



# PRESERVATION MATTERS

SPRING 2014

Volume III, Issue 2

## Upcoming Events

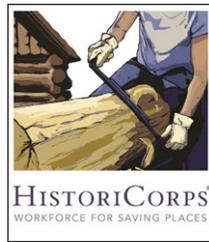
- **APRIL 15**  
SHAWNEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING  
6:30 PM  
SHAWNEE TEA ROOM  
SHAWNEE  
WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM
- **APRIL 26**  
PCHPAC MEETING  
9:00 AM  
FAIRPLAY LIBRARY  
FAIRPLAY  
WWW.PARKCO.US
- **MAY 10**  
SHAWNEE HISTORY DAY  
11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM  
PLATTE CANYON COMMUNITY CENTER AND SHAWNEE TEA ROOM  
WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM

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## Tarryall School Volunteer Project Scheduled for Early June

Want to meet great people, learn new skills, experience the beautiful Tarryall landscape, and help preserve two of Park County's most picturesque historic buildings? The Office of Historic Preservation, South Park National Heritage Area, and HistoriCorps are joining forces to offer a truly unique volunteer experience at the historic Tarryall School and Teacherage this June. Volunteers will



have the opportunity to help preserve the exteriors of these exceptional buildings by repainting the school, rehabilitating the windows and doors on the

teacherage, reroofing the bell tower, and rebuilding portions of the fence.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the 1921 one-room schoolhouse and 1940s-era teacherage stand against the backdrop of the stunning Tarryall Mountains. In use until 1949, the school educated children in grades one through eight. The small cottage behind the school served as the teacher's residence during the school year. Later, the school served the community as a gathering place for church services, weddings, receptions, funerals, and Grange meetings.

Two volunteer sessions will be available, June 2-6 and June 9-13. The project will be managed and supervised by two or more HistoriCorps instructors and will be designed to optimize learning opportunities. All tools, safety equipment, and meals will be provided



*Tarryall School and Teacherage.*

by HistoriCorps and volunteers will have access to free camping at the Spruce Grove Campground.

Volunteering with HistoriCorps is a great way to make a difference by ensuring that future generations will have the opportunity to experience Park County's rich history firsthand. Locals and visitors alike are encouraged to lend a hand. To learn more and register, visit the HistoriCorps [website](http://www.historiccorps.org) or contact Amy Eller, HistoriCorps volunteer coordinator, at 303-893-4260 ext. 225 or [aeller@historiccorps.org](mailto:aeller@historiccorps.org).



*Megan Potter of Alma reglazes a historic window sash during last year's HistoriCorps volunteer project at the Clesson Cabin.*



## Upcoming Events

- **MAY 16**  
**COLORADO HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD MEETING**  
**HISTORY COLORADO CENTER, DENVER**  
[WWW.HISTORYCOLORADO.ORG](http://WWW.HISTORYCOLORADO.ORG)
- **MAY 16**  
**PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING**  
**6:30 PM**  
**SHEPHERD OF THE ROCKIES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**106 ROSALIE AVE., BAILEY**  
[WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM](http://WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM)
- **MAY 20**  
**SHAWNEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING**  
**6:30 PM**  
**SHAWNEE TEA ROOM**  
**SHAWNEE**  
[WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM](http://WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM)
- **MAY 24**  
**PCHPAC MEETING**  
**10:00 AM**  
**SNAIR CABIN**  
**LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY PARK**  
[WWW.PARKCO.US](http://WWW.PARKCO.US)
- **MAY 24**  
**PARK COUNTY PRESERVATION AWARDS**  
**11:00 AM**  
**SNAIR CABIN**  
**LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY PARK**
- **MAY 24**  
**RAILROAD WORKER MEMORIAL DEDICATION**  
**12:00 PM**  
**LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY PARK**

## Letter from the Office of Historic Preservation

In 1999, Park County was awarded Certified Local Government (CLG) status by the National Park Service in recognition of the county's commitment to historic preservation. Once certified, Park County became an active partner in the Federal Historic Preservation Program, which brings together local, state, and federal governments to help communities preserve—and capitalize on—their irreplaceable historic character. CLG status allows the county to access a variety of benefits including grant funding and technical assistance.

