



PRESERVATION MATTERS

SUMMER/FALL 2015

Volume IV, Issue 3

Upcoming Events

- SEPT 19**
PCHPAC MEETING
 9 AM
OLD PARK COUNTY
COURTHOUSE,
418 MAIN ST, FAIRPLAY
WWW.PARKCO.US
- SEPT 21**
PARK COUNTY STRATEGIC
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
 5:30-7:30 PM
HARTSEL COMMUNITY
CENTER

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New Park County Heritage Tours App Includes Shawnee Tour

The free Park County Heritage Tours app is now available for download at Google Play and the App Store. The app includes updated versions of our self-guided walking tours of Alma, Fairplay, and the South Park City Museum, as well as a brand-new tour of Shawnee. The app is available to both Android and iPhone users and provides access to all of our heritage tours from one convenient location.

Users can download individual tours directly to their smartphone or tablet before their visit. Each tour includes a historical overview of the tour area, a user-friendly interactive map, and historical photos illustrating the story of each stop on the tour. The app can be set to notify users when they are near a point of interest on the tour and to send alerts when new tours and updates are available.

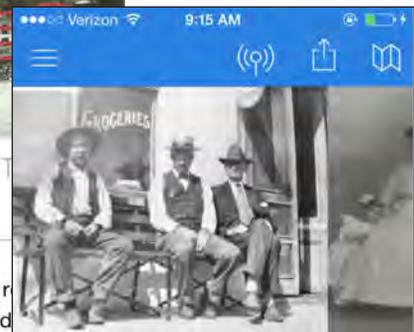
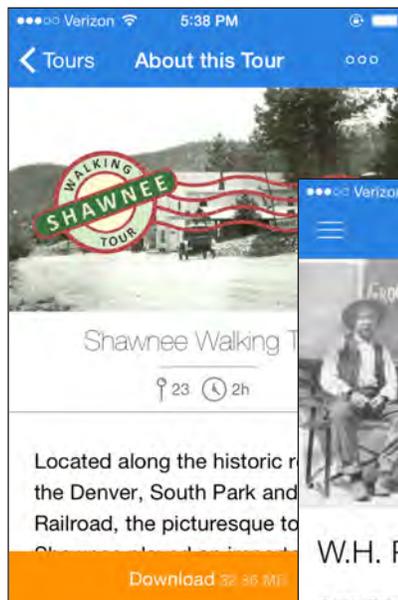
The new Shawnee walking tour

includes 23 homes and businesses within the Shawnee National Register Historic District and numerous historical photos from the extensive collection at the Park County Local History Archives.

New walking and driving tours are in development and should be available next year.

To download the free app visit Google Play or the App

Store and experience Alma, Fairplay, Shawnee, and the South Park City Museum in a whole new way.



W.H. Price House

J.W. Price's son, James, received this parcel when his father platted Shawnee in 1900. According to the Price family, James built this house in 1905 and his brother, William Henry (Harry) Price, acquired the residence



Upcoming Events

- SEPT 22
PARK COUNTY STRATEGIC
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
6-8 PM
FAIRPLAY COMMUNITY
CENTER
- SEPT 23
PARK COUNTY STRATEGIC
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
6-8 PM
PLATE CANYON
FIRE STATION
- SEPT 24
PARK COUNTY STRATEGIC
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
6-8 PM
LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY
CENTER
- SEPT 24
PARK COUNTY STRATEGIC
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
6-7 PM
ALMA TOWN HALL
- SEPT 25
PARK COUNTY STRATEGIC
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
6-8 PM
GUFFEY CHARTER SCHOOL
- SEPT 26
CEMETERY MOONWALK
BUSCKSKIN JOE/ALMA
CEMETERY

Letter from the Department of Heritage, Tourism, and Community Development

This issue marks the end of my tenure as Park County's Preservation Planner as I move to Denver to join the staff of the State Historical Fund.

For almost four years I have had the unique pleasure of working with the amazing people who live and work in this very special mountain community. I am proud of what this department has accomplished over the years and leave confident that the work will continue in the capable hands of Linda Balough, Erica Duvic, and new Park County Preservationist Erin Gibbs.

The places from our past are too easily taken for granted as time passes and the stories they represent fade from memory. Often, we only realize the value of our historic ranches, mines, homes, and businesses after they are lost forever.

That is why it is so important to keep the stories of the past alive, to inhabit our

historic buildings, and to adapt them to new uses.

I have seen how much residents cherish the quality of life in Park County, and I urge everyone to consider the value of preserving the area's historic buildings and the ways history contributes to the strength of our community.

