



PRESERVATION MATTERS

Park County Department of Heritage, Tourism & Community Development

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Photo: Park County

North London Mill Listed as Local Landmark

In 1999, Park County became a Certified Local Government, a designation through the National Park Service that allows the county to officially develop its own preservation standards for creating local historic landmarks. This designation has been recognized for 44 properties in the county. The latest of which is the North London Mill.

The local landmark designation is part of a larger project by North London Preservation, Inc. and is a crucial first step in pursuing appropriate rehabilitation for historic properties. Listing in the local register opens up the potential to access grants awarded by History Colorado as well as federal and state historic preservation tax credits. Both funding opportunities require property owners to meet established standards for historic preservation and therefore help safeguard the property's historic integrity. The landmark designation

also means that Park County staff and the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission (PCHPAC) can comment on any construction permits. This ensures that representatives from the community have a say in what happens to the county's cultural resources.

Kate McCoy and Jeff Crane of North London Preservation, Inc. regularly consulted with local stakeholders and PCHPAC in this process. To better understand the resources that contribute to the property's significance and the boundaries of a local designation PCHPAC requested that a cultural resources site survey be completed. With additional fundraising and a grant provided by PCHPAC North London

Preservation, Inc. contracted with the cultural resource management firm Alpine Archaeology Consultants to undertake the survey. With this additional data Kate McCoy completed the local landmark nomination form which was then accepted by PCHPAC and listed on the register by the county.

- Jason O'Brien



Photo by Gary Nichols

On Stony Ground: The Fairplay Placer

Approaching Fairplay from the north along Hwy 9 many people notice the large mounds of gravel to the west. But many also may not give them another thought after passing by or might just think they are unsightly. But the terrain of the Fairplay Placer is a carefully engineered landscape far from the random piles of rocks some may take it as. Furthermore, the Fairplay placer embodies a history that is important to Fairplay, Park County, and Colorado as a whole.

In 2014, to better understand its history and the actual artifacts and engineering that make up the placer, the Park County Department of Heritage, Tourism & Community Development commissioned a study of the Fairplay Placer. The county hired Mountain States Historical (MSH), a firm with extensive expertise in mining resources, to conduct the study. MSH intensively surveyed the placer itself and did in-depth research. Through research, setting the placer in its historical context, and the identification of the historical archaeology on the property, MSH evaluated the placer as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the report completed in 2016.

The property was first worked as



Photo courtesy of Park Co. Local History Archives

a placer mine in 1859, making it one of the earliest mining sites in the state, and continued to be worked nearly continuously until about 1910. In many ways the site illustrates the story of mining itself, beginning with optimistic individuals using simple pans, transitioning to rockers, sluice boxes, and then hydraulic mining. Each evolution demand more capital and resource inputs, which in turn demanded more organization and corporate consolidation.

The property is also noteworthy because of the presence of Chinese miners. Chinese working in the Colorado mining districts were rare throughout the state's history. In 1874, the Fairplay Gold Mining Company hired a crew of Chinese laborers which created a rift in the Fairplay community. Despite the tensions the Chinese set up what became a sizable settlement across the river from town and took the Fairplay Placer to its heights of profitability. What makes the Chinese presence even more exceptional was the fact that the company leased the property directly to the Chinese in 1882. With a short interlude in the late 1880s the Chinese continued to directly lease the property until about 1900.

Today, the Fairplay Placer is a valuable archaeological site. The placer contains a large and intact collection



Photo courtesy of Park Co. Local History Archives
of placer workings and tailings, feeder ditches, sluice beds, foundations of derrick platforms, remnants of worker housing and more. To have such extensive and high quality remains for a placer mine is unique not just in Colorado, but the country as a whole. Many have been repurposed or have new workings—such as seen on the north end of the Fairplay Placer—or were simply washed away by the streams and rivers that made placer mining possible in the first place.

The Fairplay Placer is a unique and significant historic resource that can contribute to the field of mining history on a broad scale and provides a unique piece of community identity on the local level. The site provides great potential for future public education and interpretation of Park County's mining history.

- Jason O'Brien

Preservation & the South Park National Heritage Area

Park County was designated as the South Park National Heritage Area in 2009 in order to protect and promote the nationally important historic, cultural, and natural resources in the area. Funding for the SPNHA comes through the National Park Service Heritage Partnership Program with matching funds from the County government. With this federal funding the SPNHA has been able to accomplish a number of projects that support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation, and heritage tourism.

