

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)
 other names/site number 5PA.385

2. Location

street & number Park County Road 33 (west side), 0.5 miles north of Como N/A not for publication
 city or town Como X vicinity
 state Colorado code CO county Park code 093 zip code 80432

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
 I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

 Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation,
 History Colorado
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

 Signature of commenting official Date

 Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u> </u> entered in the National Register | <u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register |
| <u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register | <u> </u> removed from the National Register |
| <u> </u> other (explain:) | |

 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
1	0	site
2	1	structure
0	0	object
4	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Cemetery

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: _____

walls: _____

roof: _____

other: _____

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Physical Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The 1887 Como Cemetery is a 4.48-acre burial ground containing nearly five hundred graves. Located a half-mile north of the railroad and mining town of Como, the cemetery sits on an elevated site overlooking the community on the west side of Park County Road 33 (Boreas Pass Road) (see Figure 1 and Photograph 1). The former roadbed of the Denver, South Park, & Pacific Railway, whose presence gave rise to the town, lies between the road and the cemetery. The roughly rectangular cemetery is situated at an elevation of nearly 10,000'. The slightly sloping site is heavily treed on the north and west (mostly with aspens and some pines) and includes open ground along the eastern edge and southeast corner. The burial ground encompasses a metal-clad shed and an internal road system. An inactive irrigation ditch passes through the western edge of the cemetery ground and two wood bridges facilitate access between the land it divides. Monuments display a wide variety of styles, types, materials, and reflect fabrication in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Thirty grave enclosures are present, including wrought iron, cast iron, woven wire, wood picket, and chains on posts. Four of the fences are the work of the Stewart Iron Works, a leading manufacturer of grave enclosures. The cemetery maintains a high level of the seven aspects of integrity.

Elaboration

The cemetery is treated as a historic district due to its size and relative complexity. The district consists of one contributing site (the extent of the cemetery), a building, and three structures (two bridges and an inactive irrigation ditch). Monuments, grave enclosures, an entrance gate, the perimeter fence, flagpoles, litter barrels, a bench, and the road system are considered features of the site and are not included in the resource count. The counted resources are discussed below and are listed in Table 1; resource numbers correspond to those used on the Sketch Map.

Como Cemetery, Resource 1, Site, 1887, Contributing, Photographs 1 through 32

Como Cemetery consists of a 670' x 301' rectangle with the long axis oriented north-south; a notch is present at the southeast corner where undeveloped land was removed in 2000.¹ A gravel access road from Park County Road 33 widens into a parking area along the east cemetery fenceline. From an elevation of 9,916' at the cemetery entrance the land rises to 9,950' along the west boundary—a slope of 5.5 degrees. The inactive O'Neil Ditch enters the north boundary of the cemetery and extends southward through its western portion before exiting near the southwest corner. Two wood bridges cross the ditch in the southern part and provide access to the western area of the burial ground.

Entrance

The cemetery entrance is located near the north end of the east perimeter fence approximately 106' north of the shed (Photograph 2). The metal double gate is approximately 10' wide and features vertical pickets, double upper rails topped by scrollwork, a bottom single rail, and diagonal braces from the middle top to the lower outside corner (Photograph 3). A wood sign inscribed "COMO CEMETERY" is attached to the upper part of the north gate leaf. Each gate leaf is attached to a metal post topped by a ball finial; each post is braced by a diagonal metal post. Just inside the entrance, two metal flagpoles with ball finials flank the road: the United States flag on the south and the Colorado flag on the north. A 1976 photograph of the cemetery shows the same gate, but the flagpoles were not present then (see Figure 2).

Perimeter Fence

A current perimeter fence enclosing the cemetery consists of four strands of barbed wire on metal posts. A 1976 photograph of the cemetery appears to show the current or same type of fence (see Figure 2).

¹ This small undeveloped area was removed in an effort to permit road access to an adjoining parcel at the time the incorrect legal description of the cemetery was addressed in 2000.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Road System

An undated plat for the northern half of the cemetery shows an internal road system with roads 34' in width (see Figure 3). A road system remains, but some of the original platted roads are no longer used or are encroached on by vegetation and graves. The existing roads are unpaved and are discernible as areas of bare earth, compressed grasses, and other vegetation; they appear as two-track roads in aerial photographs. An internal road extends west from the entrance gate, splitting at a point about 75' from the gate, with one branch running due west and another south-southwest (see Sketch Map) (Photograph 4). The west branch turns south shortly before the O'Neil Ditch and runs parallel to the ditch before joining the other branch about 75' north of the south edge of the cemetery (Photograph 5). The road then continues south-southwest and exits the south boundary. A faint trace of a road, indicated by the absence of graves and trees, extends east-west between the two branches described above. The east-west road is shown on the 1976 map of the cemetery prepared by Harold Warren (see Figure 4).

Burials

No official burial records exist for Como Cemetery, which complicates estimating the number of graves and their location within the grounds. Several efforts have systematically transcribed gravestones and produced tabulations of burials. Harold and Lenore Warren pioneered cemetery documentation in the county in the 1970s, when they collected gravemarker transcriptions for a number of cemeteries. Harold Warren recalled they found a total of 581 graves in Como Cemetery, 228 named and 353 unnamed.² Local resident Ellen McMichael surveyed the cemetery in 2010 and documented 472 graves, 311 named and 161 unnamed.³ In 2014 Blue Tech Group, a land surveying firm, examined the grounds and produced a detailed map showing the cemetery's discernible graves, road system, tree cover, and other features. That study found 481 burials.

