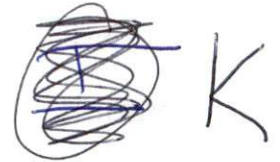


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

New Submission Amended Submission



A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Homesteading and Ranching Resources of the Purgatoire River Region, Colorado

B. Associated Historic Contexts

Public Land Policy from the Homestead Act of 1862 to Federally Managed Grazing (1862-1964)

Settlement and Agricultural Development of the Purgatoire River Region (1862-1964)

Stone and Adobe: The Built Environment of the Purgatoire River Region (1862-1964)

From Manos and Metates to Model Ts: the material culture of the Purgatoire River Region (1862-1964)

C. Form Prepared by

name/title Abigail Christman (Survey Coordinator, University of Colorado Denver), Kathleen Corbett (consultant), Richard Carrillo (consultant)

organization Colorado Preservation, Inc. date May 30, 2014

street & number 1420 Ogden Street Suite 104 telephone 303.893.4260

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80218

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature and title of certifying official _____ Date _____
State Historic Preservation Officer

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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National Park Service

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Homesteading and Ranching Resources of the Purgatoire
River Region, Colorado
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Colorado

State

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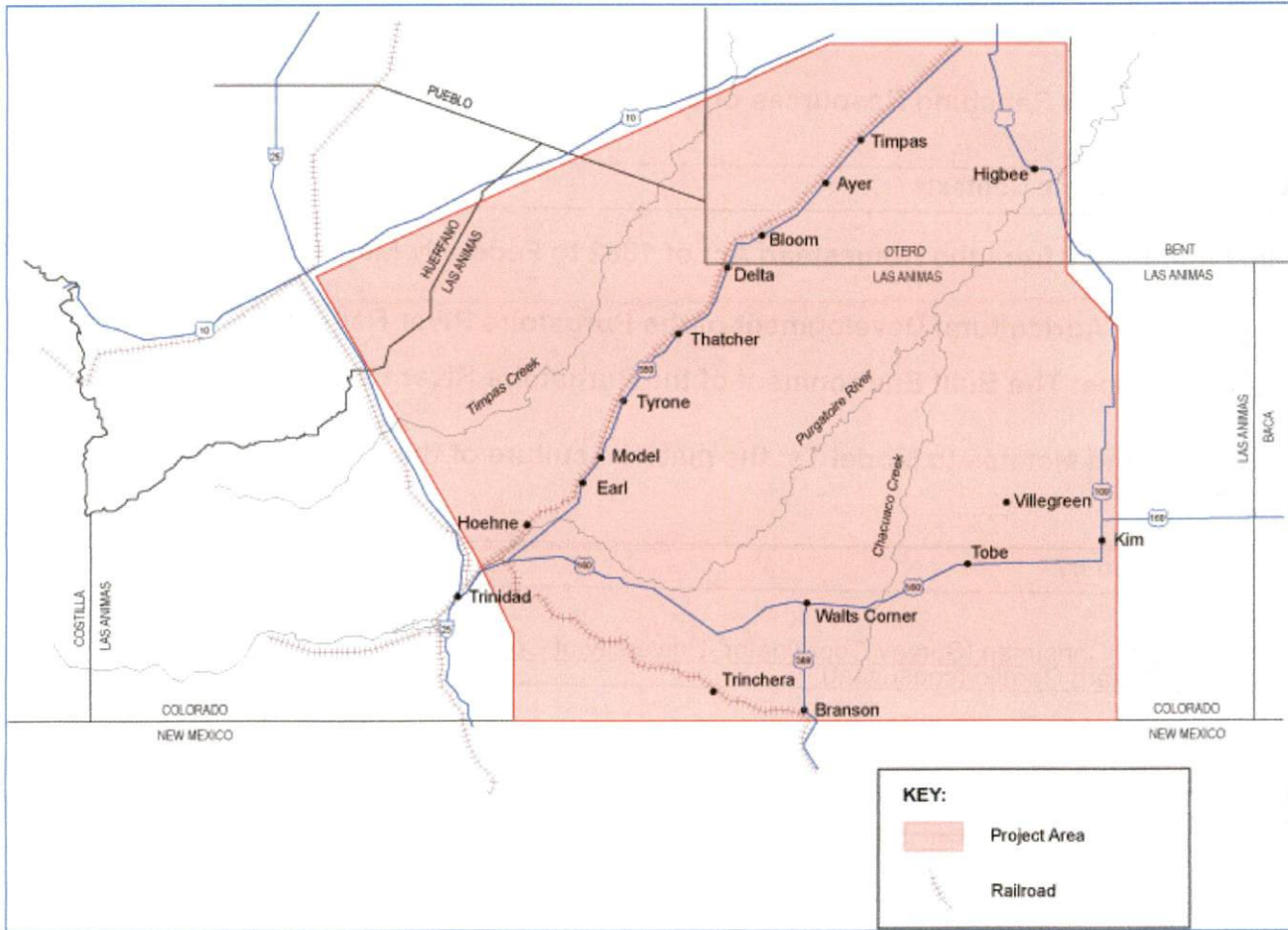


Figure 4: Map showing the Purgatoire River region as defined for the survey project and this MPDF. Errata: Note that what is labeled Timpas Creek is the Apishapa River. Timpas Creek mostly follows US Highway 50.

