



PRESERVATION MATTERS

SPRING 2015

Volume IV, Issue 2

Upcoming Events

- JUNE 13
PARIS MILL OPEN HOUSE AND
MASTER PLAN MEETING
10 AM
PARIS MILL, NEAR ALMA
WWW.SOUTHPARKHERITAGE.ORG
- JUNE 20
PCHPAC MEETING
9 AM
OLD PARK COUNTY
COURTHOUSE,
418 MAIN ST, FAIRPLAY
WWW.PARKCO.US
- JUNE 22-26
HISTORICORPS PROJECT
AT OLD PARK COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
WWW.HISTORICORPS.ORG

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Historic Importance of Park County's Cemeteries Recognized

Cemeteries are invaluable records of the past, documenting the history of a community and embodying the unique cultural, economic, and social heritage of the area they serve. In recognition of the importance of these historic places, Park County began a number of cemetery-related initiatives that are now coming to fruition.

Reconnaissance surveys of 18 historic cemeteries and burial sites completed by county staff last year were used by historians Tom and Laurie Simmons of Front Range Research Associates to write a historical context for Park County's historic cemeteries. The context provides a comprehensive overview of the county's many cemeteries and provides a framework for understanding and evaluating their historical significance.

Additionally, the document serves as an official guide to evaluating a cemetery's eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. To fulfill this important role, the document must be reviewed and approved locally

and then forwarded to the Colorado State Historic Preservation Review Board and the National Park Service for final approval. In May, the context was approved by Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission and the Board of County Commissioners before it headed to the state review board, which unanimously and enthusiastically supported the thorough and well-researched work done by the Simmonses. We will post the completed context on the Park County website once it receives final approval from the NPS this summer.

In other May news, the BOCC approved designation of the Guffey Cemetery

as a Park County Historic Landmark. The cemetery is the second Park County cemetery to be honored with historic status. The Shawnee Cemetery received historic designation in 2010 as part of the Shawnee Historic District.

Established in 1897 in response to the rapid development of the Freshwater
(continued on page 5)



*The grave of Civil War veteran William Boutwell at the Guffey Cemetery (top).
Bordenville Cemetery (bottom).*



Upcoming Events

- JUNE 27
MAGNOLIA MILL
COMMUNITY WORK DAY
9AM
NEAR MONTGOMERY
RESERVOIR
WWW.SOUTHPARKHERITAGE.ORG/GET-INVOLVED
- JUNE 27
BAILEY DAY
WWW.BAILEY-COLORADO.ORG/BAILEY-DAY-2015
- JULY 2
COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED
FOR FOURTH OF JULY
- JULY 4-5
OLD WEST DAYS
SOUTH PARK CITY MUSEUM
FAIRPLAY, CO
WWW.SOUTHPARKCITY.ORG
- JULY 5-24
HISTORICORPS PROJECT
AT BUFFALO PEAKS RANCH
WWW.HISTORICORPS.ORG
- JULY 14-19
PARK COUNTY FAIR & RODEO
FAIRGROUNDS
FAIRPLAY
WWW.PARKCOFAIR.COM
- JULY 18
PCHPAC MEETING
9 AM
OLD PARK COUNTY
COURTHOUSE,
418 MAIN ST, FAIRPLAY
WWW.PARKCO.US

Letter from the Office of Historic Preservation

One of the best things about working for the Park County Office of Historic Preservation is helping to bring new life to long-vacant historic places. This summer we will continue to pursue that goal as work begins on a number of construction projects and new initiatives.

Phase I construction work will begin June 1 at the Paris Mill, and HistoriCorps will once again set up its tents in Park County to help jump-start rehabilitation work at the Old Park County Courthouse and Buffalo Peaks Ranch (see item below).

We are also excited to report that plans are currently in development to convert the historic Cline Ranch to an outdoor educational facility in partnership with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte. We are especially pleased to have an opportunity to partner with CUSP, a

non-profit organization that has diligently worked to protect the water quality and ecological health of the Upper South Platte Watershed and educate area youths about the importance of protecting our shared natural resources.

We plan to continue supporting the preservation and adaptive reuse of other Park County historic sites, including the Clesson Cabin, Magnolia Mill, and Garo Store.

If you have questions about the future of your historic property, Park County staff are available to discuss potential strategies and offer assistance. Feel free to give us a call or stop by our offices at the Old Park County Courthouse in Fairplay.

—Amy Unger

Rocky Mountain Land Library to Begin Rehab of Buffalo Peaks

In July, the Rocky Mountain Land Library will begin transforming the historic Guiraud/McDowell (Buffalo Peaks) Ranch into a new home for its collection of over 32,000 books related to Colorado's natural history. Also envisioned at the ranch is a residential study center.

