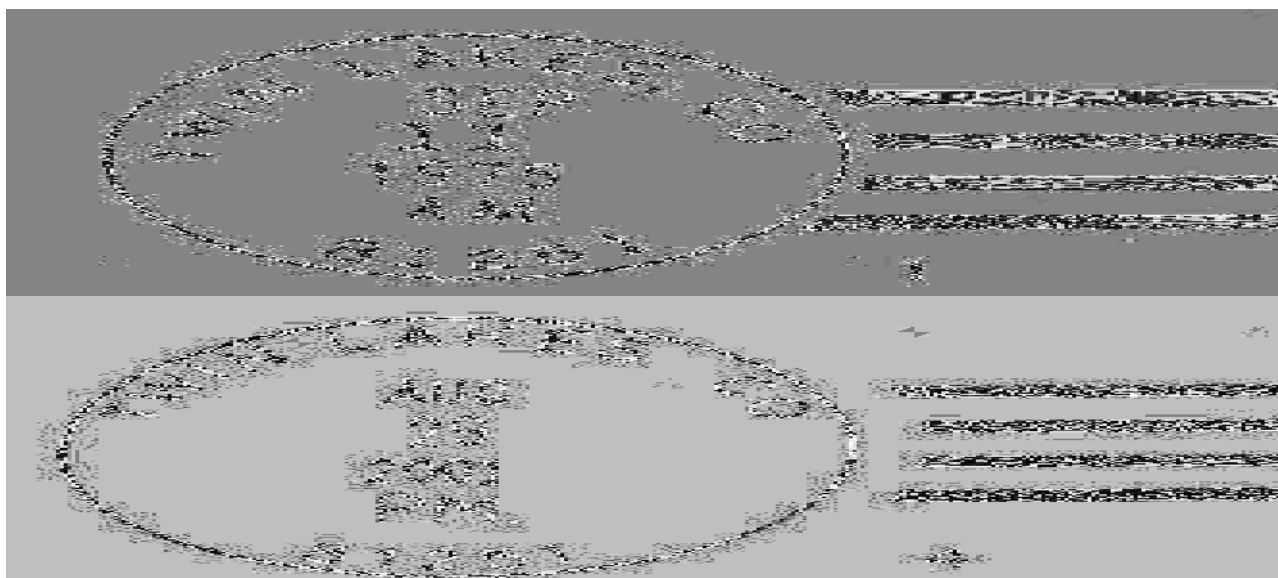
**SALIDA STATIONS AND BRANCHES – Continued
TWIN LAKES COMMUNITY POST OFFICE**

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 26 1975 Formerly an Independent Post Office

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	TWIN LAKES, CO / 81251 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Apr 25 1975 Sep 11 1975
2	TWIN LAKES, 81251 / CPO CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jun 7 1985 May 2 1989
3	SALIDA, CO TWIN LAKES CPO / USPO CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 4 1988
4	TWIN LAKES CO / 81251 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-20x16mm	Aug 29 2001
5	TWIN LAKES CO 81251 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 29 2001



WAL*MART STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 17 1999 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SALIDA, CO / 81201 :: WAL*MART / STATION CI 10P 25.0	Pict Scene - Sylvester, Tweety, DaffyDuck, Bugs Bunny	Apr 17 1999
---	---	---	-------------



SHAVANO (I) – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 13 1880	---	Unsurveyed Maysville - 9 miles southeast On north side of the North Fork of South Arkansas River Proposed postmaster - Martin V. B. McAleer
Aug 4 1880		Established
Aug 4 1880		McAleer, Martin V.
Nov 30 1880		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SHAVANO (I)

SHAVANO (II)

In 1929 another post office named Shavano was authorized. The application for the office suggested the name Federal but that was rejected in favor of Shavano.

There seems to be no record of this Shavano other than in the records of the Post Office Department. Those records open questions as to where this Shavano was located and in particular whether it was in Chaffee County or in Fremont County.

The Federal Survey Location described in the Geographic Site Location Report places this second Shavano very close to the county line, about six miles northeast of Salida. The Report also points out the controversy as to in which county the post office was located.

This is one of the sites, which I have not visited. In 1996, when visiting some of the obscure locations in Chaffee County I did not have the information as to the location. When I did learn the land survey location and plotted it on the 1963 Colorado Highway Department map for Chaffee County there was a road shown to the location. However, the 1980 USGS Topographic Map of Chaffee County does not show a road leading to the location.

Therefore I have to leave it to someone else to resolve the question and to determine if there is anything left at the site of the second Shavano. It seems likely that this was a short-lived ranch post office in a remote corner of Chaffee County.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 14 1929	---	SE/4 Sec 20 T50N R10E 12 miles northeast by road from the Arkansas River. 3 miles west of Badger Creek. 1 mile east (??) of county line Applicant for postmaster - Tessie Bucher NOTE: in file: Shavano plots in Fremont County, note correction made by P.M.. Unit Number will not change. Second Note: Have queried new applic as to what county new office is in ? She replied - Chaffee!
Jan 4 1930		Established
Jan 4 1930		Bucher, Tessie
Sep 15 1930		Ordered closed
Sep 20 1930		Discontinued Mail to Salida

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SHAVANO (II)

SILVERDALE

Silverdale was a short-lived post office and mining camp on Clear Creek between Vicksburg and Winfield.

This site is better known as Rockdale. It seems likely that Rockdale was a mining camp established at about the same time as nearby Vicksburg. In 1881, a mining company proposed to establish a town on a 136-acre site adjoining Rockdale. This would have been a company town with a post office, boarding house, assay office, store and an office for the mining company. Contracts were let for the construction of a large mill that apparently was never completed. The plans for the town fell through and it may have all been a promotional scheme.

