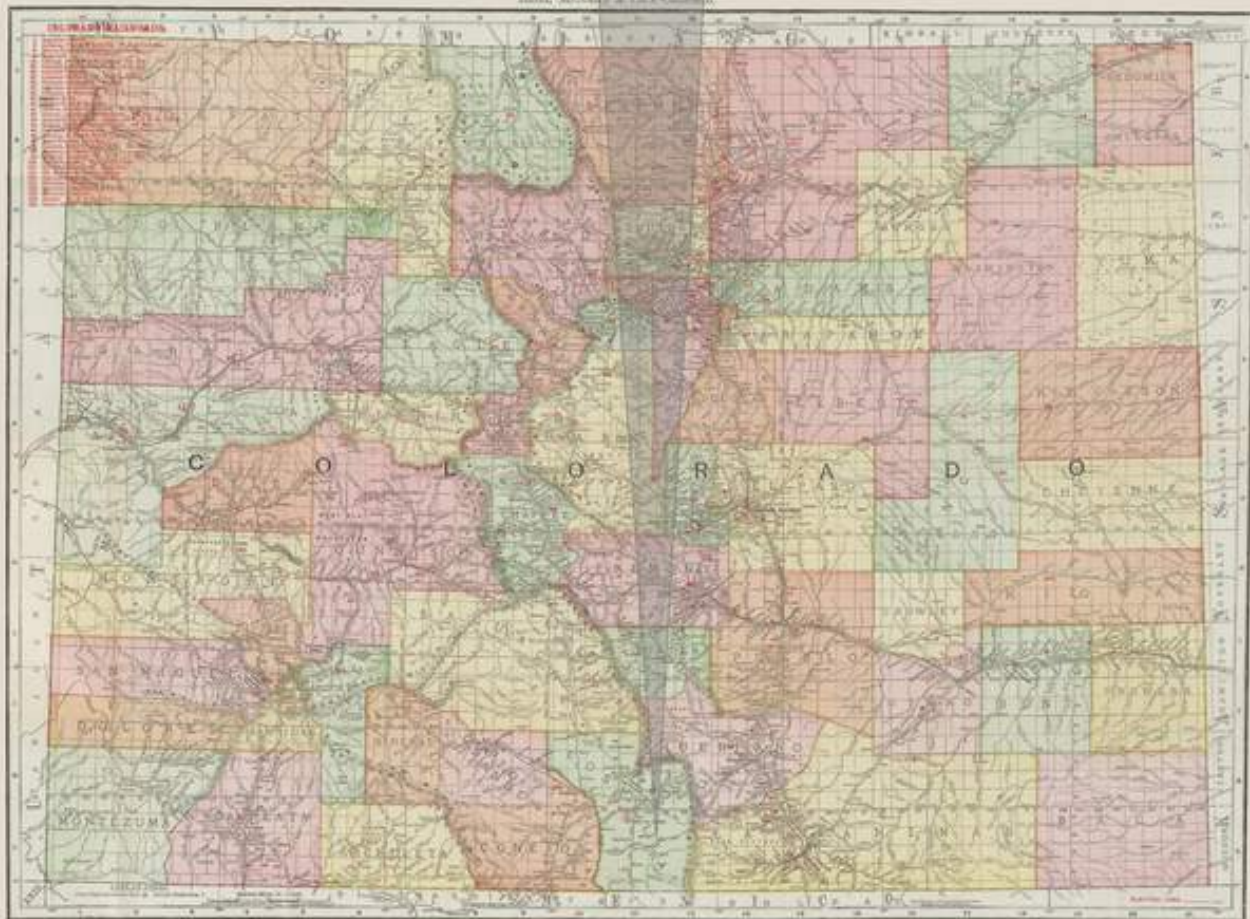


# Costilla County



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

*Established: November 1, 1861*

*County Seat: San Luis*

## **COSTILLA COUNTY**

The history of Costilla County dates to the earliest days of non-Native American settlement in Colorado. Situated at the southern end of the San Luis Valley and along the Rio Grande del Norte it was in the line of northern expansion from the Mexican settlements at Santa Fe and Taos.

The area was a portion of the huge Sangre de Cristo Land Grant from the Mexican government. The early attempts of the Mexicans to settle on the grant were repulsed by the native Ute Indians. In 1852, after control of the region had passed to the United States, Fort Massachusetts was constructed at the western foot of Mount Blanca. Although the fort's location proved unsatisfactory, it did provide some security in the southern San Luis Valley and by 1854 some small Mexican "plazas" had been established. In 1861, when the new Colorado Territorial Legislature subdivided the Territory into counties, Costilla was one of the original seventeen. It included an area bordered by the Rio Grande River, the Continental Divide and the crest of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. In 1866 the northern portion and the western extremity were lost in part to Conejos County and to the new Saguache County. Some of that territory would eventually become parts of Hinsdale, Mineral and Rio Grande counties. In 1874 the formation of Rio Grande County further trimmed the western side of Costilla County. The county's boundaries remained static until 1913 when the northwestern corner was cut away to become part of Alamosa County.

The crest of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains still forms the eastern boundary of Costilla County. The southern boundary is the state line with New Mexico (Taos and Colfax Counties). The western boundary is the Rio Grande River with Conejos County occupying the west bank. While most of the eastern boundary is with Las Animas County, the northern portion is with Huerfano County. This boundary curves around the upper drainage of Sangre de Cristo Creek to the 14,345-foot summit of Blanca Peak. From there the boundary is with Alamosa County on a line running southwest to the Rio Grande River. The maximum east to west dimension is about 36 miles. North to south the distance is approximately 45 miles.

Costilla County is entirely within the drainage of the Rio Grande River. The principal streams, all intermittent in flow, drain west from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the river. From north to south, they include Sangre de Cristo Creek, Trinchera Creek, Culebra Creek and San Francisco Creek. The climate is arid to semi-arid and can be very hot in summer and bitter cold in winter.

The original county seat was designated as San Miguel; however, today no one is really certain of where that was. For all practical purposes, San Luis has been the county seat since the very early 1860's. San Luis, Fort Garland and the newer Blanca are the principal towns in Costilla County. Some of the other communities are still inhabited but offer few services to their present day residents. That state of affairs is reflective of the steady decline of the small agricultural enterprises that supported the smaller communities.

Initially, travel into the county was from the north or from the south with some travel from the east by way of La Veta Pass. In 1876-1877 the Denver & Rio Grande Railway built over La Veta Pass, down Sangre de Cristo Creek and out into the valley, reaching Alamosa in 1878. Along the way, it passed through Russell and Fort Garland and established a new and more efficient route of travel. Later, the railroad shifted south to Veta Pass and from there down Wagon Creek to its junction with Sangre de Cristo Creek. Today, in Costilla County, US Highway 160 follows the original railroad route to Alamosa. From Fort Garland, Colorado 159 runs south to San Luis and on into New Mexico. From San Luis, Colorado 142 runs west across the Rio Grande to Romeo in Conejos County. Local travel is on a network of county roads, only a few of which are paved.

A look at a recent detailed map of Costilla County presents a misleading picture. The density of roads is worthy of modern suburbia near a major city; however, most of those roads exist only in the mind of developers and the County Records Office. Only a few can be found on the ground and even fewer

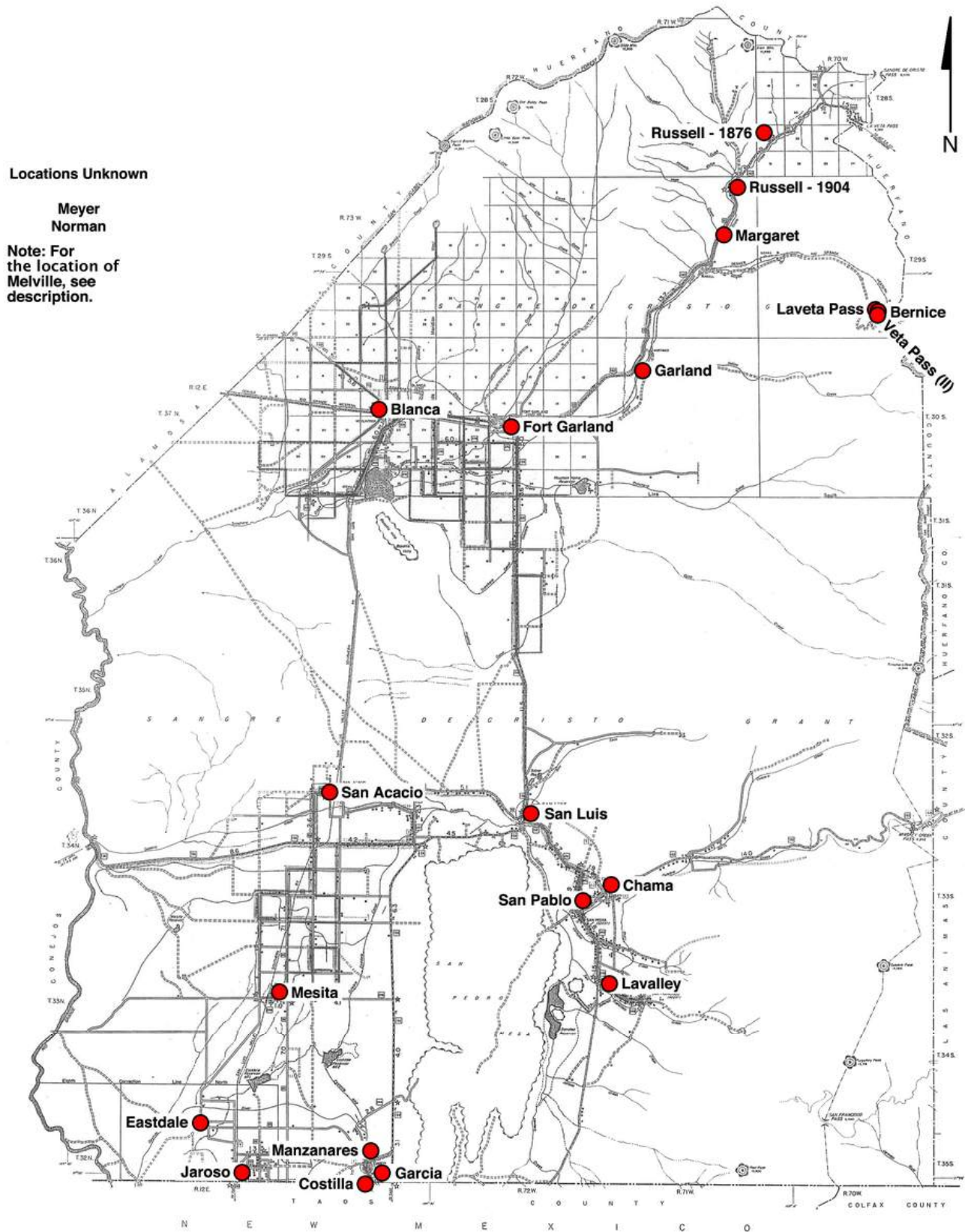
are open to travel. The 750,000 acre Sangre de Cristo Land Grant was supposed to be accepted by the United States Government, but when all the legal activity ceased, it was considerably reduced. Portions have been sold off, becoming ranch land, or speculative developments.

One of the developments is the Forbes Trinchera Ranch. Much of this large block of land was platted for development and indeed, there has been scattered development within the project. However, the aridity of the San Luis Valley and the expense of establishing water, electricity and other services has prevented rapid development. Several years back, I recall seeing in a national magazine an advertisement for the Trinchera development that was accompanied by a photograph of a magnificent mountain view. The implication was that this would be the view from your "estate" in Costilla County. However, I recognized the view as that seen from Dallas Divide about 200 miles to the west.

Unlike much of mountain Colorado, mining played very little part in the development of Costilla County. There was some placer gold in the vicinity of Russell. Turquoise was mined by the Indians and continues to be produced in small quantities. Perlite, a light weight volcanic material was also quarried in Costilla County. Beyond that limited mining activity, agriculture was the foundation of the economy. Crops and livestock were important and still provide much of the livelihood in the southern portion of the county. The reliance on agriculture has declined because successful farming requires extensive irrigation and water rights in the Rio Grande system continue to be sold off to downstream municipalities and agribusinesses.



**Garland Site View – Site Overview to North Blanca Peak**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 8, 1999



Post Office Location Map – Costilla County

## **BERNICE**

Bernice is one of the names applied to the post office that was located on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad near the summit of Veta Pass. The other names were La Veta Pass (1903–1911) and Veta Pass (1911–1935). The Post Office Department placed all three of these offices Costilla County.

When discussing Costilla County, it is necessary to realize that there are three different passes that have or still serve as transportation routes between Huerfano and Costilla counties. Beginning to the south is Veta Pass (9,242 feet) which is where the Denver and Rio Grande (Union Pacific) now crosses the Sangre de Cristo Range. Next to the north is La Veta Pass (9,382 feet) which was the original crossing of the range for the Denver and Rio Grande. It was abandoned in favor of the crossing at Veta Pass. A county road still goes over this route and was the site for a post office that was also called Veta Pass (1889-1890).

The third pass is North Veta Pass (9,413 feet). This is the crossing for US Highway 160 and there has never been a post office at this location. There was a North Veta Post Office but it was in Huerfano County on the highway near the eastern foot of North Veta Pass.

The Bernice Post Office was on Wagon Creek and the railroad. Maps indicate that there is a road that would get one close to the summit of Veta Pass. It begins on Highway 160 at a point where there is a sign directing people to Forbes Park. Unfortunately when I attempted this trip, I got as far as the Forbes Park development office, which was closed. There I encountered a gate that required a card key for entry; so I had to turn back. Perhaps at another time the gate may be open or I can get permission to go ahead. The starting point on US 160 is also the site of Margaret and one of the sites for Russell.

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

<b>Jan 25 1901</b>	---	<b>Sec 21 T39S R70W On summit of range. East side of D&amp;RG, 100 feet from tracks, La Veta Pass. RR town, about 20 employees</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Eva Lively</b>
		<b>Other suggested names - Norvin, Lively</b>
<b>Feb 26 1901</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Feb 26 1901</b>		<b>Lively, Eva</b>
<b>Sep 10 1901</b>		<b>Noffsinger, Epestine E.</b>
<b>May 1 1902</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>May 16 1902</b>		<b>Discontinued Papers to La Veta</b>

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

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

## **BLANCA**

*Postmarks and Places* by George Harlan gives a clue that there may be more than one location for Blanca. Harlan refers to it as Blanca (North Arrastre) and states that it was called Camp Bowerman, for Jim Bowerman who had made a rich strike in the Gunnison District. This reference would seem to support the locations given in the Post Office Department Site Location Reports, which are several miles from modern Blanca and are mentioned as being north of Zapato Creek.

The conclusion from this evidence is that the Blanca Post Office of 1894-1902 was at a location(s) that are now in Alamosa County. This should create separate listings: Blanca (I) and Blanca (II).

The modern Blanca, four miles west of Fort Garland on US Highway 160, began in 1908 with a land lottery for a site on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad west of Fort Garland. The sale was by a Kansas City company for plots of five or more acres with an understanding that the winners would be eligible for larger tracts in another drawing. Initially the enterprise was known as the Trinchera Colony, but soon adopted the name Blanca for the 14,345-foot peak that rises north of the town and dominates the scenery of this portion of the San Luis Valley. Blanca is Spanish for, "white."

**BLANCA – Continued**

Blanca was incorporated July 18, 1910 with 960 acres. Privately owned water and electric systems served it.

Blanca was a shipping point for produce grown in the vicinity and for volcanic scoria mined at Mesita in the southern portion of Costilla County.

Latitude = 37:26:17 North Longitude = 105:30:55 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

**BLANCA (I) (Alamosa County)**

Sep 6 1894	---	SW/4 Sec 15 T40N R73W (T27S crossed out) Five miles north of Zapato Creek The sketch map is confusing: It is labeled as T27S R73W 6th PM, but to the west side is T40N R12E and to the southwest T39N R12E Proposed postmaster - Henderson W. Poundstone	
Oct 5 1894		Established	
Oct 5 1894		Poundstone, Henderson W.	
Jul 31 1895		Discontinued Papers to Montville	
Apr 17 1898		Re-established	
Apr 17 1898		Nelson, John D.	
Aug 16 1898	---	NE/4 Sec 16 T27S R73W, 6th PM 3 miles north of Zapato Creek Sketch maps shows it on the "mail route" from Montville to Zapato. Proposed postmaster - George W. Pittman	
Nov 21 1899		Kunkle, Daniel U.	
Dec 14 1899		Kunkle, Darius U.	
Apr 10 1900		Boyd, Charles S.	Rescinded July 3 1900
Jul 21 1900		Nalls, Byron W.	
Aug 9 1900		Ordered closed	
Aug 31 1900		Discontinued Papers to Zapato	
Nov 30 1900	---	SW/4 Sec 22 T27S R73W, 6th PM; "Mining Camp" Proposed postmaster - Thomas B. Sharpnack	
Dec 28 1900		Sharpnack, Thomas B.	
Dec 28 1900		Re-established	
Oct 25 1901		Phelps, Edward W.	
Jan 22 1902		Ordered closed	
Feb 15 1902		Discontinued Papers to Mosca	
Oct 28 1908		Re-established	
Oct 28 1908		Mills, Richard L.	
Jan 1 1911			Office made Presidential
Mar 28 1911		Griffith, Frank E.	Presidential
Apr 24 1911		Griffith, Frank E.	P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
Dec 20 1911		Botens, Lewis F.	P&S
Apr 30 1913	---	SE/4 Sec 14 T30S R73W; 200 feet north of the D&RG	
Jul 1 1913			Relegated
Nov 4 1913		Liggett, Vaden R.	
Feb 24 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 14 T30S R73W; 320 feet north of the D&RG;	
Oct 1 1921			Office made Presidential
Jun 13 1922		Clark, Susan L.	P&S
Jul 1 1923			Relegated
Aug 3 1923		Clark, Susan	
Feb 4 1929		Tessler, William P.	
Jun 4 1929		Tessler, Virginia B.	Confirmed
Jun 24 1929		Tessler, Virginia B.	Commissioned
Dec 21 1936		Simmer, Wesley A.	Acting
Jan 1 1937		Simmer, Wesley A.	Assumed charge
Oct 7 1940		Simmer, Wesley A.	Nominated

## BLANCA – Continued

Oct 8 1940	Simmer, Wesley A.	Confirmed
Oct 14 1940	Simmer, Wesley A.	Appointed Presidential
Nov 12 1940	Simmer, Wesley A.	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941	--- SW/4 Sec 14 T30S R73W; Main Street,	US-160; 360 feet north of railroad
Jul 25 1942	Simmer, Wesley A.	Confirmed
Aug 31 1942	Simmer, Wesley A.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1943		Office made Presidential
Sep 28 1943	Simmer, Wesley A.	Nominated
Oct 1 1943	Simmer, Wesley A.	Confirmed
Oct 2 1943	Simmer, Wesley A.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Apr 1 1958	Simmer, Edna E.	Assumed charge
Apr 4 1958	Simmer, Edna E.	Acting
Apr 25 1959	West, Linton L.	Nominated
Jul 30 1959	West, Linton L.	Confirmed
Jul 31 1959	West, Linton L.	Appointed Presidential
Aug 25 1959	West, Linton L.	Commissioned
Oct 23 1959	West, Linton L.	Assumed charge
Oct 10 1974	Hayashida, Mary	Officer in charge
Mar 29 1975	West, Mildred E.	Appointed

## Confirmed types of postal markings

## BLANCA (I) (Alamosa County)

1	BLANCA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Mar 7 1899 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
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## BLANCA (II) (Costilla County)

