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Town of New Castle Administration Department
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Agenda
New Castle Historic Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, November, 18, 2013, 6:30 pm, Town Hall

Call to Order, Roll Call

- 2. Conflicts of Interest** (Disclosures are on file with Town Clerk & Secretary of State)
- 3. Review Minutes from Previous Meetings**
 - A. October 21, 2013
- 4. Commission Comment**
- 5. Citizen Comments on Items NOT on Agenda**
- 6. Items for Consideration**
 - B. NWCCHT Gateway Sign Project II – Garfield County
- 7. Set Next Meeting**

Adjournment

1 **NEW CASTLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**
2 **Monday, October 21, 2013, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall**

3 **Call to order**

4 Commission Vice-Chair Rippy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
5

6 **Roll Call**

7 Present Commissioner Ellis
8 Commissioner Erickson
9 Commissioner Gordon
10 Commissioner Rippy

11
12 Absent None
13

14 Also present at the meeting were Deputy Town Clerk Mindy Andis and
15 Administrative Assistant Leah Feeley.
16

17 **Conflicts of Interest**

18 There were no conflicts of interest.
19

20 **Review Minutes from Previous Meeting**

21 **Motion: Commissioner Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes**
22 **from the September 16, 2013 meeting as submitted. Commissioner**
23 **Erickson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
24

25 **Commission Comments**

26 There were no commission comments.
27

28 **Citizen Comments on Items NOT on Agenda**

29 There were no citizen comments.
30

31 **Discussion of Finalizing the Walking Tour Map**

32 Commission Vice-Chair Rippy began the discussion on the Walking Tour
33 brochure. Mary Lou Haflinger, resident, introduces the brochure designer,
34 Bobbie VanMeter.
35

36 Ms. VanMeter presented an electronic rough draft of the Walking Tour
37 brochure to the commission. The map included the New Castle brand and
38 various photo options in the layout of the brochure. Ms. VanMeter asked the
39 commission for their input. Ms. VanMeter also commented on possible
40 decorative elements, some layout ideas such as placing the map of New
41 Castle in the center of the brochure and types of paper that could be used.
42

43 Commissioner Ellis suggested a subtle highlight to the numbers listed on the
44 map of New Castle such as bolding or italicizing. Bruce Leland, Town
45 Councilor and resident, questioned the addition of any decorative elements to
46 the map portion of the brochure. After a brief discussion, Ms. VanMeter said
47 that she would not add any decorative elements to the map in order to allow
48 more room for the text portion and the commission agreed. She also

1 suggested listing contact information to the brochure. Ms. Haflinger
2 suggested adding the Town of New Castle's website
3 www.newcastlecolorado.org as the contact information and the
4 commissioners agreed. Mr. Leland asked Vice-Chair Rippy to proof the rough
5 draft of the Walking Tour brochure for typos, punctuation, and any other
6 errors.

7
8 Ms. VanMeter said she would send the final draft of the brochure to the
9 commission on Tuesday, October 22, 2013.

10
11 Ms. VanMeter talked briefly about the brochure cost and provided an invoice
12 listing some of the pricing options. The commissioners agreed to order 1,000
13 copies. The quality and weight of the paper was discussed and the
14 commissioners agreed that the Walking Tour brochure should be the same
15 quality as the Cemetery Map.

16
17
18 **Northwest Colorado Cultural Heritage Tourism**
19 **Gateway Sign Project II – Garfield County**

20 Mr. Leland began the discussion on the Northwest Colorado Cultural Heritage
21 Tourism (NWCCHT) by referencing the summary letter in the packet (Exhibit
22 A). The NWCCHT obtained grants and created the existing town maps and
23 map rack cards. They are now in the process of the Gateway Sign Project
24 (Exhibit B) for towns in Colorado that are part of the project. The Gateway
25 Sign will display a summary of Colorado on one side of the sign and
26 information about New Castle and its history on the other side.

27
28 Mr. Leland asked for suggestions on what details of New Castle's history
29 should included on the sign, perhaps flattops recreation and the Vulcan Mine.
30 Commissioner Gordon suggested adding the Flattops Trail. Mr. Leland
31 requested Commissioner Gordon's help with the details of the trail summary.
32 Mr. Leland also suggested adding the geography of the Hogback Mountains,
33 which Commissioner Gordon suggested should include the coal mining and
34 the Wheeler Coal Vein histories.