This year, I am happy to report that Park County has received a \$10,000 CLG grant to prepare a National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) for Park County's historic cemeteries.

The MPDF is an invaluable tool for documenting and evaluating the historic significance of multiple properties that share common characteristics or are part of a theme. The Park County Cemetery

MPDF will provide a comprehensive historical overview of our local cemeteries and identify the qualities cemeteries must possess to be eligible for National Register listing. The MPDF can then be used as a guide to write individual nominations to the National, State and/or Park County registers.

In short, the MPDF will smooth the pathway for future landmark designations and serve as a well-researched and reliable resource for historical information about our local cemeteries, which can then be used to educate residents and visitors about these exceptional historic sites.

We are excited to be once again working with consultants Tom and Laurie Simmons of Front Range Research Associates, who have worked on a number of similar projects for Park County. They will begin work on the project in May and we will be posting progress updates on our [Facebook](#) page.

—Amy Unger

## State Preservation Tax Credit Program May Get Even Better

A bill that will update the existing state historic preservation tax credit program has been introduced in the state legislature as House Bill 1311, the "Colorado Jobs & Main Street Revitalization Act." The bill is designed to generate new jobs, stimulate local economies, revitalize rural and neighborhood main streets, and provide more robust incentives for the preservation of Colorado's unique historic assets by increasing tax credit incentives for historic commercial properties.

There are currently a total of 33 co-sponsors of the bill in the House and the Senate, including state Sen. Kevin Grantham, who represents Park County. There is also strong bipartisan support for the measure.

State preservation tax credits have been available to Coloradans since 1990, however, "there is significant need to improve this tax credit so that Colorado remains competitive with neighboring states, and that the credit can be better used to attract critical commercial reinvestment, rehabilitation and revitalization of main streets across our state," said state Rep. Leroy Garcia, one of the bill's authors. The update to the preservation tax credit is estimated to have a total economic impact of between \$480 million and \$720 million in Colorado between 2015 and 2019. You can learn more about the Colorado Jobs & Main Street Revitalization Act by visiting Colorado Preservation Inc.'s [website](#): [www.coloradopreservation.org](http://www.coloradopreservation.org).

## Preservation Awards and Railroad Memorial Dedication May 24

In honor of National Preservation Month, the 2014 Park County Historic Preservation Awards will take place on May 24 at 11 a.m. at the Snair Cabin in Lake George. The awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution to the preservation and interpretation of Park County's historic and cultural resources during the past year. A light lunch and refreshments will be served and anyone with an interest in historic preservation is welcome to attend.

Directly after the awards ceremony, join the Lake George Community Association in celebrating the dedication of a new memorial marker honoring the men who lost their lives in Eleven Mile Canyon while working for the Colorado Midland Railway during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The railway played a



highly significant role in the development of southern Park County, transporting local ranchers, hay and cattle to markets outside the county and bringing tourists to the Eleven Mile Canyon area.

Always dangerous, railroad work claimed the lives of at least seven men whose names will be included on the granite memorial.

The Lake George Community Association worked hard to raise \$2,000 through concession sales at the Lake George Tractor Pull and proceeds from the annual Lake George Cemetery Walk to purchase the marker. Additionally, the group received a small grant from PCHPAC to help make the project a reality. The marker will stand near the Snair Cabin in the Lake George Community Park. Visitors to the park will be able to not only visit the historic homesteader's cabin but also learn something about the brave individuals who helped build and operate the Colorado Midland Railway.



## Free Guided Walking Tour of Fairplay during June BBQ Event

The Office of Historic Preservation will host a free guided walking tour of Fairplay on June 21 in conjunction with this year's [South Park Kick-Ass BBQ Event](#). Join us for an approximately one-hour tour and hear the stories behind some of Fairplay's most significant historic sites. Meet at the entrance to the Fairplay-Valiton Hotel at 9 a.m.



