



Town of Johnstown

Monument and Public Art Application

General Information:

Description of the proposed monument or artwork:

Intent	Commemoration of the Johnstown meteorite fall in 1924.
General Design	Dedicated space with parking, a historical marker, and boulder monument with minor landscaping.
Materials	See list on p.2 of accompanying proposal.
Color	Photos provided in proposal.
Other aspects	

Is the work (circle one):

Permanent

Temporary (2 years or less)

Description of the proposed location: See Figures 1 and 2 in the accompanying proposal.

Description of how the installation will be accomplished: Committee wishes to discuss with Council and Cemetery board to establish a plan. Installation cost of marker and Boulder monument are included in the approved budget.

Description of long-term maintenance needs and how they will be addressed: The committee seeks input from Council and Cemetery board. See p.2 of proposal.

Provide a description of your public outreach efforts: The Johnstown Breeze; JHSCO.org; FB- Johnstownrocks; Instagram-@johnstownrocks; town website.

If there will be a plaque or inscription on the monument or artwork, what will it say:

The narrative for the historical marker and the Boulder plaque text are provided in the attached proposal.

The Community That Cares

www.TownofJohnstown.com

P: 970.587.4664 | 450 S. Parish Ave, Johnstown CO | F: 970.587.0141

Site and Design Information

- Attach a map and photographs of proposed sites. Please provide a first-choice option and a second-choice option.
- Attach photograph of the model or mock-up of the proposed monument or artwork.
- Specify the exact dimensions of the proposed monument or artwork.

Purchaser Information

Name: Johnstown Meteorite Centennial Committee

Organization: Joint project of the Johnstown Historical Society
and the Town of Johnstown

Address: 701 Charlotte St, Johnstown, CO 80534

Phone Number: 970-587-0278

Email: JHSCOmuseum@gmail.com

Please note that requests will be taken into consideration, but the Town will make the final decision regarding location, and may decline the application if public space function is compromised, or if there are issues with suitability, or maintenance burdens.

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Meteorite Centennial Commemorative Marker and Monument

**Proposal and update on the incorporation
of a commemorative monument and signage
at the Johnstown Cemetery**

**Prepared for:
The Johnstown Town Council**

**By the:
The Johnstown Meteorite Centennial Committee**

February 8, 2024

Introduction

The *I Landed In Johnstown* Meteorite Centennial Committee is working on several events for the 100th anniversary celebration of the July 6, 1924 rare and famous meteorite fall. It occurred around 4:20 PM that Sunday afternoon and interrupted a funeral in progress at the Dilley Chapel near the entrance to the former Elwell (now Johnstown) Cemetery.

The celebration will be held at Roosevelt High School on July 6, 2024 and tentatively includes the following featured activities, which are in the planning stages. Additional activities are also being considered:

Memorial Dedication	10:00 AM (at Johnstown Cemetery)
Food (RHS fundraiser)	Times TBD
Rock & Gem Show	12:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Guest Speakers	Program 1: 5:00 PM Program 2: 7:00 PM
Drone Show	At dusk

The Historical Marker and Monument

This proposal is submitted to the Council in regard to the planned historical marker and accompanying large boulder with a commemorative plaque, their proposed location and installation, and the dedication ceremony to be held on July 6, 2024.

The Johnstown Meteorite Centennial Committee requests permission to incorporate a small area of the cemetery property near the roadway adjacent to the south side of the entrance to create a space where guests can park, get out, and walk over to read the historical marker depicting the story of the meteorite fall. If we have enough leftover in our budget, we may opt to include a metal park bench, too.

We have secured a large boulder for the plaque, and we're working with a sign fabricator to design the bronze historical marker. The narrative for the marker has been finalized and is attached for reference, along with the boulder plaque text.

Our vision for this memorial area is to place it as close as possible to the location where the meteorite landed near the entrance to the cemetery by the Dilley Chapel, prior to the chapel's relocation in 1927 to the corner of Charlotte St and Greeley Ave.

The historical accounts from the newspapers at the time of the meteorite fall in 1924 vary as far as the exact location where the meteorite piece landed. Figure 1 – Dilley Chapel, attached, shows the approximate area just south of the cemetery driveway, based on the news stories. Figure 2 – Hand Sketch of Proposed Site Layout depicts a location within this area and is provided for discussion purposes. However, we understand there may be implications with this suggested location, such as cemetery regulations, planned cemetery expansion, easements, and eventual widening of Colorado

Blvd. Should this location be deemed unavailable, any other location within the area depicted in Figure 2 or within the cemetery property along Colorado Blvd. is suggested as an alternative. We welcome input and direction from the Council and the Cemetery Board.

The Dedication Ceremony

A public dedication ceremony is planned for 10:00 A.M. on July 6, 2024. The committee requests permission to hold the dedication on site at the cemetery. Our goal is to secure the location and have the boulder, signage, and if time permits – the landscaping to be in place for the ceremony.

We would like for the Mayor to deliver the initial proclamation and dedication, and there will be a few other speakers as well. We would like to keep the ceremony to about an hour.

