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FEATURED

3 buildings make historic registries

D.J. DeJong, Mail Staff Writer Jun 5, 2019



The 1909 Gas Creek schoolhouse sits at the intersection of U.S. 285 and CR 280. The building is one of three recently nominated to the national or state historic registries by Chaffee County Heritage Area Advisory Board.

Photo by D.J. DeJong

Three local historic buildings were recently approved for inclusion on national or state historic registries.

The Gas Creek schoolhouse and the Gimlett/LeFevre miner's cabin/schoolhouse in Garfield were approved for the National Register of Historic Places, and the Turret Post Office was approved for the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

The nominations for the designations were made by Chaffee County Heritage Area Advisory Board, which is administered by the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association, and were made possible with a grant from the Colorado State Historical Fund, a press release stated.

The 1909 Gas Creek schoolhouse is at the intersection of U.S. 285 and CR 280 and is visible from the highway.

The double-entrance red brick school building replaced the original 1890 school.

The schoolhouse was the sole school in Gas Creek District No. 20 for 49 years, a one-teacher, one-room school that provided instruction for students from neighboring farms and ranches.

The first teacher to hold classes in the building was Jessie C. Faulk, who taught a seven-month school for 13 students at a salary of \$55 per month, a report by the Chaffee County Extension Homemakers stated.

School was held in the building until 1958, when school consolidation led to its closure.

The two privies in the back of the school were installed as a WPA project in the 1930s.

Although the interior has been modified over the years, the exterior of the building has changed little and is an example of an early 20th century rural school building.

The Gimlett/LeFevre cabin in Garfield was built about 1880 and served as a dwelling and the Junction City/Garfield school.

The building was originally constructed as a school for the mining town of Garfield.

When the town built a new school in 1882, the building was sold to the Gimlett family and was used as the family cabin until 1892, when it was transferred to William A. LeFevre.

The property has changed hands several times since then.

The building was added onto in the early 1900s.

Closer to Salida is Turret's Spear Cabin and Turret Post Office, currently owned by Scott Gehrke of Wisconsin.

The building dates from Turret's heyday in the early 1900s, probably prior to 1903.

It served as Turret's post office from 1934 to 1939 with postmasters David E.C. Austin until 1936 and Peter J. Schlosser from 1936-1939.

The building was used as a part-time dwelling for many years, during which it was not cared for.

It was purchased by Richard and Connie Booth of Missouri, who rehabilitated the building and used it as a vacation cabin until 2017, when they sold it to Gehrke.

The National and State Register review boards will consider the nominations at their Sept. 20 meeting.

Dominique Naccarato of GARNA said the approval is the first step in preservation efforts for the buildings.

The designation is a guarantee that the building will not be torn down and provides that assurance to funders for preservation projects, she said.

Melanie Roth, chair of the Chaffee County Heritage Area Advisory Board, said the designation brings attention to the historic resources in Chaffee County and gives property owners tools to restore historic properties, including the possibility of applying for a State Historic Fund grant through a nonprofit organization.

Contrary to popular belief, she said, the designation places no restrictions on the property. Restrictions on preservation are placed at the local level.

Historic properties, especially those on the Colorado Scenic Byway, like the Gas Creek schoolhouse, provide a sense of place to the whole county, she said.

The county has wonderful historic properties, Roth said, and a designation like this lets people know others are interested in them before they disappear in our quickly growing county due to development or neglect.

Other local sites that have benefited from listings on state and national historic registries include the Hutchinson Homestead and the Valley View School.

Specials



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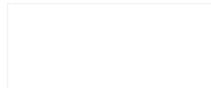
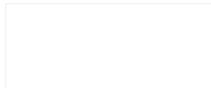
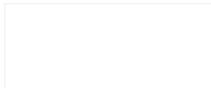
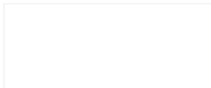
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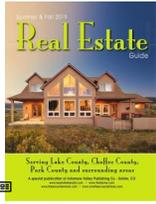


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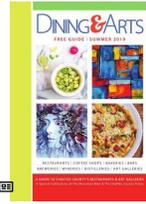




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