### Upcoming Events

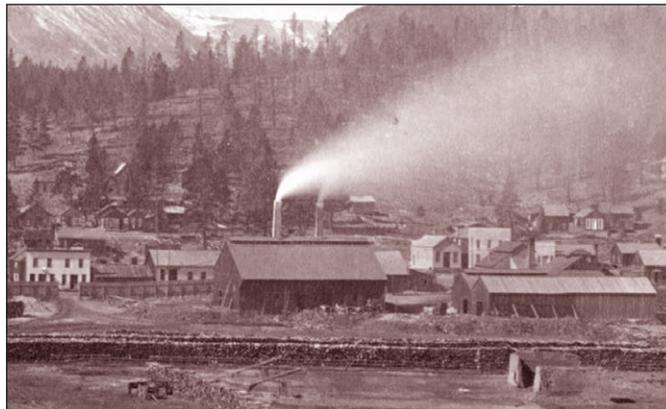
- **MAY 26**  
**PARK COUNTY OFFICES**  
**CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY**
- **JUNE 2-6**  
**TARRYALL SCHOOL AND**  
**TEACHERAGE HISTORICORPS**  
**PROJECT: SESSION I**  
[WWW.HISTORICORPS.ORG](http://WWW.HISTORICORPS.ORG)
- **JUNE 9-13**  
**TARRYALL SCHOOL AND**  
**TEACHERAGE HISTORICORPS**  
**PROJECT: SESSION II**  
[WWW.HISTORICORPS.ORG](http://WWW.HISTORICORPS.ORG)
- **JUNE 17**  
**SHAWNEE HISTORICAL**  
**SOCIETY MEETING**  
**6:30 PM**  
**SHAWNEE TEA ROOM**  
**SHAWNEE**  
[WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM](http://WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM)
- **JUNE 20**  
**PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL**  
**SOCIETY MEETING**  
**6:30 PM**  
**SHEPHERD OF THE ROCKIES**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**106 ROSALIE AVE., BAILEY**  
[WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM](http://WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM)
- **JUNE 21**  
**GUIDED HISTORIC FAIRPLAY**  
**WALKING TOUR**  
**9:00 AM**  
**MEET AT THE FAIRPLAY-**  
**VALITON HOTEL**
- **JUNE 28**  
**PCHPAC MEETING**  
**9 AM**  
**OLD PARK COUNTY**  
**COURTHOUSE**  
**FAIRPLAY**  
[WWW.PARKCO.US](http://WWW.PARKCO.US)

## Alma Branch of the Boston and Colorado Smelting Co. Designated a Historic Landmark

Located in the heart of Alma are two of the oldest and best preserved buildings associated with Park County's mining past—the surviving buildings of the Alma Branch of the Boston and Colorado Smelting Company. On March 20, the Board of County Commissioners officially recognized the historic significance of these important buildings by designating the site as a Park County Historic Landmark, bringing the total number of designated historic sites within the town limits of Alma to six.

Constructed in 1873 by Colorado's most successful smelting company, the building that now houses The Sheepherder retail shop first served as the company office and smelter manager's residence. The stone portion of the veterinary office behind that building formerly housed the engines and boilers that ran the machinery of the sampling works where ore was tested to determine its precious mineral content. After sampling, the ore was smelted in an adjacent building that was demolished in 1909. Slag, a byproduct of the smelting process, still litters the landscape in the area where the large smelter building once stood.

Nathaniel P. Hill, principal organizer of the Boston and Colorado Smelting Company, and his general manager, Henry R. Wolcott, played significant roles in the development of Colorado's mining industry and the town of Alma. Hill, a former chemistry professor at Brown University, quickly became the industry's leader after



*The Boston and Colorado Smelting Company's smelter in operation in the mid-1870s. The wood frame office/residential building and the stone engine/boiler room of the sampling works to right of the smelter building still stand today.*

the promise of the area's mines, attracting prospectors, investors, and entrepreneurs to the small mountain community. The town quickly grew in population after the opening of the Boston and Colorado's branch smelter, reportedly prompting the town's incorporation in December 1873.

The Boston and Colorado's Alma Branch ceased smelting in 1878, but the company continued to maintain an active sampling works at the site until 1895. The company's office/residential building later served as



establishing the first successful smelting facility at Black Hawk in 1868. Wolcott invested heavily in Alma-area real estate during the early 1870s and formed the Mount Lincoln Improvement Company in 1875. The company held title to many of Alma's town lots and was integral to the early development of the town.

