

Aroya Community

OFF THE TRAIL

County: Cheyenne
Site Name: The J.O.D. Ranch/
Aroya Community
South of Highway 40/287 and
primarily east of Highway 94,
north of the railroad right-of-way



Life on the plains can be a challenge, and few things depict that better than a real ghost town! Hidden in the expanse of the plains, this stop is a crowd-pleaser for history buffs.

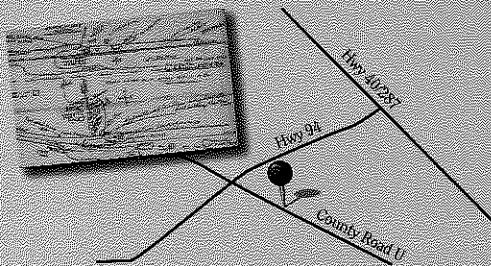
Joseph O. Dostal came to Colorado in 1866 to run a meat market in the mountains and ended up establishing the J.O.D. ranch west of Kit Carson, Colorado. In fact, when Cheyenne County was first formed in 1889, Dostal was the new county's largest property taxpayer.

The town grew steadily, thanks to the nearby watering spot for the Kansas Pacific Railroad, and it soon took on the name Aroya because of a large gulch nearby. The word *Aroya* is an Americanized version of the Spanish *arroyo*, meaning a water-carved gully. At the peak of the homestead boom, Aroya had just about every kind of business one could hope for.

There are still a few standing buildings left in Aroya. To find out what survived and what was left to dust, just stop by and see for yourself.



Directions



- * Between Hugo and Kit Carson on Highway 40/287, turn southwest on Highway 94
- * At 1.4 miles, turn southeast on Road U
- * Destination on left at .4 miles

Since You're in the Area

- * At sunset, grab a blanket and watch the sunset from beginning to end.
- * Have a tumbleweed race with your fellow travelers.
- * Pretend you own a ranch. What would your brand be?
- * Stop in the town of Kit Carson to see the unusual welded "sculpture" that was originally next to the old Aroya gas station.

Geocache Information

Coordinates	N 38° 51.420 W 103° 08.237
Size of Cache Box	Regular
Difficulty Level	Easy
Terrain Rating	Easy

Treasure location clue: You always stand behind your favorite brand.

Our Journey
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