

VI. RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 1996 historic structures survey recorded seventeen buildings in the commercial district of New Castle. Table 1 contains a list by state identification number order of all resources surveyed during the project. The buildings documented included one residence, thirteen commercial buildings, a town hall, a jail, and a school.

Periods of Development

The buildings surveyed represented periods of New Castle development from its early construction following the incorporation of the town in 1888 through the 1930s. Of the commercial buildings examined, all but one were built in the first decade of the town's growth. The remaining building was erected in 1937. The town hall, jail, and residence also represented the first decade of New Castle history. The church was built in 1909. The school was erected in 1912-13, with an addition in the 1930s.

Architectural Styles and Building Materials

The town hall, jail, and school are of vernacular construction. The Colorado Historical Society's 1983 **A Guide to Colorado Architecture** defines vernacular buildings as those "with an absence of architectural features and ornamentation that can distinguish a specific style." The jail's design is significant for its construction of local stone. The school's composition is notable for its composition of locally-made brick and native stone and its addition of adobe brick. The school is representative of a restrained design dictated by the town's financial limitations during its period of construction. The church is cruciform shape concrete building with pointed arch windows in a vernacular Gothic Revival style very popular for religious buildings in small towns. The residence is of vernacular design, with the Queen Anne style spindled porch supports popular during the late nineteenth century in Colorado.

Of the commercial buildings, five are good examples of the Nineteenth Century Commercial style, reflected in two-story brick construction, flat roofs, corbelled cornices, windows with hood molds or stone trim, and large display windows on the first story. The Mattivi Motor Company building is of vernacular design with details common for automobile-related businesses and is notable for its concrete block construction. The building known as Noren Livery is of vernacular frame, false front design. Five of the commercial buildings examined have had major alterations which have obscured their original designs and are classed as vernacular in style.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abbott, Carl; Leonard, Stephen J.; and McComb, David. **Colorado: A History of the Centennial State**. Boulder, Colo.: Colorado Associated University Press, 1982.
- Abbott, Dan. **Colorado Midland Railway: Daylight Through the Divide**. Denver: Sundance Publications Ltd., 1989.
- Athearn, Robert. **The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad: Rebel of the Rockies**. Orig. pub. 1962. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1977.
- Benson, Maxine. **1001 Colorado Place Names**. Lawrence, Ks.: University Press of Kansas, 1994.
- Blair, Michael. Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Interview. June 1996.
- Breslin, Frank. New Castle, Colorado. Interview. June 1996.
- Cafky, Morris. **Colorado Midland**. Denver: Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, 1965.
- Chronic, Halka. **Roadside Geology of Colorado**. Missoula, Mt.: Mountain Press Publishing Co., 1980.
- Colorado Graphic** (Denver, Colorado).
- Colorado Historical Society. Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. **Historic Survey Manual and How to Complete Colorado Resources Inventory Forms**.
- Colorado Historical Society Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. File Search. Resources within the Town of New Castle, Colorado. 29 April 1996.
- Colorado. State Inspector of Coal Mines. **Biennial Reports**. Denver: Collier & Cleveland Lithograph Co. and Smith-Brooks, 1887-88 to 1920.
- Croft, George A. **Croft's Grip-Sack Guide to Colorado, 1885**. Reprint. Boulder, Co.: Johnson Books, 1981.
- Denver Times**. 13 August 1899.
- Dwire, Nora. "New Castle Notes." November 1971.
- Garfield County Assessor. Real Property Appraisal Cards. In the files of the Garfield

County Assessor, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Garfield County Public Library. New Castle History Notebook. Unpublished manuscript on file at library.

Griswold, Don and Griswold, Jean. **Colorado's Century of Cities**. Denver: Smith-Brooks, 1958.

Gulliford, Andrew. **Boomtown Blues: Colorado Oil Shale, 1885-1985**. Niwot, Colorado: University Press of Colorado, 1989.

_____. **Garfield County: The First Hundred Years**. Glenwood Springs, Colorado: Grand River Museum Alliance, 1983.

Hess, Fern. New Castle, Colorado. Interview. June 1996.

Husband, Michael B. **Colorado Plateau Country Historic Context**. Denver: Colorado Historical Society, 1984.

Johnson, Anna and Kathleen Yajko. **The Elusive Dream: A Relentless Quest for Coal in Colorado**. Glenwood Springs, Colorado: Gran Farnum Printing and Publishing Co., 1983.