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Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

This MPDF was developed to provide a broad context for evaluating the extant cultural landscape and built resources resulting from more than a hundred years of agricultural activities in the Purgatoire River Region. It is based on a survey of the region's architectural and archaeological resources conducted by Colorado Preservation, Inc. (CPI).

CPI received grants to fund the survey from the Colorado Historical Society's State Historical Fund, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and Preserve America. No regional architectural surveys and limited archaeology had been conducted in the area. With the exception of previously recorded prehistoric rock art, potential survey findings were unknown. The focus of this project was the Purgatoire River valley and the surrounding area. The survey within these boundaries was selective, depending on the recruitment of private land owners. Fifty-two property owners agreed to participate, totaling approximately 1 million acres. These properties were spread throughout the project area, providing an excellent representation of the region's landscapes and cultural resources. It was impossible to survey all the land of each property owner within the scope of this survey. Instead, the survey was focused on the ranchers guiding the survey team to points of interest. An average of a day was spent on each ranch, with a great deal of land covered while traveling between sites.

In order to get a more complete sense of the region and its development, the project also included a reconnaissance survey of resources located along the region's highways as well as survey within its small towns. There are no large population centers located within the survey area. Three small towns lie within the region: Branson, Hoehne, and Kim. Though these towns were once commercial centers, today there are only a few businesses remaining. Most within the region travel to either to La Junta (northeast of the project area) or Trinidad (at the southwest end of the project area) for shopping and business.

There were four primary components to the survey: a reconnaissance-level survey, an intensive-level survey, a historic context study, and public outreach. The project began with a reconnaissance-level survey of the region, focused primarily on private lands. A survey team including an architectural historian and archaeologist met with the participating landowners who then directed them to sites of interest on their land. For each site, the survey team completed a reconnaissance-level survey form which included location information, a list of site components (including buildings, structures, archaeological features, and surface-level artifacts), and photographs. A total of 454 sites were recorded during the reconnaissance-level survey. This included: 209 homesteads, 35 historic residential complexes, 30 water-related structures, 24 rock art sites, 22 commercial or industrial sites,

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18 transportation-related resources such as trails and bridges, 19 churches or cemeteries, 17 schools, 14 sites featuring bedrock mutates, 10 sites with Apishapa Phase structures, 9 sites with historic rock inscriptions, 7 tipi ring sites, and 6 ranch headquarter complexes.

At the conclusion of the reconnaissance-level survey, the survey team selected resources for additional study during the intensive-level survey. The intensive-level survey included a wide range of resources located across the region representing both archaeological and architectural sites. A total of fifty-eight sites were surveyed at the intensive level: seven for prehistoric archaeology, fifteen for historic archaeology and architecture, one for historic archaeology only, and thirty-five for architecture only. The following sites were documented: 29 homesteads, 7 Prehistoric, 4 water management, 4 schools, 2 commercial, 2 railroad, 2 religious, 2 residential, 1 agriculture/cattle, 1 agriculture/ sheep, 1 agricultural/storage, 1 community, 1 jail, and 1 Post Office.

The historic context study was developed in conjunction with the survey project with the contexts identified directly related to the resources surveyed during the project. The contexts synthesized primary and secondary research sources to present to provide an overview of the development of the region as it relates to the surveyed resources. The public outreach component of the project was achieved through a series of public presentations as well as the sharing of survey results on the CPI website. Presentations were given to both academic and general audiences.

One of the biggest surprises of the survey was the extent of homesteading era resources discovered. Many homesteaders abandoned their land in the 1930s due to the dust storms and Great Depression. Today dugouts, stone ruins, and corrals—along with abandoned stoves and cars—testify to the failed land ownership dreams of many. The exceptional extent of homestead inspired this MPDF. It is more narrowly focused, dealing exclusively with homestead and agricultural resources of the region. Prehistoric archaeology has been excluded as well as transportation resources. Additionally the MPDF region has been defined more narrowly, focusing on just southern Otero and eastern Las Animas Counties and excluding incorporated communities. This excludes some resources in Huerfano and Pueblo counties included in the original survey as well as resources in Branson and Kim.