

PARK COUNTY COLORADO Tour Map



Alma Town Hall Linda Balough

ALMA

The settlement of **Alma** sprang up in 1873 when the Boston and Colorado Smelting Company built a smelting operation there. At 10,578 feet, Alma currently is the highest incorporated town in the United States. Listed on the State Register of Historic Properties, the 1925 **Alma School** is a rare local example of Mission-style buildings. It now serves as Alma's Town Hall and is open to the public during regular business hours. Also listed on the State Register, the 1936 **Alma Community Church** is a well-preserved stone church of the Rustic style. The 1871 **Clesson Cabin** was one of the first permanent residences in Alma. Please contact Alma Town Hall (719-836-2712) to arrange group tours of the town's historic buildings. **Wild Iris Studio & Gallery** is a new art gallery at 148 North Main Street in Alma (719-836-1713).

Other Sites Near Alma:

- ▲ The Mosquito Range is graced with dozens of 19th Century mines that cling to the steep slopes above each valley. It is also home to several rare plant species found few other places in the world.
- ▲ Over 18 heritage sites in the Mosquito Range west of Alma are interpreted in the **Buckskin Gulch** and **Mosquito Pass** historic auto tour brochures. Call (719) 836-2031 to obtain copies.
- ▲ The **Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area** above Alma protects an unusual stand of wind-sculpted bristlecone pine trees, some of which are nearly a thousand years old (719-836-2031).
- ▲ Constructed in 1894, the **Paris Mill** was once an important site for processing precious metals. Now eligible for listing on the National Register, the mill is three miles west of Alma. Call (719) 836-4279.
- ▲ The **Buckskin Gulch Historic Auto Tour** starts in Alma and follows County Road 8 to Kite Lake (12,000 feet). Signposts along the route correspond to nine historic sites. Call (719) 836-2031.
- ▲ The **Mosquito Pass Historic Auto Tour** follows the old stage road (County Road 12), past nine historic sites to the summit of Mosquito Pass. Call (719) 836-2031.
- ▲ A **Gold Arrastra** three miles west of Alma employed one man and his donkeys to grind gold-bearing ore.
- ▲ The **Magnolia Mill** is a massive period structure at the inlet of Montgomery Reservoir near Alma. At the bottom of this reservoir lies the 1862 Montgomery town site. Call (719) 836-2031.
- ▲ On County Road 12 (Mosquito Pass Road) near Alma, the impressive **London Mill** was built to process ore from several mines that were bored into London Mountain. Call (719) 836-4298.



Guanelle Pass Byway Gary E. Nichols

GRANT & GUANELLA PASS

Named for the 18th U.S. President in 1870, **Grant** became a shipping point for the mines up Geneva Creek after the DSP&P Railroad arrived in 1878. Today Grant serves as the southern gateway to **Guanelle Pass Scenic & Historic Byway**. Guanelle Pass follows an old wagon trail used by miners traveling between Georgetown and Grant. Today, visitors may explore this 22-mile historic route by car or hike many area trails (719-836-4279).



Guffey Museum Gary E. Nichols

GUFFEY

The **Guffey** caldera (basin) is part of a much larger volcanic complex that includes the Florissant Fossil Beds. Originally a mining town called Freshwater, Guffey is now a small community of talented artists. The oldest living trees in the Rocky Mountains (up to 2600 years old) still grow in the Pike National Forest above town. The restored 1896 town hall now serves as the **Guffey Museum** (719-689-3291). Visitors are encouraged to dine among fine art and crafts created by local artists at Rita's Place and the adjoining **Caldera Gallery** (719-689-2501). Four rustic guest cabins from the late 1800s provide lodging in town (719-689-3291). County Road 102 through Guffey leads to the **Gold Belt Tour National Scenic Byway**, which provides road access to Cripple Creek and Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.



