Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

A Workshop Cosponsored by the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the U.S. National Park Service

Trinity United Methodist Church
Denver, Colorado
October 4 – 5, 2011
Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

Part 6 of 9

Identifying Significance & Integrity in Evocative Landscapes

This is an automated presentation of the speakers’ PowerPoint slides with their notes, if provided - view in note tab, and some audio/video (mostly from the second day) of the presentations. Due to the file size of the October 4 & 5, 2011 presentations the workshop has been uploaded in the nine thematic segments. The viewer can pause, advance forward or return to any slide by clicking on the index at any time.
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National Park Service

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**Astrid Liverman**  
CO SHPO

14b  
**Kat Vlahos**  
University of Colorado Denver

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Colorado Preservation Inc.

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Colorado School of Mines

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**Bonnie Clark**  
University of Denver

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**Kurt Anschuetz**  
Consulting Anthropologist/Archaeologist
8:00 **Identifying Significance and Integrity in Evocative Landscapes**

13. **Japanese American WWII Relocation Centers**
   Kara Miyagishima (NPS) – slide 4

14. **Ranches as Cultural Landscapes** - Astrid Liverman (CO SHPO) – slide 52, Kat Vlahos (University of Colorado Denver) – slide 63, Abbey Christman (Colorado Preservation, Inc.) - slide 102

15. **Barium Mines: Lost Landscapes of Colorado** - Steve Hart (Colorado School of Mines) & Eric Twitty (Mountain States Historical) - slide 128

16. **Landscapes of Conflict: Sand Creek as a Case Study**
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Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

Kara Miyagishima - NPS

Identifying Significance and Integrity in Evocative Landscapes

JAPANESE AMERICAN W.W. II RELOCATION CENTERS
World War II Japanese American Confinement Sites
Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States Workshop
October 2011
Evacuation, Relocation and Internment
Camp Layout & Design
Manzanar Relocation Center
Inyo County, CA
Central Utah Relocation Center (Topaz)
Millard County, UT
Granada Relocation Center (Amache)
Prowers County, CO
Granada Relocation Center (Amache)
Prowers County, CO
Manzanar National Historic Site
Inyo County, CA
Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston)
La Paz County, AZ
Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston)
La Paz County, AZ
Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston)
La Paz County, AZ
Heart Mountain, Relocation Center
Park County, WY
Granada Relocation Center (Amache)
Prowers County, CO
Granada Relocation Center (Amache)
Prowers County, CO
Granada Relocation Center (Amache)
Prowers County, CO
Central Utah Relocation Center (Topaz)
Millard County, UT
Central Utah Relocation Center (Topaz)
Millard County, UT
Heart Mountain, Relocation Center
Park County, WY
Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston)
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Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston)
La Paz County, AZ
Manzanar Relocation Center
Inyo County, CA
Manzanar Relocation Center
Inyo County, CA
Manzanar Relocation Center
Inyo County, CA
For more information, please contact:

Kara Miyagishima
Email: Kara_Miyagishima@nps.gov
Phone: 303-969-2885

National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80228
Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

* Astrid Liverman – CO State Historic Preservation Office
Kat Vlahos – University of Colorado Denver
Abbey Christman – Colorado Preservation Inc.

Identifying Significance and Integrity in Evocative Landscapes

Ranches as Cultural Landscapes
Nomination Know-How: Rural Historic Agricultural Landscapes

*What is potentially within the National Register boundary?
*What about multiple Areas and Periods of Significance?
*What about building condition?
*What is the best research approach?
*What about continued use?

Cottonwood Ranch, Wyoming
Source: William Henry Jackson Collection, History Colorado
What is potentially within the National Register boundary?

The full extent of extant landscape characteristics (with integrity) dating to the period of significance, or the fullest extent of the property with historic information potential

Include wind breaks, fencing, outbuildings, foot bridges, cow paths, road markers, gravestones, isolated vegetation, trail ruts, kitchen gardens, corrals, and...

