

Below you will see photos, newspaper articles and flyers relating to the history of the "Howard Hall Community Center" and "The Howard Hall Association". This information was taken with permission from the "Western Fremont Historical Society" (WFHS) This and a lot of other information is available on a thumb drive that contains thousands of items that have been scanned in from 66 notebooks of information. This thumb drive can be purchased from the WFHS by contacting Janet Lastovica at 719-942-3409

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL-SALIDA, COLORADO-THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1981

Since 1903, Howard has worked on hall

by KAREN MORRISON

A six-year building project by a 78-year-old organization recently came to an end with the completion of the Howard Hall Community Building in Howard.

December 28, 1903 was the first organized meeting of a group calling themselves the Howard Hall Association. Their purpose at that time was to build a place to meet and enjoy each other's company, while discussing how to preserve the integrity and growth of the tiny community of Howard.

To raise the needed funds for the construction effort, the eight charter members of the association — J.R. Mitchell, W.R. Allred, J.H. Freeman, Louis Davis, G.W. Pickens, Will Howard, John R. Waggoner and Stan Merlo — sold \$5,000 in capital stock shares at \$1 per share.

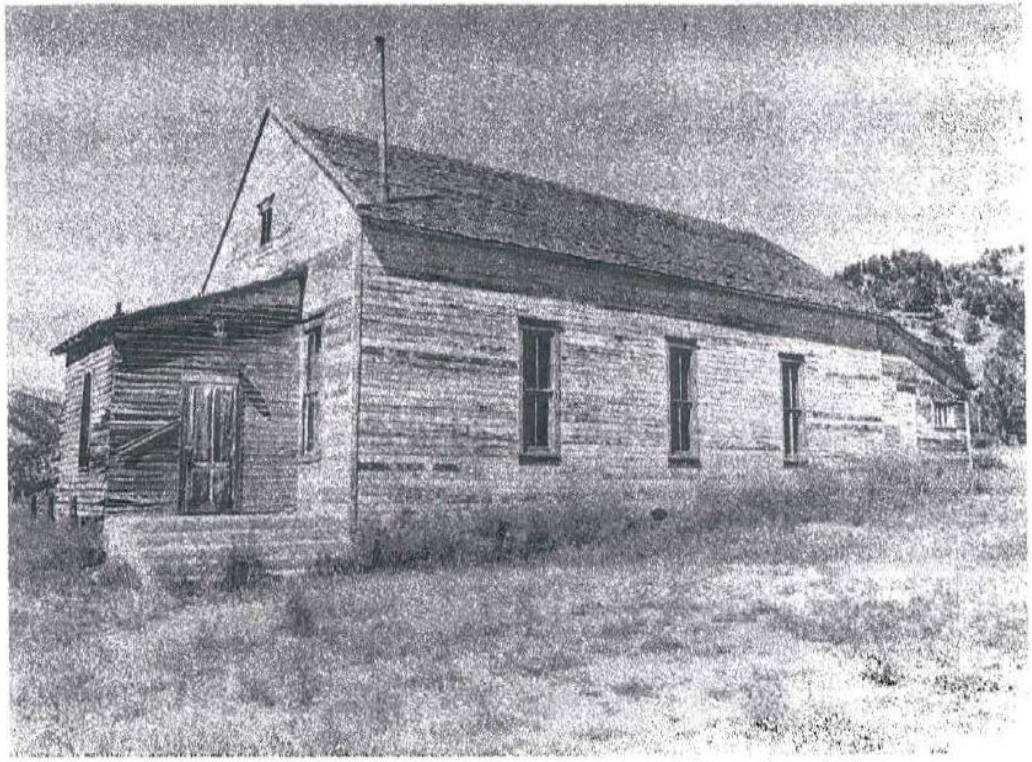
The group then traveled to the state capitol in Denver to record the incorporation of the Howard Hall Association.

In April of 1904, J.H. Freeman deeded ground for the building to the HHA and construction of the original building was begun.

Several groups used the building for their meetings, including the Grange who claimed responsibility for the building's maintenance.

