



PRESERVATION MATTERS

WINTER 2014

Volume III, Issue 1

Upcoming Events

- **JANUARY 17**
PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
 6:30 PM
SHEPHERD OF THE ROCKIES LUTHERAN CHURCH
 106 ROSALIE AVE., BAILEY
 WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM
- **JANUARY 18**
LIFE OF A MOUNTAIN MAN
 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM
HISTORY COLORADO CENTER DENVER
 WWW.HISTORYCOLORADO.ORG
- **JANUARY 20**
PARK COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

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Planning for the Future of the Alma Ladies Aid Hall Underway

Efforts to bring new life to the historic Alma Ladies Aid Hall are now underway. In the coming months, the Town of Alma, Alma Foundation, Office of Historic Preservation, and South Park National Heritage Area will be working together to develop a plan for rehabilitation of this important historic landmark community building. At the January 7 meeting of the Alma Board of Trustees, staff from the Office of Historic Preservation and South Park National Heritage Area presented potential options for saving the circa 1870s former mining office and community hall and adapting it to a new use.

Board members expressed their support for rehabilitating the hall for community use and a public meeting has been scheduled to discuss options for reuse, including incorporating the historic building into larger plans for construction of a new performing arts/community center on the town-owned site. The meeting will be held at the Alma Town Hall on Saturday, February 1 at 2pm. We encourage anyone with an

interest in the preservation of Alma's historic character to attend. Staff will present information on the history of the building and gather public input on future development at the site.

Originally constructed during Alma's mining heyday, this unassuming wood frame building has proudly stood at the side of Highway 9 for over 130 years. After

first serving as the offices and scale house for the Fanny Barret Smelting Works, the building was acquired by the Alma Ladies Aid in the 1910s or early 1920s. A stage and kitchen were added and the building became the center of Alma's social life, hosting box socials, concerts, theater performances, Halloween parties,

birthdays, and memorial services.

Bringing new life to this landmark building will strengthen the historic character of Alma and preserve a fine example of a 1800s-era mining building while honoring the strong sense of community that has been a part of Alma's culture since the town was first incorporated in 1873.

PUBLIC MEETING

Help Shape the Future of the Alma Ladies Aid Hall



Saturday, February 1 • 2pm • Alma Town Hall

Join the Town of Alma, Alma Foundation, Park County Office of Historic Preservation, and South Park National Heritage Area for a presentation on the history of the landmark Alma Ladies Aid Hall and a discussion of future plans for this important historic community building.

For more information call 719-836-4273.





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- **JANUARY 21**
SHAWNEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
 6:30 PM
 SHAWNEE TEA ROOM
 SHAWNEE
WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM
- **JANUARY 28**
PCHPAC MEETING
 9 AM
 FAIRPLAY LIBRARY
 FAIRPLAY
WWW.PARKCO.US
- **FEBRUARY 1**
ALMA LADIES AID HALL PUBLIC MEETING
 2 PM
 ALMA TOWN HALL
 ALMA
- **FEBRUARY 5-7**
COLORADO PRESERVATION INC.'S SAVING PLACES CONFERENCE
COLORADO CONVENTION CENTER, DENVER
WWW.COLORADOPRESERVATION.ORG
- **FEBRUARY 17**
PARK COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY
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WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM

Letter from the Office of Historic Preservation

With multiple preservation projects scheduled at sites throughout Park County, 2014 is shaping up to be another exciting year. We will be building on last year's successes, strengthening our existing partnerships, and developing new initiatives as we continue to promote the preservation and appreciation of Park County's singular cultural heritage.

Plans for 2014 include Phase I construction at the Paris Mill, which will restore the missing roof section over the cyanidation wing and repair the collapsing south wall of the gold precipitation wing. Much needed exterior rehabilitation work at the historic landmark Tarryall School is scheduled for later in the summer, in partnership with HistoriCorps and the South Park National Heritage Area. If grant funding allows, we also hope to complete masonry restoration work at the Old Park County Courthouse and initiate stabilization work at the Alma Ladies Aid Hall in the coming year.

In May, we will celebrate preservation month by hosting the Park County Historic Preservation Awards at the landmark Snair Cabin in Lake George. The event will include the unveiling of a new memorial to fallen railroad workers of

the Colorado Midland Railway. Look for guided walking tours of Hartsel, Alma, and Fairplay as well as community work days during the summer and fall months.

After the snow melts, we will resume survey fieldwork and continue efforts to document previously unrecorded cultural sites throughout the county. We will also be working with property owners to designate several sites as Park County Historic Landmarks, including the Boston and Colorado Smelter Works, Guffey Cemetery, AG Ranch, and Joseph Henry Singleton House.