A post office with the name Silverdale was authorized and during its four months of life had two postmasters. This brief activity points to a lack of ore deposits at Silverdale/Rockdale that were worth exploiting.

Briefly, from March 17 to April 12, 1882, there was a Rockdale Post Office in Fremont County. That name was changed to Rockvale and is still in operation. By two months, the application for the Silverdale Post Office predates the application for the Rockdale in Fremont County. Thus, the choice of the name Silverdale for the post office was likely a decision of the mining company to overshadow the adjoining Rockdale settlement.

From Vicksburg continue west on Clear Creek Road two miles. A short distance south of the road there is a row of four restored cabins and a couple small outbuildings. A plaque placed on one of the cabins by the Clear Creek Historical Society, identifies this as the site of Silverdale, called Rockdale.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 10 1882	---	Unsurveyed Vicksburgh 1-1/2 miles northeasterly; Winfield 4-1/2 miles westerly. 1/4 mile north of Clear Creek Proposed postmaster - George F. Reed
Jan 23 1882		Established
Jan 23 1882		Reed, James F.
Feb 1 1882		Reed, George F.
May 25 1882		Discontinued Mail to Vicksburg

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SILVERDALE

SOUTH ARKANSAS

In the mid-1860's settlement began on the South Arkansas River where Poncha Creek joins the main stream. Early settlers were Ira King and John McPherson. When the post office was established it took the name of the river. Until 1877 the community would continue to be known as South Arkansas at which time the name was changed to Poncho Springs.

Throughout those early years South Arkansas was primarily a ranching supply center. The change in name likely indicates an attempt to publicize the Poncha Hot Springs that were about a mile south of the town and had become a small resort and health spa.

South Arkansas (Poncha Springs) is at the intersection of US Highway 50 and US Highway 285. Please refer to the discussions of Poncha Springs and Poncho Springs for more about this locality.

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 4 1866	---	No survey Five miles west of the Arkansas River, on east bank of the South Arkansas River.
Apr 22 1868		Established
Apr 22 1868		Bourne, William
Jun 26 1868		King, Ira

TURRET – Continued

By 1939 Turret was virtually deserted and its remote location and somewhat difficult access permitted it to remain a well-preserved ghost town until recent years. Some improvement in the road has opened the site to a small revival.



Turret, Colorado – A restored historic building for sale

Photograph by William H. Bauer

August 29, 2001

If you have followed the directions to Calumet that have been previously reported you should have no trouble continuing on to Turret. From the junction of Chaffee County Roads 184 and 185 in Railroad Gulch, drive west on County Road 184. It is a little over three miles to Turret. The road is rough and steep in some places.

You will have no difficulty recognizing Turret when you arrive. There are still a few older buildings scattered in the valley along Cat Creek. There are also several modern buildings and a subdivision development office.

From Turret, return to County Road 175 and perhaps go on to visit Manoa.

Latitude = 38:38:25 North Longitude = 105:59:18 West

Chronology of the Post Office

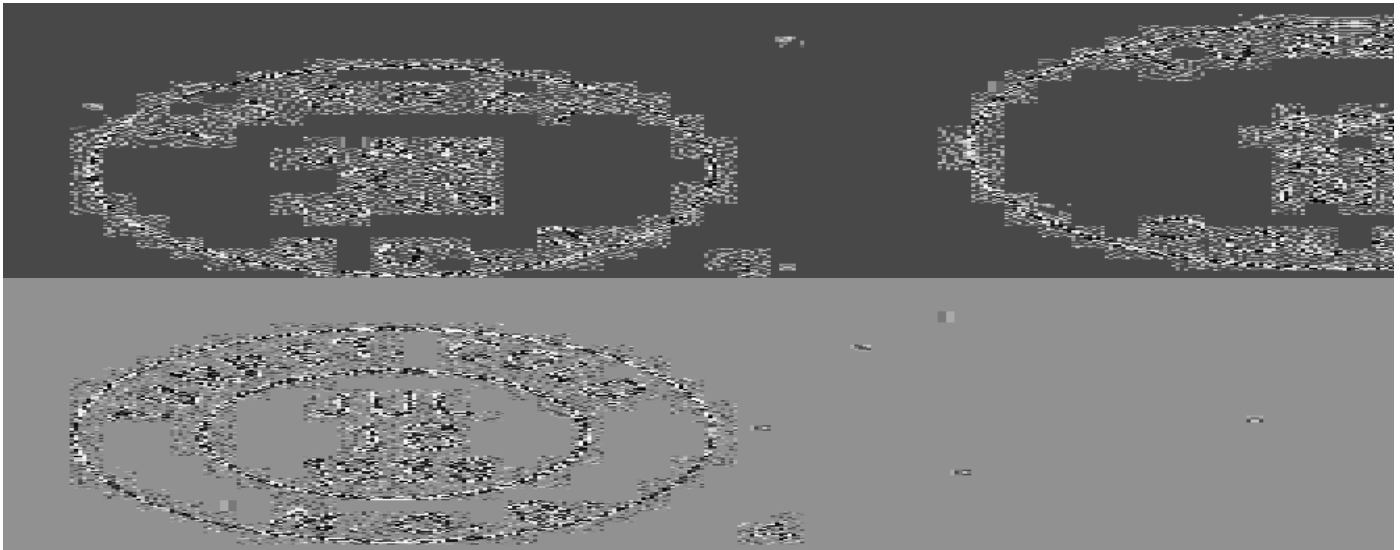
Oct 22 1897	---	NW/4 Sec 33 T51N R9E
Feb 28 1898		Established
Feb 28 1898		Hare, Shelby
Mar 8 1899		Robinson, Alba H.
Jul 22 1912		Austin, David E.
Oct 20 1913		Briggs, Lewis P.
Feb 26 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 28 T51N R9E 4-1/2 miles east of the Arkansas River

