

A PROFILE OF HISTORIC PLACES RECORDED IN COLORADO



OFFICE *of*
ARCHAEOLOGY
and HISTORIC
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A Profile of Historic Places Recorded in Colorado

FRONT AND BACK COVER

Photos of historic places of Colorado: The Byers-Evans House, Denver; Howard Store, Hooper; vandalized Ancestral Puebloan ruins, Montezuma County.

Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Collection.

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DENVER, COLORADO
2008

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Introduction

Colorado is a state with a diverse and dynamic history. Our places, buildings, objects and sites create a tapestry of chronicles on Colorado's majestic landscape. Understanding the character of Colorado's historic places is essential for effective preservation planning, management, historic research and to guard and preserve these irreplaceable treasures. Knowledge of the various types of places, their distribution and condition, and the forces threatening them enables sound decision-making and provides the basis on which to form guidelines to preserve Colorado's rich cultural heritage.

One way of gaining a better understanding of these places is to examine officially recorded and designated historic places. The data on historic places stored and compiled at the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) in the Colorado Historical Society provides the groundwork for preservation throughout the state. As the primary repository of historic places and survey information, the office gives valuable assistance to land managers and researchers concerning the location, nature, and management of approximately 155,000¹ encoded historic places (herein defined broadly as the location of material remnants of past human activity over fifty years old) and 30,500 documents related to these historic places in the state.

The intention of this document is to provide a baseline summary of information on the geographic distribution and quantitative tabulation of historic places (both prehistoric and historic periods) as represented in the OAHP database. The document is also intended to provide to the National Park Service, which helps fund the Colorado state historic preservation program in Colorado, general information on identified historic places in the state. It is hoped that the document will also enable OAHP, land management agencies and local governments to identify data inadequacies and plan for appropriate activities that would minimize these deficiencies. The document also provides information to the public regarding Colorado's historic places and their distributions across the state.

This report summarizes the large number of records stored in the OAHP database. The data are summarized to discern broad patterns and uncover general trends apparent in the various attributes of the recorded historic places. The Colorado State Register of Historic Properties and official determinations of eligibility to the National Register are reviewed to better understand the significance of historic places. This document also discusses the condition of historic places, describes several of the OAHP programs and presents a brief summary of future preservation goals.

Data presented in this document is current as of December 2006 unless otherwise noted. While the database provides an enormous amount of valuable information, limitations and biases are present. Patterns or trends indicated by the data may reflect differential survey activity or variable recording techniques rather than patterns present in history or prehistory. Since the OAHP database has roots that stretch back over fifty years ago and various methods of record keeping and data entry have been used, one should consider the numbers as estimates.



OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION



The Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation is located in the Colorado History Museum at 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203.

¹As of December 2006, approximately 15,800 recently recorded historic places were in the process of being entered into the database and were not included in these counts.



Survey Activity in the State

Colorado (Figure 1) is a large and diverse state with an equally large and diverse record of past human occupation. The state encompasses 66,300,800 acres and, as of the year 2005, had an estimated population of 4,665,177. County size ranges from 21,482 acres in Broomfield County to 3,054,893 acres in Las Animas County (Table 1). The majority of the population is concentrated in counties along the Front Range and dwindles to only 577 people in San Juan County in the central southwest portion of the state. Since the adjusted total population figure of 4,301,261 from the year 2000, Colorado has experienced an increase of 8.46 percent in population growth. Metropolitan counties such as Denver and El Paso have seen the largest increases in terms of actual numbers, though areas such as Douglas County have experienced large percentage increases as these once rural counties are becoming more urbanized. This level of growth will continue to impact both recorded and non-recorded historic places in Colorado. Rural eastern counties are seeing continual population declines as more people seek greater economic opportunities in the larger cities. This has led to the virtual disappearance of some rural eastern communities and towns.

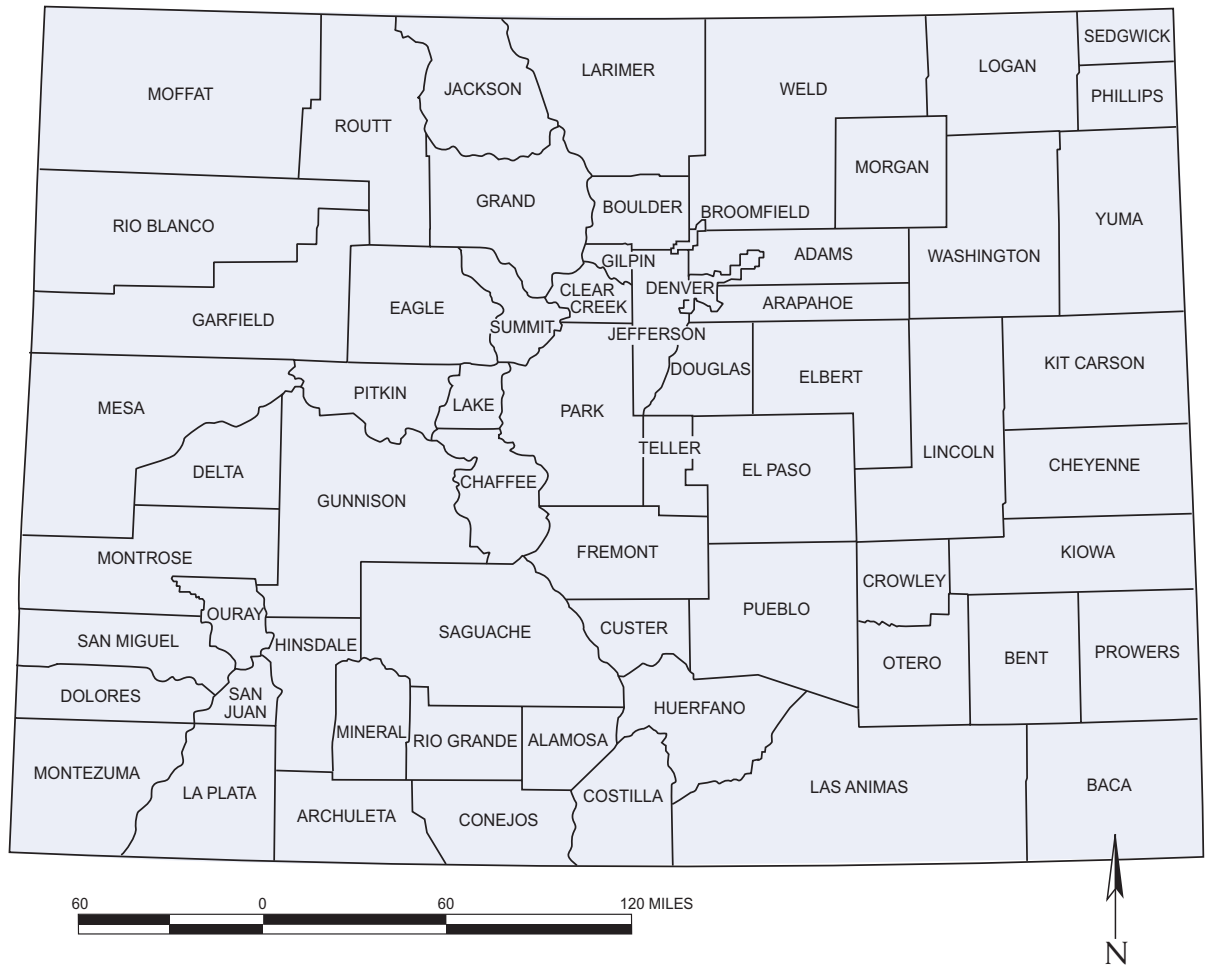


FIGURE 1.

Colorado Counties. There are 64 counties in the state with an overall growing population and increased impacts to historic places.

TABLE 1 ACREAGE AND POPULATION PER COUNTY

COUNTY	ACRES	2005 EST. POPULATION	COUNTY	ACRES	2005 EST. POPULATION
Adams	756,667	399,426	Kit Carson	1,383,956	7,642
Alamosa	462,854	15,282	La Plata	1,088,284	7,738
Arapahoe	514,820	529,090	Lake	245,475	47,452
Archuleta	866,899	11,886	Larimer	1,684,320	271,927
Baca	1,637,426	4,069	Las Animas	3,054,893	15,446
Bent	986,287	5,558	Lincoln	1,654,532	5,618
Boulder	473,907	280,440	Logan	1,180,999	20,719
Broomfield	21,482	43,478	Mesa	2,141,239	129,872
Chaffee	649,035	16,968	Mineral	562,021	932
Cheyenne	1,140,413	1,953	Moffat	3,043,751	13,417
Clear Creek	253,777	9,197	Montezuma	1,302,912	24,778
Conejos	825,741	8,512	Montrose	1,437,712	37,482
Costilla	786,801	3,424	Morgan	828,048	27,995
Crowley	512,170	5,401	Otero	811,305	19,495
Custer	473,112	3,860	Ouray	347,075	4,260
Delta	735,644	29,947	Park	1,413,990	16,949
Denver	99,620	557,917	Phillips	440,517	4,586
Dolores	689,232	1,827	Pitkin	621,036	14,914
Douglas	539,072	249,416	Prowers	1,053,037	13,892
Eagle	1,088,485	47,530	Pueblo	1,533,931	151,322
El Paso	1,362,305	22,788	Rio Blanco	2,064,791	5,973
Elbert	1,183,409	565,582	Rio Grande	584,382	12,227
Fremont	981,175	47,766	Routt	1,511,750	21,313
Garfield	1,893,267	49,810	Saguache	2,027,724	7,031
Gilpin	96,094	4,932	San Juan	248,954	577
Grand	1,195,857	13,211	San Miguel	826,085	7,213
Gunnison	2,085,900	14,226	Sedgwick	351,253	2,529
Hinsdale	718,946	765	Summit	396,106	24,892
Huerfano	1,019,116	7,771	Teller	357,489	21,918
Jackson	1,036,639	1,448	Washington	1,614,655	4,633
Jefferson	494,624	526,801	Weld	2,568,855	228,943
Kiowa	1,142,976	1,422	Yuma	1,516,549	9,789
			TOTAL:	66,621,378	4,665,177

Population number source: U.S. Census Bureau.
Release date: March 16, 2006

Between 5 and 7 percent of Colorado has been intensively surveyed for historic places. Geographically the eastern plains counties have the least amount of survey due largely to the small amount of public land which spurs compliance from the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its section 106 requirement to inventory areas in order to identify all historic places within a project area.

The majority of the data collected for OAHP occurs during these formal surveys, spurred by historic preservation activities in conjunction with federal projects. This is not surprising, as one third of the land in Colorado is federally owned. The two largest land-holding federal agencies are the U.S.D.A. Forest Service (approximately 14,400,000 acres or 22 percent of Colorado) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management

**TABLE 2
TEN MOST ACTIVE LEAD AGENCIES FOR THE YEAR 2006**

LEAD AGENCY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF ACRES SURVEYED
U.S. Bureau of Land Management	584	31,326.791
U.S. Federal Communications Commission	319	72.806
U.S.D.A. National Forests	294	14,831.843
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	192	0*
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety	129	104.6
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs	112	3,654.848
Colorado Department of Transportation	100	6,821.783
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	71	5,195.556
U.S. Department of Defense and Army	56	3,6645.8
U.S. Corps of Engineers	48	3,260.172
TOTAL	1,905	101,914.199

*This agency, while active in consultation, did not generate acreage for survey. Instead, most of these projects generated individual site recordings and requests for concurrence on eligibility to the National Register. Acreages are estimates based on available encoded data in the system, as some projects are still in the process of being entered.

(approximately 8,300,000 acres or 13 percent of Colorado). For the year 2006, the Bureau of Land Management conducted more consultations with OAHP on historic places than any other governmental entity (Table 2).

Certified Local Governments (CLGs), various educational and private organizations, and OAHP also conduct surveys to locate historic places. The Historic Preservation Fund sponsors the CLG surveys. This federal grant fund is administered through the National Park Service, and this fund also supports the operations of OAHP. The CLG program has recently been matched by State Historical Fund grant moneys, which are derived from limited-stakes gaming revenue from the cities of Central City, Black Hawk and Cripple Creek. Although CLG surveys are small in number, they often respond to specific development needs such as documenting poorly represented types of historic places.



