

ROCKY FORD HISTORICAL MUSEUM: Scope of Collections

Rocky Ford Historical Museum

Rocky Ford, Colorado

Mission Statement:

To preserve and share the rich history of Rocky Ford and its surrounding areas, inspiring connections between our past and the lives of people today.

7/25/2025

Scope of Collections

Purpose:

The Rocky Ford Historical Museum's collection aims to preserve and interpret the archaeological, cultural, agricultural, commercial, and civic history of Rocky Ford and surrounding areas, highlighting the stories, people, and events that have shaped the region.

Geographical Focus:

- Primary: City of Rocky Ford
- Secondary: Otero County and Southeastern Colorado

Chronological Scope:

- From pre-settlement times through the present day, with emphasis on the late 19th century to mid-20th century.

Collection Priorities:

We seek to collect, preserve, and exhibit artifacts and records that reflect:

- **Local Government & Civic Life:** Historical documents, photographs, and objects related to city leadership, elections, and civic services.
- **Agriculture & Irrigation:** Tools, promotional materials, and personal stories relating to farming, cantaloupe production, and irrigation.
- **Business & Commerce:** Ledgers, signage, packaging, and products from Rocky Ford's historical industries and businesses.
- **Education:** School memorabilia, yearbooks, awards, and photos from Rocky Ford schools.
- **Domestic & Community Life:** Clothing, furnishings, photographs, and personal effects reflecting daily life and traditions.
- **Military Service:** Uniforms, medals, letters, and oral histories of local veterans.
- **Oral Histories & Personal Narratives:** Recorded or transcribed stories capturing local experiences and community change.
- **Archaeological:** Bones, fossils, ancient artifacts, and ancient writings.
- **Arts:** Art created by local artists, or art created in honor of Rocky Ford.

Acquisition Guidelines:

- Donations must align with the museum's mission and support interpretation of the local history.
- Objects should be in reasonable condition, with clear provenance when possible.
- The Curator may conditionally accept items, but the final accession decisions rest with the Board of Trustees.

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Exclusions: (We generally avoid collecting)

- Items with no clear link to Rocky Ford or its surrounding areas
- Duplicates of items already held unless historically unique or in better condition
- Hazardous materials or perishable items
- Items in poor condition beyond our ability to conserve

Review & Revisions:

This Scope of Collections will be reviewed periodically by the Board of Trustees to ensure it reflects evolving museum goals and community needs.