



Richard E. Fike
Preservationist &
Historical Archaeologist

The Museum of the Mountain West, Inc. began as a dream of a young boy who had his first museum in his home as an eight year old. Richard E. Fike had begun collecting "old things" at age four when he refused to get on a ship in Alaska to return to his Nebraska home...unless he could take the old clock he had found in the garage of the family's Alaskan house. From that day forward, Fike continued to collect "old things" and asked his extended family to store them in their barns and attics.

During his career as a state archaeologist in Utah and Colorado for the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Fike also served on the state committees for historical preservation. His love of western history and his understanding of the need to preserve the buildings, the memorabilia, and the stories of the old west led to the realization of his dream for an historical museum.

Drive East on U.S. Highway 50 and turn right at Miami Road.
The parking lot entrance is on Miami...watch for the sign.
Visit our website for pictures, a map, and more information.



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ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO WESTERN MOVIES EVERY JUNE



View the West as it Really Was

MUSEUM of the MOUNTAIN WEST

Town of Adobe Flats

You will be guided through ten 1880s-1930s reconstructed western storefronts and offices inside a 10,000 square foot building, and 21 historical buildings outside. There are over 500,000 artifacts.

Learn about the Old West as it really was. Hear stories and see amazing pieces of history on an informative tour back in time.

Open year-round, six days a week, we accommodate small and large groups, and can even provide a location for weddings, meetings, banquets, small concerts and theater.

*Historic Artifacts
Gift Shop
Guided Tours*

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WWW.MOUNTAINWESTMUSEUM.COM

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Hours:

Monday-Saturday 8:30-4:30 • Sunday by Appointment
Allow 2 hours for your tour • All tours are guided

Entrance Fees:

Adults \$10 • Children (5-18) \$5
Call or Email for Group Fees (12 or more)





Botch Cassidy's Saddle and Chaps



History of the Museum

The Museum of the Mountain West, Inc. was founded in 1997 by Richard E. Fike on six acres of land at the edge of Montrose, Colorado. The original building housed the Fike collection in boxes until an addition could be built in 1999 to house the first storefront: an 1890s western saloon modeled after the Senate Bar in Kolsomo, Colorado, a town that no longer exists. It contains a bar from a pony express and stagecoach station in western Utah. The saloon also contains a collection of music machines from the late 1800s to the 1920s, including a Violano Yertuso, a player piano, a coin-operated Kalliope music box, and an extremely rare coin-operated Seeburg Derby player piano. Fike continued to build stores and completely furnish them with memorabilia from his collection and the donations of artifacts, construction materials, and volunteer labor that began to pour in as the Montrose community learned of the museum. In January 2000, the public began requesting tours that have grown to include tours of up to 150 people at a time. The museum is also used for public meetings of organizations and weddings. Public and home school students have continuously used the museum to begin or culminate units of study of Colorado western life. The MMW was incorporated in 2005 as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit. In 2003, the donation of historical structures began and by 2010 the "town" of 21 buildings (more to come) was named Adobe Flats. Restoration is ongoing and appropriate furnishings are added as each building is restored. In 2011, the MMW received Honorable Mention to the Top Ten Western Museums in the U.S.



Main Street of Adobe Flats



Wedding Setup in the Historic Church Building

Museum Description

The MMW is open year-round, Monday-Saturday. All visitors receive a guided tour throughout the main museum building and the town of Adobe Flats. Tours last about 2 hours and include colorful historical stories and information for every exhibit. The main museum building currently contains an 1890s saloon, two dentist and doctor's offices, a 1900s drugstore, grocery store and post office, a millinery display, and a dry goods store. Adobe Flats contains a log barn, the 1895 Diehl Carriage Works where Jack Dempsey trained, an 1882 Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Section House and Depot, a 1909 bungalow, a 1913 German Lutheran Church, an 1890 school and teacherage, a general store, five log buildings, a granary, and a replica of a two-story brick hotel with an 18-foot-long cherry wood bar from Telluride.

Tours cost \$10 for adults & \$5 for school age children; below age 5 are free. Reduced rates are offered for groups. The historic church building is rented to community members for weddings, meetings, banquets, small concerts/theater, and student groups. The main museum building contains a conference room that is also used for receptions. Contact the MMW for more information. A membership plan is available offering super discounts & free admission when bringing a guest. All fees are used to support the operational costs of the museum and for acquiring additional artifacts and historic structures.

A volunteer board of directors, currently with 8 members, governs the MMW. A few staff members are paid by grants; however the MMW operates daily through the generosity of a large group of volunteers. All volunteers are very much appreciated and receive a thorough orientation and training as needed for each position. Contact the MMW for more information.