The bulk of burials within the cemetery are about evenly distributed between its north, central, and western areas. The north section (north of the entrance road and east of the O'Neil Ditch) contains 141 identified graves (Photograph 6). The central area (a roughly triangular portion bounded by the internal roads) holds 142 graves (Photograph 7). A narrow strip of land lying west of the O'Neil Ditch includes 134 graves (Photograph 8), while land between the ditch and the north-south internal road segment has 29 graves. Only twenty-six graves lie in the relatively open area between the internal road and the eastern boundary of the burial ground (Photograph 9).⁴

Paul A. Heil, who grew up in Como, remarked that "there are a lot of unmarked graves" in the cemetery.⁵ However, most appear to be located in areas containing marked graves. In 2014, ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and forensic canine studies were employed to search for unmarked graves in the open, eastern area of the burial ground, lying north, south, and west of the shed.⁶ No unmarked graves were detected there.⁷

Of the monuments with legible death dates, 73 percent bear inscriptions of 1967 and earlier. Eighteen markers have death dates between 1868 and 1886. The earliest burial is that of infant G.H. Hawxhurst who died in 1868. These early graves most likely represent ca. 1887 relocations from the first Como cemetery. Nearly a quarter of total burials (sixty-five) occurred between 1887 and 1899, a period of population growth and great activity in Como. A relatively consistent number of burials (between ten and twenty-nine) occurred in each

² Harold Warren, *Fairplay Flume*, February 1990.

³ Ellen McMichael, Como Cemetery Database, 2010, in the files of the Park County Office of Historic Preservation, Fairplay, Colorado. Prior to the project, McMichael received training in documenting cemeteries and produced a database that included burial name and dates and detailed information on grave markers, such as type, material, inscription, design features, and condition.

⁴ This analysis is based on the McMichael survey and the 2014 survey map.

⁵ Paul Anthony Heil, Como, Colorado, Interview by Cara Doyle, 29 June 2002, in the files of the Park County Local History Archives, Fairplay, Colorado.

⁶ The area of study was selected by the staff of the Park County Office of Historic Preservation. The rationale for the selection is not known. GPR is probably not feasible in the heavily treed areas of the cemetery.

⁷ Katharina Hemingway, PinPoint LLC, Morrison, Colorado, "Locating Graves with Ground-penetrating Radar in Park County," letter report to Erica Duvic, South Park Heritage Area, Fairplay, Colorado, 17 July 2014. Colorado Forensic Canines also examined the area without detecting any possible graves.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

succeeding decade (see Table 2). Some more recent graves are present in all areas of the cemetery, reflecting its ongoing use, but the area west of the ditch displays a higher proportion, with roughly 40 percent dating to after 1967.

Monuments

Types. Como Cemetery displays a variety of marker and monument types common in small town cemeteries of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries in Colorado. Most monuments are relatively modest in size and ornamentation; few rise above 3' to 4' in height. McMichael, in her 2010 survey, found the most numerous type of grave marker in the cemetery is the die-in-base type (122 markers). This category encompasses a wide range of monument shapes that other cemetery survey guides break out into separate styles, including:

- simple slabs on a base, such as the 1885 white marble Frank P. Volz marker (Photograph 10);
- pedestal monuments (with vaulted roofs and/or urns), represented by Mary J. Stewart's 1889 white marble pedestal with a vaulted top on a red sandstone base (Photograph 11) and the similar 1892 and 1894 Holthusen monuments (Photograph 12); and
- pulpit monuments, like the gray marble 1910 monument for Lois P. Shrewsbury (Photograph 13). Such monuments have a slanted top holding an open or closed book, thus resembling a church pulpit.

The next most numerous category of monuments is the wedge (also known as bevel and slant) type (104 markers). The front face of this type of monument is slanted. Thomas Manning Ancell's 1945 wedge monument is executed in brown granite (Photograph 14). The cemetery section west of the O'Neil Ditch has many examples of wedge monuments (Photograph 8).

Other types of monuments are present in the cemetery in smaller numbers. McMichael enumerated twenty-one tablet-style markers in 2010. This type of upright marker is placed directly into the ground without a base. G.H. Hawxhurst's 1868 marble marker with a round arched top is an example of this style (Photograph 15), as are the two painted wood markers for Davy Day (1940) and Judy Day (1952) (Photograph 16). Twenty lawn-type (or flush) markers were documented by McMichael. The 1934 marker of Gustaf Johnson is an example of the style, which displays a flat surface parallel to the ground (Photograph 17).

A handful of other monument styles are also present. There are a few examples of monuments comprised of tapered columns with conical tops. The George Breen monument (1888) is composed of gray marble atop a sandstone base (Photograph 18). Daniel McLaughlin's 1873 monument is a good example of a shrouded pedestal executed in white marble on a red sandstone base (Photograph 19). Six government-issue (military) markers are generally more recent in age. The exception is the monument for Civil War veteran Davis Hallock (who died in 1901) noted his service with Company C of the 5th Iowa Cavalry (Photograph 20).

Materials. Stone is the predominant material for grave markers in Como Cemetery. Ellen McMichael's 2010 survey found 168 markers composed of granite, with colors including gray (light and dark), brown, red, black, and variegated. Marble was used for eighty-nine grave markers, with white and grayish-white mixtures predominating. Notable among these is an arched top white marble tablet with projecting marble cross (Photograph 31). The tablet stands on a marble second base atop a tooled sandstone base. Placed in the cemetery following an 1893 coal mine disaster that killed twenty-five Italian miners at the King coal mine not far from Como, the marker is inscribed in Italian with the names and hometowns of four miners and their dates and place of death. Some other victims of the accident were buried in two unmarked trenches in the cemetery.

Four markers in the cemetery were made of sandstone, two of quartz, and six of wood. The burial ground contains only one zinc ("white bronze") marker, but a large number of other markers were identified as metal. These are mostly small mortuary markers that provide no information on the associated burial. The graves of Davy (died 1940) and Judy Day (died 1952) feature thick wood painted markers with rounded corners and carved inscriptions (Photograph 16).

Emblems and Symbols. Some gravestones feature emblems or acronyms representing membership in a fraternal, social, or other organization. For example, the 1909 gray granite monument for Oswald Schwartz prominently features the compass and square of the Masonic fraternity. The 1909 granite marker for Solomon B. Roth proclaims "Here rests a Woodman of the World," with the group's emblem above (Photograph 21).