35
36 The time frame for this project is one month, which will require the submittal
37 of photos and text to the NWCCHT quite soon. Mr. Leland suggested the
38 commission decide on which 10 pictures should be included on the sign.

39
40 Mr. Leland then asked the commissioners to discuss and decide on the most
41 significant places in New Castle to direct people to, and he suggested the
42 Peach Valley School House, Canyon Creek School, St. John's School, the
43 Livery, Burning Mountain Park (specifically the Coal Mine and Cemetery
44 histories located on the monument), and the Trimble Block regarding the
45 Rennick story.

46
47 The Gateway Signs cost approximately \$9,000.00 each, which covered the

1 design and printing, and the longevity of the sign. Garfield County will assist
2 in funding the project by contributing half the cost, which meant the town
3 would have to pay \$4,500.00. Each town will be allowed one sign. Vice-Chair
4 Rippy suggested purchasing a second sign for Burning Mountain Park, and
5 thought it could be considered in next year's budget.

6
7 The commission discussed possible locations for the sign such as Burning
8 Mountain Park, Main Street/Castle Valley Boulevard intersection and the City
9 Market parking lot. Vice-Chair Rippy said that most people stopping in New
10 Castle are going to the Kum & Go and McDonalds areas, the traffic at these
11 two locations is perhaps the highest. The commissioners agreed and
12 Commissioner Gordon suggested locating the sign between McDonalds and
13 Kum & Go. Mr. Leland asked the commissioners to scout the McDonalds and
14 Kum & Go area to find a possible location to set the sign which would grab
15 the attention of people stopping at those businesses. This would draw their
16 attention to downtown New Castle.

17
18 **Set Next Meeting**

19 The Commission set its next regular meeting for November 18, 2013 at 6:30
20 p.m., Town Hall.

21
22 **The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**

23
24 Respectfully submitted,

25 TOWN OF NEW CASTLE
26 HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

27
28
29
30 _____
Steve Rippy Commission Vice-Chair

31 ATTEST:

32
33
34 _____
35 Leah Feeley, Administrative Assistant
36

NWCCHT sign

1. Intro:

For centuries before Europeans came to America, the Ute Indians, who called themselves the Nuche (the People) hunted on the Flat Tops, using the Colorado river and Elk Creek valleys as a winter home.

Early explorers passed through the region, but it was not settled until 1882, when Jasper Ward filed a homestead claim to 160 acres and built a cabin at the confluence of Elk Creek and the Colorado River. Other homestead claims quickly followed, and soon the original settlers began selling the land which would become the town New Castle. The town was incorporated on February 2, 1888.

Coal mining brought a population explosion, and in the 1890's the population fluctuated between 1500 and 2500 people. There were banks, grocery stores, livery stables, newspapers, drugstores, brothels, taverns and a brewery. Several of the original town buildings still stand on or near Main Street, and many early New Castle settlers are buried in Highland Cemetery.

2. Map:

Highland Cemetery was dedicated in 1888, the same year the Town of New Castle was incorporated, though some burials may have taken place earlier. Among the first known plots were for Civil War veterans who settled in New Castle after the war.

St. John's Episcopal Church: The cornerstone of the building was laid on November 2 1908 and the first service was held on Easter Sunday, April 11 1909. The building is the oldest existing church in town. Across 1st Street is the Guild Hall, which was originally a Civilian Conservation Corps building, moved to New Castle from La Junta in 1848.

Rock Saloon: Built about 1890, it originally housed a saloon and a grocery store. Charley Burrell later operated a "pastime" in the building, with card tables, pool and billiard tables. After his appointment as postmaster, Burrell moved the post office to the structure where it remained from 1928 to 1985, when the new post office opened in the 100 block of West Main Street.

Museum Originally built in 1893 of unglazed brick with a flat roof, the building housed the fire station in the front, along with town offices and council chambers. With the construction of the new Town Hall in 1984, the building became the town museum. The Town Jail, constructed in 1893 of rough quarried stone, is behind the museum.

Trimble Building Built in the 1890's, the Trimble Building housed a saloon and a large upstairs room known as the Trimble Opera House. On November 10, 1910, Billy Griffith shot Marshall John Rennix in front of the building, then ran to the second floor, where he shot William Davis from a window, then turned his gun on himself.

