



2023 Volume 4

On October 15, 1966, the Historic Preservation Act (HPA) created the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the corresponding State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO). This represented the first time the United States had a broad-based historic preservation policy. The program coordinates and supports efforts to identify and protect America's historic and archaeological resources which includes districts, sites buildings, structures and objects deemed worthy of preservation for their historical significance or "great artistic value."

SHPOs eventually became integral to the process of listing properties on the National Register. In 1980 amendments to the HPA defined the responsibilities of SHPOs with the NRHP and an amendment in 1992 added a category, Traditional Properties, those perpetuated with Na-

can or Hawaiian. The NRHP's inception in its early years was lax and understaffed and derelict. It has considerably improved since inception in

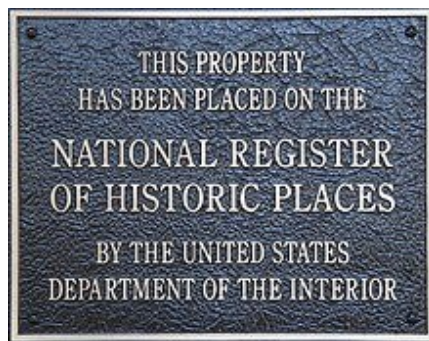
today more than 95,000 properties that Americans believe are worthy of preservation are listed.

The Colorado State Register of Historic Properties is the listing of the state's significant cultural resources worthy of preservation. It is administered by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation within History Colorado.

A few (but not all) of the registered sites in our immediate vicinity include the Havemeyer-Willcox Canal Pumphouse, the Rifle US Post Office, the old Rifle Bridge, the Rifle Lodge No. 129, A.F & A.M, and the Battlement Mesa Schoolhouse.

Additional information may be obtained at:

- <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>
- <https://nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/CO/Garfield/state.html>
- <https://www.historycolorado.org/colorado-state-register-historic-properties>



known as Cultural which are ties associative American groups.

organization years SHPOs often underfunded since its inception in 1966 until



Meet the Board

Shirley Lawson

Shirley, known as Shirley Beth to her family, was born in 1946 to Jim & Juanita Layne and grew up with her brothers and sisters on farmland south of the Colorado River that houses retail stores nowadays.

She met her husband, David, in school and married him upon graduation. Dave and Shirley moved to Arkansas in 1967 when Dave started at the Union Carbide Plant in Hot Springs.

They moved back to Rifle in 1977 and raised their two daughters and son here.

As a hometown girl, Shirley has an extensive knowledge of the people and places associated with Rifle and makes a terrific tour guide at the museum.

Shirley likes to watch all the activities her 10 grandchildren are involved in, volunteer for the museum, teach Sunday school at the Rifle Church of Christ, go on road trips with Dave and get together with their car club, the Valley Cruisers.



<https://picryl.com/media/havemeyer-willcox-canal-system-rifle-garfield-county-co-12>

Havemeyer-Willcox Canal Pumphouse and Forebay

All that remains of the Havemeyer-Willcox Canal System can be seen to the north of the Grand Highway of the Republic, known to us as I-70, between Webster Hill and Rulison if you look closely! Although the remaining forebay structure is not impressive, the history behind the canal is intriguing.

The first two decades of the 1900s saw a rapid expansion of sugar beet cultivation all over Colorado. The Willcox Canal Company, headquartered at Parachute, Colorado, had tried since 1893 to interest settlers in lands along the Grand River between that town and Rifle but had met with little success until 1910 when, with the sugar beet boom under way, they attracted the attention of Arthur Havemeyer of the American Sugar Company. Havemeyer visited the Rifle area and had a vision of fields of the beets stretching along the Grand River's northern bank from Rifle to Parachute along with a refinery in Parachute.

The Havemeyers hired William R. Lacy as the chief engineer. To complete the project, miles of ditches had to be built and a tunnel bored through Webster Mesa. Water had to be raised from river level to field elevation, requiring large pumps that were constructed utilizing a unique water driven turbine mechanism. Lacy brought the project to completion by May, 1912. The canal system included 27 miles of watercourses, the tunnel and a pumphouse, a forebay, syphons, headgates and protectors, as well as considerable concrete lining and was completed for under half a million dollars.

On May 10, 1912, the irrigation system was dedicated with a good deal of fanfare and the area's residents were full of hope. These were soon dashed. Heavy winter snows coupled with a warm spring led to severe floods along the Grand River during June and on June 12, the flood crest reached Rifle and washed away the headgate, flooding the entire system and permanently damaging the pumps. Reconstruction of the facilities failed and the vision of fields of sugar beets never came to fruition. The Havemeyer-Willcox Canal was one of the boldest ventures in the state for providing water to beet fields but it was all for naught.

Sourced from: https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/blm/cultresser/co/12/



Rifle Post Office

Most of us have at one time or another heard a vocabulary term relating to the architectural style of a building. In our own small city, our post office is considered to be the most detailed and complete of the Colonial Revival influenced post offices in Colorado. But hold on a minute! What do we mean by Colonial Revival architecture?