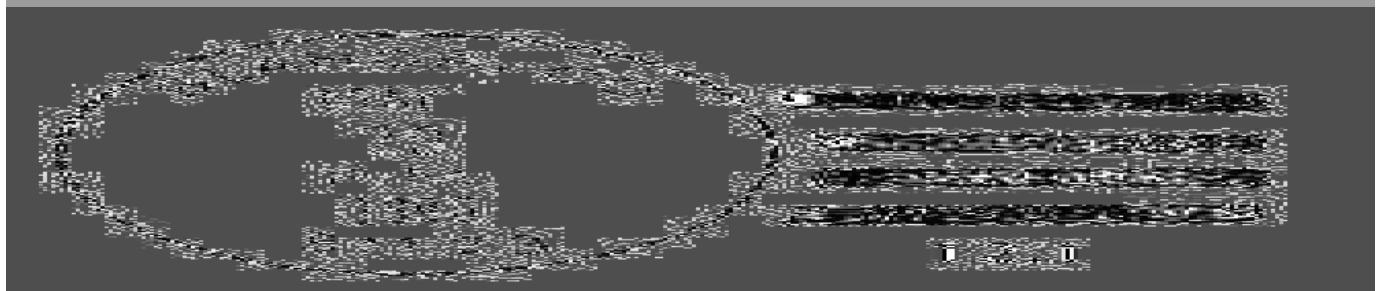
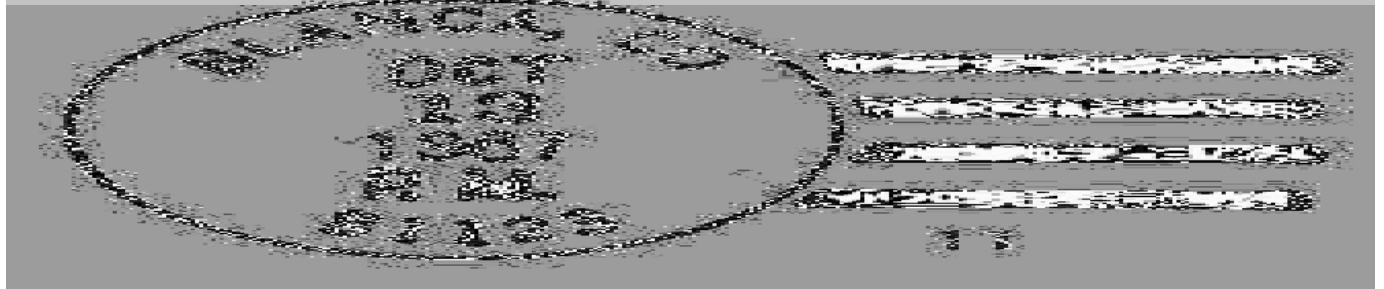
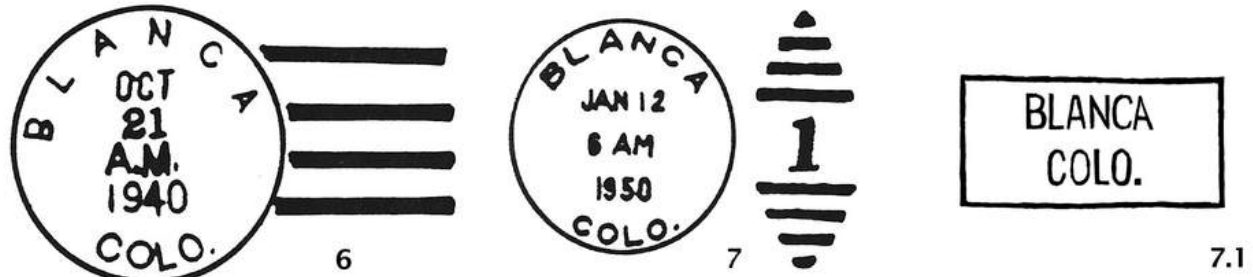
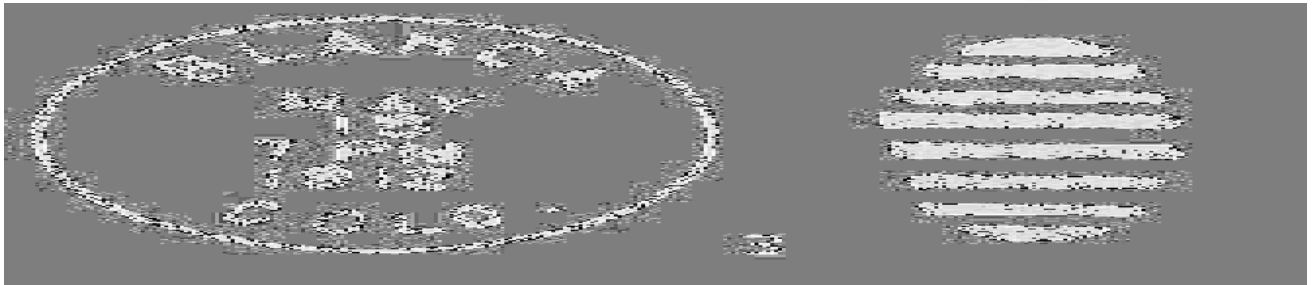
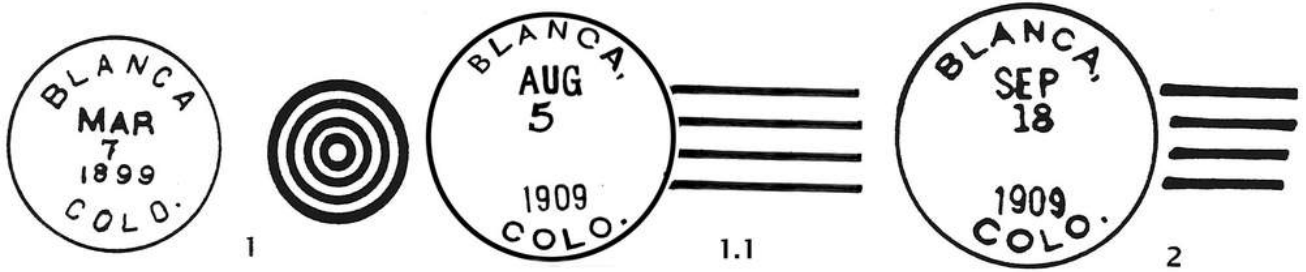
1.1	BLANCA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Aug 5 1909 4bars S-25x14mm
2	BLANCA, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Mar 27 1909 Oct 27 1909 4bars S-??x14mm
3	BLANCA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	May 5 1912 Jun 2 1914 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
4	BLANCA, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Jul 27 1937 Jan 21 1939 Hstp No killer
5	BLANCA, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	Feb 27 1936 Aug 5 1946 4bars S-25x20mm, letters close spaced
6	BLANCA / COLO. CI 10P 36.0	Aug 2 1940 Aug 5 1946 4bars S-27x21mm, letters wide spaced
7	BLANCA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Jan 12 1950 Apr 27 1956 Dplx Grid, diamond w/1
7.1	BLANCA / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x17.0	1950s Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box
8	BLANCA / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	Aug 5 1961 Dec 25 1962 4bars S-24x20mm
9	BLANCA / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	Dec 12 1964 4bars S-24x20mm
10	BLANCA / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	Mar 11 1965 4bars S-24x20mm
11	BLANCA, CO / 81123 CI 10P 33.0	Oct 27 1965 Feb 21 1979 4bars S-24x20mm
11.1	BLANCA, CO / 81123 CI 10P 32.0	Sep 6 1977 Jan 28 1986 4-bars S-25x19mm
12	BLANCA, CO 81123 / USPS CI 11P 27.0/17.5	Aug 15 1988 Apr 14 1989 Hstp No killer
12.1	BLANCA, CO / 81123 CI 10P 31.0	May 29 1990 4bars S-23x17mm

BLANCA – Continued

13 BLANCA CO / 81123  
CI 10P 33.0

Aug 5 1997 Nov 9 2001

4bars S-12x23mm



**CHAMA**

In 1854 two villages were started near San Luis. One was Chama on Culebra Creek and was upstream from San Pedro. Indians drove out these early settlers but in 1860 a new settlement was made at the same location and has lasted to the present day.

Explanations for the name Chama are varied. Most relate it to Chamita (little Chama), New Mexico from whence the early settlers came. Some claim it is from a Tewa Indian word, *tzama*, meaning, "here they have wrestled," a rather strange choice for a village name. Others state that it is Spanish for lass or little girl. There is also a Chama a few miles south of the Colorado border, in New Mexico, which is the southern terminus of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad over Cumbres Pass to Antonito.

Chama is an agricultural community raising some produce and livestock.

From San Luis turn east on Gaspar Street, beyond a stop sign go straight to San Pablo. In Chama, at the intersection of roads L 7 and P 6 turn east. A short distance from the intersection there is a small, abandoned adobe on the south side of the road. In 1999 the legend "Post Office" was still faintly visible on one side of the building. The Chama Post Office is on Road P 6, a short distance north of the intersection.

Chama is still an active community with several residences, a couple of stores, a church and a liquor store. Unfortunately, like many of the smaller, old communities of the San Luis Valley there are many abandoned buildings.

Latitude = 37:09:43 North Longitude = 105:22:40 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 22 1907	---	SW/4 Sec 35 T2N R71W	
May 3 1907		Established	
May 3 1907		Lobato, Emilio	
Oct 2 1909		Sanchez, Eliza S. de	
May 17 1913		Lobato, Enriqueta C.	
Mar 21 1917	---	NW/4 Sec 5 T2N R71W; 200 yards south of Culebra Creek	
		Applicant for postmaster - Elaiza Sanchez	
Jun 1 1917		Sanchez, Elaiza S. de	
Nov 11 1918	---	SE/4 Sec 6 T2S R71W 6th PM; Proposal to move 400 yards west to this location	
Feb 19 1919		Lobato, Emilio	
Sep 5 1924	---	Report filed, no location reported; Proposal to move 200 yards west	
Jan 15 1924		Vialpando, Carlota L.	
Aug 12 1924		Sanchez, Bernardita	Acting
Sep 17 1924		Sanchez, Bernardita	
May 9 1931		Lobato, Bessie	Possession
May 29 1931		Lobato, Bessie	Acting
Sep 11 1931		Lobato, Enriqueta C.	Appointed
Nov 10 1931		Lobato, Enriqueta C.	Commissioned
Nov 18 1931		Lobato, Enriqueta C.	Possession
Nov 21 1941	---	Sec 5 T2N R72W Separate Note: About the middle portion of Lot Number One (1) in Tract Number Nine (9) of the 1913 survey of the Chama Lands, lying wholly within Section Number Five (5) Twp. Number two (2) North, Range Seventy-two (72) West of the Sixth (6th) Principal Meridian.	
Mar 31 1957		Mascarenas, James D.	Assumed charge
Apr 1 1957		Mascarenas, James D.	Acting, Possession
Jan 27 1958		Jacques, Lucille Garcia	Acting, Possession
Jul 17 1958		Albert, Bessie L.	Assumed charge
Jul 21 1958		Albert, Bessie L.	Acting
Oct 17 1958		Albert, Bessie L.	Commissioned
Jan 3 1963		Sanchez, Pascualita V.	Acting
Aug 2 1963		Sanchez, Pascualita V.	Commissioned
Aug 16 1963		Sanchez, Pascualita V.	Assumed charge

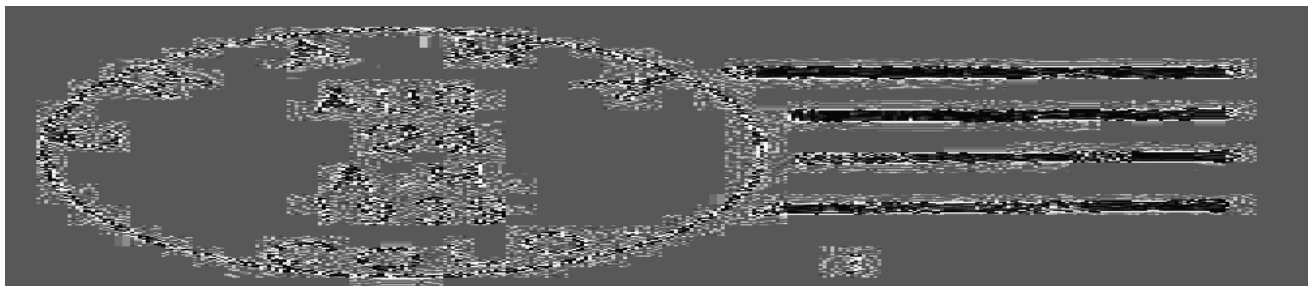
**CHAMA – Continued**



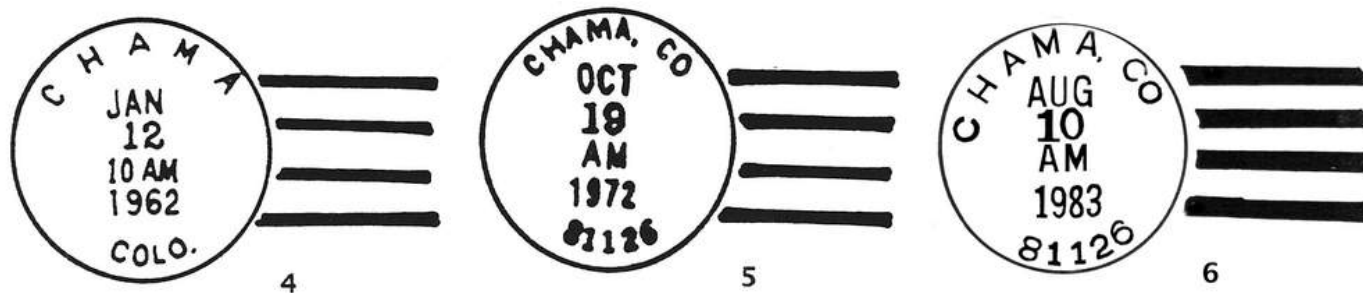
**The old post office building at Chama, Colorado – The legend is faintly visible above the door.  
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 11, 1999**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	CHAMA / COLO CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-20x19mm, device appears to be well worn	Aug 24 1939 Jun 10 1947
2	CHAMA, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 28.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 30 1948
3	CHAMA / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jan 13 1950 Aug 13 1953
4	CHAMA / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jan 12 1962 Dec 27 1962
5	CHAMA, CO / 81126 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x19mm	Apr 10 1968 Oct 20 1975
6	CHAMA, CO / 81126 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Aug 10 1983



## CHAMA – Continued



## COSTILLA

The initial settlement to bear the name of Costilla was by George Gould of Taos in 1848. The owners of the Sangre de Cristo Grant opposed his choice of land on what is now the border of Colorado and New Mexico and the attempt failed.

In 1850, to colonize Beaubien's Sangre de Cristo Grant a few families settled along the Rio Costilla. In 1851 Moretz, Bielshowski and Koenig opened a store and the Acequia Madre Ditch was constructed to irrigate their crops. No formal town was created at this time. The southern portion of Costilla County has a long history as agricultural land with sheep and cattle the principal products.

The Sangre de Cristo Grant comprised 750,000 acres and included all of today's Costilla County in Colorado and part of Taos County in New Mexico. It was awarded to Luis Lee and Narciso Beaubien. Both of these men were killed January 18, 1847 in the massacre at Taos. Charles Beaubien, son of Narciso, claimed the land grant in his own name.

In 1861 the thirty-seventh parallel was established as the boundary between Colorado and New Mexico and when it was established in 1862, the Costilla Post Office was believed to be in Colorado. However a re-survey in 1869 determined that it was actually in New Mexico. This boundary dispute between Colorado and New Mexico would not be resolved until January 26, 1925. The Costilla, New Mexico Post Office is still in operation, only a few yards south of the Colorado border.

In the late 1700's the Spaniards named the Costilla River. The town of Costilla took its name from the river. Costilla is Spanish for, "rib." Supposedly the rivers course resembled the curve of a rib.

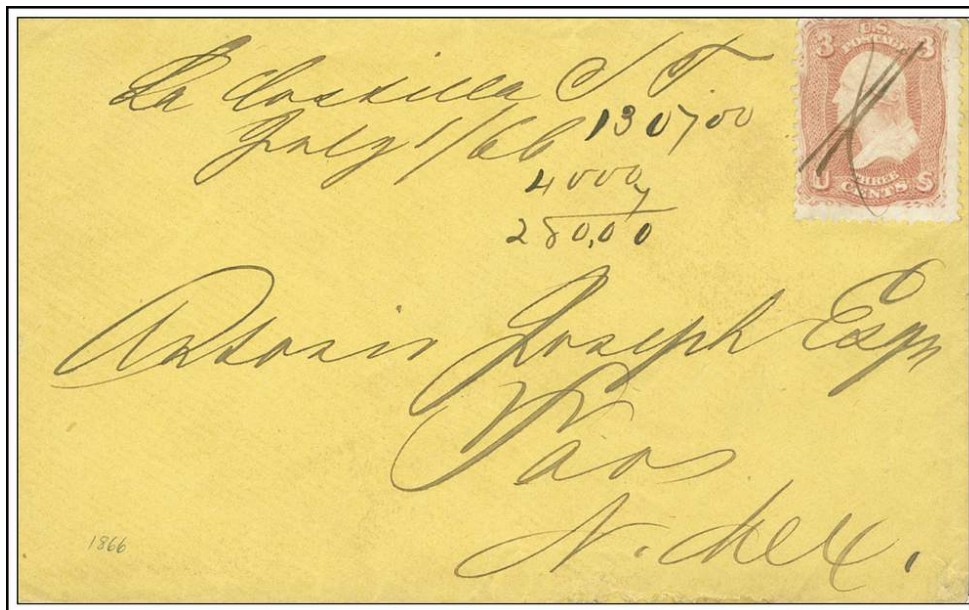
To reach Costilla, drive south from Fort Garland on Colorado 159 to the Colorado-New Mexico border. One mile north of the border, a side road to the west will take you into the communities of Garcia (north of the state line) and Costilla (south of the state line). There are residents in both communities but there seem to be more abandoned buildings than occupied buildings – a sad commentary on the state of the economy and agriculture in the southern San Luis Valley.

No document for Costilla was found in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports for Colorado. If one exists, it is likely included with the documents for Taos County, New Mexico.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 13 1862	Established
Nov 13 1862	Muir, Ferdinand
Oct 21 1872	Moved to Taos County, New Mexico when state boundary was resurveyed.

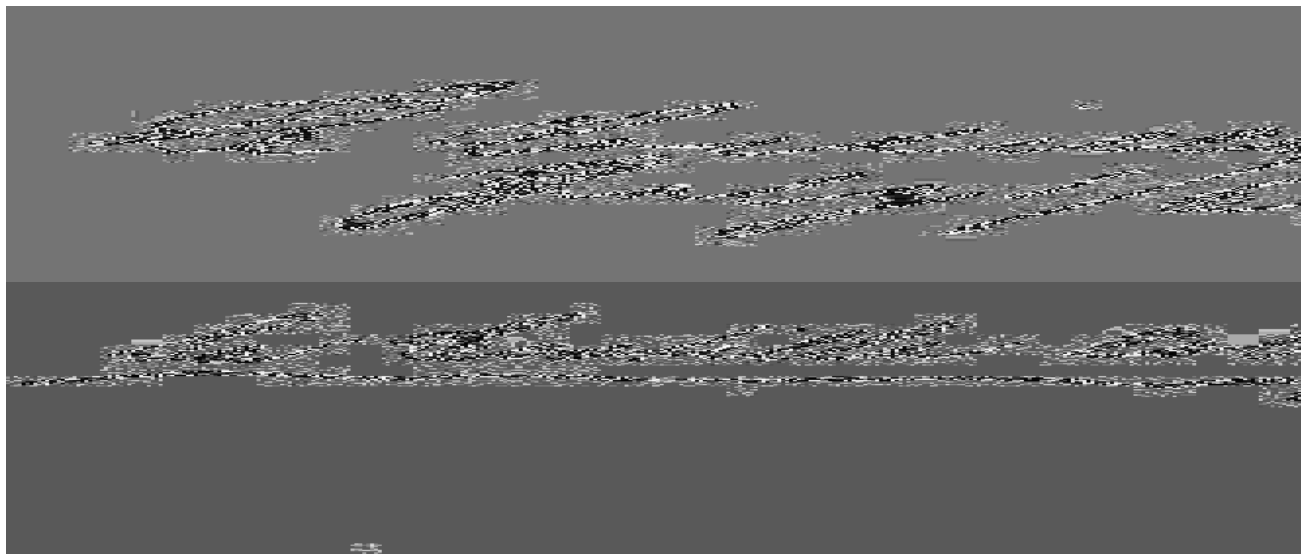
**COSTILLA – Continued**



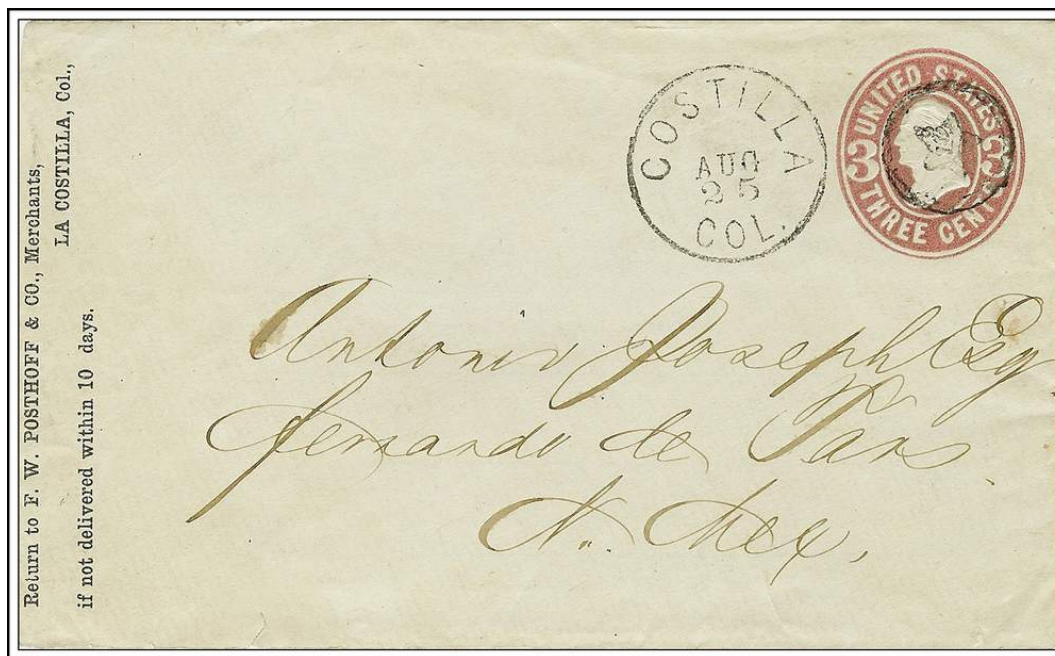
**La Costilla C T      July 1 1866**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	La Costilla C T MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Jul 1 1866
1.A	La Costilla Col MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Jun 17 1866
2	COSTILLA / COL. CI 10P 25.5	Hstp Fancy, small star-in-circle, 17mm,	Aug 25 186-
3	COSTILLA NM / 87524 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-20x16mm	May 11 1999



## COSTILLA - Continued



**COSTILLA / COL. August 25. Used prior to the shift in jurisdiction to New Mexico Territory**

**EASTDALE**

In 1890 the Mormon Church purchased a tract of land along the lower portion of Costilla Creek and initiated a settlement with the name Eastdale. The colony built a canal and a reservoir for irrigation and began raising wheat. However, failure in the competition for an adequate source of water meant insufficient crops to meet payments for the land they occupied. The Eastdale settlement was abandoned in 1909.

I have read no explanation for the choice of the name. I can speculate that perhaps it was for the location east of the Rio Grande. Today the area is used only for grazing livestock.