Park County is updating its Strategic Master Plan and will begin gathering public input this month to help set goals for the future of the county. If you value the historic character of Park County's mountains, ranches, and towns, I hope you will participate in the Strategic Master Plan Update Workshops and encourage Park County's leaders to include historic preservation as an important goal in their future plans.

Thank you and best wishes to all of Park County!

—Amy Unger

South Park Site Steward Program Helps Protect Important Sites

The new South Park Site Steward Program got underway in July, led by archaeologist Dr. Susan Bender and county staff. The volunteer program promotes the protection and preservation of prehistoric, historic, and paleontological sites within the South Park National Heritage Area.

Volunteer site stewards work with property owners and public agencies, including the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Colorado Parks & Wildlife, to monitor and report on the condition of historic sites like the Magnolia Mill and sensitive archaeological and paleontological sites

throughout the South Park.

The program hopes to increase public awareness of the negative impact of vandalism and illegal artifact collection and ensure that sensitive sites are regularly monitored and evaluated for signs of damage or deterioration.

Before they are assigned a site, volunteers participate in a series of intensive training sessions that focus on safety, monitoring techniques, and preservation principles. The program is currently full, but will be expanding in the future and additional site stewards will be needed. Contact Erica Duvic at 719-836-4273 for more information on how you can participate.

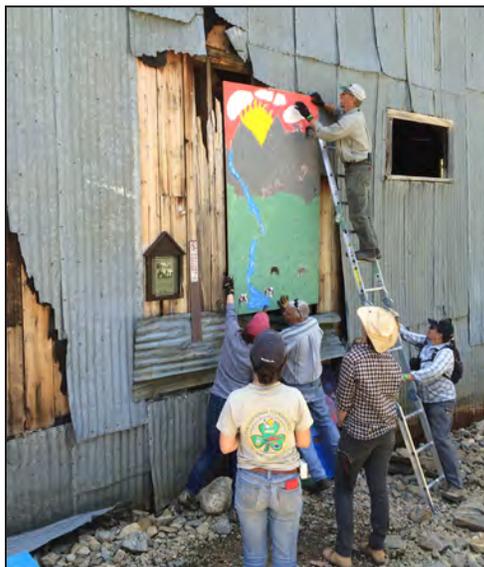


Over Twenty Participate in Magnolia Mill Volunteer Work Day

Park County historic preservation staff, US Forest Service staff, and private property owners teamed up for a volunteer Community Work Day at the historic Magnolia Mill on Saturday, June 27. Constructed in 1939 to replace an earlier mill destroyed by fire, the mill processed ore containing silver, gold, and other metals from the Magnolia Mine on North Star Mountain.

The mill complex includes an ore bin and massive ore-processing building connected by an overhead conveyor. The bin and most of the conveyor are privately owned, while the majority of the larger building sits on USFS land. The mill is one of the few large-scale mining buildings surviving from Alma's last mining boom, which lasted from the 1930s to the mid-1940s.

The mill is located on one of the county's most popular trails, and many hikers and 4x4 enthusiasts stop to visit the impressive mining complex each year. Unfortunately, not all visitors have



respected the historic significance of this important building. Trespassers and vandals have caused significant damage to the mill over the years, endangering the site's future.

By closing openings in the building, repairing damage, and posting additional signage, volunteers hope to send a strong message to visitors that the community values its local history and wants to preserve and protect the Magnolia Mill.

Twenty-one volunteers spent the day clearing the site of garbage and debris, reattaching loose siding, posting no-trespassing signs, rebuilding a missing section of wall, and closing openings.

Windows, doors, and other open areas were secured using plywood panels that feature mountain scenes painted by local grade-school children.



Gaping holes in the building like the one above were repaired to protect the site and prevent vandalism.



Upcoming Events

- **OCT 17**
PCHPAC MEETING
9 AM
OLD PARK COUNTY
COURTHOUSE,
418 MAIN ST, FAIRPLAY
WWW.PARKCO.US
- **NOV 11**
VETEREN'S DAY
COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED
- **NOV 21**
PCHPAC MEETING
9 AM
OLD PARK COUNTY
COURTHOUSE,
418 MAIN ST, FAIRPLAY
WWW.PARKCO.US
- **NOV 25-26**
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED
- **DEC 19**
PCHPAC MEETING
9 AM
OLD PARK COUNTY
COURTHOUSE,
418 MAIN ST, FAIRPLAY
WWW.PARKCO.US
- **DEC 23-24**
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED

Historic Destinations: Boreas Pass

Fall is a spectacular time to visit Park County and enjoy the area's natural beauty and historic character. This year, consider a drive along County Road 33 from Highway 285 to Boreas Pass, where the brilliant yellow of the aspens perfectly complements the many historic sites along the way.