Our current five-year Park County Historic Preservation Plan will expire this year and staff will be gathering public input as we determine county-wide preservation priorities for 2015-2020. The new plan will identify areas for growth and guide preservation initiatives in accordance with Park County's Strategic Master Plan.

These are just a few highlights from this year's projects and we hope that you will join us at one or all of our public events. You can stay up-to-date on local preservation activities by liking us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/parkco.preservation. Happy New Year!

—Amy Unger



Plans for 2014 include much-needed exterior repair work at the historic Tarryall School complex in partnership with HistoriCorps and the South Park National Heritage Area.



Look for guided walking tours of Hartsel, Alma, and Fairplay in 2014 hosted by the Park County Office of Historic Preservation and South Park National Heritage Area.

Saving Places: Celebrating Preservation's Role in Community

February 5-7, Colorado Preservation, Inc. will host the 2014 Saving Places Conference. The annual event provides an opportunity for preservation professionals and the public to discuss the challenges and opportunities encountered as they work together to protect and celebrate Colorado's cultural heritage.

This year's conference theme is "Preservation in Plain Sight: Developing a Community Vision."

By bringing together diverse individuals with a common goal of preserving the past, conference organizers hope to encourage strong preservation partnerships within local communities, expand positive perceptions of preservation, and facilitate community-based discussions that can help shape the future of preservation.

Conference sessions will cover topics including historic building restoration techniques, fundraising and non-profit preservation advocacy, strengthening community through preservation, "greening" historic buildings, and mid-

century modern architecture, as well as sessions highlighting historic sites such as the Colorado State Capitol and Amache Internment Camp.

Thursday morning, Park County Preservation Planner Amy Unger will join colleagues from Aspen, Littleton, and Denver, to share how Park County



successfully encourages preservation through its local incentive programs. Later that day, Unger will again join colleagues from Colorado local governments to discuss Park County's extensive education and outreach program, managed in cooperation with the South Park National Heritage Area.

The conference is open to the public and registration continues through the day of the conference. Learn more about what the Saving Places Conference has to offer and register online at www.coloradopreservation.org.



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Stephens Elected PCHPAC Chair, Fagerstrom Vice Chair

At the December meeting of the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission (PCHPAC), members elected Bailey-area resident Doug Stephens as the new commission chair, replacing Elissa Adams. The commissioners and staff thank Adams for her exemplary service as chair during the past nine years and are happy to report that Adams will remain an active member of the commission while enjoying a well-earned break from the chairperson's duties. Jim Fagerstrom, commission member since 1999, will continue to serve as Vice Chair. PCHPAC

is a citizen advisory board appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Board members review projects within the county involving culturally significant properties and provide advice and guidance to the county and the public regarding historic preservation issues. The commission meets regularly on the fourth Saturday of each month at various locations throughout the county. More information about PCHPAC and its members, as well as links to upcoming meeting agendas, can be found at www.parkco.us/index.aspx?NID=354.

PCOHP and SPNHA Begin Survey of Park County's Historic Rural Cemeteries

Throughout Park County, rural cemeteries dot the mountain valleys and broad ranchlands, linking past and present. These important cultural sites honor individuals who have shaped the history of Park County and can provide a wealth of information about the lives of early settlers. In an effort to document the large number of cemeteries within Park County, the Office of Historic Preservation and the South Park Heritage National Area have joined forces to conduct a reconnaissance survey of known burial sites within the county.

To date, the Office of Historic Preservation and South Park National Heritage Area have visited 12 cemeteries and burial sites, photographing and documenting their historic features and characteristics. During the winter months, staff will be busy researching the history of the prominent individual and family burials at the cemeteries and discovering the stories behind many of the unique and unusual headstones.

In addition to developing a more comprehensive public record of Park County's cemeteries, staff hopes to use the information gathered to enrich future research and provide a basis for the designation of eligible cemeteries as historic landmarks, should the cemetery owners wish to honor their sites in such a way. When the survey work is complete, staff's findings will be presented to the public and posted online.

Additionally, the Office of Historic Preservation has applied for a Certified Local Government grant to



The Bordenville Cemetery is located along County Road 77 near Tarryall Reservoir.

commission a historic context for Park County's rural historic cemeteries. The context will provide a thorough historical overview of the county's many cemeteries and provide a framework for evaluating their historic significance. Grant awards will be announced in late January.

Our historic cemeteries can reveal important aspects of Park County's early settlement, shed light on the fascinating and varied people who have called this area home, and provide evidence of our evolving traditions and cultural norms. Preservation of these important cultural sites is critical to keeping the story of Park County's past alive. Look for more information on the cemetery survey project in the coming months.

