

Colorado Cultural Resource Survey

OAHP1400

Management Data Form

Rev. 9/98

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The Management Data Form should be completed for each cultural resource recorded during an archaeological survey. Exceptions to this are isolated finds and re-evaluations, neither of which require a Management Data Form. Please attach the appropriate component forms and use continuation pages if necessary.

1. Resource Number: 5ST997 2. Temporary Resource Number:

- 3. Attachments (check as many as apply)
4. Official determination (OAHP use only)
Prehistoric Archaeological Component
Historic Archaeological Component
Historic Architectural Component Form
Sketch/Instrument Map (required)
U.S.G.S. Map Photocopy (required)
Photograph(s)
Other, specify:
Determined
Determined Not Eligible
Nominated
Need Data
Contributing to NR Dist.
Not Contributing to NR Dist.

I. IDENTIFICATION

- 5. Resource Name: Parkville Cemetery
6. Project Name/Number:
7. Government Involvement: Local X State Federal
Agency: Town of Breckenridge
8. Site Categories: Check as many as apply
Prehistoric: archaeological site paleontological site
in existing National Register District? yes no name
Historic: archaeology site X building(s) structure(s) object(s)
in existing National Register District? yes no X name
9. Owner(s)'s Name and Address: U.S. Forest Service, Town of Breckenridge
10. Boundary Description and Justification: Extent of visible features and artifacts.
11. Site/Property Dimensions: 40 m x 123.4 m Area: 4936 m^2 (÷4047) 1.2 acres
Area was calculated as: Length x Width X OR (length X width) X .785
rectangle/square ellipse

II. LOCATION

- 12. Legal Location
PM 6 Township 6 S Range 77 W Section 25 SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of SW 1/4
if section is irregular, explain alignment method:

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IV. National/State Register Eligibility Assessment

31. Context or Theme: Western precious and industrial metals mining

32. Applicable National Register Criteria:

Does not meet any of the below National Register criteria

A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history; or

B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory; or

Qualifies under exceptions A through G.

Level of Significance: National State Local

33. Condition

a. Architectural/Structural

Excellent

Good

Fair

Deteriorated

Ruins

b. Archaeological/Paleontological

Undisturbed

Light disturbance

Moderate disturbance

Heavy disturbance

Total disturbance

34. Describe condition: The site appears relatively undisturbed; however, the graves lack gravestones, which may have been removed. The graves are currently denoted by outlines of rocks, some of which may be original, and recently placed crosses made with branches. The site's cabin is partially standing.

35. Vandalism: yes no describe: _____

36. National Register Eligibility Field Assessment:

Eligible Not Eligible Need Data

Statement of Significance/N.R.H.P. Justification: See the attached sheet.

37. Status in an Existing National Register District:

Contributing Non-Contributing

38. National Register District Potential yes no discuss: The site is isolated, and the adjacent townsite of Parkville lacks integrity.

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V. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

39. Threats to Resource: Water erosion Wind erosion ___ Grazing ___ Neglect
Vandalism ___ Recreation Construction ___ Other (specify): _____
comments: The site sees heavy recreational visitation.
40. Existing Protection: None ___ Marked Fenced ___ Patrolled ___ Access controlled ___
other (specify): _____
41. Local landmark designation: None 42. Easement: _____
43. Management Recommendations: See the attached sheet.

VI. DOCUMENTATION

44. Previous Actions Accomplished at the site:
- a. Excavations: Test ___ Partial ___ Complete ___ Date(s): _____
 - b. Stabilization: Date(s): None
 - c. HABS/HAER Documentation: Date(s) & Numbers: None
 - d. Other: _____
45. Known collections/reports/interviews and other references (list): None
46. Primary Location of Additional Data: Town of Breckenridge
47. State or Federal Permit Number: _____ Collection Authorized: yes ___ no
Artifact Collection: Yes ___ No Artifact Repository: _____
Collection Method: Diagnostics ___ Grab Sample ___ Random Sample ___ Transect
Other (specify): _____
48. Photograph Numbers: _____ Negatives filed at: _____
49. Report Title: Mining the Golden Horseshoe: An Inventory of Select Historic Sites Around Breckenridge, Summit County, Colorado
50. Recorder(s): Eric Twitty Date(s): August 30, 2003
51. Recorder Affiliation: Mountain States Historical
Phone Number: 303)499-4334

NOTE: Please attach a sketch map, a photocopy of the USGS quad. map indicating resource location, and photographs.