The buildings are a highly visual reminder of the critical role mining played in the founding and development of Alma. The decision made by Colorado's most successful smelting company to locate its branch works in Alma demonstrated to the state and the nation

a hotel and private residence.

The buildings represented a significant milestone in the Boston and Colorado's history—the first expansion of the highly influential company's operations outside of Black Hawk.

The Boston and Colorado's principal smelter sites in Black Hawk and Argo have been demolished, leaving the Alma buildings as the company's best-preserved buildings in Colorado.

Very few mining-related buildings, especially those from the earliest years of Park County's mining history, survive with the level integrity exhibited by the Boston and Colorado buildings, and we are thrilled to add these highly significant buildings to Park County's register of historic places. For a more complete history of the buildings visit the OHP website.

## Historic Destinations: McGraw Memorial Park in Bailey

Add a little history to your weekend plans or vacation visit by planning a stop at one of Park County's many public historic sites. Located in Bailey at the foot of Crow Hill, McGraw Memorial Park is a great spot for a lunchtime picnic, a relaxing afternoon of fishing, or to start a fun hike or kayak trip, as well as a wonderful way to experience Platte Canyon history.

The park includes 20 acres and is owned and maintained by the [Park County Historical Society \(PCHS\)](#). The land was donated in 1969 by Helen McGraw-Tatum to provide Park County an area to showcase historic buildings and to offer hiking and picnic areas that showcase the county's natural beauty. Helen's



*The Shawnee School (right) and Wren Cabin (left) were moved to McGraw Park in 1983 and 1992, respectively.*

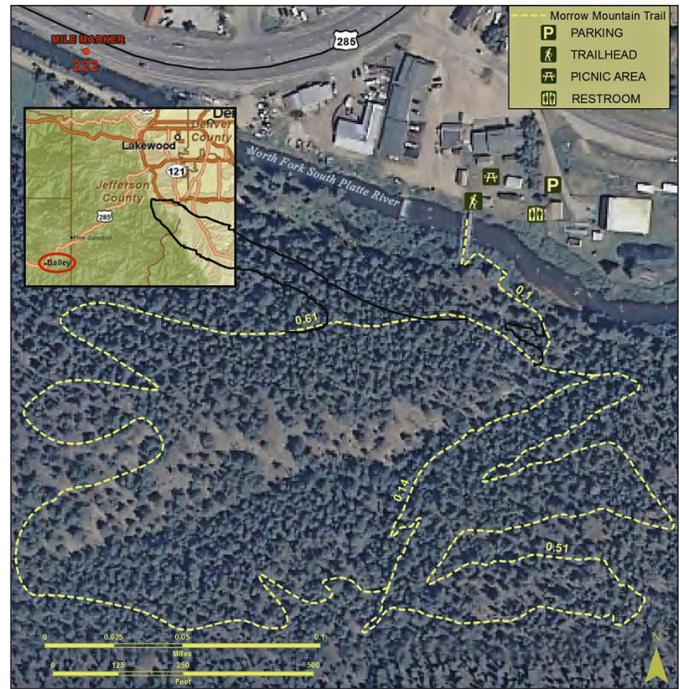
grandparents, Edward and Blanche McGraw, purchased the land from William Bailey, the community's namesake, in the 1870s. Blanche McGraw operated Bailey's first grocery store, which is now known as the Bailey Country Store.

At an early age, Helen McGraw was fascinated by the railroad, which ran through Bailey and Platte Canyon. In 1937, she filmed the last Colorado Southern train as it traveled from Denver to Leadville. After returning to Bailey later in life, Helen's interest in preserving Platte Canyon's history grew and she donated the McGraw Memorial Park site to the PCHS as a location for the preservation of the county's cultural and natural heritage. Three years later, the historic Entriken Cabin and a caboose from the Colorado and Southern railroad were moved to the property along the South Platte.

Much like the South Park City Museum in Fairplay, the park is now home to a number of historic buildings and artifacts that were in danger of being lost forever if they had remained in their original locations, including the historic Shawnee School, Keystone Bridge, McGlone (Wren) Cabin, Maddox Ice Boat, and the Glen Isle Wait Station.

