

<https://www.historicdouglascounty.org/?s=AUGUST+2019&x=0&y=0>

Thanks to Larry Schlupp and Jim Weglarz of Historic Douglas County for publishing this article in August 2019

It can be accessed online by the link above

## Highlands Ranch Symbols that Tell a Story

...thanks to Nancy Linsenbigler, past HRHS president and a definite all-activities worker bee of Highlands Ranch Historical Society, wrote this fascinating, educational *feature article* relating the major symbols of Highlands Ranch and their historical value to the Highlands Ranch area

**Symbols** can quickly conjure up a vision or a memory. Highlands Ranch has three symbols that residents and neighbors will instantly recognize. They bring-to-mind a place, an idea, a time, and collectively tell a historical story of this northern Douglas County community. Let's explore the "*history*" of Highlands Ranch through these three simple icons...



**THE WINDMILL** ...Located on a hill south of the Mansion, the Windmill has been a functioning windmill pumping much needed water for almost 100 years. Constructed of field stone, and originally part of a pair, the Windmill has been working since the days of Frank Kistler and his *Diamond K* to Lawrence Phipps and his *Highlands Ranch*. Still standing tall today, this lone sentinel overlooks the ranch, perhaps seeing back to the time when only cattle and coyotes ran thru this land, and ranch owners relied upon the life-giving waters it drew forth. Perhaps it is also looking forward to the new direction of the bustling and growing HighlandsRanch of today. This windmill, an iconic symbol of Highlands Ranch, is used as the website header on HR Metro District website

(<https://highlandsranch.org>).



## THE EPIC BIRD ...was a symbol created for Mission Viejo after they purchased the



Cattle ranch from Lawrence Phipps' estate and started developing the 22,000 acre property into the *New Town of Highlands Ranch*. According to Kathi Brock, owner of the public relations firm Brock and Associates, the firm was tasked with creating a symbol that could be used on marketing for this new development. They considered using the obvious symbol ...cattle (after all, Highlands Ranch was a cattle ranch for many years),

but felt that the new community would be more vibrant and active, so they settled on an *epic bird*.



This bird was a collective, strong bird, representing the many powerful birds of prey found on the Ranch, such as owls, falcons, eagles, and hawks. There have always been questions about “what kind of bird is it,” with answers of Falcon and Eagle most common.

So recently, the Highlands Ranch Community Association (HRCA) updated the bird, into a full-fledged eagle. Today we see this *Epic Bird* and his updated Eagle cousin everywhere, such as at all entrance markers to Highlands Ranch, as well as on the HRCA website and printed material.





**THE CLOCK TOWER** ...The Clock Tower is in many ways symbolic of the *Modern Day* Highlands Ranch...it is tall, overlooking the commercial Town Center, the heart of this active and still growing community.



The Clock Tower is one of the tallest buildings in Highlands Ranch, seen and surrounded by thousands of residents who shop, dine, stroll, and spend time in



so many local activities in this area. The Clock Tower is the symbol of the Highlands Ranch Herald Community Newspaper (<https://highlandsranchherald.net>) as well as the *Town Center* itself.



**WHAT MIGHT BE THE NEXT SYMBOL OF HIGHLANDS RANCH?** ...How can Highlands Ranch continue to tell this colorful and historical story of our beautiful area in just one symbol? Hmmmm.....Stay tuned! ...

Keep checking the HRHS website  
<http://highlandsranchhistoricalsociety.org>