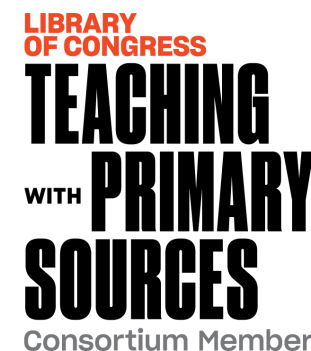


1. Title / Content Area:	Mancos Common Press
2. Historic Site:	Mancos Times-Tribune Building and the Mancos Common Press
3. Episode	Mancos Common Press
4. Developed by:	Keith Jones, Adams 12 Five Star Schools Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 Five Star Schools
5. Grade Level and Standards:	<p><i>Grade Level: 3-5</i></p> <p>Content in this Document Based Question (DBQ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards <i>Prepared Graduate Competencies: 1, 2, and 4</i></p> <p>Colorado Standards: 3rd: History Standard 1 GLE 2. 4th: History Standard 1 GLE 2.. 5th: Geography Standard 2 GLE 2</p> <p><i>C3 Standards in Social Studies:</i> <i>D2.Geo.2.3-5.</i> <i>D2.Geo.4.3-5.</i> <i>D2.Geo.5.3-5. D2.His.2.3-5. D2.His.3.3-5.</i></p>
5. Assessment Question:	How can primary sources from the past tell us stories that are important to remember in the future?
6. Contextual Paragraph	The Mancos Common Press is a historic site set in the Mancos <i>Times-Tribune</i> building at 135 Grand Avenue in the small town in Southwestern Colorado. The Mancos Times began printing in 1893, and then moved to the location on Grand Avenue in 1910 when it acquired a local rival newspaper, becoming the Mancos Times-Tribune. The building is unique in that it never served any purpose other than the offices and printing space for the Times-Tribune, even after the newspaper started to be created digitally in 1970. At that time the printing presses and materials, and the office itself, were abandoned and left, seemingly untouched and forgotten for over 40 years. Then, in 2013, Frank Matero, a University of



	<p>Pennsylvania professor of architecture and chair of the graduate department of historic preservation, happened upon the building; after getting access inside, he discovered that the building still had a now-rare and complete Cranston Press. He proposed a unique partnership with the town of Mancos in which they would restore both the building and the press to its near-original state, and use the space as an arts and education center, in particular to revive the art of printmaking. The building itself was then donated by its owner, the Ballantine family, and the restoration was funded by numerous grants. As a final touch, a mural was commissioned by Ballantine to cover the western wall of the structure; created by local artist Brad Goodell, it is titled "Yesterday's News" and was finished in 2017.</p>	
<p>7. Connection to Historic Preservation</p>	<p>The Mancos Times-Tribune building at 134 Grand Avenue in Mancos was built in 1910, specifically to be the office and printing space for the weekly newspaper. The building continued to serve that function until 1970, when the Cranston press was abandoned in favor of new digital technology and the printing itself was moved to Durango. The building remained unused until it was re-discovered by professor Frank Matero of the University of Pennsylvania, who recognized the historic value of the building itself and of the printing presses and other materials that remained inside. After spearheading the restoration of the exterior and interior, the University of Pennsylvania then worked in cooperation with the town of Mancos to reopen the building in 2019 as an arts and education center, with a special emphasis on the arts of printmaking.</p> <p>The Times-Tribune building itself is particularly unique in that it served only one purpose--a newspaper office-- for the entirety of its existence, which is rare for any historic property, but especially so for a commercial property. After painstaking research by University of Pennsylvania historic preservation graduate students, the building was restored to its original appearance, both on the exterior and interior. On the interior, the original Cranston Press from 1910 has also been restored to working condition. Original artifacts that were in the office over 100 years ago are also still present, including typesetter's benches, boxes of metal type, and image blocks. Additionally, an archive of over 100 years of weekly Times-Tribune papers</p>	

were found in the offices; these are currently with The Denver Public Library being digitized. The building was the first historic building landmarked in Mancos in 2014. After spearheading the restoration of the exterior and interior, and after numerous grants including support from the History Colorado State Historical Fund in 2018, The University of Pennsylvania then worked in cooperation with the town of Mancos to reopen the building in 2019 as an arts and education center, with a special emphasis on the arts of printmaking.

The Mancos Times-Tribune Building is a unique historic building in Colorado because a contemporary mural, painted in the tradition of the WPA (Works Progress Administration) murals of the Depression, was painted on the brick after restoration. This is uncommon today on a restored building, as paint can damage brick over the long term and is not recommended as a treatment/decoration by the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The special nature of this building, and the fact that the side of the building was already painted prior to restoration, made the decision to place a mural on this wall appropriate for this specific location.

