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Sunnyside: Est: 1899

Columbia: Est: 1921

Dragerton: Est: 1943

East Carbon City: Est: 1974

### History of East Carbon

1878 George and James Whitmore arrived in the area now know as East Carbon seek a suitable location to establish a cattle ranch. The picturesque Book Cliff Mountains seemed like an ideal location. Upon his arrival, he found rich green grasses that were so tall they reached the belly of a horse. (Pilling) He also found a healthy flow of water running down from Whitmore Canyon, which he named Grassy Trail Creek, because of the thick grasses growing along its banks. This creek became the primary source of water to irrigate his fields and water his livestock and was also used by wildlife making their home in the area.

This location was also suitable because it was on ancient hunting grounds once claimed by the Native Americans that had long since disappeared and posed no threat to his operation. The land he claimed for his cattle operation included all the land north of the Price River from Colton on the west and then east along the Book Cliff Mountains to Sunnyside and then south to Lower Crossing (Woodside). (Beckstead, pg 56-57)

When George and his brother James arrived in the area, coal had yet felt the point of a pick, and would not for two decades. During the span of time between 1878, when they first arrived, and 1912, when George abandoned the ranch in East Carbon, they had built their herd to as many as 15,000 head of cattle, and several thousand horses, which were maintained at their two primary headquarters. One was situated in the bottom lands along the Price River, which is where the town of Price, Utah, is presently located and the other was situated on the present location of the Sunnyside Park. (Pressett) It was George Whitmore that established his ranch just west of Sunnyside, while James maintained the site in Price. The passage of the Homestead Act in 1862 by the United States Congress made it possible for George Whitmore to claim this land. This Act allowed individuals like George up to one hundred sixty acres of land if they could prove they could bring water to their lands. Shortly after visiting East Carbon, the Whitmore's filed on this land. Using the names of his wife and children, he effectively locked up most of the lands located near Grassy Trail Creek. He also filed for all the water rights to the Grassy Trail Creek. He was granted twenty-second-feet per second and any and all run off, on the rocks and sand surrounding the creek. This water was more than adequate to irrigate his fields of hay, wheat, corn, and oats.

The land was located in the flat lands that lay alongside Grassy Trail Creek, from present-day Sunnyside Park and west to the old ballpark behind the wooden school in Dragetton. George installed water lines to bring the water from the upper reaches of the canyon down to his ranch. He later built a large flume to enable him to effectively irrigate all of his fields furthest from the creek. (Jones/Jewkes, pg 377) Of most interest to him was the land situated north and west of Whitmore Canyon. The land to the south was down a deep bluff and not readily accessible or desirable for cattle grazing, but did later become the center of activity for the Big Spring Ranch.

Soon after his arrival in East Carbon, Whitmore began the construction of a home and a bunkhouse for his cowhands. It was estimated that at the peak of his operations, he employed as many as thirty cowboys. (Beckstead, pg 56-57) Large barns were built to store hay, and several corrals were erected to contain his horses and other livestock near the ranch. The barn and corrals were near the main house and the bunkhouse was situated just to the south, closer to the Grassy Trail Creek. (Jones/Jewkes, pg 377) The living quarters for the family were built among the Box Elder trees and consisted of a large living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms and a pantry.