



PRESERVATION MATTERS

FALL 2013

Volume II, Issue 4

Upcoming Events

- **OCTOBER 6**
PCHS FIELD TRIP - SANTA MARIA YMCA CAMP
9:40 AM
MCGRAW PARK, BAILEY
WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM
- **OCTOBER 12, 2013**
PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING DINNER AND HISTORY PRESENTATION: FATHER DYER
5:00 PM
SHEPHERD OF THE ROCKIES LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 ROSALIE AVE., BAILEY
WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM

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Paris Mill Named to National Register of Historic Places

On August 6, the Paris Mill was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The mill is the twentieth site in Park County to be recognized by the National Park Service for its significant contribution to the heritage of Park County. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

The striking timber frame building, located on Buckskin Road near Alma, was completed in 1895 to process ore from the Paris Mine located high atop Mt. Bross. The mill operated sporadically for 42



years until ceasing operations in 1937.

By adding the mill to the National Register, the National Park Service officially recognized the significant role that the mill played in the development of the gold mining industry in the Mosquito Range and the impressive engineering and architectural achievements represented by the mill.

Park County Receives Nearly \$200,000 in Grants for Mill

The good news kept coming in August! Early in the month, we learned that the State Historical Fund and the Bill and Carol Gossard Preservation Fund for Colorado and the Peter Grant Preservation Fund for Colorado of the National Trust for Historic Preservation had awarded \$196,575 in grant funding to Park County for rehabilitation of the Paris Mill. The grants will be used to fund a \$266,000 project that will address critical deficiencies at the mill including restoration of the missing cyanidation wing roof and rebuilding of the partially collapsed south wall of the gold precipitation wing.

SLATERPAULL architects will

spend the winter creating plans for construction, which will begin next spring. In the meantime, our office will continue to work with the South Park National Heritage Area to raise additional funds for the project. After the plans for Phase I are complete, the architects will begin work on a master plan for future construction phases.

The work planned for next year will bring us one step closer to opening the mill to the public. Follow our progress at parismill.com, where can also donate to the Preserve the Paris project online, or like us on Facebook to stay up to date on the project and future fundraising fun.



Upcoming Events

- **OCTOBER 15, 2013**
SHAWNEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
 6:30 PM
 SHAWNEE TEA ROOM
 SHAWNEE
 WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM
- **OCTOBER 20, 2013**
PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
 6:30 PM
 SHEPHERD OF THE ROCKIES LUTHERAN CHURCH
 106 ROSALIE AVE., BAILEY
 WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM
- **OCTOBER 26, 2013**
PCHPAC MEETING
 9 AM
 OLD PARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE
 WWW.PARKCO.US
- **OCTOBER 26, 2013**
SHAWNEE WITCHES BREW HALLOWEEN BENEFIT
 1:00 - 4:00 PM
 SHAWNEE TEA ROOM,
 SHAWNEE
 WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM
- **NOVEMBER 9, 2013**
PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING DINNER AND HISTORY PRESENTATION
 5:00 PM
 SHEPHERD OF THE ROCKIES LUTHERAN CHURCH
 106 ROSALIE AVE., BAILEY
 WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM

Letter from the Office of Historic Preservation

Volunteer opportunities abounded this summer and early fall with community work days at the Cline Ranch, Clesson Cabin, and Paris Mill. Local residents and visitors alike generously donated their mornings to help preserve these historic buildings.

On August 3, a small but dedicated volunteer crew dug in—literally—to preservation work at the Cline Ranch along Highway 285 between Como and Jefferson. The crew removed vegetation from around the building, cleared the front porch of hay and years of debris, and constructed a fence around an open well.

On September 14, the Alma Foundation organized a group of local residents to paint the windows and doors at the landmark Clesson Cabin in Alma. Volunteers picked up where the HistoriCorps crew left off last spring, putting a coat of paint on the cabin's newly restored windows and doors. Look for more volunteer opportunities at the cabin next spring.

Last fall, the South Park National Heritage Area, the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, and the Park County Office of Historic Preservation hosted the first annual Paris Mill Community Work Day. We returned to the mill this

year on September 21 to patch additional holes in the building, remove unwanted vegetation, map surrounding landscape features, and clear trash from the 16-acre site. Many thanks to the new and returning volunteers who helped make the day a lot of fun and a great success.

Look for more opportunities to volunteer next year at the Tarryall School, Cline Ranch, Clesson Cabin, Paris Mill, and more!

—Amy Unger



Volunteers Mark Curtis, Taylor Roberts, Paula Scanland, Glenn & Gloria Ohrns, Kate & Cory Agner, Larry Frank, Jennifer Spencer, Sally Simmons, Jeff Speers, Ginni Greer, Sara Edinberg, and team leaders Kimberly Dufty, Tim Balough, and Megan Potter joined county staff Erica Duvic, Hanna Eckroth, Linda Balough, and Amy Unger at the Paris Mill in September.