The easiest way to reach the site of Eastdale is to drive south on Colorado 159 to where the road into Garcia departs to the west. Turn toward Garcia but in less than a mile bear slightly northwest and continue west instead of going on to Garcia and Costilla, New Mexico. This is Costilla County Road B. Drive west five miles to Road 8. Turn north one mile plus to Road C then west another mile plus to Road 7. Eastdale was on the west side of Road 7 and north of Road C. In May of 1999 there were still the remains of one log building and one adobe building at this site. The surrounding land is level with the usual profusion of rocks, sagebrush, cactus and sparse grass.

Latitude = 37:01:43 North Longitude = 105:39:01 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 29 1895	---	NE/4 Sec 22 T1N R74W; 1/4 mile southeast of Costilla Creek Proposed postmaster - Simeon Adams Quinn
Apr 27 1895		Established
Apr 27 1895		Dunn, Simeon A,
Jul 15 1909		Discontinued Mail to Costilla, New Mexico

**EASTDALE – Continued**



**Abandoned log building at the site of Eastdale, Colorado**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 11, 1999

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 EASTDALE / COLO. Mar 31 1904  
CI 10P 27.5 Hstp Target, 4-ring



**FORT GARLAND**

The original army post in the San Luis Valley was Fort Massachusetts established in 1852 on Ute Creek at the western base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The fort was to protect the settlers of Northern New Mexico against attack by Apaches, Utes and other bands of Indians.

**FORT GARLAND – Continued**

Major George A. H. Blake was assigned to take Company F, First Dragoons and Company H Third Infantry to the San Luis Valley. Blake chose a location on Ute Creek near the foot of Blanca Peak, a site that implies Blake had less concern for guarding trails and settlements than for choosing the first adequate location north of the privately owned Sangre de Cristo Grant. There was good water and timber but surrounding hills made it susceptible to surprise attacks.

Fort Massachusetts did not have regular mail service. A military courier or express rider took the mail from Fort Massachusetts to Cantonment Burgwin in New Mexico. At Burgwin the mails from both forts were combined and taken by another rider either to Santa Fe or to Taos where they entered the U. S. Mail. The rider from Fort Massachusetts waited at Burgwin for the return of the rider from Santa Fe with mail for the fort. No postal markings were applied at Fort Massachusetts.



**Docketed: “Fort Garland New Mexico / Sept 14, 1860”**

**At this time, there was no official post office at Fort Garland, or in that portion of New Mexico Territory that eventually became part of Colorado. This letter, postmarked, “San Fernando de Taos, N.M.” would have been carried there by military courier.**

In 1858 a decision was made to move the fort to a new location about six miles down Ute Creek. On June 24, 1858, in General Orders No. 7, from the Adjutant General’s Office in Washington, the new post was designated to be known as Fort Garland in honor of Brevet Brigadier General John Garland, who was for the second time in command of the Military Department of New Mexico. The fort was constructed by Company E, U. S. Mounted Riflemen and Company A, Third U. S. Infantry under the command of Captain Thomas Duncan of the mounted riflemen.

The Fort Garland Military Reservation was a tract of land six miles square with the fort near the center. The land was part of the Trinchera Estate of the Sangre de Cristo Grant.

The post consisted of a parade ground enclosed by buildings housing the officers and men. The barracks were two buildings 119 feet by 33 feet, built of adobe. The interiors were plastered with mud and whitewashed with lime. Each barrack contained a kitchen and mess hall.

**FORT GARLAND – Continued**

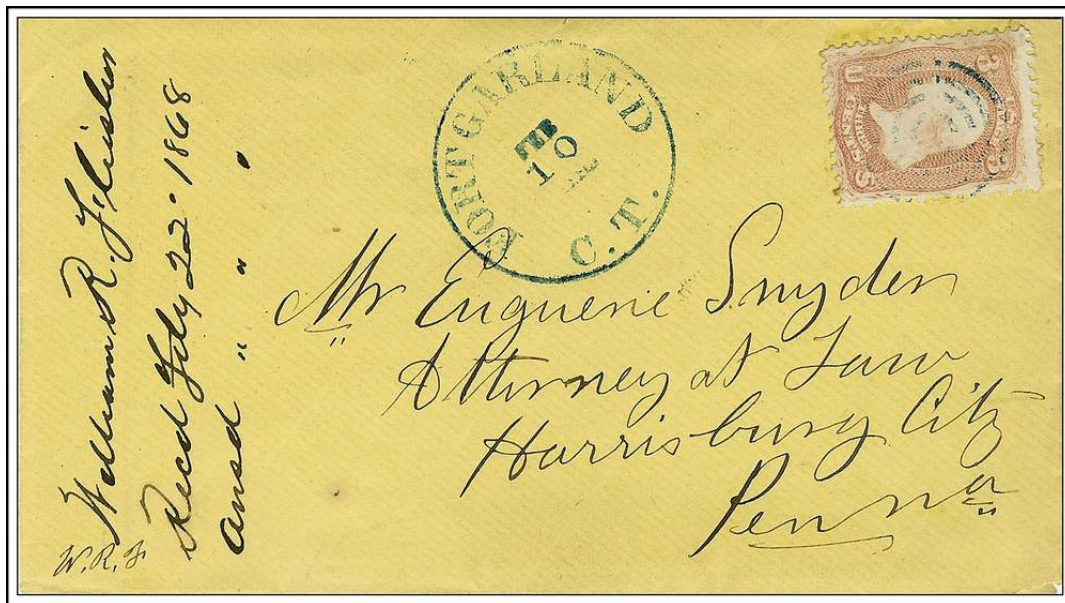
The band was quartered in a building west of the barracks and the parade ground. Married soldiers were quartered in a separate building. The officers quarters, seven in number, were along the north side of the parade ground. Two long buildings on the south side of the parade ground were used as offices and for storage.

By 1883 the Indians were no longer considered a threat to the residents of the San Luis Valley. On October 2, 1883, in his annual report to the War Department, Major General Pope, Commander of the Department of the Missouri, recommended that Fort Garland be abandoned. Two months later the last troops left Fort Garland and the fort was officially abandoned as an active United States Military Post. The Military Reservation reverted to the Trinchera Estate from which it had been leased in 1858. The lease had been for twenty-five years and would have required a renewal in 1883 if the post were to be retained.

Over the years the land passed through several private ownerships. Eventually it was donated to the Fort Garland Historical Fair Association and finally passed to the possession of the Colorado Historical Society. Portions of the Fort have been restored to serve as a museum.

The community of Fort Garland is an active trading center on US Highway 160 on the eastern edge of the San Luis Valley.

Until the creation of Colorado Territory on February 28, 1861, the sites of Fort Massachusetts and Fort Garland were in New Mexico Territory. Mail to and from Fort Garland was handled in a manner similar to that of Fort Massachusetts. There was no post office at Fort Garland until February 25, 1862, however, at least three covers docketed “Fort Garland, New Mexico” are known to exist.



**FORT GARLAND / C. T. February 10, 1868**

**With the word “Fort” removed, this device was later used at Garland, Colorado**

*POST OFFICE RAZED BY FIRE*

*5/3/1939 - Fort Garland, May 2 - Officials here today praised the work of 250 volunteer fire-fighters who Sunday morning fought their way in a burning building to rescue record books, cash and stamps belonging to the postoffice department. The two-story building housing the postoffice was completely destroyed. It was not insured.*

**FORT GARLAND – Continued**

*Mrs. M. C. Harrell, postmistress, estimated that only about \$5 in federal receipts was lost in the fire. She was one of the first to reach the scene of the fire and directed the removal of the post office property.*

*No cause has been found for the fire, which destroyed the 25-year old building. The structure was owned by Mrs. M. J. Lascano, who operated a rooming house in the portion not occupied by the postoffice. Only a part of one wall was left standing when the fire was put out.*

*The Pueblo Chieftain*

Reprinted in the *COLORADO PROSPECTOR* - Volume 5, Number 3, Page 5

Latitude = 37:25:44 North Longitude = 105:26:00 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 25 1862	Established	
Feb 25 1862	Francisco, John M.	
Apr 7 1863	Posthoff, Fred W.	
Jun 23 1864	Congdon, Ossian	
Sep 12 1865	Hepburn, George W.	
Dec 5 1866	Schmieding, Rudolph	
Feb 18 1871	---	Unsurveyed, 1/4 mile west of Sangre de Cristo Creek
May 6 1877	McKeever, Jonathan	
Dec 10 1879	McMullen, Charles	
Mar 11 1880	McKeever, William	
May 3 1880	Fowler, George R.	
Oct 16 1880	Reiter, William Louis	
Feb 3 1882	Brown, Thomas A.	
Nov 17 1882	Haubert, Frank X.	
Feb 15 1883	Darrow, Charles W.	
Sep 14 1883	Meyers, Ferdinand	
Jan 17 1884	McMullen, Charles	
Sep 30 1890	Morrison, Charles M.	
Sep 30 1891	Asay, Richard S.	
May 18 1892	---	SW/4 Sec 22 T30S R72W; 50 yards from the passenger station of the D&RG railroad and on the north side
Jul 26 1893	McMullen, Charles	
Apr 19 1895	MacMullen, Jane	
Dec 24 1900	Mykins, John H.	
Jan 3 1902	Fildahl, John	
May 1 1902	Wilcoxson, Thompson L.	
Oct 8 1903	John, Charles	
Dec 24 1904	Peters, Helen G.	
Feb 23 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 21 T30S R72W; 700 feet south of D&RG
Oct 21 1914	Carey, William L.	
Sep 16 1916	Matthews, James J.	
Mar 23 1920	---	NE/4 Sec 21 T30S R72W 6th PM; 120 feet north of D&RG tracks
Oct 18 1922	Matthews, Agnes B.	Acting
Feb 16 1923	Robinson, Frank C.	
Dec 15 1925	Atencio, Isabella	Acting
Apr 24 1926	Johnson, Walter H.	Acting
Jun 19 1926	Medina, Sadie	
Feb 18 1928	Harrell, Mamie C.	Acting
Jun 15 1928	Harrell, Mamie C.	Confirmed
Jul 9 1928	Harrell, Mamie C.	Commissioned & Assumed charge
Oct 30 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 21 T3S R72W; On south side of Highways US-160, and Colorado 159, 700 feet north of railroad
Aug 12 1942	Robinson, Gladys	Acting
Aug 13 1942	Robinson, Gladys	Assumed charge

**FORT GARLAND – Continued**

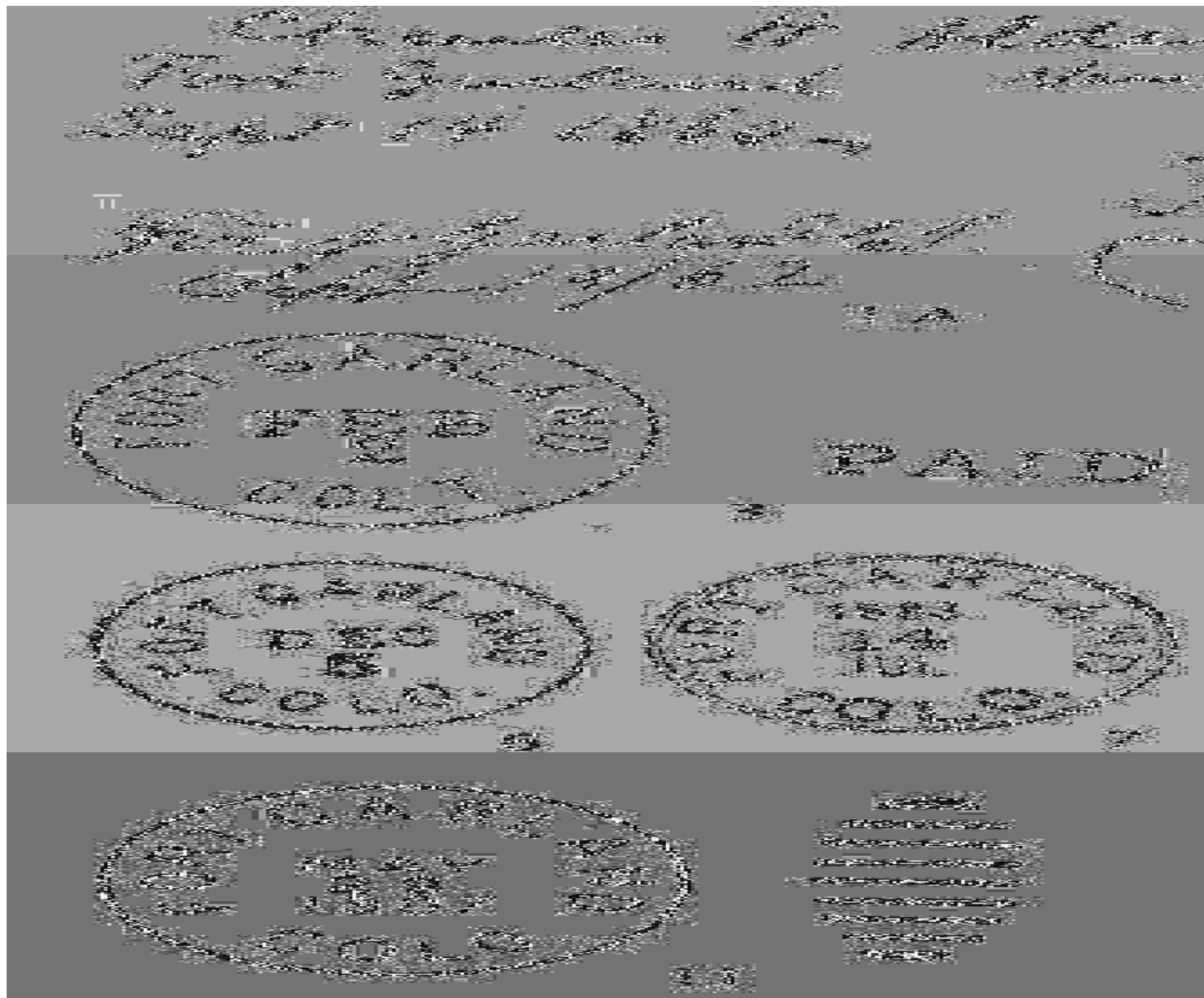
Sep 3 1942	Robinson, Gladys	Acting
Mar 22 1943	Robinson, Gladys	Confirmed
Apr 7 1943	Robinson, Gladys	Commissioned
Apr 15 1943	Robinson, Gladys	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1945		Office made Presidential
May 16 1946	Robinson, Gladys	Nominated
Jun 4 1946	Robinson, Gladys	Confirmed
Jun 5 1946	Robinson, Gladys	Appointed Presidential
Jun 28 1946	Robinson, Gladys	Commissioned
Jun 30 1946	Robinson, Gladys	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1948		Relegated
Jul 6 1948	Robinson, Gladys	Confirmed
Aug 30 1948	Robinson, Gladys	Commissioned
Jul 1 1949		Office made Presidential
Jun 29 1972	Hoagland, Marguerite	Officer in charge
Aug 5 1972	Hoagland, Marguerite	Appointed

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

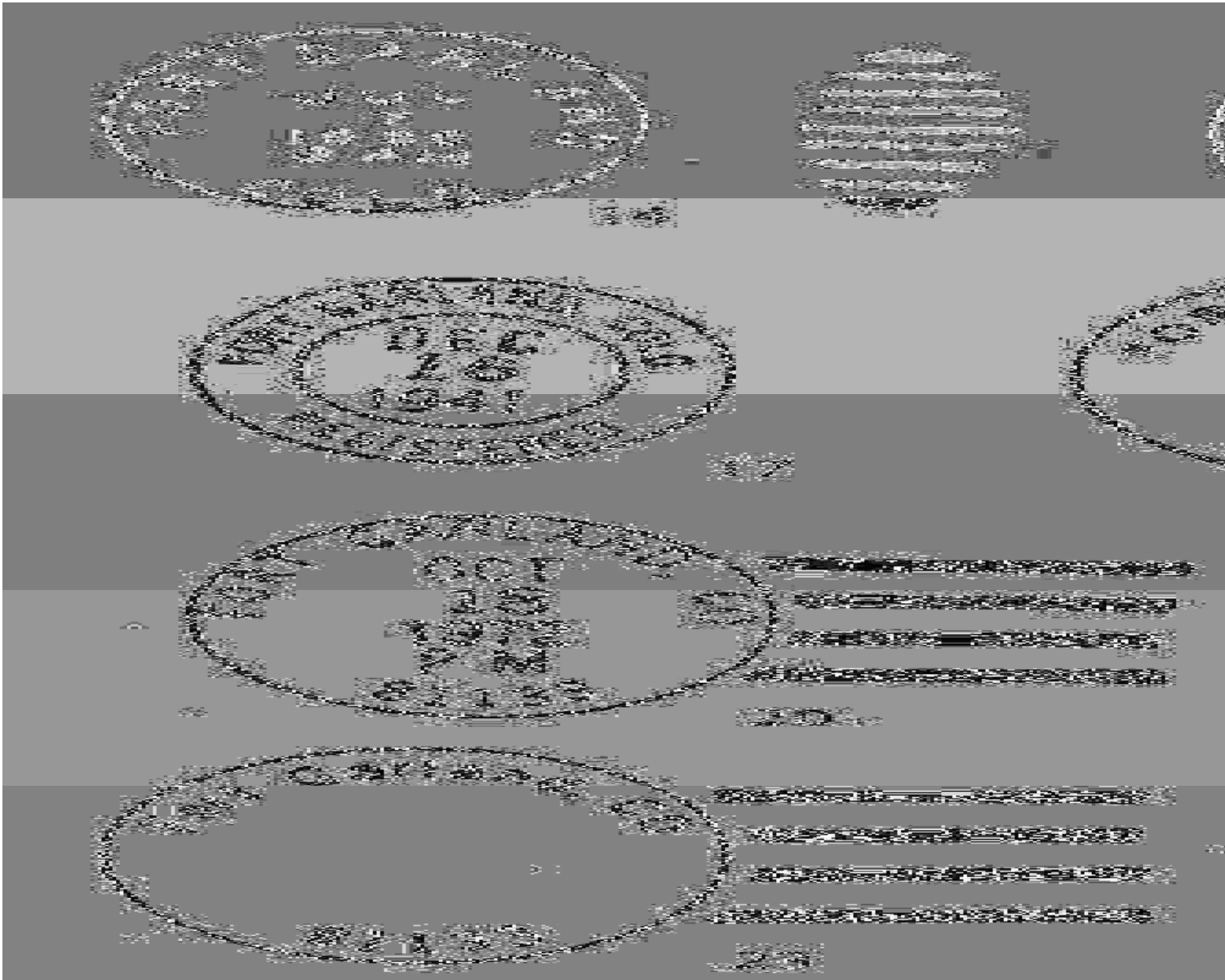
0.1	Fort Garland New Mexico MS	Sep 14 1860 Dec ? 1860 Mscp Fernando De Taos cds dated Sep 14,(1860): Carried by Military Courier
1.A	Fort Garland C.T. MS	Sep 19 1862 Mscp Pen Cancel
1.B	Fort Garland MS	Nov 3 1862 --- -- 1874 Mscp Pen Cancel
2	FORT GARLAND / C.T. CI 10P 31.5	Aug 17 1867 Feb 10 1868 Hstp Fancy, "gunsight" target, 4 ring 20mm
3	FORT GARLAND / COL.T. CI 10P 30.0	Feb 2 186- Mar 22 186- Hstp Fancy, Hstp "PAID" in blue, "gunsight" target, 4 ring 20mm
4	FORT GARLAND / COLO CI 10P 23.5	Mar 7 1874 Jul 6 1875 Hstp Cork, smudge; Negative X-roads
5	FORT GARLAND / COL. CI 10P 24.0	Aug 11 1877 Jul 29 1878 Hstp Cork, 8-bar grid; smudge
6	FORT GARLAND/ COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Dec 5 1880 Hstp Cork, smudge
7	FORT GARLAND / COLO. CI 20P 28.0/26.0	Jul 14 1883 Feb 10 1885 Hstp No killer
8	FORT GARLAND / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Aug 1 1888 Jul 26 1892 Hstp Cork, smudge; Target, 3-ring 17mm
9	FORT GARLAND / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Mar 4 1892 Hstp Not present
10	FORT GARLAND, / COLORADO CI 11P 30.0/20.0	Apr 20 1894 Hstp Cork: "sunburst"
11	FORT GARLAND / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	May 29 1907 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
12	FORT GARLAND, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Aug 12 1908 Nov 17 1911 4bars S-22x13mm
13	FORT GARLAND. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Jun 1 1917 Nov 16 1913 4bars S-??x20mm
14	FORT GARLAND / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Jun 7 1930 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
15	FORT GARLAND. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Nov 21 1934 Oct 14 1938 4bars S-??x19mm
16	FORT GARLAND / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Dec 5 1939 Apr 12 1944 -4bars S-23x19mm

**FORT GARLAND – Continued**

17	FORT GARLAND, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 3 1941 Dec 16 1941
18	FORT GARLAND / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x18mm	Sep 3 1948
19	FORT GARLAND / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 5 1961 Apr 4 1963
20	FORT GARLAND, CO / 81133 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 26 1965 Oct 18 1972
21	FORT GARLAND, CO / 81133 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Aug 11 1977 Oct 28 1977
22	FT. GARLAND, CO / 81133 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Mar 5 1987
23	Fort Garland, CO / 81133 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm; Undated postmark, reportedly there was no provision to include a date in the device	May ? 1991
24	FORT GARLAND, CO / 81133 CI 10P 33.5	4bars S-25x21mm	Sep 23 1985 May 25 1993



**FORT GARLAND – Continued**



**GARCIA**

The initial Geographic Site Location Report for Garcia gave a preference for the name Manzanares. A post office by that name had existed near the proposed location of Garcia during 1901-1902. It is possible that the name Manzanares was rejected because of its similarity to Manzanola (Otero County).

This settlement was initially considered a part of Costilla which, was thought to be in Colorado but eventually was recognized as being in New Mexico. The portion north of the state line took the name Manzanares and later became Garcia. Both Manzanares and Garcia are prominent family names dating back to the original settlers of the community.