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Decorative symbols employed on cemetery monuments conveyed special meanings to nineteenth and early-twentieth century observers. The symbols include those with explicitly religious references, reflecting the nature and character of the deceased, referring to the manner of their death, or conveying the feelings of those left behind. Symbols on Como Cemetery grave markers include: ivy leaves, vines, oak leaves, hummingbird, doves, lambs, open gates, stars, wheat shafts, trees, and hearts. Flowers, such as morning glories, daisies, roses, and lilies, appear on several gravestones; each flower expressed a different meaning. Four-year-old Willie Peabody's 1887 white marble monument features ivy entwined on a cross (Photograph 22). White marble was also employed for the 1903 monument of eleven-year-old Mabel T. Thomas. It included a tree stump, oak leaves, and a lamb, an image often used for children's graves (Photograph 23).

Epitaphs. Some grave markers at Como Cemetery contain epitaphs or inscriptions that commemorate or identify the deceased or express the feelings, hopes, or wishes of the survivors. Some markers include simple descriptors of the deceased's relationship to survivors, such as "infant child," "father," and "wife." Others feature short messages such as "Rest in peace," "At rest," or "Gone but not forgotten." Some hold longer sentiments, such as the undated marker for five-month-old David W. Hopkins, which reads: "In the bright and golden regions, with its pearly gates so fair, he is singing with the angels, there is room for David there." The side-by-side markers for Louise Maria Holthusen (who died in 1892) and William Henry Holthusen (who died in 1894) bear the following tributes: "She was a kind and affectionate wife, a fond mother, and a friend to all" and "He was a kind and affectionate father" (Photograph 12). The 1899 monument for W. C. Wooler notes his birth in Windsor, Canada, and reports he died of black water fever in Melelo (Kenya). The 1903 white marble monument for Mabel T. Thomas features a tree stump with a lamb and asserts "budded on earth to bloom in heaven" (Photograph 23).

Monument Makers. While many of the stone monuments in Como Cemetery display craftsmanship in their decorative carving, no inscriptions identifying makers were located. According to local historian Jerry Davis, members of the Malpuss family of Como produced sepulchral monuments in the 1880s and early 1890s, and he believes some of the markers in the cemetery "are very likely their work."⁸ One possible example of their work may be the 1888 marble marker for William B. Malpuss, the four-year-old son of William L. and Laura Malpuss. The Malpuss Brothers, William L. and Charles E., operated the Leadville Marble Works starting in 1894, and historian Annette Stott has identified examples of their work in that city's Evergreen Cemetery.⁹ The brothers also operated the Como Marble Works and advertised in the *Fairplay Flume* in 1895 as dealing in foreign and American marble and granite. The company offered "monuments, tombs, tablets, headstones, cemetery copings and iron fencing."¹⁰

The cemetery contains one example of a zinc marker, the 1886 monument to the three Koehler children, Martha E., Arthur G. and George F., who died within days of one another (Photograph 24). The Western White Bronze Company of Des Moines, Iowa, manufactured the gray obelisk topped by an urn. Zinc monuments (or "white bronze" as manufacturers preferred) were produced from the 1870s until the early-twentieth century. Manufacturers touted their durability, and the blue-gray material could be cast into a variety of forms, from statuary to popular gravestone shapes typically executed in stone. Historian Annette Stott reported that Western White Bronze was founded in 1884 and shipped the majority of zinc monuments to the Rocky Mountain states.¹¹

Grave Enclosures

Como Cemetery features thirty grave enclosures delineating plots, each containing from one to nine graves. Most enclosures are freestanding but are abutting in three locations. All except five of the grave enclosures

⁸ Jerry Davis, Colorado Springs, Colorado, email to Tom and Laurie Simmons, 11 August 2014; Annette Stott, *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2008), 102. Stott's *Pioneer Cemeteries* includes a photograph of an elaborate *faux bois* monument in Leadville's Evergreen Cemetery by Malpuss.

⁹ Stott, *Pioneer Cemeteries*, 101-02.

¹⁰ *Fairplay Flume*, 15 February 1895, 4.

¹¹ Stott, *Pioneer Cemeteries*, 214.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

appear to fall within the period of significance in the area of Art (1868-1937).¹² The enclosures include examples of:

- wood pickets (various styles) with wood posts and rails (Photograph 24)
- wrought-iron bow and picket
- wrought iron with milled pickets
- woven wire
- wood rails with overlapping metal bows (Photograph 16)
- metal posts with connecting chains (Photograph 25).

The burial ground contains four representatives of grave enclosure fencing manufactured by the Stewart Iron Works of Cincinnati, Ohio (later of Wichita, Kansas). These include fences surrounding the following plots: the 1906 single grave of one-year-old Thomas O. Gutshall (Photograph 26); the 1889 single grave of Andrew Dooner; the plot containing the graves of Allen McKinney (1897) and Mary E. Smith (1899) (Photograph 27); and the Speas plot (undated). The Muncie Architectural Iron Works (Muncie, Indiana) manufactured the enclosure for the grave of Winthrop J. Blanchard (1889) (Photograph 28).

The low iron enclosure surrounding the 1885 grave of Arvilla Rudeler may be a deteriorated example of a “J. Kinney” tubular iron fence. Jesse Kinney, of London, Canada, developed the concept of placing “terminating cups” on the upright posts of a fence that could support a flower vase or plant pot. The example surrounding this grave is now missing its cupholders.¹³

At least two enclosures feature Colorado Silver Tip steel fence posts with woven wire fence fabric or linked by chains. The posts came in a T or angled profile. Colorado Fuel & Iron Company of Pueblo, Colorado, manufactured the posts which were in use in the 1930s.¹⁴

No documentary records or historic photographs provide information on construction dates for grave enclosures within the cemetery. Five enclosures appear to be nonhistoric based on materials and design elements. A ca. 1990s enclosure features narrow metal posts with ball finials and prefabricated sections of metal pickets. There are a few examples of tubular steel fence posts with caps and more utilitarian steel fence posts linked by plastic or steel chains.

