

The Museo de las Tres Colonias thanks The Poudre Landmark Foundation for their efforts that have been instrumental to our success.

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 acceptance, understanding, and social justice for all.

Museo de las Tres Colonias. Sketch by Kathleen Bischoff.

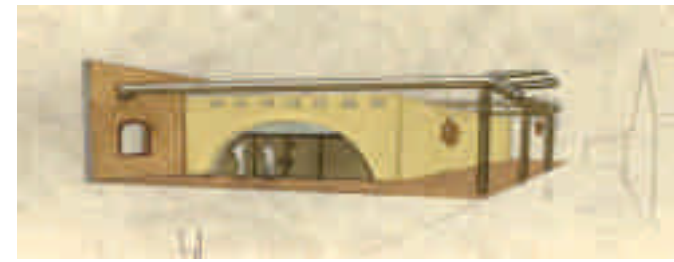


How did the *Museo de las Tres Colonias* become established?

Beginning in 1927, John B. Romero built the first two rooms of his family's adobe home at 425 10th 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. Drawing by Giovanni Castillo

Why does the *Museo* need a Cultural 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* are initiating plans to build a Cultural Center that will provide needed space for visitor orientation before entering the *Museo*.

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



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 10th St.

Fort Collins, Colorado 80524

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

Museo Cultural Events

Chili Festival - celebrating the harvest of the chili will take place in September.

Dia de los Muertos- Day of the dead is in November

Las Posadas- Our Christmas celebration, the re-enactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter, is in December.

Check the website www.Museodelastrescolonias.org for details.

Museo de las Tres Colonias 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.

Name: _____

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The Museo 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 Museo de las Tres Colonias Treasurer, mark your preference for your donations' use and mail to address below.

___ Museo General Fund

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___ Posadas

___ Cultural Center

Museo de las Tres Colonias Treasurer, 425 10th St., Fort Collins, CO 80524

Thank you for your valuable support!