

Frequently Asked Questions

Where will my donated object be exhibited?

The Animas Museum changes exhibited objects frequently. We cannot guarantee when or where specific objects will be exhibited.

How much is my object worth?

The Animas Museum cannot provide appraisal information to you for ethical and legal reasons. To find an appraiser near you try contacting one of the following organizations:

American Society of Appraisers (703) 478-2228 www.appraisers.org

Does the Animas Museum Purchase objects?

We rarely have funds to purchase objects for the collections, so we primarily rely on donated materials.

Will the Museum take my object on loan if I don't want to donate it?

The Animas Museum does not accept loaned objects for reasons other than immediate exhibition purposes.

Can I have it back?

Once an object is donated it cannot be returned. An exception may be made for photographs. The Museum can scan images and use the digital image for research, exhibit or publication. The originals may be returned to the donor.

If the Museum doesn't want it, what can I do with it?

Other family members might be interested in having it – it couldn't hurt to ask! There may be other museums who would love to have your object. We have museum directories that will help you search for topical museums or museums in other locations. You might also consider donating the objects to a local school or college. If you are interested in selling your object, you could try an antique store.

You won't sell it, right?

Because the Animas Museum has full title to the donated item, we reserve the option of selling the item. Our collection is always growing, so the Animas Museum may need to remove items from time to time. Our Collections Policy states that items may be removed if they are determined to be unnecessary duplicates, irrelevant to our mission, excessively deteriorated or broken, dangerous/volatile/toxic, or if the artifact's preservation needs exceed our resources. Our policy states that we have the right to dispose of artifacts via gift, sale, exchange, or destruction, unless otherwise specified.

ANIMAS MUSEUM



So You Want to Donate an Object?

Thank you! We are so glad you thought of the Animas Museum and La Plata County Historical Society. We rely on generous donations from people like you to enhance our collections. While we wish that we could accept all items, the Animas Museum faces storage, funding, and staffing limitations that prevent us from doing so. Therefore, we appreciate your understanding and willingness to work with us.

The Mission of the La Plata County Historical Society is to keep La Plata County history and culture alive for present and future generations.

What objects are accepted by the Museum?

Objects must meet the following criteria in order to be accepted:

- The objects must relate to or provide information about the history of La Plata County, Colorado.
- Preference will be given to objects that will tell an interesting story about La Plata County residents, places, and events. Documentation of what the object is, how the object was used, who used it, and other details is valuable.
- Objects must be in reasonably good, complete, and original condition.
- Duplicate objects will only be accepted if the new object provides a more interesting story or the existing objects are in poor condition.
- Donors may not place conditions or restrictions on the use of items they have donated.
- Items dropped off at the Museum without an appointment with the Collections Staff are considered abandoned property, subject to Colorado Statute (CRS 38-14). These items will likely have to be destroyed.

- Objects that are in less than perfect condition may be accepted for our Education Collection. These objects may be handled, placed on exhibit, and/or used for demonstrations with school groups.
- Books or newspaper clippings may be accepted into our Library Collection if they enhance our ability to research existing collections, relate to the history of La Plata County, or are by local authors.

To help expedite the donation process, please have the following ready: information about the original owner, names of people who used the item and when (circa dates). Early photos of the item are helpful, but not required.

ANIMAS MUSEUM

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Objects must be approved by the Collections Committee in order to be accepted as a donation to the Permanent Collection. Please contact Amber Lark at amberlark@animasmuseum.org or call (970) 259-2402 to discuss a potential donation. **Donations are only accepted by appointment Tuesday—Thursday.**