**GARCIA – Continued**

To reach Garcia, drive south from Fort Garland on Colorado 159 to the Colorado-New Mexico border. One mile north of the border, a side road to the west will take you into the communities of Manzanares and Garcia (north of the state line) and Costilla (south of the state line). About three-quarters of a mile west of Colorado 159 another side road (County Road B) intersects. The vicinity of this intersection was the location for Manzanares. The community of Garcia is from that point south to the New Mexico State line. There are still a number of scattered residences but very little sign of prosperity.

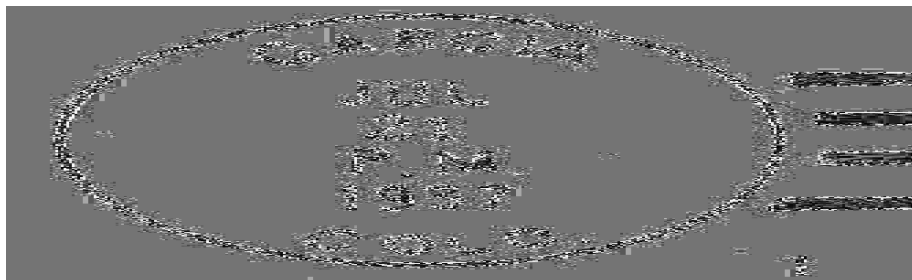
Latitude = 37:00:15 North Longitude = 105:32:12 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 14 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 35 T1N R73W	Document altered to show name change from Manzanares	
			Applicant for postmaster (Manzanares) - Floripes M. Duran	
Feb 6 1915			Established	
Feb 6 1915			Duran, Floripes M.	
Sep 15 1916			Manzanares, Geneveva M.	Acting
Sep 18 1916			Manzanares, Geneveva M.	Appointed
Jul 6 1925			Medina, Jose Marcelino	Acting
Feb 16 1926			Medina, Jose Marcelino	Appointed
Nov 2 1926	---	SW/4 Sec 35 T1N R73W 6th PM;	Document notes "Used to be MANZANARES"	
Oct 18 1928			Lopez, Pedro	Acting
Mar 7 1929			Lopez, Mrs. Emiliana	Confirmed
Apr 5 1929			Lopez, Mrs. Emiliana	Commissioned
Apr 10 1929			Lopez, Mrs. Emiliana	Assumed charge
Dec 3 1935			Cordova, Mrs. Anita O.	Assumed charge
Dec 18 1935			Cordova, Mrs. Anita O.	Acting
Mar 16 1936			Cordova, Mrs. Anita O.	Confirmed
Apr 9 1936			Cordova, Mrs. Anita O.	Commissioned
Oct 25 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 35 T1N R73W 6th PM;	1/4 mile west of Costilla River	
Oct 1 1942			Lopez, Pedro	Assumed charge
Oct 27 1942			Lopez, Pedro	Acting
Nov 6 1942			Trujillo, Miss Caroline R.	Assumed charge
Nov 12 1942			Trujillo, Miss Caroline R.	Acting
Jul 6 1944			Trujillo, Miss Caroline R.	Confirmed
Aug 7 1944			Trujillo, Miss Caroline R.	Commissioned
Jun 20 1945			Cordova, Mrs. Anita O.	Acting
Aug 3 1945	---		New site, no further information	
May 6 1946			Cordova, Mrs. Anita O.	Confirmed
Jun 5 1946			Cordova, Mrs. Anita O.	Commissioned
Jul 3 1964			Converted to a Rural Branch of San Luis	Now a Community Post Office

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	GARCIA/ COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jul 21 1937 Jan 11 1962
2	GARCIA/ COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Nov 15 1962 Jul 3 1964



## **GARLAND**

By late June 1877 the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad had been extended over La Veta Pass to the junction of West Indian Creek and Sangre de Cristo Creek. Initially known as Big Hill Station, this settlement quickly grew into a vibrant end of track boomtown known as Garland City. It was strictly a railroad town with no local agriculture or mining activity for support. Therefore, when by the first of July 1878 the D&RG had reached the site of Alamosa, Garland City literally packed up and moved west to that new town. Within a few weeks nothing remained at Garland City.

During its short life, Garland City was an important commercial center. Freight bound for the new mining districts in the San Juan Mountains was brought here by rail and transferred to wagons for the journey further west. The freighting and supply companies were in constant communication with businesses and mines in the San Juans. In particular, correspondence with the National Bank of Lake City appears to have been an almost daily event. And, since the correspondence files from the National Bank of Lake City are one of the major sources of covers and postmarks for early southwestern Colorado, Garland postmarks are quite common. Covers from Garland do not rate the high rarity factor that has been assigned to Garland based on its short existence. I believe that as many as fifty and perhaps more covers from Garland exist.

The name Garland was quite obviously borrowed from nearby Fort Garland. The first postmaster for Garland apparently, and correctly, anticipating a large volume of mail secured not just one but two obsolete postmarking devices from Fort Garland. He cut away the word Fort and made useable devices for his new office. Eventually Garland did receive a proper postmark device which has been seen in red as well as the common black.

Descending from North Veta Pass via US-160, mark the point where the railroad exiting from Wagon Creek Valley meets the highway. The next major stream from the southeast is West Indian Creek. From US-160, you should be able to look east across Sangre de Cristo Creek to the site of Garland in the area south of West Indian Creek.

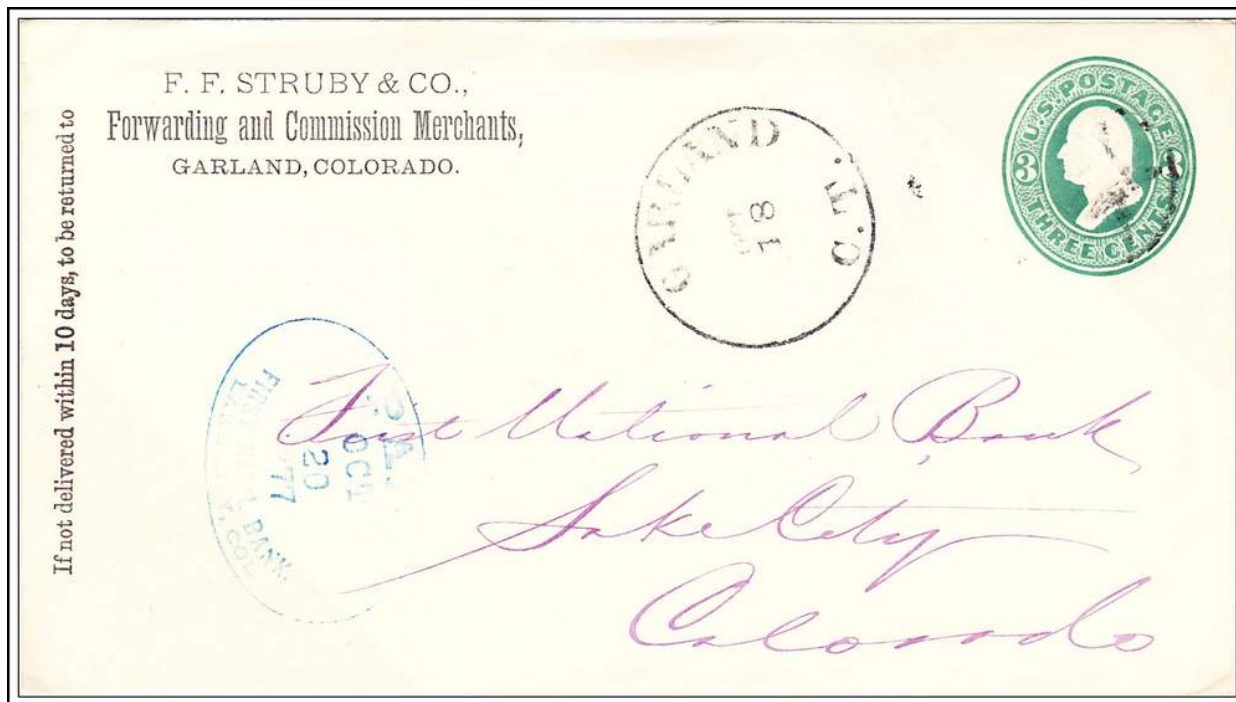
Approximately two miles east of Fort Garland a paved road to the south from US 160 crosses the railroad and Sangre de Cristo Creek. Go south on this road about one mile and turn east on Beekman Road. Three miles ahead, in the area of Woodman Road, is the site of Garland. Woodman Road is a loop to the south from and back to Beekman Road and there should be some evidence of a cemetery along Woodman Road. The flats to the west of Beekman Road are covered with brush and barren of any evidence of Garland; however, there is a spectacular view of Mount Blanca.

Latitude = 37:27:09 North Longitude = 105:20:30 West

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

<b>Sep 13 1877</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>NE/4 Sec 8 T30S R71W; 250 yards form the Garland City Station of the D&amp;RG RR, on the east side Sketch map shows it at the junction of Indian Creek and Sangre de Cristo Creek, NE corner of intersection.</b>
<b>Jul 24 1877</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jul 24 1877</b>		<b>Hoyt, Charles D.</b>
<b>Mar 12 1878</b>		<b>Hanley, George</b>
<b>Jun 27 1878</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>

GARLAND – Continued

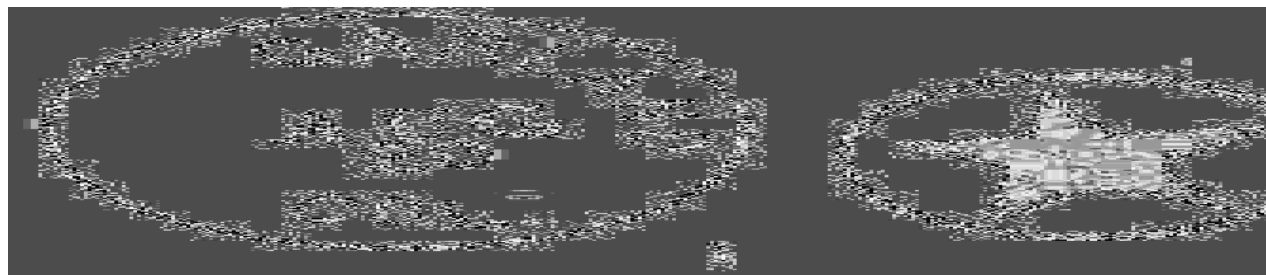


GARLAND / C. T.                      October 18 (1877)  
An example of one of two Fort Garland devices that were altered for use at Garland

GARLAND – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

- |   |                                |   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 0 | Garland<br>CI 10P 21.0         | Oct 9 1877<br>Hstp No postmark, corner card, Killer is "DUE/3"<br>in circle |
|   |                                | [NOT ILLUSTRATED]   |
| 1 | GARLAND / COL.<br>CI 10P 30.0  | Aug 20 1877 Sep 5 1877<br>Hstp Fancy, Positive star in circle               |
| 2 | GARLAND / C.T.<br>CI 10P 31.0  | Oct 13 1877 Oct 22 1877<br>Hstp Fancy, Positive star in circle              |
| 3 | GARLAND / COLO.<br>CI 10P 25.0 | Oct 27 1877 Jun 4 1878<br>Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads; smudge; pinwheel     |



**JAROSO**

In 1909 the Costilla Development Company began development of the high land around Costilla and Culebra Creeks. Three towns; San Acacio, Mesita and Jaroso were laid out and developed. Jaroso, the southernmost of the three was built around a depot of the San Luis Southern Railroad just north of the New Mexico border.

There are two explanations for the name. In southern Colorado and northern New Mexico jara is a reference to sandbar willows, which are plentiful in the area and thus Jaroso is interpreted to mean, "covered with sandbar willows." The second explanation is the dictionary definition of Jaroso as meaning, "full of brambles," with a correct Spanish spelling of Jarosa. The choice of the name has been attributed to United States Congressman Franklin Brooks. It is also likely that the name had been in use in the area prior to the 1909 development.

The most direct route to Jaroso is to drive south on Colorado Road 159 from San Luis to the vicinity of Garcia. Then, drive west on Costilla County Road B six miles from Colorado 159. Turn south on Road 8 one mile to Jaroso and Road A which is on the state line.

Road A is virtually the only street in town with a few homes and some abandoned buildings. The post office is in a building, Anderson's, that was once a service station, and in 1999 the CONOCO sign was still standing in front.

Latitude = 37:00:10 North Longitude = 105:37:25 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

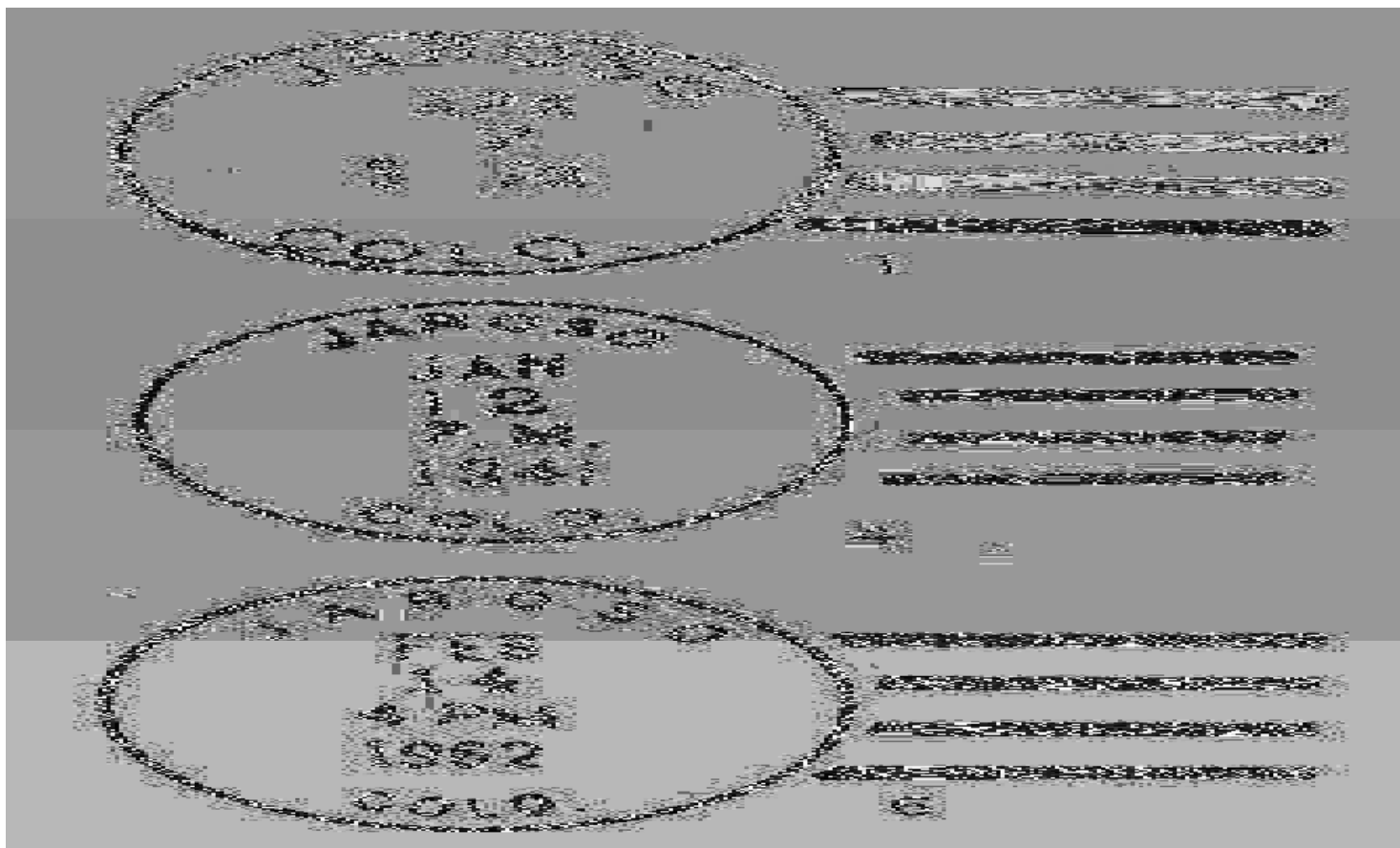
Nov 30 1910	---	SW/4 Sec 36 T32N R74W; 2 miles south of the Costilla River	
Mar 10 1911		Established	
Mar 10 1911		Haley, Andrew J.	
May 31 1911		Ramsey, Robert B.	
Mar 16 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 36 T1N R74W; 25 feet west of the San Luis Valley RR track, 2510 feet from the county boundary (state line)	
May 13 1914		Hammond, Edward J.	
Jul 27 1917		James D. Freeman	Declined
Jan 18 1918		Hobbs, Charles V.	
Jun 20 1927		Anderson, Fred E.	Possession
Jun 30 1927		Anderson, Fred E.	Acting
Dec 3 1927		Anderson, Fred E.	Appointed
Dec 22 1927		Anderson, Fred E.	Commissioned
Jan 1 1928		Anderson, Fred E.	Possession
Oct 30 1941	---	W/2 Sec 36 T1S R74W; 250 feet east of San Luis Valley RR	
Jul 31 1954		Anderson, Donald W.	Possession
Sep 20 1954		Anderson, Donald W.	Acting
Mar 4 1955		Anderson, Donald W.	Appointed
Mar 25 1955		Anderson, Donald W.	Commissioned

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	JAROSO / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Mar 9 1912 Sep 22 1917
2	JAROSO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	May 25 1915
3	JAROSO. / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-25x20mm	Feb 11 1933 Mar 3 1933
4	JAROSO / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 3 1939 Jan 2 1941 [or Jan 12?]
5	JAROSO / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Apr 19 1937 Sep 10 1948

**JAROSO – Continued**

5.1	JAROSO, / COLO. RC 10P 34.0x16.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box	1950s
6	JAROSO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Feb 14 1962
7	JAROSO, CO / 81108 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 13 1967 Apr 15 1988
8	JAROSO, CO / 81138 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-11x19mm	May 11 1999

**LAVALLEY**

In 1854 two more villages, or plazas, were started in the vicinity of San Luis. Chama was upstream on Culebra Creek and six miles to the east-southeast of San Luis was San Francisco. In 1903 the community of Lavalley was formed. It either replaced San Francisco or was adjacent to it. The name is a hybrid: French, “La” (the) and English, “Valley” – hence The Valley.

From San Luis drive east on Gasper Street to Costilla County Road 21. Turn south on Road 21 for about 5 miles to Road J.2. The 1962 Costilla County road map designates this intersection as La Valley. The same map designates San Francisco as being two miles east on Road J.2. From San Luis you would go first to Chama, then take County Road L.7 west from Chama to the intersection with County Road 21 and turn south. Be aware that 1.4 miles south of the intersection of Roads L.7 and 21 there is another intersection and Road 21 turns south. Stay on Road 21 to Road J.2. That intersection of Roads L.7 and 21 was San Pablo and the next intersection was San Pedro (no post office).

Like nearly all of the communities in southern Costilla County there is very little to see at Lavalley. A few small, unimpressive homes line the road and there is also a group of mobile homes.

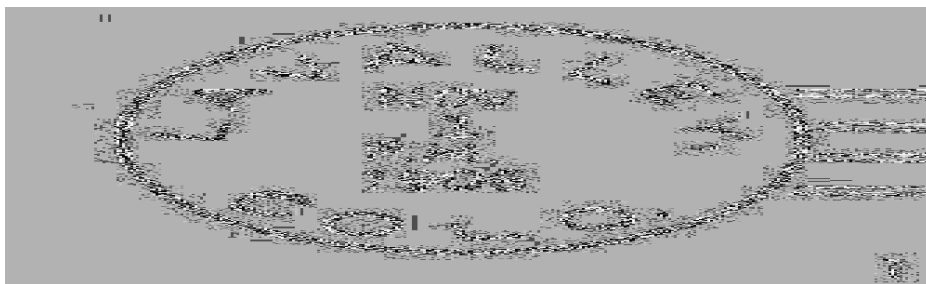
**LAVALLEY – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Jun 6 1903 --- S/2 Sec 28 T2N R71W; 4 miles south of Culebra River, on north side of San Francisco Creek. May have been suggested as Lavalley Creek. Settlement was named San Francisco.  
Proposed postmaster - Max Martinez
- Aug 14 1903 Established
- Aug 14 1903 Martinez, Maximiano
- Dec 3 1910 Martinez, Estipula
- Apr 29 1912 Martinez, Maximiano
- May 26 1915 Espinoza, Beatrice M.
- Mar 25 1916 Taylor, Eugenie
- Apr 8 1918 Martinez, Amada
- Aug 15 1918 Discontinued Mail to San Pablo

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                                  |                      |                        |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | LAVALLEY, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 29.0 | Doane Type 2, with 1 | Nov 1 1905 Apr 14 1909 |
| 2 | LAVALLEY, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 31.0 | 4bars S-25x19mm      | Apr 28 1911            |



**LAVETA PASS**

Once again we are faced with the confusion of the passes (see Bernice). The La Veta Pass Post Office was never at La Veta Pass. It was at Veta Pass, the southernmost of the three Veta Passes. The La Veta Pass Post Office was on the relocated Denver and Rio Grande Railroad at the head of Wagon Creek. It began its postal life as Bernice. The Bernice Post Office was discontinued in 1902. When the post office reopened in 1904 it did so as La Veta Pass. It held on to that name until 1911 when at last it became simply Veta Pass, finally matching the name of the mountain pass where it was situated.

There was lumbering in the area and reportedly a box factory at the site helped to keep the Veta Pass Office in operation until 1935.