Just off Highway 285, the community of Como offers a taste of life during the Victorian era. Established in 1879, the town was closely connected with the Denver, South Park & Pacific Railroad and the nearby coal mines that provided fuel for its engines.

At the northeast end of town stand three historic railroad sites: the newly restored Como Depot, built shortly after the railroad arrived in 1879; the Como Hotel, which catered to travelers and railroad personnel; and the Como Roundhouse built by Italian stonemasons in 1881 as a maintenance facility.

West of the railroad buildings are a number of picturesque 19th-century homes and the National Register-listed Como Elementary School. A self-guided walking tour of Como can be downloaded at the [South Park National Heritage Area website](#).

About a half mile outside Como, just west of County Road 33, is the historic Como Cemetery, where beautifully carved headstones stand nestled among the aspens.



Train derailments, sometimes fatal, were not uncommon due to the steep grade and dangerous curves along the line from Como over Boreas Pass to Breckenridge. (Park County Local History Archives.)



Founded in 1879, Como (above) retains much of its historic charm. The nearby Como Cemetery embodies the history of the community and its surrounding ranches.

This marble stone (right) marks the graves of Italian coal miners killed in a massive explosion at the nearby King Mine in 1893.



The graves tell the stories of Como's residents and the surrounding ranches and stand testament to the perils faced by workers and settlers in the 1800s.

Where County Road 33 turns sharply to the right, beginning its climb to Boreas Pass, stands the Roberts Cabin, a restored 1880s log dwelling. Owned and managed by the Forest Service, the cabin is available for rent between May 1 and November 30. Visit the [Forest Service website](#) for more information.

In 1880, the DSP&P began constructing a rail line from Como over Boreas Pass to Breckenridge. The steep and precarious nature of the route, which was completed in August 1882, resulted in a number of horrific train accidents. At Rocky Point, you can follow the original grade alongside reproduced narrow-gauge railroad tracks and take in stunning views of the valley far below.

In the 1880s, a small community of about 150 people

lived on Boreas Pass and a number buildings served the needs of the railroad, including a large stone engine house. Today, only the section house and a small cabin remain on site.

Constructed in 1882 to house railroad workers, the two-story log section house is open for tours on weekends during the summer. In the winter, the section house and the small log building known as Ken's Cabin are available for rental through [Summit Huts Association](#).

Take advantage of a number of scenic hiking trails leading from Boreas Pass to the surrounding peaks or continue along the former rail route to the High Line Railroad Park outside Breckenridge, where train enthusiasts can view Engine No. 9, an authentic narrow-gauge locomotive, and a rare rotary snowplow used to clear snow from the tracks. More information is available at the [Breckenridge Heritage Alliance website](#).



Rehabilitation Continues at the Paris Mill and Old Park County Courthouse

Rehabilitation work is progressing nicely at the Paris Mill and Old Park County Courthouse. In June, HistoriCorps volunteers removed non-historic finishes in the upstairs courtroom at the historic courthouse, revealing details that remained hidden for over 100 years. Workers stripped away layers of wood paneling and wallpaper to reveal a vibrant painted wainscot likely dating to the courthouse's earliest days. Plans are to restore the plaster walls and preserve the color and appearance of the decorative detailing. Work will continue in the coming months as the county prepares the space for use as a community meeting and exhibit space. If you would like to donate to the courtroom preservation project, contact Erica Duvic at 719-836-4273.



Layers of paneling and wallpaper were stripped away to reveal beautifully painted plaster walls in the courtroom at the Old Park County Courthouse.

At the Paris Mill, workers with Wattle & Daub Contractors, based in Fort Collins, have been hard at work reconstructing and repairing the roof over the mill's cyanidation wing. Work on the roof is almost complete and the additional work needed to strengthen the wing structurally should be completed by the end of September. This is the first of many rehabilitation phases at the historic 1895 Paris Mill, one of Park County's iconic mining buildings. The project is funded by generous grants from the State Historical Fund, the Department of Reclamation and Mining Safety, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