Phase I will begin July 5 when HistoriCorps volunteers arrive at the ranch to begin re-roofing the historic bunkhouse and cookhouse buildings. Work is expected to take place over three one-week work sessions. Sessions are currently full, but you can add your name to the volunteer waiting list at the [HistoriCorps website](#).

Established in 1863 by French immigrants Adolph and Marie Guiraud, Buffalo Peaks Ranch is one of South Park's oldest ranches. After Adolph's death, Marie continued running the ranch



Buffalo Peaks Ranch. Photo by Berry Oliver.

with their 10 children, becoming one of the wealthiest women in Colorado and amassing one of the largest fortunes in South Park. In 1942, the McDowell family bought the ranch and further increased its size and production.

The Office of Historic Preservation is excited to assist the Rocky Mountain Land Library in realizing its dreams for the ranch. To learn more about the organization and its plans, visit the [New York Times website](#) to view a recent feature article on the library.

Recipients of 2015 Park County Preservation Awards Honored

In May, the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission presented awards to five individuals and organizations who made a difference by helping to preserve Park County's history. This year's recipients include Debra Green for leading the initiative to digitize historical documents held by the Park County Clerk and Recorder; Paul Otto for his commitment to preserving the Bessey Blacksmith Shop; Barbara Behl for her work with the Shawnee Historical Society; Dan Corson, retiring intergovernmental services director at History Colorado for his longtime support of Park County's preservation programs; and the Denver, South Park and Pacific Historical Society for its role in the restoration of the Como Depot. PCHPAC also presented a special award to county staff members Erica Duvic and Amy Unger for their work rehabilitating the Old Park County Courthouse in Fairplay.



David Tomkins (top left) with PCHPAC chairman Doug Stephens and Linda Balough, director of the Department of Heritage, Tourism and Community Development. Tomkins accepted a Preservation Award on behalf of the Denver, South Park and Pacific Historical Society. Barbara Behl (above left) was recognized for her work in Shawnee.



Upcoming Events

- **JULY 18-19**
FESTIVAL IN THE CLOUDS
ALMA
[WWW.ALMAFOUNDATION.COM/](http://WWW.ALMAFOUNDATION.COM/EVENTS/FESTIVALCLOUDS)
[EVENTS/FESTIVALCLOUDS](http://WWW.ALMAFOUNDATION.COM/EVENTS/FESTIVALCLOUDS)
- **JULY 25-26**
BURRO DAYS
FAIRPLAY
WWW.BURRODAYS.COM
- **AUGUST 1-2**
HARTSEL DAYS
- **AUGUST 8-9**
LIVING HISTORY DAYS
SOUTH PARK CITY
FAIRPLAY
WWW.SOUTHPARKCITY.ORG
- **AUGUST 8-15**
COMO MOUNTAIN MAN
RENDEZVOUS
COMO
WWW.COMORENDEZVOUS.COM
- **AUGUST 15**
PCHPAC MEETING
9 AM
OLD PARK COUNTY
COURTHOUSE,
418 MAIN ST, FAIRPLAY
WWW.PARKCO.US
- **AUGUST 22**
BOREAS PASS RAILROAD DAY
COMO
- **SEPTEMBER 26**
CEMETERY MOON WALK
ALMA

Payne Residence, Listed on State Register, Lost to Demolition

Demolition of the residence at the historic John Payne Homestead began in May, unbeknownst to county staff. Work has ceased while the owner secures the proper permits, but the historic building appears to be lost. The homestead includes a number of historic log buildings including a bunkhouse, loafing shed, and barn that remain intact.

Established by John and Olive Payne in 1916 and listed on the State Register of Historic Places in 1995, the homestead is historically significant for its association with agricultural development along Tarryall Creek during the early twentieth century.

John and Olive's son Roy took over operations after his parents died in the early 1920s, working the cattle ranch into

the 1930s. The ranch passed through a number of owners before local rancher Clyde Gilley acquired the property around 1948. Gilley's descendents continue to live in the Lake George area, though the family no longer owns the ranch.



Tom and Bob Gilley as children on the porch of the historic Payne Homestead around 1948.

Historic Destinations: Lake George Community Park

While the wet weather and persistent snow have made exploring Park County's higher elevations difficult this spring, the southern part of the county offers a variety of accessible heritage experiences—no snowshoes required.

Consider a visit to the Lake George Community Park on Highway 24 just north of the Lake George commercial district.

A recently installed scenic interpretive trail at the Community Park highlights the natural and cultural history of the Lake George area and includes a stop at a partially restored log cabin locally known as the "Squatter's Cabin."

