



HISTORY OF WELD COUNTY TOWNS

SPANISH COLONY – 1924

Ghost Towns In Weld County (inside modern Greeley)

In the early 20th century many of the laborers who worked in the sugar beet fields near Greeley were Hispanic migrant workers, who were only here for part of the year. Great Western Sugar Factory (GW) managers wanted to entice their top workers to stay in the county year-round to keep from having to retrain new employees each season.

Families recommended by the GW foreman could lease the land for five years and build from their plans for two-room houses made of adobe mud. The Spanish Colony community, officially called Española Subdivision, was located at what is today North 25th Avenue and 'O' Street, north of the Cache la Poudre River. In 1924 these industrious workers built themselves forty adobe homes in four months.

This Greeley subdivision was platted and dedicated in 1929 as Española with the commonly used English name of *Spanish Colony*. It was also referred to in newspaper accounts as "Mexican Colony", "Mexican Village", or "Mexican Beet Worker Colony". After five years each home was made available for purchase by its occupants.

"Holidays...each family...would make their favorite food dish...for every family in the Colony. ...Every family would have the same meal that day and there was plenty of food. Colony was one bug happy family." 2005 – Ricardo "Rico" Lopez, Spanish Colony resident

*The above information is gleaned from the upcoming book, **Weld County Towns: The First 150 Years**, researched by the City of Greeley Museums staff, Nancy Lourine Lynch head writer.*