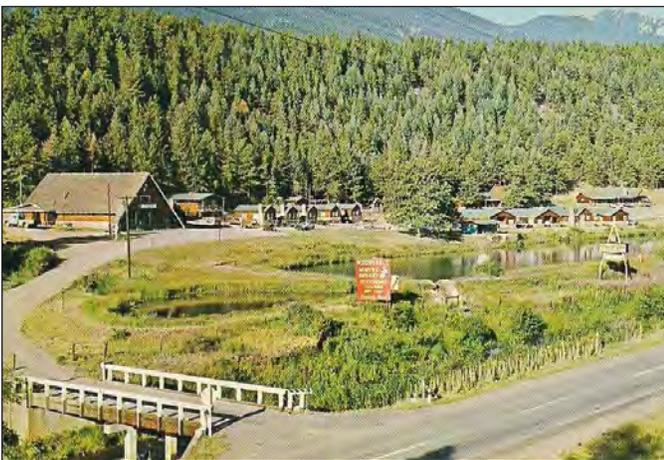
Workers are putting the final touches on a new roof over the Paris Mill's cyanidation wing.

Behind the Facade: Moore-Dale Resort

Recreation and tourism became a driving force in the Platte Canyon economy after the arrival of the railroad in the late 1870s. Early summer resorts like the Shawnee Lodge, Cassell's, and Glen-Isle provided a relaxing getaway for tourists seeking an authentic mountain experience. In 1886, the Rocky Mountain Herald newspaper proclaimed that 400 to 500 Denverites were "rusticating" in the Platte River canyon.

As the train gave way to the automobile, many of the older resorts faded away, but after World War II new resorts were built to serve the tourist trade. Typically consisting of a group of small cabins, a communal lodge, and recreational amenities, resorts like the Lazy Ours offered hunting, fishing, and family fun in a bucolic mountain setting.

Moore-Dale, located on Highway 285 between Shawnee and Bailey, is a former Platte Canyon mid-century resort with a highly unusual past. In the mid-1920s, Ralph Moriarty DeBit, spiritual leader and founder of The School of the Sacred Science, purchased 320 acres west of Bailey. Adopting the name Vitvan, DeBit established a spiritual retreat and school on the property, which he called Po-Ahtun.



A postcard depicting the Moore-Dale Resort circa 1970s.



The Po-Ahtun wait station (above), pictured here circa 1926, was later moved to Glen Isle. The Po-Ahtun spiritual retreat and school (left) closed in the early 1940s. Some of its early cabins were incorporated into the Moore-Dale Resort. (www.sno.org)

Po-Ahtun served as the headquarters for The School of the Sacred Science until 1942, functioning as a farm and religious retreat for the followers of Vitran's teachings.

In 1948, William and Terry Moore, founders of Moore Lumber, acquired the Po-Ahtun property, which included about eight to ten cabins at the rear of property. The Moores moved their lumber milling business from Shawnee to the property.

Between 1950 and 1954, eight of the cabins were moved closer to the highway and rented. In the early 1960s, some of the cabins were leased to miners working on the Roberts Tunnel.

A restaurant and dining room were added and the Moore-Dale Resort catered to summer tourists and skiers enjoying the slopes at Geneva Basin. Over the years, more cabins were built along with a pool, tennis court, and recreation hall. Notable guests at Moore-Dale included Senator "Big Ed" Johnson, General Jimmy Doolittle, Governor Roy Romer, and Roy Rogers.

Park County Needs Your Input on Strategic Master Plan Update

As part of the Strategic Master Plan Update process, Park County will host a series of workshops in September to affirm community values and gather new ideas for the future of the county. RPI Consulting of Durango has been hired to facilitate this important public process.

Six workshops will be held at various locations throughout the county. Each event will include group discussion and confidential polling designed to gather public opinion on a variety of subjects. Topics will include ideas for the future; preservation of natural, cultural,

historic, and scenic resources; access and recreation; land use and community character; economic sustainability; infrastructure and public services; partnership and coordination; and water quality and conservation. The current Strategic Master Plan can be viewed at <http://www.parkco.us/188/Strategic-Master-Plan>.

Mark your calendar now and have a voice in the future of your community. For more information, contact Gabe Preston at RPI Consulting, 970-382-9886 or gabe@rpiconsulting.org.

Workshop Venue	Date and Time
Hartsel Community Center	Sept. 21 5:30-7:30pm
Fairplay Community Center	Sept. 22 6-8pm
Platte Canyon Fire Station	Sept. 23 6-8pm
Lake George Community Center	Sept. 24 6-8pm
Alma Town Hall	Sept. 24 6-7pm
Guffey Charter School	Sept. 25 6-8pm



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 Department of Heritage, Tourism, and
Community Development

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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 Department of Heritage, Tourism, and Community Development 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 Department of Heritage, Tourism, and Community Development has to offer, contact Erica Duvic at (719) 836-4273 or email historicpres@parkco.us. We look forward to hearing from you!