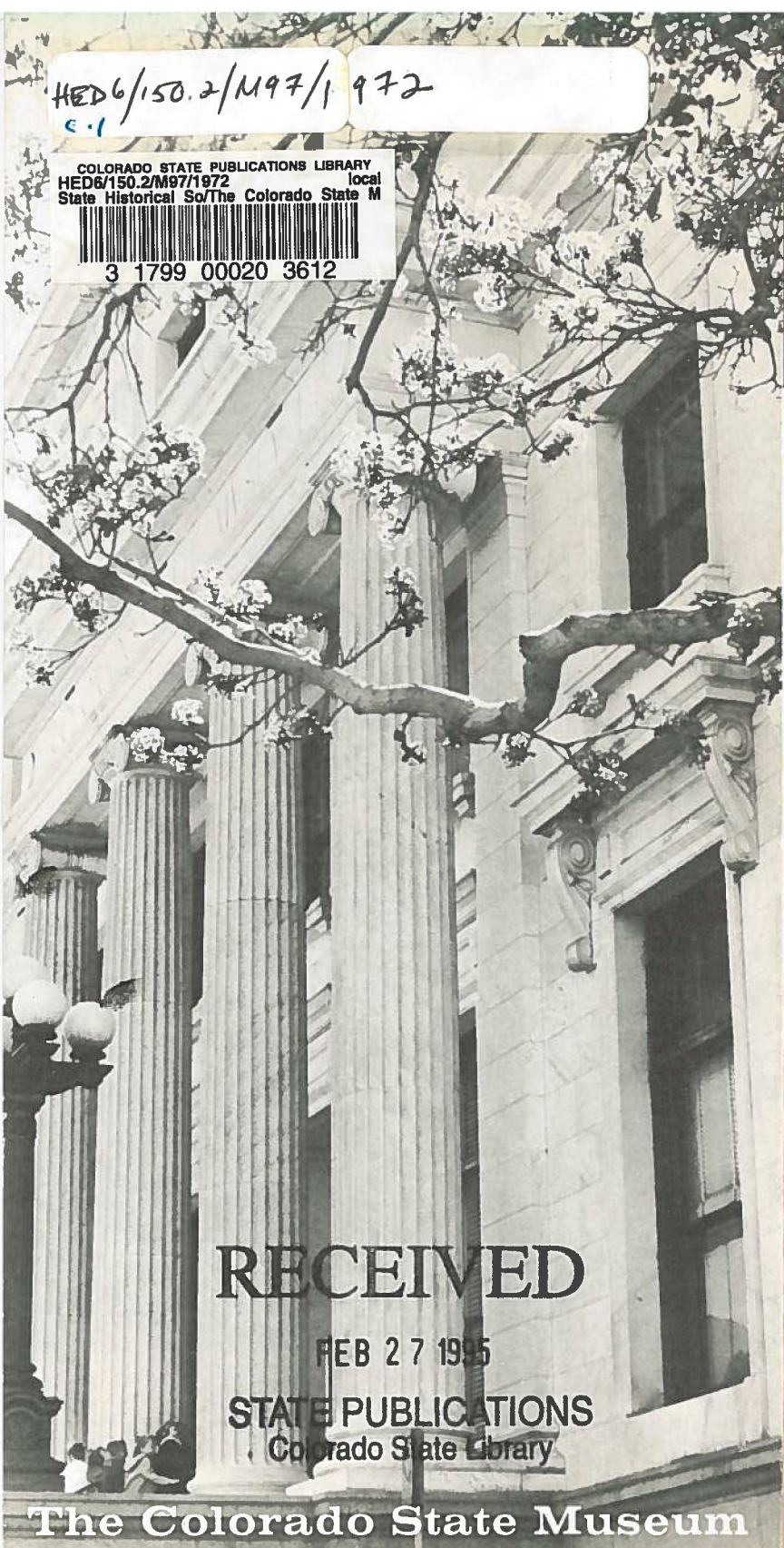


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The Colorado State Museum



Located directly south of the Capitol at East Fourteenth Avenue and Sherman Street, the Colorado State Museum in Denver contains four floors of exhibits depicting the history and development of Colorado through dioramas, artifacts, and illustrations.

The story begins on the first floor, to the left of the main entrance, with displays concerning the earliest inhabitants of the area. One of the principal exhibits is a diorama of the cliff dwelling known as Balcony House, illustrating the daily activities of the Pueblo people at Mesa Verde. Also shown are stone axes and hammers, yucca sandals, and many other items used by these ancient people, while examples of jars, mugs, and bowls chronologically portray the development of Mesa Verde pottery.