Here are some highlights from 2017:

* SPNHA partnered with the South Park Site Stewards to monitor significant archaeological sites in Park County. This volunteer run program provided intensive training for members and hosted a presentation on the archaeology of South Park. The Site Stewards are a growing and essential part of protecting prehistory in the heritage area.

* The Paris Mill Rehabilitation project continues to progress with historic window replication and completion of construction documents for the next phase of work to take place at the mill in summer 2018.

* Maintenance of South Park's GeoTour which features 73 caches placed over 1,700 square miles of stunning landscapes, rich history, and pristine natural resources in the SPNHA. In 2017 locals as well as visitors spanning from Alaska to Florida to Canada were able to enjoy the tour. Find the South Park GeoTour at geocaching.com to play this outdoor adventure activity.

* The "South Park Heritage Experience" showcases the people, places, and events that make this area so special. Episodes range from Park County graveyards and the Como Steam Train to Rocky Mountain Pack String and summer recreation. All these great videos on our Facebook page or YouTube.

* Brochures were produced to promote the Heritage Area and historic walking tours. Brand development was a large part of 2017 and resulted in content creation for the website, heritage tourism advertising, and interpretation through signage all featuring the SPNHA's fresh new logo.

* The South Park National Heritage Area awarded twelve grants totaling \$66,474 to local entities completing projects which further the goals of the SPNHA.

Completed local projects included:

Protecting natural resources, conducting water quality research and botanical surveys, digitization of historic newspaper articles, numerous environmental and historical educational programs, promoting Park County's rich railroad heritage and more.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our SPNHA sub-grantee's and recognize their vital contribution to our Heritage Area. Applications for the 2018 grant cycle will be open on our website by the end of January, 2018. Please review the grant guidelines and feel free to contact Jennie Andrusin with any questions. We are looking forward to another great year!

- Jennie Andrusin



"The South Park National Heritage Area aims to preserve South Park's western heritage, unique community identity, and outstanding natural wonders".



Photo: Park County

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Cemeteries tell the story of Park County

Cemeteries are important repositories of community history and social ideals. Their importance is much more than the immediate purpose of housing bodies and accommodating funerals, and broader than solely as sites of individual remembrance. These quiet and contemplative locations outline the history of Park County from the early settlement of Euro-Americans through to today. As the county became more established, simple wooden markers erected out of necessity gave way to more permanent materials. First marble and then polished granite which remains popular today. We can also learn much about past individuals. The artwork and motifs etched into the grave markers may reveal their livelihood, membership in a fraternal organization, religious beliefs, and even socio-economic status.

The importance of these places has been recognized by the National Park Service through the listing of a Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), and with the entry of the Como

Photo: Park County



Photo: Park County

Cemetery into the National Register of Historic Places.

A Multiple Property Document Form serves as a tool to help nominate thematically-related historic properties. They flesh out the history of particular properties, in this case cemeteries, in order to provide the context for which to argue the significance of properties and to outline requirements they must meet in order to be nominated. The Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF delves into the role cemeteries played in the settlement of the area, the specific histories of cemeteries in the county, typology of grave markers, and more. It is a rich document that will help nominate additional cemeteries in the future.

The MPDF served as a foundation for National Register nomination of the Como Cemetery which was officially listed on April 10, 2017. The nomination recognizes the

property for the story it tells about the exploration and settlement of the area, of local social history, and for honoring the January 1893 industrial accident at the King Coal Mine. Additionally, the cemetery is acknowledged for the artistic merit of its markers, monuments, and grave enclosures. The Como Cemetery was the only resource that fit the “Town Cemetery” property type and represents a district whose character is expressed through its landscape features such as paths and fencing, structures, and its variety of grave markers.

Both documents were completed by Tom and Laurie Simmons of Front Range Research Associates, Inc. And the work that went into the MPDF was funded by a Certified Local Government grant, a grant pool only open to communities that have taken the steps and responsibilities required to be a Certified Local Government. The listing of the Como Cemetery will raise its profile and help protect it, while the MPDF will continue to be an important tool for future nominations.

- Jason O'Brien



Paris Mill Update

“Rome wasn’t built in a day” and neither was Paris... the Paris Mill that is. Construction and rehabilitation of the Mill began in 2013 but preservation efforts have been occurring since it was named as one of Colorado’s Most Endangered Places in 2004. Each year, efforts continue and although there is still a long way to go, this 1895 Mill remains a priority project for our department and community.