TURRET – Continued

Nov 30 1917	Schlosser, Peter J.	
--- -- ----	Ordered Closed Mail to Salida	
Jul 31 1920	Rescinded (?)	
Jul 20 1920	Re-established	
Jul 20 1920	Austin, David E.	Confirmed
Sep 15 1920	Austin, David E.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1920	Austin, David E.	Assumed charge
Mar 7 1932	--- SE/4 Sec 29 T51S R9E	
Apr 21 1936	Schlosser, Peter J.	Assumed charge
May 14 1936	Schlosser, Peter J.	Acting
May 26 1936	Schlosser, Peter J.	Confirmed
May 29 1936	Schlosser, Peter J.	Commissioned
Jul 9 1939	Eoff, Mrs. Effie	Assumed charge
Aug 1 1939	Eoff, Mrs. Effie	Acting
Oct 11 1939	Ordered closed	
Oct 31 1939	Discontinued Mail to Salida	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	TURRET / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp No killer, smudge	Jan 20 1899 Apr 1- 1906
2	TURRET, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x13mm	Apr 27 1908 Jul 3 1915
3	TURRET / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	May 29 1937 Oct 31 1939
4	TURRET, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 18 1939



VICKSBURG

The initial traces of gold were found here in 1867, but the site was abandoned and there was no further interest until the summer of 1879. Several good lodes were found and by 1880 a sizeable community had developed. A post office was acquired in April 1881. Articles of Incorporation were filed on November 23, 1883. Eventually the good ore ran out and the costs of transportation sounded the end for Vicksburg although it did survive into the early twentieth century.

VICKSBURG – Continued

There are two thoughts as to the origin of the name. Most historians accept the suggestion that the town was named for “Vick” Kellar, who platted the townsite for Kellar, Peck and Company. A second suggestion is that Confederate veterans, prospecting and working in the area, named the town for Vicksburg, Mississippi. The connection to Vick Kellar seems most likely to be correct.

Vicksburg developed into a community substantial enough to survive the harsh winters in the high mountains. The town had the normal businesses for a remote mining camp.

Approximately a mile and a half south of Granite, turn west from US Highway 24 on to Clear Creek Road, Chaffee County Road 390. This road can be rough in spots, but it is not difficult and can easily be driven all the way to Vicksburg and on to Winfield.

Eight miles from US 24 you will reach the location of Vicksburg. The remaining buildings are on the north side of the road and there is a small parking lot. The site is maintained by the Clear Creek Historical Society. One of the cabins has been restored and is now used as a museum. Several other cabins have also been restored and are used as summer cabins. The “main street” of Vicksburg is lined with Balm of Gilead trees and is a picturesque scene.

Both times that I have visited Vicksburg, there was no one there, so being able to enter the museum is problematic.



Vicksburg, Colorado – Restored cabin, now houses a museum

Photograph by William H. Bauer

August 29, 2001

Latitude = 38:59:57 North Longitude = 106:22:38 West

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

Apr 1 1881 --- Not surveyed On the south side of Clear Creek
Proposed postmaster - George T. Rayne
[SRM Note: The name requested on Site Report was Vicksburgh. Whether the PO Dept changed the name is not known. The cancellers all read Vicksburg which is used herein.]

May 3 1881 Established
May 3 1881 Rayne, George T.
Oct 16 1882 Pelton, Benjamin H.
Nov 28 1884 Shepherd, Louis E.
Jul 30 1885 Discontinued Papers to Granite

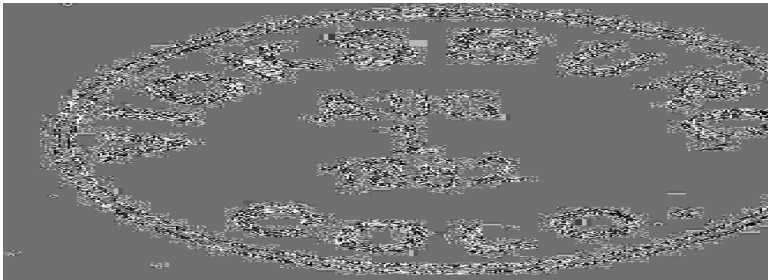


VICKSBURG, / COLO.

August 5, 1881

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | VICKSBURG, / COLO.
CI 20P 33.0/30.5 | Aug 5 1881 Sep 3 1882
Hstp Fancy, Positive star |
| 2 | VICKSBURG, / COLO.
CI 20P 28.0/26.0 | Jul 29 1883 Oct 18 1883
Hstp Fancy, floral pattern |



WINFIELD

Winfield was the third post office along Clear Creek in northern Chaffee County. It was the westernmost of the three, located in a small open park at the junction of South Clear Creek and the North Fork of Clear Creek. The elevation at the location is 10,500 feet.

Settlement began in 1880. There were a number of small veins containing silver, gold, copper, lead and also molybdenite. The deposits were extensive enough to create a community of several hundred persons. The silver crash of 1893 sealed the doom of Winfield. There was a brief revival in the early twentieth century but by World War I the site was abandoned.

