



**A, C, D, & F. COLUMBINE GOLD CAMP,
64505 County Road 129, five miles north of Hahn's Peak Village.**

The area is associated with the development of isolated mining camps constructed in the Colorado Rockies from the early 1860s to the turn of the century. Columbine is associated with the major historic trends of trapping, regional mining, livestock ranching—surrounding lands were used as seasonal grazing and round-up lands—and as a stopover for foot, horseback, stage, and wagon travelers along the trail to Rawlins, the nearest (115 miles) railway, and Laramie, Wyoming. Gold was discovered on Hahn's Peak in 1866. By 1872, the Village, the first on the Western Slope to be established as a mining district in 1874, was booming and anticipated major yields of silver, gold, and copper. Camps were established throughout the area. F. G. Bermondy, Dan Stuckey, and Jack O'Donnel are credited with founding the town in 1895. In 1897, James Caron laid out an eleven-acre townsite and spent the next thirty years as a resident guiding force in mining and town activity. At various intervals, he served as Justice of the Peace and as U. S. Postmaster. Columbine served the Antlers, Minnie D, Elk Horn, Cap Smith, Royal Flush, and the Tom Thumb claims. When the log vernacular general store (see Photo) and post office, a hub of the community, was constructed in 1896, several houses and cabins had already been built.

All merchandise sold at the store was on credit and included more than 200 mining, sawmill, Forest Service, school districts', sheep companies', and individual ranchers' accounts. Many buildings around the town, such as a saloon, a two-story assayer's office, a powder house, a restaurant, and family homes, have deteriorated and been destroyed or removed. Caron sold the townsite property to Lawrence and Gertrude Juel in 1936. The remaining approximately 8.5-acre Columbine Gold Camp includes the original townsite of Columbine, excluding the Janice Juel Kay property, plus one acre north of the original townsite, and consists of the general store, an oil house, eight small cabins, and the Caron home, all of which are vernacular log construction. Newer cabins built since the early years retain the style and materials of the original extant buildings. The District is surrounded by Routt National Forest and is situated at the base of Hahn's Peak. A school located on the present Juel property had five pupils in 1916; telephone service arrived in Columbine in the 1930s; electricity was installed in the 1950s; mail was delivered by stagecoach or, in winter, by horse-drawn sled. These facts related to the later history of the area reflect the true isolation the area experienced for much of its developmental history.