PAAC (Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification) participants conducting an archaeological field survey. Surveys are the main way that discoveries of newly recorded sites are identified.

Surveys vary in intensity and respond to the information needs of a particular project. The most common surveys are intensive and involve 100 percent pedestrian coverage of the project area with the aim of recording all historic buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts older than fifty years of age. Intensive surveys account for 93 percent of the survey projects in the state. As illustrated in Figure 2, the majority of the intensive survey projects are from one to twenty acres.

A sample, or selective, intensive survey is generally any survey that selects less than 100-percent inventory coverage of an area. A reconnaissance survey seeks to document the presence or absence of specific property types or to plan future intensive level surveys. Examples include the reconnaissance survey of adobe structures in the San Luis Valley or dry-land farming complexes in Weld County.

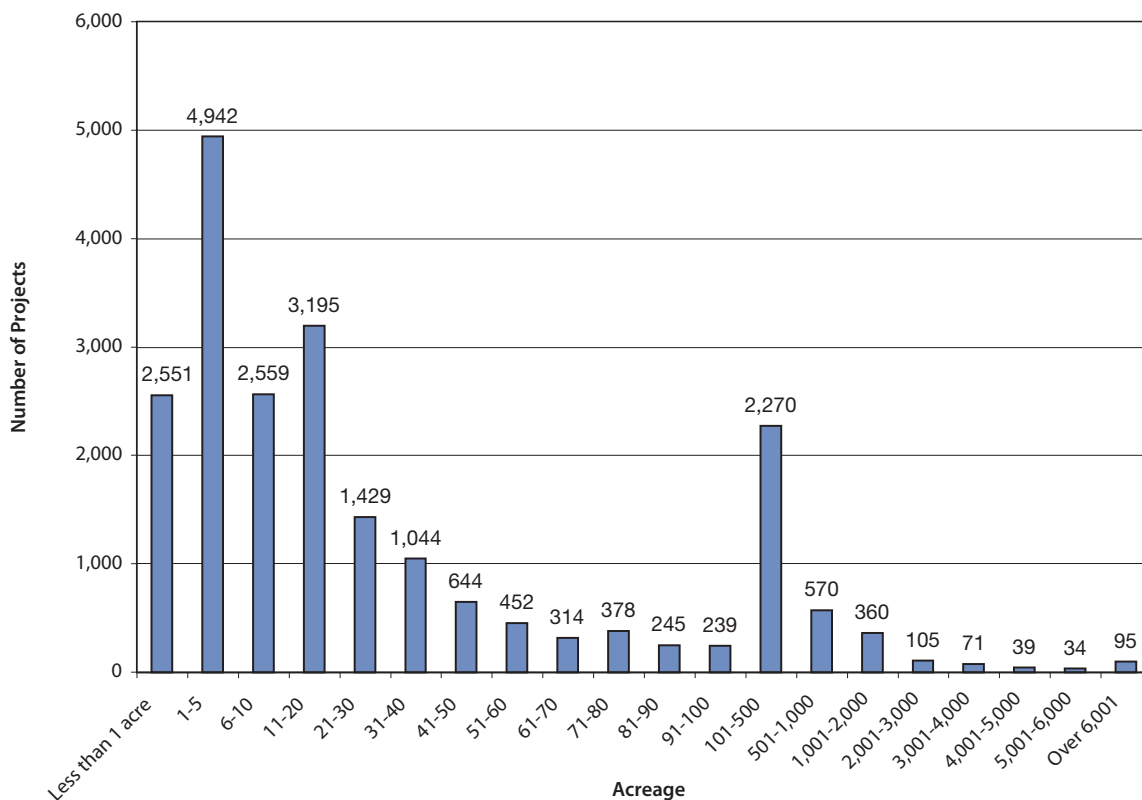


FIGURE 2.

Acreage of Intensive-Level Survey Projects through the Year 2006. The majority of surveys are between 1 and 20 acres. There are also a large number of surveys that have covered 101 to 500 acres.



Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Resource Files



There are more than 30,500 reports housed at OAHP along with maps, drawings and site inventory forms.

OAHP maintains six primary categories of historic places data. These categories are forms, documents, maps and drawings, the geographical information system, the photographic collection, and the computerized database. The interaction of all data types provides the most complete understanding of Colorado's historic places. The primary data sources are summarized below.

Forms

Approximately 155,000 forms on historic places, representing sites, districts, structures, objects, and isolated finds, constitute the backbone of the OAHP database. These forms provide information that has been collected throughout the state over the last 50 years. Information concerning a particular historic place can range from a few words to a several-page document providing descriptive, locational, historical and management details. The narrative descriptions, maps, photographs and drawings accompanying the forms provide information unavailable elsewhere in the system. Standardization in recording techniques during recent decades assures useful additions to this collection.

Documents

The OAHP report library houses 30,500 documents on historic places. This collection consists of survey, excavation, management plans and synthesis reports written over the last 50 years concerning the identification and analysis of historic places in the state. Many of these documents are five to ten pages concerning a well pad or timber sale survey, whereas others are multi-volume documents concerning a large dam or land acquisition project. As with the forms, the standardization of required content in survey reports and other documents implemented since the 1980s has greatly improved the usefulness of incoming reports.

Maps and Drawings

OAHP maintains many maps and architectural drawings, including topographic maps indicating the location of individual historic buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts. Other types of maps and large flat files maintained by OAHP include archaeological project maps, schematic architectural drawings, and plans. These maps and drawings were generated by numerous programs or entities, including the National Register program, the Investment Tax Credit program, Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), the Colorado Historical Society's regional properties, and the State Historical Fund.

Geographical Information System

Since 1999 OAHP has implemented a Geographical Information System (GIS) program that has digitized the locations of historic buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts and inventoried areas.

The GIS program is a continuing part of the information management process at OAHP. To help protect historic places from vandalism and maintain privacy, specific details on these places are only available to historic preservation consultants, federal agency personnel, and qualified researchers on a need-to-know basis.



A staff person using GIS to enter the locational information from survey documents and site forms into the OAHP system.

Photographic Collection

OAHP maintains an extensive collection of more than 31,000 photographic slides and negatives in addition to the numerous photographs stored with the forms. The slide images primarily depict individual historic buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts within Colorado and have been collected since the 1970s by OAHP staff to use in public lectures and presentations.

Computerized Database

The OAHP database is used as a tool to organize, manipulate and store data on historic buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts. Its primary function is to present data in a quick and efficient manner and, when necessary, to lead individuals to sources of additional information. The database program was developed by the Questor Company of Torrance, California. The server stores and retrieves various types of information in a series of interlocking files. Primary files contain data concerning projects, surveys, historic districts and individual historic places. Numerous other files provide additional data such as specific site attributes, location and management recommendations. Various methods of data manipulation are available to provide information concerning a particular historic place. For example, information can be gathered on the Molly Brown House and its architect or its eligibility for the National Register. The data can also provide information on a specific geographical region, for example, from a legal location, along a city block, or within a specific boundary such as a national park. The database can also be searched to retrieve a particular site type or attributes such as a listing of historic period buildings with wraparound porches or prehistoric sites with Folsom-style projectile points.



The Historic Places of Colorado

Historic buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts documented at OAHF are generally classified by time period as being “prehistoric” or “historic.” For this publication, historic places that have undergone “historical archaeological” methodological investigations are included with all historic component places. In Colorado, the line between prehistory and history corresponds roughly to the documented contact of European-descendant populations with American Indian peoples. The date and extent of this contact varies throughout the state from approximately the years 1700 to 1890.

Historic Places Definitions

Historic places in Colorado are recorded as districts, sites, buildings, objects, structures or isolated finds. As defined by the National Register, districts are:

“... a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.”

Sites are defined as:

“...the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archaeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.”

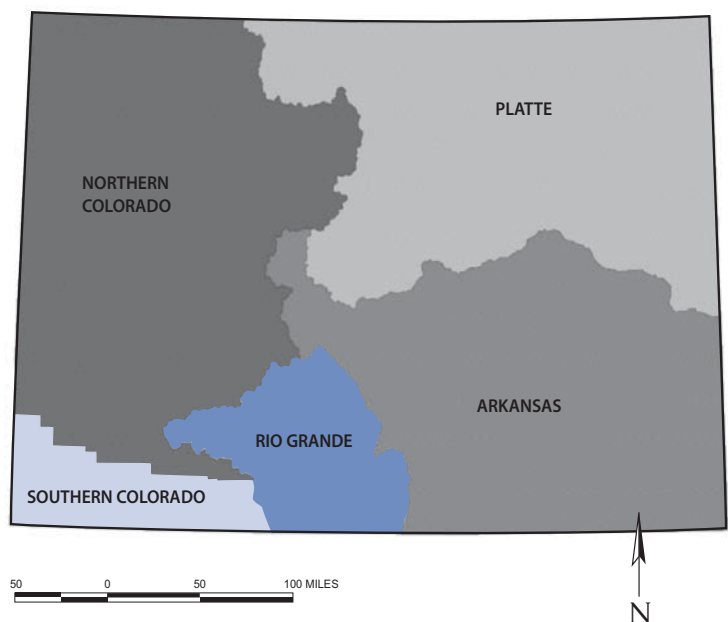
Although not defined by the National Register program, isolated finds are another type that includes the limited remains of single actions, such as a lone projectile point or a small historic trash dump. The specific definition of site and isolated find is dependent on the individual recording the find or the land management agency’s definitions. For this publication, unless noted, under the OAHF data system, information on isolated finds is categorized in a manner similar to sites. Therefore the maps and statistics that follow incorporate both sites and isolated finds and are broadly referred to as sites.

The River Basin Contexts

In 1999 the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (CCPA) coordinated and completed the production of five documents in *Colorado Prehistory, A Publication Series*. These documents were designed to summarize the state’s prehistoric sites by region. The intent was also to update contexts (background information on sites for planning and management purposes) developed in 1984 as part of the National Park Service’s Resource Protection Planning Process. The newer documents provide the most current data synthesis and management recommendations for the

FIGURE 3.

Prehistoric River Basin Context Areas from the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists’ Prehistory of Colorado: A Publication Series. River drainages are based on actual water basins and prehistoric material remains as inferred boundaries.



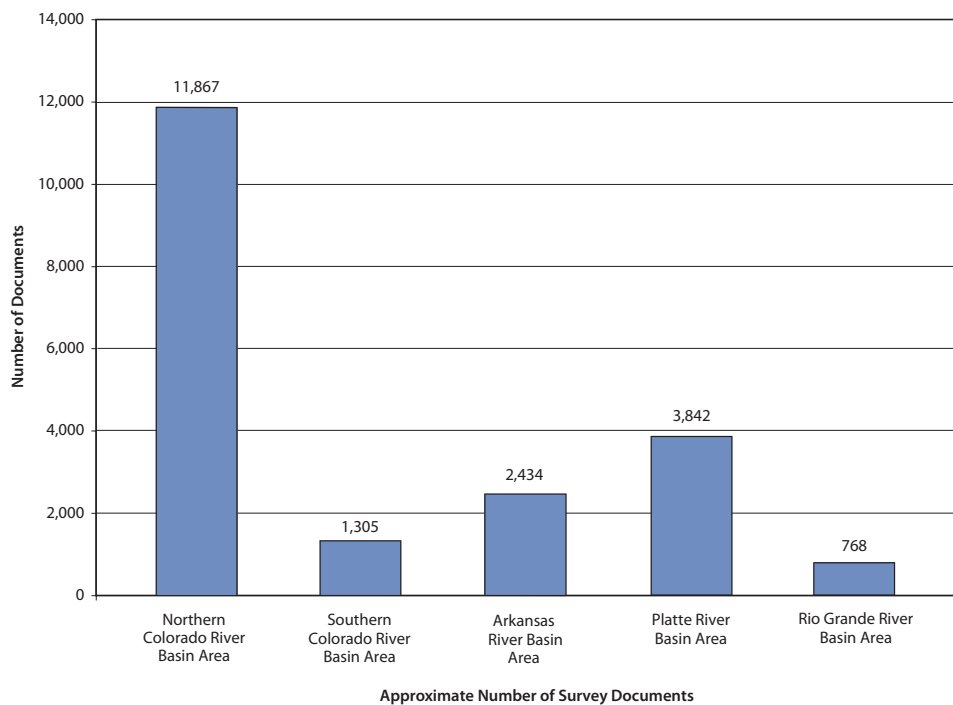


FIGURE 4.