Currently, construction documents are in the final stages of completion to inform the Mill’s next phase of rehabilitation. A State Historical Fund grant was recently submitted for this next phase of construction and with receipt of funding it will occur in the summer of 2018. The proposed scope of work includes site rehabilitation, addressing critical deficiencies, and exterior wall rehabilitation. This past summer, historic wood window replicas were fabricated and installed in the completed west wing and south wing extension of the Mill. All of these recent accomplishments are essential parts of the long road to completion.

The overall goal of this project is to open the Mill to the public and allow for a unique perspective of the area’s rich mining history. To walk through this 120 year old structure and witness the heavy steel machinery, the brilliant design of massive timbers, and to be surrounded by tall peaks containing once productive mines is truly an experience that connects people to the past. Not only will this important historic resource be used as a tool for education and interpretation but it will greatly benefit the local economy by attracting heritage tourists. The Paris Mill is one of the few intact mills remaining from its era and it has extensive original machinery, engineered process systems, structural elements, and architectural aspects that are rare in Colorado. Completion of this project will be a tribute to those that have come before and a treasure for those to come after.

Park County has received private donations and several grants that have made this project a reality. We are fortunate to have a team of committed contractors, engineers, and architects who are just as passionate about this project as we are. If you have questions or would like to support the Paris Mill Rehabilitation please contact Jennie Andrusin.

- Jennie Andrusin



Photo: Park County

“It’s not good because it’s old, it’s old because it’s good.”
- Anonymous

Photo: Park County



The Fairplay Intensive Survey



Photo: Park County Local Archives

“How will we know it’s us without our past?”
- John Steinbeck

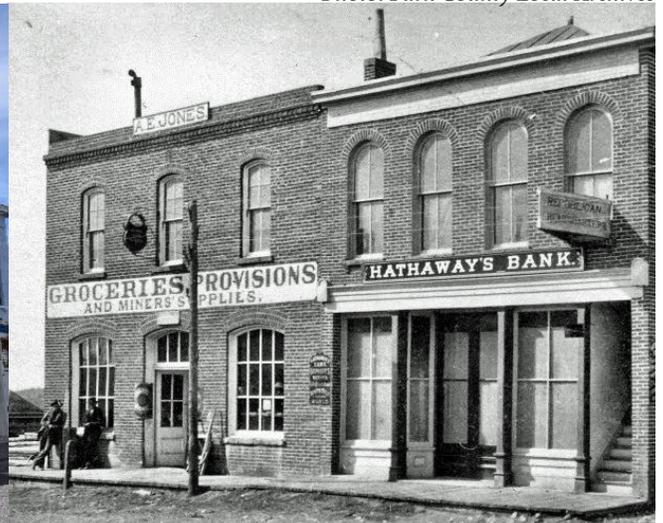
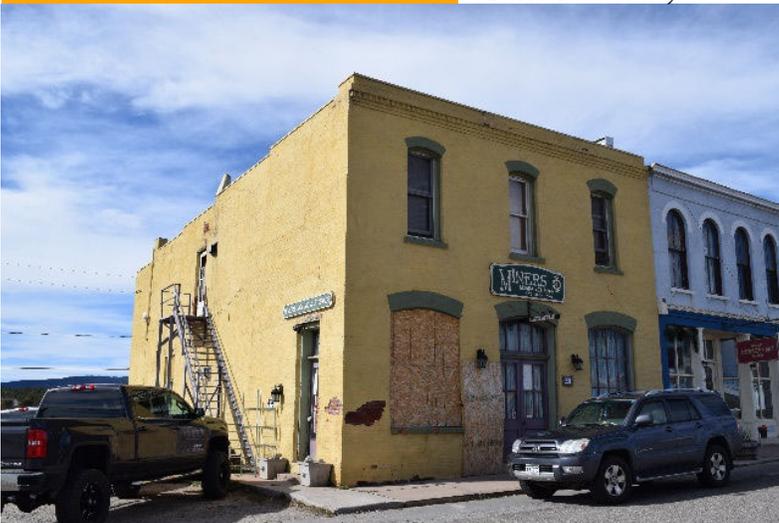
Preservation practice is built on a hierarchy of essential steps, the foundation of which is the cultural resource survey. These surveys come in many sizes and levels of investigation. They range from broad reconnaissance surveys that cast a wide net to intensive level surveys that include thorough research into the history and significance of particular properties. Cultural resource surveys are an important basis for planning decisions and form an integral part of protecting our cultural heritage.

