



HISTORIC LITTLETON INC.

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Two Events Feature Littleton's Water History

Ever since Richard S. Little came to Littleton in 1861 to supervise construction of an irrigation ditch (now known as the City Ditch), water has played an important role in Littleton's history. Historic Littleton Inc. will celebrate Historic Preservation Month in May with two events that will explore Littleton's water history and showcase the historical ditches in Littleton that are still in use today.

The first event is a bus and walking tour to working irrigation ditches such as the Highline Canal, Nevada Ditch, the Brown Ditch, and the City Ditch, on Saturday, May 14. Jerry Foster, ditch company coordinator for Denver Water, will explain ditch uses and water rights as he leads the tour.

The bus tour will depart from the Littleton Historical Museum at 8:30 a.m. and return at 12:30 p.m. Tour cost is \$10 for the public and \$5 for Historic Littleton Inc. members.

Contact Rebecca Kast at 303-730-2639 for reservations.



Highline Canal flume under construction in 1884
—Photo courtesy of Littleton Historical Museum

On Wednesday, May 18, HLI Board Member Charlie Carroll and Museum Deputy Director Lorena Donohue will present "Intertwined: The Story of Littleton's History and its Irrigation Ditches" at 7 p.m. at the Littleton Historical Museum.

This illustrated lecture is free and open to the public. Punch and cookies will be served.

Call the Littleton Historical Museum at 303-795-3950 for more information.



The City Ditch at St. Mary's Ballfield



Remodeled Skerritt House Seeks New Owner

The Thomas Skerritt House in Englewood is freshly painted, completely rehabilitated and ready for a new owner. The house at 3560 S. Bannock is for sale for \$395,000.

Thomas Skerritt is considered the father of Englewood. His original homestead in 1859 was on the banks of the South Platte River. After the flood of 1864 washed much of his farmland away, Skerritt purchased 600 acres, which became the future site of the City of Englewood. Skerritt moved his original frame house to the site,

built two additions and planted a large orchard.

Skerritt laid out the street of Broadway by plowing two sets of tracks with a center boulevard in 1864. He platted his property in 1896 and began selling off pieces for homes and parks. He chose the name Englewood for his new city when he incorporated in 1903.

The house was divided into apartments at a later date, but the original interior remained fairly intact. The structure was deteriorating and had been heavily water damaged when Colorado Preserva-

tion Inc. purchased it and began rehabilitating it, with the help of the State Historical Fund.

The house has a new roof and windows and the fir floors have been refinished. All electrical and heating systems are new. It is zoned and wired for office use. Interested buyers should contact Barbara Sheldon of Coldwell Banker at 303-320-5733.

Downtown Historic District Hearing May 17

The Littleton City Council will hold a public hearing on May 17 at 7 p.m. to decide whether to approve a historic district for several blocks of Main Street.

Property owners Rick Acres, Kal Murib and Dick Valore submitted a proposal for an opt-in district for three and one half blocks of Main Street. The opt-in district means individual property owners within the boundaries can decide whether or not to join. No property will be included in the district without the owner's consent.

Owners whose buildings are designated are subject to the city's historic district regulations and are eligible for incentives, including reduced parking restrictions, waiver of building permit fees for façade work, and eligibility for state and federal tax credits and grants for preservation projects.

On April 18, the Historical Preservation Board voted unanimously to send a favorable recommendation forward to the council for

a district that included 21 properties. That number may change as property-owners opt in or out until the time of the council hearing.

The City Council will make the final decision.

For more information on the downtown historic district contact city staff member Andrea Mimnaugh at 303-795-3719 or property-owner Kal Murib, 303-794-8037.

The Historical Preservation Board and Historic Littleton Inc. will join in hanging a commemorative plaque at the Abbot Building, 2330 Main Street, next to Town Hall Arts Center, on Mon. May 23 at 12:00 noon.

Owner Shean Gaffari recently completed a \$120,000 façade renovation of his building, with a \$60,000 grant from the State Historic Fund.

CALENDAR

May 14—Bus Tour of Littleton's Historic Ditches, 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

May 17—Public Hearing on Downtown Historic District City Council Chambers, 7 p.m.

May 18—Water History Lecture at Littleton Historical Museum, 7 p.m.

May 23—Plaque hanging and dedication of Abbot Building, noon

It's Time to Renew Your Historic Littleton Inc. Membership for 2005!

For 15 years Historic Littleton Inc. (formerly the Second Century Fund) has been active in fostering a positive spirit towards historic preservation in Littleton. Historic Littleton members receive a periodic newsletter, are invited to participate in special tours and activities, and are directly involved in promoting historic preservation.

In 2005, HLI will explore Littleton's connection with water. Since the days when Richard Little moved here to survey the City Ditch, water has played an important role in our town's history. Join with us for a bus tour and a lecture at the Littleton Historical Museum as we learn more about the irrigation ditches which have flowed through Littleton for over 120 years.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and thank you for your support!

Sincerely, The Board of Directors of Historic Littleton Inc.

Rebecca Kast, President; Barb Eaton, Vice President; Sonya Ellingboe, Secretary; Ron Richards, Treasurer; and Directors Karen Arras, Jack Ballard, Charlie Carroll, Lorena Donohue, Vern Hendrickson, Doris Hulse, Mike Massey, Bernard Small and Bruce Wolf.

Members of Historic Littleton, Inc. need to renew their memberships for 2005.
Please send your \$25 membership fee to:

Historic Littleton Inc.
P.O. Box 1004
Littleton, CO 80160-1004

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- I'd like to help with:
- Membership Committee
 - Newsletter
 - Special Events
 - Educational Programs