Vegetation

The cemetery is not a formally designed landscape. Aspen trees thickly cover the western and northern sections of the cemetery with many growing within grave enclosure fencing. Scattered within the dominant aspens are a number of pine trees, including a notable triple-trunk pine at the southeast corner where the west branch road turns south (see Sketch Map). The understory includes grasses, evergreen shrubs, harebell, dandelions, and asters. The eastern edge and southeast corner of the burial ground is unforested and contains grasses and forbs. Local historian Mary Dyer indicated families of loved ones planted native flowers on the site.¹⁵ Two graves appear to have plantings of lilac and potentilla shrubs. A few aspen trees were noted with bark carvings. One, on the west side of the north-south road segment, is inscribed “Baby Benaso 1905.” It is not known if this is a historic or more recent carving.

Small-Scale Features

A few small-scale features were placed in the cemetery after the period of significance. These include a bench installed by the Park County Cemetery Board in 2001 on the north side of the entrance road about 84' from the entrance (Photograph 4). Two 55-gallon steel drums of unknown dates are located along the east side of the north-south internal roadway segment and serve as litter receptacles. A number of wood bird nesting boxes are attached to trees.

¹² There are no records of grave enclosure or grave marker installations to assist with dating.

¹³ J. Kinney, Iron Fences, Patent Number 199651, filed 30 July 1877, patented 29 January 1878, 187-88, *Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office*, vol. 13 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1878).

¹⁴ Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, *Colorado Copper-Bearing Steel Fences* (Denver, Colorado: Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, 1 July 1936), 32. The name for the posts came from their dark green body with a silver top.

¹⁵ Mary Dyer, *Echoes of Como, Colorado, 1879 to 1988* (N.p.: George Meyer, 1988), 81.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Shed, Resource 2, Building, pre-1937, Contributing, Photograph 29

The one-story front gable roofed storage/maintenance shed is located on the east fenceline about 105' south of the entrance gate. A building is shown in this location on the 1937 U.S. Geological Survey map. The walls are clad with flat metal sheets; a portion of the metal is missing on the west wall, revealing the vertical board wall. The building faces south and features an off-center pedestrian entrance to the west (door missing) and a boarded up window opening to the east. The remaining walls are blank. The roof is clad in corrugated metal sheets and has overhanging eaves. A clay chimney pipe projects on the ridgeline toward the rear.

O'Neil Ditch, Resource 3, Structure, 1879, Contributing, Photograph 30

The O'Neil Ditch, a once-active irrigation structure, no longer delivers water.¹⁶ The ditch pre-dates the cemetery, first appropriating water from Tarryall Creek in 1879; the water right was decreed in 1889. The ditch enters the cemetery on the north fenceline about 41' from the northwest corner. The ditch alignment extends southward, lying between 46' and 63' from the west cemetery boundary. As the ditch approaches the south boundary of the burial ground it turns west and exits at the southwest corner.

The earthen ditch is about 11' wide and 2' deep, with sloping sides. The course of the ditch has been filled in for a distance of about 20' in a location that previously held a bridge, in order to provide a means of crossing to the northwestern part of the cemetery. This change occurred after 1976.

North Bridge, Resource 4, Structure, ca. 1900, Contributing, Photograph 30

The presence of the irrigation ditch necessitated bridges to access the narrow strip of cemetery land lying to the west. Only round nails were noted in the construction of this bridge and the one to the south.¹⁷ The more northern bridge is located about 235' from the south boundary of the cemetery and is oriented east-west. The bridge is about 8' wide and 15' long. Log stringers and concrete blocks support the bridge deck, which is composed of thick (2" x 12") wood boards.

South Bridge, Resource 5, Structure, ca. 1900, Noncontributing

The southern bridge is located about 55' from the south boundary of the cemetery and is oriented northwest-southeast. The bridge is about 6' wide and 15' long. Three log stringers support the bridge deck, which consists of thick (2' x 12") wood boards with chamfered ends. The bridge is assessed as noncontributing because it was moved to this location after the period of significance. The 1976 Harold Warren map showed the bridge near the northwest corner of the cemetery, indicating it was moved to its current location after that date.¹⁸

INTEGRITY

Como Cemetery displays a high level of historic physical integrity in each of the seven aspects of integrity.

Location

The location of the cemetery is unchanged from its establishment in 1887. Except for a small notch at the southeast corner of the grounds the area of the cemetery remains intact.

¹⁶ Marshall P. Brown, Director, Aurora Water, Aurora, Colorado, Letter to Erica Duvic, Park County Department of Heritage, Tourism & Community Development, Fairplay, Colorado, 2 February 2016. Only real property, not water rights (per 36 CFR 60), is the subject of this nomination. Mr. Brown stated: "The City of Aurora is the sole owner of the O'Neil Ditch water right and has no objections to Park County pursuing a nomination of the Como Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places."

¹⁷ A ca. 1900 year built was estimated for both bridges, based on the presence of only round nails and trends in burials for the west side of the ditch. Only three pre-1900 burials lay west of the ditch. By the early 1900s, six additional burials had been added, possibly prompting the need to construct a means of getting across the ditch.

¹⁸ Harold Warren, Como Cemetery, grave survey and map, 1976, in the files of the Park County Local History Archives, Fairplay, Colorado.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Setting

The cemetery retains excellent integrity of setting. The surrounding land remains undeveloped, with forested areas to the west, north, and east and open grazing land to the south. The O'Neil Ditch no longer carries water, but its alignment and appearance are unchanged, save for a short section filled in to permit passage to the northwestern part of the grounds. The views of the community of Como and South Park and the mountain range beyond are unobscured by nonhistoric development.

Design

The overall plan of the northern part of the cemetery is still readily apparent, and compares well with the early plat map by referencing the names shown on the map with the names on tombstones within grave plots. There have been some changes to interior road alignments, as well as narrowing and absorption of some planned roadways through the expansion of grave plots into the road right of way. No plat was found for the southern half of the grounds. Graves in this area appear less regular in alignment with orientation toward roads, the ditch, or along the west fenceline. The sepulchral art and small scale landscape features that followed the period of significance are small in number and scale, do not detract from the original design, and generally harmonize with the existing elements.