Salt Works Ranch Gary E. Nichols

HARTSEL

The **Hartsel** area was a summer destination for Mountain Utes who frequented the natural hot springs and hunted herds of bison, elk and antelope. Starting in 1862 with a 160-acre homestead, Sam Hartsel's operations soon encompassed a 10,000-acre ranch. His enterprises boomed when the Colorado Midland Railway reached Hartsel from Colorado Springs. The **Hartsel School** was first built on the Hartsel Ranch in the late 1800s and was moved to its present location in town before 1908. The school now functions as a community center on Midland Avenue in town (719-836-2233). One block from the school, a roadside exhibit has been constructed next to the historic **Colorado Midland Railroad Depot**.^{*} Up the street from the depot, **Bayou Salado Trading Post** offers paintings by award winning artist, Jim Redhawk, as well as silver jewelry and Native American made products. In a large meadow east of Hartsel, the 1874 **Buckley Ranch** looks much like it did in the 1930s. This six-acre National Register District encompasses the former ranch headquarters and numerous other buildings. The State has since purchased Buckley Ranch for public fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing. Three miles north of Hartsel, several buildings on the 1874 **Santa Maria Ranch**^{*} are listed on the National Register. Here, one mile of private **Gold Medal Water** may be reserved for fly-fishing. A two-bedroom cabin on the Santa Maria Ranch may also be reserved by the night (719-836-4279).

Salt Works Ranch includes the original 1862 homestead of Charles and Mary Hall. This ranch is thought to be the oldest working ranch in Colorado operated by the same family. Here, a number of period log and wood frame buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Adjacent to the ranch, **Colorado Salt Works**^{*} may be the only surviving example of a 1860s kettle and pan salt production facility in the US. The intact wood frame barn and the partially collapsed kettle house represent one of Colorado's earliest industrial enterprises. Group tours and events (only) may be arranged by calling the owners (719-660-1015).



McGraw Park Gary E. Nichols

BAILEY

In 1864 William L. Bailey settled here and built the **Entriken Cabin** with hand-hewn, squared logs. Listed on the Colorado Register of Historic Properties, it is the only surviving building from the original town of **Bailey**. Originally located in Platte Canyon downstream, a 19th Century iron truss railroad bridge now spans the river in town. In 1899 the Slaghts School was renamed **Shawnee School**. This one-room school was moved to Bailey in 1983. These and other 19th Century artifacts may be explored daily at **McGraw Park** in downtown Bailey (303-838-7740).

In 1878 Ed and Blanche McGraw bought land from William Bailey and built a general store. A successful businesswoman, Blanche continued running the store until her death in 1918. After serving many functions over the years, including a theater and hotel, it has operated as the **Bailey Country Store** since 1985.

Built in 1901, **Glen Isle Resort** is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been owned by the same family for more than 80 years. Three miles west of Bailey on US Highway 285, the lodge and rooms serve as a museum with period antiques. The lodge is open June through mid-September (303-838-5461).

COMO

Reports from Zebulon Pike's 1806 expedition suggest that the first American gold discovery west of the Mississippi may have been near Como. Italian coal miners named **Como** after Lake Como, Italy in 1879. Upon arrival of the Denver South Park & Pacific Railroad, Como became a center of commerce. A roadside exhibit at the south end of Como interprets the area's history.^{*} Four well-preserved buildings in Como are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1881 by Italian stone-masons, the six-bay **Como Roundhouse** sheltered locomotives that battled their way up Boreas Pass. The **Como Depot** dates to 1880 when the DSP&P Railroad was extended west from Denver. Originally called the Pacific Hotel, the **Como Hotel** was constructed in 1897 to serve passengers on the DSP&P Railroad. The owners are now restoring the hotel to its former glory as a guest lodge and restaurant (719-836-2594). The wood frame **Como School** operated as a public educational facility



Jefferson from Kenosha Pass Gary E. Nichols

JEFFERSON

The ranching town of **Jefferson** was established when the DSP&P Railroad arrived in 1879. A railroad depot was built soon after and by 1881 the town had two butcher shops, a saloon, lumber mill, hotel, blacksmith, post office, express office and a population of 300. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the **Jefferson Depot** is a well-preserved, wood frame railroad depot on US Highway 285 in Jefferson, Colorado. Designed to handle passengers and freight, the depot now functions as a real estate and visitor information office (719-836-4833). Jefferson is the northern most point on the **Tarryall Valley Scenic & Historic Auto Tour** that follows County Road 77 to Lake George. The **Jefferson School**^{*} has been a center of activity since its construction in 1901, and continues to serve as a community center and church on Main Street (719-836-0845). With seven contributing sites, Main Street is now eligible for listing as a National Historic District.

