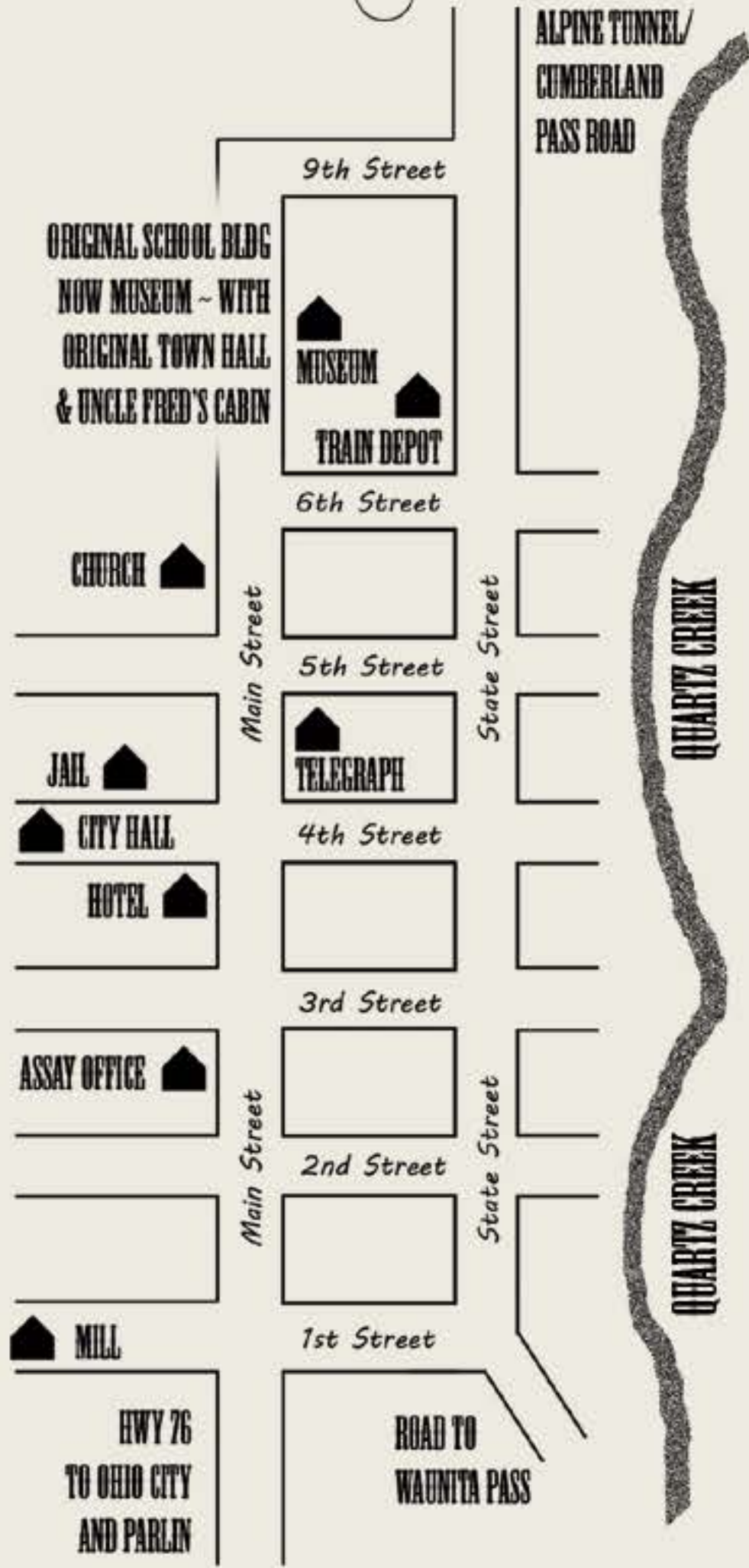


THE TOWN OF PITKIN



DISCOVER THE UNDISCOVERED

Sponsored by Pitkin Historic Community Association
www.pitkincolorado.com

DEPOT
PITKIN, COLORADO



DISCOVER THE UNDISCOVERED

Sponsored by Pitkin Historic Community Association
www.pitkincolorado.com

DISCOVER

Twenty-six miles northeast of Gunnison, and nestled along Quartz Creek in the Rocky Mountains, you will find the small mountain Town of Pitkin.

At 9,242 feet, with daytime temperatures rarely over 80 degrees, and the nights in the 40's to 50's, Pitkin provides just the delightful summer spot you have been seeking. We invite you and your family to venture up to this high Rocky Mountain playground and

DISCOVER THE UNDISCOVERED:

- Quartz Creek and its elusive trout
- Breath-taking mountain vistas
- Hiking & backpacking
- Mountain Trails
- Ghost Towns and Gold Mines
- The historic Alpine Tunnel (one of the greatest engineering feats in railroad history)
- Jeeping, 4-Wheeling, and Snowmobiling



PITKIN TODAY

As idyllic and inspiring as it was over 100 years ago when gold and silver mining flourished in the Quartz Creek Valley, Pitkin today offers all the conveniences, services, and opportunities that anyone who loves mountains, fresh air, history, and God's beautiful world, could want.

PITKIN OFFERS A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES:

FIVE LODGING FACILITIES

Hotel + Lodges + Cabins

TWO DINING LOCATIONS

Excellent Cuisine and Satisfying Portions

TWO GENERAL STORES

Gas + Groceries + Souvenirs + Supplies

FIVE GIFT SHOPS

Crafts + Collectables + Carvings + Jewelry

SERVICES

Contractors
Historical Association
EMT/Fire
Realtors
Interdenominational Church
Community Center
Off-road Vehicle Rentals
State Fish Hatchery

PITKIN BACK THEN

Pitkin is Colorado's oldest incorporated town on the Western slope.

The first inhabitants came in February of 1877. Silver then gold was discovered in 1878; and the town was incorporated as Quartzville. In 1879 it was named Pitkin, for Colorado's 2nd governor.

The town was booming from the many gold and silver mines and by 1880, there were 1800 residents, making it Colorado's 12th largest city! Pitkin was not the typical "Wild West" town as settlers arrived, planning to make Pitkin their permanent residence.

The first school was started in 1880 with 39 students. The Pitkin Independent newspaper was started in July of 1880, with the Pitkin Miner beginning the following year. The first church was started in December of 1880. The current church was built in 1902. The City Hall, that has been refurbished, was built in 1900.

Following a decline in mine production as early as 1882 and the late arrival of the railroad, a rapid decline in population occurred and by 1883 Pitkin had lost over half of its population. The 1884 census totaled less than 500 residents.

After many problems constructing the Alpine Tunnel, through the Continental Divide at 11,500 feet, the first Denver South Park & Pacific train finally came to town in July of 1882. After a few good years the railroad declined along with the mines, and eventually stopped all trains in 1911.



Fires in 1883, 1898 and 1903 brought further hardship to Pitkin. This coupled with three epidemics brought more declines in the population. The Silver Panic of 1893 was the final blow from which Pitkin never fully recovered.

In the 1920's and 30's lumber and Colorado's first fish hatchery, brought hope of recovery. The timber business continued until the 1950's when economic factors caused the remaining mills to close. At this time there were less than 100 residents in town.

Today there are still fewer than 100 permanent residents. However the town is fortunate to have several dedicated businesses and, with a summer influx of tourists and summer residents, the town is again booming. The town has a museum, several historic sites, and the Alpine Tunnel is a National Historic Site.

We welcome you to Pitkin and hope you will enjoy your time here in the beautiful Rocky Mountains.