Approximate Number of Survey Documents by CCPA Context Areas. The Northern Colorado River Basin Area has the largest number of survey documents in the state as of December 2006.

prehistoric sites in the state. Other context documents have been generated in the last ten years, including a context regarding sites that have been subjected to historical archaeological inquiry from the CCPA, and many more from various agencies are planned. These documents provide a valuable framework for understanding and managing Colorado’s historic places.

The five CCPA documents concerning prehistoric sites are divided according to major river drainage basins: the Arkansas, Colorado, Platte and Rio Grande. Because of its size and the variety of sites found there, the Colorado River drainage is divided into Northern and Southern sections (Figure 3). The distribution of survey documents for each area reflects both the differential sizes and the variable survey activity levels for each river basin (Figure 4).

Geographical Distribution

Approximately 82,000 sites and districts in Colorado have a prehistoric component (Table 3). There are also approximately 78,000 buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts that have a historic time period component in the OAHIP database. Included in these counts are approximately 5,000 sites and isolated finds that have components from both time periods. It should also be noted that when this publication was being compiled, in addition to these counts, approximately 15,800 forms were in the process of being entered into the database and were not considered.

Prehistoric Sites

Regional Distribution

Prehistoric sites are not evenly distributed throughout Colorado. The number of recorded sites varies from more than 13,000 in Montezuma County to fewer than ten each in Broomfield, Phillips and Gilpin Counties. The distribution of known sites reflects both prehistoric cultural patterning and biases in recording these places. Montezuma County has many recorded sites, as extensive settlement and construction by Ancestral Puebloans occurred from approximately A.D. 1 to A.D. 1200, and their

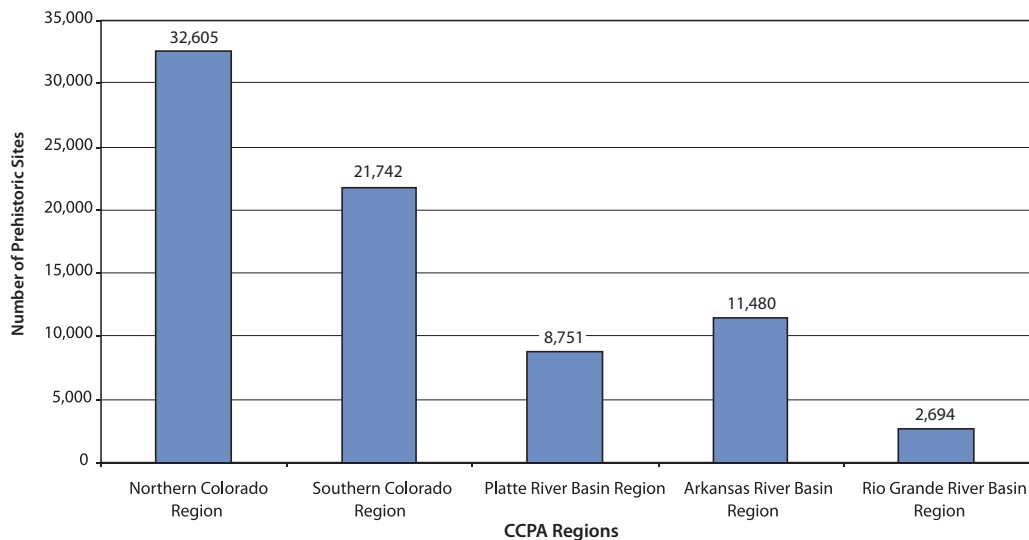
TABLE 3 SITE AND ISOLATED FIND RECORDS THROUGH NOVEMBER 2006

COUNTY	PREHISTORIC		HISTORIC		TOTALS	
	Sites	I.F.s	Sites	I.F.s	Sites	I.F.s
Adams	156	226	1,277	111	1,397	325
Alamosa	236	191	231	37	440	219
Arapahoe	398	343	1,585	96	1,920	414
Archuleta	998	665	361	56	1,317	711
Baca	305	96	167	20	455	116
Bent	254	83	171	11	395	90
Boulder	373	290	7,937	638	8,266	908
Broomfield	2	9	96	4	98	13
Chaffee	348	194	751	106	1,059	293
Cheyenne	43	32	77	2	120	34
Clear Creek	45	30	1,320	221	1,352	249
Conejos	328	221	288	12	590	228
Costilla	76	61	193	0	265	61
Crowley	12	2	41	2	52	4
Custer	19	36	236	54	255	90
Delta	328	472	521	38	817	503
Denver	102	202	7,763	35	7,848	236
Dolores	1,056	645	353	93	1,348	728
Douglas	757	268	612	79	1,336	339
Eagle	627	622	681	98	1,250	705
El Paso	691	862	3,054	151	3,659	987
Elbert	205	95	79	17	273	109
Fremont	396	439	915	88	1,260	515
Garfield	730	791	1,048	126	1,730	907
Gilpin	4	6	1,381	190	1,384	196
Grand	1,130	776	720	186	1,752	923
Gunnison	1,101	984	1,405	158	2,445	1,122
Hinsdale	167	159	399	60	547	213
Huerfano	696	370	772	104	1,379	455
Jackson	452	378	453	112	878	481
Jefferson	303	149	2,634	292	2,896	427
Kiowa	29	23	101	5	130	28
Kit Carson	38	30	110	2	148	32
La Plata	1,936	1,787	2,105	132	3,912	1,887

TABLE 3 SITE AND ISOLATED FIND RECORDS THROUGH NOVEMBER 2006

COUNTY	PREHISTORIC		HISTORIC		TOTALS	
	Sites	I.F.s	Sites	I.F.s	Sites	I.F.s
Lake	238	63	1,029	205	1,200	259
Larimer	733	453	5,884	425	6,511	831
Las Animas	4,672	1,518	2,101	211	6,299	1,659
Lincoln	91	79	118	3	207	82
Logan	64	55	220	2	281	56
Mesa	2,701	3,614	4,106	155	6,638	3,732
Mineral	96	106	179	4	263	107
Moffat	2,712	2,151	690	212	3,210	2,318
Montezuma	13,650	3,282	1,320	243	14,526	3,435
Montrose	2,731	2,389	998	135	3,528	2,478
Morgan	359	82	354	20	700	102
Otero	248	101	335	25	568	124
Ouray	245	308	808	36	1,011	336
Park	400	579	1,065	108	1,441	679
Phillips	3	3	34	0	37	3
Pitkin	76	65	804	32	867	94
Prowers	32	7	152	2	182	9
Pueblo	691	607	3,068	96	3,703	689
Rio Blanco	1,725	1,828	722	86	2,329	1,895
Rio Grande	289	223	318	34	573	241
Routt	346	406	938	253	1,247	650
Saguache	838	705	362	91	1,135	783
San Juan	27	52	430	74	451	124
San Miguel	1,243	1,242	1,167	67	2,301	1,293
Sedgwick	19	7	34	0	52	7
Summit	118	50	696	170	794	214
Teller	88	111	1,454	287	1,521	390
Washington	24	18	88	3	109	20
Weld	991	871	1,858	151	2,752	994
Yuma	64	18	97	3	159	20
Total	49,855	32,530	71,266	6,469	117,568	38,172
Combined Total	82,385		77,735		155,740	

Note: Some individual sites may be encoded for more than one time period and are shown for both prehistoric and historic periods. The total column in this table has been corrected to eliminate double counting from multi-component sites and isolated finds.



Note: These numbers are approximations. Some sites located by county lack sufficient detail to be included in this chart. The figure was calculated based on available GIS historic places point data as of December 2006.

FIGURE 5.

Approximate Number of Prehistoric Sites by CCPA River Basin Context Areas. The Northern and Southern Colorado River Basins combined contain well over half of the total number of recorded prehistoric sites in the state.

remains are highly visible to archaeologists. Most of these identified sites are also located on federal land where survey work to identify historic places is mandated. Lower numbers for other parts of the state are partly due to less extensive survey activities. Nonetheless, the distribution of recorded sites does provide some indication of the distribution of prehistoric occupation in the state.

The western portion of Colorado, including the Northern Colorado and the Southern Colorado River Basin areas, encompasses approximately 37 percent of the land and contains approximately 70 percent of the recorded prehistoric sites. The majority of these sites, 42 percent of the state's total prehistoric sites, are located in the Northern Colorado area (Figure 5), which encompasses a much larger area than the more prehistorically densely occupied Southern Colorado area.

In comparison, the Platte and Arkansas River Basins, which comprise roughly 56 percent of the state's acreage, contain only about 26 percent of the total number of recorded prehistoric sites. This is primarily due to the predominance of unsurveyed private land. The Rio Grande River Basin (7 percent of the state's acreage) area has the smallest number of prehistoric sites with approximately 4 percent of the total number of known prehistoric sites.

Site Types

At present, prehistoric places in Colorado are classified into ten major site types (Table 4). The presence or absence of a particular artifact, structure, or feature category defines the site type. Site types include Lithic (stone tools), Camp (domestic temporary occupation), Architectural (structure), Rock Art (painted or pecked images), and several less common types. Many of these types are further clarified as "Open" or "Sheltered." An "Open" site lacks natural protection from the elements.

The vast majority of sites, some 88 percent of the total recorded prehistoric sites, fall into the Open Lithic, Open Camp, or Open Architectural categories (see Figure 6). All other prehistoric site types have been recorded relatively infrequently, comprising only about 12 percent of the total combined.

Prehistoric Time Periods

The earliest prehistoric remains in Colorado are believed to be approximately 12,000 years old. Four major time periods divide the prehistoric period: Paleoindian, Archaic, Formative/Late Prehistoric, and Protohistoric. Approximately 33 percent of the prehistoric sites in

TABLE 4 PREHISTORIC SITE TYPE DEFINITIONS

SITE TYPE		DEFINITION
Lithic	Open	Sites contain lithic materials located in an open topographic situation. The material culture at these sites usually consists of chipped stone tools and waste flakes. Architecture is not present on these sites.
	Sheltered	Same as Open Lithic except the lithic materials are located in rock shelters, overhangs or alcoves.
Camp	Open	Sites are located in an open topographic situation and consist of features or artifacts indicating domestic activity. They are defined by the presence of one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ground stone tools ■ Ceramics ■ Fire hearths ■ Middens In addition, waste flakes and chipped stone tools are usually located at these sites. Architecture is not present.
	Sheltered	Same as Open Camp but the remains are located in rock shelters, overhangs or alcoves.
Architecture	Open	Sites are located in open topographic situations and contain architectural features. Architectural features include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stone enclosures indicating rooms ■ Stone alignments ■ Pithouses
	Sheltered	Same as Open Architectural but the architectural features are located in rock shelters, overhangs or alcoves.
Quarry	Stone	Location for the extraction of lithic or building material.
	Clay	Extraction location for clay deposits used for ceramic production.
	Other	Any non-stone or non-clay raw material extraction location (including small sand or small gravel for pottery temper material).
Rock Art		Sites with petroglyphs and/or pictographs.
Kill Site		Sites with evidence of intentional slaughter, usually of several large animals.
Game Processing or Butchering Site		Location where carcass elements, typically from large game, are further reduced for consumption or transport. Remains often include bones with butcher marks in association with cutting/chopping tools.
Cambium Trees		Trees that have been culturally scarred for food procurement by removing the nourishing cambium layer.
Burial		Human remains
Paleontological		Fossil remains

Colorado are assigned to one of these specific periods, with the other 67 percent being of undetermined prehistoric age (Figure 7). Summaries of each of the time periods follow below.

Distribution

Since most prehistoric sites have been recorded where surveys for historic places have occurred, statements regarding ancient behavioral geographic distributions are challenging. The



A Folsom point from the Paleoindian period, approximately 9,500–8,500 B.C.

approach taken here is to view the total distribution of prehistoric sites for a given prehistoric time period through simple point (dot) maps to show prehistoric locations and clusters of prehistoric sites.