Nearby stands the historic landmark Snair Cabin, an authentic 1875 log cabin built by Richard Snair, a well-respected early homesteader in the Tarryall region. When the historic cabin was threatened by demolition in 2005, community members worked together to move the building to the park and restore it for public enjoyment. The cabin is open year round free of charge and offers a unique chance to experience a small slice of what life was like for the families of Colorado's pioneer farmers and ranchers.

In the late 1880s, Snair's homestead property was purchased by George Frost, a wealthy Bostonian who recognized early on that construction of the Colorado Midland Railway represented economic opportunity for



The Snair Cabin, built in 1875 and moved to the Lake George Community Park in 2005, offers a glimpse of early pioneer life.



The historic "Squatter's Cabin" is one of several stops along the new interpretive hiking trail at the Lake George Community Park.



residents of the South Park.

Frost constructed a dam on the South Platte River at the mouth of Eleven Mile Canyon and established a successful ice-cutting business that became a major supplier of ice to the railroad and the Pikes Peak region. The community of Lake George sprang up around the ice-works and grew to be an important stop along the Colorado Midland line connecting Leadville and Colorado Springs.

Adjacent to the Snair Cabin stands a memorial to the railroad workers who lost their lives building or operating the Colorado Midland Railway in Eleven Mile Canyon. The Colorado Midland was the first standard gauge railroad built over the Continental Divide in Colorado and operated until 1918.

Additional amenities at the Lake George Community Park include picnic tables and a public restroom. After your visit take a scenic drive along the historic Tarryall Road or through Eleven Mile Canyon.

Paris Mill Draft Master Plan Presentation and Open House - June 13 at 10am

The first draft of the Preservation Master Plan for the Paris Mill will be presented to the public at 10am on June 13 at the mill, weather permitting. Don't miss your chance to review initial plans for the historic publicly owned mill building and its surrounding 16-acre site.

Prepared by architects SLATERPAULL | Hord Coplan Macht and informed by public input gathered in February, the master plan's primary purpose is to provide a practical strategy for the long-term preservation, interpretation, and maintenance of the Paris Mill as well as the development, interpretation, and preservation of the site.

Participants will be asked for feedback on the location of site amenities such as restrooms and interpretive signage, hiking trail routes, ideal pathways through the building interior, parking, and more.

The master plan will be an invaluable tool as the county prepares the site for public use and ensures that future visitors will be able to fully appreciate the history

of the mill, its impact on the landscape, and its role in the economic and cultural development of Park County.

If you have questions about the plan, contact Erica Duvic at 719-836-4273.



Cemeteries *(continued from page 1)*

mining camp (later Guffey) the Guffey Cemetery is a fine example of a boot hill cemetery. The Simmonses describe boot hill cemeteries as “early burial grounds established in response to rapid growth in population and a lack of traditional facilities and support systems for handling the dead.” Boot hills are characterized by “a basically unaltered natural setting on land not considered valuable for other functions, often the top of a hill or mountain slope; graves scattered randomly around the site; simple markers, if any, of wood boards or native stone carved or placed in cairns; a diversity of occupants, with lack of separation based on ethnicity, race, or class; and little or no records created and retained to document burials.”

The Guffey Cemetery was also recognized as the embodiment of the area's local heritage. Taken as a whole, the stories of the individuals buried there paint a picture of life in Guffey between 1897 and 1945. The stories behind the names inscribed on the cemetery's “silent stones” tell us what kind of people settled in Guffey during the 1890s and early 1900s, where they came from, and what they hoped to achieve. As the Simmonses have noted when describing the significance of cemeteries, burial grounds are places where local

history, as communicated by monuments and markers, is evident and lasting. You can access the full history of the cemetery and its residents via the [Recent Designations](#) page at the Park County website.

Cemetery work will continue in 2015 with additional reconnaissance surveys and mapping projects planned. In 2014, the South Park National Heritage Area provided funding to survey and map the Como Cemetery. This year, maps of the Alma/Buckskin and Lake George cemeteries will be prepared. Because very few records and maps of Park County's historic burial grounds survive, the new maps will document critical information about each cemetery, including property boundaries, existing grave locations, and significant man-made and natural features. The maps will help protect existing graves and provide useful information for future research.

The OHP looks forward to working with the Park County Cemetery Board, the Alma Cemetery Board, the town of Fairplay, local community associations, property owners, and interested residents to help preserve and celebrate these often vulnerable historic places. If you are the owner of a private cemetery and would like to learn more about the history of your cemetery, please feel free to contact the Office of Historic Preservation at 719-836-4292 or historicpres@parkco.us.

