

Booming Colorado City (1859-1860) Small Picture

Category: OLD COLORADO CITY - It's Start

Published: Sunday, 11 January 2009 17:02

Written by LaDonna Gunn

Hits: 10128

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After the Colorado City Town Company founded the town on August 12, 1859, the Company began selling lots to eager buyers.¹ The town grew quickly. During the remainder of 1859 and early 1860, these eager pioneers built over 200 houses and businesses.² The residents built the buildings mostly out of logs and the false store fronts out of hewed-wood.³ But, some people quarried stone out of the nearby hills and cliffs to construct the buildings.³ Also, during the winter of 1859 and 1860, the Town Company contracted men to construct a wagon road through Ute Pass to accommodate the South Park mining camps. In return for the labor, the Company paid the construction crew in town lots.⁴

Among the early businesses in Colorado City were the Higgins, Cobb, Baker, and Jones stores; the Tappan & Co. mining supply store; John George's saloon; Lucy Maggard's boarding house; and others.