The association continued to meet and propose community projects through 1940; however, the group failed to renew its charter in 1923 and the title for the building reverted back to the public trustee, which was the Fremont County treasurer.

In 1941, a Howard Hall Community Association was formed with the purpose of regaining the title for the building. However, this group also failed to renew its charter and



THE ORIGINAL HOWARD HALL Community Center was built in 1904, after \$5,000 in capital stocks were sold at \$1 per share to finance the project.

once again efforts to regain control of the building expired.

By 1976, people in Howard were becoming concerned with the condition of the hall, which was deteriorating, and a committee — Jay Shroyer, Stan Francis, Tom Mann, Dave Hutton and Monty Munro — was formed to investigate getting back the title to the property.

As committee chairman, Munro began a search that ultimately led him to the office of the Colorado secretary of state. State officials told Munro that in order to form a new charter and regain the title to the property, the association would have to provide proof that all of the members of the original Howard Hall Association were no longer living.

Efforts to secure this information led from county records and files to the old Howard grave yard where the last charter member was identified.

IN 1976, a charter for the new Howard Hall Association was granted, with Tom Mann, president, Noble Dewberry, vice president, Verona Manske as secretary-treasurer and board members Ruby Osberg and John Perniciaro.

A 1.1-acre piece of land next to the original building was donated by Howard resident Bill McNulty and fund-raising efforts were started for a new community center.

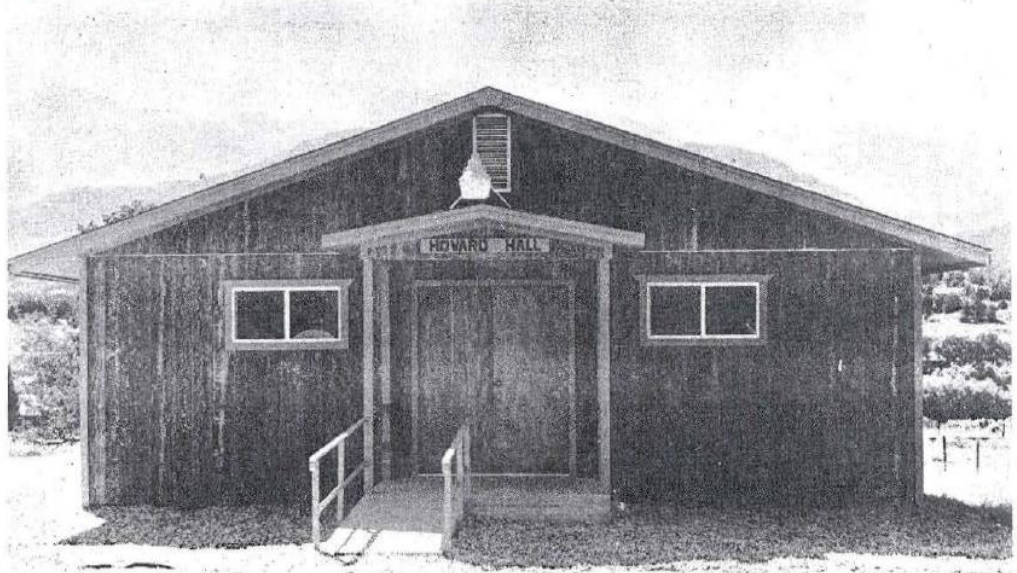
Several groups and individuals held bake sales, yard sales, and dinners but particular enthusiasm was shown by the Pleasant Valley Get-Together Club which donated over \$4,000 to the building fund.

Local individual donations totaled near 1,400, that were also given.

Ground breaking ceremonies were held in August, 1977 for a 30'x60' one-story structure containing an activity hall, kitchen, two bathrooms and small basement storage area.

Plans call for the hall to be used by clubs and scouting groups, as well as community meetings, a voting location for Western Fremont County, family reunions and wedding receptions.

