



The Animas Museum boasts a state-of-the-art collections room, completed in 2009, which houses approximately 35,000 objects, including items from our area's Native American, Hispanic and Euro-American cultures. Collaboration with local and regional museums allows the sharing of information, research data and staff expertise.

The research library, available to the public, includes extensive files on families, business directories, cemetery registers, city directories and reference books, and a large collection of historic images.



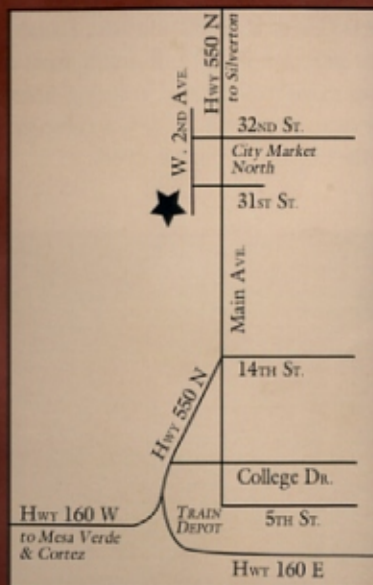
La Plata County is the ancestral home to several Native American tribes. The Southern Ute Indian Reservation is now located southeast of Durango.



THE Animas Museum

DURANGO • COLORADO

3065 W. 2nd Ave. • Durango, Colorado
(On the corner of 31st St. and W. 2nd Ave.)



Summer Hours ...Monday - Saturday: 10-5
Winter HoursTuesday - Saturday: 10-4

Admission

Adults.....	\$5
Seniors 65 +	\$4
Military (with I.D.)	\$4
Children 7-12	\$2
Children under 7	FREE
LPCHS Members	FREE

La Plata County Historical Society

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THE Animas Museum

DURANGO • COLORADO



Where the Past
Touches the Future



Joy Cabin



Experience pioneer life in a log cabin!

Said to have been built in the 1870s by C.B. Joy, a New Hampshire blacksmith, this hand-hewn log cabin is the oldest intact structure remaining in Durango. Originally located on the northeast corner of Main Ave. and 31st St., it was used as a home by several people until it was moved first to Brookside Park in 1958, then to its current place on the grounds of the Animas Museum in 1988. It has been completely restored to serve as a living reminder of Animas City's pioneer days.

Animas City School
circa 1908

site of
Joy Cabin



Colorado's statehood became official in 1876, the same year that saw the founding of Animas City. Its namesake Animas River (el Rio de las Animas) provided a backdrop for the ranchers, miners and business owners who settled there. The bustling little city thrived as an area trade center.

When the Durango Trust, composed largely of Denver & Rio Grande Railroad investors, founded a new hub two and a half miles to the south, most of the businesses moved to Durango, reducing Animas City to little more than a suburb. It was subsequently annexed to the City of Durango in 1948.



The Animas City School was constructed in 1904-05 to replace two earlier school buildings. Considered the finest ever erected in Animas City, the three-story sandstone building served as a school until 1967. After about ten years of various other uses, it was turned over to the La Plata County Historical Society for renovation as a museum in 1978 and has been undergoing restoration ever since. It continues to be Durango's only history museum and was the first structure to be placed on Durango's Historic Register in 1992.

Due to her preference for the small male burro, or jack(ass) over mules for her pack trains, Olga Little became widely known throughout Colorado's La Plata Mountains as the West's only female "jack-whacker."



Operating her jack train out of the Durango area between 1909 and 1947, she packed supplies into practically every mine in the area, including to high and remote regions where many veteran male packers refused to go. She died in 1970 and is buried in Greenmount Cemetery.

