

I. PURPOSE

New Castle, Colorado, was incorporated in 1888, twelve miles west of Glenwood Springs on the routes of the Colorado Midland and Denver and Rio Grande railroads. Known earlier as Grand Butte and Chapman, New Castle developed as a coal mining community providing fuel for the railroads and flourished until worker unrest and a series of disasters resulted in the decline of mining, loss of population, and dwindling of the commercial district by the early twentieth century. Although mining continued on a limited basis for many years, the local community turned to agriculture and tourism to provide its economic mainstays. Like many communities in Colorado, the town is now challenged with preserving its historic resources in the face of new growth and development.

The purpose of the 1996 survey in the Town of New Castle was to identify, document, and evaluate the condition, history, and significance of seventeen historic structures along or adjacent to the town's commercial district, within a five block area facing both sides of Main Street (U.S. Highway 6) between First Street and Fifth Street. The results of the survey were to be used by the Town to identify significant historic structures and to further preservation planning in New Castle.

Partial funding for the survey was a Historic Preservation Fund grant to the Town of New Castle from the Colorado Historical Society (CHS Project #95-M3-31), administered by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society. The survey was conducted following the guidelines of the Colorado Historical Society Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation publication **Historic Survey Manual and How to Complete Colorado Cultural Resources Inventory Forms**. Architectural classifications of buildings were based on the Society's 1983 publication, **A Guide to Colorado Architecture**.