We will also need to consider a traffic and parking plan for the dedication ceremony. If possible, perhaps parking could be accommodated at the unimproved area just north of the cemetery driveway, if accessible, or perhaps inside the cemetery along the north fence in the grassy areas or along established roadways. We assume the cemetery would be reserved for the dedication and that no funerals would be scheduled for that morning.

We are working with the Town Clerk and have attached a completed Art and Monument Form for review and will submit the Special Event Permit Application asap, but well before the 45-day deadline prior to the event.

The Cost

The committee budgeted \$8,500 for this project. The members envision a relatively small space for this permanent Johnstown historic memorial, although large enough to accommodate 3-5 vehicle parking spaces for visitors as depicted in the Figure 2 example.

The committee seeks input from the Council on the long-term maintenance options of the space. Incorporating small native drought-resistant bushes and perennial flowers are desirable to reduce maintenance.

Partial materials and expenses list:

- Concrete for the historical marker signpost
- Delivery fee of the boulder to the cemetery
- Road base/gravel for short driveway and parking spaces
- Landscaping rock
- Native drought-resistant bushes, perennial flowers
- Weed fabric and pins, edging, landscaping bark
- Gravel for walking path
- Fencing
- Trash receptacle

Photos and Descriptions



(Left) The actual granite boulder secured by the committee. It measures approximately 4½ ft wide by 4½ ft long and 3 ft tall.

(Right) Sample of a similarly-sized boulder showing a center metal plaque, which will be rectangular and approximately 8 x 10 inches or slightly larger. The plaque text is attached.



(Right) An example of the type of marker we are working on securing for the historical narrative. The committee chose this bronze style of marker for its longevity; it should remain intact and continue to look great for the next 100 years until the bicentennial in 2124.

The layout is not adjusted properly in this photo, which was provided to the committee to show one of the company's font style and sign option combinations. Refer to the attached narrative to read the actual text. The approximate dimensions of this example marker as shown measure 21 x 27 inches; however, the marker style has not been finalized, but the maximum size would be no larger than 24 x 36 inches.

In Conclusion

This memorial space dedicated to Johnstown's famous and rare meteorite is important to our community. The Johnstown Historical Society and the members of the Meteorite Centennial Committee are thankful to have the Town's support in creating this lasting legacy for generations to come. This centennial celebration by and for our community speaks to the insight and commitment by the Town to ensure Johnstown's history doesn't fade away. The Community That Cares is doing it again.



Attachments

Historical Marker Narrative

Commemorative Boulder Plaque Layout and Text

Figure 1 – Dilley Chapel at Elwell Cemetery

Figure 2 - Hand Sketch of Proposed Site Layout

Figure 3 – Photos of Proposed Site Location

The Johnstown Meteorite

On July 6, 1924 at approximately 4:20 P.M. a meteorite fell at Elwell and landed in the road near the Dilley Chapel interrupting a funeral in progress.

The meteorite heralded its arrival in our atmosphere by describing a trail of smoke through the sky which was visible from many parts of Northern Colorado. As it sailed above Elwell an explosion occurred with a report that resembled a blast of dynamite with several rifle shot-like sounds that followed.

The meteorite's arrival shattered the silence of that Sunday afternoon; some observers' first thought was "The world is ending." Ironically, the funeral procession of John Moore of Milliken had just passed the spot where the meteorite landed behind them, which may have added to the feeling of impending doom.

The sky remained smoky for about fifteen minutes after the meteorite struck the ground and several smaller stones "rained" over the area. Reverend E.W. Thompson, who was officiating the funeral service and Walter Mallonee, who lived next door to the Dilley Chapel, were the first to reach the spot where the stone had buried itself about 20 inches into the hard ground.

Mallonee used a shovel to dig it up. The stone was about the size of a football and was exhibited in Johnstown and Elwell for a few days until representatives from The Colorado Museum of Natural History (now the Denver Museum of Nature and Science) came to gather specimens and log data related to the phenomenon. Because the specimen was a good one and the museum representatives were able to obtain complete and authentic data regarding the advent of the meteor into the Earth's atmosphere, the museum donated to the Dilley Chapel church treasury the sum of \$100. The meteorite sample, weighing 5.4 kg (11.91 lbs) along with several smaller pieces, is on exhibit in the Denver museum.

The meteorite strewn-field measured two miles wide and ten miles long, extending across farmland between Johnstown and Mead. Twenty-seven pieces in various sizes ranging from 23.5 kg (51.8 lbs) to small pebbles were recovered and authenticated with a total mass of 40.3 kg (88.8 pounds). The largest stone is housed at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

The meteorite is part of the HED (Howardites, Eucrites and Diogenites) group of achondrites, which are believed to have originated in the crust of Asteroid 4-Vesta in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. According to radioisotope dating, the HED achondrites crystallized between 4.43 and 4.55 billion years ago.

By convention, when a meteorite falls the name of the meteorite is assigned to the nearest town with a post office. Because Elwell did not have a post office, the meteorite was named Johnstown.

