

## Arvada History Museum Scope of Collections

One of the Museum's primary goals is to collect artifacts that document Arvada history. They include objects which were actually made or used in Arvada and have a clear and specific association with some significant aspect of Arvada history. These types of objects will be classified in the Museum's collection as Arvada provenance artifacts, and will be given the highest priority for addition to or retention in the Permanent Collections.

### Arvada Provenance Artifacts

Artifacts have a direct association with Arvada history and regional history as it relates to the West such as the following.

- a. **Artifacts** that represent settlement by native peoples or western expansion and settlement prior to 1859.
- b. **Municipal development** of Arvada, including early government and the incorporation of the town. This includes elements such as: mayor or city manager and city council; city departments and services, such as the police department, fire department, library, parks and other public facilities; public works and utilities, such as water and sewer systems, and transportation systems.
- c. **Public and private facilities** and services associated with urban life such as local private utilities that have provided water, electricity, gas, and telecommunication services; newspapers, postal service, hospitals, cemeteries, and railroads; and the late-20th century growth of Arvada including the development of neighborhoods and subdivisions, and downtown redevelopment.
- d. **Economic activities** in Arvada including mining; agriculture and agriculture-related businesses; scientific, technical and entrepreneurial commerce; retail and commercial businesses; professional services, trades, manufacturing, health and health care; sports and recreation; and land development, tourism, and business associations.
- e. **Social and cultural development** of Arvada including; faith communities and their buildings; civic, fraternal, and arts organizations; and unique community events and organizations.
- f. **Education** in Arvada including the development of elementary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education and other specialized schools.
- g. **Individuals and families** who have made a significant personal contribution to the development of Arvada.
- h. **Geographical features** of the Arvada area.

- i. **Objects of natural history or archaeological material** acquired through the lawful excavation of sites in the Arvada area.
- j. Written, transcribed, photographed or otherwise **documented aspects of Arvada history.**

### **Non-Provenance Artifacts**

Objects which do not have a direct association with Arvada history may still be potentially useful in fulfilling the Mission of the Museum. Objects of this class may include typical pieces of American material culture such as furniture, clothing, tools and equipment, product packages, etc., which have been mass-produced and nationally distributed. Such objects may be considered to be representative of similar objects that would have actually been used in Arvada. Such objects are particularly useful for the development of interpretive exhibits, especially when a suitable collection of Arvada provenance artifacts is not available. These types of objects will be classified as non-provenancial.

Artifacts without provenance may be added to the Permanent Collections if they meet one or more of the following criteria.

- a. An object is representative of a class of widely distributed common objects of a particular time period which is not sufficiently represented in the Permanent Collections. For example, clothing of the 1850's, or product packages of the twentieth century, are types of objects that may be needed to enhance interpretation of specific aspects of Arvada history.
- b. An object is representative of a specific activity that was commonly practiced in Arvada which is not sufficiently represented in the Permanent Collections. For example, tools associated with farming and mining or technological or scientific equipment may be appropriate for addition to the Permanent Collections, even if they were used in another part of the country.
- c. An object is representative of an aspect of American history in which the people of Arvada have played a role.
- d. An object is identified as being of a specific type that is needed for educational or interpretive purposes