Materials

The cemetery retains a high percentage of original materials employed for grave markers and grave enclosures. Some markers made of softer stones display deterioration and spalling of inscriptions. Lichen is present on some stones. The cemetery contains a large number of metal mortuary markers, possibly indicating the rotting and disappearance of early wood markers. Post-1967 monuments generally reflect a similar range of materials for gravestones.

Workmanship

Workmanship employed in the fabrication of historic grave enclosures and monuments retains a high level of integrity. The markers and monuments of the cemetery strongly convey the artistic sensibilities and imagery and skilled work with stone and other materials reflecting competency and craftsmanship. Some markers exhibit the aesthetic and workmanship of nonprofessional creators.

Feeling

The cemetery still conveys the feeling of an early small town burial ground. The undeveloped surroundings, relatively isolated hillside location, vistas, narrow grassy internal roads, and presence of aspens (which shade the grounds while still providing openness) and other native vegetation contribute to a contemplative and peaceful experience.

Association

Como Cemetery is still an active public burial ground maintaining its historic association with the surrounding communities as a place for burial and commemoration of the dead. Now owned and operated by Park County, the cemetery continues the function begun under the auspices of the Town of Como.

Table 1
Resources within the Historic District

Resource Number	Historic Resource Name and Year Built	Resource Type	Contributing Status
1	Cemetery site	Site	Contributing
2	Shed	Building	Contributing
3	North bridge over irrigation ditch	Structure	Contributing
4	South bridge over irrigation ditch	Structure	Noncontributing
5	O'Neil Ditch	Structure	Contributing

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Table 2
Burials by Time Period

Time Period	Burials	
	Number	Percentage
Pre-1887	18	6.3%
1887-99	65	22.6%
1900-09	29	10.1%
1910-19	20	7.0%
1920-29	19	6.6%
1930-39	19	6.6%
1940-49	11	3.8%
1950-59	10	3.5%
1960-69	22	7.7%
1970-79	21	7.3%
1980-89	12	4.2%
1990-99	25	8.7%
2000-10	16	5.6%

NOTE: This table is based on death dates reported in McMichael's 2010 survey of Como Cemetery, which showed 287 grave markers with legible death dates.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)
Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- ART
- INDUSTRY
- SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1868-1937

Significant Dates

1893

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for Criterion A for Exploration/Settlement extends from 1887 (the year the cemetery was established) until 1937 (the date when Como's active railroad history ended). In the latter year the C&S Railway terminated its service through Park County and closed the Como roundhouse, resulting in the end of the town's settlement period. In 1940 the town's population numbered just ninety-five, less than a quarter of its total thirty years earlier. Only twenty marked burials in the cemetery occurred in the 1940-59 period.

The period of significance under Criterion A for Industry is 1893 (the year the mine accident, ceremony, and burials took place). The date of the disaster, 1893, constitutes a significant date for the cemetery. The period of significance under Criterion A for Social History extends from the opening of the cemetery in 1887 (the date it opened) to 1937 (the date the railroad ceased operations) for its ability to convey important information about the lives of those buried in terms of organizational memberships, religious affiliations, occupations, ethnic origins, health issues, and social welfare. As only a few issues of Como newspapers are extant and there are few published histories of the town, the cemetery's value in conveying this type of information is significant.

The period of significance for Criterion C for Art extends from 1868 (the year of the oldest artistic monument in the cemetery) to 1937 (the year railroading, Como's population, and the number of new graves began to decline). The oldest monument was moved from Como's first burial ground (no longer extant) when this cemetery opened. The cemetery reflects the aesthetic sensibilities and craftsmanship of its time. The period of significance extends to 1937 to include much of the collection of monuments and historic features, such as grave enclosures, that display common artistic values of the era.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

Criteria Consideration D (cemetery). Como Cemetery meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration D for eligibility as a cemetery that possesses significance for its historic associations with a community's early period of settlement and reflects important aspects of community history. It is of sufficient age (approximately 130 years) and scope to significantly represent these patterns of early settlement and associated historic events. Further, the burial ground's long history has resulted in an assemblage of monuments and grave enclosures representing the common artistic values of a historic period.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

The 1887 Como Cemetery is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement, Industry, and Social History. Como Cemetery is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Art. The still active burial ground meets the registration requirements for listing under the Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) under the property type "Town Cemetery." The Town of Como established the burial ground in 1887 and operated it until the town disincorporated in the 1950s. The cemetery provided funerary services for residents of Como, surrounding small settlements, and the broader rural ranching and mining area. Como Cemetery, with nearly five hundred graves, is Park County's second largest burial ground. Development of the northern part of the site followed a plat plan specifying blocks and grave plots. The cemetery features an internal road system and is the only county cemetery with a standing historic maintenance building. The burial ground includes a wide range of monument styles and materials, as well as thirty grave enclosures. Como Cemetery, now managed by the County Cemetery Board, continues to accept burials and welcomes visits to view the graves of loved ones or to enjoy its contemplative setting.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Elaboration

CRITERION A

Como Cemetery is significant in the area of Exploration/Settlement as the final resting place of many of the pioneers of Como and surrounding areas of Park County. Early settlers active in railroading, mining, ranching, commerce, education, and politics and government are buried here. In addition to residents of Como, the cemetery served Jefferson to the northeast, Hamilton to the northwest, and surrounding ranching and mining communities. Como Cemetery was and is the only representative of the town cemetery type as defined by the Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF in northern Park County.

Como Cemetery is also significant in the area of Industry for its association with an important event: the January 1893 industrial accident at the King Coal Mine southeast of Como that claimed the lives of twenty-five mostly Italian miners. Como Cemetery served as the site for the mass funeral and burial of seventeen of the victims. The disaster drew widespread newspaper coverage describing the accident and the solemn interment ceremonies taking place at Como Cemetery. The funeral required two trenches used for mass graves and many of the victims were buried in unmarked graves. The cemetery contains a white marble monument bearing the names and hometowns of four of the fatalities and an inscription in Italian. The exact location of the grave trenches is unknown and not documented on an existing map. They may be located in the Catholic area of the cemetery.

