



PRESERVATION MATTERS

FALL 2014

Volume III, Issue 3

Upcoming Events

- **NOVEMBER 8**
REX RIDEOUT CIVIL WAR
PRESENTATION
DINNER 5:00 PM
PRESENTATION 5:30 PM
\$7 AT THE DOOR
SHEPHERD OF THE ROCKIES
LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 ROSALIE AVE., BAILEY
WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM
- **NOVEMBER 11**
VETERANS DAY
COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED
- **NOVEMBER 11-14**
NATIONAL TRUST FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
CONFERENCE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
WWW.PASTFORWARD2014.COM

Inside this issue:

- Letter from the Office of
Historic Preservation 2
- 2014 Preservation
Awards 2
- HistoriCorps Projects 3
- Preserving Historic
Como 4
- Historic Destinations:
Tarryall Road 4
- Behind the Facade:
Magnolia Mill 6-7
- Preservation Resources 7

Historic Old Park County Courthouse Reopens!

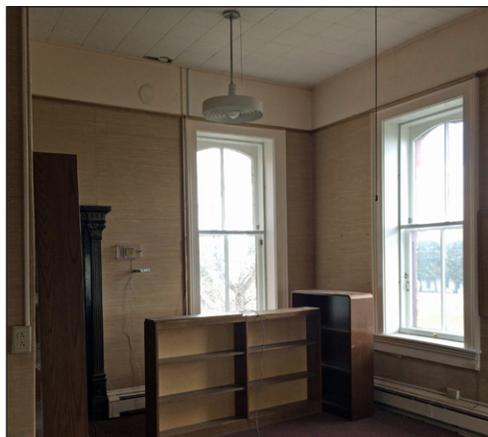
Since June, staff and volunteers have been busy transforming the main floor of the Old Park County Courthouse. Non-historic wallpaper, paneling, ceiling tiles, and carpeting were removed, historic plaster walls repaired, the courthouse's circa 1910 oak floors refinished, and a historically appropriate ceiling installed. New period-appropriate lighting, hardware, and bathroom fixtures help restore a historic feel to the 140-year-old building. Beautiful wood doors, salvaged from the old Fairplay Town Hall replaced doors that have been missing for years.

OHP and SPNHA staff members Amy Unger and Erica Duvic completed a large part of the work themselves, with the assistance of a group of dedicated volunteers, local contractor Lance Manske, South Park Electric, Innovative Design Systems, and Ten Mile Hardwoods.

A grand reopening event was held on October 23 to celebrate the project's completion. Attendees were impressed

by the changes and many said they hardly recognized the former library space. At the event, Park County Commissioner Mark Dowaliby expressed his support for the project, which "showed a real commitment to our historic past," noting that returning the courthouse to active use is good for Fairplay and the county.

The Italianate-style red sandstone courthouse, constructed in 1874, now houses the offices of the Park County Department of Heritage, Tourism, and Community Development; the Office of Historic Preservation; the South Park National Heritage Area; and the Office of Recreation Development, as well as the Park County Local History Archives and South Park Archaeology Project nonprofit organizations. Starting November 17, County business hours will be Monday through Friday 7am to 6pm. The Park County Local History Archives will be open Tuesdays 10am to 2pm. Feel free to stop by and visit our new offices!



Staffers and volunteers brought back the historic feel of the Old Park County Courthouse's first floor. The space now houses the OHP, SPNHA, and Park County Local History Archives.



Upcoming Events

- NOVEMBER 15
PCHPAC MEETING
9 AM
OLD PARK COUNTY
COURTHOUSE,
418 MAIN ST, FAIRPLAY
WWW.PARKCO.US
- NOVEMBER 15
QUICK-DRAW COMPETITION
MCGRAW MEMORIAL PARK
BAILEY
WWW.PARKCOUNTRYHISTORY.COM
- NOVEMBER 18
SHAWNEE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MEETING
6:30 PM
SHAWNEE TEA ROOM
SHAWNEE
WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM
- NOVEMBER 21
PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MEETING
6:30 PM
SHEPHERD OF THE ROCKIES
LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 ROSALIE AVE., BAILEY
WWW.PARKCOUNTRYHISTORY.COM
- NOVEMBER 26-27
PARK COUNTY OFFICES
CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING
HOLIDAY
- DECEMBER 7
COWBOY CHRISTMAS AT
MCGRAW MEMORIAL PARK
BAILEY
WWW.PARKCOUNTRYHISTORY.COM

Letter from the Office of Historic Preservation

Many of this summer's preservation projects would not have been possible were it not for the dedicated volunteers who donated their time to help keep Park County's history alive.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who lifted a hammer, hoisted a shovel, or wielded a paint brush to help save a historic building in Park County this summer. With your help we were able to accomplish an amazing amount of work at the Tarryall School, Old Park County Courthouse, Alma Ladies Aid Hall, and Colonel Mayer House.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new friends, learn new skills, and make a difference in your community. If you are interested in volunteering, let us know and we will be sure to keep you informed of future opportunities to help preserve Park County's history.