A plaque erected at the site by the Clear Creek Historical Society reads as follows:

Winfield, at the junction of the north and south forks of Clear Creek started off with some confusion as shown in this article from the *Chaffee County Times* of August 12, 1881. Lucknow, is the name given to the old town of Florence. Winfield is the name of the post office. So that it is a much named town. The townsite comprising 120 acres was taken up by T. H. Symon, G. R. Brown, J. S. Sharpe, Dr. J. J. Smith, L. W. Clark and Thomas Leasure. It is laid off in lots of 50 by 100 which are free to all desiring to build. No soulless corporation about that. A cabin was built at Winfield as early as 1861 and some prospecting was done in the area in 1867. But Winfield reached its heyday in 1890 with an estimated population of 1500. At its prime Winfield included three saloons, three stores, a post office, two hotels, a boarding house, mill, smelter, concentrator, church and a school which is now a museum containing school furnishings and displays. This museum is restored and operated by the Clear Creek Historical Society of Chaffee County. The Ball Cabin across the street from the schoolhouse is also a museum of the mining era. The silver market crash in 1893 halted the mining activity in Clear Creek Canyon. There was a resumption in the early 1900's. The last ore was hauled out of the canyon by two-horse stage in 1918.



Winfield, Colorado – A preserved building that now houses a “rural school” museum

Photograph by William H. Bauer

August 29, 2001

WINFIELD – Continued

From Vicksburg, Winfield is four miles west on Clear Creek Road. The site is obvious with the restored buildings setting in an open field along the road. The trip from US Highway 24 through Vicksburg and Silverdale to Winfield is worth the effort. The road is passable for most vehicles, the scenery is wonderful and there are relics of the early days of mining to be seen.

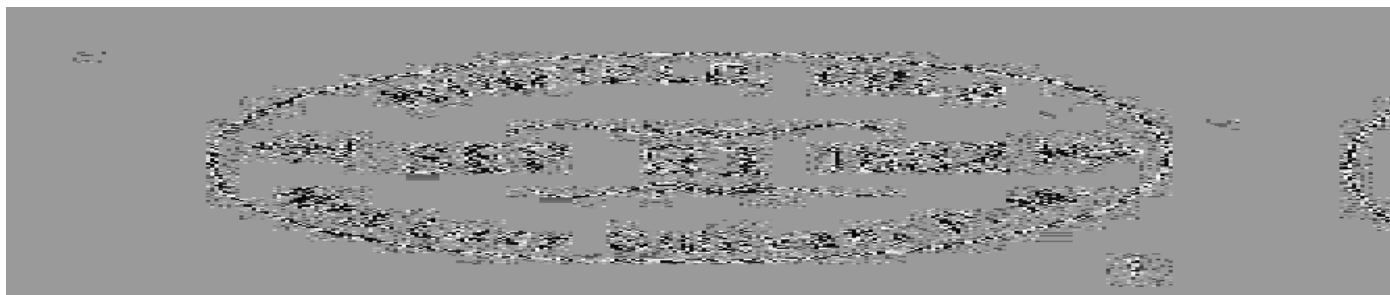
Latitude = 38:59:05 North Longitude = 106:26:25 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 23 1881	---	Unsurveyed On north side of Clear Creek. At forks of creek Proposed postmaster - Mrs Orin Sullivan (first name ???)
Jul 5 1881		Established
Jul 5 1881		Sullivan, Orin
Aug 11 1881		Sullivan, Lucy
Sep 25 1886		Craig, Joseph R.
Aug 8 1898		Symons, Phillip H.
Jan 25 1901		Payne, Mary E.
Dec 12 1908		Benell, James F/
Sep 15 1912		Discontinued Mail to Granite

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	WINFIELD, COLO. / Mrs. Lucy Sullivan; P.M.	Sep 21 1882
	OV 10P 42.0x27.0	Hstp Pen cancel
2	WINFIELD / COLO.	Jun 27 1900
	CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
3	WINFIELD, / COLO.	Dec 29 1906 Jun 17 1911
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x13mm



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

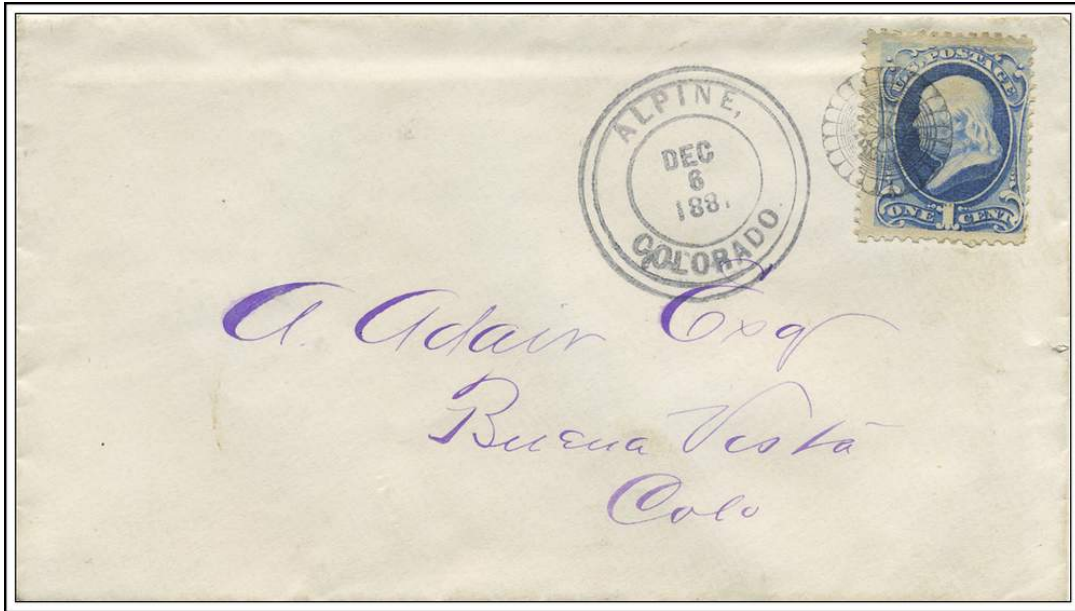
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GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