Tree windbreak, near Longmont, c. 1900-1910
Source: Denver Public Library
Orchards

Source: Denver Public Library
What about multiple Areas and Periods of Significance?

*Criterion A for Agriculture (1888-1935)
*Criterion C for Architecture (1865-1958)

Source: OAHP
What about building condition?:
Deteriorated buildings and structures

Two-Bar Ranch, Maybell vicinity, Colorado
National Register 2/17/1978
What is the best research approach?:
Interdisciplinary Collaboration!

landscape architects
landscape historians
architectural historians
cultural geographers
plant ecologists
architects
archaeologists
folklorists
historians
anthropologists
specialists
...
oral histories

Source: Buckwalter Collection, Denver Public Library/History Colorado
Historic Cultural Landscapes: Colorado Cultural Resources Inventory form

**COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**Historic Cultural Landscapes**

This form, modeled on the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) Short Format History Template, is intended to aid in documenting the identification and evaluation of many types of historical landscapes in Colorado, including historic archaeological landscapes. For guidance on completing this form and the required accompanying documentation (maps, photos), please refer to the instructions at www.HistoryColoradoAAAA and to the Colorado Cultural Resources Survey Manual at www.HistoryColoradoBBBB. Prehistoric archaeological landscapes should be recorded on the OAHP Management Data Form (#1420) and the landscape features (ditches, roads, railroads, etc. in whole or part) in a landscape context during archaeological surveys should be recorded in the OAHP Linear Component Form (#1418).

**IDENTIFICATION**

Property name: ____________________________

Resource Count: ___ buildings ___ structures

Ownership:  □ federal □ state □ local

Owner(s) contact info:

**LOCATION**

Street Address: ____________________________

Municipality: ____________________________

**NEW!**

**Cultural Landscape Classification**

Site or District

Historic Designed Landscape or
Historic Vernacular Landscape or
Ethnographic Landscape

**Official eligibility determination**

(50% use only)

- Determined Eligible - NR
- Determined Eligible - SI
- Determined Not Eligible - NR
- Determined Not Eligible - SI
- Need Data
- Eligible NR District – contributing
- Eligible NR District – noncontributing
What about continued use?

Continuing or compatible land uses and activities enhance integrity of feeling and association.

Lost Trail Station, Creede vicinity, Hinsdale County, National Register 4/27/2011
Source: OAHP
Additional Resources

Rourke Ranch Historic District, La Junta Vicinity, National Register 9/21/2000
Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

Astrid Liverman – CO State Historic Preservation Office
* Kat Vlahos – University of Colorado Denver
Abbey Christman – Colorado Preservation Inc.

Identifying Significance and Integrity in Evocative

RANCHES AS CULTURAL LANDSCAPES
Ranches as Cultural Landscapes
Identifying Significance and Integrity in Evocative Landscapes

Photography: Cheryl Ungar
A cultural landscape shows the interaction and relationship of people and place over time.

*Preservation Brief # 36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes, National Park Service (1994)*
Medano Zapata Ranch
Research & Community Development
Ranch is transitioned to a non-profit conservation organization

Routt County
Survey and HABS/HALS documentation
Keeping working landscapes in the hands of the rancher

Purgatoire River Region Survey
Survey of cultural resources
Identify cultural resources on ranches in collaboration with owners
The Challenges

Increase public awareness for cultural landscapes

Deciding what to preserve and how to do it

Documenting disappearing historic landscapes

Finding new uses for ranches that can be saved
The Problem

Disappearance of our rural ag landscapes

Disappearance of our cultural resources

Challenges of documenting rural landscapes
Why is this important?