Paleoindian

The Paleoindian period extends from approximately 10,000 to 5,500 B.C. and includes the earliest known human occupants of North America. The period

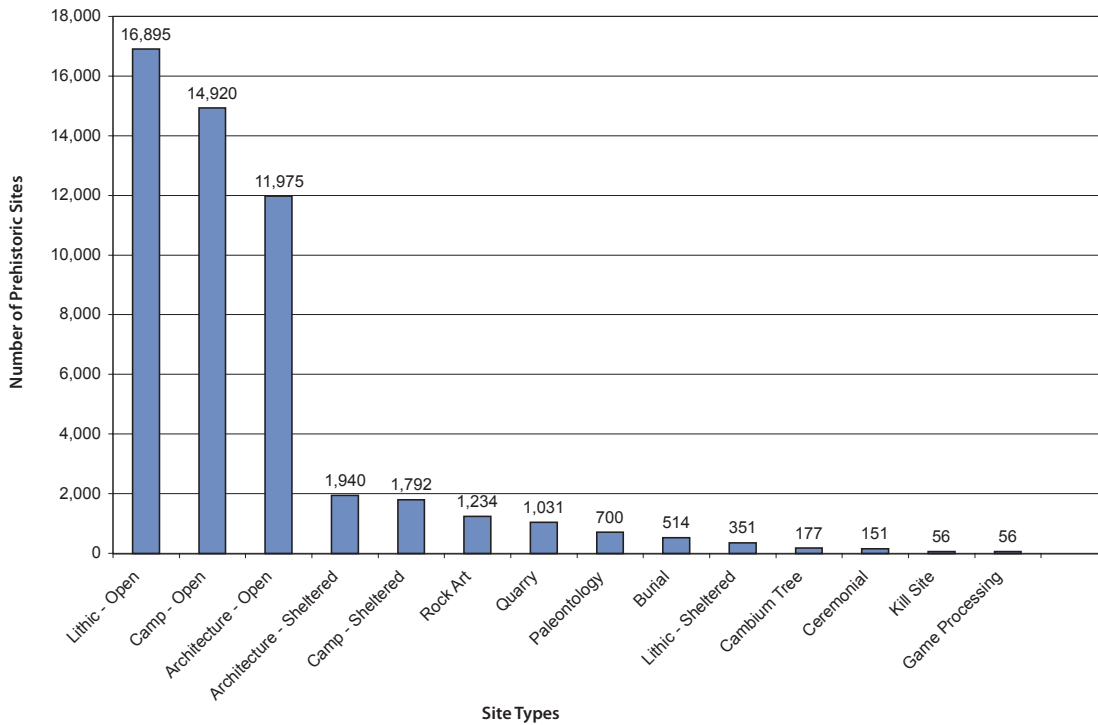


FIGURE 6.

Prehistoric Site Types. The majority of prehistoric site types in the state are Open Lithic, Open Camp, and Open Architectural.

Total number of prehistoric sites in all categories is 51,792. An additional 32,530 isolated finds are not included in these counts. Some sites may be listed in more than one category and thus counted twice.

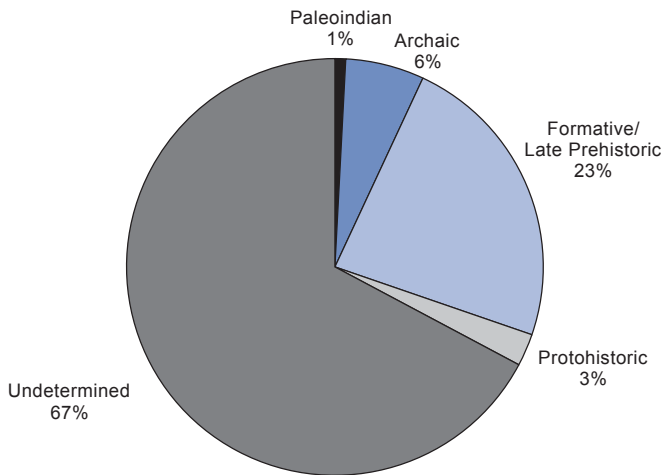


FIGURE 7.

Time Periods for Prehistoric Sites. Thirty-three percent of all prehistoric sites are assignable to one of these four major time periods.

is characterized by small groups of nomadic big-game hunters whose prey included bison and the now-extinct mammoth.

Currently there are 680 Paleoindian sites recorded in Colorado (Figure 8). This comprises only one percent

of all prehistoric sites in the state. One of the densest concentrations of Paleoindian sites has been identified near the border of Alamosa and Saguache Counties. The Smithsonian Institution has conducted a number of excavations in that region and there have been recent focused efforts to survey the recently expanded Great Sand Dunes National Park, contributing to this high concentrated count. Other areas of high concentrations in recorded Paleoindian remains are found in Montezuma County (southwest corner of the state), North Park (north central part of the state) in Grand County, and the Gunnison Valley (west central part of the state).

Archaic

The Archaic period extends from as early as 7,000 B.C. to as late as A.D. 500. Wild plant gathering increasingly supplemented hunting during this time, and people began to settle and store food with their habitations.

Currently, there are 5,090 recorded Archaic sites in the state comprising just six percent of the total number of all prehistoric sites. Archaic sites and isolated finds are considerably denser in the southwestern corner of the state (Figure 9). This distribution may reflect an increase of population that started in the Paleoindian period. A

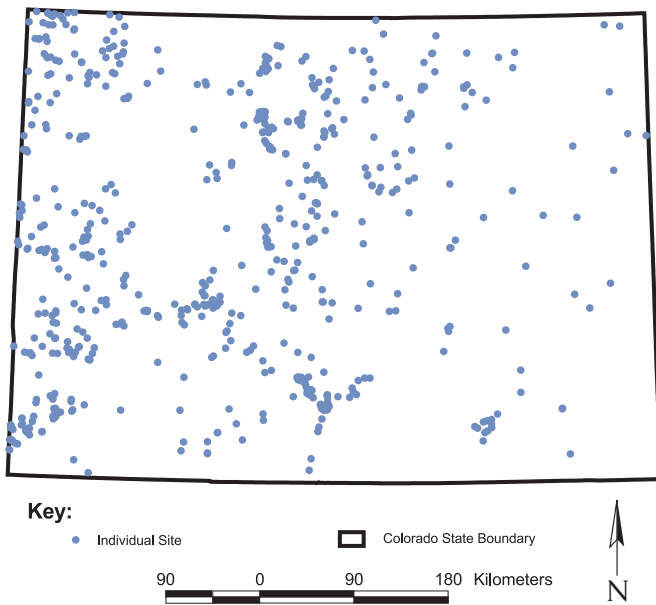


FIGURE 8.

Paleoin Indian Period Sites. *Paleoin Indian sites have been documented throughout the state. However, the greatest concentrations of Paleoin Indian sites have been identified near Great Sand Dunes National Park in the south central part of Colorado. Other concentrations are in the southwest part of the state and also in the north central part of Colorado.*

second hypothesis concerning the eastern plains region postulates that the region was too dry and hot 7,000 to 4,500 years ago to support year-round settlement (a period of time which geologists have termed the “Alti-thermal”). Perhaps the geographic distribution of Archaic period sites reflects the impact of the Alti-thermal, as ancient peoples settled in the mountains and the western slope regions where it was more hospitable in terms of having more reliable sources of water. Insufficient survey coverage on the Plains may also be a factor, however.

Formative/Late Prehistoric

The Formative/Late Prehistoric period (Figure 10) is characterized by ceramic production and bow-and-arrow technology. In some regions of Colorado this was accompanied by a major shift to sedentary village life based on agriculture. The Formative period extends from approximately A.D. 150 to A.D. 1600.

Prehistoric sites dating to this time period are the most numerous of all prehistoric sites in the database except for those lacking an assignable time period. Recorded sites assigned to the Formative period represent 24 percent of all recorded prehistoric



Pictographs at the Carrotman Site located south of Rangely, Colorado, dating to the Archaic Period

sites. The Southern Colorado River Basin contains by far the greatest number of Formative period sites, both as a percentage of the total recorded sites and in sheer numbers.

The large number of Formative/Late Prehistoric sites is at least partially due to the presence of easily identified remains. Diagnostic artifacts and features include ceramics, some types of rock art, and in many

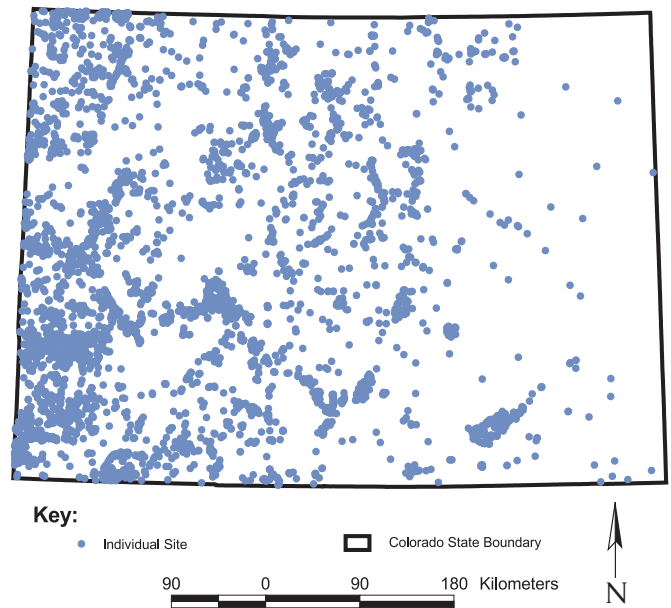


FIGURE 9.

Archaic Period Sites. *The distribution of Archaic sites may be due to the effects of the Alti-thermal, a period 7,000 to 4,500 years ago that saw hotter and drier conditions on the eastern plains. However, insufficient survey coverage for the Plains region may account for this distribution.*

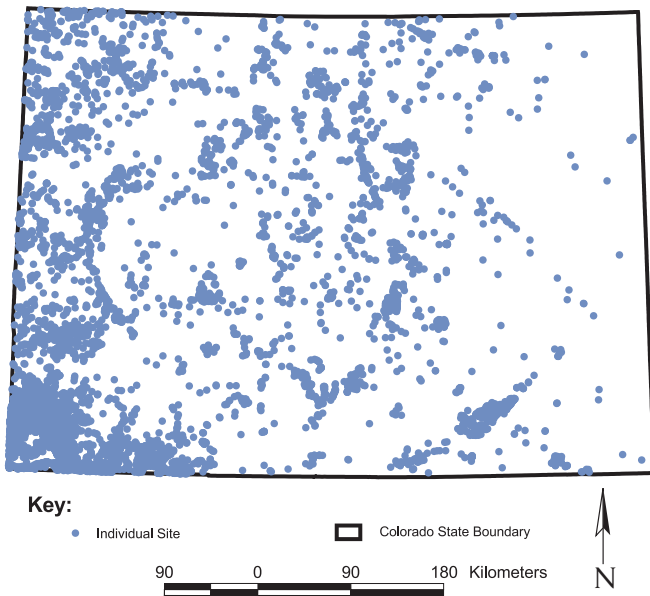


FIGURE 10.

Formative Period Sites. *The distribution of Formative sites is greatest in the southwestern part of the state, where large aggregated settlements were constructed around A.D. 1100 by the Ancestral Puebloans.*



Formative Period Open Architectural Ancestral Puebloan sites from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park south of Mesa Verde National Park.

cases architecture, particularly in the southwestern and Southern Colorado River Basin area, home to the Ancestral Puebloans. When considering the large number of sites that date to this time period in this area, it is also important to remember that the presence of earlier dated period occupations may be masked (or overlain) by the large number of more visible, later dated, Formative/Late Prehistoric period sites.

In addition to the southwest corner of the state, Formative sites are also high in concentration to the northwest where surveys for oil and gas development have recorded numerous sites. Smaller concentrations are found in El Paso and Pueblo Counties and in Las Animas County, where the remains of the Apishapa Culture are found.

Protohistoric

The Protohistoric period (Figure 11) is characterized by the advent of historic records referring to native peoples or the identification of material remains associated with a historic tribe. Early trade items also provide evidence of this early contact. Spanish records provide general descriptions of the Ute and Apache occupations from 1540 until approximately 1800 in what would become western and southern Colorado.