The cemetery is also significant in the area of Social History, documenting through its inscriptions, iconography, and carvings on its monuments valuable information about topics such as the organizations local citizens joined, including fraternal and union groups; the occupations they pursued, such as mining, ranching, and railroading and the connections formed through such pursuits; and the religious beliefs and affiliations that influenced the citizen's spiritual and social lives; the mortality/lifespans, epidemics, and disasters faced by the community and its social responses to these events; and the roles of women and minority groups in the community. One example of this important social history is the reported existence of an IOOF (International Order of Odd Fellows) plot in the cemetery where the organization's members could be laid to rest, while other individual markers contain emblems of these associations. As little documentary evidence informing such issues exists for Como, the information contained in the cemetery possesses added significance. The period of significance for Social History is 1887 (the year the cemetery was established) to 1937 (when railroading diminished, the town began losing population, and the number of graves added each year declined).

CRITERION C

Como Cemetery is further significant under Criterion C in the area of Art, with a period of significance extending from 1868 to 1937, as a noteworthy collection of markers, monuments, and grave enclosures that reflect common artistic values of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. These artistic features are good representatives of that period's aesthetic preferences, methods of construction, and craftsmanship and fabrication. The creation of Como Cemetery in 1887 coincided with a period of growing population and increasing prosperity for the town and its hinterland, resulting in an assemblage of finely crafted cemetery monuments in a variety of styles, sizes, and materials. The cemetery has more than two dozen intact historic grave enclosures composed of wood pickets, woven wire, and wrought iron. These include four examples produced by the Stewart Iron Works, a leading maker of funerary fencing, and one by the Muncie Architectural Iron Works (Muncie, Indiana). While Como Cemetery does not contain high style master works of funerary art, the burial ground constitutes "a distinguishable entity made up of a significant array of gravemarkers and monuments representing the common artistic values of a historic period."¹⁹

Within Park County, Como Cemetery is locally significant as an example of a fair mount cemetery, reflecting to some degree the influence of the rural cemetery movement. The cemetery was created in 1887 through a deliberate acquisition of land dedicated to funerary purposes. The burial ground's location on a slightly sloping

¹⁹ Elisabeth Walton Porter and Beth M. Boland, *National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places* (Washington: National Park Service, 1992), 12.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

hillside overlooking the town provided vistas of South Park and the Tarryall Creek drainage to the southeast and provided opportunities for contemplation. Development of the northern half of the grounds followed a plat specifying an orderly division of blocks, burial plots, and internal circulation. Como is the only cemetery in the county with an identified historic plat plan. The cemetery incorporated an existing irrigation ditch into its design. The cemetery's high altitude setting is not groomed or purposefully landscaped. Instead, native plants and trees (particularly aspens) adaptable to the environment flourish within its grounds and the natural vistas convey contemplative beauty.

Settlement of Como²⁰

Como Cemetery provided a final resting place for residents of the associated town, as well as serving Hamilton, Jefferson, and surrounding ranching and mining areas. Como, approximately ten miles northeast of Fairplay, owes its origin and subsequent growth to the Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway (DSP&P) and the presence of coal deposits in its vicinity. The town sprang up as the campsite of hundreds of laborers laying DSP&P tracks across South Park in the summer of 1879. The railroad's route extended southwest from Denver over Kenosha Pass, crossed South Park, and then passed over Trout Creek Pass into the Arkansas Valley at Buena Vista and proceeded north to Leadville. Railroad historian M.C. Poor concluded DSP&P planners initiated the project on the general principle "that there was wealth in the mountains and that it would be found."²¹ The railroad opened up Park County and its mines and ranches through improved transportation access.

The first train steamed into Como from Denver on 21 June 1879, and the following month the town gained a post office.²² Also in July 1879 the South Park Coal Company formally platted the Town of Como, which was named for the lake and town in Italy.²³ The original town plat included fifty-eight blocks, although less than one-third of the original townsite developed during the historic period.²⁴ An easily mined seam of coal extended from the townsite several miles to the southeast. A 3.3-mile branch railroad line was built in late 1879 to the King Coal mines southeast of Como. In 1880, a short spur line of about a mile was built from the mainline to the Lechner coal mine a mile northwest of Como.²⁵ By the time of the 1880 Census, the permanent population of Como was 134.

The DSP&P facilities on the northeast edge of Como were substantial, and included a stone roundhouse, a small frame depot, a two-story brick hotel, a company house for the superintendent, a water tank, a sand house, a fifty-foot wrought iron turntable, a blacksmith shop, a machine shop, a boiler house, wood engine stalls, a row of stone tenements, and other buildings and structures. The roundhouse, depot, and hotel are listed in the National Register (5PA.30, listed 20 May 1983, NRIS.83003880). In 1882 Como became a division point on the DSP&P, following completion of a line over 11,438' Boreas Pass to Breckenridge.²⁶ The line was extended to Dillon, with completion of the "High Line" to Leadville via Ten Mile Creek and Fremont Pass achieved in 1884.²⁷ With these extensions in place, Como served trains coming from Denver through the Platte Canyon and then going north over

²⁰ Chester W. Washburne, "The South Park Coal Field, Colorado," 307, in U.S. Geological Survey, *Contributions to Economic Geology, 1908*, U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin Number 381-C (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1910); Gordon Chappell, Robert Richardson, and Cornelius Hauck, *The South Park Line: A Concise History*, Colorado Rail Annual No. 12 (Golden, Colorado: Colorado Railroad Museum, 1974), 40; Virginia McConnell Simmons, *Bayou Salado: The Story of South Park*, rev. ed. (Boulder, Colorado: Fred Pruett Books, 1992), 164; Allison Chandler, "The Story of Como and King Park, Colorado," *Denver Westerners Monthly Roundup* (February 1963): 4. Union Coal was a successor firm to the South Park Coal Company, which obtained coal lands from George Lechner.

