

LOCATIONS

School: Soon after settlers began moving into Animas City in 1876, citizens formed La Plata County's first school district. A crude log cabin was built to serve as a school. The student body quickly outgrew the cabin, so in 1878 students moved into a larger frame structure on what is now west 32nd St. A brick school was constructed about 1880 on the southeast corner of today's 31st St. and West 2nd Ave.



Construction began in 1904 on a new building west of the brick school, just across the street. Sandstone for the building was quarried a short distance north of the construction site. The school opened in 1905, offering classes through the 10th grade.

Post Office: In 1880 Fred Steiniger, the owner of a livery stable in Silverton, was contracted to haul mail from Silverton to Parrot City (the La Plata County seat) via Animas City. Known as the "Star Route," mail runs were scheduled daily, with three changes of horses required between Silverton and Animas City. Depending on the size of the load and road conditions 20 to 30 horses would be required for daily mail service.

Church: In July 1877 Reverend Darley arrived in town. He was tasked by the Presbyterian Synodical Missionary to bring religion to Animas City. He searched for a building large enough to accommodate church services. A saloon keeper offered not only use of his building but offered to round up "all the loose people in town". A large crowd gathered for Darley's services, donating generously and offering support for an organized church. In the spring of 1878 Reverend W.C. Beebe arrived to continue Rev. Darley's works. Sunday School was held in private homes until a church was built. The community contributed funds or labor for the new church was used until 1887.



Chitwood Map (opposite): The W.T. Chitwood family lived on a ranch on the east side of the river in the Animas Valley. Their son Andy recalled the Animas City of his childhood (1876-1880) and drew a map in 1940. When the map was published by the Sarah Platt Decker Chapter NSDAR in "Pioneers of the San Juan Country" he regretted that he did not use more care in spacing streets and placing the buildings. He needn't have worried. His map is a treasure of information about the earliest days of Animas City.

Second Division—Silverton Branch.												
R. M. RIDGWAY, Superintendent, Alamosa.												
WESTWARD.					EASTWARD.							
SECOND CLASS.		FIRST CLASS.		TIME TABLE No. 19, July 23, 1882.					FIRST CLASS.		SECOND CLASS.	
		No. 15. Accom.		STATIONS AND Passing Places.					No. 16. Accom.			
		2 30 Pa		Dep	Denver	Ar				12 15 Pa		
		7 15 Ia		Dep	Durango	Ar	450.			7 40 Pa		
		7 25	2.4	"	Animas City	Dep	452.4			7 28		
		7 45	4.2	"	Home Ranch	"	456.6			7 10		
		7 58	2.7	"	Trimble Springs	"	459.3			6 57		
		8 05	1.9	"	Hermosa	"	461.2			6 50		
		8 58	8.6	Dep	Rockwood	Dep	467.8			8 50		
		10 25	9.2	"	Cascade Siding	Dep	477.			4 32		
		10 50	3.9	"	Needleton	"	480.9			4 05		
		11 57 Ia	8.3	Dep	Elk Park	"	489.2			2 58		
		12 40 Pa	5.2	Ar	Silverton	Dep	494.4			2 15 Pa		
		(5.25)			(45.0)					(5.25)		

All trains run daily.
No train or engine must leave Durango or Silverton without the Conductor or Engineer inquiring at the telegraph office for orders.
No train or engine must use less than twenty (20) minutes running between Rockwood and Animas River Bridge, three miles west of Rockwood.

The first official timetable issued by the Denver & Rio Grande Railway following the completion of the new line to Silverton. It took effect at 12:01 a.m. July 23, 1882. Passengers stayed overnight in Durango leaving at 7:15 a.m. with their first stop of the day being Animas City at 7:25. Southbound (eastward) passengers arrived in Animas city at 7:28 p.m. then arrived in Durango for the night at 7:40.