Loss of open space

Loss of a part of our history

Loss of a quality and way of Life

Loss of scenic and cultural landscapes

Loss of local jobs and community businesses
No Farms No Food™

American Farmland Trust

www.farmland.org

1-800-431-1499
One solution to the problem

Identify, document, interpret and organize historic resources to guide preservation efforts.
The Landscapes
The Ranch
Single ranch with historic headquarter(s) vs Ranch composed of many historic homesteads

The Team
Professional survey team vs Graduate students in university setting

The Documentation
Traditional documentation vs High tech digital scanning
Overall Project Goals and Outcomes

Preservation

as ruin • as rehab • as landscape
How do we identify critical components of rural landscapes?
Key components that “shape the place”

1) the land

2) the buildings and structures that people added

3) the plants and vegetation that cover the area.
Protecting Cultural Landscapes
Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes

Charles A. Birnbaum, ASLA

» Developing a Strategy and Seeking Assistance
» Preservation Planning for Cultural Landscapes
» Developing a Historic Preservation Approach and Treatment Plan
» Developing a Preservation Maintenance Plan and Implementation Strategy
» Recording Treatment Work and Future Research Recommendations
» Summary
» Selected Reading
Case Study • Medano-Zapata Ranch
Research & Community Development
Ranch is transitioned to a non-profit conservation organization

Photography: Cheryl Ungar
Processes

- Land uses and activities
- Patterns of spatial organization
- Response to the natural environment
- Cultural traditions
Physical Components

• Circulation networks
• Boundary demarcations
• Vegetation related to land use
• Buildings, structures, and objects
• Clusters
• Archeological sites
• Small-scale elements
Components of a Cultural Landscape

• Topography
• View sheds
• Vegetation
• Buildings and structures
• Water features
• Circulation features
• Furnishings
Defining the Edges

- Historic legal boundaries
- Boundary demarcation
- Rights-of-way
- Natural features
- Changes in nature of development or spatial organization
- Edges of new development
- Current legal boundaries
- Lines drawn along or between fixed points
- Long-standing vegetation
Partner: The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy’s mission is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.
How can one document, interpret, **organize and manage** an existing inventory of data, including but not limited to historic maps, photographs, written reports, journal entries and drawings to reveal the story of a place and to guide preservation efforts?

How can one use a multitude of resources and materials available, combined with new technologies, to reveal the traces of the past and **tell a narrative** – a story of place?
Case Study • Routt County

Develop survey and HABS/HALS documentation of ranches in the county.

Develop an ag historic context for the county.
HRC! Barns Etc! Working Partners

Historic Routt County!
Individual Ranchers and Property Owners
City of Steamboat Springs
Yampa Valley Land Trust
Community Agriculture Alliance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Acres</td>
<td>243,331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Rancher</td>
<td>17,520</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time Ranchers</td>
<td>2,072</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenity Buyer</td>
<td>156,203</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developers</td>
<td>17,716</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investors</td>
<td>25,802</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<td>Corporations</td>
<td>14,292</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Orgs</td>
<td>1,281</td>
<td>1% +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,809</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassified</td>
<td>5,636</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Developed by William Travis, University of Colorado, Hannah Gosnell, Center of the American West
Process

1) Identify the Community Stakeholders
2) Identify Properties for Survey
3) Identify the Survey Team
4) Develop Historic Context
5) Develop documentation - HABS/HALS
6) Local Designation
Identify the community stakeholders
Key property owners selected throughout the county
Identify properties for survey
Identify the survey team
Develop historic context

Historic Leadville in Rare Photographs and Drawings, 1997.

Leadville banks collapsed under the weight of the gold standard.

1890's: Silver sinks.
Develop documentation – Surveys and HABS/HALS
STERNER (BAR A) RANCH

The Sterner (Bar A) Ranch is located in southwestern Routt County in Northwestern Colorado. To the west of the ranch are the Padaro Plateau Ranches, and the Pine Pass Ranches are located to the east. The ranch is located in the middle of the vast and agricultural plains; Aspen groves, aspen, and pine trees provide dense forests along the base of the mountains. The ranch is historically known as the Tiger and Sterner Ranch and was settled in the 1880s. Originally, it was owned by the Sterner Family.

The Bar A Ranch encompasses 12,200 acres, of which 4,200 acres are contiguous, and manages approximately 120 head of cattle annually. The head homestead structures, constructed in the early 1880s, are still standing today and are in excellent condition. The Sterner homestead served as a townhouse, store, and blacksmith shop. The log house is still intact.

