

The New Castle Historic Preservation Commission is seeking Council approval to pursue having the Town's Highland Cemetery to be designated as a Historic Site with the State of Colorado and the Town of New Castle.

Beginning with the first documented burial, John Battiste Garbolino, on March 3, 1889 the Town's Cemetery has been the final resting place for early town leaders, prominent residents, settlers, miners, and their families.

The land for the Cemetery was dedicated in 1888, the same year as New Castle was incorporated. Those residing in the Highland Cemetery include those that shaped the town of New Castle, Early Town developers, Civil War Veterans, Pioneers and many of those that lost their lives in the early mine explosions. The people that stayed after the mines shut down, built the community and put down roots and raised their families here. Many of these families are still here and continue to be an influence in the town and its future.

Dave Reynolds performed a search and provided HPC with several examples of small Colorado communities that have established their cemeteries as an Historic Site; including

- Ute Cemetery in Pitkin County (Aspen)
- Golden Cemetery - significant for the exploration and establishment of Golden.
- Evergreen Cemetery - the oldest operating cemetery in Colorado Springs.

There are many other examples throughout the State that can be found online.

Benefit's:

- Demonstrates our commitment to preserving New Castle's history, hopefully inspiring other Historic Properties to seek Historic Designation.
- Does not require the Town to improve or upgrade the Cemetery
- Opens up the possibility for grants or funding that could be used to improve/maintain the property if desired and establishing public outreach such as walking tours, on site cemetery map, etc.

The Historic Preservation Commission does not have any apprehension moving forward pursuing this designation.

Applications are on-line and easily filled out, and Lindsey Flewelling with History Colorado has said she would help us with the application process if needed.

Thank you for the consideration.