Following a rough wagon road west from Denver, the DSP&P Railroad arrived at **Kenosha Pass Summit**^{*} in 1879. Listed on the State Register of Historic Properties, this site is important for its association with the DSP&P Railroad's crossing of Kenosha Pass. Visit the roadside exhibit on the east side of the road or walk the restored railbed at this interpretive site (719-836-2031). The historic **Wahl Ranch** unfolds as one descends into South Park over Kenosha Pass. This National Register District encompasses several remaining log and wood frame buildings dating from 1883 to 1948. Now called the Flying Horse Ranch, a large guest lodge has been added with two suites and three guest rooms (719-836-2319).



Jefferson School Gary E. Nichols



Como Roundhouse Debra Queen-Stremke

from 1883 to 1948. A smaller building was moved to the school site in the 1930s to serve as a high school. The Como Civic Association now uses the school as a community center (719-836-1910).

The **Mountain Man Gallery** at 6th & Broadway in Como exhibits an eclectic collection of original paintings, prints, photos, sculptures and carvings by local and regional artists. Here visitors may arrange tours of the Como Roundhouse and School, as well as obtain a free copy of the Como Historic Walking Tour brochure (719-836-1910).



Boreas Pass Summit Gary E. Nichols

Other Sites Near Como:

- ▲ The 22-mile **Boreas Pass Historic Auto Tour** follows the old DSP&P Railroad grade over Boreas Pass. Signposts along the road correspond to 12 interpretive sites. Tour brochures and audio CDs of the route are available at the Forest Service Office in Fairplay (719-836-2031).
- ▲ Exhibits at **Boreas Pass Summit** interpret the DSP&P "Highline Route" and other heritage sites.^{*}
- ▲ The 1882 **Boreas Pass Section House** and 1860s Wagon Cabin housed railroad workers on the DSP&P Highline Route. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, these structures serve as a visitor center and museum during summer, and a backcountry ski hut during winter (719-836-2031).
- ▲ **Roberts Cabin** was originally a barn or stable. It was converted into a residence in the 1880s. The Forest Service now rents the building for use as a "backcountry" hut (719-836-2031).

LAKE GEORGE

The first Colorado Midland passenger train from Colorado Springs reached the settlement of "Rocky" in 1887. A manufacturer from Boston named George Frost constructed a dam at the mouth of Granite Canyon (now Elevenmile Canyon) and platted the nearby town of **Lake George**. Richard and Sophia Snair settled in the area and built the original **Snair Cabin** in 1875. Their daughter Sarah later married William Derby (see Derby Cabin in Tarryall Valley). To prevent the cabin from being demolished, it was moved to Lake George Park in 2005 (719-836-4298). County Road 96 now follows the old Colorado Midland Railway grade through Elevenmile Canyon where locomotive residue can still be seen around railroad tunnels that were blasted through solid granite. Along the way are public campgrounds, picnic areas, bird watching pullouts, rock climbing routes, and world-class trout fishing (719-836-2031).



Snair Cabin Linda Balough

Fourteen miles west of Lake George on US Highway 24, **Wilkinson Pass Visitor Center** was constructed by the USDA Forest Service in 2003. This interpretive center features many exhibits that retrace 10,000 years of local history and pre-history.^{*} Visitors may hike a short interpretive trail and purchase books and maps about the region. The visitor center is open from 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM daily during summer (719-836-2031).

SHAWNEE

The Post Office in **Shawnee** was one of the first buildings in town, but it wasn't until the Shawnee Lodge was built that the area became known as **Shawnee**. Served by the Colorado & Southern Railroad, the 1920 Shawnee Lodge was designed after famous hotels of the Adirondacks. Today the Post Office, general store and many homes in town are eligible for listing as a National Historic District (719-836-4298). Two miles west of Shawnee, **Ben Tyler Ranch** is associated with the early settlement of Platte Canyon. Listed on the State Register of Historic Properties, the main house is situated on a land patent that Tyler filed in 1898. It has been fully restored and now serves as a bed & breakfast inn (303-838-0477). Since 1981, professional artists Vincent and Carolyn Lee Tolpo have created studio and custom art from their studio at the **Shawnee Mountain Gallery** (303-838-6106).



