

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1904: The Rubendall family, who came to Allenspark to work the Clara Bell Mine, staked a homestead claim from Cowbell Hill to Fox Creek that includes The Old Gallery site.

1910: Kirsten Nielsen, a Danish nurse, moves from Chicago to care for Allenspark founder, W.W. McCollister, leading to the Nielsen family's role in The Old Gallery.

1919: Oscar Rubendall receives his homestead patent and sells the parcel of land that becomes Kirsten's home west of The Old Gallery.

1939: Kirsten's brother Arthur Marinus Nielsen and his family come to visit and fall in love with Allenspark. Kirsten convinces Marinus to bid for the local mail route and buy the land adjacent to her cabin for their home.

1944: Marinus wins the mail route and leaves Michigan with his wife Mildred who is expecting son Arthur. They buy The Old Gallery site from Oscar Rubendall.

1945-46: Marinus Nielsen constructs the Nielsen family home.

1949: The Niensens move back to Michigan, using the house as summer home.

1956: The Niensens sell their home to Bud and Eva Sutherland. A fire breaks out in 1963, seriously damaging the lower part of building.

1965: The Sutherlands sell to P.B. and Ciece Sinn, and it becomes a rental property.

1967: Sinns sell to the Taylors, but it reverts back to Sinns.

1972: Sinns sell to Kent Somers, who begins expansion for retail shops, adding the east and west wings.

1973: Bob and Laurel Newell open a general store in the center unit, flanked by Mike and Peggy Donahue's Mountain Homespun gift shop, Bill and Ellen Allen's antique shop, and Dave VanOmen's cooking store.

1987: Somers sells to M.H. Investments (Joyce Hepakoski) who opens Wild Basin Gallery.

1992: John and Sherry Eastin buy the building, naming it the Eastin Gallery.

2007: The Eastins sell the property to Jeff Mead, who operated an ATV Rental operation out of the building.

2008: Allenspark Community Cultures Council forms to buy from Mead and to create a facility open to all in the community, promoting local arts, and providing visitor services. After a series of public meetings, the original team that came together to purchase the building included Bill Hahn, Ben Brown, Stith Bennett, Margie and Glenn Patterson, Janet Intieri, Robert Kerr, Don Shalibo and Pete Staddler—with invaluable assistance from local Realtor Tammy Ackerman and John and Sherry Eastin. More than 100 residents made donations toward the down payment. John and Sherry Eastin carried the mortgage and gave us a 6-month grace period to raise the money for the monthly payments.

2014: A Capital Campaign raises more than \$780,000 to renovate The Old Gallery, in addition to more than \$120,000 in-kind donations.

2015: Construction is completed.