

We continue to display new projects in the museum. It is always exciting when someone brings us a new item. The displays of history are of each town, pioneers, ethnic cultures, industry, farming, ranching, irrigation, veterans of wars, churches and many other interesting projects.

View our website which gives information about the museum, family histories and obituaries. Our website can be found at: <http://www.crowleyheritagecenter.com/>

The curator of the museum is Darla Wyeno and she can be reached at 719-267-3384. If you would like to receive our annual newsletter, please contact us and consider becoming a member. You can do a Patron membership (\$25.00) or family membership (\$35.00) a year or give a donation or memorial for someone.

In the amount of \$100.00, your name or a memorial for someone, the name is put on our \$100.00 board. If you have participated or can participate in any of these ways of giving, you are considered a member.

Our annual meeting is in October with date announced in the "Ordway New Era." All members are welcome.

Board Members

President: Darla Wyeno

Vice President: Annette Barber

Secretary: Matt Heimerich

Treasurer: Shirley Talkington

Correspondence Secretary: Linda Sullivan

Directors: Dana Gibson, Jack Lundahl

Membership Application

The Crowley County Heritage Society is always seeking new members. Below are fee requirements for each. Place a check mark to the left of which membership you want and mail it in to the address below:

Family Membership (\$35.00)

Supporting Patron Members (\$25.00)

Donations

Memorial for someone
(Please state the name)

I would like to be asked to participate
in fundraising or any other way I can.

CROWLEY COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY

300 Main Street
P.O. Box 24
Crowley, CO 81033

Phone:
719-267-3384

E-mail:
info@crowleyheritagecenter.com



Crowley County Heritage Center



Crowley's First School

In April 1914, a group of Crowley residents met and voted to build a school. In May of that year, a Bond was issued for \$8000 and work began during the last week of July.

The lots were purchased for \$300 while the cost of construction (\$7,700) paid for the finest furnishings, such as slate blackboards and steam heat.

It served as a fine school and was used for many community functions, club meetings, church services, revivals, Red Cross Training and as a hospital during the 1918 flu epidemic.

The same building, despite years of abuse and neglect stands firm as a tribute to those early residents.

This building is now used as the Crowley County Heritage Center and museum. It is one of the oldest public building still standing in Crowley County and is the only one listed on the State and National Historical lists.

Crowley County Heritage Center, Crowley, CO

Project History & Purpose

Crowley County School Board moved all grades to the Ordway campus in September 1992. The School Board desired to return the vacated property back to the community.

The 1914 grade school building was in desperate need of repair. There were many broken windows and doors, large holes in the roof and the pigeon population was increasing daily.

Because of the age and importance to the town and county, the town agreed to take the building. They would try and salvage it and find an economical use for it.

Three grants from the State Historical Society (funded from the gaming funds), totaling \$113,108 were awarded to the town to restore the old school. The building was listed as State Historical property on March 10, 1993 and on the National Historical list on July 29, 1999.

The match for these grants was over 4,000 of labor donated by the Community Projects Crew from the Arkansas Correctional Facility and over 1,000 hours from the reorganized Crowley County Heritage Society. The Town's Conservation Trust Fund donated \$3,000 and the Community Foundation donated \$1,000.

The Town and Heritage Society share the maintenance, repair and continued improvements to the building. The fees that are paid for the rental of the community center cover the utilities. The Town covers the water, sewer, trash and insurance.

The Heritage Society through dues, memorials, donations and fundraisers, covers all the developing museum expenses.

Through the many hours of donated labor and the thousands of dollars in donations and grants, the 1914 school is now the Crowley Heritage Center and Museum.

In 2003, we received a grant from the Boetcher Foundation in the amount of \$20,000. This enabled us to finish the landscape project and to start our website.

Present Use/Future Plans

The upper level is used as a Community Center where parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries and family reunions are held for a reasonable fee.

The Crowley senior group, "Young at Heart," have weekly coffee socials and monthly potluck dinners at the restored school.

The school also serves as the Town Hall and Town Office. Town Municipal Court is also held here also. Crowley County Water Association meets here monthly. Some Community Service activities and Health and Human Service Seminars are also held here. Informational meetings are not charged a fee to use the building.

As you can see, the Heritage Center meets many needs for the county. The Heritage Museum is now open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and in the afternoons on those days from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Museum is also open on weekends by appointment only.

The Heritage Society has supervised the entire building restoration and development of the Heritage Museum. They welcome working members, for which dues are \$5.00. Those who wish to support the Society, but are unable to work may do so by being a patron member for \$25.00/year. This can be a family membership. We also accept memorials, ongoing projects for the Society focuses on the counties agricultural, social and economical history. Programs about the history of Crowley County are offered to all grade levels in our schools. We have also honored some parts of our county history each year with an event, serving supper and presenting a program on the history of the occasion.

The heritage Society continues to give a scholarship to a graduating senior each year. To participate the student must give an oral presentation on the subject, "How Will My Crowley Heritage Effect My Future." The Essays are judged by a panel of three judges. We also sponsor other programs for the school and work with Friends of the Library on educational programs the students and community.

We receive many requests from the families researching their family heritage. One of our resources is the many volumes of the Sugar City Gazette (1901-1942), which is no longer published. We also have many of the early day volumes of the Ordway New Era and the former Crowley County Leader.