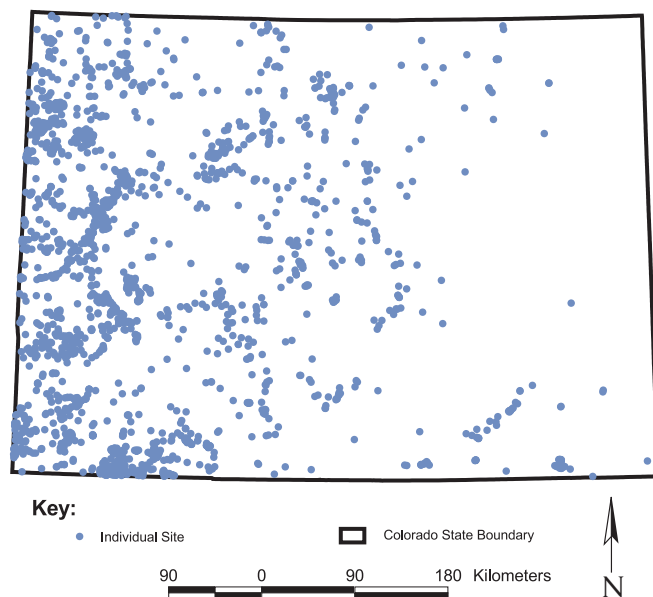


FIGURE 11.

Protohistoric Period Sites. *The distribution of Protohistoric sites is generally concentrated on the western slope. Insufficient survey coverage on the Plains may also be a factor.*

Some 2,191 recorded sites are classified as Protohistoric. The distribution map shows that there are high concentrations of Protohistoric sites on the western slope. The Protohistoric period is one that is marked by interactions, often conflict, between two cultures, the expansion of European descendant settlers, and indigenous North American Indian tribes.



Remains of a wickiup. Tribes such as the Utes used such brush habitations as temporary dwellings during the Protohistoric Period.

Historic Period Sites

Generally places occupied during the historic period are buildings, sites, structures, objects, districts and isolated

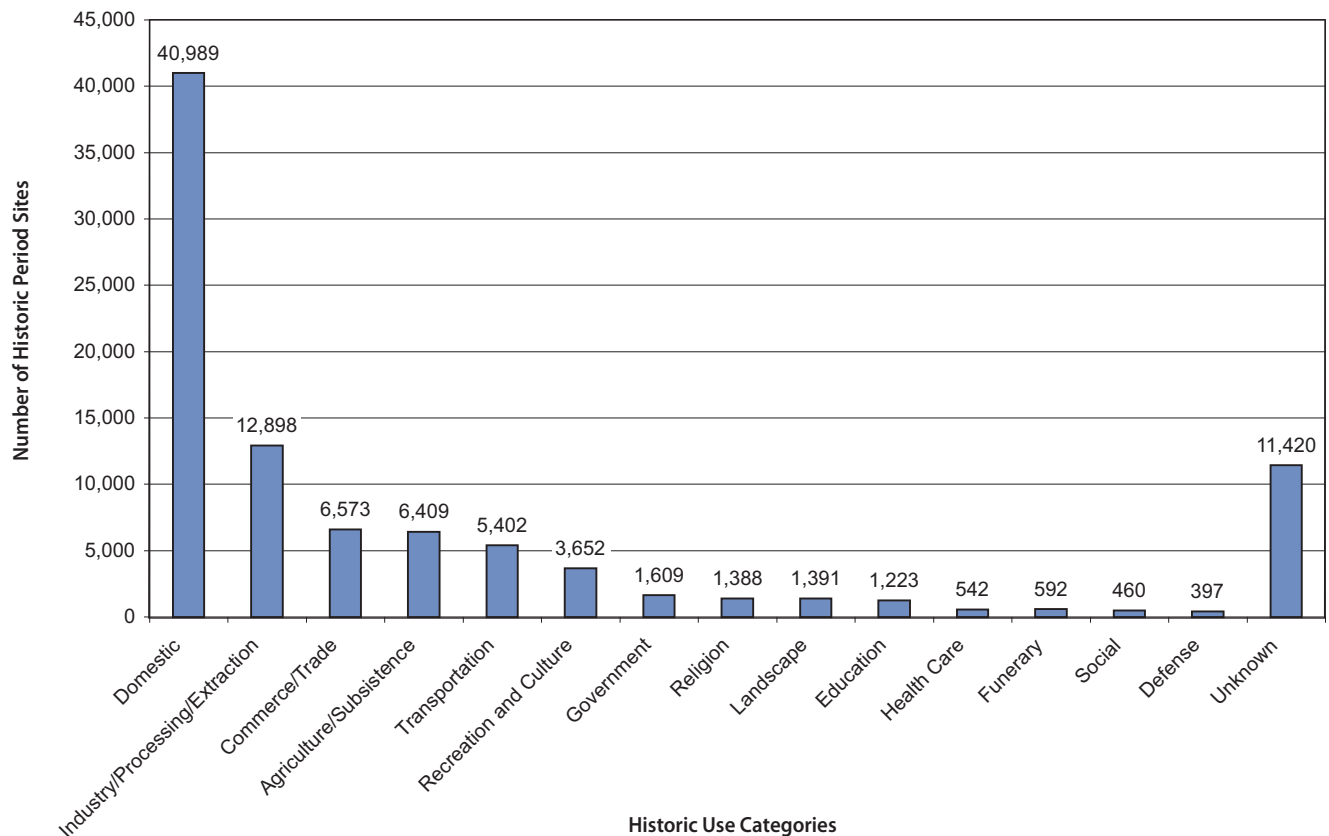
finds that are datable by use of historic documents. The regional distribution, historic use, architectural styles, and date of construction of these places or sites are discussed below.

Historic Use

The terms used to describe historic use are derived from the National Register’s function categories (Figure 12), with 57 percent of the sites noted as Domestic. Other well-represented categories include Industry/Processing/Extraction, such as silver mines (18 percent), Commerce/Trade, an office building or a department store (9 percent), and Agriculture/Subsistence, such as canals and barns (9 percent).

Architectural Style

Like the terms for historic use, architectural style terms are also based on those established by the National Register (Table 5). Unspecified “No Style” sites comprise



Note: A site may have multiple uses.

FIGURE 12.

Use Types for Historic Period Sites. Domestic buildings are the dominant use type in the OAHF database. Sites may have multiple uses.

TABLE 5 ARCHITECTURAL STYLES OF HISTORIC PERIOD BUILDINGS

CATEGORY	GENERAL CATEGORY COUNT	SUB CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY COUNT
Mid-19th Century	358	Greek Revival	68
		Italian Villa	1
		Octagon Mode	4
Late Victorian	6,493	Chateausque	5
		Edwardian	690
		Gothic Revival	278
		Italianate	342
		Queen Anne	1,616
		Renaissance Revival	120
		Second Empire	71
		Shingle Style	65
		Stick/Eastlake	10
		Victorian Eclectic	37
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals	4,077	Beaux Arts	11
		Byzantine Revival	1
		Classical Revival	1,359
		Classic Cottage	1,156
		Collegiate Gothic	43
		Colonial Revival	673
		Dutch Colonial Revival	322
		Egyptian Revival	1
		Exotic Revival	37
		French Renaissance	21
		Italian Renaissance	40
		Mediterranean Revival	270
		Mission	293
		Pueblo Revival	98
		Spanish Colonial Revival	38
Tudor Revival	587		
Late 19th and 20th Century American Movements	8,835	Chicago	1
		Commercial Style	3,774
		Craftsman	413
		Prairie Style	22
		Rustic	949
		Skyscraper	3
Sullivanesque	6		

TABLE 5 ARCHITECTURAL STYLES OF HISTORIC PERIOD BUILDINGS

CATEGORY	GENERAL CATEGORY COUNT	SUB CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY COUNT
Modern Movements	2,218	Art Deco	114
		International Style	176
		Minimal Traditional	463
		Moderne	94
		Neo-Victorian	47
		Novelty	6
Other Style	5,387	Flat Roof Style	83
		Hispanic Adobe	81
		Territorial Adobe	124
		Vernacular	4,927
Mixed Style			50
No Style			15,647
BUILDING TYPES		BUILDING TYPES	
Terrace	136	Quonset	81
Foursquare	863	A-Frame	16
Bungalow	3,429	Modular	111
Cottage	540	Hogan	53
Ranch	685	Gazebo	39
Split-Level	46		

Note: 49,064 occurrences are listed above. A site may be in more than one style category and consist of multiple structures. A historic period place is generally categorized to its most accurate sub category, although some sites are not encoded to such detail and therefore are only counted in the category totals.



The Byers-Evans House, now a museum owned by the Colorado Historical Society, dates from 1883. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

approximately 23 percent of the architectural types. These “No Style” sites lack distinctive characteristics to enable placement on a style category. Until the early 1870s there were no professional architects in Colorado and buildings were designed by local builders and carpenters. They often relied on architectural house plan and pattern books for their designs, which may or may not have had an identifiable architectural style. Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Century American Movements (13 percent) and Late Victorian (10 percent) are the next most numerous categories as reflected in the database. The database also lists building types such as Bungalow and Split-level as a style category, even though they are not true architectural styles.



The Howard Store in Hooper, Colorado, a commercial building dating from the year 1891.

Date of Construction

Approximately 63 percent of the recorded historic buildings in the database note a date of construction. A single site may have several buildings that fall into different decades. The largest number of buildings for which a date of construction exists is from 1900 to 1909 (see Figure 13).

The decade 1890–99 is the next most prominent historic period in the OAHF database. Generally, recordation of historic buildings occurs only after they are forty years old; therefore, few sites postdating the 1960s currently are in the database. Conversely, the low numbers of recorded sites dating from 1850 to 1880 reflect limited building construction during that period and poor preservation of those buildings. Early buildings were often built to be temporary and have been subsequently replaced or, due to building methods and materials, have deteriorated and been destroyed. This is particularly true of agricultural and mining-related structures, as well as some commercial buildings.

Despite a recent increase in survey work, some historic sites are still underrepresented within the OAHF database. Three major data gaps are identified and discussed below.

Post–World War II Neighborhoods

Colorado, like many western states, experienced a tremendous postwar population boom. New jobs in the defense and aeronautics industries, mild weather, scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, and memories of wartime postings at various military bases here drew former soldiers and their families to settle. The existing housing stock of mostly Late Victorians, Foursquares, Classic Cottages, and Bungalows was not sufficient to handle these new residents, and many communities experienced temporary housing shortages. Starting in the 1950s a few local builders developed stereotypical, large-scale suburban subdivisions in Front Range cities. These developments now require documentation. Surveys must look beyond the individual house or building to the wider environment, considering factors such as location, subdivision design, house styles, landscapes, and community facilities. The survey of postwar developments is likely to increase the numbers of Minimal Traditional, Ranch, Split-Level, and, to a lesser extent, A-frame, Bi-level, and Neo-Mansard building types in the OAHF database.

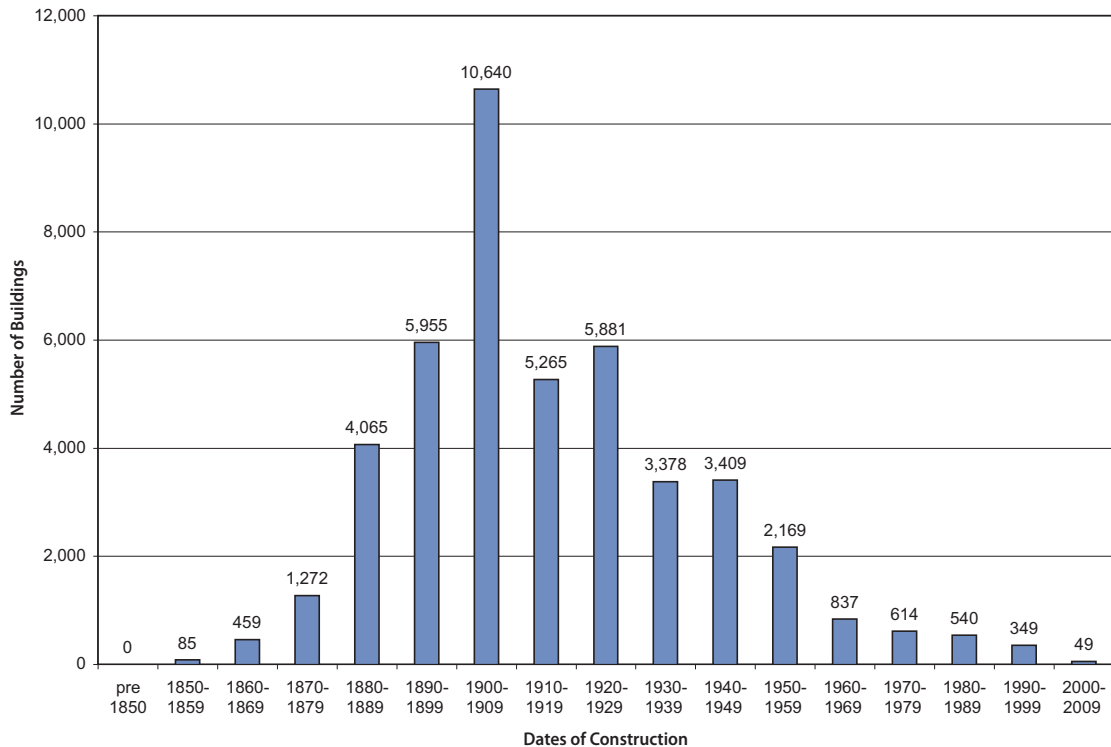


FIGURE 13.