Jones, William C. and Elizabeth B. Jones. **Buckwalter: The Colorado Scenes of a Pioneer Photojournalist, 1890-1920**. Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Company, 1989.

LeMassena, Robert A. **Rio Grande to the Pacific**. Denver: Sundance, 1974.

McFarland, Edward M. **The Midland Route: A Colorado Midland Guide and Date Book**. Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Co., 1980.

New Castle Historical Society. "City of Black Gold: A Walking Tour of the Town." Brochure. New Castle, Colorado: New Castle Historical Society, 1988.

New Castle Museum. "New Castle History."

_____. Displays About New Castle History.

_____. Historical Files and Photographs.

New Castle Nonpareil, 1898-1905.

New Castle Public School. "History of Garfield County." Unpublished manuscript on file

at Garfield County Public Library.

Noel, Thomas J.; Mahoney, Paul F.; and Stevens, Richard E. **Historical Atlas of Colorado**. Norman, Ok.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1993.

Pearce, Sarah J. and Wilson, Merrill A. **A Guide to Colorado Architecture**. Denver: State Historical Society of Colorado, 1983.

Rippy, Steve. New Castle Colorado. Interview. June 1996.

Ritter, John C. "Report Given to the New Castle Historical Society on October 25, 1982.

Rocky Mountain News, 25 June 1990.

Sample, Edna and Anderson, Virginia. "New Castle History." Unpublished manuscript on file at Garfield County Public Library.

Sanborn Map Company. "New Castle, Colorado." Fire insurance maps, 1893, 1899, and 1904. In the files of the Archives, University of Colorado, Norlin Library, Boulder, Colorado. Also: Annotated Sanborn Map in files of New Castle Museum.

Scamehorn, H. Lee. **Pioneer Steelmaker in the West**. Boulder: Pruett Publishing Co., 1976.

Tibbetts, Helen Finlay. "Saga of New Castle." 1969. Unpublished manuscript on file at Garfield County Public Library.

Ubbelohde, Carl; Benson, Maxine; and Smith, Duane A. **A Colorado History**. 2nd ed., rev. Boulder, Colo.: Pruett Publishing Co., 1976.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. "Flood Plains, Flood Plain Management Study, Colorado River Tributaries in Garfield County, Colorado." Map. Denver: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1982. As updated by the Town of New Castle.

Ute Chief (Glenwood Springs, Colorado).

Wilkins, Tivis. **Colorado Railroads**. Boulder: Pruett Publishing Company, 1974.

Table 1
SURVEYED HISTORIC RESOURCES
AND EVALUATION OF NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY
NEW CASTLE, COLORADO, 1996

State Identification Number	Street Address	Individually Eligible
5GF1665	116 N. 4TH St.	No
5GF2367	116 N. 4TH St. (rear)	Yes
5GF2368	100 W. MAIN ST.	Yes
5GF2369	151 W. MAIN ST.	No
5GF2370	181 W. MAIN ST.	No
5GF2371	201 W. MAIN ST.	No
5GF2372	239 W. MAIN ST.	No
5GF2373	298 W. MAIN ST.	Yes
5GF2374	299 W. MAIN ST.	No
5GF2375	302 W. MAIN ST.	No
5GF2376	303 W. MAIN ST.	Yes
5GF2377	312 W. MAIN ST.	No
5GF2378	316 W. MAIN ST.	No
5GF2379	331 W. MAIN ST.	Yes
5GF1488	500 W. MAIN ST.	No
5GF1166	502 W. MAIN ST.	No
5GF2380	503 W. MAIN ST.	No

NOTE: Resources are identified by state identification number and are listed in street address order. A "Yes" indicates that the resource has been evaluated as individually eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

Individual Buildings and Historic District Evaluation

National Register District

The surveyors found that the commercial district of New Castle, located along West Main Street, from roughly First to Fifth streets, contains several fine historic buildings. However, the area does not possess the potential to be a National Register Historic District due to the loss of several historic buildings, construction of several newer buildings (such as the town hall, library, post office, and community center), and alterations to historic buildings. The remaining intact historic buildings are too widely scattered throughout the commercial area to make a cohesive district.