I do not know if it is possible to drive to the site of La Veta Pass. The railroad over Veta Pass is still an operating railroad so it may be possible if you can talk your way through the gate into the Forbes Park Development (refer to the discussion of Bernice for the explanation of the situation in 1999). If you are fortunate in getting through the gate I strongly suggest you have an up-to-date map as undoubtedly the 1965 Costilla County Road Map and even the 1979 USGS County Map are almost certainly outdated. If you get there let me know what you find.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Nov 5 1903 --- NE/4 Sec 35 T29S R70W; 15 feet north of D&RG RR, La Veta Pass Station, RR town, 35 inhabitants  
Proposed postmaster - Eva Lively

**LA VETA PASS – Continued**

Jan 5 1904	Established
Jan 5 1904	Lively, Eva
Aug 13 1910	Slagle, John H.
Apr 13 1911	Name changed to Veta Pass.

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	LAVETA PASS, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Aug 9 1904 Aug 20 1909 Doane Type 3 with 1, S-23x13mm
---	-------------------------------------	--

**MANZANARES**

In 1849 the village that became Garcia was known as Plaza de Los Manzanares. The settlement was named for two brothers from El Rito, New Mexico, surnamed Manzanares, who were among the original settlers in the San Luis Valley.

Manzanares with Garcia and Costilla, New Mexico form the complex that lies about a mile west of Colorado Highway 159 where it crosses from Colorado into New Mexico. Based on the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports, Manzanares was at the north end of the complex, then Garcia north of the state line and Costilla south of the state line.

The area consists of scattered residences and abandoned buildings, several of adobe construction. From Colorado 159, taking the side road west (County Road B) you will first encounter a well kept church. This can be considered Manzanares. An interesting point here is that to one side of the church is a miniature version of the church.

For more information on this complex please refer to the discussions of Costilla and Garcia.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 18 1901	---	NW/4 Sec 35 T1N R73W 6th PM; 300 yards west of the Costilla River Proposed postmaster - Jose Guillermo Garcia
Feb 19 1901	Established	
Feb 19 1901	Garcia, Jose G.	
Mar 10 1902	Ordered closed	
Mar 31 1902	Discontinued	Papers to Costilla, New Mexico

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	MANZANARES / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Aug 9 1901 Hstp Target, 2 rings with small star in center
---	-----------------------------------	--



**MANZANARES – Continued**



**An active church building at the site of Manzanares, Colorado  
Note the small model of the building at the lower left of the photograph.  
Photograph by William H. Bauer  
May 11, 1999**

**MARGARET**

The move of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad from the route over La Veta Pass to the present day route over Veta Pass led to a decline in the fortunes of Russell. A new community was established where Wagon Creek and the railroad met Sangre de Cristo Creek. A post office with the name of Margaret was established and operated for less than one year. When a post office at that location was reopened in 1915 it adopted the name of Russell.

The postmaster's name was Lelah Jackson, which provides no information as to the source of the name Margaret. The Geographic Site Location Report offered two other choices, Blanca and Jackson, for the new office. However, since there was already a Blanca Post Office in Colorado and even in Costilla County, that name was not acceptable. The name Jackson had been recently used for Colorado post offices in Pueblo and Gunnison Counties but was rejected because of the potential for confusion with Jackson, California.

The settlement at Margaret was likely a support point for the railroad as it began its climb up Wagon Creek to Veta Pass and the wagon road as it began the climb to La Veta Pass and later North Veta Pass.

**MARGARET – Continued**

The site is on US Highway 160 where Wagon Creek joins Sangre de Cristo Creek. A side road to the south is marked as the road to the Forbes Park development. No buildings remain at Margaret but the Highway Department has used the area for sand and gravel storage.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 27 1899	---	NE/4 Sec 14 T29S R71W; 1/4 mile south and 1/4 mile north of Wagon Creek ?? Proposed name - Blanca, crossed out; Jackson, crossed out; Margaret substituted Proposed postmaster - Lelah Jackson
May 22 1899		Established
May 22 1899		Jackson, Lelah G.
Mar 9 1900		Ordered closed
Mar 31 1900		Discontinued Papers to Fort Garland

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**MELVILLE**

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report for this proposed post office was designated as being in Costilla County and was filed with the other Costilla County documents. However, a closer examination shows that the claimed location is actually in Alamosa County somewhat less than a mile west of the boundary with Costilla County. Perhaps the confusion is one of timing. Alamosa County was authorized on March 8, 1913 and the Melville document is dated April 28, 1913.

The Geographic Site Location Report refers to a D&RG station named Baldy. The 1964 Alamosa County Road Map does show Baldy Station in Section 22, Township 37 North, Range 12 East, which is in Alamosa County.

In any event, the only extant reference to Melville known to me is the Site Location Report. It is highly probable that this office was not approved and never operated.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 28 1913	---	SW/4 Sec 15 T37N R12E New Mexico PM; 6 miles north of Trinchera Creek 164 feet south of D&RG track, Baldy Station.
-------------	-----	--

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**MESITA**

In 1909 the Costilla Estates Development Company organized a settlement named Hamburg. This name had only a brief period of use and was replaced by Mesita meaning, "little table-land" (little mesa). It is said that settlers from a town of that name in Iowa bestowed the name Hamburg. Mesita is appropriate, as there is a small mesa about two miles west of the community.

Like the other towns in the southern portion of Costilla County, Mesita was an agricultural based community but it did have a station on the San Luis Southern Railroad.

The easiest route to Mesita is to drive south from San Luis on Colorado 159 to Colorado 158 or Costilla County Road H. Turn west four and one half miles to Mesita. Very little remains at Mesita. Many of the buildings were made of stone but are boarded up. Two or three may still be inhabited. There is a reasonably well-kept and impressive Church of the Latter Day Saints.

Latitude = 37:05:54 North Longitude = 105:36:05 West

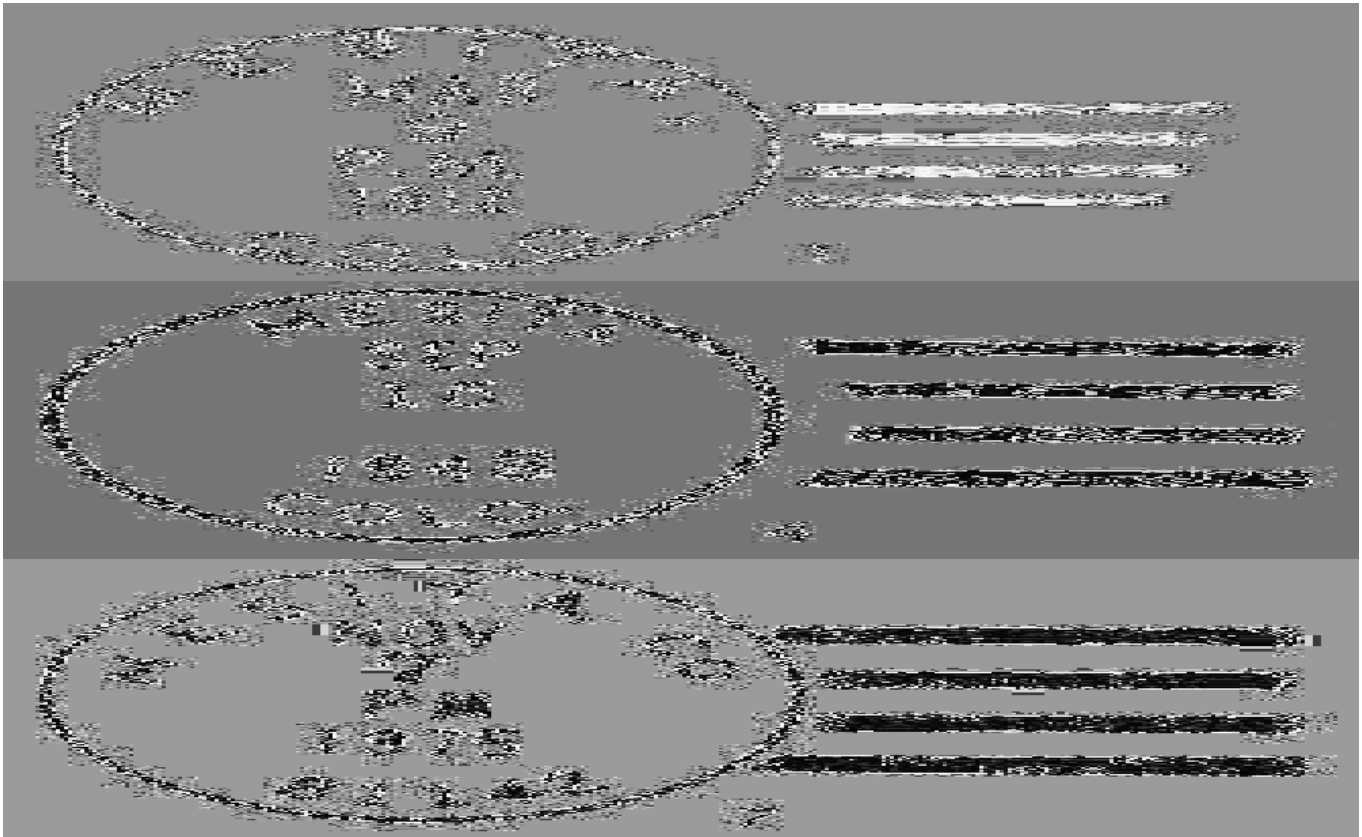
**MESITA – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 15 1910	---	Sections 30, 31 T33N R73W	
May 27 1910		Established	
May 27 1910		Stow, Luetta G.	
Jan 30 1911	---	NE/4 Sec 31 T2N R74W; 1068 feet east of San Luis Southern RR track	
Mar 7 1913		Kruse, Claus J.	
Feb 24 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 31 T2N R73W 6th PM	
Apr 5 1917		Child, Edward T.	
Jan 18 1918		Barnes, Leah M.	Declined
Apr 30 1918		Wheeler, John R.	Declined
Nov 4 1918		St. John, John R.	
Nov 3 1921		Patterson, Elizabeth	Acting
Nov 3 1921		Patterson, Elizabeth	Appointed
Jun 8 1931		Quiller, Edna E.	Acting
Aug 15 1931		Quiller, Edna E.	Confirmed
Nov 13 1931		Quiller, Edna E.	Commissioned
Jun 20 1933		Carey, Mrs. Jennie	Assumed charge
Jul 18 1933		Carey, Mrs. Jennie	Acting
Feb 6 1934		Carey, Mrs. Jennie	Confirmed
Mar 9 1934		Carey, Mrs. Jennie	Commissioned
Jan 6 1942	---	NW/4 Sec 31 T2N R73W	
Nov 6 1942		Markwell, Mrs. Eunice	Assumed charge
Nov 14 1942		Markwell, Mrs. Eunice	Acting
Jan 21 1943		Markwell, Mrs. Eunice	Confirmed
Feb 16 1943		Hale, Helen Z.	Possession
Feb 17 1943		Markwell, Mrs. Eunice [?]	Commissioned
Mar 2 1943		Hale, Helen Z.	Acting
Jul 12 1943		Hale, Helen Z.	Confirmed
Jul 31 1943		Hale, Helen Z.	Commissioned
Aug 9 1943		Hale, Helen Z.	Possession
May 2 1944		Quiller, Georgia V.	Assumed charge
May 20 1944		Quiller, Georgia V.	Acting
May 1 1944		Quiller, Georgia V.	Possession
Apr 30 1945		Quiller, Georgia V.	Confirmed
May 5 1945		Quiller, Georgia V.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1945		Quiller, Georgia V.	Possession
Mar 23 1990		Discontinued	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	MESITA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x13mm	Sep 3 1910 Aug 14 1914
2	MESITA. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Aug 9 1918
3	MESITA, COLO. CI 10P 30.0	4bars P-24x19mm	Feb 12 1935 Jan 17 1941
4	MESITA / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 24 1944 Nov 14 1960
5	MESITA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 7 1943 Feb 19 1962
6	MESITA, CO / 81142 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Oct 13 1967 Oct 18 1972
7	MESITA, CO / 81142 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Nov 7 1975 Feb 20 1987

**MESITA – Continued****MEYER**

The Meyer Post Office was supposedly in operation for a little more than three months. It is possible that it was never in operation. No report was found under Costilla County, or elsewhere in the Geographical Site Location Reports for Colorado. Nor have I been able to find any reference in the historical literature to a place by this name.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

	<b>No entry in the Geographic Site Location Reports for Costilla County. May have never been in operation.</b>
<b>Aug 25 1885</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Aug 25 1885</b>	<b>Holly, Douglas K.</b>
<b>Sep 22 188</b>	<b>Kulhary, John M.</b>
<b>Dec 10 1885</b>	<b>Discontinued Papers to Alamosa</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**NORMAN**

The situation with Norman duplicates that of Meyer. A brief existence, no site location report on file and no observed mention of the place in the historical literature.

Any information relative to either Meyer or Norman would be greatly appreciated.

**NORMAN – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

No entry in the Geographic Site Location Reports for Costilla County.  
May have never been in operation.

Jun 25 1890	Established
Jun 25 1890	Johnson, Julia A.
Oct 16 1890	Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**RUSSELL**

The discovery of placer gold in this area is attributed to W. Green Russell. From that discovery came the name of Placer Creek and a similarly named settlement located where Placer Creek from the north joins Sangre de Cristo Creek from the east. In May 1876 when a post office was established at Placer, it took the name Russell. Russell Gulch in Gilpin County is also named for W. Green Russell. There are also references to a settlement named Sangre de Cristo located on the western side of old Sangre de Cristo Pass. The pass of that name is less than a mile north of North Veta Pass through which US Highway 160 crosses the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.



**Russell Site View– Remaining Buildings**

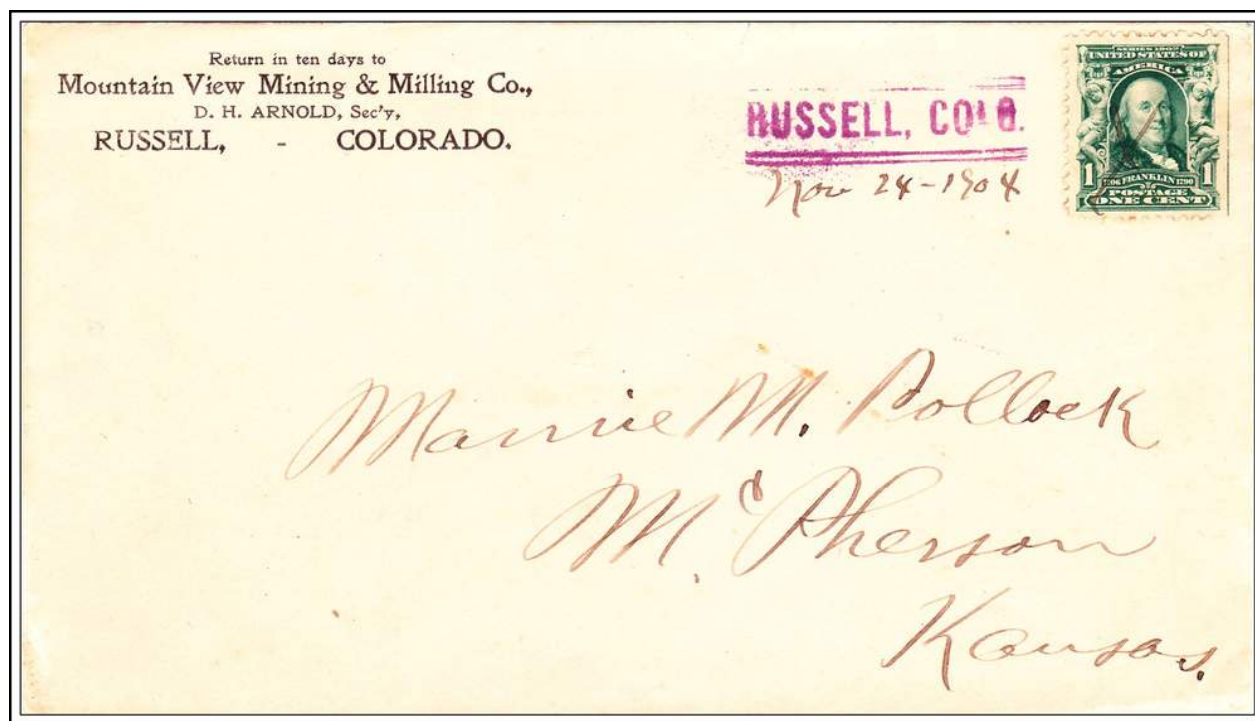
Photograph by Willim H. Bauer

May 8, 1999

**RUSSELL – Continued**

There was some gold, silver and copper in the area but mining played only a small and temporary part in the history of Russell. Russell was better described as a small town with several stores and a sawmill that served ranches and farms in the vicinity. After the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad built over La Veta Pass, Russell gained some added significance as a railroad station and supply point. However, when the railroad shifted its route from La Veta Pass south to Veta Pass, Russell quickly declined and in 1915 the Russell Post Office was moved to Wagon Creek Junction and the former site of the Margaret Post Office. Twenty years later The Russell Post Office would return to its original location at the junction with Placer Creek and it remained there until it was discontinued for good in 1956.

The original and final site of Russell is about five miles west of the summit of North Veta Pass. As recently as May 2002 there were still a few standing but abandoned buildings and evidence of several other buildings having been there. The site is also the location for a Colorado Highway Department salt storage shed and is thus easily recognized. The 1915-1935 location of Russell at the junction with Wagon Creek was previously described in the discussion of Margaret.



**RUSSELL, COLO. November 24, 1904 An unusual straight-line postmark**

Latitude = 37:33:19 North Longitude = 105:17:14 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 3 1876	---	NW/4 Sec 30 T28S R70W On north side of Sangre de Cristo Creek Site changed 1/2 mile East to RR July 10, 1878
May 12 1876		Established
May 12 1876		Tate, Isaac T.
May 31 1880		Sefton, Henry T.
Apr 13 1896		Myers, Robert G.
Mar 19 1898		Summeril, Frank H.
Apr 1 1899		Markin, Allen H.
Sep 14 1903		Benner, Henry Y. Declined

**RUSSELL – Continued**

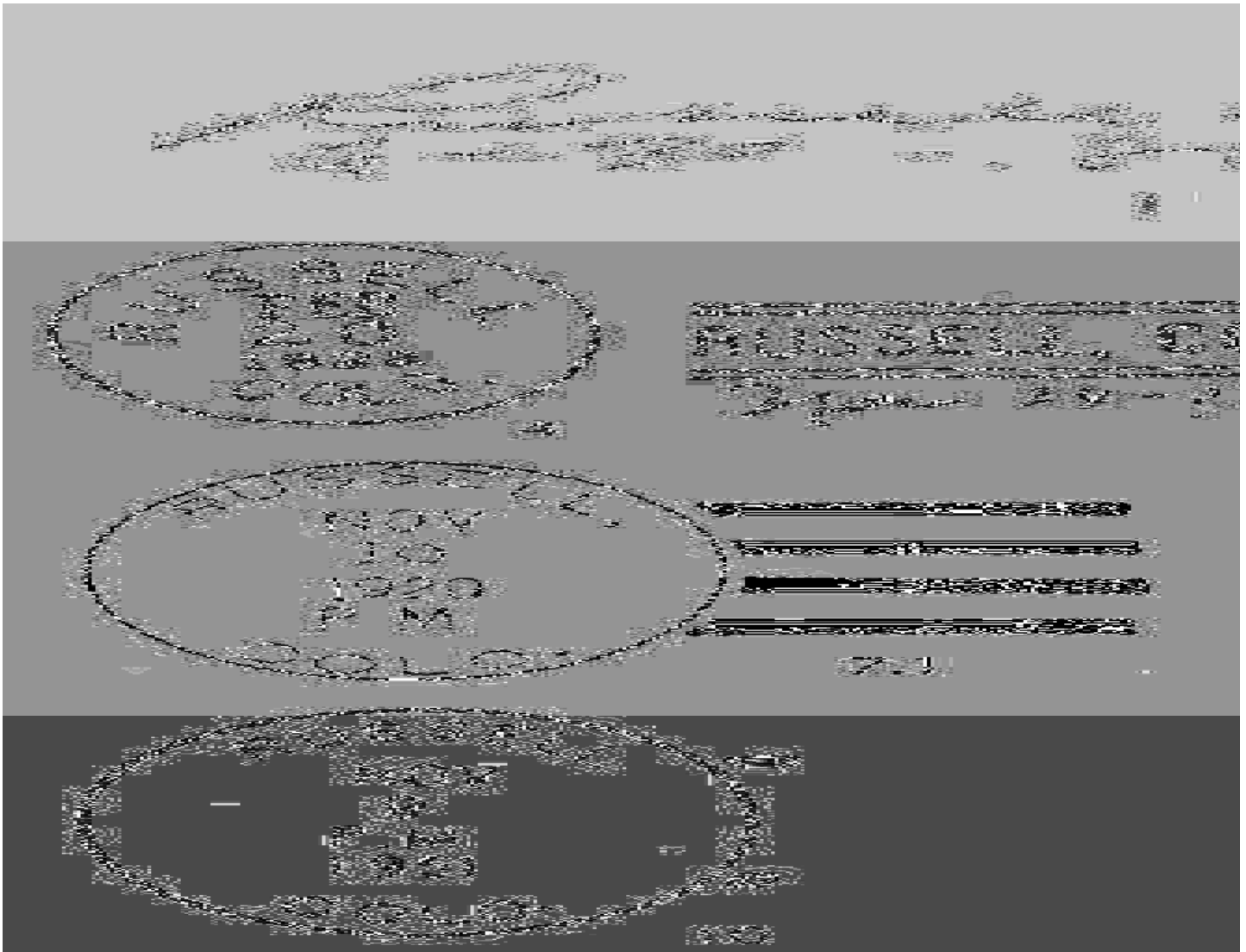
Nov 16 1903	Thomas, Addie	
Feb 8 1904	Andrews, William J.	Appointed
Apr 7 1904	Andrews, William J.	Rescinded
Apr 13 1904	Ordered closed	
Apr 30 1904	Discontinued Mail to La Veta Pass	
Aug 31 1904 ---	NW/4 Sec 1 T29S R71W; On east side of Placer Creek Proposed postmaster - Thomas Cage	
Oct 11 1904	Re-established	
Oct 11 1904	Cage, Thomas	
Jan 19 1910	Davis, Clarence J.	
Oct 25 1911	Thomas, Addie	
	Not listed in 1915 postal guide. May have been discontinued.	
Oct 15 1915 ---	NW/4 Sec 23 T29S R71W Site also known as Wagon Creek Junction, this is where Wagon Creek joins Sangre de Cristo Creek. 100 feet south of Sangre de Cristo Creek. On south side of D&RG, 100 feet from track, Russell Station. Sketch map shows an "Old Russell" in Section 1 Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Marguerite Sutton	
Jan 10 1916	Sullenberger, Lawrence	
Jul 12 1917	Ott, Lawrence M.	
Nov 12 1920	Collins, Cornelius J.	
Jan 30 1924	Moore, Walter G.	Acting
Sep 16 1924	Drake, Frederick W.	
Feb 10 1926	Reuben Medina	Acting
Feb 24 1926	Reuben Medina	Appointed
Feb 11 1930	Collins, Cornelius J.	Acting
Feb 28 1930	Collins, Cornelius J.	
Jul 20 1931	Ordered closed	
Jul 31 1931	Discontinued Mail to Fort Garland	
May 11 1935 ---	NW/4 Sec 1 T29S R71W; 150 feet east of Sangre De Cristo Creek, 3 miles north of D&RG. Sketch map shows it to west of highway 160	
May 4 1936	Re-established	
May 4 1936	Sutton, Mrs. Margurite D.	Confirmed
May 20 1936	Sutton, Mrs. Margurite D.	Commissioned
Jun 5 1936	Sutton, Mrs. Margurite D.	Assumed charge
Oct 21 1941 ---	NW/4 Sec 1 T29S R71W; On west side of highway 160, 15 feet. 75 feet west of Placer Creek, this is a little south of where Placer Creek joins Sangre de Cristo Creek	
Jul 31 1956	Discontinued Mail to La Veta	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Russell Col MS	Jun 30 1880 Mscp Pen Cancel
2	RUSSELL / COLO. SL 00R 27.0x19.0	Jan 3 1881 Hstp Fancy, Positive star in circle
3	RUSSELL / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Feb 14 1882 Apr 13 1882 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
4	RUSSELL / COLO. CI 20P 27.0/26.0	Feb 20 1882 Hstp Target, 4 ring 18mm
5	RUSSELL, COLO. SL 00R 37.0x11.0	Nov 24 1904 Hstp Pen cancel, manuscript date, two bars above and below town-state names
6	RUSSELL, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	May 24 1906 Sep 10 1912 Doane Type 2 with 1, S-23x13mm
7	RUSSELL, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Aug 2 1913 4bars S-23x19mm

**RUSSELL – Continued**

7.1	RUSSELL, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Nov 10 1920
8	RUSSELL, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jul 31 1931
9	RUSSELL, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Jul 23 1936 Dec 13 1947
10	RUSSELL / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Nov 9 1951 Oct 13 1953



**SAN ACACIO**

San Acacio is another of the towns that were established in 1909 by the Costilla Estate Development Company. However, there was a much earlier settlement of the same name.