Funding for construction from Revenue Sharing amounted to \$11,000. Mineral Impact Grant funds totaling \$10,000 were granted the building fund June 1980, but the Department



THE NEW HOWARD HALL was recently completed, and stands ready to serve as a meeting place for community clubs, scouting groups, family reunions and wedding receptions.

of Local Affairs could not release the money to a non-governmental agency. No amount of haggling could convince them to turn over the badly needed funds, so in July, 1980. The Howard Hall Association turned over to Fremont County the title to the Howard Hall Association Community Center.

Up to this point all labor on the hall had been donated, over 1500 hours in the first year alone, but with the finishing work to be

done and labor forces more difficult to procure, it was decided to put out to bids the finishing touches.

The completed building received its final inspection Monday, and appeared to pass with flying colors.

Total cost for the construction effort is \$26,405, an amount held low by the innumerable volunteer hours donated by workers, mostly local retired folks. The

building itself is currently valued at \$45,000.

The culmination of all the years of building, the fund-raisers, the donated labor and materials, by the people of this tiny community, makes the Howard Hall Community Center a real tribute to what can be done "of the people, for the people and by the people" of Howard, Colorado.

HOWARD HALL DEDICATED

Youth and Beauty Gladden Hearts of Spectators--Notes of Interest

The Howard town hall was dedicated with appropriate exercises Friday night. The opening address was made by Prof. L. J. Morrison of the Brookside schools, followed by Prof. Coalgate, superintendent of the Fremont county schools, who also delivered a splendid speech. Miss Wiley then gave an instrumental selection which was heartily encored. Miss Mildred Alexander, an elocutionist of rare ability, gave a reading in her most happy mood, proving herself a master of the reader's art. Misses Wright and Fay gave an Irish dialogue which was much enjoyed.

The curtain then rose for the first act of the "Milkmaids' Convention," which pleased the audience and won applause for the players.

After the play the social session was much enjoyed by all. Dainty lunch baskets, well filled with tempting viands, were sold to the highest bidder. Sixty baskets were sold in this manner, some bringing as high as \$6.50. The total proceeds of the evening were \$140. The money will be applied on paying off the indebtedness against the furniture in the hall.

Quite a number of Salida people attended the dedication exercises.

NEWS NOTES.

Mrs. O. B. Hill, aged 60 years, and one of the early settlers in Pleasant valley, died of paralysis here yesterday. Deceased had been helpless for several months. She is survived by a son, Mr. M. A. West.

Howard, the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Freeman, fell over a small embankment while playing yesterday, and broke his thigh bone. The wound was dressed by Dr. D. D. Hamilton. The child is suffering considerable pain.

The Kerr stone quarries will resume operations in a few days, and regular shipments will be made. The quarries

erating during the winter months.

Rev. John Roberts of the M. E. church preached the dedication sermon of the Howard town hall last night.

Miss Alma Freeman, who is attending the Salida high school, attended the dedication exercises of the town hall Friday night.

Mrs. Chambers of Whitehorn was the guest of Mrs. Henry Barton Friday and Saturday.

Mr. Mildred Thomson returned from Salt Lake City Saturday to see his father, who was thought to be dying but who is now improving.

Mr. Connie Taylor has returned from Orient, where he was injured in the iron mines of the C. F. & I. company.

Judge, L. A. Hollenback and D. H.

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Mrs. Tiva Ellen Freeman. 1910

At 8 o'clock Sunday morning, June 5, Mrs Tiva Ellen Freeman, wife of James H. Freeman of 436 D street, died of heart trouble in South Pasadena, California, after an extended illness of several years duration. Deceased was born on July 24, 1870, in Overton county, Tennessee, and has been married for twenty-four years. She spent the latter six years of her life in Salida, where she was known as good Christian wife and mother.

Mrs. Freeman left this city only last April with the hope that her general health might be improved by the change of climate and lower altitude, but her condition merely grew from bad to worse, and by the time her husband was sent for last Friday, all hopes of her recovery had been given up and as was expected, Mr. Freeman arrived in California after his loved one had passed away.

Mrs. Freeman leaves to mourn her loss her husband, James H. Freeman, and nine children ranging between the ages of five months and twenty-three years, and a large number of friends, besides her parents Mr. and Mrs.