Document Based Question (DBQ)

Document Set

Early 1900s advertisement for the Cranston's Country Press that was purchased by the Mancos Times-Tribune

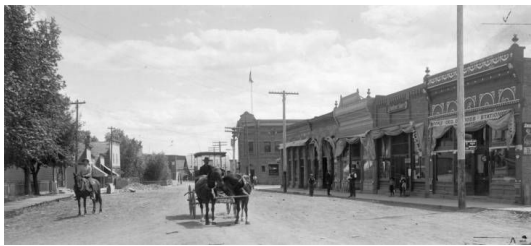


<https://mancoscommonpress.org/cranston-press/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. How do you think this press might work to print newspapers?
2. What are some features of this press that might make newspaper publishers interested in buying it?
3. Looking carefully at the advertisement, do you think that the Cranston Press was marketed to newspaper publishers in small towns or in big cities? Why would you say this?

Mancos Streets



<https://digital.denverlibrary.org/digital/collection/p15330coll21/id/10277/rec/4>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Look closely at the buildings on this important street in Mancos, Colorado. How are some of the elements in these buildings like the ones seen on the Mancos Times-Tribune Building?
2. How would a newspaper office fit into a town like this at the turn of the century? Explain.
3. How can you tell that Mancos was a prosperous town at the time this photo was taken?

Early 1900s interior view of the Mancos Times-Tribune office, with the Cranston Press on the right



<https://mancoscommonpress.org/mancos-times/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Describe what you see in this picture.
2. Compare this picture (which is from 1911) to the picture below (taken in 2019). What similarities and differences do you see?
3. What evidence do you see that this is a newspaper office in a small town, and not in a large city?
4. When the renovation to the Times-Tribune building was planned, they wanted it to look like it did in this picture. Why do you think it was important to renovate the building in this way?

Interior of the Mancos Times-Tribune building after its restoration

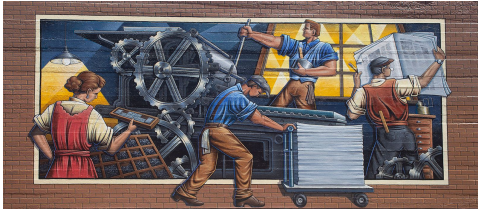


<https://www.design.upenn.edu/historic-preservation/work/mancos-common-press>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Describe what you see in this room, and identify the purpose of as many objects as you can.
2. This space is now used as an arts and education center in Mancos. How do you think this space would support arts? What education could be supported here, too?
3. Even though the large press no longer prints the town newspaper, why do you think it may be an important object to the people who live in Mancos?

The mural on the western exterior wall of the Mancos Times-Tribune building. The mural was completed in 2017 by artist Brad Goodell and is titled “Yesterday’s News.”



<https://mancoscommonpress.org/the-mural/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Describe what you see in the mural.
2. Do some research into artistic styles of murals and identify which style this seems to be. Explain the elements of the mural that support your decision.
3. Look carefully at the mural and identify the values that the artist presents to the viewer.
4. If you look closely, you’ll see the Cranston Press in the mural. Why do you think the artist included it?
5. How does this mural reflect the new purpose of the Times-Tribune building as an arts and education center?

The video which shows the creation of the “Yesterday’s News” mural on the side of the Mancos Times-Tribune building in 2017 by artist Brad Goodell



<https://youtu.be/Hx-zQsb0Zyo>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Watch the video closely. What were the steps taken by the artist in the creation of this mural?
2. How was the artist careful so he did not make any mistakes?

Extension:

3. Artists during the Depression and slightly thereafter, were hired to create murals for the WPA (Works Progress Administration), which was an agency in place between 1935 and 1943. This artist created one in this style for this particular building after the city gave permission for the landmark to be painted. Explore other WPA murals located at the link below. How are they similar and different from the one here in Mancos?

Link: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/1934-the-art-of-the-new-deal-132242698/>
Or <https://livingnewdeal.org/new-deal-categories/art/mural/>

The exterior of the Mancos Times-Tribune building
before its restoration



<https://www.design.upenn.edu/historic-preservation/work/mancos-common-press>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Describe the building you see here. Include its size, shape, color, building material, and anything else you can identify that was used in its construction.
2. What evidence can you identify that would prove this picture was taken before its restoration?
3. This building is located in downtown Mancos. What clues do you see that Mancos is a small town and not a large city?
4. What do you think is the value of restoring an old building like this? Why do you think the people of Mancos might think that it's important to preserve this place?

Assessment Question

How can primary sources from the past tell us stories that are important to remember in the future?

Response