Clothing and ceremonial objects tell of the Spanish conquest and of the life of the historic Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Ute Indians who inhabited the area we now call Colorado. Important aspects of their life and customs such as hunting buffalo and stealing horses are detailed in dioramas; also shown are a Ute scalp dance and a typical Indian village scene.



Next come exhibits depicting the opening of the West by explorers, trappers, and traders. The routes of pathfinders such as Pike, Long, Frémont, and Gunnison are shown, and the impact of the fur trade is illustrated through items used by the mountain men. Accurate dioramas portray scenes at a river trading post, Bent's Fort, a rendezvous, and a winter camp.

The other first-floor gallery captures the spirit of the early settlement period of Colorado. Mining and ore-processing techniques are portrayed through equipment and models showing hydraulic mining, lode mining, panning, the use of the rocker, arrastra, and sluice box, and the operation of a stamp mill. A replica of the Auraria-Denver settlement as it



was in 1860 highlights the exhibit. Early photographs and descriptions in newspapers supplied the information about the location and appearance of each structure, and a guide to the model city enables the visitor to identify specific buildings.

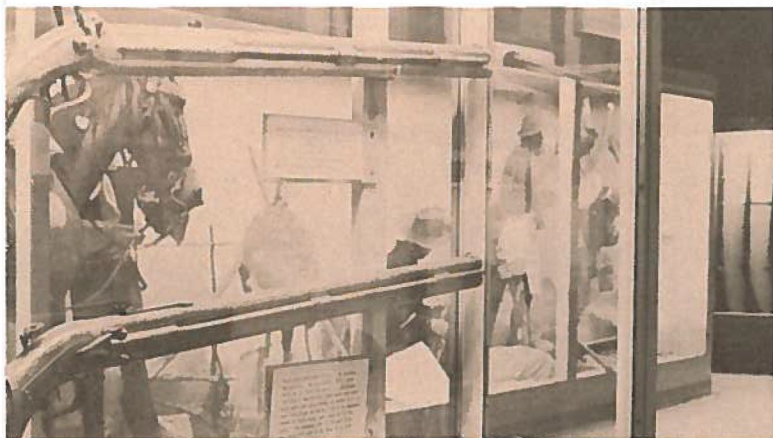
Most of the second floor is devoted to the Society's comprehensive research library and photograph collection,



available to everyone interested in the history of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West. The center gallery, an

auditorium for lectures and programs, is used for special exhibitions.

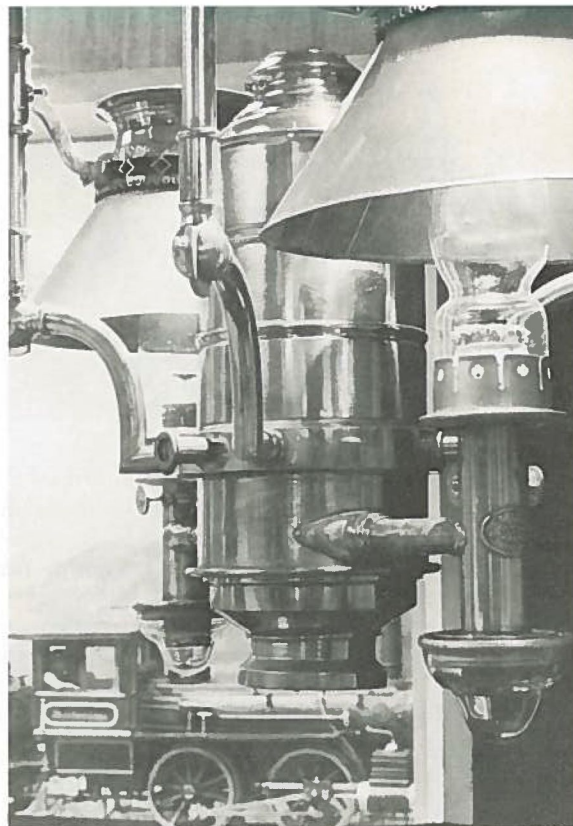
The third floor is divided into three exhibit galleries: "Wars and Weapons," "The Outdoor West," and "The Indoor West." The Wars and Weapons exhibit contains many splendid firearms, including flintlock and percussion-cap guns, Colt pistols, and guns made by pioneer Denver gunsmiths. Weapons and military equipment representing Colorado's involvement in conflicts ranging from Indian battles to the Korean War are also shown.



