



23 January 2026

## Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Town Report 2 for 2025

This was a special year for the Castle Rock Museum as we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Depot building. 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 had several temporary exhibits for this year. We had an exhibit on the devastating flood of 1965 which destroyed all the bridges in Castle Rock and cut I-25 in several places. We also displayed an exhibit for the 150th anniversary of the D&RG depot building which now houses the museum. We will shortly have exhibits for the 150th anniversary of Colorado and the 250th anniversary of the country and have submitted a proposal for the Town grant. We provided 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 fifth 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. This May the focus of the trolley tour was the impact of the 1965 flood on Castle Rock homes, businesses and infrastructure. In October the museum conducted more Ghost Tours than ever and conducted a cemetery tour stressing those forefathers with connections to the D & R Depot. (These programs are 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 with the depot anniversary. 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. We were able to fund the restoration of two major artifacts, an original D&RG depot bench and a horsedrawn snow sleight. A new Eagle Scout project is in the works for this year. Our IT department is principally volunteer. Society members sponsor many of our fundraising events.

Operating expenses for the museum for the year were \$97,760.00. 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