

New Castle's Historic Preservation Commission requests approval of Historic Designation for the Highland Cemetery located at 1009 Clubhouse Drive (where Cemetery Road connects to Clubhouse Drive). It has been identified as a historic site in New Castle and qualifies for a Historic Designation possessing the following qualities or characteristics listed below.



### **Setting:**

New Castles original and only Cemetery, Highland Cemetery, sits at the end of Clubhouse Drive overlooking the Town with one of the best views of the Grand Hogback and area around. It is 10.51 acres and sits on the hogback high above Main Street approximately 1 mile north. Bordered by Lakota Golf Course, Club House Drive and undeveloped Lakota Golf Properties.



### **General Description and Characteristics representing an established and familiar visual feature within the Town:**

The earliest burial in the cemetery is from 1889. Among the earliest burials in the cemetery were Civil War Veterans who settled in New Castle after the Civil War. It's location, along the hogback ridge is laid out in formal blocks with 10 north-south roads and 4 east-west roads. It has a Solders Circle with a red concrete point star with the in insignias of the 5 branches of the military and a US Flag. **Do we know the first? Are only military buried in the circle?**



Grave enclosures and monuments are in a variety of styles, depending on what the families chose at time. The grave markers are a variety of granite, marble, wood, welded steel, concrete and many other variations. There are no mausoleums or tombs. Many sites are large family sites with husbands, wives, children, brothers and sisters.





## Shed and Original Sign:

There is a caretakers shed and the original Cemetery Sign that was at the entrance to the Cemetery, stands just North of the Shed. The caretaker maintains the cleanliness and integrity of the cemetery. The landscape is maintained twice a year. Also, there are volunteer cleanup throughout the year.

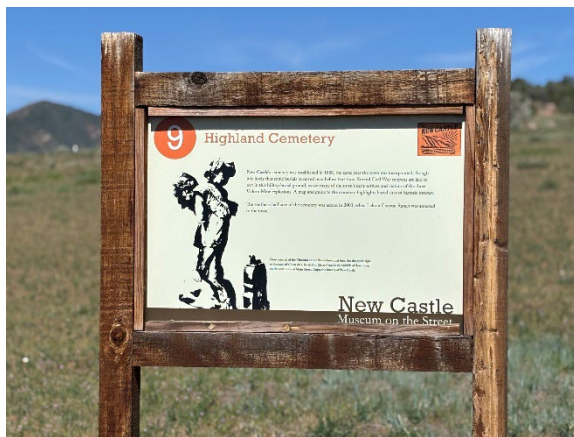


**Do we need anything else here? When was the original sign replaced? Who made the original sign? Caretakers over the years?**

## Historic Significance:

It has existed for over 50 years.

The Highland Cemetery was designated in 1888, the same year that New Castle was incorporated. The earliest recorded burials are from 1889. The cemetery is an operational cemetery and still accepts burials in a non-historic (for now) portion of the Cemetery.



**First person interred. Growth per year (some more than others)? Other info?**

**Is associated with events that have made significant contribution to the Town's history:**

Among those interred are early settlers of New Castle and the surrounding area, Town politicians and business owners and leaders, at least 177 miners from the five operational mines in the late 1800's, the Coryell, Vulcan, Keystone, B&M and Consolidated Mines.

Many of the early miners, their families and victims of the mine explosions and their family members that stayed calling New Castle their home are buried in the cemetery. They represent an important part of the early development and growth of New Castle. (elaborate)



**Is associated with the lives of persons significant to the Town's past and yields information important to the history of the Town:**

1883 Jasper Ward, who had been operating a freight business with his brothers in Leadville, brought his wife Annie and daughter Netti to Carbonate, the original Garfield County seat on the Flat Tops. Carbonate was abandoned when the Flat Tops winters became unendurable, and the Wards made their way to the Colorado River Valley. Ward claimed a homestead site at the confluence of Elk Creek and the Colorado River, becoming the first white settler to build a home in New Castle in 1883.







Ellen Ganley 1865-1968 was the first bride married in New Castle. She was also a midwife in the town.  
Merrit Vandeventer 1864-1919 was the first Mayor and Postmaster of New Castle.



**1910** Billy Griffith was a former Town Marshall, a popular baseball player and a saloon owner. On November 9, 1910 he was convicted in court of assault, unfairly he believed. The next day, November 10, he accosted Frank Sample, one of the people who had testified against him, on Main Street. Town Marshall John Rennix came to the rescue, and Sample was able to escape. Griffith had two pistols out, and he shot Rennix in the stomach. Rennix was able to get off a couple shots before collapsing, and he managed to wound Griffith. All this happened in front of the Trimble building, and Griffith ran inside and up to the second floor. Meanwhile William Davis and Town Councilor Hugh Miller had rushed to Marshall Rennix to try to help. Griffith started firing from a second-floor window, and hit Davis in the head, killing him. A posse of nearly 40 men arrived from Glenwood Springs and fired into the building. No one, however, dared to enter the building until Griffith's girlfriend, Lelia McMichael, volunteered. Inside she discovered that Griffith had turned his gun on himself and shot himself in the head. Rennix died the next day at the sanitarium in Glenwood Springs. Griffith, Rennix and Davis are all buried in Highland Cemetery. John's wife, Lieuevernia May lies next to him, having passed 9 years before John's death.





Kathryn Senor 1914-1993 was a beloved teacher at New Castle School, as well as Rifle High School and Riverside school. Kathryn Senor Elementary School is named after her.



Joshephine Rolletto 1870-1956 was an Italian can-can dancer that grew flowers on New Castle's main Street. Next to her lies her sons Leo and Joseph.

Others we should list?

It represents the distinctive characteristics of a period of time spanning over 100 years.

Did we already do this above?