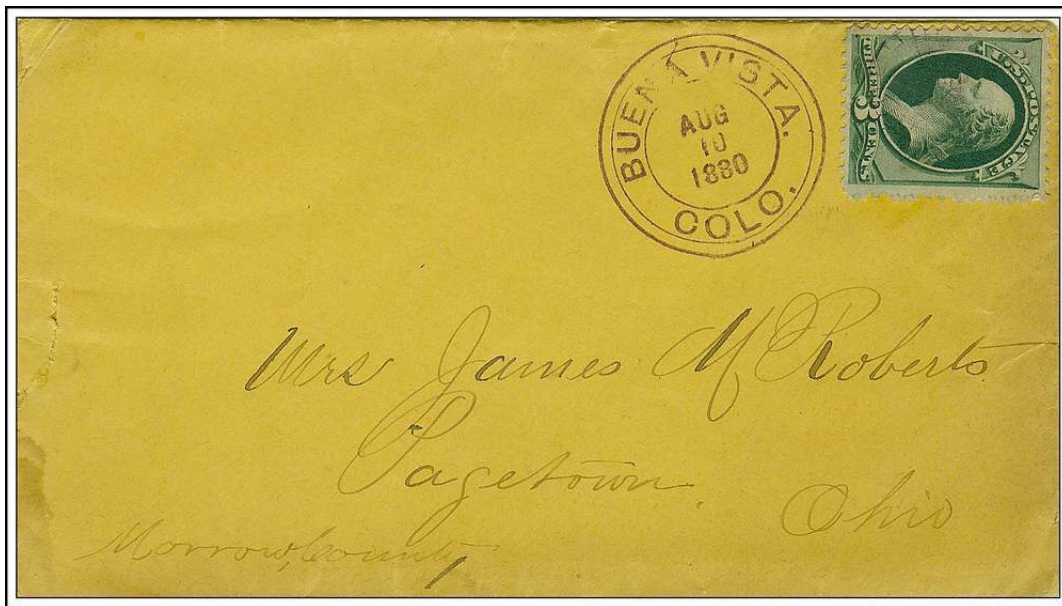
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams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

A GALLERY OF CHAFFEE COUNTY COVERS



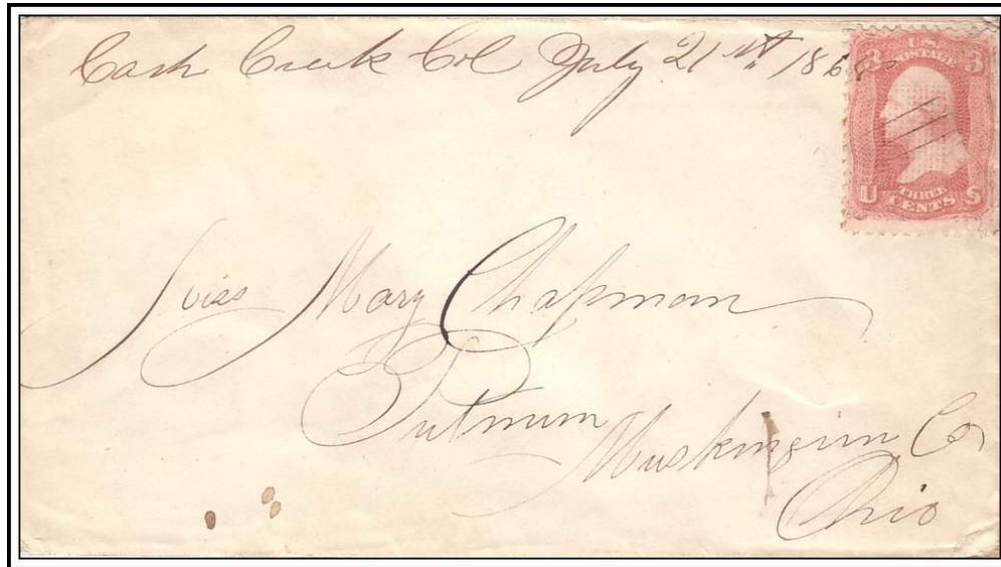
ALPINE, / COLORADO.

December 6, 1881



BUENA VISTA. / COLO.