The Alma Foundation hosted a volunteer work day at the Clesson Cabin. Residents helped paint the newly restored windows and doors in preparation for winter.



Volunteers Jane Gilsinger, Megan Potter, and Doug Stephens joined county staff Linda Balough, Erica Duvic, and Amy Unger at the Cline Ranch Community Work Day in August.

PCHPAC Recommends Historic Barn for Landmark Listing

On September 28, the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission voted unanimously to recommend designation of the Baker/Steiner Barn as a Park County Historic Landmark.

Located near Jefferson along Lost Park Road, the circa 1880s barn is one of the largest and best preserved nineteenth-century log hay barns in the South Park. Connected with the David Baker and Peter Schattinger families, early settlers that played an important role in the historical development of ranching in the South Park, the barn is a highly visible reminder of the significant impact these families had on the area and the important role ranching, and more specifically hay production, played in the development of the Jefferson area.

The high quality of the hay grown in the South Park drew settlers to the Jefferson area during the 1870s and 80s.



The Baker/Steiner Barn near Jefferson is one of the largest and best-preserved nineteenth-century log hay barns in the South Park.

In 1873, Ohio native and civil war veteran David Baker and his wife Emily Vance established a homestead, later known as the Upper Baker Ranch, near the base of Kenosha Pass. Nine years later, the family expanded their operations by purchasing an additional 168 acres southeast of their homestead. These fields, expanded again in 1885, would become the Lower Baker Ranch and included the site of the Baker/Steiner Barn.

Baker presumably constructed the more than 5,400 square foot log barn in the mid-1880s to house hay cut from

(continued on page 7)



This photo from the 1890s depicts the view from David Baker's Upper Ranch toward the Baker's Lower Ranch and the site of the Baker/Steiner barn.



Upcoming Events

- **NOVEMBER 9, 2013**
SHAWNEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
6:30 PM
SHAWNEE TEA ROOM
SHAWNEE
WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM
- **NOVEMBER 11, 2013**
PARK COUNTY OFFICES
CLOSED FOR VETERAN'S DAY
- **NOVEMBER 15, 2013**
PARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
6:30 PM
SHEPHERD OF THE ROCKIES LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 ROSALIE AVE., BAILEY
WWW.PARKCOUNTYHISTORY.COM
- **NOVEMBER 19, 2013**
SHAWNEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
6:30 PM
SHAWNEE TEA ROOM
SHAWNEE
WWW.HISTORICSHAWNEE.COM
- **NOVEMBER 23, 2013**
PCHPAC MEETING
9 AM
OLD PARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE
WWW.PARKCO.US
- **NOVEMBER 27-28, 2013**
PARK COUNTY OFFICES
CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

Phase II of the Fairplay Historic Resources Survey Kicks Off in October

In 2012, the Park County Office of Historic Preservation, in partnership with the South Park National Heritage Area, completed a preliminary historic resource survey of Fairplay. One of the survey's goals was to identify homes, businesses, and community buildings that may be historically significant and therefore worthy of more in-depth research.

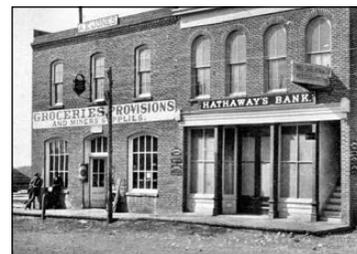
This fall, we are very pleased to be able to begin work on Phase II of the survey, which will include extensive research into the history of Fairplay's most significant historic sites. Twelve properties have been identified as high priority sites based on their architectural and historical significance. Forty-two additional properties have been earmarked for additional research in later phases of the project. In early October, we will be contacting property owners with information about Phase II of the survey and asking for their



This unique 1930s Carpenter Gothic-style home on Front Street was once a gas station.

assistance as staff completes fieldwork and historical background research.

The goal of the survey is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Fairplay's historic homes and buildings as well as determine if a property is eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places, the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties, and/or the Park County Historic Landmark Register. The survey is for informational and educational purposes only and does not include listing to any historic register and does not place any restrictions on the use of the property or the owner's right to alter or remove buildings, regardless of the survey findings.



Survey intern Hanna Eckroth has returned to Park County to lead Phase II of the project. Hanna conducted the fieldwork and prepared the survey report for Phase I and we are very happy to be working with her again this year. If you have questions about the survey or have information you think may be helpful to the effort, feel free to email Hanna at heckroth@parkco.us.

Fairplay's motto is "Where History Meets the High Country" and the preservation of the town's historic sites is an important component of the new comprehensive plan. We hope that this survey effort will help further that goal and look forward to sharing the results of the survey with the public this winter.