Individual Buildings Eligible to the National Register

Five buildings surveyed are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

1. *The New Castle Town Jail (5GF2367), 116 N. 4th Street, rear.* This circa 1895 building is significant for its association with the history of law enforcement in New Castle and for its vernacular design and construction of native stone, representing a popular jail design in mountain towns.
2. *St. John's Episcopal Church (5GF2368), 100 W. Main St.* This 1909 Vernacular Gothic Revival style poured concrete church building is significant for its association with the social history of New Castle, having served as a center for community activities for many years, including as a school during the 1920s. The building is also eligible for its architecture, representative of the less ornate designs of religious structures in Colorado's small towns, as reflected in the concrete construction with Gothic Revival details.
3. *Mattivi Motor Company (5GF2373), 298 W. Main St.* Erected in 1937, this building is significant for its association with the development of automobile-related enterprises in New Castle, having functioned as a car dealership and continuing in its role as service station for the community to the present day. The building is also significant for its concrete block construction with angled facade facing a gasoline pump island.
4. *Trimble Block (5GF2376), 303 W. Main St.* One of the oldest intact commercial buildings on Main Street, this circa 1890 building is associated with the development of New Castle's early business district and with its social life, having housed an early dry goods store and a drug store on the first floor, as well as a meeting hall/opera house on the second story. Other historic businesses which operated in the building included a saloon operated by W.H. Trimble, a barber shop, a grocery store, and a meat market. The building is also eligible for its representation of the Nineteenth Century Commercial style in Colorado, as reflected in its brick construction, cornice of decorative brickwork, stone trim, angled corner entrance, and first story storefronts with large display windows. The building, together with its addition, is one of the most intact historic commercial structures in New Castle and is also notable for its composition of locally-manufactured brick.
5. *Trimble Block Addition (5GF2379), 331 W. Main St.* Erected in 1895 in a design matching that of the original Trimble Block, this building is significant for similar reasons, including its association with the commercial history of New Castle, having been connected with Trimble's Saloon, and later the site

of the town's first telephone office. The building is also notable for its representation of the Nineteenth Century Commercial style, its composition of local brick and native stone, and its high degree of architectural integrity.

Individual Buildings Eligible to the State Register of Historic Places

Four buildings surveyed are potentially eligible for listing in the State Register of Historic Places:

1. *New Castle School (5GF2369), 151 W. Main St.* After New Castle's 1892 school building was demolished in 1909, classes were held in various town buildings until the completion of this schoolhouse in 1913. The building is significant for its association with the history of education in New Castle. The building is also notable for its design of locally-produced brick and stone and for its 1939 WPA-funded addition constructed of adobe bricks made on the school grounds.
2. *Rock Saloon (5GF2378), 316 W. Main St.* At one time, New Castle boasted twenty-two saloons, however, this building is one of the few historic saloon buildings remaining. Built in 1890, the structure housed several businesses over the years, including a grocery, a billiard parlor, and, from 1928 to 1985, the town post office. The building is notable for its composition of locally quarried stone and brick and maintains the original fenestration of its facade.
3. *Odd Fellows Hall (5GF1488), 500 W. Main St.* Erected about 1890, this building contained commercial functions (a saloon and a meat market) on its first story and a meeting hall in the upper story. The Odd Fellows used the hall for their gatherings until 1987. The building is significant for its association with the commercial and social history of New Castle and for its architecture, including its locally-manufactured brick, corbelled cornice, and segmental arched windows with stone sills.
4. *Barry Block (5GF1166), 502 W. Main St.* One of the larger commercial structures in New Castle is this two-story brick building erected about 1893. The building is associated with the commercial history of the town, having been built to house a general mercantile business. The building is significant for its representation of the Nineteenth Century Commercial style, as reflected in its composition of local brick and stone, its angled corner with entrance and oriel window, corbelled cornice, segmental arched windows with hood molds, and first story storefront area with cast iron pilasters.

One building surveyed, 503 W. Main St. (5GF2380) may be found to merit State Register listing if its history can be more clearly determined. The building is believed by local

citizens to have housed the Noren Livery, established about 1890. However, Sanborn maps indicate that the site of the building was vacant in 1904. The building has an unusual false front facade and large hinged garage doors.

Recommendations

At the conclusion of the 1996 New Castle Historic Structures Survey, the surveyors formulated the following recommendations:

1. The owners of properties identified as eligible to the National or State registers should be encouraged to seek listing of their buildings. Such listing will make the buildings eligible to receive State Historical Fund grant monies for restoration.
2. A survey of the historic residential resources in New Castle should be undertaken so that the town will have documentation of its significant homes and will be able to plan for preservation of the historic residential areas.
3. The Town of New Castle should adopt an historic preservation ordinance which recognizes significant buildings within the town and encourages their preservation. As the town expects to experience development pressures in coming years, design guidelines for the commercial area should be completed to guide future development.