—Amy Unger



Just a few of the many volunteers who helped staff rehabilitate the Old Park County Courthouse this summer. Back row from left: Jerry Davis, Terry Ketelsen, Gary Minke, Christie Wright, South Park National Heritage Area director Linda Balough, Michelle Slaughter, Jane Gilsinger. Front row: Park County preservation planner Amy Unger and Terry Carpenter.

Park County Presents Historic Preservation Awards

In May, the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission presented awards to six individuals and organizations who made a difference by helping to preserve Park County's history. This year's recipients include the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative for its work to increase public awareness of Park County's historic sites through the installation of interpretive signage; Gary Minke for his work organizing the South Park Symposium; Hanna Eckroth for her efforts surveying and documenting Fairplay's historic buildings; Marci and Reber Chambers for their dedication to the preservation of the historic landmark Baker/Steiner Barn; Abbey Christman for her successful nomination of South Park City to the National Register of Historic Places; and the Lake George Community Association for its sustained commitment

to preserving the historic Lake George Cemetery and Snair Cabin.

After the awards, attendees were treated to a history presentation given by Steve Plutt during the dedication of the new railroad workers memorial in the Lake George Community Park.



PCHPAC chair Doug Stephens congratulates Cara Doyle and Ginni Greer of MRHI.

HistoriCorps Helps Preserve Four Historic Sites in Park County

Between June and October, the Denver-based nonprofit HistoriCorps completed four historic preservation projects in Park County. Three of the projects—the Tarryall School and Teacherage, Alma Ladies Aid Hall, and Mayer House at South Park City—were made possible in part through funding from the South Park National Heritage Area and technical assistance from the Park County Office of Historic Preservation. A fourth project—repair of a historic barn at the AG Ranch in Shawnee—was organized and funded by the U.S. Forest Service.

In early June, volunteers supervised by HistoriCorps project manager Steve Harris and crew leader Ruth Guthrie worked hard to complete much-needed exterior repairs to the historic Tarryall School and Teacherage in southern Park County. Volunteers repainted the exterior of the 1921 one-room schoolhouse and restored its iconic bell tower. The windows, doors, and siding at the Teacherage were also restored, returning the building to its original appearance in the early 1940s, when the cottage first provided a home for Tarryall's schoolteacher.



Steve and Ruth returned to Park County in early September to help preserve the landmark Ladies' Aid Hall in Alma. To ensure the building remains stable and weather-tight while plans for its adaptive reuse are developed, volunteers shored up the building's foundation and replaced missing roofing material. Constructed as an office for the Fanny Barret Smelter, the building later played an important role in the social life of Alma as the headquarters of the Alma Ladies' Aid Society.

At the Mayer House, HistoriCorps crews led by Steve and Ruth installed a new cedar shingle roof, repaired portions of the foundation, and replaced a damaged wood floor. The work, completed in early October, will ensure that the historic building, constructed in the early 1870s, continues to tell the life story of its most famous resident, the eccentric Colonel Frank Mayer.

HistoriCorps plans to return next year to begin work on the rehabilitation of Buffalo Peaks Ranch, established in 1863 by Adolph and Marie Guiraud. The work will be an important first step in transforming the historic ranch into the home of the Rocky Mountain Land Library.



HistoriCorps completed projects at the Tarryall School and Teacherage (top), Colonel Mayer House (left), and Alma Ladies Aid Hall this year.



Upcoming Events

- **DECEMBER 16**
SHAWNEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
 6:30 PM
 SHAWNEE TEA ROOM
 SHAWNEE
WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM
- **DECEMBER 19**
PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
 6:30 PM
 SHEPHERD OF THE ROCKIES LUTHERAN CHURCH
 106 ROSALIE AVE., BAILEY
WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM
- **DECEMBER 20**
PCHPAC MEETING
 9 AM
 OLD PARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
 418 MAIN ST, FAIRPLAY
WWW.PARKCO.US
- **DECEMBER 23-25**
PARK COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
- **JANUARY 1**
PARK COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

Preservation Activity Reaches New Heights in Historic Como

The historic railroad town of Como experienced a flurry of preservation activity this year with several significant projects wrapping up or getting underway. After years of hard work, the restoration of the Como Depot was completed in October. Built by the Denver, South Park & Pacific Railroad, the 135-year-old depot once was one of the busiest in the South Park. In 2006, the building was listed as one of Colorado's Most Endangered Places and since that time, owner David Tomkins has worked with a wide variety of partners to restore the depot to its historic appearance. Several regionally based contractors worked on the project over the years, including Stetson Roofing, Stonecraft, and Older Than Dirt Construction. The restored building will be open to the public next spring.

