



HISTORY OF WELD COUNTY TOWNS

EATON

Incorporated Weld County Town - 1892

In 1882, Colorado Senator Benjamin Eaton (later Governor) mapped the town he called Eatonton along the Union Pacific rail line, naming the streets for trees to inspire



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Image - 1926 – Eaton Chevrolet; City of Greeley Museums Permanent Collection AI-1863

residents to plant them.

Eatonton's name was shortened to Eaton in 1883 because "Eaton" was the name of their train station, built from bricks made in town.

About that same time, the town built a fence around farms from the Larimer County line to the fence encircling Greeley to deter free range cattle. It was a

disappointment as a barrier and was soon replaced by the farmers' sturdier fences.

The Big Store was Eaton's department store of the late 1800s, able to sell everything from groceries to hardware to farm implements. Run by Aaron Eaton (the governor's eldest son) and his uncle, James Hill, it also served as community center, church, music hall, and auditorium.

By 1890 there were several Eaton area coal mines, lumber and brick yards and a newspaper (published in the Big Store). In 1892, Eaton was incorporated and ten years later the first sugar factory in Weld County was built in town.

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.