Established in 1853 Viejo (old) San Acacio was named for Saint Acacius, the Soldier Saint (Spanish). Legend has it that when the early settlers were attacked by Indians they appealed for help to San Acacio (Saint Acacius). Miraculously the Indians broke off their attack and the people then chose to name their plaza in honor of San Acacio. Another version claims that Spanish soldiers appeared as in a vision and frightened off the Indians.

**SAN ACACIO – Continued**

San Acacio, both Old and New were agricultural communities. Many of the settlers at New San Acacio were of Japanese descent. A few buildings and residences remain at the 1909 site but the town now depends on San Luis for nearly all commercial activity.

From San Luis drive west on Colorado Highway 142 about seven and one-half miles to the 1909 site. At about four miles a road south leads to Viejo San Acacio. There are a few residences and an interesting southwestern style adobe church.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

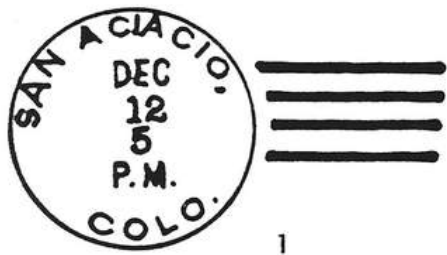
Oct 18 1909	---	SE/4 Sec 16 T3N R73W 6th PM	
Nov 11 1909		Established	
Nov 11 1909		Jay, Howard M.	
Feb 21 1911	---	NE/4 Sec 21 T3N R73W	Office is 0.13 miles west of track, San Luis Southern Railway
May 31 1911		Matthews, Joseph R.	
Feb 24 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 21 T3N R73W 6th PM	
Jan 5 1915		Fuller, William H.	
Oct 26 1918		Haxby, Henry G.	
Jan 21 1920		Lysaght, James R.	Acting
Apr 6 1920		Lysaght, James R.	
Oct 1 1922			Office made Presidential
Dec 23 1922		Lysaght, James R.	
Dec 21 1926		Lysaght, James R.	
Jul 1 1929			Relegated
Jul 26 1929		Lysaght, James R.	
Sep 10 1930		Raish, Pearl M.	Assumed charge
Sep 23 1930		Raish, Pearl M.	Confirmed
Oct 21 1930		Raish, Pearl M.	Commissioned
May 12 1934	---	SE/4 Sec 16 T3N R73W 6th PM	3/4 miles north of the Culebra River, 1335 feet from station of San Luis Valley Southern, west of track. Move to new site, June 1st, 1934. Unused Bank Building containing safe and built in vault, cheaper rent
Jun 1 1934		Wright, Lewis H.	Assumed charge
Jun 19 1934		Wright, Lewis H.	Acting
Jan 11 1935		Wright, Lewis H.	Confirmed
Feb 5 1935		Wright, Lewis H.	Commissioned
Jan 28 1936		Bennett, Gordon S.	Assumed charge
Feb 6 1936		Bennett, Gordon S.	Acting
Jul 30 1936		Bennett, Gordon S.	Confirmed
Oct 24 1936		Bennett, Gordon S.	Order rescinded
Nov 3 1936		Bennett, Mrs. Zeita M.	Confirmed
Nov 25 1936		Bennett, Mrs. Zeita M.	Commissioned
Jan 1 1937		Bennett, Mrs. Zeita M.	Assumed charge
Nov 12 1941	---	SE/4 Sec 16 T3N R73W	On state highway 99, north side
Jan 16 1942		Robinson, Reginald W.	Assumed charge
Jan 22 1942		Robinson, Reginald W.	Acting
Jul 18 1942		Garrison, Mary K.	Confirmed
Aug 1 1942		Garrison, Mary K.	Commissioned
Aug 19 1942		Garrison, Mary K.	Possession
Aug 20 1942		Garrison, Mary K.	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1945			Office made Presidential
Feb 28 1945		Carpenter, Margaret Joetta	Acting
Mar 1 1945		Carpenter, Mary Joetta	Assumed charge
Apr 2 1945		Carpenter, Margaret Joetta	Acting
Feb 21 1946		Peterson, George Joseph	Acting
Feb 22 1946		Peterson, George Joseph	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1947			Relegated

**SAN ACACIO – Continued**

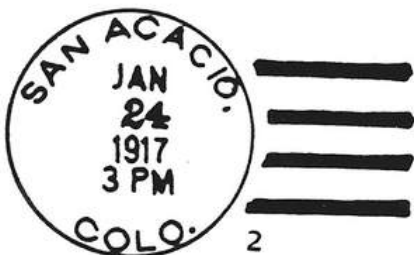
Jul 17 1947	Peterson, George Joseph	Confirmed
Aug 21 1947	Peterson, George Joseph	Commissioned
Sep 30 1947	Peterson, George Joseph	Possession
Apr 18 1992	Discontinued	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	SAN ACACIO, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x13mm	Jun 26 1911 Nov 10 1916
2	SAN ACACIO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jan 24 1917 Aug 5 1925
2.1	SAN ACACIO / C CI 10P XX.0	Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval [partial strike]	Aug 19 192-
3	SAN ACACIO, COLO. CI 10H 32.0	4bars S-25x18mm	Oct 21 1933 Mar 2 1936
4	SAN ACACIO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Apr 16 1937 Sep 2 1943
5	SAN ACACIO / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 3 1944 Feb 19 1962
5.1	<b>SAN ACACIO / COLO.</b> <b>RC 10P 35.0x18.0</b>	<b>Hstp No killer; Parcel Post Box</b> <b>[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]</b>	<b>1950s</b>
6	SAN ACACIO, CO / 81150 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 14 1967 Nov 18 1989



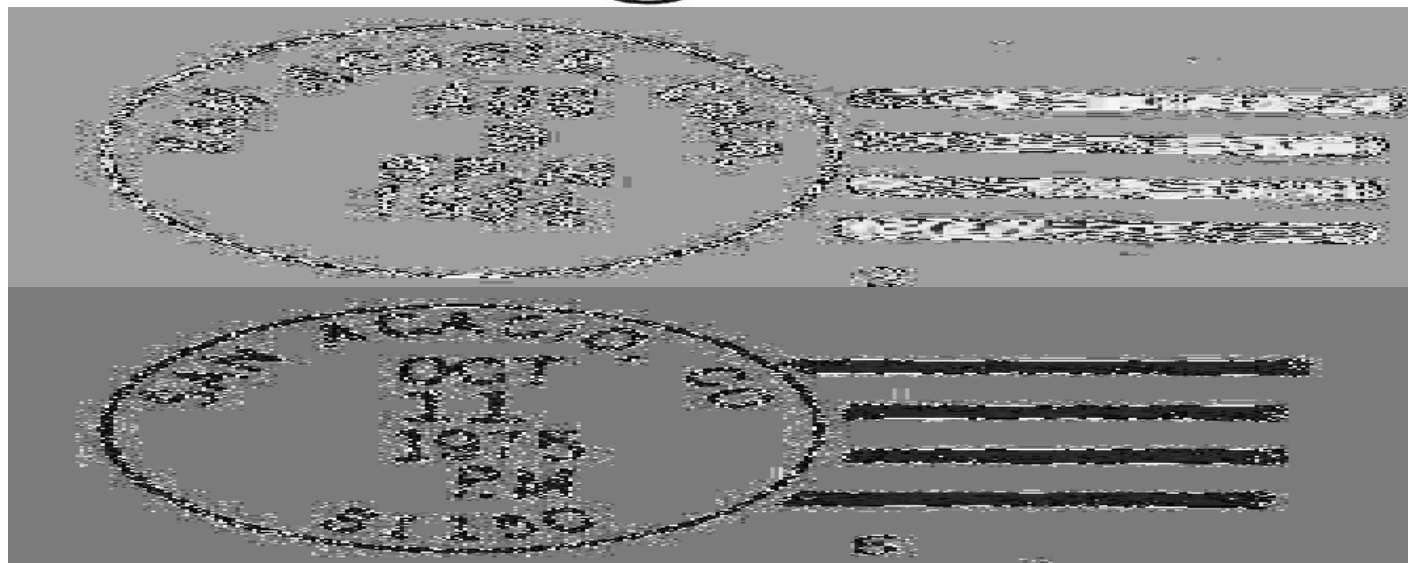
1



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**SAN LUIS**

In December 1843 Luis Lee and Narciso Beaubien were given a large land grant in what was then northern New Mexico. This became known as the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant. Early attempts at settlement on the grant were unsuccessful because the Ute Indians objected to the invasion of their territory.

In 1851, under the direction of Charles Beaubien, heir to the land grant, another attempt was made to establish a settlement on the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant. A group of twelve families selected a site on the Rio Culebra and from this beginning San Luis earned the label of The Oldest Town in Colorado. The settlers were Faustin Medina, Mariano Pacheco, Ramon Rivera, Juan M. Salazar, Benancio Jaquez, Antonio Vallegos, Diego Gallegos, Juan A. Vigil, Dario Gallegos, Juan J. Jaquez, Jose Martinez and Jose H. Valdez. The first water rights recorded in Costilla County were for the San Luis People's Ditch No. 1, dated 1851.

For some years the community was known as Culebra or San Luis de Culebra. Another name was Plaza Del Medio (Center Village). San Pedro, four miles to the southeast was called Upper Culebra or Plaza Arriba. San Acacio, four miles to the west was called Lower Culebra or Plaza Abajo.

Costilla County was one of the seventeen original counties of Colorado. At the time of its creation the county seat was designated as San Miguel. However, it appears that this was another name for San Luis. By 1868, or even earlier, the county seat was San Luis. San Luis was incorporated in 1968.

Possession of the county seat provided San Luis with a solid base for growth. The town became, and remains, the principal supply center for agriculture in southern Costilla County. In the twentieth century potatoes became an important crop for the surrounding farms. The San Luis Southern Railroad served the town.

San Luis is fifteen miles south of Fort Garland on Colorado Highway 159.



**SAN LUIS, COLORADO.**

**January 18, 1882**

Latitude = 37:12:03 North Longitude = 105:25:24 West

## SAN LUIS – Continued

## Chronology of the Post Office

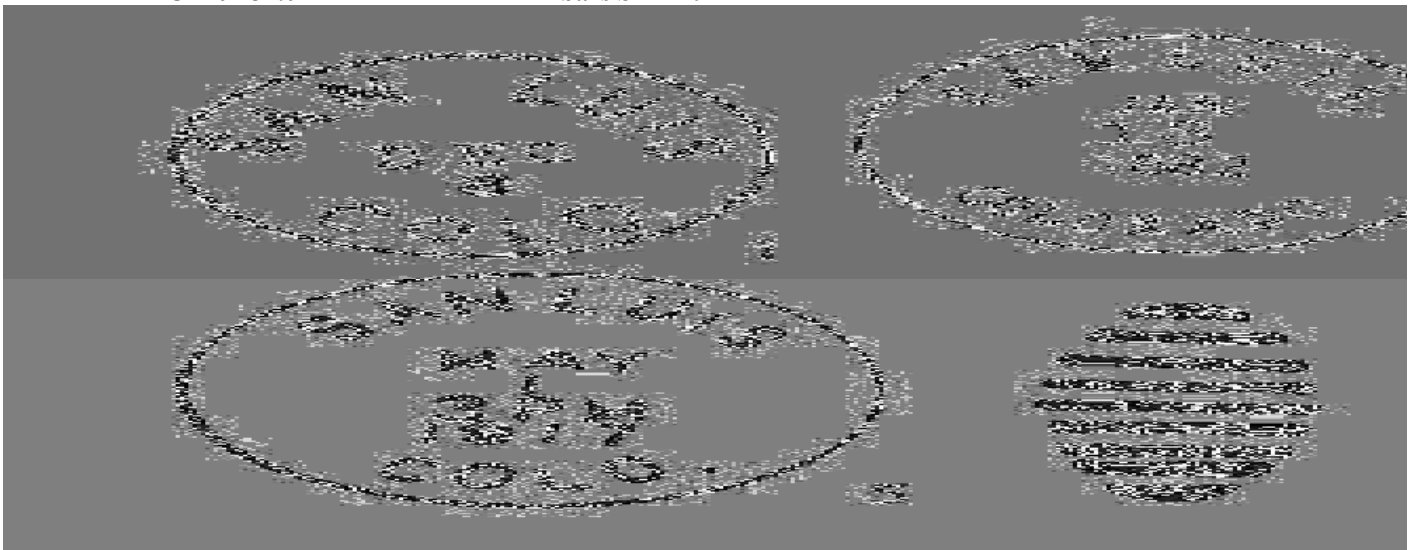
Feb 25 1862	---	Unsurveyed; On the east side of Culebra Creek	
Feb 25 1862		Established	
Jul 25 1862		Henderson, Cornelius D.	
Feb 4 1863		Easterday, Harvey E.	
Oct 9 1865		Gaspar, John L.	
Aug 26 1867		Easterday, Harvey E.	
Dec 1 1868		Walsen, Fred	
Aug 12 1870		Salazar, Alcario	
Mar 17 1875		Day, William J.	
Jul 10 1876	---	Unsurveyed; 1/4 mile south of Rito Seco Creek	
Jul 27 1880		Snodgrass, James C.	
Jun 19 1880		Sanchez, Manuel A.	
Jun 16 1888		Lowry, Armand C.	
Feb 16 1900		Gallegos, Jose P.	
Sep 1 1905		Valdez, Elvira	
Feb 24 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 26 T33S or 3N R72W; 200 feet northwest of Rito Seco Creek	
Jan 5 1915		Lacome, Frank	
Jan 1 1921			Office made Presidential
Nov 23 1921		Valdez, Juan R.	
Aug 7 1923	---	NW/4 Sec 26 T3N R71W ??; 300 yards south of Rito Seco Creek	
Jun 28 1926		Valdez, Juan R.	
Jul 1 1930		Valdez, Juan R.	
Jul 1 1931			Office made Presidential
Jun 4 1932		Valdez, Juan R.	Nominated
Jun 22 1932		Valdez, Juan R.	Confirmed
Feb 10 1932		Valdez, Juan R.	Commissioned
Aug 18 1932		Valdez, Juan R.	Confirmed
Aug 31 1932		Valdez, Juan R.	Commissioned
Jan 12 1934		Gallegos, Nea G.	Assumed charge
Jan 16 1934		Gallegos, Nea G.	Acting
Aug 3 1935		Gallegos, Nea G.	Confirmed
Sep 5 1935		Gallegos, Nea G.	Commissioned
May 28 1936		Gallegos, Nea G.	Nominated
Jun 5 1936		Gallegos, Nea G.	Confirmed
Jul 1 1936		Gallegos, Nea G.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 14 1936		Gallegos, Nea G.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1940		Gallegos, Nea G.	Nominated
May 24 1940		Gallegos, Nea G.	Confirmed
May 31 1940		Gallegos, Nea G.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 1 1940		Gallegos, Nea G.	Appointed
Aug 26 1940		Gallegos, Nea G.	Assumed charge
Aug 21 1940		Gallegos, Nea G.	Commissioned
Nov 2 1941	---	NW/4 Sec 26 T3N R72W; On Main Street	
Jul 1 1973		Martinez, Pepita G.	Appointed

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SAN LUIS / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Dec ? 186- Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
2	SAN LUIS, / COLORADO. CI 10P 28.0	Mar 8 1881 Mar 27 1884 Hstp Fancy, Honeycomb-Pearl Button; Cork, smudge
3	SAN LUIS, COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Apr 8 1893 Feb 27 1897 Hstp Fancy, Shaded star
4	SAN LUIS / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Apr 11 1904 Hstp Not present

**SAN LUIS – Continued**

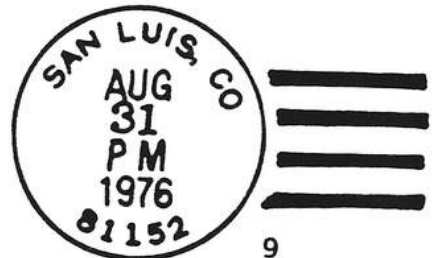
5	SAN LUIS / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Feb 7 1911 May 1 1917
6	SAN LUIS, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 16 1936 Oct 28 1940
7	SAN LUIS / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Aug 22 1941 May 9 1957
7.1	SAN LUIS, / COLO. RC 10P 43.0x18.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box	1950s
8	SAN LUIS, CO / 81152 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jul 20 1965 Oct 18 1972
9	SAN LUIS, CO / 81152 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Aug 31 1976 Sep 7 1978
9.v	SAN LUIS, CO / 81152 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 1 1985 Feb 4 1986 Distorted dial and bars are wrapped with a rubber band [Not illustrated]
10	SAN LUIS CO OLDEST TOWN IN CO / 81152 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm; frame is rough and crude appearing	Dec 22 1986 Feb 2 1987
11	SAN LUIS, CO OLDEST TOWN IN CO / 81152 CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-27x21mm	Aug 13 1987 Aug 16 1988
12	SAN LUIS, CO OLDEST TOWN IN CO / 81152 CI 10P 40.0	4bars S-??x22mm	Mar 1 1988 Apr 15 1993
13	SAN LUIS. CO / 81152 CI 10P 33.5	4bars S-27x19mm	Jul 13 1989 May 29 1993
14	SAN LUIS, CO / USPO CI 11P 29.5/19.0	Hstp No killer	May 24 1991
14.1	SAN LUIS, CO OLDEST TOWN IN CO / 81152 CI 10P 37.0	4bars S-28x21mm	Aug 5 1993 <b>[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]</b>
15	SAN LUIS CO 81152 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	May 11 1999
16	SAN LUIS, CO / 81152 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	May 12 1999 Oct 31 2001