Eligibility Recommendations

The Parkville Cemetery features apparent graves both arranged in a row and disbursed in a clearing. The site retains ambiance and feel of a lonely, remote mountain graveyard. However, a monument is the only feature confirming the graveyard as such, and the graves are marked by outlines of cobbles. Headstones and other formal means of marking are absent. Given this, the graveyard retains a moderate degree of archaeological integrity. The site also includes a cabin remnant that lacks material and archival information necessary to tie it to important events, themes, and trends. The cabin is unlikely to possess meaningful, buried archaeological deposits and would contribute little meaningful data. For these reasons, the cabin is recommended as a non-contributing element of the site. The cemetery is important on national, state, and local levels, and is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, C, and D, and the SRHP under A, C, and E.

In terms of *Criterion A*, the Parkville Cemetery is associated with and the product of several events and trends important to Summit County, Colorado, and the American West. The cemetery is the burial place of individuals who directly participated in the Parkville gold rush of 1860. The rush was the first west of the Great Divide, and was an event of major proportion in Colorado and the greater West. Parkville drew wealth seekers from points across the nation and became so large that it rivaled Denver in terms of population, culture, and size. The rush set precedent by proving that gold lay in the deep mountains and brought the first prospectors to thoroughly explore inner Colorado. On a local scale, Parkville was the seed for Summit County's mining industry.

The Parkville Cemetery was the direct result of the Parkville rush and was an important aspect of the town of Parkville. As one of the largest and most sophisticated towns in Colorado during the early 1860s, Parkville became the regional center for burials.

In terms of *Criterion C*, the Parkville Cemetery is important as an example of an early burial place on the cusp of the West's mining frontier. The cemetery offers evidence suggestive of burial practices and the socio-economic status of the buried. Most of the graves are poorly marked, lack headstones, and are unadorned. These characteristics may reflect a low socio-economic status of or unfamiliarity with the individuals, or an attempt to use local materials to mark graves, which decayed and became scattered over time.

Few mining towns were important or inhabited long enough to justify a cemetery. Most towns that were important enough continued to be inhabited, and associated cemeteries expanded, early graves became obscure, and the overall cemeteries were modified. In contrast, the Parkville Cemetery represents a narrow window in time and retains integrity only from the early 1860s, when Parkville was inhabited. Such cemeteries are uncommon and important representations of early mining frontier settlement.

In terms of *NRHP Criterion D* and *SRHP Criterion E*, the Parkville Cemetery holds a high potential to contribute information meaningful in several arenas. First, a study of buried remains may reveal the pathology of death in early, remote mining districts. Because Victorian society was reluctant to document deaths, little firm information is currently known regarding actual causes. Today's conceptions suggest that disease and accidents were prime causes, but the details remain cloudy. A study of the buried remains may reveal specific diseases, types of trauma, and other reasons for death not well-known.

A study of buried remains may also enhance the current understanding of the demography of deaths on the early mining frontier. Children often succumbed to disease and women died during birth, which may be well-represented in early cemeteries. The predominance of males on the early mining frontier is well-known, and the study of buried remains may reveal proportions of deaths among males, women, and children.

Burial practices and rites on the early mining frontier is another area of inquiry that suffers a lack of detailed documentation. Examination of buried remains may reveal embalming practices if any, the types of coffins used, the depths of graves, whether important articles were enclosed with the dead, and if so, what articles were deemed important on the mining frontier during the 1860s.

In all, the above areas of inquiry can contribute to predictive models for studies of other frontier graves and cemeteries. The Parkville Cemetery offers an unusual opportunity to study aspects of death on the mining frontier because the cemetery represents a narrow timeframe, is directly associated with a single gold rush event, and the graves cannot be attributed to living families.

Management Recommendations

Management recommendations suggest several actions. First, the cemetery should be subject to ground-penetrating radar to confirm the existing graves and locate others. Second, the graves should be marked in a historically sensitive manner. Third, signage should be posted outside of the cemetery describing the importance of Parkville and the cemetery, and warn against grave robbing, which may be occurring. Fourth, the cemetery should be maintained. Last, research in terms of NRHP Criterion D and SRHP Criterion E should be carried out.