

10 History Places in Douglas County You Should Visit

1. Highlands Ranch Mansion

This castle-like residence formerly served as the headquarters of Highlands Ranch. Construction began in 1891 and was completed by 1937. The Highlands Ranch Metro District owns the property and made extensive renovations in 2012 in order to make it accessible to the public. The mansion is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am



2011.004.0011

to 2 pm, and for events. It is located off of both Broadway and Wildcat Reserve on Gateway Drive.

2. Louviers Clubhouse/Library



2008.004.0001.0001

This building served as the post office, library, candy store, and community center of Louviers, a former Du Pont Company town. It has an original bowling alley in the building next door. Now

owned by Douglas County, it was refurbished in about 2004. The Louviers Library, Douglas County Libraries' smallest branch is open Tuesdays from 3 to 8 pm and Saturdays from 9 am to 12 pm. It is located in the center of Louviers off of Santa Fe Drive.

3. St. Philip in the Field Episcopal Church/Bear Canon Cemetery

This is the oldest operating church in Douglas County, built in 1872. Some of Douglas County's earliest residents rest in the cemetery, which is open daily from dawn until dusk. The church is open Sunday morning and for special events. The church and cemetery are located off of Highway 105 just south of Wolfensberger Road.



1997.084.0003

4. Castle Rock Museum



1994.023.0008.0010

The Castle Rock Museum, built of rhyolite, was formerly the Denver and Rio Grande Depot before it was moved to its current location on Jerry Street. It features rotating exhibits on the history of Castle Rock and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 12 to 5 pm.

5. Indian Park School

This was a one-room schoolhouse serving this part of the county. In a small cemetery behind it rest the couple who donated the land for the school. The building is maintained by the Indian Park Schoolhouse Association and is open occasionally for events or by appointment. Located on the right side of the road on Highway 67 west of Sedalia.



2002.049.0020

6. Castlewood Canyon Dam



1993.005.0040.0003

The dam was built on Cherry Creek by a private company in about 1890 to build a reservoir for irrigation of local farms. It failed on August 3, 1933, flooding eastern Douglas County and all the way into Denver.

Nearby is the gravesite of Conrad Moschel, who was killed by unidentified Native Americans during hostilities in the 1860s. The State Park is open daily. The dam can be reached by a hiking trail in Castlewood Canyon State Park near Franktown.

7. Spring Valley School

This was a one-room school for the southeastern part of the county. The landscape around it has changed very little compared to some other sites. Owned by Douglas County, the building is opened occasionally for events, but the site is visible year-round from the road. Recommended in good



1997.084.0012

weather, as all routes to the school are dirt/gravel. Northwest corner of Spring Valley Road and Lorraine Road.

8. Twenty-Mile Historic Park



2013.013.0001.0025.0003

On Mainstreet in Parker, west of Parker Road, sits Twenty-Mile Historic Park. A small building in the park originally served as the Pine Grove post office. The remains of the larger building are part of the Twenty Mile House, which served as a resting place, campsite, and

general community space for stagecoaches en route to Denver. The Twenty Mile House is so named because it is twenty miles from the corner of Broadway and Colfax in Denver. At the house site, there is also a plaque and a small garden.

9. Schoolhouse at Mainstreet and Ruth Memorial Chapel (Formerly the Mainstreet Center) in Parker



1993.024.0001

The Ruth Memorial Chapel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1912 and named for Ruth Heath, daughter of a popular local doctor. Methodist services were conducted there until the 1970s, and today the chapel is used for events. The recently-renamed Schoolhouse at Mainstreet was built in 1915 and known as the

Parker Consolidated School until 1966. The building has been extensively remodeled and now features a theater and gallery spaces. The chapel is located at 19670 East Mainstreet in downtown Parker, and the school is at 19650 East Mainstreet.

10. Greenland Ranch / Open Space



1997.036.0001

Named by Helen Hunt Jackson, who saw the green hills through her train window, Greenland was a small community. The town included several general stores, a train depot, post office, stage station, saloon, blacksmith shop, hotel, and school. The site is now

preserved as open space through a series of purchases, grants and conservation easements by a number of local and state-wide entities. It includes a trail, a large dog park and some historic buildings survive. The open space is located along I-25, south of Larkspur.

For a map of historical sites in Douglas County, visit the Archives & Local History's [Douglas County Historic Resources Map](#), navigable through Google Earth.

If you would like more information on resources available through Archives & Local History, please contact us at localhistory@dclibraries.org.