Historic Period Buildings by Date of Construction. Very few historic period sites have been recorded that were built before 1870. Many historic wood buildings and structures were destroyed in fires early in the nineteenth century.

Rural Places

Farming and ranching are key topics in the history of Colorado’s plains. Farms and ranches, as well as the railroad facilities that transported their products to market, represent an important component of the region’s heritage and character. Documenting the farms and ranches that are the backbone of eastern Colorado, as well as the associated production buildings, railroad sites, and crossroads, is an essential first step to understanding, preserving, and interpreting the built history of the region. Survey work should focus on farmsteads, ranches, irrigation structures, railroad properties, agricultural processing and storage facilities as well as rural schools, churches, and very small or abandoned communities.

Baseline Surveys of CLG Communities

Intensive historical and architectural survey of all historic period sites within a community can be a real asset for planning, designation and interpretation. Surveys document the existing conditions, providing a “snapshot in time” and allowing communities to use completed survey data to make appropriate decisions regarding alterations, demolitions and other changes to the built environment. The assessment of National Register eligibility and level of documentation within an intensive survey can form the basis of the nomination for eligible sites. In addition, the historical background and architectural descriptions provide details suitable for walking tours, plaques, educational programs and exhibits. Despite the fact that comprehensive surveys are both expensive and time-consuming (multiple phases normally required), the information provided and the many uses of that data make the investment worthwhile.



The Colorado State Register of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places

The 1966 National Historic Preservation Act authorized the establishment of the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register recognizes important historic places in the United States. The list of properties is maintained nationally by the National Park Service and at the state level by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Listed properties include buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts meeting the National Register eligibility criteria for significance and physical integrity.

The Colorado General Assembly authorized the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties by statute in 1975. Actual implementation of the State Register designation program did not occur until 1990. OAHP administers the State Register. All sites listed in the National Register are automatically placed in the State Register. Historic Places may also be nominated separately to the State Register without inclusion in the National Register.

The registers are intended primarily for use as planning tools to encourage preservation without undue restraint of private property interests. Historic designation imposes no federal or state requirements on private property owners for maintenance, restoration or even preservation of listed properties. Benefits of listing include eligibility for tax incentive programs, greater consideration during federal and state projects, and State Historical Fund grant opportunities.

In Colorado, there were 1,274 National Register listings as of December 31, 2006. The State Register contained these places, as well as an additional 413 listings. Information about each listing is available in the National Register and State Register program area of the OAHP website. A hard-copy Directory of Colorado State Register Properties is also available from OAHP (OAHP Publication No. 1503). The hardcopy directory and the website contain brief statements regarding the significance of

each listed property.

Sub-directories are also available focusing on National Register and State Register places sharing common historical associations or physical characteristics. All sub-directories are available on the OAHP website.

Areas of Significance

An important analytical consideration is the degree to which the body of register listings represents the full sweep of the state's history. The National Register employs four basic criteria for significance. Properties are assessed for their important associations to history and prehistory, architecture, and significant persons. Historic places may also be significant for their ability to yield important historical information. Properties are most often significant under more than one criterion (see Table 6).

Considering all National Register places in Colorado, 80 percent were listed in full or in part for architectural significance. The National Register recognizes important buildings, structures, objects and sites capable of conveying the past to current and, hopefully, future generations. The program recognizes parts of the human-

PUBLICATION TITLE	PUBLICATION NUMBER
<i>The New Deal in Colorado: 1933–1942</i>	1622
<i>Mining-Related Properties in the State Register</i>	1623
<i>Railroad Properties in the State Register</i>	1624
<i>Library Buildings in the State Register</i>	1632
<i>Religious Properties in the State Register</i>	1634
<i>State Register Properties Associated with Women's History</i>	1635
<i>National Register and State Register Properties Open to the Public as Museum Buildings and Sites</i>	1639
<i>Municipal Parks and Parkways in the State Register</i>	1640
<i>Agricultural Properties in the State Register</i>	1641
<i>Rustic Style Architecture in the State Register</i>	1642

shaped and built environment as doorways to understanding important historical and cultural associations. Therefore, architecture—used to describe everything from high style to vernacular, ornamental to minimalist, art to engineering and prehistoric to historic—is such an important determining factor for register eligibility.

The National Register divides the four significance criteria into 36 areas of significance. Table 7 shows the top ten areas of significance cited for listed places in

Colorado. Not surprisingly, architecture is number one by a substantial margin. The history criterion is divided into many areas, so the percentage of places in each area is relatively low when compared to

Architecture	67%
Social History	17%
Commerce	13%
Engineering	12%
Transportation	12%
Community Planning & Development	10%
Education	8%
Exploration/Settlement	8%
Industry	8%
Agriculture	7%

Note: Properties may be listed under more than one criterion.

obviously not the case. The National Register lists places strongly associated with significant historic events and persons in these areas. While mining sites and railroad resources exist all across the state that could be significant in the areas of transportation and industry, properties associated with invention, science or law are much less common. Even where such places exist and are nominated, the focus of a nomination may be on a different area. For example, a courthouse might be significant in the area of law, but the nomination for the property might instead focus on politics/government and architecture.

Private property cannot be listed in the National Register or State Register over the owner’s objection. Owner reluctance to listing is one of the reasons there are so many more historic places determined eligible for listing through survey than are actually listed. While places are identified and nominations prepared as part of major historic context development and survey projects, the majority of nominations have always been initiated by property owners. In addition to seeking general recognition, owners are often motivated to nominate historic places as a first step in obtaining financial preservation assistance. This motivation tends to skew the full body of listed properties toward those seeking publicly funded assistance.

Architecture (C)	80%
History (A)	62%
Significant Persons (B)	14%
Information (D)	4%

Note: Properties may be listed under more than one criterion.

architecture. Transportation includes the many properties associated with Colorado’s railroad history, and industry is the area that encompasses mining properties.

Table 8 provides the bottom ten areas of significance as represented by National Register listings in Colorado. Such areas as medicine, law, science, literature and the performing arts trail the pack, though at least a few listed properties represent these areas of significance. Philosophy is the exception. No properties in Colorado are currently listed for their association with the history of philosophy.

Do each of the areas of significance shown in Table 8 really constitute only one percent of the state’s history? This is

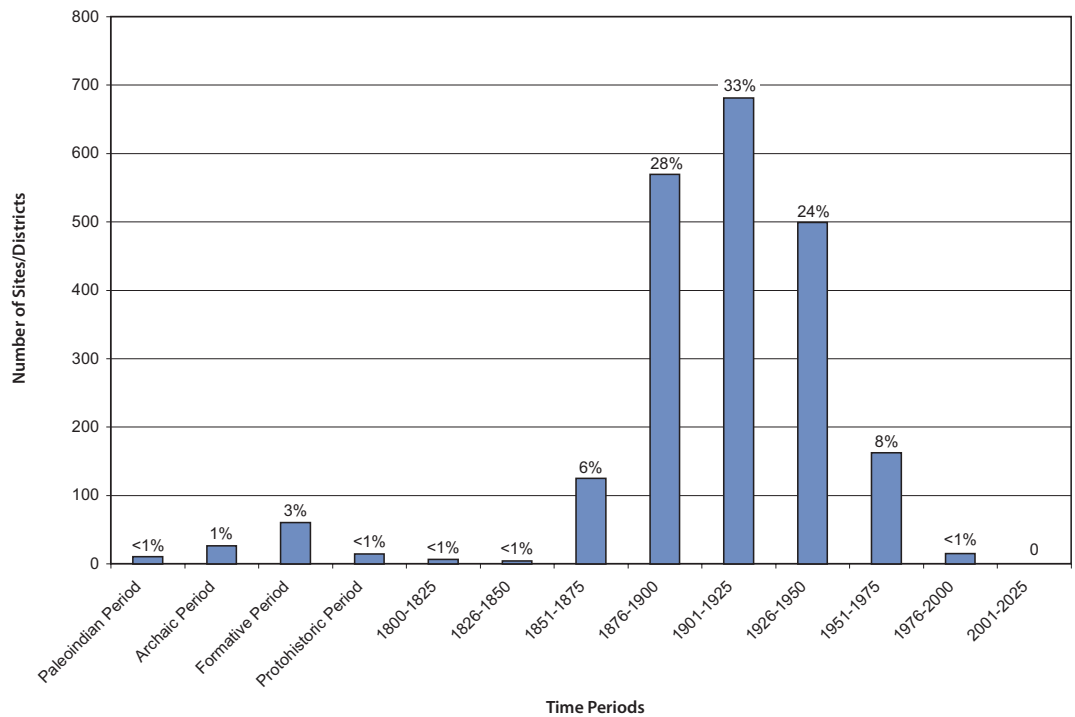
Communications	1%
Economics	1%
Health/Medicine	1%
Invention	1%
Law	1%
Literature	1%
Performing Arts	1%
Science	1%
Other	1%
Philosophy	0%

Note: Properties may be listed under more than one criterion.

FIGURE 14.

Colorado State Register of Historic Properties Periods of Significance.

The distribution of site listings by period of significance shows that listings cluster around 1876–1950. The State Register includes listings from any time period, although recently constructed properties come under greater scrutiny.



Periods of Significance

In addition to areas of significance, it is also interesting to look at the periods of significance for listed properties. A period of significance is the timeframe in which a property achieves its significance. As can be seen in Figure 14, the date ranges for State Register listings form a classic bell curve, with a long tail representing the listing of prehistoric properties.

The vast majority of properties listed have a period of significance within the broad range of 1876 through 1950. This period coincides with the Euroamerican settlement of Colorado. That is of course not to say that this period is more important than the much longer period of American Indian occupation. It is more the fact that so much of the state’s built environment dates to this 1876–1950 period. In addition, some of the activity that created the later built environment destroyed the physical remains of earlier inhabitants.

The bell curve distribution is sometimes used to support the charge that the registers are biased against the recent past. The concept of the recent past is very much one of perspective. Those involved in prehistoric archaeology have a very different take on what constitutes the recent past than do those who are interested in modern architecture. The fact that the registers are extra careful when considering properties from the recent past is quite appropriate. After all, both registers constitute a body of historic properties. History is about long-term effects. We cannot speed up the aging process as is done for product testing in the laboratory to see how history will turn out. Despite the flood of instantaneous data made possible by digital processing and communications, it still takes 100 years to accumulate a century’s worth of history. While care must be taken when evaluating the recent past, the reason more historic places are not listed from this period is that they are seldom nominated. Ongoing survey and context development are needed to permit timely and accurate evaluations and designations of historic places from the recent past.



National Historic Landmarks and the World Heritage List

The National Park Service administers the National Historic Landmarks Program to identify, designate, recognize and encourage the preservation of buildings, sites and objects of national significance. As a group, the National Historic Landmarks commemorate and illustrate the history and prehistory of the United States. This program is one of the major tools used to scrutinize proposals for additions to the National Park System and to select nominations to the World Heritage List. Seventeen historic period sites (one of which crosses two counties), two prehistoric sites, and one natural landform are National Historic Landmarks in Colorado (Table 9).

