

## **A Brief History of The Beckwith Ranch**

The Beckwith Ranch, established in 1869 by brothers Edwin and Elton Beckwith, was at its peak one of the largest cattle operations in Colorado. Sons of a wealthy shipbuilder from Mount Desert Island, Maine, Edwin saw an opportunity to sell beef and horses to the valley miners and purchased cattle from the legendary Charles Goodnight who owned the Rock Creek Ranch in Pueblo at the time.

In 1870, older brother Elton sold his flour and grain business and moved to the valley to partner with his brother.

In the 1870's Edwin and Elton began building their ranching empire. Elton married Elsie Chapin Davis in 1875 and they had one daughter, Velma, born in 1877. They began building their Victorian mansion starting with a small log cabin and adding rooms to the north. In the 1880's, they raised the roofs and added a ballroom and upstairs bedroom to the south side. The Larder and Porte Cochere were added in 1901.

In 1886 to 1888, Elton was a Colorado Senator and purchased a mansion in Denver. In 1895, they moved back to the mansion to introduce Velma to suitable young men in Denver. Unfortunately, Velma eloped with a lowly assay clerk and the family disowned her. They sold the Denver mansion and moved back to the ranch and began extensive travel around the world collecting furniture and artifacts for the mansion and guest houses.

Edwin died in 1898. In 1906, Velma divorced her abusive husband and returned home. By then, Elton was suffering from "peresis" and died in 1907. Elsie sold the ranch and moved to the Brown Palace in Denver, later purchasing a house. She died in 1931 and was buried alongside Elton and Edwin in the Ula cemetery a few miles southwest of the ranch.

## **Beckwith Ranch Today**

Set against the dramatic Sangre de Cristo mountain range, the Beckwith ranch stands as a picturesque reminder of the state's ranching history. With its signature red roofs and white clapboard siding, the ranch has inspired artists, tourists and history buffs alike.

The ranch complex, consisting of the Beckwith mansion, a bunkhouse, two pegged barns, two guest houses, a tack house, a small shop building, Ice House and a two-hole outhouse, was donated to the Friends of Beckwith Ranch, Inc., a non-profit organization, by Paul and Phyllis Seegers in 1996.

The Friends of Beckwith Ranch, Inc., an all-volunteer organization, is dedicated to restoring and preserving the mansion and buildings as a Ranching Heritage Center.

As with any volunteer enterprise, the fulfillment of these goals depends on obtaining necessary funds. The organization depends upon grants, donations, the gift shop, and revenue from fund raising events, tours, and Mrental of the property for private events.

## **Continued Support for the Beckwith Ranch**

If you are interested in helping to preserve this iconic symbol of Colorado's ranching heritage, please contact us for information on donor and volunteer opportunities.

## **The Friends of Beckwith Ranch, Inc.**

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[www.beckwithranch.com](http://www.beckwithranch.com)

**HISTORIC**  
*Beckwith*  
**RANCH**

# RENT A RANCH



Rent the Historic Beckwith Ranch for your next private event. We can accommodate various sizes of events and budgets.

**WEDDINGS – REUNIONS  
ANNIVERSARIES  
RETREATS – MEETINGS  
LECTURES – CLUBS**

On the National Register of Historic Places  
Located 6 miles north of Westcliffe on Hwy 69  
[www.BeckwithRanch.com](http://www.BeckwithRanch.com)

## DIY WEDDINGS

Save money by having your special wedding at  
Historic Beckwith Ranch

The most photographed setting in Colorado

Number of Guests	Fee
Indoor, up to 35 Guests	\$1,500
Outdoor, Up to 100 Guests	\$2,000

DIY [Do It Yourself]

And save money for the Honeymoon

We provide the setting  
You provide the magic

Included:

- Parking for up to 50 vehicles
- Tables & chairs for up to 100
- Dance floor or stage available
- Access to electrical and water facilities
- WIFI access for wedding party
- Choice of multiple locations for ceremony
- Kitchen facilities for caterer staging
- Access to public restrooms

DIY – Any item not listed above is the responsibility of the renter to provide.

For more information, visit our website:

[www.BeckwithRanch.com](http://www.BeckwithRanch.com)

## REUNIONS – ANNIVERSARIES PRIVATE EVENTS

Rent the entire ranch for your gala event  
[3.84 acres, 10 buildings, corral]

\$1,500 per day

Discount rates available if Mansion and Gift Shop are allowed to be open during your event.

Available for use:

Number	Item, Description
76	Chairs, Blue, padded
25	Chairs, Metal Folding
8	Tables, Game/Card tables
1	Croquette Set
10	Tables, 6' plastic, folding
27	Stage/Dance Floor panels 4' x 12'
3	Folding Picnic Tables



## MEETINGS – LECTURES

The Mansion has a number of rooms that may be rented for meetings and/or lectures after hours. The Bunkhouse is available anytime.

- Ball Room – will seat 30, has a retractable screen and projector available
- Dining Room – will seat 8 at dining table, but can be expanded to seat 16
- Bunkhouse – can seat 10 or more

The rate for renting the rooms is \$3 per participant.

To rent the entire mansion for a day is \$1,000  
[no overnight stays]



Beckwith Ranch docents in period costume are available to enhance your event.