The Sterner (Bar A) Ranch is located in Routt County, Colorado.

SITE PLAN

SITE SECTION
Agricultural Context of Routt County

Researched and compiled by Laureen Lafferty Schaffer

for Historic Routt County, Assistant Professor Ekaterini Vishos at the University of Colorado at Denver, College of Architecture and Planning.

With financial support from the Colorado Historical Society, the State Historical Fund, the City of Steamboat Springs, and the Program in Western Lands, Resources and Development at the University of Colorado at Denver in the College of Architecture and Planning.

December 2000, updated December 2005
Summary  the landscape is always changing

• **Be comprehensive** both in documentary research and site observations

• **Develop or use the statement of historic contexts** as a guide for identifying historic properties and judging what features require the greatest attention and contribute most to historic significance

• **Be well equipped** with knowledge of historic area and field tools for documentation

• **Be sensitive** to ongoing rural activities and rights of property owners

• **Listen** to the people who know the landscape

• **Keep careful records** of photographs, maps, notes, ideas, sources and thoughts
The only proper way to learn about and understand the landscape is to live in it, look at it, think about it, explore it, ask questions about it, contemplate it, and speculate about it. It emphasizes things anyone can see, the vernacular, common, ordinary, everyday things of the people who live on the land, because these things make the landscape what it is.  

*John Fraser Hart*
Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

Astrid Liverman – CO State Historic Preservation Office
Kat Vlahos – University of Colorado Denver
* Abbey Christman – Colorado Preservation Inc.

Identifying Significance and Integrity in Evocative

RANCHES AS CULTURAL LANDSCAPES
SURVEYING RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

Colorado Preservation, Inc.
Rural Resources Surveys-
Baca and Phillips Counties

- Included all unincorporated areas
- Drove every road and inventoried all sites with buildings more than 50 years old
- Followed countywide reconnaissance with intensive survey of representative sites
- Produced brochure and web pages with information on each county’s historic resources

What’s next: MPDF for Agricultural Resources in Northeast Colorado
Purgatoire River Region Survey

- Reconnaissance and Intensive Survey primarily on private lands
- Working with ranchers in Otero, Las Animas, and Huerfano Counties to document historic sites on land threatened by expansion of Pinon Canon Maneuver Site
- Architectural and Archaeological survey

What’s next: MPDF for Homesteading Resources in the Purgatoire River Region
Boundaries

Looking beyond the buildings
Boundaries can be based on historic land ownership or current crop patterns.
Natural features such as canyons can also create boundaries.
Layers of Significance

Can the evolution of a property be part of its significance?
Layers of history: ruins of abandoned homesteads now part of cattle ranches
Can a building be architecturally significant if it’s missing a roof?

Ruins
Traditional construction methods- locally quarried sandstone with adobe mortar
Regional building types - dugouts
Traditional cultural features such as New Mexican corner fireplaces
Architecture that incorporates the landscape
Layout of homestead complexes
Multi-disciplinary approach

Combining architectural survey with historical archaeology
Combining Architectural and Archaeological Survey

- Traditional or frontier architecture can be very difficult to date. Material culture artifacts can help determine when a homestead was constructed as well as when it was abandoned.
- Archaeologists are skilled at evaluating foundations, depressions, and surrounding landscape features.
- Material culture of a site may also indicate site uses not in official records.