²¹ Poor, *Denver, South Park & Pacific*, 139; Norma L. Flynn, *History of the Famous Mosquito Pass* (N.p.: n.p., 1959), 235-36; Gordon Chappell, "John Evans: Building the South Park," in Gordon Chappell, et al, *The South Park Line: A Concise History*, Colorado Rail Annual No. 12 (Golden, Colorado: Colorado Railroad Museum, 1974), 10-11.

²² Meredith C. Poor, *Denver, South Park & Pacific*, mem. ed. (Denver: Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, 1976), 422; Margaret Coel, *Goin' Railroadin'* (Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Co., 1991), 20-21; Maxine Benson, *1001 Colorado Place Names* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1994), 44; Allison Chandler, "The Story of Como and King Park," 4.

²³ Former State Historian Maxine Benson found the town's name resulted from "Italian coal miners [who] brought the name *Como* from the lake and city in their native land. Benson, *1001 Colorado Place Names*, 44.

²⁴ Chandler, "The Story of Como and King Park," 4; Park County Clerk and Recorder, Plat of Como, 2 July 1879.

²⁵ Poor, *Denver, South Park & Pacific*, 170.

²⁶ Chappell, Richardson, and Hauck, *The South Park Line*, 54.

²⁷ Chappell, Richardson, and Hauck, *The South Park Line*, 62.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Boreas Pass to Breckenridge and eventually Leadville, as well as those passing southwest over Trout Creek Pass and through the Alpine Tunnel to Gunnison.²⁸

In the late 1880s, ten to twenty-six trains passed through Como each day (see Figure 5). Railroad historians report that Como was an “unpopular place to live,” especially for the wives of railroad employees, due to its high altitude, long winters, and strong winds.²⁹ The cost of living also was generally higher at Como, and the railroad offered extra incentives to secure workers. As General Superintendent J.D. Welsh declared: “Como is an out of the way place and is not a desirable place for men in the railroad service . . . We favor them in other ways, such as supplying a club house, library, bathroom, etc. which we do not provide for our employees at other stations.”³⁰ Sam Speas, who worked for the railroad, described Como in 1887:

The town spread southward, its wide, dusty roads lined with small frame houses, boardinghouses, general stores, liverys, confectioneries, Chinese laundries, and saloons. Almost every man in the population of 400 worked on the railroad, including about twenty-two engineers, dozens of firemen, and 100 machinists, roundhouse employees, office clerks, and section gang laborers. Brakemen and conductors lived in Leadville or Denver and laid over in Como in the boarding houses or the railroad's tenement buildings near the track.³¹

The DSP&P played an important role in Park County's economy. The agricultural sector benefited from shipment of hay and livestock from local ranches on DSP&P trains. Sheep and cattle were hauled to grazing ranges and later transported to Leadville, Denver, and eastern markets for processing. Passenger trains provided links between Denver, Park County communities, and the mountain towns of the central Rockies.³² Tourism also emerged as a growing business sector. Railroad historian M.C. Poor wrote that “to the tourist, no more beautiful pictures of glorious mountain scenery were ever framed by a passenger coach window” than those of the South Park line.³³ Travel writer George A. Crofutt noted in 1885 the hunting and fishing opportunities of South Park: “Game such as deer, elk, bear, mountain lion, grouse, and occasionally mountain sheep, are plentiful in the park and vicinity, while the streams are stocked with an abundance of the finest mountain trout.”³⁴ The railroad's passenger department issued pamphlets describing the line's “unsurpassed scenery” to encourage tourist travel.

After high operating costs and declining revenues drove the DSP&P to bankruptcy in 1889, a bondholders' committee purchased the railroad and transferred its ownership to the Denver, Leadville, & Gunnison Railway (DL&G), a new entity under the sole ownership of the Union Pacific Railroad.³⁵ The Panic of 1893 greatly reduced mining-related traffic, and the DL&G focused on hauling coal, hay, and ice to generate revenues. The line was combined with the Union Pacific, Denver and Gulf lines to form the Colorado & Southern (C&S) Railway Company in 1898.³⁶

Despite these upheavals, the railroad continued as a mainstay of Como's prosperity. Hattie Williamson Stocking, who lived with her parents at the coal mining community of King and then near Como, recalled the town in the 1890s: “In those days Como was a boisterous town; money was spent freely and saloons were always crowded on payday.”³⁷ The town included newspaper offices and a public school. When George Champion, Jr. came with his family to Como in 1898 he remembered “it was just a railroad town, but with railroaders, near-by ranchers and miners from the Tarryall district, the mercantile business thrived.”³⁸ The town encompassed “two general stores, a bakery, a shoe shop, two Chinese laundries, a clothing store and post office, a drugstore, two restaurants, two

²⁸ John K. Aldrich, *Ghosts of Park County* (Lakewood, Colo.: Centennial Graphics, 1984), 17.

²⁹ Chappell, Richardson, and Hauck, *The South Park Line*, 114.

³⁰ Chappell, Richardson, and Hauck, *The South Park Line*, 117.

³¹ Coel, *Goin' Railroadin'*, 20.

³² Coel, *Goin' Railroadin'*, 20-21.

³³ Poor, *Denver, South Park and Pacific*, 309.

³⁴ George A. Crofutt, *Crofutt's Grip-Sack Guide of Colorado* (Omaha, Ne.: Overland Publishing Co., 1885, reprint with supplement by Francis B. Rizzari, Richard A. Ronzio, and Charles S. Ryland, Boulder: Johnson Books, 1966).

³⁵ Chappell, Richardson, and Hauck, *The South Park Line*, 61; Poor, *Denver, South Park & Pacific*, 280.

³⁶ Abbott, 103-08, 143.

³⁷ Dyer, *Echoes of Como*, 73.