August 10, 1880



Cash Creek Col July 21, 1868



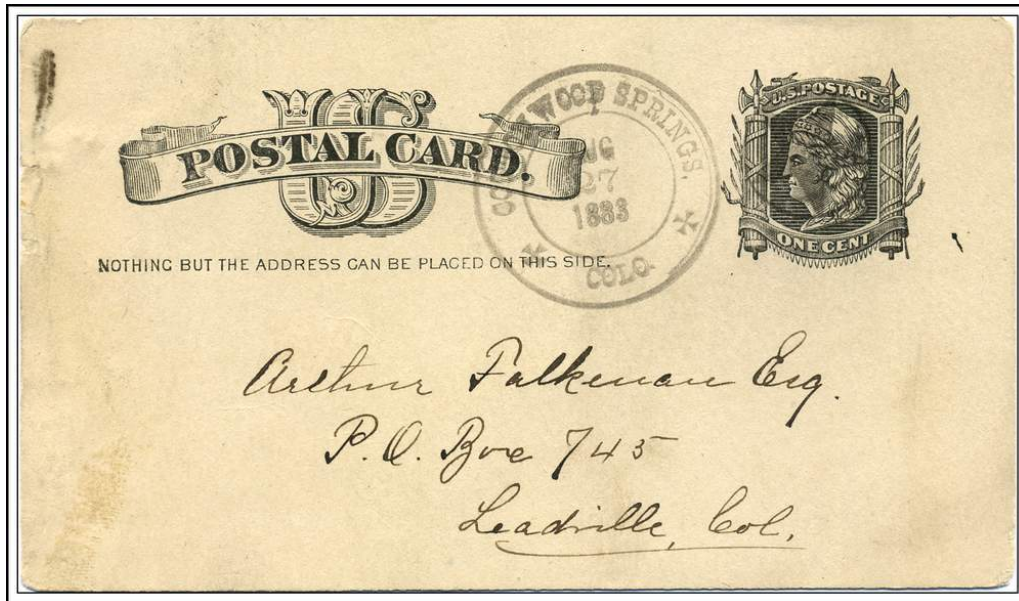
CENTREVILLE, / COLO. November 10, 1878



CHAFFEE, / COLO. March 2-, 1880



CLEORA, LAKE CO., / COLO. March 12, 1879



COTTONWOOD SPRINGS, / COLO. August 27, 1883



FREE GOLD, / COLO. March 1, 1881



HANCOCK, / COLO. September 18, 1881



Helena Colo June 28, 1874



HORTENSE / COLO.

January 2, (1880)



Mahonville, Colo.

January 4, 1879



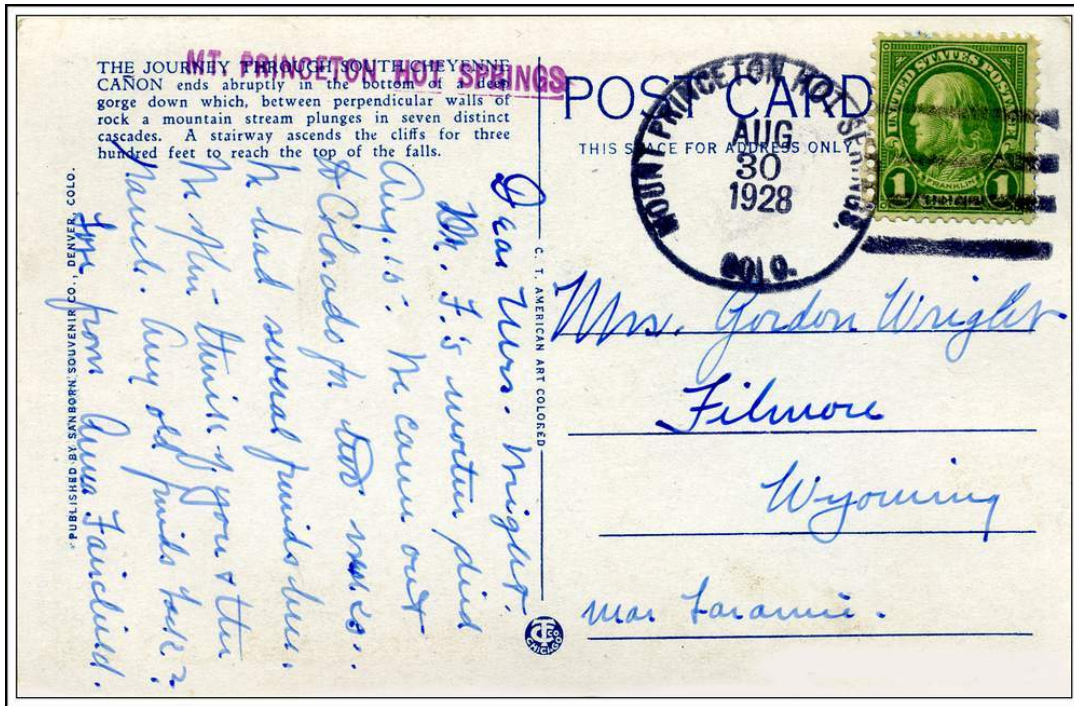
MAYSVILLE, / COLO.