7.1

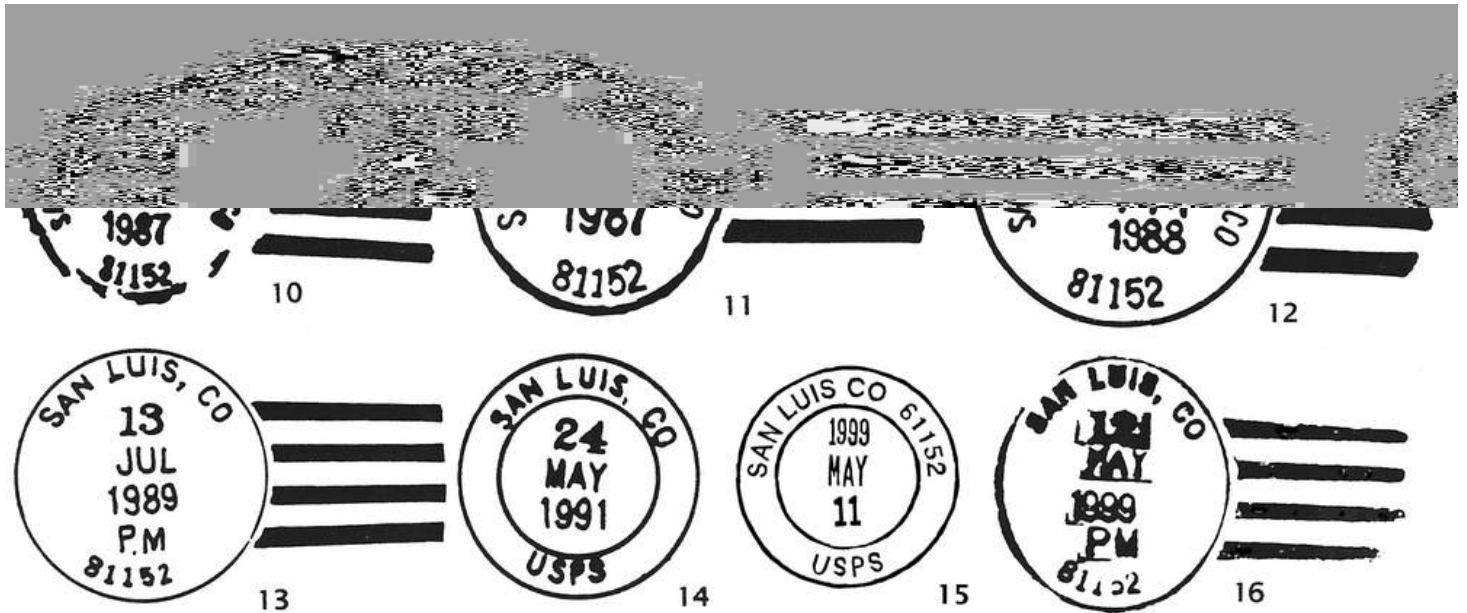


8



9

SAN LUIS – Continued



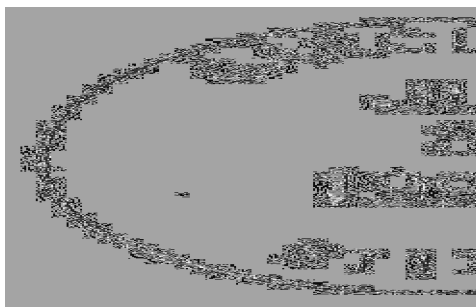
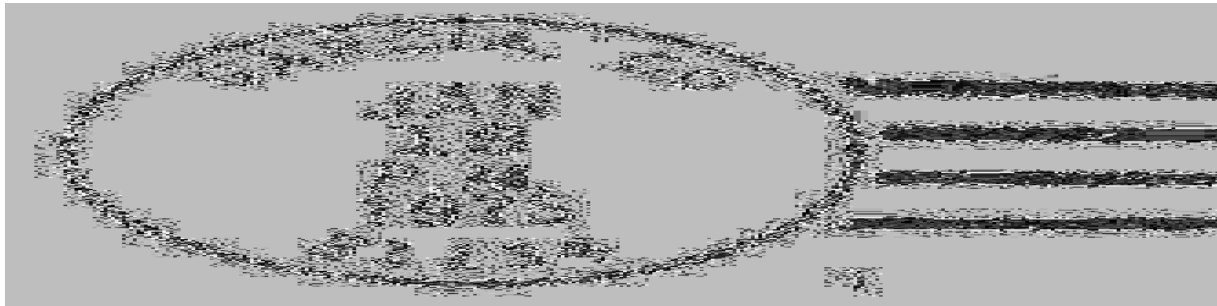
GARCIA RURAL BRANCH

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 3 1964      Established as a Rural Branch of San Luis      Now a Community Post Office

Confirmed types of postal markings

- |     |  |                 |                                  |
|-----|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1   | GARCIA, CO / 81134<br>CI 10P 33.0          | 4bars S-25x20mm | Jul 29 1969 Oct 15 1976          |
| 1.1 | GARCIA, CO 81134<br>CI 10P 33.0            | 4bars S-26x14mm | Feb 3 1986                       |
|     |  |                 | [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |
| 2   | GARCIA, CO / 81134<br>CI 10P 34.0          | 4bars S-25x20mm | Feb 17 1987 Jan 20 1990          |
| 3   | GARCIA, CO P.O. / USPS<br>CI 11P 29.0/19.0 | Hstp No killer  | Jan 20 1990                      |
| 4   | GARCIA, CO / 81134<br>CI 10P 35.0          | 4bars S-25x20mm | Jul 3 1993                       |



**SAN PABLO**

Established in 1852, San Pablo was another of the early Hispanic communities on the Culebra River that centered on San Luis. The name is derived from Saint Paul. Like the other communities of the group, it was an agricultural settlement.

From San Luis, turn east on Gasper Street (Colorado Highway 152). Two miles east of San Luis turn south on County Road 21 (Colorado Highway 242) for another mile and a half. There is a small group of homes and a store building. In 1999 there was a Texaco sign in front of the store. On my first visit to San Pablo, in 1972, the post office was in this combination store and service station. In 1999 the post office had closed and been replaced by a cluster box across the road from the store.

When I made the 1972 visit to San Pablo I first went into the store/post office and got some cancels. I then took pictures. The postmaster observed this and came out to query me further. Apparently the postmaster was concerned that I was working for the Post Office Department and that I would use the photograph to report that the office was not in the best of condition.

Latitude = 37:08:57 North Longitude = 105:23:47 West

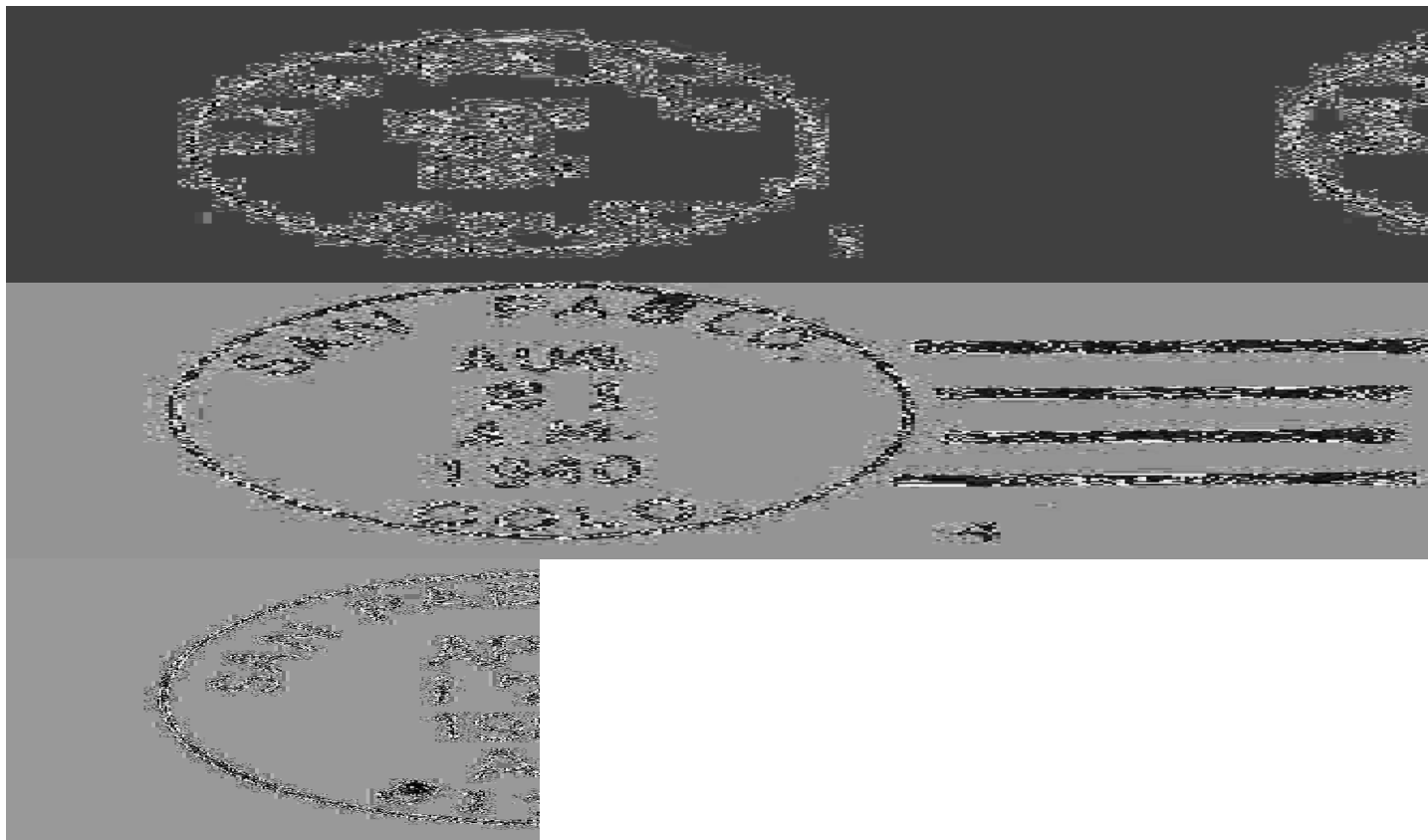
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 16 1892	---	NE/4 Sec 12 T2N R72W	
Jan 7 1893		Established	
Jan 7 1893		Chaves, Herman Jr.	
Jan 25 1898		Sanchez, Jose E. Jr.	
Nov 21 1899		Esquibel, Felix G.	
Dec 15 1905	---	Report filed, location not reported; 1/2 mile north of present site	
		Proposed postmaster - Emilo Lobato	
Dec 28 1905		Lobato, Emilio	
Dec 11 1906		Roybal, Basilio	
Jul 1 1908		Pacheco, Jose M.	
Jan 30 1917		Vigil, Jose M.	Confirmed
Feb 15 1917		Vigil, Jose M.	Commissioned
Feb 22 1917		Vigil, Jose M.	Assumed charge
Sep 28 1926	---	SW/4 Sec 1 T2N R72W 6th PM; 500 yards north of Culebra Creek	
Jan 14 1936		Olivas, Fermin	Confirmed
Jan 29 1936		Olivas, Fermin	Commissioned
Feb 14 1936		Olivas, Fermin	Assumed charge
Dec 5 1936	---	NW/4 Sec 12 T2N R72W 6th PM Move 1/4 mile southeast	
		Change of postmaster and my building is situated one-quarter mile SE of Present office.	
Feb 8 1938	---	Location not reported Culebra River 1/4 mile south, Vallejos Creek 1/2 mile southeast	
Feb 26 1939		Lobato, Mrs. Adelina	Assumed charge
Mar 3 1939		Lobato, Mrs. Adelina	Acting
Mar 9 1939	---	N/4 Sec 7 T2N R72W; change location 1/2 mile west	
		NOTE - W.H.B. : This section is in R71W, not R72W	
Oct 11 1939		Lobato, Mrs. Adelina	Confirmed
Oct 24 1939		Lobato, Mrs. Adelina	Commissioned
Oct 28 1941	---	Report filed, location not reported	
Mar 27 1947		Lobato, Della Lucille	Assumed charge
Apr 9 1947		Lobato, Della Lucille	Acting
Nov 13 1947		Lobato, Della Lucille	Confirmed
Jan 23 1948		Lobato, Della Lucille	Commissioned
Feb 19 1948		Lobato, Della Lucille	Possession
May 16 1949		Salaz, Della Lucille	Name changed by divorce
Mar 14 1953		Gallegos, Della Lucille	Name changed by marriage
Oct 1 1992		Discontinued	

## SAN PABLO – Continued

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SAN PABLO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jan 1 1894 Jan 9 1900 Hstp Cork, smudge
2	SAN PABLO, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Jul 22 1909 Mar 16 1917 Doane Type 2 with 1, S-23x13mm
3	SAN PABLO, COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Jan 27 1934 Dec 2 194? 4bars P-24x19mm
4	SAN PABLO, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Feb 3 1962 Sep 21 1948 4bars S-24x20mm
5	SAN PABLO / COLO. CI 11P 28.0/19.0	May 25 1954 Feb 12 1955 4bars S-24x20mm: Appears that the center of the Type 4 device has been cut out and replaced by a double ring handstamp to create this device. Remnants of the original letters are still visible.
6	SAN PABLO, CO / 81153 CI 10P 33.0	Aug 11 1969 Oct 6 1975 4bars S-25x20mm
7	SAN PABLO, CO / 81153 CI 10P 32.0	Apr 7 1987 4bars S-26x19mm



## VETA PASS (II)

Veta Pass was the third name to be applied to a post office at or near where the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad now crosses the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. It was also the one that uses the correct designation for the crossing point - Veta Pass. There was briefly a Veta Pass Post Office at that location, but it was on the Huerfano County side of the pass.

**VETA PASS – Continued**

Historians often confuse Veta Pass at this location (1911-1935) with Veta Pass at the older crossing (1889-1890). Many do not realize that the name was applied to two distinct locations and usually discuss the old location which is on a county road, has a small chapel at the pass, the old railroad depot and until recently, was the location of a fairly large dance hall.

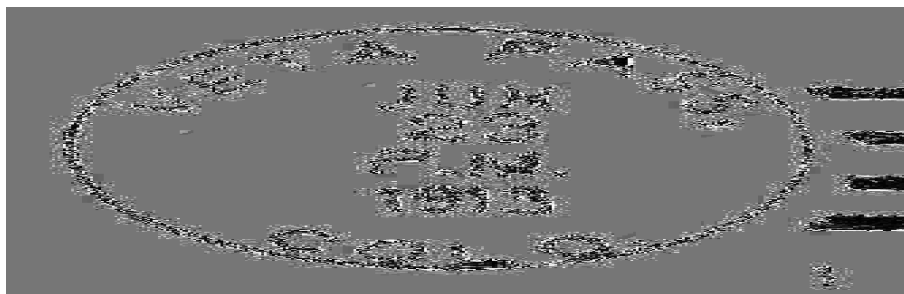
Post offices at the southern or new site were first known as Bernice, then La Veta Pass and finally as Veta Pass. As was first discussed under Bernice, I have not been able to visit the site on Veta Pass, so I have no knowledge of what might still be there. Access, if still possible, would be through the Forbes Park Development.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Apr 13 1911</b>	<b>Name changed from La Veta Pass</b>	
<b>Apr 13 1911</b>	<b>lagle, John</b>	
<b>Jun 13 1911</b>	<b>Wright, Maxine D.</b>	
<b>Dec 12 1911 ---</b>	<b>SW/4 NW/4 Sec 36 T29S R70W; 20 feet north of D&amp;RG tracks</b>	
<b>Mar 23 1914 ---</b>	<b>First page of document is unreadable SW/4 NW/4 Sec 36 T29S R70W; North side of D&amp;RG tracks</b>	
<b>Aug 8 1916</b>	<b>Richards, Adam</b>	
<b>Mar 14 1919</b>	<b>Harrell, Herman E.</b>	
<b>Dec 18 1925</b>	<b>Johnston, Clyde B.</b>	
<b>Aug 27 1931</b>	<b>Morris, Charles H.</b>	<b>Acting</b>
<b>Sep 5 1931</b>	<b>Morris, Charles H.</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>Sep 22 1931</b>	<b>Morris, Charles H.</b>	<b>Commissioned</b>
<b>Sep 30 1931</b>	<b>Morris, Charles H.</b>	<b>Assumed charge</b>
<b>Apr 2 1935</b>	<b>Ordered closed</b>	
<b>Apr 30 1935</b>	<b>Discontinued Mail to La Veta</b>	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

<b>1</b>	<b>VETA PASS, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0</b>	<b>4bars S-24x19mm</b>	<b>May 15 1912 Jun 19 1927</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>VETA PASS / COLO. CI 10P 33.0</b>	<b>4bars S-24x17mm</b>	<b>Apr 30 1935</b>



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

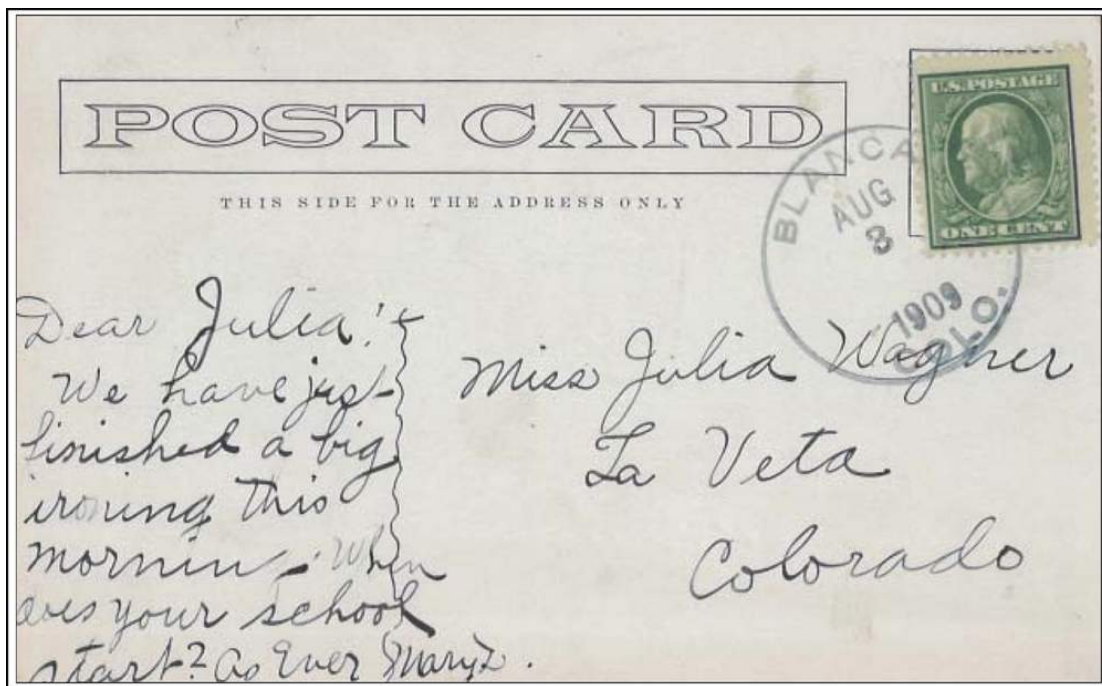
**GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**

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.

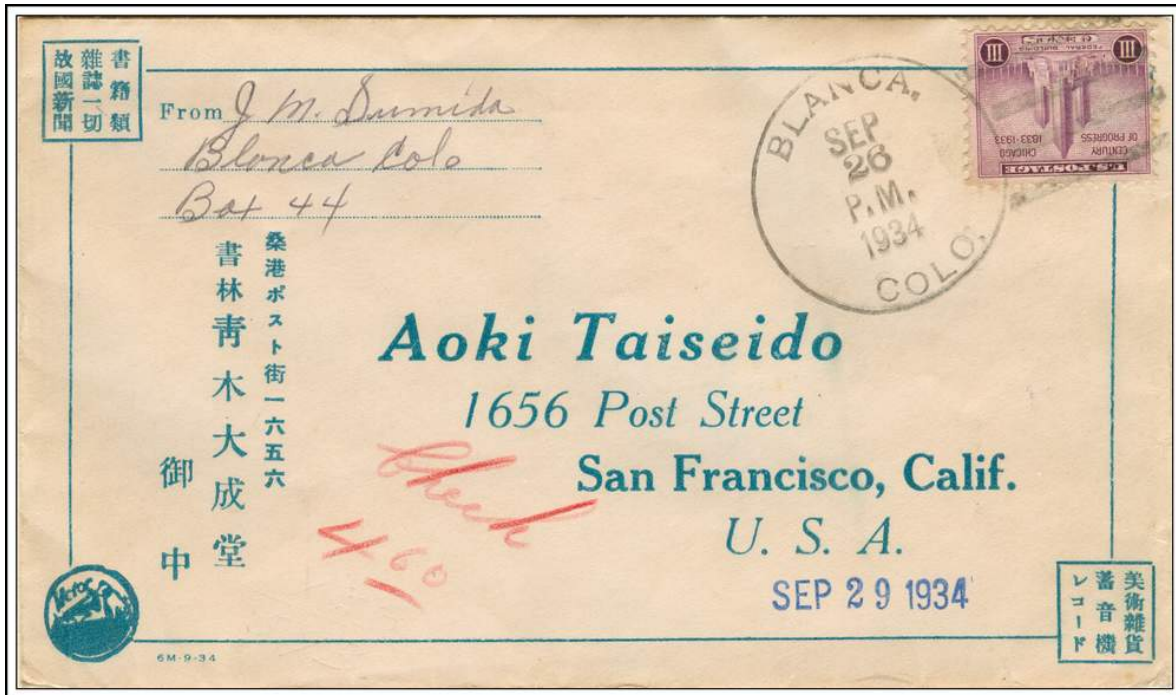
A GALLERY OF COSTILLA COUNTY COVERS



BLANCA / COLO. (in Alamosa County) March 7, 1899

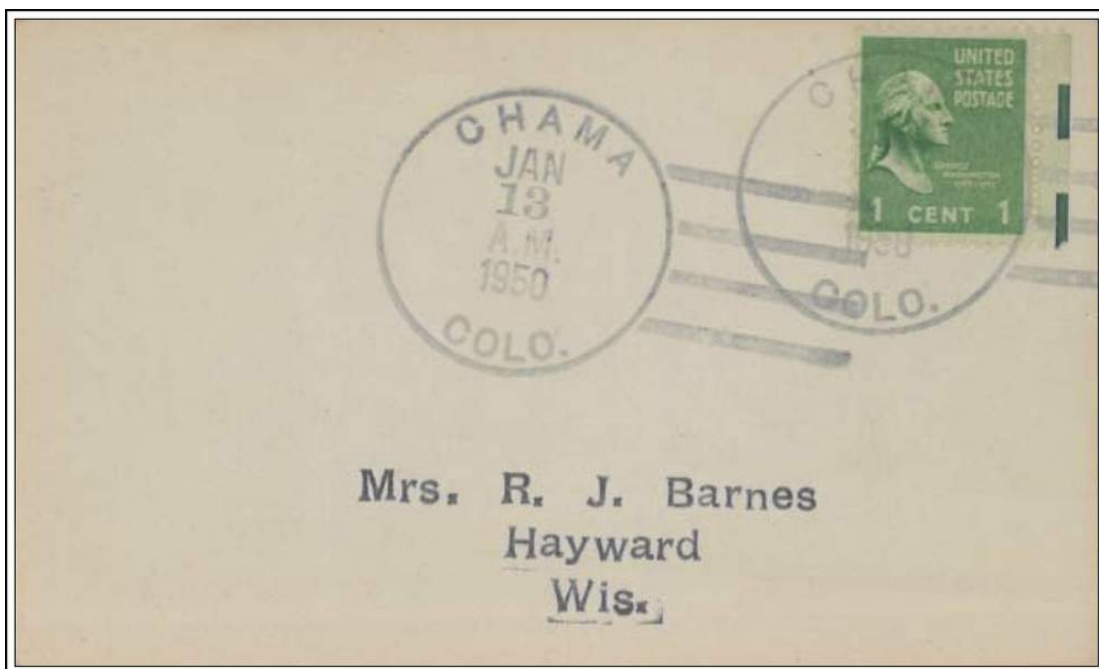


BLANCA, / COLO. August 3, 1909



BLANCA, / COLO.

