

Board of County Commissioners
Fremont County, Colorado

I support designation of Fremont County as a Preserve America Community.

During my tenure as Director of the Local History Center of the Canon City Public Library I was privileged to document for public reference the important, extensive history of Fremont County. I became eager to preserve county historic sites and I strongly support creation of a volunteer guidance board as proposed in this application.

I believe an escalating interest in preserving our history has many origins: from building owners -fostered by local and state government and realtors: interest expressed by newcomers and tourists- fostered by the Chambers of Commerce and Museum Heritage Group who have also provided handsome banners for downtown Canon City-where owners are repairing their buildings, signage has improved and advertising includes reference to "the Historic Downtown" location. Daily and monthly columns in local newspapers reach families with excellently researched historical information. Fremont Civic Theatre has produced plays about local personages. KRLN includes county history on a daily program. The Fremont-Custer Historical Society provides matching grant funds for the Gold Belt Byway and newsletters announcing monthly public meetings have history by local authors. Historical Societies in Howard and Rockvale are based in historic buildings. Artists in Florence annually "paint the town." Publications by the U.S.Geological Society and BLM have been sell out items. Sales of history books have balanced the budget for The Museum of Colorado Prisons. The museum will bring out a history of prisons in Fremont County early next year. Enthusiasm was high in local schools for the Zebulon Pike Celebration. Our Arkansas Riverwalk expansion now includes a plan for a Pike Memorial. These, and other signs of collective concern, interest and excitement have developed over the last few years.

Now there is need for a cohesive program to manage and safely market our history and its tangible resources. Designation as a Preserve America Community would give us strength and renew awareness of being part of the larger historic community of America.

Sincerely,



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