South Park Community Church Linda Balough

FAIRPLAY

The discovery of gold in 1859 brought thousands of prospectors to South Park. Unwelcome latecomers pushed west and established a new mining camp called "Fair Play." After several prosperous years, **Fairplay** became the county seat in 1867. Six 19th Century buildings in Fairplay are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A total of 12 historic buildings are interpreted in the Fairplay Historic Walking Tour brochure. Copies of the brochure are available at the **Fairplay Visitor Center** at 100 4th Street. The visitor center is open daily between May 15 and October 15 and there is no admission fee (719-836-2387).

Heritage Sites in Fairplay:

- ▲ The **Park County Courthouse**^{*} was built of native sandstone in the Italianate style. Along with the adjacent stone jail, this building serves as a public library at 418 Main Street (719-836-4298).
- ▲ One of many churches in the West established by Sheldon Jackson, the 1874 board-and-batten **South Park Community Church**^{*} is a preferred venue for weddings, celebrations and memorial services (719-836-2770).
- ▲ The 1922 **Fairplay Hotel** (National Register) is a well-preserved example of the Rustic style that was popular in mountain towns. With 20 guest rooms, it is also a central location for meetings, dances and receptions (719-836-2565).



Tarryall School & Lost Creek Natural Area Gary E. Nichols

TARRYALL VALLEY

The **Tarryall Valley** scenic & historic auto tour can easily be traveled in a day, but visitors may choose to stay longer to watch for a variety of birds and wildlife, hike the Ute Creek Trail, fly-fish on a historic cattle ranch, buy fresh produce at a farmer's market, or spend the night at a historic guest lodge. Thirty-two historic sites in the valley are contributing elements to this proposed Historic Landscape District. Several natural and historic sites are interpreted at roadside exhibits along County Road 77 between Jefferson and Lake George. Please call (719) 836-4279 to obtain a copy of the Tarryall Valley Tour brochure.

Puma City (now **Tarryall**) got its start when gold, lead, and silver discoveries were reported there in 1896. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Tarryall School served the community from 1921 to 1949. To tour the school, call (719) 748-3015. **Ute Trail River Ranch** has provided visitors with secluded guest facilities since the 1930s. The main lodge and seven hand-hewn log cabins contribute to the site's early 20th-Century personality (719-748-3015). Several buildings and structures remain intact at the 1882 **Williams Ranch**, seven miles below Tarryall Reservoir. The ranch is now eligible for listing on the National Register and serves as a natural farmer's market each weekend starting in late July. Tours are offered every Sunday in late summer (719-748-3015). To reserve the ranch for fly-fishing, go to www.southparktrout.com and select the "Allen Creek Ranch" lease.

William A. Derby was a cowboy from Canada who worked for local ranchers throughout the area. After marrying Sarah Snair (see Snair Cabin in Lake George) in 1885, he built the **Derby Cabin** on a site with ample pasture and water. After 23-year old Sarah died unexpectedly in 1889, William sold the homestead to his brother. One mile below Tarryall Reservoir, this interpretive site is maintained by the USDA Forest Service (719-836-2031).

- ▲ When the fire of 1873 destroyed much of Fairplay, Leonard Summer built the **South Park Brewery**^{*} and **Summer Saloon**^{*} of native sandstone. They are among seven structures on their original sites in South Park City Museum (719-836-2387).
- ▲ Named for a beloved teacher, **Edith Teter School**^{*} is among the oldest in Colorado. The original 1880s section is constructed of native sandstone in the Italianate style. Listed on the State Register of Historic Properties, the building still serves as an elementary school in Fairplay (719-836-4279).
- ▲ At 100 4th Street, **South Park City Museum** is a collection of 40 period buildings containing 60,000 artifacts depicting a mining town from the late 1800s. Seven buildings are on their original sites, two of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To arrange group tours call (719) 836-2387.
- ▲ Originally a 1931 hostelry the **Hand Hotel Bed & Breakfast** has eleven period rooms (719-836-3595).
- ▲ The 1874 **Cohen Store** building offers a glimpse of the business section of Fairplay in the late 1800s (719-836-4279).
- ▲ Built in 1882, the old **Bank of Fairplay** is actually made of brick. Now a family dentistry, the building is located at 500 Front Street (719-836-4279).
- ▲ After the original **McLaughlin Livery** burned in the fire of 1873, the owner soon rebuilt in wood at 456 Front Street. This horse and carriage barn eventually evolved into the Old Red Barn Gallery that now offers a variety of original paintings and sculptures by Colorado artists (719-836-9827).
- ▲ The two attached buildings at 441 Front Street were built after the fire of 1873 leveled much of the business district. The **Senate Saloon** occupied one building for much of the early 1900s then became a newspaper office. The other building has served the fraternal order of **Odd Fellows** for over 120 years (719-836-4298).

