



29 July 2026

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Town Report 1 for 2026

As the 150th anniversary of Colorado Statehood and the 250th anniversary of the nation the museum provided an exhibit of Colorado from 1776 to 1876 and an exhibit on the origins of Castle Rock. Our annual Trolley tour in May featured many of the founders of the town. The new video system on the Trolley was a great enhancement for the tour. Other May historic month activities included our Victoria's Tea annual fundraiser and the month long scavenger hunt of historic places and downtown businesses. Prizes for the Scavenge the Rock hunt were provided by local businesses and the support of the Town. We started our monthly downtown walking tours in May also. We added a Kid's Craft Fair in June for children to make historic related crafts or try their hand at gold panning. The museum participated in the annual Car Show by featuring a display on the history of the Continental Divide Race Track that once operated in Castle Rock. The Society received a grant to celebrate the 150/250 anniversaries. Four Castle Rock historic building facades were made for use in many of the summer celebrations and provide historic figures that illustrate the Town's history. The Society and Museum had a new Website developed. The museum continued its usual services and activities. It provided a venue for many visitors to Castle Rock. Local residents and their visiting family members comprise much of our attendance especially during the summer months and at holidays. New and potential residents come to learn about the history of the community. We continued providing some artifacts and pictures to enhance the historic atmosphere of the Cantril School. The museum operates four days per week, five hours per day as stated in the contract. However, the museum does serve additional groups such as school visits, scouts and civic programs at hours beyond the usual operating hours. School participation has included both in school and home school children. The museum staff is continually engaged in curating and preserving museum artifacts and photographs related to the history of Castle Rock. The artifacts are principally acquired through donations. (This meets our objectives 1,2, 3 and 4.)

In May, Historic Preservation Month, the museum conducted its sixth Scavenge the Rock downtown Scavenger Hunt. The program was a collaboration with the Town of Castle Rock, the Castle Rock Historic Preservation Board and the Downtown Merchants Association. The aim of the hunt is to explore a little Castle Rock history and introduce residents to local downtown businesses. Participation has grown both from those playing and with support from new businesses. This has become an annual event for Historic Preservation month. (This meets our objectives 5 and 7)

We continue the summer downtown historic walking tours and the annual Trolley Tour, Cemetery tour and ghost tours designed to meet our objectives 5, 6 and 7.)

The Society and Museum held its principal fundraising event, Victoria's Tea in May. The Tea moved to Kirk Hall three years ago at the Fair grounds to accommodate the growth in participation. Stories of important women in Colorado history are featured. The Museum has also revived the annual historic Christmas ornament. The ornament for 2026 will feature the 150/250 anniversary celebrations.

The museum will continue to participate in other community events like the Car Show, Festival of Trees, Senior Center Fairs, Fangtastic and the County fair where the museum can make a contribution. The museum staff also participates in history activities in other communities when requested.(This meets our objectives 6 and 8.)

We are fortunate to have volunteer groups such as the garden club and boy scouts and talented volunteers that help the museum with events, landscape chores and provide restoration repairs at the museum. Our major restoration project for this year is the railroad baggage cart. Our IT department is principally volunteers with paid professionals as necessary. Society members sponsor many of our fundraising events.

Operating expenses for the museum for the year were \$66,221.00. The funds are principally used for salaries, utilities, maintenance and exhibits. Other funds which support the museum come from donations, fundraising events, gift shop sales, recycling and donated services.

Angie DeLeo, Director, Castle Rock Museum