August 14, 1881

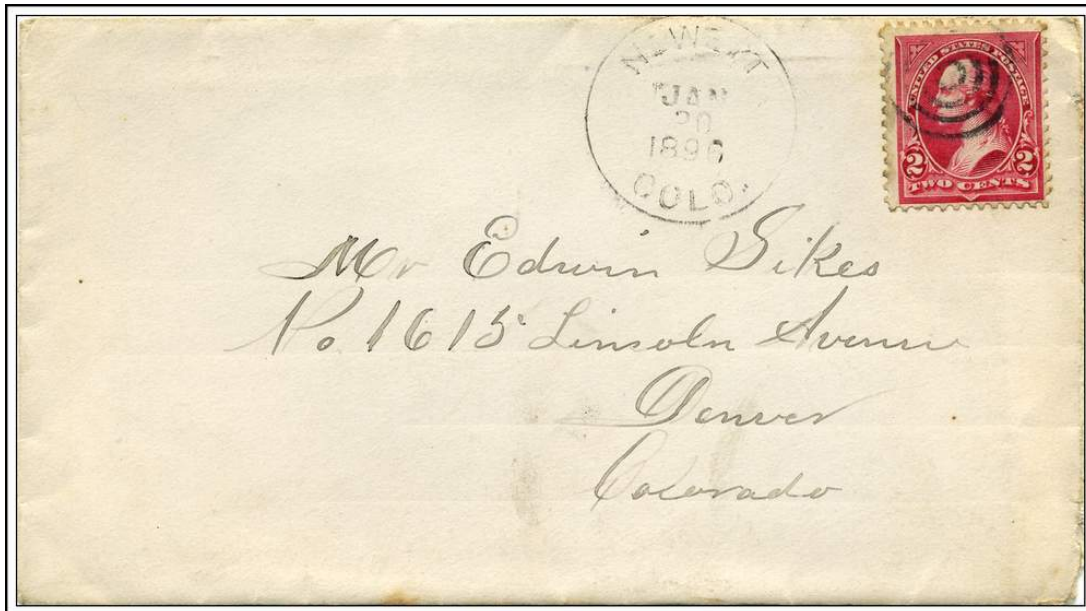


MONARCH, / COLO.

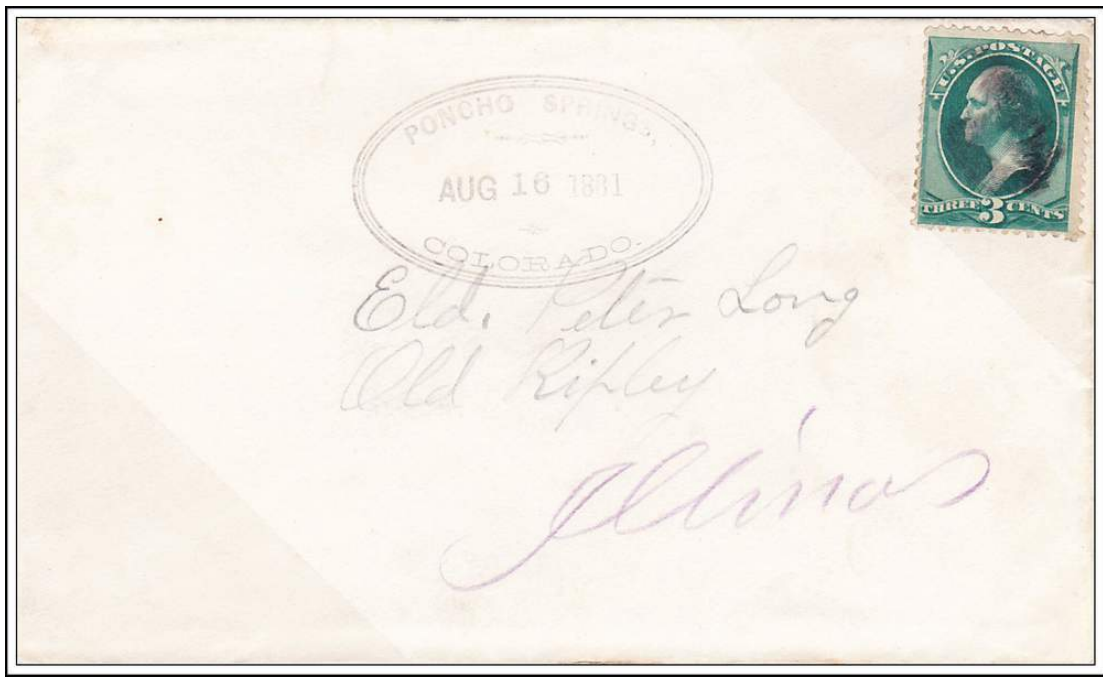
September 16, 1886



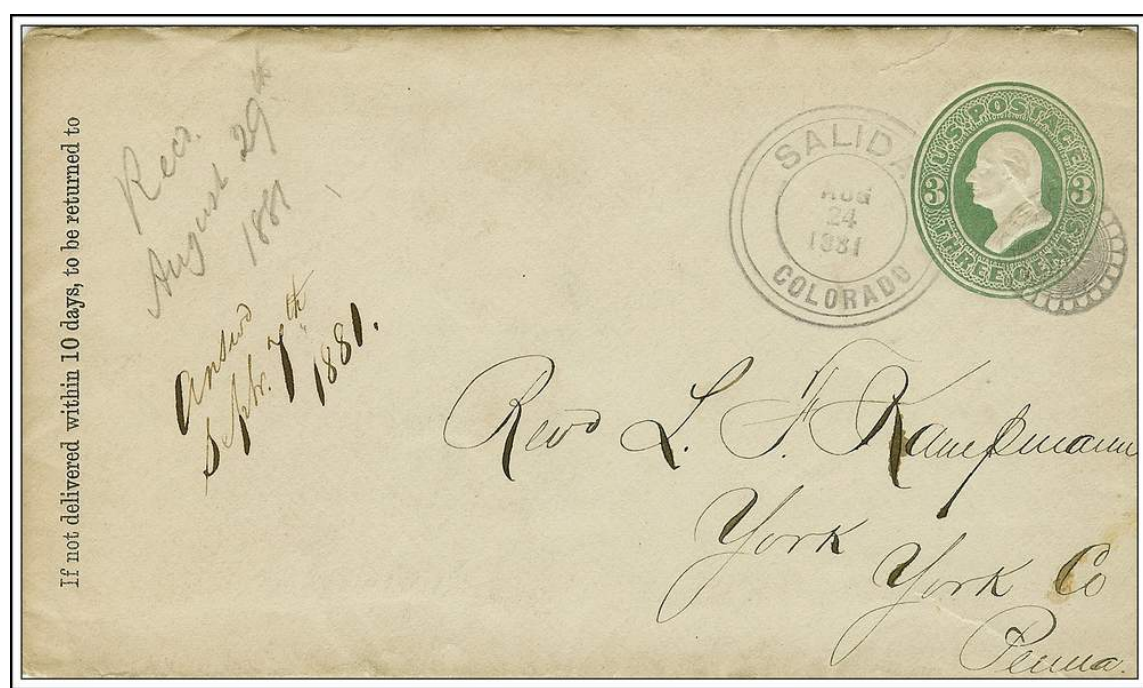
MOUNT PRINCETON HOT SPRINGS, / COLO. August 30, 1928