It is known she was at the (city) (week)

SUDDEN DEATH OF *March 24th 1904* PROF. L. J. MORRISON

Prof. L. J. Morrison, principal of the Brookside schools and one of the oldest and most popular educators of this part of the state, died at his home in Brookside yesterday evening, of heart disease. He had been in his usual good health and went home from his school work at four o'clock apparently as well as ever. Soon after arriving at home he fell and expired in a few moments.

Prof. Morrison had been engaged in educational work for nearly twenty years, a large portion of the time being spent in Chaffee county. He was on his third year as principal of the schools at Brookside, and was considered one of the most thoroughly competent men in his vocation in the county. His age was about forty-seven. He leaves a wife to mourn his loss. An uncle, Capt. Morrison, resides at Montrose.

Mr. Morrison was a candidate for regent of the state university under Governor Waite, and always took a lively interest in matters affecting the public welfare, and especially in the direction of his chosen work. He was a man of upright life and was highly esteemed by everyone who knew him.

Mr. Morrison owned a ranch at Howard, this county, where he formerly lived, and the remains will be taken to Howard to-morrow for interment.

Mar 24 L. J. Morrison. *504*
 Word reached Salida this week of the death of L. J. Morrison, formerly of Chaffee county, but at the time of his death residing and teaching school at Brookside, near Canon City. Deceased at one time taught school at Poncha Springs and at Howard and other points in the county, and will best be remembered as the Populist candidate at one time for superintendent of schools in Chaffee county. Death was caused by heart trouble and came without warning. The remains were shipped to Howard Thursday and taken charge of by rela-

HOWARD GLEANINGS.

From Our Regular Correspondent. 1904
 Born on March 2nd to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Pickens, a fine baby boy.

Born on March 26th to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Taylor, a 13 pound boy. *1904 Mar 29*

Born on March 29th to Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Freeman, a little daughter of regulation weight.

The funeral services over the remains of the late Prof. L. J. Morrison were conducted by the Salida I. O. O. F. Rev. Stewart preached the funeral sermon. Mr. Morrison was a great favorite among the people of this place as was demonstrated by the large turn out at the funeral in spite of the inclement weather. The floral decorations were the finest ever seen in this valley. The deceased has claimed his home at this place since 1884. He would have been 43 years of age July 29th.

L. J. Morrison born Feb 24 - 1904

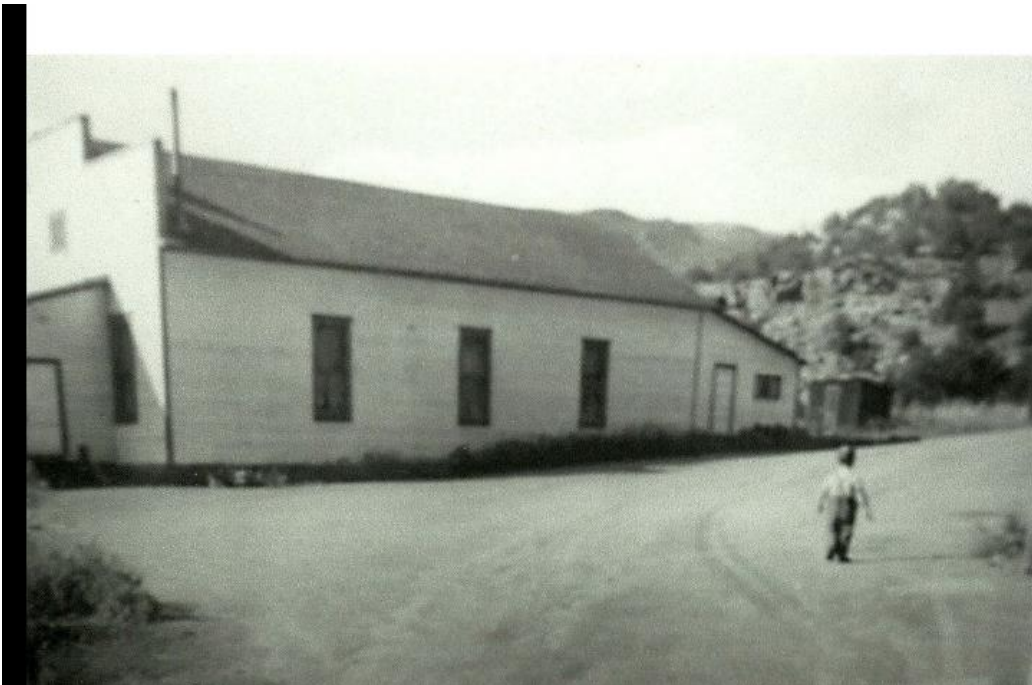


Town hall and opera house – the above structure was remodeled to make the Grange building below.



