

# Museo de las Tres Colonias



*John B. Romero built this adobe home at 425 10th St., for his family between 1927-1935*

The *Museo de las Tres Colonias* conveys, through use of oral histories, the story of early twentieth-century Hispanic pioneers who carved out a rich life in the Fort Collins area while working in the sugar-beet industry. Those who came sought the promise of a better life in Northern Colorado. In 1927, John B. Romero began building an adobe home in Andersonville that would serve his family for 75 years. Situated near the Great Western Sugar Company factory, the house has been restored to interpret the early history of the three Spanish colonies — Andersonville, Alta Vista, and Buckingham — or *tres colonias* — that surrounded the sugar - beet factory.



*The founders: Joan Mangle, Virginia McMillan, Margaret Guzman, Betty Aragon-Mitotes and Sally Ketcham (not pictured).*

## *Museo de las Tres Colonias*

425 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524

**REGULAR HOURS:** 12:30 to 3 p.m. on the third Saturday each month.

### **MUSEO OPEN HOUSES:**

Each Saturday in April, the *Amigos del Museo de las Tres Colonias*, will open the Romero House from 12:30 to 5 p.m. in support of the Beet Street series, “Finding Home.” Admission is free.

For more information about the Poudre Landmarks Foundation, Inc., or to assist the *Amigos del Museo de las Tres Colonias* auxiliary, please call (970) 221-0533, please leave a message

For information about other Museo special events or openings by accessing <http://www.poudrelandmarks.com>

The Poudre Landmarks Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

*Yes, I would like to contribute to the Museo de las Tres Colonias! Here is my tax-deductible contribution to assist the Museo and the Amigo's Interpretive Center Project.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The PLF recognizes our supporters in our annual report. Please print your name above as you wish to have it listed in this publication.

*Please make your check payable to the Poudre Landmarks Foundation, Inc., and indicate on the check that your gift is for the Museo.*

Mail the check with this form to:

Treasurer  
Poudre Landmarks Foundation, Inc.  
108 North Meldrum St.  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

*Thank you for your valuable support!*

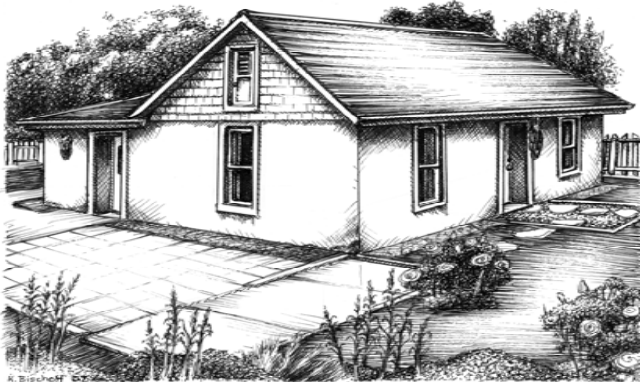
## What is the Poudre Landmarks Foundation?

The mission of the Poudre Landmarks Foundation, Inc., is to preserve, restore, protect, and interpret the architectural and cultural heritage of the Fort Collins area. The PLF manages three historic properties owned by the City of Fort Collins: the Avery House Historic District, the 1882-1883 Fort Collins Water Works, and the *Museo de las Tres Colonias*. The Foundation provides educational programs about life in early Fort Collins through tours, displays, and special events at each of these properties.

## What is the role of the *Museo de las Tres Colonias*?

The purpose of the *Museo* is fourfold. First, the adobe historic house museum helps interpret family life in the *tres colonias* between 1927 and 1940. Second, the *Museo* offers education programs about contributions made by the Hispanic community. Third, volunteers explain to visitors the significance of the sugar-beet industry to the Fort Collins community. And fourth, the *Museo* is the focal point for continuous celebration of Hispanic culture, and promotes tolerance, understanding, and social justice for all.

*Museo de las Tres Colonias*. Sketch by Kathleen Bischoff.

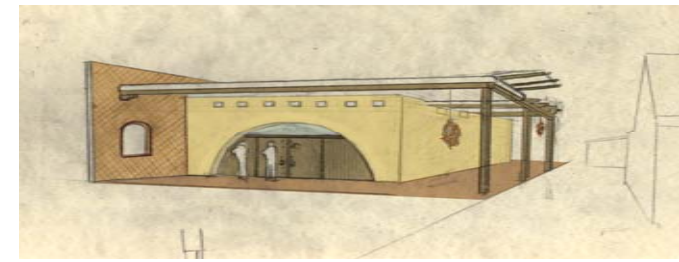


## How did the *Museo de las Tres Colonias* become established?

Beginning in 1927, John B. Romero built the first two rooms of his family's adobe home at 425 10<sup>th</sup> St., in Andersonville near Fort Collins. As the family grew, so did the house. He and his wife, Inez Rivera Romero, enlarged the adobe structure to four rooms in 1935, and members of the Romero family occupied this home until 2001.

The Romeros were one of many Hispanic pioneer families who moved from northern New Mexico to the Fort Collins area in the early 1920s to build a better life for themselves. One of the interpretive themes at the Museo explains the difficulty Hispanic families encountered as a result of prejudice and economic hardship, especially during the Great Depression of the 1930s and the subsequent decline of the sugar-beet industry in Northern Colorado.

So that this story about the impact of the sugar-beet industry on the people who lived in the *tres colonias* would not be lost, Mark Goldberg of Fort Collins Partners I, L.L.C., purchased the property from the Romero family in 2001. In 2002, ownership was transferred to the City of Fort Collins. In partnership with the city, the Poudre Landmarks Foundation and the newly formed auxiliary, the *Amigos del Museo de las Tres Colonias*, managed restoration of the adobe home. A grant from the State Historical Fund enabled construction work to begin in 2003. The *Museo de las Tres Colonias* — named to honor the three Hispanic *colonias* of Andersonville, Alta Vista, and Buckingham — opened in September 2006.



This illustration shows one concept of the proposed facility that is being considered by the Amigos and PLF. Drawing by Giovanni Castillo.

## Why does the *Museo* need an Interpretive Center?

Space in the *Museo de las Tres Colonias* is limited. It is difficult to accommodate large groups of school children on field trips because the authentically furnished rooms in the *Museo* are tiny. The *Amigos* and PLF are initiating plans to build an Interpretive Center that will provide needed space for visitor orientation before entering the *Museo*.

An Interpretive Center will allow volunteers to lead activities that relate to life in the *tres colonias* as well as to explain the work involved with the sugar-beet industry. Segments of the 57-minute oral history DVD, “*Memorias de las Tres Colonias*,” will be played to Interpretive Center visitors to provide orientation before touring the *Museo*. The center will feature additional exhibits that interpret the history and contributions of the Hispanic community.

Another role for the Interpretive Center will be its service as a gathering place to learn about contemporary Hispanic culture. One key component planned for the Interpretive Center will be to provide a neighborhood meeting place to hold community celebrations and educational programs. And, the Interpretive Center will provide needed restroom facilities currently unavailable in the *Museo*.