NEWETT / COLO. January 20, 1896



PONCHO SPRINGS, / COLORADO. August 16, 1881



SALIDA / COLORADO August 24, 1881



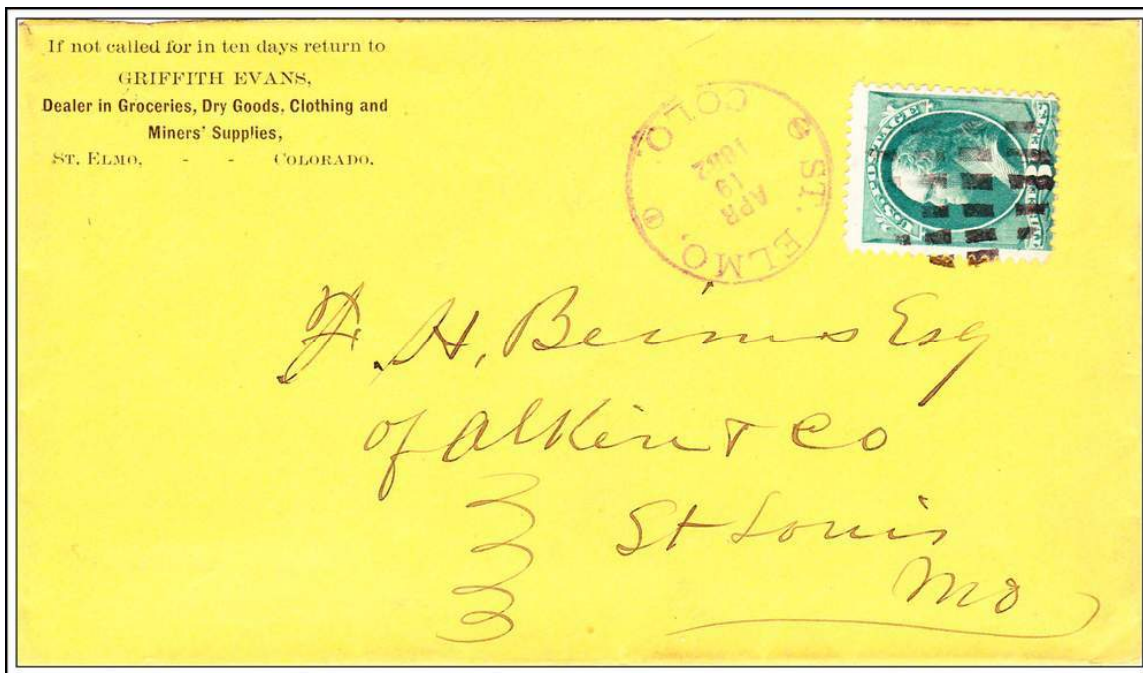
SALIDA / COLORADO.

September 17, 1897



SALIDA, COLO.

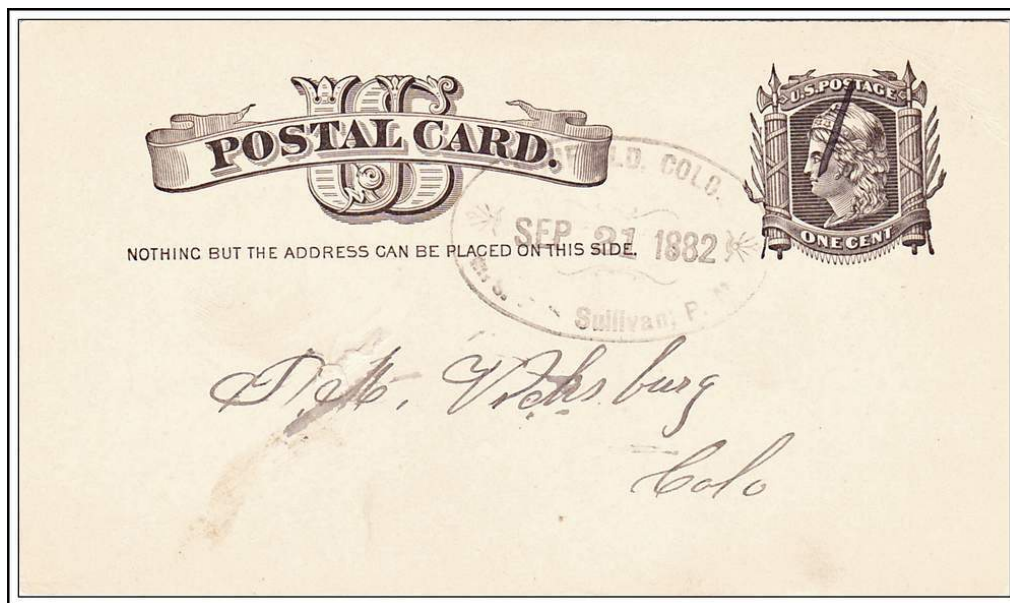
January 2, 1913



ST. ELMO, / COLO.

April 19, 1882

Note screw heads in cds



WINFIELD, COLO. / Mrs. Lucy Sullivan; P. M.

September 21, 1882