

*The Mission of the La Plata County Historical Society is to keep La Plata County history and culture alive for present and future generations.*

**Objects must meet the following criteria in order to be accepted:**

- The objects must pertain to and support the mission of the Historical Society.
- The La Plata County Historical Society only collects items which the Society can properly store, preserve, and protect.
- Duplicate items are only accepted if the new object provides a more interesting story, or the existing objects are in poor condition.
- We do not knowingly collect human remains, associated or unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony in accordance with current NAGPRA law.
- Objects must not be hazardous to people or other items in the collections.
- Objects must be in reasonably good and complete original condition.
- Objects must not have conditions or restrictions on use.



Objects must be approved by the Collections Committee in order to be accepted as a donation to the Permanent Collection.

Please email [collections@animasmuseum.org](mailto:collections@animasmuseum.org) or call (970) 259-2402 to discuss a potential donation. Donations are only accepted by appointment.



Location:  
3065 W. 2nd Ave.  
(corner of 31st St. and W. 2nd Ave.)

Contact:  
P.O. Box 3384, Durango, CO 81302

Telephone:  
970 259-2402

Email:  
[info@animasmuseum.org](mailto:info@animasmuseum.org)

Website:  
[animasmuseum.org](http://animasmuseum.org)



## So you want to donate an item?

Thank you! We are so glad you thought of the Animas Museum and La Plata County Historical Society. We rely on generous donations from people like you to enhance our collections.

While we wish that we could accept all items, the Animas Museum faces storage, funding, and staffing limitations that prevent us from doing so. Therefore, we appreciate your understanding and willingness to work with us.

LA PLATA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**ANIMAS MUSEUM**  
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## What objects are accepted by the Museum?

The La Plata County Historical Society collects objects, photographs, archives, and books related to the purpose of the Society, namely those that relate to or provide information about the history of La Plata County, Colorado. Preference is given to objects that tell an interesting story about La Plata County residents, places and events and documentation of what the object is, how the object was used, who used it, and other details is valuable. There is no limit on the time period.

—Objects that are in less than perfect condition may be accepted for our Education Collection. These objects may be handled, placed on exhibit, and/or used for demonstrations with school groups.

—Books or newspaper clippings may be accepted into our Reference Collection if they enhance our ability to research existing collections, relate to the history of La Plata County, or are by local authors.

To help expedite the donation process, please have the following ready: information about the original owner, names of people who used the item and when (approximate dates). Photos of the item are helpful, but not required. You will need to sign a Deed of Gift to legally donate the items to the Museum.



## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Where will my donated object be exhibited?

The Animas Museum has limited exhibit space and resources. We cannot guarantee when, where or if specific objects will be exhibited.

### How much is my object worth?

The Animas Museum cannot provide appraisal information to you for ethical and legal reasons. To find an appraiser near you try contacting the American Society of Appraisers at (703) 478-2228 or [www.appraisers.org](http://www.appraisers.org)

### Does the Animas Museum purchase objects?

We rarely have funds to purchase objects for the collections, so we primarily rely on donated materials.

### Will the Museum take my object on loan if I don't want to donate it?

The Animas Museum does not accept loaned objects for reasons other than short term exhibition purposes from other institutions. We do not accept "permanent loans". Objects must be approved by the Collections Committee in order to be accepted as a donation to the Permanent Collection.

### Can I have it back?

Once an object is donated it cannot be returned. An exception may be made for photographs. The Museum can scan images and use the digital image for research, exhibit or publication. The originals may be returned to the donor although the rights to the photographs will be retained by the Museum.

### If the Museum doesn't want it, what can I do with it?

Other family members might be interested in having it - it couldn't hurt to ask! There may be other museums who would love to have your object. You might also consider donating the objects to a local school or college. If you are interested in selling your object, you could try an antique store.

### You won't sell it, right?

Because the Animas Museum has full title to the donated item, we reserve the option of selling the item. Our collection is always growing, so the Animas Museum may need to remove items from time to time. Our Collections Policy states that items may be removed if they are determined to be unnecessary duplicates, irrelevant to our mission, excessively deteriorated or broken, hazardous, or if the artifact's preservation needs exceed our resources. Our policy states that we have the right to dispose of artifacts via exchange, donation, sale, repatriation, or destruction.



*The cost of providing long-term care for collections increases annually. We hope you will also consider making a tax deductible financial contribution to assist with processing your collection donation to help the Animas Museum continue to preserve and provide access to our collections.*