Behind the Facade: River Street Bridge

America's historic infrastructure—canals, locks and dams, power plants, tunnels, railways, roads, and bridges—contribute to our understanding of the past in much the same way as buildings. From these structures, we can learn about historical engineering and construction techniques as well as the history and development of transportation networks and public services such as water and power. Historic bridges, perhaps the most commonly recognized type of historic infrastructure, often reveal technological advances in design and construction as well as the values of the people and communities who built them.

In Park County, four historic bridges have been identified as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and one, the Estabrook Bridge, is a contributing feature in the Estabrook Historic District. Yet to be fully evaluated are other local bridges, including the former highway span over the South Platte River at River Street near Llangollen, the early-1900s summer home of wealthy Denver businessman John L. Stearns, in the Belford Mountain Heights subdivision.

The bridge, no longer in use, was once part of the

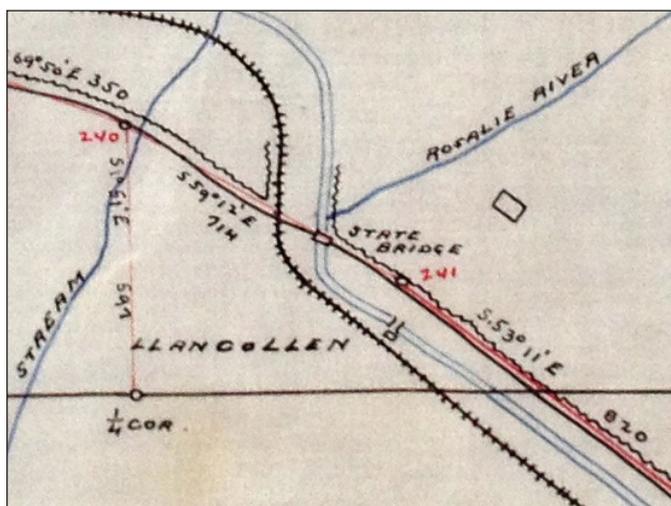


old state highway that roughly paralleled the Colorado & Southern railroad tracks through Platte Canyon. No markings indicating a date of construction have been found on the bridge and its exact construction date remains unknown. However, County Surveyor William Powless' 1914 map of the state highway between Fairplay and Singleton documents the bridge, confirming that it is at least 101 years old.

The single-span steel girder bridge is supported by board-formed concrete abutments and wing walls. Two steel I-beam girders span the river and support the bridge's wooden deck, which rests on rough-sawn wooden floorbeams running between the two I-beams. Two steel pipes span the river alongside the I-beams and help support the bridge's steel guardrail. The decorative lattice guardrail's design is typical of bridges built in the 1910s and '20s.

The girder and floorbeam design of the bridge is most commonly seen in railroad bridge construction and few Colorado state highway bridges were constructed in this way. Early on, the Colorado Highway Commission generally preferred steel stringer designs in which a series of parallel steel beams (stringers) were used to support the bridge's deck.

Additional research is needed to fully appreciate the history and significance of the River Street bridge, however its age, excellent integrity, and design features make it worthy of preservation as an important part of the history of highway and transportation development in Park County during the early 1900s.



William Powless's 1914 state highway surveyor map documents the River Street bridge near Llangollen, the early 1900s summer home of wealthy Denver businessman John L. Stearns, located within the Belford Mountain Heights subdivision.

First Phase of Old Park County Courtroom Rehab to Take Place June 22 - 26

In late June, volunteers will begin work to restore the historic character of the second-floor courtroom at the Old Park County Courthouse in Fairplay. Over the years, the courtroom underwent a number of renovations that masked its original appearance and historic character. Led by HistoriCorps, a non-profit organization dedicated to the saving of historic places, volunteers from across the country will remove non-historic wood paneling and 1970s carpeting. A dropped ceiling installed in the 1950s will be removed, restoring the original 12-foot ceiling height and the courtroom's open, light-filled feel.

After the first phase is complete, the county will work to raise the necessary funding to upgrade the courtroom's electrical systems and lighting, repair and repaint its historic plaster walls and ceiling, and install appropriate flooring. Once the rehabilitation is complete, the courtroom will be used as a meeting and gathering space and possibly to host the occasional municipal court proceeding.

The historic courthouse opened its doors in 1874 and many of Park County's most famous trials took place in the upstairs courtroom. The county looks forward to

returning this history-filled space to its former elegance. To help guide the direction of the work, we are seeking photographs that document the historic appearance of the courtroom. If you have photos you would like to share or would like to donate to the courtroom rehabilitation project, contact Erica Duvic at 719-836-4273.



Work will soon begin to bring back the historic feel and character of the second-floor courtroom at the Old Park County Courthouse in Fairplay.

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

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<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>



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with a Purpose*

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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 historicpres@parkco.us. We look forward to hearing from you!