The Allen Mayes Homestead was patented in 1923, but the site includes late nineteenth century artifacts.
Material Culture of Homesteading
How do you evaluate a landscape that is still evolving?
Farm buildings reflect changes in farm technology
Farm buildings are often moved or converted

- Elevator and grain bins installed in barn
- Barn converted to elevator
- Methodist tabernacle to sheep barn
- Hog barn converted to grain storage
- Barns moved from one farm to another
- Schoolhouse to farm hand housing
Buildings no longer in use soon disappear
Researching rural landscapes

How do I figure out who lived here?
Homestead patent information available via General Land Office records website at www.glorecords.blm.gov

Census information available online through ancestry.com

Homestead testimony available from the National Archives in Washington, D.C.
Charles E. Coy Homestead

From GLO records:
- Received title to 320 acres under the Enlarged Homestead Act in 1919
- Received title to an additional 320 acres under the Stock Raising Act in 1922

From Census records:
- Charles E. Coy was born in 1877 in Missouri. His father was a farmer. Charles’ wife Virlea was also from Missouri. The couple had three daughters, all born in Colorado. Before homesteading, the family lived in Trinidad where Charles was a merchant of second hand goods.

From Homestead testimony:
- The original homestead complex consisted of a two-room stone house, a one-room bunk house, a stable, a smokehouse, a chicken house, a spring house, and a corral.
- Charles tried planting many different crops (cane, corn, rye, wheat, sudan grass, millet, potatoes, barley, beans, milo, broomcorn) but the majority failed.
Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

Steve Hart—Colorado School of Mines

Identifying Significance and Integrity in Evocative Landscapes

BARIUM MINES: LOST LANDSCAPES OF COLORADO
Colorado's “Lost” Radium Boom: Early 20th Century Mining and Processing Landscapes on the Colorado Plateau and in Denver

Stephen Hart and Eric Twitty
October 2011
Cultural Landscapes

• Size - vary from small gardens to national parks of several thousand acres (my underlines)
• Character - range from designed to vernacular, rural to urban, and agricultural to industrial
• Examples - estate gardens, cemeteries, farms, quarries, mills, nuclear test sites, suburbs, and abandoned settlements
• Conclusion - many landscapes have historic value and merit documentation and recognition

(Source: NPS 2005)
Rural Historic Landscape

- Historic geographical area used by people
- Shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention
- Possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features. (my underlines)

(Source: NPS 1999)
Rural Historic Landscapes

May include:

- *Industry (including mining and milling)*
- *Transportation systems*

“Mining properties may include not only the most prominent mining structures, but also the communities shaped as a result of the mining activity and the surrounding land covered by related mining claims and containing historic shafts, tunnels, pits, and tailings.”

May be listed in the National Register as:

- *Sites or*
- *Historic districts*

(Source: NPS 1999)
Uranium Mining Landscapes

• “Concise areas in western Montrose and San Miguel counties that experienced uranium mining certainly fit the definition.

• “Groups of individual resources such as mines, millsites, and mining camps will constitute most uranium mining landscapes.

• “The specific type of uranium mining landscape will then be defined by the dominant or most numerous resources.”

(Source: Twitty 2008)
1898 – Discovery of Radium

- Mme. Marie Curie isolated radium from Austrian pitchblende ore
- Samples of yellow ore sent from Montrose, CO to France
- Ore named “carnotite” after French Inspector of Mines Adolphe Carnot
- 1898-1916 – radium used for medical, not military, purposes
Uravan Mineral Belt (shaded area)

Mineral belt became center of U.S. radium industry after 1900
### Uravan Belt Mining “Booms”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period of Significance</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Principal Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>1898-1905</td>
<td>First uranium mining and milling, and beginning of industry. Uranium produced for its radium content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>1906-1922</td>
<td>First vanadium mining and milling. Uranium and vanadium boom. Vanadium produced as steel alloy, uranium for its radium content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>1935-1940</td>
<td>Revival of vanadium mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>1941-1945</td>
<td>Vanadium produced as weapons-grade steel alloy. Uranium secretly produced for Manhattan Project nuclear program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>1946-1963</td>
<td>Vanadium produced for weapons and consumer goods. Uranium produced for Cold War nuclear weapons programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⭐⭐ Periods of Significance included in this presentation

(Source: Twitty 2008)
Historic Radium Mining Region
Paradox Valley
(or “Paradox Basin”)

Photo looking east from west end of valley
Rail Transportation

Mining equipment arrives at Placerville depot

Standard Chemical Co. tank car at Placerville
Road Transportation

Leaving Placerville for Uravan - only 56 miles to go!