PCOHP Initiates Architectural Salvage Program with Gift from South Park City

In fall 2013, South Park City Museum, a non-profit outdoor historical museum located in Fairplay, generously donated a large number of historic windows and doors to the Park County Office of Historic Preservation. Over the years, individuals donated the house parts, salvaged from area homes and businesses, to the South Park City Museum, which unfortunately had little use for them. By transferring the collection to PCOHP, the museum hopes to see the beautiful windows and doors once again put to use. The donation will form the core of a new architectural salvage storehouse managed by PCOHP and housed at the Cline Ranch near Como. Park County



residents interested in restoring a local historic building and seeking to replace heavily damaged or missing windows or doors will be able to access the storehouse inventory and hopefully find the replacement part they need. Salvaged material will be available free of charge with a donation to Park County preservation outreach programs encouraged. The storehouse will also welcome donations of historic house parts from the public.

PCOHP will be working this spring to photograph and catalogue the windows and doors with plans to make the inventory accessible online. Stayed tuned for more information on this exciting new preservation resource.

2013 PCHPAC Matching Grants Promote Preservation Projects throughout Park County

One of Park County's most successful preservation tools is the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission (PCHPAC) grant program, which promotes significant local investment in Park County's historic resources as well as public education and heritage tourism through small matching grants. Grants are available to owners of designated and eligible historic properties within the county as well as local businesses and organizations seeking to enhance public



PCHPAC assisted with repairs to historic doors damaged during a break-in at the landmark Thomas McGuire Homestead on Guanella Pass Road.

understanding and awareness of Park County's historic sites. In 2013, PCHPAC awarded five matching grants to local individuals and organizations. Darlynn Keyes, owner of the Thomas McGuire Homestead, the only Park County Historic Landmark in the Grant area, received a small matching grant to help defray the cost of restoring historic entry and screen doors heavily damaged during a 2013 break-in.

In August, the Hartsel Community Center made a significant investment in Hartsel's historic one-room schoolhouse with PCHPAC's help. First constructed in the late 1800s and moved to its present site in 1908, the landmark school was in dire need of repainting to protect



Intense winds damaged portions of the roof at the Fairplay-Valiton Hotel. A PCHPAC matching grant will help repair the roof while maintaining its historic and architectural character. (Photo courtesy of Park County Local History Archives/Sanborn, Ltd.)



The historic Hartsel School has been repainted, protecting the building's wood siding and restoring the original colors.

its historic wood siding from weather damage. The work, completed this fall, restored the school's historic color scheme.

Many local organizations help encourage heritage tourism by contributing to and promoting a greater understanding of Park County's rich and varied history. One such organization, the Park County Local History Archives, received a PCHPAC matching grant to help the public and local researchers gain access to historical papers from the National Archives. These documents contain valuable information that can help reveal the fascinating stories behind Park County's historic sites.

PCHPAC was also pleased to partner with the Lake George Community Association to help the association commission a memorial honoring individuals who lost their lives building and operating the Colorado Midland Railway, the transportation line that played a critical role in the development of southern Park County. The memorial will be installed in the Lake George Community Park and dedicated in May.

This fall and winter, high winds reeked havoc on the roof of the historic Fairplay-Valiton Hotel, causing significant and costly damage. This December, the hotel, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, received a grant to make repairs to the most heavily damaged portions of the roof. The grant will help defray the extra costs associated with preserving the roof's unique curved eaves, a signature feature of Rustic style architecture and a vital component of the building's architectural significance.

For more information about grants and other incentives available to historic properties, visit www.parkco.us/index.aspx?nid=472 or contact Amy Unger, Preservation Planner, at 719-836-4292.

Behind the Facade: Snowstorm Dredge

Tucked behind a huge gravel pile on the east side of Highway 9 stands the Snowstorm Dredge, the last intact mining dredge in Colorado. Built by the Bodinson Manufacturing Company in 1939-1941 for the Timberline Dredging Company, the disassembled dredge arrived in Park County via truck. Alma's Gately Motor Company transported the many pieces of the dredge from the railroad station in Buena Vista to the Snowstorm Placer, a large placer claim located between Fairplay and Alma.

The enormous mobile gold processing plant, originally known as Timberline Dredging Co. Dredge No. 2, was designed specifically to work the Snowstorm Placer. Dredging operations began in 1941 but were halted in October 1942 due to restrictions resulting from the onset of World War II. The dredge briefly resumed work in 1947 before shutting down again in 1948.

Dredging operations were associated with the later phases of mining in Park County. Early mining operations in the county typically utilized placer mining techniques such as panning, sluicing, and hydraulicking to harvest gold from river and creek beds. These methods soon became obsolete as the easily accessible placer gold deposits were exhausted. Miners moved to lode mining, digging tunnels and shafts into the surrounding mountains as they followed veins of gold and silver deep into the rock. Lode mining was an expensive, labor intensive venture and after the Silver Panic of 1893 drove the price of silver to all time lows, lode mining activity in Park County slowed significantly.

