



Fairgrounds Regional Park Notes

William H. Howerton acquired the original Land Patent on July 30, 1885. Mr. Howerton was a prominent Castle Rock citizen and businessman. In early February 1884, W. H. Howerton was appointed postmaster of Castle Rock. He also operated a retail store that featured a broad line of staple and fancy dried goods, canned goods, fresh fruits, tobacco items, school books, footwear and more. In late 1886, Mr. Howerton was the leader of the first Castle Rock town band. This was a short-lived endeavor because he moved from Castle Rock to Morrison in 1887, and then to Denver where he operated another retail establishment.

William Garrison purchased the Howerton residence in late February or early March 1888. We don't know if this purchase included the Fairgrounds Park because it is clear that Howerton had a Castle Rock residence prior to 1884. He purchased the land in 1885.

Next, this property came into the newspapers in March 1913 when Hillburger and Gerardhand foreclosed their mortgage on the bankrupt Douglas County Fair and Racing Association. They retained ownership until May 10, 1918 when Douglas County Government purchased the property.