Bagged radium ore at Long Park ready for shipment by mule train
Radium/Vanadium Mines

1915 radium miner pointing out radioactive carbonized log in NRI Long Park mine

Miners working in Primos vanadium mine near Newmire
NRI Long Park Radium Mill – 1915

10 tons per day; milled ore packed in 100-lb burlap bags
Primos Vanadium Mill

- Primos Chemical Co. built mill at Newmire in 1910
- Town name changed to “Vanadium”

San Miguel River and RGS Railway in foreground
Uravan – 1918

- Standard Chem. Co. of PA started company camp on San Miguel River in 1912
- Built Joe Jr. Mill, boarding house, livery stable, etc.
Colorado Radium Production

1914 peak for medical use; 1918 peak for military use
Radium Bust – 1923

- 1914 - uranium found in Belgian Congo (kept secret from Germans)
- 1921 - discovery revealed:
  - Carnotite = 1-3% $U_3O_8$
  - Congo ore = $>25\% \ U_3O_8$
- 1922 - $2\text{ million/oz Ra}$ dropped by $>50\%$
- 1923 - Miners left Paradox Valley

Shinkolobwe Mine
Uravan Mineral Belt Today

- 1979 – Three-Mile Island plant accident caused uranium bust
- 1990s – Primos vanadium mill groundwater cleaned up by EPA
- 1990s-2000s – CO MLRD and BLM sealed uranium mines; are sensitive to historic resources

Long Park mine after MLRD closure
UMETCO Cleanup – 1983-Present

1994 - State landmarked Uravan rec. center and boarding house; 2 bldgs were all that remained of Uravan in 1999 photo

1999 - 1912 Uravan buildings were repaired using Colorado Historical Fund money
Landmarking is NOT Preservation!

On February 13, 2007, UMETCO burned down 1912 Uravan boarding house and rec. hall due to cost to restore!
Now Only Scattered Buildings Remain from Radium Boom

Several Radium Luminous Co. cabins still stand at their Long Park headquarters

Remains of Radium Ores Company’s Tramp Mill in Long Park
Contributing SW CO Resources

Radium-boom era contributing resources for rural historic landscape designation under NRHP Criterion A

Mining-related resources:
- Prospects
- Mines
- Mill sites
- Buildings/foundations
- Related structures
- Settlements

(Sources: Twitty 2008; NPS 1999)
Contributing SW CO Resources

Transportation-related resources:

- *Rio Grande Southern Railway* structures, grades, equipment
- *Wagon & stage roads and bridges*
- *Pack trails*
- *Aerial tramways*

(Sources: Twitty 2008; NPS 1999)

Above: San Miguel River bridge at Uravan in 2011
Below: Primos Mine tramway near Sawpit in 1999
Urban Radium Boom Landscape

- 1912-21 – processing of SW Colorado radium ore occurred in Denver
- 1979-80 – CO Health Dept. rediscovery in Denver of 41 sites clustered along N-S railroad lines (i.e., the South Platte River)
- 1982-95 – EPA remediated Denver Radium Superfund Sites; largest was Robinson Brick & Tile (NRI) site at I-25 and Santa Fe
- Today – remainder more HAER than HALS

(Source: Hart 1986)
National Radium Institute, Denver – 1913-1916

- Built during “Big Snow” of Dec. 1913
- Note 2 small buildings in center of 1916 photo
National Radium Institute Site
Cleaned Up by EPA

1982 – Robinson Brick & Tile still in operation
(Note 2 small buildings in foreground)
NRI Landscape Today

- NRI site now Home Depot on South Santa Fe
- I-25 & Broadway Light Rail Station to east
Urban Radium Boom Landscape?