Colorado Chautauqua (Park), Granada Relocation Area (Japanese Internment Camp), and the United States Air Force Academy Cadet Area have recently (since 2003) been added to the National Historic Landmark list. The Colorado Chautauqua represents a remnant of the Chautauqua movement that developed from 1874 till the Great Depression that emphasized education for rural communities. The Colorado Chautauqua's buildings and grounds have the greatest historic integrity of any extant Chautauqua in the country. Camp Amache (officially known as the Granada Relocation Center) was a World War II internment camp that held more than 7,000 Japanese Americans relocated from the West Coast. Though much of the center is now gone, the site retains a great deal of archaeological remains, including building foundations. The United States Air Force Academy Cadet Area's campus was designed by Skidmore Owings Merrill and ranks among the finest examples of modern movement architecture commissioned by federal agencies during the post-World War II era.

World Heritage List

Mesa Verde National Park is one of twenty historic places and natural resources on the World Heritage List in the United States. Initiated by the United Nations in 1972 to protect the world's cultural and natural heritage sites considered to have outstanding universal value, this list currently includes 830 sites worldwide. Other sites in the United States include Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, and the prehistoric Cahokia Mounds site in Illinois.

Ruins from the Granada Relocation Center, a recent addition to the state's list of National Historic Landmarks. Photo courtesy of Thomas Carr.



TABLE 9 NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS IN COLORADO

COUNTY	SITE NAME	SITE NUMBER
Boulder	The Colorado Chautauqua	5BL361
Clear Creek	Georgetown–Silver Plume Historic District	5CC3
Conejos	Pike’s Stockade	5CN75
El Paso	Pikes Peak	5EP193
	United States Air Force Academy, Cadet Area	5EP4680
Gilpin	Central City–Black Hawk Historic District	5GL7
Kit Carson	Philadelphia Toboggan Company Carousel Number 6	5KC67
Las Animas	Raton Pass	5LA2182
Lake	Leadville Historic District	5LK40
La Plata	Durango-Silverton Narrow-Gauge Railroad (La Plata County Section)	5LP302
Larimer	Lindenmeier Site	5LR13
	Rocky Mountain National Park Administration Building	5LR9947
Montezuma	Lowry Ruin	5MT1566
	Mesa Verde Administrative District	5MT9790
Otero	Bent’s Old Fort	5OT149
Prowers	Granada Relocation Center	5PW48
San Juan	Durango-Silverton Narrow-Gauge Railroad (San Juan County Section)	5SA14
	Shenandoah-Dives (Mayflower) Mill	5SA398
	Silverton Historic District	5SA59
San Miguel	Telluride Historic District	5SM752
Teller	Cripple Creek Historic District	5TL2

Criteria for cultural sites on the World Heritage list:

- i. represent a masterpiece of human creative genius; or
- ii. exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design; or
- iii. bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared; or
- iv. be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; or
- v. be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or land use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change; or
- vi. be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (the committee considers that this criterion should justify inclusion in the list only in exceptional circumstances and in conjunction with other criteria cultural or natural); (Source: World Heritage List Web Site, <http://whc.unesco.org>)

Mesa Verde was nominated under criterion iii, as a unique group of sites that bear testimony to a cultural tradition and civilization that is of universal interest.



Eligibility

Due to requirements set forth in the National Historic Preservation Act, the OAHF staff and federal agencies perform consensus determinations of eligibility to the National Register mostly related to historic places on federal land. Over the years, OAHF has made determinations of eligibility for 47,293 sites in Colorado. Slightly more historic period sites have been evaluated than prehistoric sites.

Approximately 34 percent of the historic places with official determinations have been determined to be officially eligible to the National Register (Figure 15). These places must meet at least one of the four criteria for inclusion in the National Register. They may eventually be listed if someone or some agency wishes to nominate an eligible property by preparing the required documents for submission to a state governor-appointed review board and then, to be considered for the National Register, nominations are sent on to the National Register in Washington, D.C., for further review.

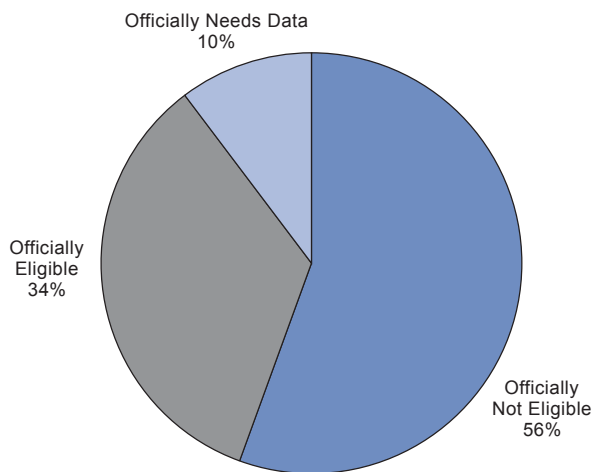


FIGURE 15.

Determinations of Eligibility (All Sites). About one third of the sites that have formal eligibility determinations have been determined “Officially Eligible.” “Needs Data” sites are places that may need archaeological testing or further archival research.

The criteria for inclusion on the National Register are:

- A. Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Association with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

It is important to note that a historic place may be determined eligible by more than one criterion.

Other official determinations of eligibility include *officially not eligible*, which represents 56 percent of the determinations made on historic places, and *officially needs data*, which represents 10 percent of all the determinations made. The vast majority of the *officially needs data* sites are prehistoric (archaeological) sites. This is not surprising, since the subsurface potential of most archaeological sites cannot be fully assessed until the site is test excavated. Sites with determinations of *officially needs data* are also important because in terms of protection, under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, this evaluation achieves nearly the same result as a determination of *officially eligible*. Sites that are considered *officially needs data* must be either protected or tested to determine eligibility. Thus *officially needs data* sites are given greater consideration for preservation when affected by a federally permitted development than ineligible sites. Sites that are *officially eligible* are avoided through project redesign, or in the case of an adverse effect, through implementation of a mitigation plan.

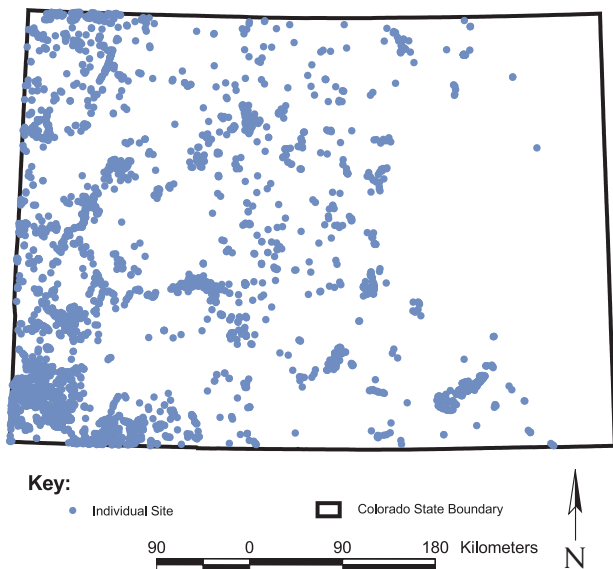


FIGURE 16.

Prehistoric Period Officially Eligible Sites. Sites eligible for the National Register are located in counties with the highest acreage of inventory and higher site totals.

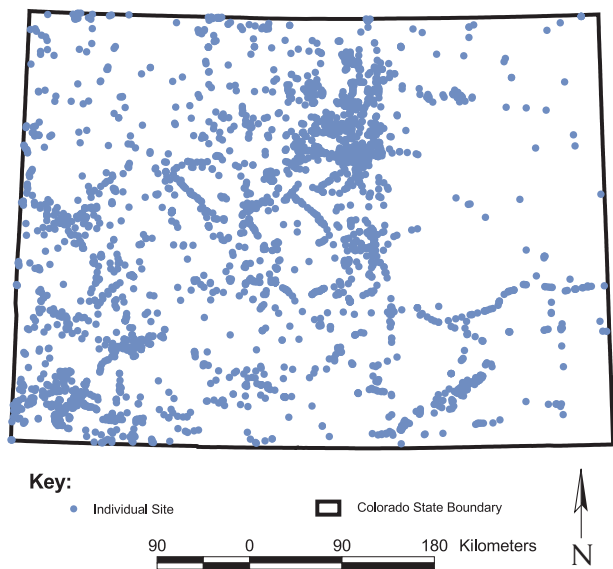


FIGURE 17

Historic Period Officially Eligible Sites. Officially eligible historic sites are distributed throughout the state but are found with the highest density in the Denver metropolitan area.

Prehistoric Sites

Approximately 37 percent of the 20,697 prehistoric sites reviewed for official status are considered *officially eligible*. Some 58 percent of all the *officially eligible* prehistoric sites are located in Montezuma County (Figure 16). Counties with the next most frequent eligible sites, Las Animas, Mesa, Moffat, and Dolores, have only a fraction of those found in Montezuma County. These counties also have some of the highest numbers of recorded prehistoric sites in the state, suggesting that with higher inventoried areas, more eligible sites will be identified.

Historic Sites

Many of the 8,396 *officially eligible* historic period places (Figure 17) are located in and around the Denver metropolitan area. Another area with a concentration of *officially eligible* places includes the Leadville region of Lake County. These high concentration areas make up 48 percent of all the *eligible historic* period places.

As with historic period sites in general, the concentration of *officially eligible* historic sites in heavily populated counties reflects both an abundance of historic buildings and numerous government and grassroots preservation activities in these areas. For example, the Certified Local Government program typically oversees urban surveys that help to identify and record historic sites in the major cities of Colorado. This fact in part may explain the high number of *officially eligible* sites in the greater Denver metropolitan area.



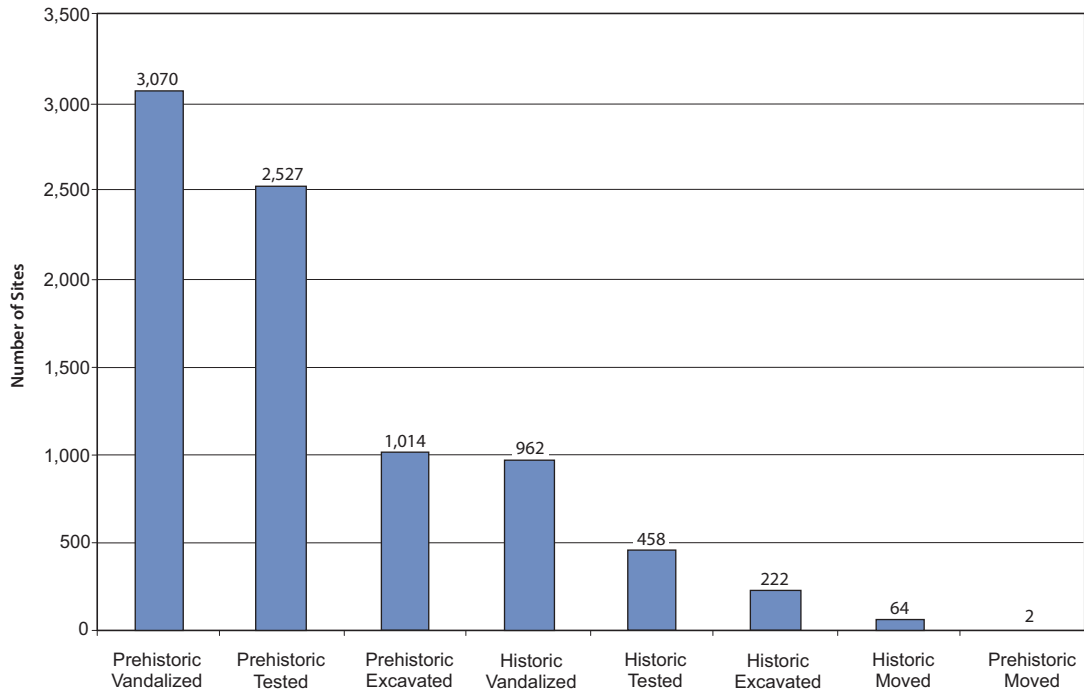
Conditions of Historic Places

Tracking the condition of Colorado’s historic places is a difficult task (Figure 18). The majority of historic places are recorded for a specific project with no mechanism established to monitor changes through time. As information is received concerning testing or excavation of sites, relocation of buildings, or vandalism, the data is added to the computerized database. Although testing and excavation of a site generally results in a technical report, historic structure relocation and vandalism most often are not documented. Therefore, the numbers available for moved and vandalized sites probably reflect overall patterns but underrepresent the condition.

