

Guide to the Historic Preservation Collection 4 – 2010.120

Reference code US CoGrCGM 2010.120
Title Historic Preservation Collection 4
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Finding aid prepared by Patsy White

Name and location of repository Hazel E. Johnson Research Center
Greeley History Museum
714 8th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
Phone: (970) 336-4187
Email: museums@greeleygov.com
URL: <http://greeleymuseums.com/>

Collection Summary

Dates 1921 - 1996
Bulk dates 1921 - 1996
Level of description Collection
Extent .25 cubic feet
Creator(s) City of Greeley Historic Preservation

Administrative/Biographical History

Brief History of the Warnoco Park

The 1883 Norcross house and adjoining property known as Warnoco Park is located at 1403 to 1407 2nd Street in Greeley, CO. The original house was built by Houghton and McElroy for \$9000 and contained 9 rooms. J. L. Barrett, a fruit farmer, was the original owner. His widow, Lucy A. Barrett, sold it to the Erlon C. Billings family, who sold it to Clarence Sall in 1918. Sall Created Sall's Amusement Gardens on the adjacent property, an indoor roller rink, swimming pool and merry-go-round. Sall sold the property to the Barrett brothers, who leased the property to J. Warrick (J. W.) Norcross. Greeley Historic Preservation designated the Norcross house on the Greeley Historic Register in May 1997 for historical, architectural, and geographical, significance.

J. W. Norcross, son of Fred Norcross, state representative and Colorado senator, worked for the C&S Railroad, managed the Camfield Hotel, and was associated with the Home Gas and Electric Company.

After J. W. purchased the property, he held a contest to rename the facility – Warnoco – a combination of his middle and last names. He owned and operated the recreational area and

amusement park for 55 years.

J. W. (Jay) Norcross, Jr, J.W.'s son, taught many local skaters and was inducted into the Roller Skating Hall of Fame

Warnoco Skating Park was a recreation and entertainment venue in Greeley, CO from 1921 until 1996 when its use as a roller rink ended. Although best known as a roller skating venue, it also hosted other recreation-related activities such as swimming and dance. During the 1920s and 30s, the skating rink was used for dancing and bands of the era (including Lawrence Welk's 5-piece band) played there. Wrestling matches were also held in the outdoor arena. In 1948, a larger rink was added to the west with a curved hardwood skating surface. In 1996, skating was discontinued and the venue operated as Warnoco Sports Center offering indoor soccer, hockey, in-line roller skating, boxing, and volleyball.

The Warnoco building consists of 7 sections built between 1921 and 1962. Historic features include arched wooden beams and original wood floors.

Brief History of City of Greeley Historical Preservation

The City of Greeley Historical Preservation office aims to preserve the history of buildings in the Greeley area. To do so, they ensure that the characteristics that make the specific properties unique and important to the history of Greeley are preserved for future generations. They are also responsible for designating properties on the Greeley Historic Register and helping provide financial incentives for work on designated properties. They celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2015.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of 52 black and white images of Warnoco Park; 13 archival pages containing historical background; one photo log; architectural drawings; and one archival CD containing 2 sets of the 52 black and white images.

System of arrangement

No original order. Order imposed by material type and subject.

Conditions governing access

There are no restrictions on the access of this collection.

Conditions governing reproduction and use

There are no restrictions on the use or reproduction of this collection.

Languages and scripts of the materials

English

Immediate source of acquisition This collection was donated by Greeley Historic Preservation Office.

Notes Preferred citation: City of Greeley Museum's Permanent Collection, #2010.120.

Names Albertson-Clark, Sherry
Allen, Grace Norcross
Barrett, J. L.
Barrett, Lucy A.
Billings, Erlon C.
Billings, Marvin
Cody, William "Buffalo Bill"
Gossard, Brandon
Kellums, Betsy
Norcross, Fred
Norcross, J. W. "Jay" Jr.
Norcross, J. Warrick (J. W.), Sr.
Norcross, Marilyn
Norcross, Mary Emma
Norcross, William Robert (W. R.)
Sall, Clarence

Places Greeley (Colo.)

Subjects Recreation
Roller skating
Entertainment

Document forms Historic Documentation and Photo Log
Photographs
CD containing images of photographs
Architectural Drawings

Contents

Series I: Photographs

Consists of fifty-two (52) black and white images of the Warnoco Skating Rink.

Series II: Archival CD

Consists of one CD which contains 2 sets of the 52 black and white images in Series I.

Series III: Historical Documentation

Consists of 13 pages of historical documentation on the Norcross House and Warnoco Park, photo log of the 52 black and white photos, and architectural description of the Warnoco Park.

Series IV: Architectural Drawings

Consists of nine (9) architectural drawings of Warnoco Park.

Container List

Series I: Photographs

Box	Folder
1	1-2

Series II: Archival CD

Box	Folder
Rehoused with AV Materials	

Series III: Historical Documentation/Photo Log/Architectural Description

Box	Folder
1	3

Series IV: Architectural Drawings

Box	Folder
Rehoused with Maps and Drawings	