- 1910 – U.S. Bureau of Mines Research Lab
- Located in Foster Bldg. in Denver
- Lab stimulated “rare earth” mineral exploration for:
  - Radium
  - Uranium
  - Vanadium
- University of Denver remediated their bldg. in early 1980s

Now University Bldg. on 16th St. Mall
1916 – BuMines Denver Research Lab Moved to Golden

CSM’s Engineering Hall was built in 1894
CO School of Mines Cleanup

- 1920 – BuMines lab moved to Univ. Nevada, Reno
- 1985 – BuMines lab connection rediscovered at CSM
- 1988 – Engineering Hall decontaminated
Conclusion

• “Radium boom” lasted only 20 years
• Subsequent vanadium and uranium “booms” reused same SW Colorado mines and mill sites
• Denver processing sites recycled for non-radioactive purposes after 1923
• Uranium “bust” after 1979 prompted widespread government agency remediation & reclamation
• Little remains of America’s first “radioactive boom” except a rural historic landscape
• Historic land uses of this landscape limited to radium/vanadium/uranium mining & grazing
References Cited

- Robinson, Judith Helm; Vernon, Noel D.; Lavoie, Catherine C. *Historic American Landscapes Survey Guidelines for Historical Reports*. National Park Service, 2005 (July rev.).

*(Photo credits: Denver Public Library, Steve Hart, Eric Twitty)*
Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

Tom Thomas – National Park Service

Identifying Significance and Integrity in Evocative Landscapes

LANDSCAPES OF CONFLICT: SAND CREEK AS A CASE STUDY
IDENTIFYING SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEGRITY IN EVOCATIVE LANDSCAPES

LANDSCAPES OF CONFLICT: SAND CREEK AS A CASE STUDY

OCTOBER 5, 2011
Two Congressional Mandates

PUBLIC LAW 105-243
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Study Act of 1998

PUBLIC LAW 106–465
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000
PUBLIC LAW 105-243
Authorized the Site Location Study
Directed the National Park Service to:

• to “identify the location and extent of the massacre area and

• the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park Service system.”
PUBLIC LAW 105-243
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Study Act of 1998

The site location study methodology

• Historical research
• Oral histories
• Traditional tribal methods
• Archeological survey
PUBLIC LAW 106–465
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000

The Secretary shall protect and preserve the site, including –

• The topographic features that the Secretary determines are important to the site;

• Artifacts and other physical remains of the Sand Creek Massacre; and

• The cultural landscape of the site, in a manner that preserves, as closely as practicable, the cultural landscape of the site as it appeared at the time of the Sand Creek Massacre.
PL 106-465
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000

• Interpret the natural and cultural resource values associated with the site;

• Provide for public understanding and appreciation of; and

• Preserve for future generations those values.
PL 106-465
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000

• Memorialize, commemorate, and provide information to visitors to the site;

• Enhance cultural understanding about the site; and

• Assist in minimizing the chances of similar incidents in the future.
The Secretary shall grant to any descendant or other member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes reasonable access to federally acquired land within the site for the purpose of carrying out a traditional, cultural, or historical observance.
PL 106-465
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000

• Create a plan to manage the site within 5 years after establishment including preservation measures; type and extent of development, and use of the site, including offsite support facilities in Kiowa County;

• Identify and implement visitor carrying capacities for all areas of the site;

• Provide opportunities for involvement by the tribes and the State in the formulating educational programs for the site; and

• Provide opportunities for involvement by the tribes, the State, and other local and national entities as appropriate in developing and supporting the site.
“Protect... The cultural landscape of the site, in a manner that preserves, as closely as practicable, the cultural landscape of the site as it appeared at the time of the Sand Creek Massacre.”

What is the cultural landscape of Sand Creek?
Ethnographic landscape - a landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources. Examples are contemporary settlements, sacred religious sites, and massive geological structures. Small plant communities, animals, subsistence and ceremonial grounds are often components.
What are the components of the ethnographic landscape?

At Sand Creek, there is a fine line between cultural and natural features of the landscape.
Two Congressional Mandates (PL 106-465 Section 5 (b))

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ALTERNATIVE A
No Action

General Management Plan
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
What are the components of the Sand Creek ethnographic landscape?
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site