

## Renovation work puts historic Greenland post office on solid footing



The historic Greenland Post Office building in Douglas County has a new foundation and walls after a renovation project. [Douglas County](#)



By Mike McKibbin/NewsBreak Denver | March 26, 2022

**[DOUGLAS COUNTY, CO]** A nearly 150-year-old building that served as the post office of the Greenland community of Douglas County for 86 years has a solid foundation, thanks to a county preservation project.

The county acquired the Greenland Post Office and a close-to 140-year-old school building plus 96 lots of the original Greenland townsite in 1996, said Brittany Cassell, co-curator of the county's historical repository.

Paid for with a \$156,0160 grant from the Colorado State Historical Fund and a 25% match of \$52,053 in county general fund money, work to reconstruct and stabilize the foundation of the 1,700-square foot building took place from June through November.

The county also improved site grading and drainage to keep excess water away from the building. A \$70,572 state historical fund grant partially funded work that restored the post office roof in 2016.

### **Siding shingle replacement needed**

Cassell said the project involved workers jacking up the building and stabilizing the structure's floor and walls. The county sought bids and selected H.W. Houston as the contractor.

"We wanted to replace the asphalt shingle siding on the building, but nobody uses that anymore," Cassell added. "So we're going to have to experiment and see if we can recreate a siding that will match it."

Dan Dertz, the county's planning resource manager, said asphalt shingle siding does not hold up well to Colorado's harsh weather.



Workers for H.W. Houston help improve the foundation of the historic Greenland Post Office building in Douglas County.

Cassell said new windows and door restoration are the next phase of the building's rehabilitation, subject to another state historical grant.

County spokeswoman Wendy Manitta Holmes said the rehabilitation projects are part of the county's effort to be responsible stewards of natural and historic resources.

"It's no more complicated than a real desire to preserve history," she said.

"We just want to save our heritage, these are truly unique sites," said Dertz.

The post office is only open to the public during scheduled events, said Manitta Holmes, who seeks volunteers from partner organizations such as the Larkspur Historical Society to talk about the building's history.

### **Greenland important part of local history**

From the county's historical properties web page:

- Greenland was heavily influenced by the course of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and the territorial road to Colorado City, which connected surrounding towns.
- With investments from prominent Denver businessmen, Greenland became a major railroad hub. It shipped lumber, grain, clay, potatoes, milk, cheese and cattle to Denver and its surrounding communities.
- During its heyday, Greenland had a variety of buildings and businesses: The post office operated from 1873-1959 and included sleeping quarters and a restaurant, all operated by the same family; the Greenland School operated from 1883-1951, then reopened from 1954-57; and the Higby Mercantile Co., a general store that sold gas, Deering farm equipment, Model T Fords and wholesale farm produce.

The post office was a central element of the cultural and social growth of the community. Residents visited with neighbors to catch up on local news and learn what was happening elsewhere in the county.

A 2020 story in the Colorado Springs Gazette noted the town population was 25 in 1898 and doubled by the turn of the century.

Greenland was named for the green character of the original townsite, according to Wikipedia.

Today, the sparsely populated unincorporated area features a few occupied homesites and ranches with nearby subdivisions, said Dertz.

The county also manages the Spruce Meadows Open Space and Trail on the southern edge of Greenland.