Animas Museum

P.O. Box 3384
Durango, CO 81302

Phone: 970-259-2402
E-mail: animasmuseum@frontier.net

Animas Museum

WHERE THE PAST TOUCHES THE PRESENT

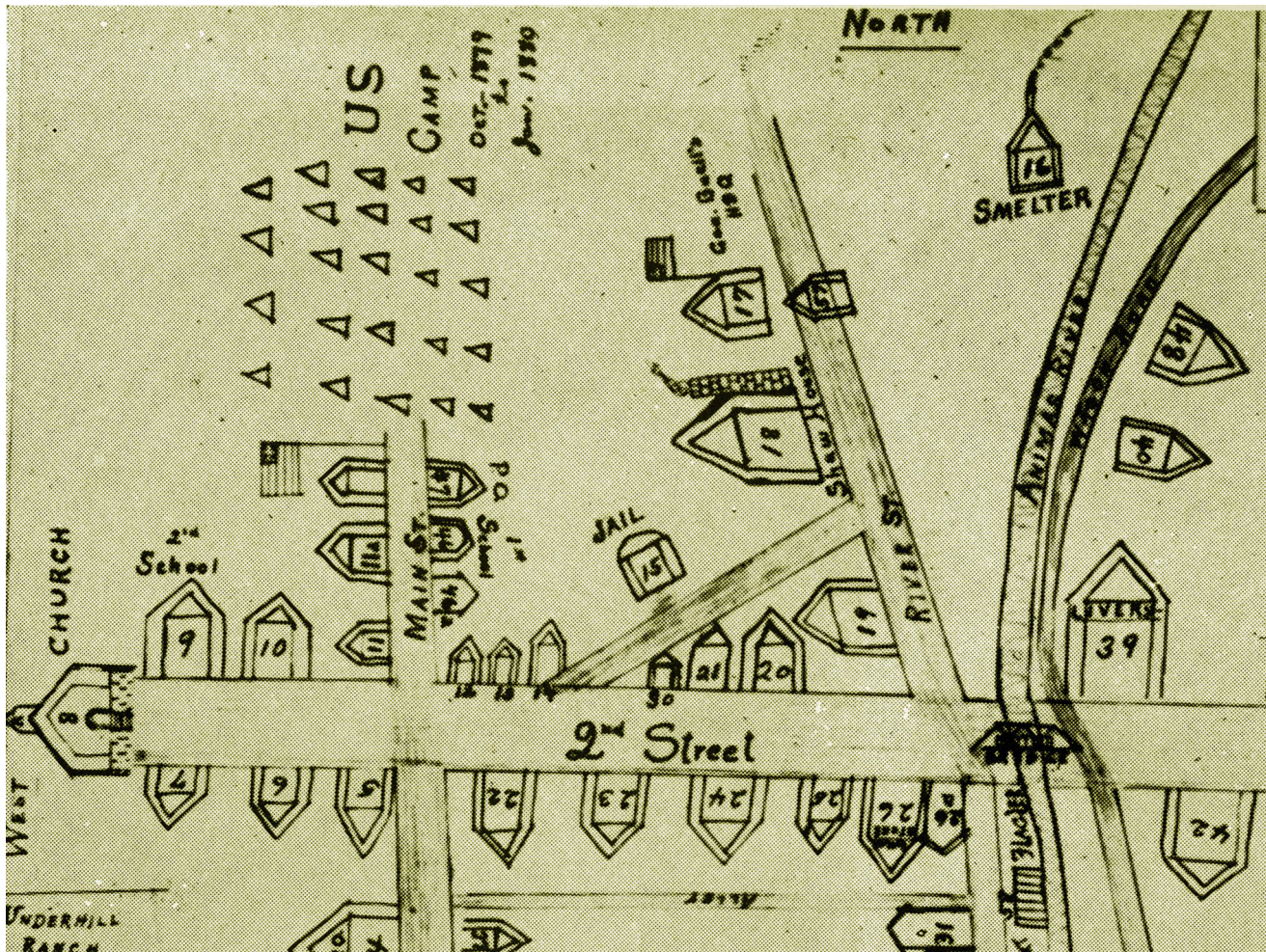
ANIMAS CITY
 <<< LOOKING DOWN ON >>>
 --- DURANGO ---
SINCE 1876

The Animas City Story

In 1876, as Colorado was celebrating statehood, a community was founded along the banks of the Animas River. On August 26, a group of enterprising settlers formed the Animas City Townsite Company and purchased land from John Fowler. Among the articles drawn up by the Company was Article I; "to lay out, found and to occupy as a townsite, situated on the east and west banks for the Animas River. Extending north where the Animas Valley widens, and south near where Junction Creek enters said river. State of Colorado, County of La Plata."

With agricultural roots, the town thrived. Before long Animas City had a school, a general store, several saloons, a pool hall a doctor and a hotel. Unfortunately the railroad's arrival in Durango, some two miles to the south, in 1881 caused Animas City's fortunes to dim. On October 28, 1847 voters approved the resolution annexing Animas City to Durango. The annexation became official of January 1, 1948.

MAP OF ANIMAS CITY AND LEGEND



4 - Doc Wallace's Drug Store; and first Post Office
 5 - Moore Rooms
 6 - Doc Sear's Drug Store
 7 - Kephart's dwelling
 8 - First Church on the Animas; Presbyterian
 9 - Second Schoolhouse; two-story frame.
 Teachers: Mr. Park, 1878-79; Miss Laura Will

and Mr. Shelton, 1879-80
 10 - Dan Culver's dwelling
 11 - Russell & Flagler, law office
 11a - Tom Garden's cabin, 1878; standing, partly behind Garage
 12 - Candy Store
 13 - Barber Shop, where Port Stockton shot the barber

14 - Valliant & Hunter's Saloon
 15 - jail, log building, about 14x14 feet
 16 - Smelter, Duryea Process; unsuccessful experiment
 17 - General Buell's Headquarters, fall of 1879
 18 - The Shaw House; opened by Mr. and Mrs. John Shaw, 1877
 19 - Feed Barn
 20 - Foyn & Boyle's Hardware Store and Tin Shop
 21 - Cabin where Pitt West died, 1879
 22 - Schwenk & Will's Store and Saloon; first saloon, 1878
 23 - Schwenk and Will's Dance Hall
 24 - Dan Culver's Trading Post, the first store
 25 - Schussler's Grocery Store
 26 - Goodrich, Weightman & Wilcox Groceries.
 26a - Newman, Chestnut & Stevens Drug Store
 27 - Naegelin Bros. (Charlie and Bill), Blacksmith Shop
 30 - Hanson's Elk Horn Restaurant; Mr. Hanson, built the Leland Hotel in Durango in 1981
 31 - Major Sheets' home; cattleman; Postmaster 1879
 39 - Myers & West's Livery Stable, first, 1878
 40 - Keogh's home
 46 - First School House
 46a - Aspaas Cabin
 47 - Second Post Office
 42 - Phil Garron, Rooms and Board
 48 - Shang Peterson dwelling
 57 - Fowler's Cabin