



# GHOST TOWN CLUB

## OF COLORADO

Exploration, enjoyment, and preservation of historical sites

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**Field Trip:** Eastern Plains Town of Aroya and Hugo Roundhouse

**Date of trip:** 04/29/2023

**Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Leader:** Ashley Doty

We are headed to the eastern plains to dive into some railroad history. Our first stop will be at the Hugo Roundhouse, where we will be given a private tour. Constructed in 1909, the Hugo Union Pacific Railroad Roundhouse is one of only three remaining from the original pre-merger Union Pacific Railroad, with this being the only one in Colorado. The roundhouse was built to service the early engines on the Kansas-Pacific Railroad and was one of several serving the Hugo Division Point for the Kansas-Pacific. It was a major part of this division point from 1909 through the early 1950's, serving both the Kansas-Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad. The roundhouse served the growing passenger and commerce transportation across the plains and was a major source of employment for the town of Hugo.

We will then travel to the ghost town of Aroya, which was a railroad stop along the Kansas Pacific Railroad starting around 1869-1870. Possibly could have been established earlier as a stage station on the Smoky Hill Trail. The town was platted in 1907 and its population peaked at about 100 people, during the years between 1910 and 1920. By 1965 the post office closed and in the 1970s only two residents remained Marvin Sargent and Owen (Red) Moreland. After Sargent passed away Moreland was the only resident left. His family originally ran the filing station, and during WWII he was a shipyard welder. He came back to Aroya and opened a welding shop. He welded a 35-foot-tall lighthouse that was moved to the Kit Carson Museum after his death in 2004.

**Description of the day:**

We will start off by meeting at the Union Pacific Roundhouse in Hugo at 10:00 am for a tour of the Roundhouse at 10:30 am. After the tour we will eat lunch and then carpool over to Aroya around 1:00 pm. When we reach the site, we will meet with the current owner of Aroya and visit the general store, schoolhouse and the few houses left at the site.

## Ghost Town Club of Colorado · April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - Field Trip to Aroya and Hugo Roundhouse

### **Itinerary:**

Hugo Union Pacific Roundhouse Tour: meet around 10:00 am

Address: [3rd Ave, Hugo, CO 80821](#)

Coordinates: [39.133658, -103.474364](#)

Meet at the Hugo Roundhouse around 10:00 am for sign in and waivers. The club will then be given a private tour by a member of the Roundhouse Preservation Inc at 10:30am.

Lunch: We will be eating lunch at the roundhouse location around noon, please bring your own lunch.

Aroya Townsite: 1:30 pm

Coordinates: [38.856962, -103.137657](#)

We will then leave the Roundhouse around 1:00pm and begin the 30 min drive to Aroya. The road to Aroya is almost all paved highway, and then the last road is a packed dirt road. There should be no problem for any cars to make it to this location.

Once we arrive at Aroya, we will walk around the site and explore/discuss. The town is on private property, but we will be visiting with the current owner. The weather forecast is in the low 60s for that day, so please dress accordingly, but keep an eye on the weather. The plains can be quite windy on any given day and there is no sun protection from any trees, so please wear sunscreen and/or a hat. Please bring water and any other items you may need. Also, please watch your step as there is always a possibility of rattlesnakes.

Head back to Hugo:

Once we are done visiting Aroya we will head back to Hugo if individuals carpoled. On our way back to Hugo, if the group would like and we have time, we can stop by the townsite of Clifford, not much is left at the site but there is a schoolhouse, some foundations, an abandoned house on private property, and a cemetery (unsure if it is accessible).

### **Accessibility:**

The ground is relatively flat with a maintained dirt road leading to the Aroya site. There is some debris due to building deterioration and uneven ground so not the most suitable terrain for strollers or wheelchairs, or persons not in good physical health or have difficulty walking.

### **Cancellation:**

If you signed up for the trip and are unable to make it, please just let Ashley know by emailing, calling, or texting her.

**If you are interested in participating in this field trip or have any other questions, please contact Ashley Doty (information below).**

### **Ashley Doty**

(970) 518-5108

[ashleyarmitage24@gmail.com](mailto:ashleyarmitage24@gmail.com)