Historic high points of farming, ranching, and irrigation are the focus of the second gallery. The introduction of cattle by the Spanish and the evolution of the cattle industry are shown through artifacts and dioramas. In semi-arid regions such as Colorado, utilization of water for cattle and crops is a necessity, and dioramas depict pre-historic Indian irrigation, frontier irrigation in the San Luis Valley, irrigation of farmlands, the Grand Valley and Cheesman dams, and the Boulder Canyon hydroelectric plant.

The gallery devoted to home and social life shows the evolution of clothing styles during the years 1850-1920, and an album of artifacts gives a glimpse of the life of two families important in the history of Colorado, the Eisenhowers and the Tabor. The Doud-Eisenhower display includes furnishings from the Doud home on Lafayette Street in Denver, where Mamie Doud Eisenhower spent her girlhood, as well as items relating to Dwight D. Eisenhower's career. The Tabor exhibit contains many items preserved by Baby Doe Tabor, the second wife of H. A. W. Tabor, including photographs, silverware, dresses which belonged to the Tabor children, and Baby Doe's elaborate \$7,000 wedding dress.

On the ground floor the problems, accomplishments, and romance of steam railroading are captured through



dioramas and artifacts. An artist's studio and displays of early household items are evidence of pioneer interest in the niceties of life, as are oil paintings throughout the museum.

As the headquarters for the state-wide operations of the State Historical Society of Colorado, the Colorado State Museum also houses the offices and workshops of the various programs including research and publications; school and interpretive services, responsible for the extension materials distributed by the Society; exhibit preparation; and administration, as well as the priceless museum and library collections and research facilities. The museum is open free to the public every day of the year except Christmas from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. weekdays and 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.



Other museums maintained by THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF COLORADO . . . . .

**FORT VASQUEZ**, near Platteville. Fur-trading post of the 1830s.

**EL PUEBLO MUSEUM**, 905 Prairie Avenue, Pueblo. Contains a life-size reconstruction of Fort Pueblo, built in 1842.

**BACA HOUSE & PIONEER MUSEUM**, Trinidad. Santa Fe Trail and the open-range cattle days.

**BLOOM HOUSE**, Trinidad. Restored Victorian home of a cattle baron of the 1880s.

**GEORGETOWN LOOP HISTORIC MINING AREA**, between Georgetown and Silver Plume. Site of future development of historic mining interpretive complex.

**DEXTER CABIN**, Leadville. Rough-hewn log cabin with a richly appointed, luxurious interior.

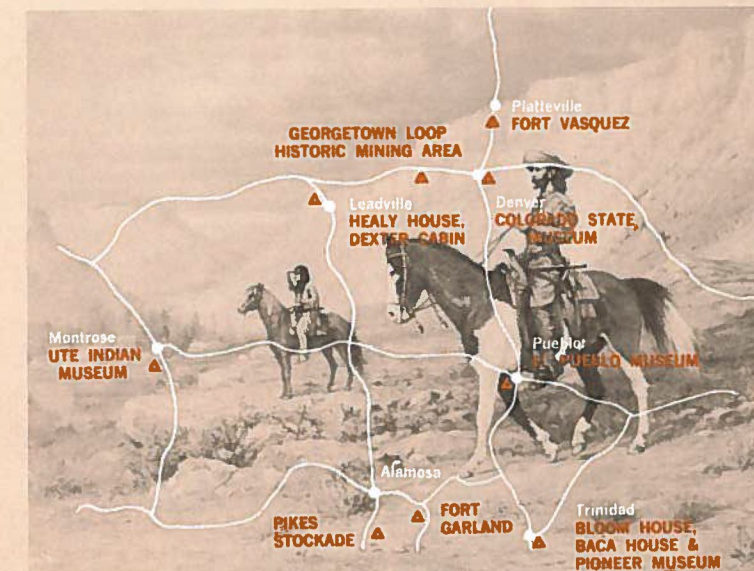
**HEALY HOUSE**, Leadville. Household life in the silver-mining era of the 1880s.

**FORT GARLAND**, east of Alamosa. Restored army post, 1858-83, with dioramas, exhibits.

**PIKES STOCKADE**, near La Jara. Replica of log stockade built by Zebulon Pike in 1807.

**UTE INDIAN MUSEUM**, near Montrose. Specialized museum pertaining to the Ute Indians.

*All are open free to the public.*



*All persons are invited to participate in the activities of the State Historical Society through membership with annual dues of \$5.00.*