

Kauffman House Hotel

The Kauffman House, still standing on the north shore of the lake in the heart of the village, is a hewn log structure built by Mr. and Mrs. Ezra H. Kauffman in 1892. Mr. Kauffman had come into the region to mine in 1879 and spent several years at the towns of Lulu and Teller.

With the collapse of the mining boom he went into business at Hot Sulphur Springs and later moved to Grand Lake with his family.



Mrs. Titcomb, formerly Mrs. Henry Bunte, says of the Kauffman House: “Mr. Bunte and I spent our honeymoon there. It had a real charm, with its chintz-canopied dressing tables and beds, hand-woven carpets, and snowy linens.”

Ezra Kauffman married his second wife Belle Stowell, a Grand Lake teacher, in 1907. They had three girls – Ruth, Rosemary and Margaret. Following Ezra’s death in 1920, Mrs. Kauffman worked in Denver during the school year and returned to Grand Lake in the summers to operate the hotel until 1946 when it was sold. The Rhone’s used the house as a dormitory for the girls who worked for them in the summer. There were several owners and the house was deteriorating. In 1973 the Grand Lake Area Historical Society was formed specifically to save the Kauffman House. It was purchased, restored and opened as a museum in 1974.