The park property extends on both sides of the North Fork of the South Platte River and has extensive river

frontage. Eighteen acres on the southwest side of the river feature the Morrow Mountain trail system established in 2010-11, which offers great day-hiking opportunities.



frontage. Eighteen acres on the southwest side of the river feature the Morrow Mountain trail system established in 2010-11, which offers great day-hiking opportunities.

The family-friendly park is open daily and public restrooms are on site. To reach McGraw Memorial Park turn off Highway 285 onto Country Road 68/Wellington Lake Road in downtown Bailey near the Rustic Square shopping area and look for the park sign on your right. Admission and parking is free.



*Visitors to the park can experience a piece of Park County's railroad history. This Colorado and Southern caboose was one of the first historic resources added to the park in 1973.*

## Behind the Facade: Alma Junction

From Alma Junction to Park City to the London Mine, Mosquito Pass Road (County Road 12) takes travelers past a rich array of historic sites. After turning off Highway 9, the first of these sites is Alma Junction, a once-bustling railroad depot and ore processing center during the late 1800s. Now a quiet residential area, its historic buildings hint at Alma Junction's storied past.

Development of the area began in the early 1880s when the Denver, South Park & Pacific Railroad extended its line north from Fairplay and established a depot south of Alma on Mosquito Creek. The railroad facilities included a 20-by-70-foot wood-frame depot/living quarters, a wooden water tank, a coal bin, a scale house, a wye, and siding tracks.

In 1882, the London, South Park, and Leadville Railroad laid seven additional miles of track connecting the DSP&P depot with the London Mine operations in the heart of Mosquito Gulch. The spur provided area mines such as the Orphan Boy, Hock Hocking, and London with critical access to Colorado's rail system, significantly reducing transportation costs for the mines.

In January 1883, John T. Herrick, manager of the London Mine, platted the town of London Junction in the area surrounding the new depot. Later that year, he began constructing a large residence for himself north of Mosquito Creek on the west side of town. The impressive Queen Anne style home proudly stands today on a rise on the north side of Mosquito Pass Road.

The village developed quickly and by the end of 1883 consisted of a store, two saloons, two boarding houses, one hotel, two assay offices and a number of residences.

With its proximity to several successful mines, London Junction quickly became an important shipping and ore processing center. Shortly after the town was platted, the owners of the London mine erected a 20-stamp mill south of the depot. The mill treated an average of 850 tons of ore each month during its first seven months of operation. On the opposite side of the creek, a sampling and concentration works run by the Park County Sampling and Concentrating Company stood between what is today Mosquito Pass and Bungalow roads. Established around 1883, the works encountered financial difficulties and



*London Junction during its early years of development. The London Mill is visible at the far right.*

closed in the mid-1880s.

In 1892, a second mill was constructed closer to the London Mine farther up Mosquito Gulch, and the London Junction mill was slowly phased out. That same year, the London Mine began work on a new adit on the south side of London Mountain, far from the existing rail line. With the London's operations focused elsewhere, the spur struggled to survive and by 1897, the small town surrounding the depot was known as Alma Junction, signaling the decreased influence of the London operations on the settlement. The spur eventually ceased operations around 1900, however the DSP&P continued to offer service from Fairplay to Alma Junction.

In 1909, the Colorado Gold Mining and Smelting Company erected a smelter south of Mosquito Creek on the site of the old London Mill. The smelter quickly failed and the company went into bankruptcy. The town declined during the early part of the twentieth century and by the late 1920s, only two trains per week serviced the tiny community. The large industrial buildings that once processed hundreds of tons of ore from the Mosquito Gulch mines

disappeared and in October 1934 the plat of the town of London Junction was vacated.

In the 1930s, members of the Hyndman family began acquiring property in Alma Junction. Brothers William and Archie Hyndman arrived in Park County in 1911 and took over operations of the Cohen mercantile store in Fairplay. In the early 1920s, William and his wife, Elizabeth, made their home in Alma Junction.