South Park National Heritage Area Launches New App for iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch

The South Park National Heritage Area (SPNHA) has released a brand new app for iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch to help guide you on your adventures in South Park. The SPNHA app was developed through a grant from the Colorado Tourism Office and includes a special component for film location scouts, which helps promote Park County to the film industry. The information contained within the app can already be found on the SPNHA website (www.southparkheritage.org), but limited cell phone service in Park County warranted



this downloadable app so visitors and residents can take this information on the road. Just download the app through Apple's App Store and open it before heading out on your journey. The app includes preloaded maps, a search function, and preplanned itineraries as well as local lodging, shopping, and dining options. You can also explore Park County's heritage through the app or find local trails and other recreation opportunities. The app is completely free and is being updated frequently to include new listings in Platte Canyon and the Guffey area.

Park County and the US Forest Service Partner to Survey AG Ranch in Shawnee

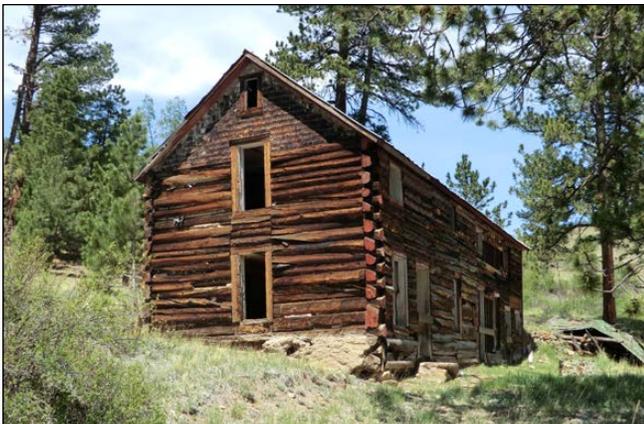
Residents of Shawnee have long considered the historic buildings of the AG Ranch worthy of historic landmark designation. This fall, the Park County Office of Historic Preservation and the US Forest Service are partnering to help make that happen. Staff from both organizations have been carefully surveying the more than 1,000-acre property to document historically significant sites and features of the property. Sections of the property have been surveyed in the past, but this is the first time that the property has been reviewed in



a comprehensive manner with a goal of officially recognizing the historic significance of the site. Based on the information gathered during the survey, it will be determined if the property is

eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties, or the Park County Historic Landmark Register. The US Forest Service and Park County will then work together to pursue one of those designations for the ranch.

The AG Ranch has a long history that reaches back to the early settlement of the Shawnee area. The property includes a two-story log homestead residence, presumably built by settler Ralston Deatherage in the early 1890s. Other early settlers on the land includes Robert Sims, James Price, and John Austin, though their buildings have since been lost. Milton Gibbs, a Civil War



The circa 1890s two-story log home built by early settler Ralston Deatherage is part of the US Forest Service's AG Ranch property.



The circa 1930s Rustic-style recreational residence built by Albert Gould is now home to the Rocky Mountain Region Specialty Pack String. A historic log barn stands not far from the house.

veteran from Pennsylvania, acquired the Deatherage place around 1899. Gibbs ranched the property until his death in 1909 and is buried on the property. Long-term goals for the Deatherage/Gibbs Homestead include rehabilitation of the log home so it can be made available for rental as part of the US Forest Service vacation rental program.

In the 1930s, prominent Denver attorney Albert Gould acquired the ranch and constructed the large Rustic-style ranch house located near the South Platte River.



Gould brought Denver friends and family to the ranch to relax, ride horses, and fish. In 1977, the US Forest Service acquired the property from the Gould Estate.

Today the Gould residence is home to Glenn Ryan, Lead Packer with the Rocky Mountain Region Specialty Pack String, which is headquartered at the ranch. The pack string includes eleven highly trained mules and supports a wide variety of projects in the national forests, including hauling materials and gear to support Forest Service and volunteer trail crews and assisting in building bridges and other structures in remote areas of the forest.

Behind the Facade: Bessey Blacksmith Shop

Park County is known for its historic mining towns, which sprang up seemingly overnight around new mineral discoveries and often disappeared just as quickly when the mining ventures went bust. While many of Park County's early settlements are now ghost towns, communities such as Fairplay and Alma survived because of economic pursuits other than mining. These towns, located on important throughways, provided services and goods for nearby mines and ranches, developed physical infrastructure to support their citizens, and had access to the railroad. Today, Fairplay remains a commercial hub for the residents of northern Park County, with the majority of commercial activity still found on Front Street, Fairplay's economic center since the 1860s.

It is no surprise, then, that some time before 1890, brothers Charles and Albert Bessey chose to construct a blacksmith shop—known as Bessey Bros., Blacksmiths and Wagon Makers—on Front Street. Charles primarily practiced as a blacksmith but also did plaster work, while Albert focused on carpentry.

