



## Golden History Museum & Park-City of Golden Scope of Collection

One of the primary goals of Golden History Museum & Park is to collect artifacts that document Golden history. They include objects that were actually made or used in Golden and have a clear and specific association with some significant aspect of Golden history. These types of objects will be classified in the Museum collection as Golden provenance artifacts, and will be given the highest priority for addition to or retention in the Permanent Collection.

### Defining Golden

Since GHM&P was first established as a Jefferson County-wide museum in 1938, collecting activity covered a large physical area and a number of early communities that extended beyond Golden city limits. Jefferson County gifted the museum to the City of Golden in 1958 and the collecting scope was reined in. As Jefferson County's oldest remaining white settlement and home of the county seat, Golden's influence looms large. Today, we geographically define our area of collecting using several criteria: zip codes, historic communities, and constructed and natural landforms themselves.

- **Zip codes:** Golden city limits are defined by 80401 and 80403. However, large portions of these zip codes also fall within unincorporated Jefferson County, which have a Golden, Colorado, mailing address. For example, the majority of Molson Coors Golden brewery falls outside of Golden city limits, in unincorporated Jefferson County. (Golden zip code 80402 is only used for PO Boxes.)
- **Historical communities:** These include Mount Vernon, Apex, Lookout Mountain, Golden Gate Canyon, Crawford Gulch, Golden Gate City, Arapahoe City, Fairmount, and Wide Acres. Also included in this category are the contemporary outlying communities of Genesee, Pleasant View, Leyden and Applewood. Portions of some of these areas today are situated in Arvada to the northwest, Wheat Ridge to the east, and Lakewood to the southwest.
- **Major constructed and natural landforms:** Roughly to include Ralston Reservoir and Rocky Flats to the north, North and South Table Mountains to the east, Mount Vernon Canyon and parts of Green Mountain to the south and Mount Zion and Clear Creek Canyon to the west.

GHM&P is also the official repository for many City of Golden records. Due to strong historical ties the museum still holds a number of Jefferson County records although they are no longer collected today. It's noteworthy that GHM&P collects anything related to the history of major local businesses like the Molson Coors Golden brewery and CoorsTek along with major State of



Colorado institutions like the Colorado School of Mines, Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center (State Industrial School), and Camp George West. Finally, GHM&P collects some items related to long established museums and archives in Golden such as the Colorado Railroad Museum or Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum.

### **Golden Provenance Artifacts**

Artifacts have a direct association with Golden history and regional history as it relates to the West such as the following.

- **Artifacts** that represent settlement by native peoples or western expansion and settlement prior to 1859.
- **Municipal development** of Golden, including early government and the incorporation of the town. This includes elements such as: mayor or city manager and city council; city departments and services, such as the police department, fire department, library, parks and other public facilities; public works and utilities, such as water and sewer systems, and transportation systems.
- **Public and private facilities** and services associated with urban life such as local private utilities that have provided water, electricity, gas, and telecommunication services; newspapers, postal service, hospitals, cemeteries, and railroads; and the late-20th century growth of Golden including the development of neighborhoods and subdivisions, and downtown redevelopment.
- **Economic activities** in Golden including mining; agriculture and agriculture-related businesses; scientific, technical and entrepreneurial commerce; retail and commercial businesses; professional services, trades, manufacturing, health and health care; sports and recreation; and land development, tourism, and business associations.
- **Social and cultural development** of Golden including; faith communities and their buildings; civic, fraternal, and arts organizations; and unique community events and organizations.
- **Education** in Golden including the development of elementary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education and other specialized schools.
- **Individuals and families** who have made a significant personal contribution to the development of Golden.
- **Geographical features** of the Golden area.
- **Objects of natural history or archaeological material** acquired through the lawful excavation of sites in the Golden area.
- Written, transcribed, photographed or otherwise **documented aspects of Golden history**.



## **Non-Provenance Artifacts**

Objects which do not have a direct association with Golden history may still be potentially useful in fulfilling the Mission of the Museum. Objects of this class may include typical pieces of American material culture such as furniture, clothing, tools and equipment, product packages, etc., which have been mass-produced and nationally distributed. Such objects may be considered to be representative of similar objects that would have actually been used in Golden. Such objects are particularly useful for the development of interpretive exhibits, especially when a suitable collection of Golden provenance artifacts is not available. These types of objects will be classified as non-provenancial.

Artifacts without provenance may be added to the Permanent Collection if they meet one or more of the following criteria.

- An object is representative of a class of widely distributed common objects of a particular time period which is not sufficiently represented in the Permanent Collection. For example, clothing of the 1850s, or product packages of the twentieth century, are types of objects that may be needed to enhance interpretation of specific aspects of Golden history.
- An object is representative of a specific activity that was commonly practiced in Golden which is not sufficiently represented in the Permanent Collection. For example, tools associated with farming and mining or technological or scientific equipment may be appropriate for addition to the Permanent Collection, even if they were used in another part of the country.
- An object is representative of an aspect of American history in which the people of Golden have played a role.
- An object is identified as being of a specific type that is needed for educational or interpretive purposes