At the historic Como Elementary School, the Como Civic Association replaced a deteriorated circa-1990s deck with a safer, more historically compatible front porch. The school, constructed in 1883 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is an exceptional example of a Victorian-era one-room schoolhouse.

In June, a survey crew began the fieldwork necessary to complete a topographic survey of the five-acre Como Cemetery. Jones Engineering Associates will use the information gathered to create a map of the historic cemetery that identifies the locations of all known graves, as well as significant natural and made-made features. The map will be integrated with a burial site database researched and created by Park County Cemetery Board member Ellen McCallum.

An accurate map of the Como Cemetery is badly needed and will be useful for a variety of preservation purposes and will ensure that new graves do not disturb existing burials. The project is a joint effort undertaken



The Como Civic Association constructed a new front porch at the historic Como Elementary School this summer.

by the Cemetery Board, Park County Office of Historic Preservation, and the South Park National Heritage Area.

Concurrently, a different type of fieldwork occurred at the cemetery when PinPoint consultants conducted ground-penetrating radar investigations. Under the direction of Erica Duvic of the South Park National Heritage Area, the consultants worked to discover whether there are any unmarked graves in the open areas of the cemetery. The information gathered will help determine appropriate locations for future burials at the still-active cemetery.

In August, a new cultural resource survey of Como began with a well-attended public meeting at the Como

(continued on page 7)



The Como Depot has undergone an amazing transformation since work first began in 2006.



Historic Destinations: Tarryall Road (County Road 77)

The landscape along the Tarryall Road (County Road 77) is arguably one of the most scenic in Colorado. The 42-mile stretch of gently rolling two-lane highway carries travelers past historic cattle ranches, one-room school houses, early homesteads, and 1930s dude ranches, all the while offering stunning views of lofty mountain ranges, sparkling streams, and picturesque hay fields. Traveling the Tarryall makes a great day trip, offering a multitude of recreational opportunities, including fishing, hiking, picknicking, and geocaching. Repaving of the road is almost complete, making the highway ideal for touring on bicycle or motorcycle.

Interpretative panels along the road highlight the area's storied past. Currently under consideration for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a



Historically a hay-raising and cattle-ranching area, the Tarryall Valley offers views that have changed relatively little since the area was first settled in the 1860s.



Located on U.S. Forest Service land, the William Derby homestead, constructed in 1885, is one of several public historic sites along the Tarryall Road.

Rural Historic Landscape District, the Tarryall Valley was first settled during the 1860s, primarily by ranchers seeking to take advantage of the highly nutritious grasses native to the area. Though some mining occurred in the area, the valley is primarily significant for its association with the growth and evolution of cattle and hay ranching in Park County and for its architecture, which includes examples of the houses, schools, barns, and other buildings typically constructed by the residents of Park County's early agricultural communities.

The area includes twenty-six private historic ranch headquarters and a number of public sites, including the Bordenville Cemetery, Tarryall Reservoir Dam, Derby Cabin, Tarryall School and Teacherage, Lake George Cemetery, and Snair Cabin.

The Spuce Grove and Twin Eagle campgrounds and several major trailheads offer access to backcountry adventures in the Pike National Forest and the Lost Creek Wilderness Area.

While hiking through the historic valley, it is not uncommon to see the ruins of log cabins built by early homesteaders or evidence left behind by prospectors hoping to strike it rich.

A brochure highlighting the historic sites along the Tarryall is available at the Park County Office of Heritage and Tourism, in the Old Park County Courthouse in Fairplay, or online at www.southparkheritage.org/sites/default/files/uploads/tarryall_brochure.pdf.



The historic Wright homestead, now abandoned, is visible from the Tarryall Road.

Behind the Facade: Magnolia Mill

High above Montgomery Reservoir, the Magnolia Mill stands like an ever-vigilant sentinel at the Wheeler Lake trailhead. Hundreds, if not thousands, of recreationists pass beneath the mill's elevated conveyor housing each year, but few know the history behind the impressive industrial complex.

Built by the Magnolia Mines Company in 1939 to replace an earlier mill destroyed by fire, the Magnolia Mill processed ore containing silver, gold, and other metals such as lead and zinc from the Magnolia Mine high on North Star Mountain.