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Howard Grange Hall



This is a picture of the Grange building, which was originally the opera house and town hall built in 1904. Notice the stair-stepping false front matches the picture of the dark-colored opera house and town hall on the preceding page. In later years, an addition was put on both the front and back of the building.

We now know the exact location of the Grange. It was just west and across the road from Lou Davis's store. In this picture, the corner of the store is to the far right of the little boy.

HOWARD HALL

APRIL 9th 1915

"A Daughter of the Desert"

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Harold Morton, a railroad surveyor.....Walter A. Alexander
Clarence Ogden, an Arizona rancher.....Ray S. Waggoner
Samuel Hopkins, a land speculator.....J. William Dillehay
Pedro Silvera, a Mexican renegade.....A. H. Copley
Jim Parker, a gambler who is on the square.....C. W. Stokes
Bill Jones, a sure-fire Sheriff.....Clyde W. Mitchell
Ruth Arlington, a daughter of the desert...Miss Myrl Heideloff
Lucy Hopkins, her college chum.....Miss Hazel P. Meacham
Mrs. Mary Ogden, an Arizona widow.....Ola M. Vance
White Bird, an Apache Indian girl.....Miss Beulah White
Cowboys.....H. E. Jones and Richard Applebee
Place—Arizona.
Time—1882.

SYNOPSIS

ACT I.—Interior of Arlington ranch house. The accusation. Clarence and Lucy have an adventure. Return of Ruth. Silvera's charge. The Avowal of love. Hopkins dotes on custard pie. Morton goes to the rescue of his men. "If I die, clear my dead father's name."

ACT II.—Same as act 1. The arrest. Lucy in tears. White Bird brings news. Story of the Indian fight. At breakfast. A toast to Lucy and Clarence. Flap-jacks and custard pie. White Bird's avowal.

ACT III.—Hotel at Tombstone. The rescue. Jim Parker introduces himself. Silvera recognizes Parker. The threat. "I am a man of honor, and my word is my bond." A missing witness. The rescue of Morton by cowboys. Ruth has the upper hand.

ACT IV.—Same as act 1 and 2. The reckoning. Mrs. Ogden and Lucy discuss the effect of pie upon men. "My husband ate two lemon pies and died." Hopkins makes love to Mrs. Ogden. "Your pies have gone through my stomach and captured my heart." White clears up the mystery. Silvera returns on a mission of revenge. Jones and Parker take a hand in the game. Ruth, the richest girl in Arizona. Everybody happy.

A. H. COPLEY, Manager

Mrs. C. W. STOKES, Prompter

ADULTS, 25c; CHILDREN UNDER 12, 15c

CURTAIN AT 8:30 P. M.

HOWARD HALL

FRIDAY EVENING,

JUNE 19, 1914

"All a Mistake"

Cast of Characters:

Capt. Obadiah Skinner, a retired sea captain - Jno. Perry
Lieut. Geo. Richmond, his nephew - - Elmer L. Freeman
Richard Hamilton, a country gentleman - Harold Anderson
Ferdinand Lighthouse, a neighbor - - Harold Snowden
Nellie Richmond, George's wife Miss Ollie Cunningham
Nellie Huntington, a friend - - Miss Telia Paddock
Cornelia (Nellie) Skinner, Obadiah's sister - - -
- - - - - Miss Helen Hubbard
Nellie McIntyre, a servant - - Miss Ella Waggoner

SCENE—House and grounds of Capt. Obadiah Skinner,
otherwise known as "Oak Farm, Westchester, and adjoining
the state insane asylum.