Excavation of an archaeological site changes its condition; while improving site documentation, digging may threaten its physical stability. Approximately 82 percent of the 1,236 archaeologically excavated sites



A vandalized prehistoric site west of Grand Junction in the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. Sites close to growing urban areas with increased recreational use are under threat to this type of vandalism. Photo courtesy of Aline LaForge, BLM Grand Junction.



Note: Individual sites may have more than one condition specified.

FIGURE 18.

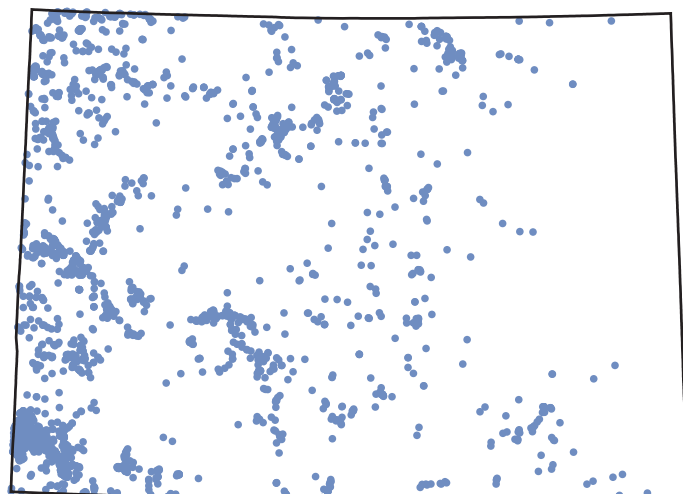
Condition of Historic Sites. *The conditions of sites have been tracked in the OAHP database as “vandalized,” “excavated,” “tested,” and “moved.” The conditions of many historical sites in urban areas are probably underrepresented in this chart.*

in Colorado are prehistoric. Similarly, about 85 percent of the 2,985 tested (partially excavated) sites in the state are from the prehistoric time period.

Sixty-six historic period sites in the state have been moved from their original location. Seventeen percent of these moved sites are in Arapahoe County. There are two recorded and moved prehistoric sites. One of these prehistoric sites represents a petroglyph panel that was moved to a community center, and the other was from a site where log poles from a Ute wickiup site were



A vandalized site that was “runneled” through a wall at a site in the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Photo courtesy of Linda Farnsworth, BLM Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.



Key:
 • Individual Site
 □ Colorado County Boundaries

90 0 90 180 Kilometers

N

FIGURE 19

Prehistoric Vandalized Sites. *The Canyons of the Ancients National Monument area has the largest concentration of reported acts of vandalism on prehistoric sites. The Uncompahgre Plateau area southeast of Grand Junction is another area with a high concentration of reported vandalism to prehistoric sites, but all areas of the state are affected.*

moved to the Colorado History Museum. Generally, buildings, sites or objects that have been moved from their original locations cannot be considered eligible to the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

There are 4,032 sites with reported vandalism, and, unfortunately, this number is probably very conservative. Vandalism to prehistoric sites usually includes unauthorized surface collection, uncontrolled excavating for buried remains, or destruction of rock art. Rural historic period sites, including mining sites and isolated cabins, are often plundered for historic relics whereas urban structures often suffer from graffiti and other random acts of destruction. Listing a site on the State Register offers the possibility of applying for a State Historical Fund grant to help stabilize, repair, protect and interpret these threatened historic places.

Proper site etiquette dictates that all who find or visit a site should take only pictures and not disturb or destroy the site in any way. Impact on these sites must be kept to a minimum if they are to be retained for future generations.

More than 37 percent of the 3,070 documented vandalized prehistoric sites are in Montezuma County (see Figure 19), a region of the state that has a long history of site looting problems because so many of the ruins are visible, remote, and contain objects such as valuable ceramic pots.



Changes in Reported Statistics and Analysis Methods for the 2008 Edition

Historic places are not a static quantification. Since the last update of this publication (2003), there have been many more recorded historic places in Colorado. Likewise, new data management systems like the incorporation of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) have changed the way analysis and quantification processes can be done. To gain a better understanding of these changes, several areas of interest are compared with the 2002 methods and tabulation of statistics.

Survey Activity

In comparison to figures compiled in the year 2000, there was approximately a 50-percent drop in projects related to consultation with the Federal Communications Commission. This may be the result of a decrease in the installation of mobile phone cell towers. However, there was a 56-percent increase in the number of projects involving the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The higher number of BLM projects may be due in part to a greater number of oil and gas projects in the state.

Documents

Approximately 30,500 reports on historic sites are housed in the OAHP library. This represents a 33-percent increase in the number of reports since 2002.

Computerized Database

The number of forms on historic sites in the database since January 2002 has grown by approximately 36-percent.

Geographical Distribution

Since 2002, the OAHP database has seen a 19.4-percent increase in the number of encoded prehistoric sites and a 30.4-percent increase in the number of encoded properties from the historic time period. The increased number of historic period sites may be due to the number of increased financial resources available for survey work in towns and cities through sources such as the State Historical Fund and the Certified Local Government programs, which fund many urban inventories. OAHP staff has also grown in that time frame, enabling more consistent continual encoding of historic period sites during the last four years.

Prehistoric Sites Regional Distribution

This 2008 edition utilized GIS point data to query and create separate data map layers. This new process helped to identify a slight decrease in the number of recorded properties in terms of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists' Arkansas River Basin (-3 percent) area. This slight adjustment and the positive increases in other regions are considered more accurate than that compiled in 2002. This was previously accomplished by counting the number of prehistoric sites within each CCPA context area in an approximate manner (using topographic map name description). Since 2002 there have been 20 and 21-percent Colorado River Basins, respectively, a modest 11-percent increase in the Platte River Basin, and a small, 7-percent increase in the Rio Grande Basin area.

The maps created for the regional distribution of the prehistoric period were derived by creating simple point dot maps showing the true (scaled) locations of these prehistoric sites. This is a different approach than that taken in 2002, in which sites were divided by the total number of recorded sites per acres surveyed for each county.

Historic Period Places

Historic period places have seen a 28-percent increase in the number of recorded sites and 67-percent increase in the number of recorded isolated finds since 2002. The compilation for historic period “use” statistics has seen some increases and decreases in certain areas, which may be the result of recent database cleanup efforts that have rectified improper categorization of historic period sites.

Architectural Style

The difference in the number of sites per architectural style category from the 2002 edition probably reflects recent efforts to encode architectural style more accurately in the OAHP database. This has been accomplished by having a full complement of staff encoders trained in identifying architectural styles and the continued training of consultants in the proper use of OAHP survey forms, which have been developed over the last three years through programs such as the Historical and Architectural Survey Program.

Date of Construction

In general, since 2002 the recoding of sites with a date of construction for historic period sites has not changed significantly. However, there are now more recent (post-1940) structures that have been recorded than in the past. This may reflect a growing appreciation for recognizing more recent historic sites or projects that are impacting a larger and more diverse set of historic sites.

National Historic Landmarks

Since 2002, three historic sites—the Colorado Chautauqua (Park), the Granada Relocation Center (Japanese Internment Camp) and the United States Air Force Academy Cadet Area—have been added to the National Historic Landmark list.

Eligibility

OAHP has made determinations of eligibility for 47,293 sites in Colorado. This is an increase of approximately 35 percent since these figures were compiled in 2002.

Vandalism

There are 4,032 sites with reported vandalism, and, unfortunately, this number is probably very conservative. This number represents a 113-percent increase in the cases of reported vandalism since 2002.

All of these noted changes are reflected in the 2008 compilation of statistics for historic places recorded in Colorado. Undoubtedly, more updates and future development will continue to change this compilation as more historic sites are put at risk by increased development.



Summary and Future Goals

The historic and prehistoric sites of Colorado represent a wonderful part of our past and a challenge for the future. These diverse places provide a connection to the past through education, tourism and rehabilitation. Unfortunately we have lost many of these places because of neglect and ignorance while development and vandalism threaten others.

These places are dispersed across the entire state and are an ever-expanding record of how humans have interacted with the landscape in what is now Colorado. With knowledge of these places the history of Colorado is much richer. With the preservation of these places future generations can better understand and appreciate those who came before them.

Recording these historic places has led to the creation of the OAHP database. The discovery and collection of this valuable data has been made possible through the involvement of federal agencies and grant incentives. Through the input of local, state and national surveys, the state database at OAHP will continue to grow. This database and the forms and reports on historic places will remain primary sources of information from which new research and new preservation initiatives will be developed.

The Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, in partnership with individuals, communities and organizations, created a statewide historic preservation plan called *Colorado Preservation 2010* (OAHP Publication 1507, 1508). This bold plan reaffirmed the role of OAHP and the State Historical Fund as major players in a combined effort to save the past and to create a network for sharing information with the general public. Specific goals for Colorado's preservation community have been established from this planning process and are listed below:

Goal A: Assume Responsibility

Success: Local participation, decision making, and responsibility strengthens the preservation of important places from our past.

Goal B: Participate in Preservation

Success: Coloradans of various cultural and ethnic groups, ages and abilities participate in preserving important places from our past.

Goal C: Educate People

Success: Coloradans understand the necessity of properly preserving important places from our past.

Goal D: Exchange Information

Success: Cultural resource information is regularly gathered, maintained and exchanged.

Goal E: Offer Financial Incentives

Success: Expanded grant programs and other financial incentives encourage the preservation of important places from our past.

Goal F: Preserve Places

Success: A more representative collection of important places from our past is protected and preserved.

Goal G: Use Places Responsibly

Success: Responsible heritage tourism offers a means of knowing and preserving important places from our past.

These seven goals will continue to drive preservation initiatives in the state and will have lasting impacts on the database. The Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation will offer a vital contribution to others as future decisions are made for the preservation of Colorado's historic places to ensure that future generations will be able to learn and be enriched by the places of our past.



Further Reading

Listed below are publications that you can obtain for additional information. If there is an OAHP Publications Number for the reference, you can request a copy from the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation by calling 303-866-3395 or via the Internet in the Publications section at www.coloradohistory-oahp.org. Please visit our website for other sources of information.

A Guide to Colorado's Historic Architecture and Engineering. Online guide at the Colorado Historical Society's OAHP website:
www.coloradohistory-oahp.org.

Ancient Colorado: An Archaeological Perspective by David Grant Noble. Published by the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Architects of Colorado. Online guide at the Colorado Historical Society's OAHP website:
www.coloradohistory-oahp.org

Colorado Certified Local Government Handbook
OAHP Publication 1416

Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Manual, Vols. I and II.
OAHP Publication 1527

Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Arkansas River Basin by Christian J. Zier and Stephen M. Kalasz. Published by the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Northern Colorado River Basin by Alan D. Reed and Michael D. Metcalf. Published by the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Platte River Basin by Kevin Gilmore, Marcia Tate, Mark Chenault, Bonnie Clark, Terri McBride and Margaret Wood. Published by the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Rio Grande River Basin by Marilyn A. Martorano, Ted Hoefler III, Margaret (Pegi) A. Jodry, Vince

Spero and Melissa L. Taylor. Published by the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Southern Colorado River Basin by William D. Lipe, Mark D. Varien and Richard H. Wilshusen. Published by the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Colorado History: A Context for Historical Archaeology by Minette Church, Steven G. Baker, Bonnie J. Clark, Richard F. Carrillo, Jonathon C. Horn, Carl D. Späth, David R. Guilfoyle and E. Steve Cassells. Published by the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Colorado Preservation 2010. Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.
OAHP Publication 1507 and 1508.

Directory of Colorado State Register Properties. Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.
OAHP Publication 1503

Information on the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Properties. Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.
OAHP Publication 1501

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (brochure). Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.
OAHP Publication 1517



COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1300 BROADWAY DENVER, COLORADO 80203 TEL 303/866-3395 FAX 303/866-2711 www.coloradohistory-oahp.org