The Magnolia Mine began operations during the 1880s under owner Lyman Fay, decades before the existing mill was constructed. Lyman, a Park County miner since 1859, was fatally injured in August 1885 when a set of timbers near the mouth of the mine gave way and he was crushed beneath falling rock. After Fay's death, Alma engineer and surveyor William H. Powless acquired the Magnolia and leased it to a variety of hopeful entrepreneurs.

A number of small, Montgomery-area mills, including the Wist Mill, processed ore from the Magnolia Mine between 1884 and 1905. As early as 1899, jack trains brought ore from the Magnolia to the Wist, which, research suggests, was located on or very near the site of the existing mill.

In 1901, Herbert Eddy and Daniel Jewett leased the Wist Mill and set about making improvements. A.A. Bissell, with the B.L.&B. Mill and Mining Company, took over operations two years later, completing \$6,000 in major renovations to the mill.

Bissell expanded the original 20-by-50-foot building, constructing a two-story 25-by-64-foot addition. He added twelve new cyanidation tanks to complement the original ten stamp batteries and two Wilfley concentrating tables. He also installed a new water power system, though he left the existing steam power system in place for use during the winter months.

When ore from the mine reached the mill, the stamp batteries finely crushed it and water was added to form a slurry, which was then mixed with cyanide in the large tanks. The cyanide reacted with the gold, separating the valuable metal from the waste rock.

Despite the improvements, the mill was not successful for any sustained period of time. In 1905, Eddy resumed his position overseeing the mill, which sporadically

processed ore from a number of nearby mines, including the Kansas, Chicago, and Atlantic.

The area's rich deposits were generally exhausted by 1910 and the remaining low-grade ore was difficult to process. Despite the challenges, the Commonwealth Mining Company leased the Magnolia Mine and what was then known as the Eddy Mill. Louis L. Davis, son of prominent Denver businessman Leverett Davis, managed the mine and mill. In 1916, he reported that the company was remodeling the mill and constructing a new tramway



The Magnolia Mill, pictured soon after its completion in 1939, still stands near Montgomery Reservoir. (Denver Public Library)

to carry ore from the mine to the mill 3,500 feet below. In an effort to improve profitability, the stamp batteries were replaced with a ball mill in 1923, but Davis's venture was ultimately unsuccessful.

Interest in the Magnolia resurfaced in 1932. Investors believed that given the new technology available, the mine could once again be profitable. The tramway was rebuilt and improvements such as flotation equipment and vibrating tables were installed at the mill to more efficiently separate the precious metal from the waste rock. The Magnolia produced steadily until 1939 when fire destroyed the mill and briefly halted mining operations. Within a year, the existing mill was built and milling began anew, until shortages resulting from World War II caused operations to cease in 1942.

The mill has changed very little since it ceased operating during the war. The complex consists of three primary elements, the tramway terminal/ore bin/

crusher room, the conveyor, and the mill building. The aerial tramway brought ore from the mine to the ore bin/crusher room (the tall structure east of the larger mill building). There a jaw crusher pulverized the ore into gravel. The 67-foot conveyor carried the gravel from the ore bin to the top of the mill, where the concentration operations were housed.

Concentration is the process of removing waste from the ore, thus increasing the percentage of valuable mineral contained in the resulting material, called concentrates. Based on physical evidence, it is believed that the conveyor carried gravel to the ball mill, which ground the ore to form a slurry. The slurry was screened and larger material returned to the ball mill for additional grinding. The finer particles moved on to the flotation equipment and vibrating tables, which used mechanical and chemical processes to further concentrate the slurry. The resulting concentrates were dried and shipped to a smelter for final processing.

Today the Magnolia Mill stands as an outstanding example of the impressive industrial ore processing facilities that supported Park County's mining operations. Eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the mill is an important part of our mining heritage and truly a place worth saving. Help preserve this exceptional building by respecting posted signage, treading lightly, and leaving no trace when you visit.

Como *(continued from page 4)*

Community Center. During Phase 1, Abbey Christman, a professor at the University of Colorado at Denver, will oversee survey fieldwork and conduct in-depth historical research to determine whether a National Register historic district in Como is a possibility. If so, and the community is supportive, Phase 2 will include preparation of a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Listing on the National Register is an honorary designation only; it will not prevent future development and places no obligations on private property owners whatsoever. Private property owners will not be required to allow public access to their property, will not be required to restore their property and will not be prevented from changing, expanding, or demolishing their buildings, or from constructing new buildings on their property, as long as all applicable Park County planning, zoning, and building regulations are met. If you have any questions about the National Register, the survey work now underway, or any of the other preservation projects in Como, please contact Park County Preservation Planner Amy Unger at 719-836-4292.

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/oa hp>

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>



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

Visit our website at:

www.parkco.us

Follow us on Facebook for more news and
event information.

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. We look forward to hearing from you!