In the early 1900s, mining companies began to employ dredge technology in an attempt to extract gold ore left behind by early placer mining operations. Dredging utilized what were essentially large-scale floating excavation/processing machines to separate gold from gravel deposits. Bucket-line dredges featured a continuous loop of buckets mounted on a large boom. During operation, the moving chain of buckets scooped up dirt and gravel from the surrounding landscape and carried the material to a washing plant contained within the dredge's hull. After passing through a sieve that separated out the large non-gold-bearing material, the remaining gravel and dirt entered a sluice system designed to separate the gold from the gravel. Conveyors then moved the waste material out the rear of the dredge.

Typically smaller in size, dragline dredges like the Snowstorm Dredge used a dragline with a single bucket suspended from a boom to feed material into the hopper of the washing plant located within the hull. Waste



The Snowstorm Dredge near Fairplay is believed to be the last remaining intact dredge in Colorado. (Photos courtesy Park County Local History Archives/South Park Historical Foundation and William Ballenger Collections.)

gravel exited the dredge through a projecting stacker apparatus at the rear. Because the excavation unit was separate from the floating hull, plants like the Snowstorm were technically classified as gold washing plants, but commonly referred to as dredges.

In 1922, the first dredge in Park County, built by the South Park Dredging Company of San Francisco, began operations on the South Platte River below Fairplay. By the late 1930s and early 1940s, several dredges churned the river and creek beds of Park County, leaving huge piles of gravel in their wake.

The Timberline Dredging Company operated a large bucket dredge on Beaver Creek in 1940 before installing the Snowstorm Dredge north of Fairplay. The Snowstorm consisted of a Bodinson boat with a 151-foot boom and a 7.5-cubic-yard Esco bucket. It was the largest dragline dredge operating in Colorado and by 1942 was recovering a significant amount of gold.

After shutting down in 1948, the dredge remained idle for more than twenty-five years. In 1975, a refurbished Snowstorm Dredge briefly resumed processing, fed via a conveyor belt as opposed to a dragline, before permanently ceasing operations.

After Park County's other dredges were moved out of state or dismantled, the Snowstorm Dredge became the sole intact example of this important mining technology in Park County and eventually Colorado. In recognition of its considerable historic significance, the dredge was one of the first historic resources to be designated as a Park County Historic Landmark in 1999.

Funded in part by the State Historical Fund, Park

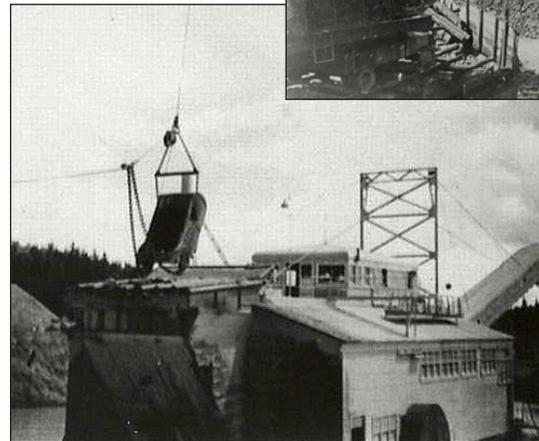
County, the University of Denver Center for Community Development and Design, and private donations, a Historic Structure Assessment of the dredge was completed. The report found the enormous industrial structure to be in surprisingly good condition.

In 2001, fears that the dredge might be dismantled and sold for scrap prompted its inclusion on Colorado Preservation Inc.'s Most Endangered Places list. Soon afterward, a number of local and state organizations banded together in an effort to raise funds to move the dredge to a publicly accessible location. Despite some initial success securing funds from the State Historical Fund and other sources, progress on the project stalled and plans for the move, like the dredge, fell dormant for many years.

Today, there is renewed interest in moving this amazing piece of Park County's mining past to a new location and opening it for public tours. Gold Unlimited, a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation of "our rich gold mining heritage through education and action," is spearheading recent preservation efforts in partnership with the Town of Fairplay, South Park National Heritage Area, and South Park City Museum. If you would like to donate to the effort, visit www.savethesnowstorm.com.

or contact the Town of Fairplay at (719) 836-2622. All donations are tax deductible and go directly to the Town of Fairplay Snowstorm fund.

In other local dredge news, plans are underway in Breckenridge to preserve was remains of the Reiling Gold Dredge, a partially intact 1908 dredge that operated in French Gulch before sinking in 1922.



A dragline (above) fed gravel into the hopper of the washing plant of the Snowstorm Dredge (left).

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!