Photo: Park County

You don’t have to tell Park County citizens that Fairplay has historic buildings that are important to telling the community’s history. But in order to better understand exactly what we have, the actual history of the buildings, and to determine whether said buildings are eligible for local landmark status, State Register of Historic Places, or the National Register of Historic Places, the Park County Department of Heritage, Tourism & Community Development undertook an intensive level architectural survey that centered on the Town of Fairplay’s historic Front Street. This project was funded by a Certified Local Government grant provided through History Colorado.

The project was completed by Front Range Research Associates, Inc. who has extensive experience in Park County. They undertook an intensive survey of 28 properties, including 15 newly surveyed buildings. Field survey that documented the style and type of the buildings, the materials used in their construction, and historic integrity was combined with in-depth research to determine the history of the properties and the historical narratives they fit within. Of the 28

Photo: Park County Local Archives



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properties surveyed, six were evaluated as eligible for listing in the National and State Registers and as eligible for the State Register. Additional properties in the survey may also qualify for a local landmark designation. Eligibility by itself helps protect historic resources from the impacts of federal activities, and actual listing will recognize the property's importance, open the opportunity for grants and tax credits for rehabilitation, and may provide variance of certain building codes while placing no limits on owner uses.

If you are interested in finding out if your property was evaluated as eligible for a historic designation in this survey, or in pursuing nominations at the local, State, or National level please contact the Park County Department of Heritage, Tourism & Community Development.



28,409-acres Designated as Rural Historic District

The Tarryall Rural Historic District was entered into the National Register of Historic Places on November 1, 2017. The rural district encompasses land along the Tarryall Road and Tarryall Creek, stretching from just south of Jefferson down to U.S. Highway 24 and running a length of nearly 40 miles. The district embraces one of the most scenic drives in Colorado, but also contains a wealth of historic features that speak to the day-to-day occupational activities that shaped the historic area. Lining what had once been a territorial wagon road, these features include ranches,

miner's cabins, cemeteries, and archaeological sites and ruins among others.

The Park County Department of Heritage, Tourism and Community Development received a State Historic Fund grant in 2013 in order to complete the nomination which was expertly done by Front Range Research Associates, LLC., and shepherded along with enthusiastic support from the state Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. This large and complex nomination will now serve as an example for rural districts across the country.

- Jason O'Brien



Photos on this page: Park County



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Preservation Resources

(for a complete list of resources visit our website at parkco.us)

Local Organizations

Park County Local History Archives
(719) 836-4153
<http://www.parkcoarchives.org/>

Park County Historical Society
<http://www.parkcountyhistory.com/>

State Organizations

Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
(303) 866-3395
<http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp>

Colorado Preservation Inc.
(303) 893-4260
<http://coloradopreservation.org/>

Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection
<http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

National Organizations

National Trust for Historic Preservation
<http://www.preservationnation.org/>

Grants & Tax Incentives
Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm>

Colorado Grants and Financial Incentives
<http://www.historycolorado.org/archaeologists/grants-financial-incentives>

Practical Guidance
Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm>
Preservation Briefs
Technical guidance on preserving, rehabilitating, and restoring historic buildings.
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm>

Preservation Tech Notes
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/tech-notes.htm>

Preserving Historic Wood Windows
<http://www.parkco.us/DocumentCenter/View/1321>

National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
<http://ncptt.nps.gov/>

Sustainability and Historic Preservation
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/sustainability.htm>

Historic Tax Credits

Did you know...

Historic Tax Credits are a dollar for dollar reduction in the amount of tax owed to the government.

Colorado's state historic preservation tax credits are transferable: You can sell them upon completion of your project!

Selling credits can bring in additional funds for your project in either a cash match for a grant or a loan.

Residential historic tax credits can lower your tax bill which can increase your tax refund.

Residential Tax Credits need a project that is eligible and cost must exceed \$5,000- Capped at \$50,000

Residential Historic Tax Credits extent of tax savings is 20% for qualified rehabilitation expenditures.

Commercial Historic Tax Credits extent of tax savings is 25% of qualified rehabilitation expenditures for projects less than 2 million and 20% for qualified rehabilitation expenditures on projects over 2 million dollars.

Visit our website at:
<http://www.parkco.us>

Follow us on Facebook for more news and event information.
www.facebook.com/parkco.preservation

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