Colonial Revival is the single most popular & enduring style in America. Its use was fueled by the country's interest in its own history. The name of the architectural style reflects the late 19th century fascination with homes built by the early English & Dutch settlers, an affection that intensified through the World Wars before peaking in the mid-1950s. It is essentially a mixture of styles, all uniquely American. Roof forms such as gabled & gambrel identify the style along with building symmetry, pronounced front porches, front columns, front doors with fan lights or side lights, and Palladian windows (three-section windows where the center section is arched & larger than the side sections). The style strives to suggest the original colonial era but not imitate it exactly. Because the style is based on simple, classical and versatile shapes, it can be easily modified into many different types of buildings.

This working post office, located at Fourth and Railroad, was designed by architect, Louis Simon & constructed by Joseph Sebacher Construction Co. in 1940. Another of its notable features is the mural mounted above the Postmaster's office door, titled "Colorado Landscape." It was painted on canvas in 1942 by artist George Vander Sluis (1915-1984) as a New Deal project. Reportedly it is based on sketches in the Rifle area.

The Old Rifle Bridge

One of Rifle's beloved landmarks is the Rifle Bridge. Although the bridge is no longer accessible to any type of traffic, it holds fond memories for many "old timers" and now-a-days offers unique and often dazzling pictures to capture on film or with our memory.

When our area was first settled, there were no bridges across the Grand River (as the Colorado River was then called). People had to depend on finding a section of the river shallow enough that they could "ford" their way across. Charles & Silas Todd established a ferry in the Rifle/Silt area in the late 1800s which remained the only way across the river until the first narrow, three span, wooden bridge was built in 1890. The day it was dedicated was indeed a cause for celebration throughout the community.

From the bridge built by CDOT in 1972 that spans the river, connecting Rifle and I-70 now, one can glance to the west and to see the bridge that was built in 909 and used for the next sixty odd years.

The 1909 Rifle Bridge was added to the NRHP in 1985 as an area of engineering significance. Charles G. Sheely constructed this pin-connected, steel 12-panel Pennsylvania span & 10-panel Parker through truss span. The Pennsylvania truss is one of the longest of the pinned trusses in Colorado.



Voices in the Dark

2023

October 20th and 21st will feature our 3rd annual “ghost walk” at the museum. This entertainment features home grown actors portraying local historical characters. We have featured such personalities as Blanche Goodrich, Chipeta, Betty Clark, Fred Garrison, and Doc Tichenor (to name a few) in the past. The character of Betty Clark from 2022 is to the right. Make a plan to come and see what we have in store for you this year!

Hello, my name is Betty Clark, and I grew up in Rifle. My father was the town dentist, but he had a love of flight and airplanes, after I got to go up in a plane Rifle High School in 1937 but



I first soloed in 1942 and flight hours under my belt as I Women Air Force Service, and I decided to enlist. I was Field for basic training.

My duties were to fly targets comical that the good old boy flying combat, but were capable WASP pilots lost their lives

By the time the WASP organization was disbanded in December of 1944, I had entered the Air Force Reserves. I was a member from 1949 until 1958 and rose to the rank of Captain. After my retirement from the service, I came back home to Rifle and taught many local kids how to fly from a little airstrip southeast of Rifle. I purchased the Radar Flight service and later changed the name to Mile High Aviation.

Pat Sullivan (whom I had met as another WASP at Avenger Field) came to town with her sons, Mark and Gene, and we joined forces in the business. I was made manager of the Rifle Airport in 1950. Pat and I started a crop-dusting business, contracted to spray grass seed over newly developed ski slopes, and seeded portions of I-70 medians prior to its opening in the 70's. Those activities spurred us to purchase a Hiller Helicopter to use in aerial surveys, and as a shuttle service. At that time, it was one of only two helicopters flying in Colorado. GarCo took over the ownership and management of the airport in the mid 70's, so we moved our business to Walker Field in Grand Junction.

I loved to hunt and I went hunting for years in the area. I also took ranchers up in the fall to try to locate loose cattle in high timber so that they could be retrieved before winter.

I was fearless in an aircraft! While crop dusting, I often flew so low that there would be alfalfa in my landing gear.

In 1979 I was inducted into the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame and Pat was inducted in 1981. In the 1980s we retired from business and lived a quiet life in Grand Junction. I passed away in 1999 and Pat passed away in 2000. We were the only women to operate an airport and the only women to own and operate an air-agriculture service in the state of Colorado or in the nation during that time frame.

more exciting times were to come!
began the process of getting as many could. Just one year later in 1943, the commonly called the WASPs, was formed sent to Sweetwater Texas to Avenger

for ground soldiers to shoot at. I found it network thought we weren't capable of ble of flying targets, especially as 38 between 1943-1944.

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