The Johnstown Meteorite is significant to the science community because it is rare that a meteorite is not only witnessed, but that an observer could walk over and pick up the piece immediately. Most meteorites fall in the ocean or in remote locations on land. The strewn-field ellipse was also rare in that the largest stones fell out first followed by the smaller fragments, which is opposite most falls.

Joint Project of the Johnstown Historical Society, Ltd. and the Town of Johnstown

Dedicated July 6, 2024

THE JOHNSTOWN METEORITE

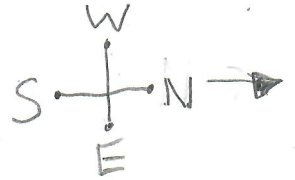
fell near this location on

July 6, 1924

**Placed by the
Johnstown Historical Society, Ltd.**

**and the
Town of Johnstown**

July 6, 2024



- NOT TO SCALE -
Concept only

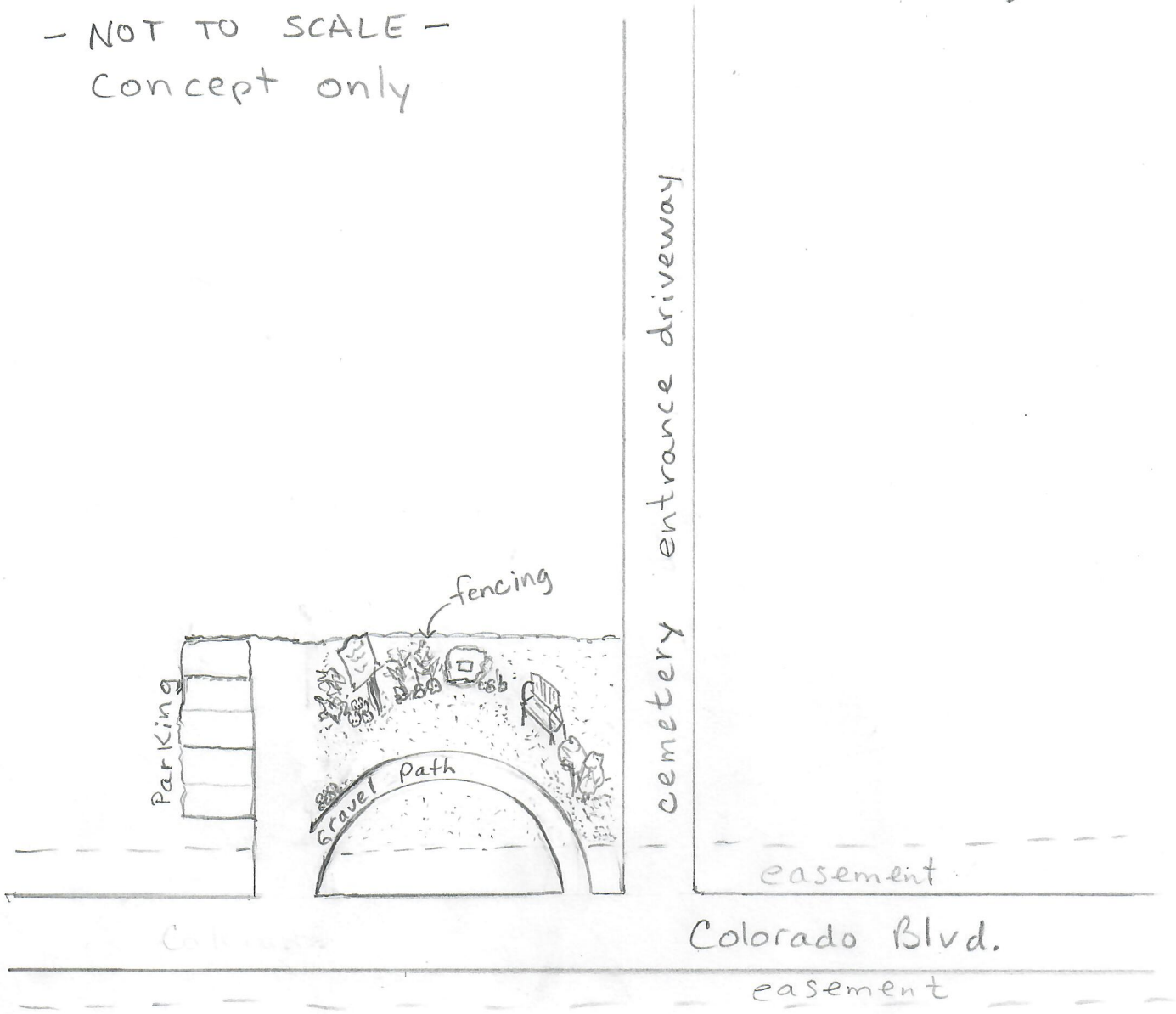


Figure 2
Hand Sketch of Proposed
Site Layout



View is facing west from Colorado Blvd. Cemetery Entrance is on the right.

Figure 3 – Photos of Proposed Site Location