TIME—The present day.

Synopsis:

ACT I—Lawn at Oak Farm.

ACT II—Parlor at Oak Farm.

ACT III—Parlor at Oak Farm.

Mrs. C. W. Stokes, Prompter.

Miss Myrl Heideloff, Orchestra Leader.

A. H. Copley, Manager

Curtain rises at 8 p. m.

Everybody Welcome

Admission 35 Cents; Children 25 Cents

HOWARD HALL

HOWARD, COLORADO

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 13, 1917

"THE CAPTAIN OF PLYMOUTH"

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Miles Standish, who is wonderfully like Caesar.....	A. H. Copley
John Alden, the diligent scribe.....	Francis M. Chittenden
Elder Brewster, who believes life is only sorrow.....	C. W. Stokes
Erasmus, Miles' right bower.....	Walter Alexander
Wattawamut, Chief of the Pequots.....	Guy A. West
Pecksuot, an Indian messenger.....	Johnnie Cunningham
Richard.....	Clyde Mitchell
Stephen.....	Carl Wright
Gilbert.....	Charles A. Bateman
Priscilla, the fairest maiden in Plymouth.....	Naomi Cush
Katonka, an Indian princess.....	Mrs. S. W. Ross
Mercy.....	An early American girl.....
Charity.....	Mattie McCrory
Patience.....	Idell McCrory
Mary.....	Mrs. Guy A. West
Martha.....	Mrs. C. W. Stokes
Hester.....	Velma Hubbard
	Mrs. Geo. Davis

LADS OF THE COLONY

A SEXTETTE OF PLYMOUTH DAISIES

Soldiers, Sailors, Indians, Squaws, Puritan Men and Maidens.

Scene—Plymouth Colony in 1620.

Time—1620.

SYNOPSIS

ACT I.—Harbor of Plymouth—"Love and Friendship." "If you want a thing well done, you must do it yourself."

ACT II.—Scene 1. Interior of Priscilla's home in Plymouth. "I wonder why you don't speak for yourself, John?"

Scene 2. Camp of the Pequots in midwinter forest. "We are tired this time, and time and tide won't wait." "If I set you free, will you marry me?"

Indian Lullaby.

ACT III.—Street scene in Plymouth. "Was ever woman in this humor wooed; was woman ever in this humor won?"

"I'm sorry that I said it, but I did."

Miss Ruth L. Smith.....Orchestra Leader

Mr. Carl Valdez.....Violinist

Mrs. C. W. Stokes.....Prompter

Miss Naomi Cush.....Directress

ADMISSION—Adults, 50c; Children, 25c.

Curtain, 8 P. M.

EVERYBODY WELCOME

SALIDA RECORD PRINT

HOWARD HALL

Wednesday **Feb. 17** 1915
Evening,

"The Iron Hand"

Cast of Characters

Oliver Montford, who knows neither fear or pity
..... W. A. Alexander
Harmon Van Dorn, a wealthy young artist.....
..... R. Sherman Waggoner
Jack Milton, (afterwards known as Percy Plantag-
net) Montford's Ward..... C. Warren Mitchell
Old Ikey, "der most honestest man"..... C. Westley Stokes
Hawkins a servant..... A. H. Copley
Bella, Jack's sister, afterwards Mrs. Van Dorn....
..... Miss Hazel P. Meacham
Lizzie, Jack's wife, a popular actress. Miss Beulah White
Mrs. Dibble, positively a positive widow.....
..... Mrs. Silas W. Ross
Hannah, a servant..... Miss Telia Paddock

Synopsis

ACT I.—At Montford's. The accusation. "Stop her! She stole the money."

ACT II.—At Van Dorn's. The departure. "Go! and don't let me see your face again,"

ACT III.—Old Ikey's den. The duel. "I'll fasten this murder or your guilty soul."

ACT IV.—At Van Dorn's. Re-united. "Free forever from the power of his iron hand."

A. H. COPLEY Manager

Curtain at 8:00 P. M.

Adults, 25c; Children 15c

Record Print, Salida, Colorado.