Born in Wisconsin in 1846, Charles Bessey moved as a young boy with his parents to Hazelton, Iowa. His brother, Albert, was born on the family farm there in 1856. Charles married Sarah Darrh in 1869 and the couple continued to live in Hazelton, where Charles worked as a blacksmith and Sarah cared for their two young children, Clara and William. Sometime before 1880, Charles and his family moved to Fairplay and he continued to practice his trade. Around the same time, Albert left Iowa with his parents to establish a farm in Nebraska. After a few years in Fairplay, Charles and Sarah relocated to Chaffee County and Albert soon followed.

In July 1884, Albert visited Fairplay, telling the *Flume* that the once busy town of Salida “has been quite dull” and that he planned to stay in Fairplay for a while. He chose to make Fairplay his home and was elected constable in November 1888.

It is believed that Charles returned to Fairplay in the late 1880s to establish the blacksmith shop with his brother. Not long after opening the shop, Albert rented the shop to Hub Eddy, a local blacksmith, and left Fairplay for Nebraska, presumably to help his aging parents run their farm. It is believed that Charles left Fairplay at this time for Creede, where he lived and worked until his death in 1926.

In 1892, apparently unbenowned to Albert, the building, along with many household items and shop equipment, was sold in a sheriff's sale to satisfy a \$250



This historic building on Front Street in Fairplay housed the Bessey Brothers Blacksmith and Wagon Maker shop in 1890.

debt to local businessman Samuel Cohen. Albert returned to Fairplay in 1897 with his wife, Lena, and young son, Howard, and sought to win the shop back on a legal technicality in 1899. His effort failed and blacksmith William S. Hudson, who had purchased the property in 1895, retained ownership until 1901, when he sold the property to competitor George M. Teter, in whose family it remained until the 1950s. Teter, proprietor of his own blacksmith business located not far from the Bessey shop on the northeast corner of 6th and Front Street, likely used the building for storage.

Albert remained in Park County, working as a carpenter and serving as Justice of the Peace until April 1907, when he and wife Lena moved to Grover in eastern Colorado. Albert traveled between Park County and Grover for work and pleasure until at least 1912.

The Bessey Blacksmith Shop still stands today near the eastern end of Front Street. Its design is typical of other late 19th century blacksmith shops, exhibiting a simple, functional appearance with unpainted milled lumber siding and a large central entrance. Current owner Paul Otto is pleased to be able to preserve the building and its unique history. This fall, he undertook repairs to ensure that the former blacksmith shop will continue to stand as a representation of the commercial activities of Fairplay's early citizens. The Office of Historic Preservation thanks Mr. Otto for his commitment to preserving a place worth saving in Park County.

—Hanna Eckroth

Baker/Steiner Barn *(continued from page 3)*

his surrounding fields. The barn is one of Park County's best examples of an early ranch settlement double-pen hay barn. The double-pen barn, consisting of a central aisle flanked by two pens, is an early barn type typically found in frontier settings.

In 1919, the barn and surrounding property were sold to Peter Schattinger, a well-established and highly respected Jefferson area rancher. Ownership of the barn later passed from Schattinger to his daughter, Emma Schattinger Steiner, after his death in 1935. At the time she acquired the property, Emma Steiner was living in California with her husband Rudolph. Emma Steiner and her son, Walter, returned to Jefferson around 1940, presumably taking up residence on the Lower Baker Ranch, which came to be known as the Steiner Ranch.

After Emma's death in 1964, Walter continued to live on the ranch as a bachelor rancher until he met and married German-born Enes Loner in Denver. Walter died in 1994 and the Steiner Ranch was sold to the current owners in 2008. Today the property is used by the Columbine Ranch to graze cattle. The current owners and ranch manager are committed to preserving this



Early pioneer David Baker (seated, far right) and his family at their Upper Baker Ranch homestead in the late 1800s.

exceptional barn. Earlier in the year, the barn's roof, which had taken a beating from the South Park wind and snow, was repaired with the assistance of a Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission grant. Work on the barn continues, with an emphasis on stabilizing interior structural elements that have been weakened since the barn was built over 125 years ago.

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

Local Organizations

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

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

State Organizations

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

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

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

National Organizations

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

Grants & Tax Incentives

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

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

Practical Guidance

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm>

Preservation Briefs

Technical guidance on preserving, rehabilitating, and restoring historic buildings.
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm>

Preservation Tech Notes

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

Preserving Historic Wood Windows

<http://www.parkco.us/DocumentCenter/View/1321>

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

Sustainability and Historic Preservation

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/sustainability.htm>



Park County Office of Historic Preservation
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**Park County
Office of Historic
Preservation**
*Preservation
with a Purpose*

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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!