Other Sites Near Fairplay:

- ▲ The **Horseshoe/Fourmile Historic Auto Tour** retraces the DSP&H Railroad up Fourmile Creek. Signposts along the way correspond to ten interpretive sites, including Limber Grove and Leavick Mill. **Limber Grove** Scenic trail winds uphill to a secluded grove of 1,500-year old (limber) pine trees near timberline. **Leavick Mill** provides an example of 1890's "high technology." Because this structure is literally at the road's edge, visitors can view and photograph the mill without trespassing. Copies of the Historic Auto Tour brochure are available at the Forest Service Office in Fairplay (719-836-2031).
- ▲ **High Creek Fen Preserve** supports 14 rare wetland plant species, most of which survived here after the last ice age. Only 2 or 3 other wetlands of this type exist in the entire United States. Owned by The Nature Conservancy, **High Creek Fen** is about 8.5 miles south of Fairplay on US Highway 285 (719-836-4279).



High Creek Fen Linda Balough

In 1979 a portion of what is now the Lost Creek Wilderness was designated by the Secretary of the Interior as the **Lost Creek National Natural Area**. This area is characterized by stunning rock formations, including huge granite spires, pinnacles, narrow ridges and steep gorges. The area can be explored via several wilderness trails and/or photographed from four interpretive pullouts along County Road 77 in the **Tarryall Valley**. For more information call (719) 836-2031.

Further Information:

To view a detailed description of the towns, sites, tours, and services depicted here, please visit www.parkcountyheritage.com. The following locations provide visitor information within each community or area:

- Alma** (Town Hall): 59 East Buckskin Street, Alma, CO 80420 (719-836-2712)
- Bailey** (Country Store): 149 Main Street, Bailey, CO 80421 (303-838-2505) (Knotty Pine Sports Center): 60641 US Highway 285, Bailey, CO 80421 (303-838-5679)
- Como** (Mountain Man Gallery): 6th & Broadway, Como, CO 80432 (719-836-1910)
- Fairplay** (Visitor Center): 100 4th Street, Fairplay, CO 80440 (719-836-2387)
- Guffey** (Rita's Place & Caldera Gallery): 611 Canon Street, Guffey, CO 80820 (719-689-2501)
- Hartsel** (South Park Mercantile): 12787 US Highway 24, Hartsel, CO 80449 (719-836-2233)
- Jefferson** (Jefferson Depot): Maverick Real Estate, US Highway 285, Jefferson, CO 80456 (719-836-4833)
- Park County Tourism Office:** 501 Main Street, Fairplay, CO 80440 (719-836-4279)
- Pike National Forest** (Fairplay office): 320 US Highway 285, Fairplay, CO 80440 (719-836-2031)
- Shawnee** (Mountain Gallery): 55918 US Highway 285, Shawnee, CO 80475 (303-838-6106)
- Tarryall Valley** (Ute Trail River Ranch): 21446 County Road 77, Lake George, CO 80827 (719-748-3015)

Additional copies of this map may be obtained from the Park County Tourism Office at POB 1373, Fairplay, CO 80440 (gnichols@parkco.us).

^{*}Historic preservation grants have been provided by the Colorado Historical Society' State Historical Fund (SHF) for the Park County Courthouse, South Park Community Church, South Park Brewery and Summer Saloon, Edith Teter School, Colorado Salt Works, Santa Maria Ranch and Jefferson School. The SHF also provided funding for interpretative exhibits located at Bailey, Boreas Pass, Como, Hartsel, Kenosha Pass, and the Wilkinson Pass Visitor Center.

PARK COUNTY

HERITAGE

TOUR MAP



Dedicated to Mick Buyer (1931-2008) - Third Generation Park County Rancher



"The Park County Heritage Tour Map was made possible with funding from the Colorado Historical Society' State Historical Fund and the Colorado Tourism Office."