September 26, 1934

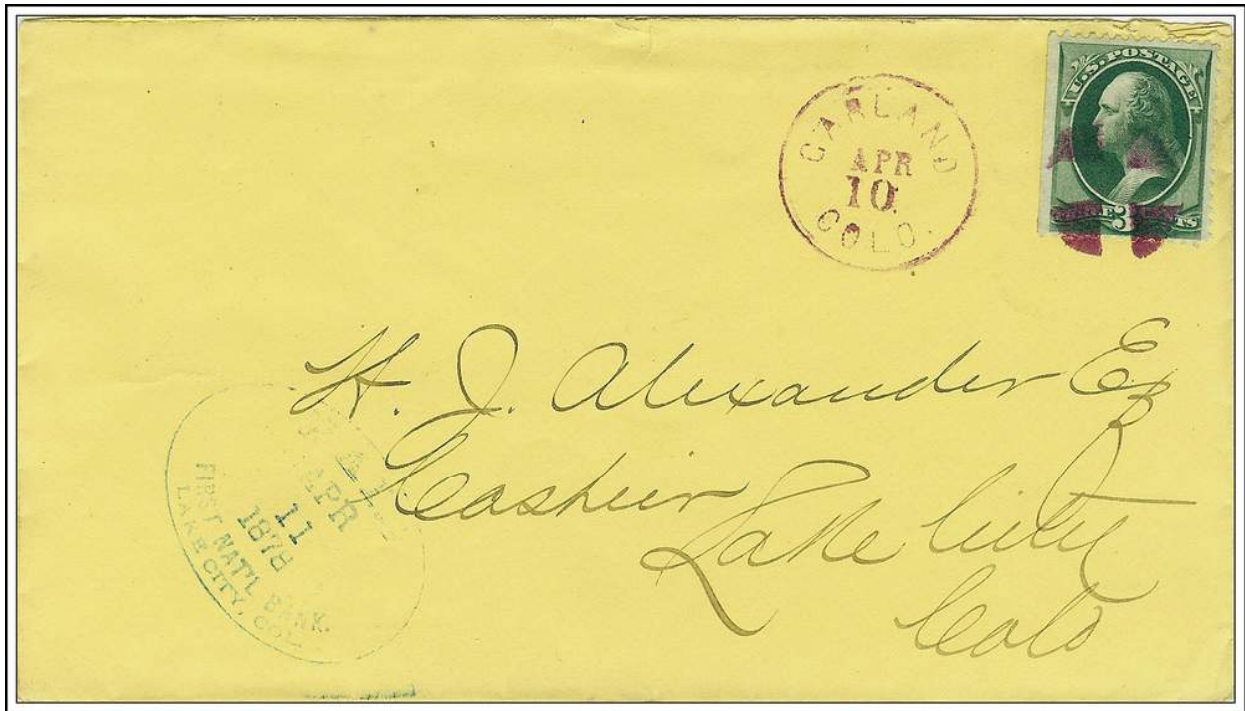


CHAMA / COLO.

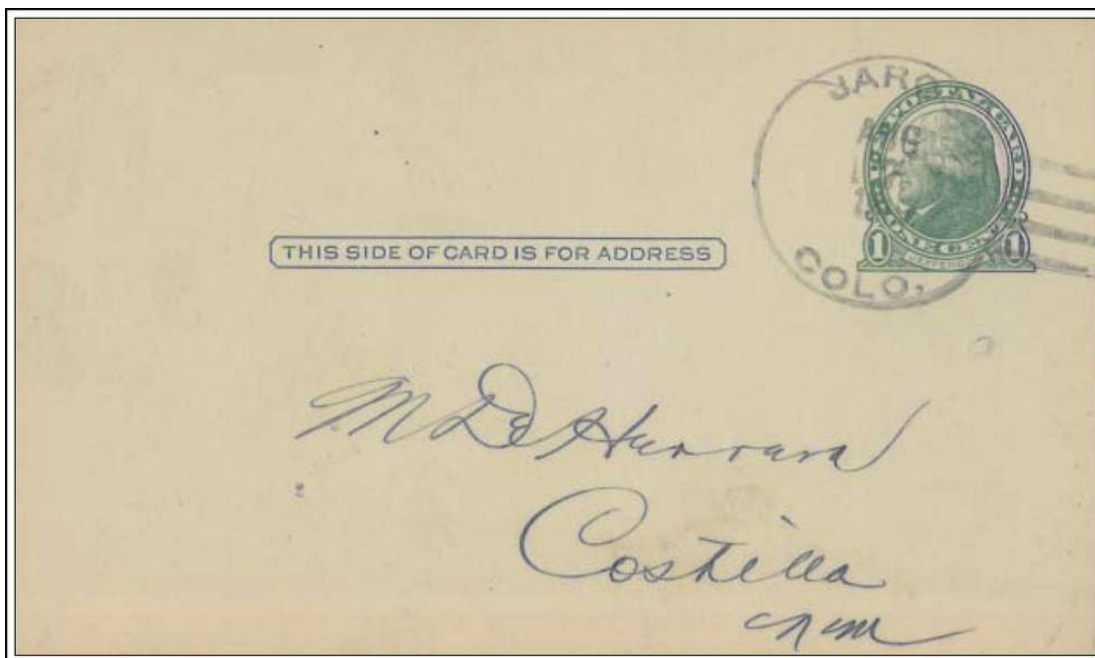
January 13, 1950



FORT GARLAND / COLO to Egypt      March 7

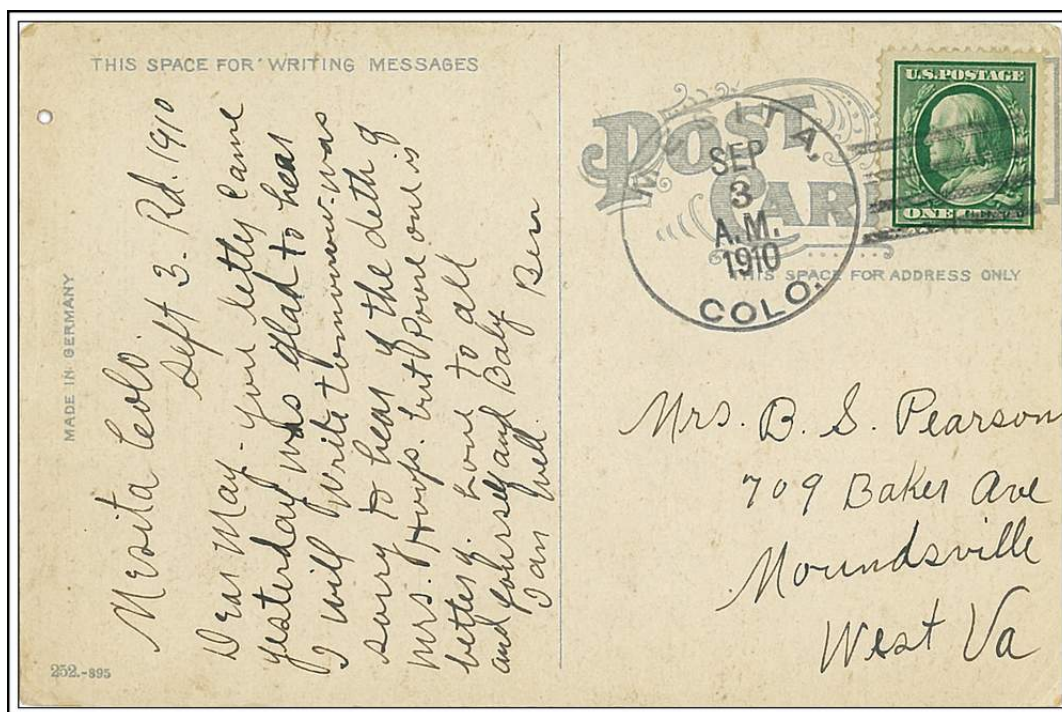


GARLAND / COLO.      April 10, (1878)



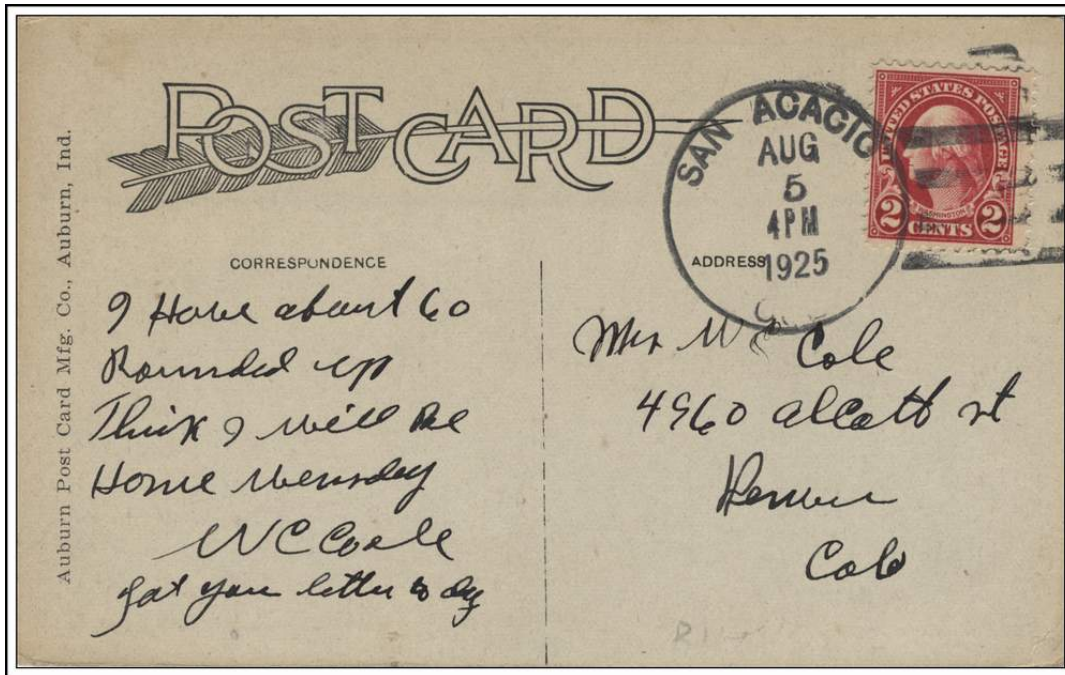
JAROSO / COLO.

August 7, 1919



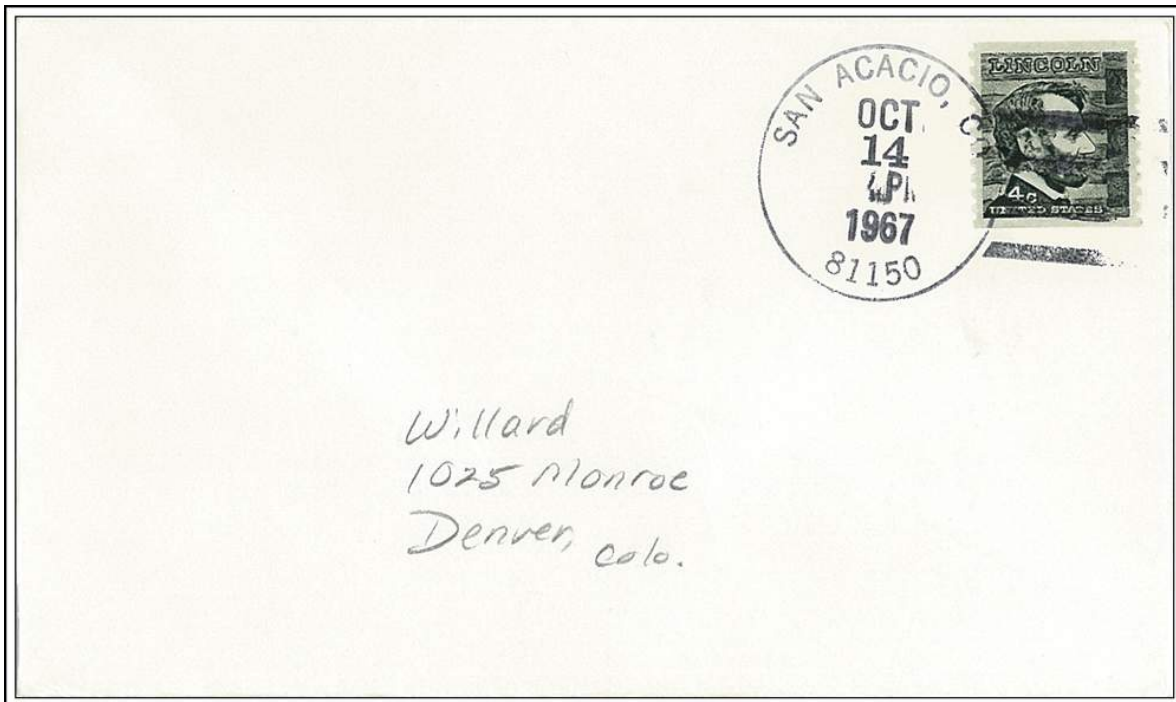
MESITA, / COLO.

September 3, 1910



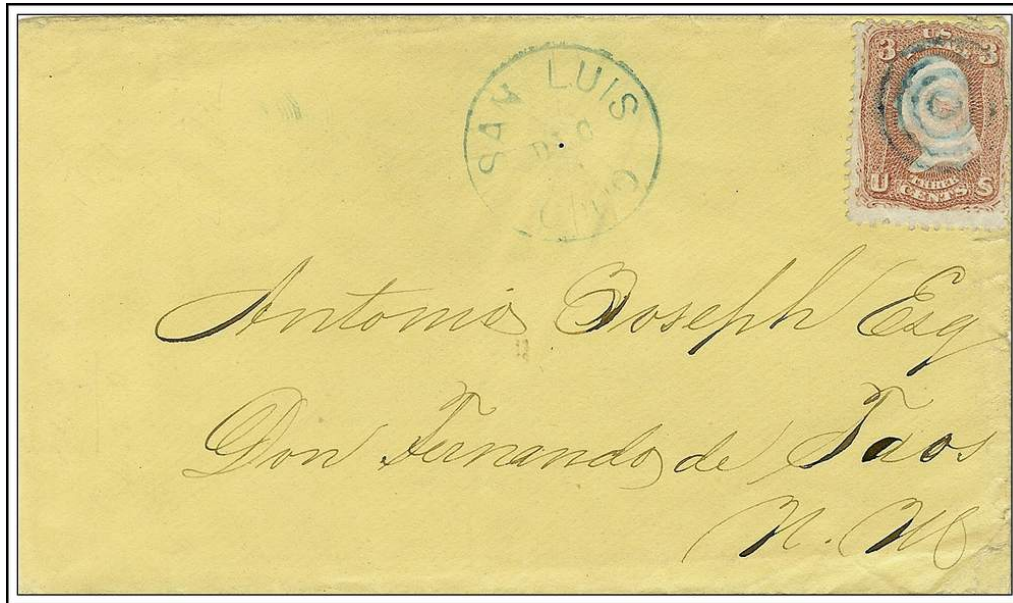
SAN ACACIO / COLO.

August 5, 1925



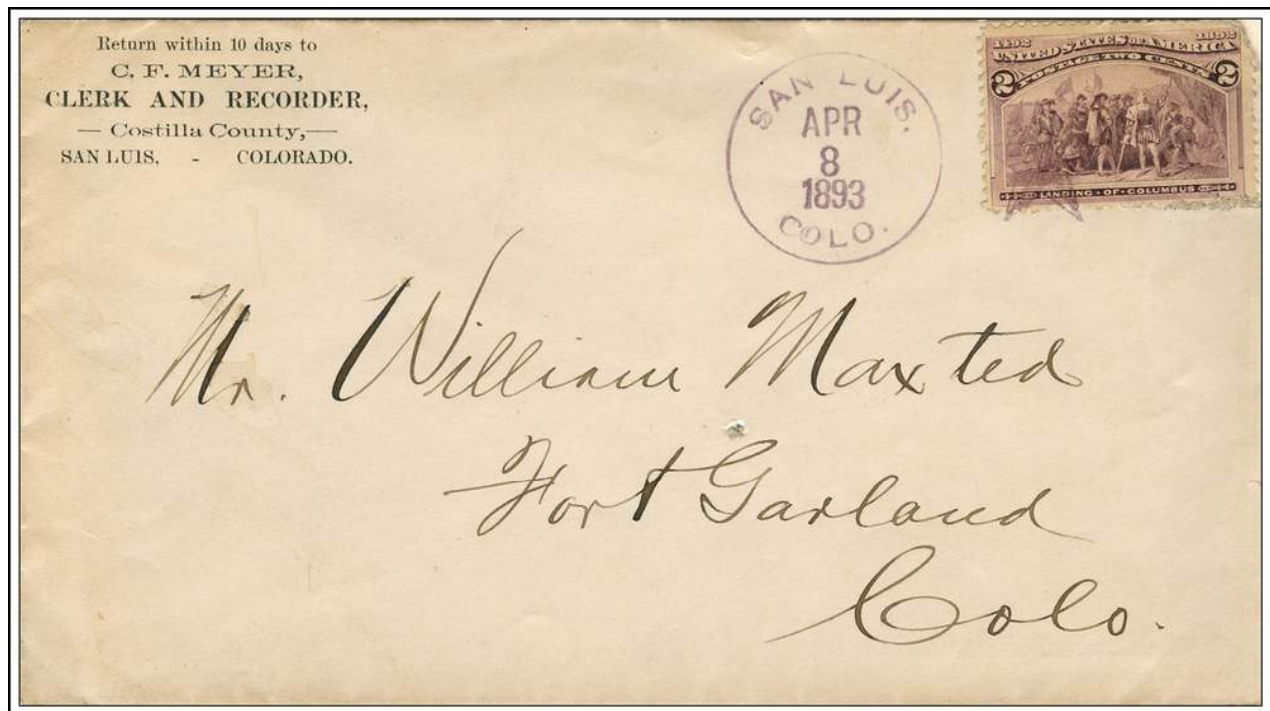
SAN ACACIO, CO / 81150

October 14, 1967



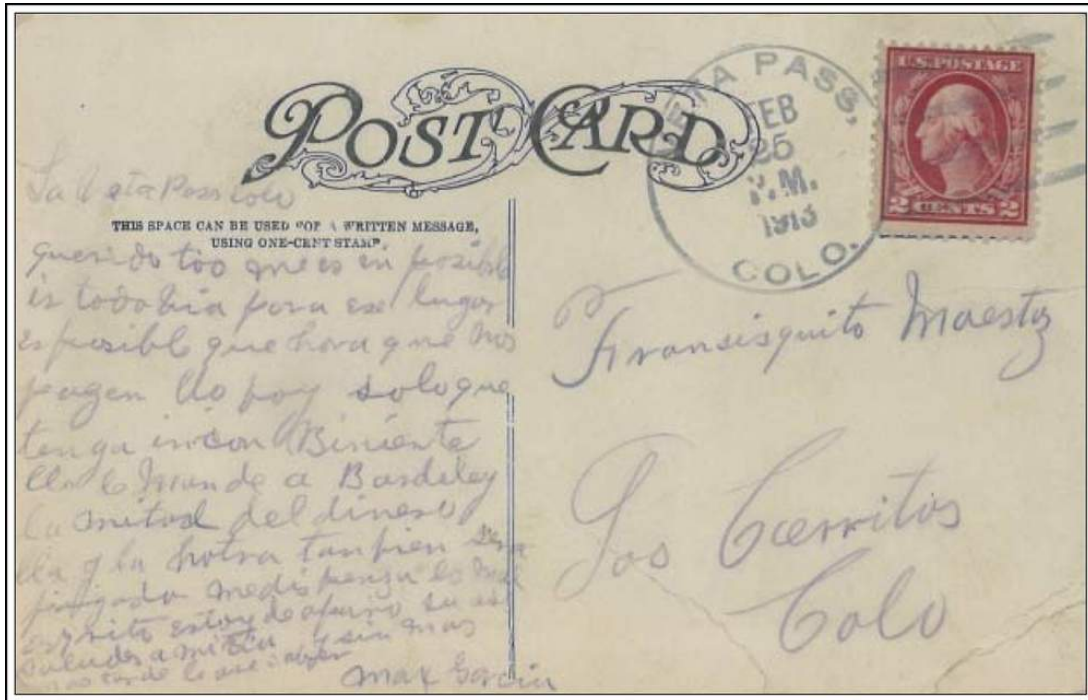
SAN LUIS / COLO.

December 10



SAN LUIS, / COLO.

April 8, 1893



VETA PASS, / COLO. February 25, 1913