Miners' Memorial Commissioned by the Town of New Castle, the Miners' Memorial was created by sculptor Grant Ballin and dedicated in 2004. The names of the miners lost in the three Vulcan Mine explosions are all listed on the memorial

3: Lower half:

A Mining Heritage

New Castle is the point where the coal-rich Grand Hogback crosses the Colorado River Valley. Easy access made New Castle an important source of coal for smelting silver from the Aspen and Leadville mines. There were five mines here: The Consolidated, the Keystone, the Coryell, the B&M and the largest of them all, the Vulcan.

Mining and railroad barons, including James Wheeler, Walter Devereux and James John Hagerman, all held interests in the coal mining industry in New Castle. Miners flocked to New Castle from England, Italy and Eastern Europe and they were followed quickly by all the businesses needed to support the population. At the height of the mining boom the town's population was 2500.

The Vulcan Mine, located in the Grand Hogback just southeast of town, was the most renowned of the town's four mines. On February 8, 1896 the mine exploded, killing forty-nine miners. Thirty-seven more miners will killed in a second Vulcan Mine explosion on December 16, 1913. Three more were killed in the final explosion on November 3, 1918. This final disaster closed the mine for good

Many victims of the Vulcan Mine are buried in Highland Cemetery and a monument to the miners, dedicated in 1965, is located near the center of the cemetery. Another monument was erected in Burning Mountain Park in 2004.

The coal seam is still burning in Coal Ridge, where the Vulcan was, and in Burning Mountain, where the Consolidated Mine caught fire in 1899. There are scars created by the heat all along the Grand Hogback here in New Castle.

Lumber Fills the Gap

With the cessation of coal mining, the population of New Castle shrunk dramatically. There were ranches and farms surrounding the town, and fruit farming was a successful enterprise in Peach Valley, west of town. In the 1930's and 40's New Castle supported a thriving lumber industry. Trees were harvested on the Flat Tops and the Clinetops and trucked down the Buford Road and the treacherous Clinetops Road to the railroad depot on Main Street. The local saw mill, operated by William and Earl Rippy, was on the Flat Tops, near the present location of Triangle Park.

The Edge of the Rockies

The Grand Hogback, which crosses the Colorado River at New Castle, is the Western Edge of the Rocky Mountains. To the west is Plateau Country (also known as the High Desert). The Roan Plateau and the Grand Mesa are easily assessable from New Castle.

The Grand Hogback is a 70-mile-long S-shaped monocline of Mesa Verde Formation sandstone. The sandstone was formed from sedimentation along a sandy coastland. Further evidence of an ancient lake can be seen in the ripple rock face along Route 6 (Main Street) just west of the I-70 intersection. Plant materials from swamps around the lake were buried in the sand and became the coal seam.

There are gaps in the Hogback in addition to the break created by the Colorado River. The Buford Road northwest of town leads to the Grass Valley Road, which follows the Hogback to Harvey Gap and Rifle Gap, both of which now are now reservoirs and State Parks.

Gateway to the Flat Tops

The Flat Top Range north of New Castle provides classic mountain recreational opportunities. The large herds of elk and mule deer attract hunters every fall, as do wild turkeys, blue grouse and bears. Meadow Lake, Trapper's Lake, Harvey Gap and Rifle Gap offer fishing opportunities (as does the Colorado River right here in town). Hikers and campers enjoy the East Elk trail, Hadley Gulch Trail and Cherry Creek Trail, among others. Wild flowers abound on the Flat Tops all summer long.

In the winter, Triangle Park, on the Buford Road, provides the starting point for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Jeeps and all-terrain vehicles find challenges in the Clinetops road, the Ute Trail and four-wheel roads throughout the White River Forest.

[If there is room]

Fire on the Mountain

Storm King Mountain is located just east of New Castle. On July 2, 1994, a lightning strike sparked a fire which grew to create one of the most disastrous wildfires in Colorado history. On July 6, 20 Hotshots from Prineville, Oregon, joined the attempt to control the fire. In the late afternoon, flames rushed uphill toward firefighters, eventually overtaking and killing fourteen.

Hot Shot park in New Castle is named in honor of the firefighters, and a memorial trail up the mountain begins at the terminus of Route 6, east of New Castle.

Photos for map. Still needed: St John's