The railroad ceased operations in 1937 and the Hyndmans eventually acquired the depot, which still



*The 1883 home of John T. Herrick, manager of the London Mine, still stands today near Mosquito Pass Road.*



*The London (Alma) Junction Depot in 1889 (left) and today (center). The cottages to the east (right) were likely built around 1940.*

stands today along the south edge of Mosquito Pass Road. The depot building has changed somewhat since it was built—the eastern half of the building has been removed—however the remaining section of the building retains much of its historic appearance, including its distinctive bay window.

The four small frame cottages standing to the east of the depot were presumably constructed by the Hyndmans around 1940 as a “cottage court”—guest cabins for tourists traveling by automobile. A predecessor to the motel, cottage courts typically consisted of a grouping

of small cabins located near popular tourist routes. In Fairplay three cottage courts served motorists in 1930s, and in Alma, the Gately family operated the Mount Bross Tourist Camp. It is rumored that the cabins at Alma Junction were once part of a cottage court in Fairplay and were moved to their present location, but no documentation confirming this has been found to date.

The next time you travel along Mosquito Pass Road, take a moment to look for these reminders of the important role Alma Junction played in the history of mining in Park County.

## South Park City Museum Considered for National Register of Historic Places Listing

In 2013, the South Park National Heritage Area and the Center of Preservation Research, University of Colorado Denver, partnered to begin the process of nominating the South Park City Museum to the National Register of Historic Places. Under the supervision of architectural historian Abbey Christman, graduate students from UCD’s College of Architecture and Planning began carefully documenting the more than 34 historic resources that make up the museum. Months of careful research followed to determine the historic significance of the museum.

Located in Fairplay, South Park City Museum opened in 1959, part of a statewide centennial celebration of the Rush to the Rockies as well as the centennial of the founding of Fairplay. By the mid-twentieth century, Park County’s early mining towns were rapidly disappearing, victims of vandalism, fire, and the natural elements. Leon Snyder, a Colorado Springs lawyer, worked with local residents to preserve Park County’s mining heritage by creating a



museum town. The goal was to create an authentic replica of a nineteenth-century Colorado mining town, using historic buildings from Park County. The museum was a community effort, with residents donating their time to prepare the buildings and the artifacts to furnish them.

South Park City quickly became one of Park County’s premier tourist destinations.

Christman and her students found that the museum is significant for its association with Park County tourism, the Rush to the Rockies, and early historic preservation efforts.

On May 16, the State Review Board will consider the nomination to the National Register. If approved, the

nomination will then be considered by the National Park Service for final approval.

South Park City Museum has delighted children and adults alike for over 50 years, providing a rare opportunity to experience the realities of a frontier mining community firsthand. For more information about the museum, visit the South Park City [website](#).



Park County Office of Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 1373

Fairplay, CO 80440



**Park County  
Office of Historic  
Preservation**

*Preservation  
with a Purpose*

**Linda Balough,**  
Director

**Amy Unger,**  
Preservation Planner

Phone: (719) 836-4292

Fax: (719) 836-0863

E-mail: [aunger@parkco.us](mailto:aunger@parkco.us)

Visit our website at:

[www.parkco.us](http://www.parkco.us)

Follow us on Facebook for more news and  
event information.

[www.facebook.com/parkco.preservation](https://www.facebook.com/parkco.preservation)



In 1999, the National Park Service recognized Park County as a Certified Local Government (CLG), a designation that allows the county to officially develop standards for the designation of local historic landmarks and establish a historic preservation advisory commission.

The Board of County Commissioners appointed and authorized the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission to make recommendations for the identification, designation, and preservation of Park County's historic resources. The Park County Office of Historic Preservation was created to carry out this mission.

The Office of Historic Preservation staff is ready to help owners of historic properties extend the useful life of their property and preserve their piece of Park County history for future generations to enjoy. Staff assists with applications for local landmark designation; provides property owners with technical guidance and preservation expertise as they develop plans for their historic properties; assists with applications for preservation grants; and partners with organizations interested in preserving and promoting Park County's rich cultural heritage.

If you would like to learn more about what the Park County Office of Historic Preservation has to offer, contact Amy Unger, Preservation Planner, at (719) 836-4292 or email [aunger@parkco.us](mailto:aunger@parkco.us). We look forward to hearing from you!