³⁸ Simmons, *Bayou Salado*, 166; Poor, *Denver, South Park & Pacific*, 422; *Denver Post*, 10 August 1980, 73.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

rooming houses, a printing office, three saloons, and at one time, four pool halls, a livery and feed stable, the railroad hotel, also the hotel library and barber shop."³⁹

Como was the largest town in Park County in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, boasting a population of 367 in 1890, 407 in 1900, and 411 in 1910. However, changes in the operations of the C&S greatly diminished Como's prospects in the early twentieth century. When a 1909 fire destroyed the railroad shops, the facility was moved to Denver, costing Como jobs and lessening its significance to the railroad. In October 1910, the C&S closed the Alpine Tunnel and abandoned its line to Gunnison. The abandonment was a severe blow to Como; by the end of November, many employees had been laid off or transferred.

In March 1911, the *Denver Post* reported that the previously booming town was now fading. Como's population declined to 121 in 1920, when it dropped to the third largest town in Park County. The C&S sought to abandon its line through Park County as early as 1928. An abandonment request was finally approved in 1936 and service terminated the following year, when the Como roundhouse was permanently closed. In 1938, the tracks were pulled up, and Como's population again dropped, declining to ninety-five in 1940 and thirty-nine in 1950.

Establishment of Como Cemetery

Before 1887, Como's dead were laid to rest in a burial ground in town northwest of the National Register-listed school (5PA.1223). Local historian Harold Warren (1911-2005) reported its location was just above a spring that provided water for some families, leading to fears it was a "possible source of water contamination."⁴⁰ Creation of the current Como Cemetery was enabled when the Union Pacific Coal Company sold a roughly five-acre plot to the Board of Trustees of Como for one dollar. The warranty deed specified the land was transferred as "a cemetery and place of burial for the Town of Como with the express understanding that it is to be used for such purposes only."⁴¹ The coal company and the town apparently reached an agreement on the land transfer earlier in 1887. The Town Board pre-emptively enacted an ordinance requiring all burials in the old cemetery be removed to the new one by 11 November 1887, with the City Marshal sending notices to the next of kin of the deceased in October.⁴² A number of gravestones in Como Cemetery list death dates prior to 1887 and appear to represent reinterments from the old burial ground. G.L. Hawxhurst's marker bears the earliest death date (1868), and at least seventeen other gravestones display dates between 1871 and 1886 (Photograph 15).⁴³

The new cemetery site occupied a sloping east-facing hillside about 160' higher in elevation and a half-mile northwest of the town (see Figure 1). The 1879 O'Neil Ditch flowed through the western edge of the tract, while the line of the Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway over Boreas Pass to Breckenridge lay a few hundred feet to the east.⁴⁴

Como Cemetery is the county's only burial ground with a documented formal platting. An undated plat of the cemetery shows the northern area of the tract divided into five blocks containing mostly square burial plots (see Figure 3). Local historian Mary Dyer described this plat as "an early day map" and stated that "cemetery lots were not for sale, but on interment, the next of kin was issued a quit claim deed. Fencing was provided by the I.O.O.F. Lodge."⁴⁵ It appears the IOOF also had its own section at the Como Cemetery deed transfers in

³⁹ Dyer, *Echoes of Como*, 75; George W. Champion, "Remembrances of South Park," *Colorado Magazine* (January 1963): 27 and 30.

⁴⁰ Warren, "We Hear Only the Whispered Tales . . ."

⁴¹ Union Pacific Coal Company to Board of Trustees of Como, Warranty Deed, 28 November 1887, Book 38, Pages 288-89. The deed misidentified the location of the land as in the northwest quarter of section 28 rather than the northeast quarters of section 29.

⁴² S.E. Cook, City Marshal, letter to R. McGallelan, 11 October 1887, reproduced in Dyer, *Echoes of Como*, 82.

⁴³ G.L. Hawxhurst was the infant son of George and Hannah Hawxhurst.

⁴⁴ Petition for Adjudication of Rights to the Use of Water for Irrigation in Water District No. Twenty-three, District Court, Fourth Judicial District, Fairplay, Colorado, 11 October 1889. This 1889 decision awarded Daniel O'Neil a water right (Priority Number 98) for the ditch.

⁴⁵ Dyer, *Echoes of Como*, 81. The "fencing" noted by Dyer was presumably of the perimeter of the cemetery.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

1915 since one refers to the "IOOF plot."⁴⁶ Based on the location of the graves of purchasers of the plot, the IOOF ground was located on the east side of the north-south road paralleling the ditch (Photograph 25). The plot is delineated by metal posts linked by heavy catenary chains, perhaps an allusion to the fraternal order's symbology. There is only one marked grave within the plot and it displays no IOOF emblems. Fraternal orders such as the Odd Fellows often took the lead in establishing cemeteries and sometimes acquired specified areas of cemeteries to accommodate burials of members of their order.

Aside from mentions in obituaries and accounts of funerals, Como Cemetery drew little notice in local newspapers.⁴⁷ In October 1899 a forest fire that began in a Boreas Pass railroad snowshed threatened the burial ground. A force of fire wardens and "the whole neighborhood" turned out to save the cemetery.⁴⁸ In the early twentieth century notices referencing transfers and sales of lots in the cemetery appeared in the *Fairplay Flume*.⁴⁹

Despite having a range of other businesses, Como seldom had a resident undertaker. It appears that local family or community members or practicing undertakers in Fairplay generally met Como's funerary needs. During the 1884-1911 period, three Fairplay undertakers appeared in directories or were mentioned in obituaries: 1888-90, W.D. Mackay; 1884-1907, A.B. Crook; and 1910-11, P.W. O'Brien, who also served as county judge and clerk of the district court. Crook, who also served as Fairplay postmaster, published an 1884 display advertisement in the *Como Head Light* offering: "Undertaking. A full line of metallic coffins and caskets, kept constantly on hand."⁵⁰ Mackay's 1888 directory listing identified him as an undertaker and painter. W.B. Fowler operated an undertaking business in Como from about 1890 to 1900. He also provided insurance and notary public services and was active in the local Odd Fellows lodge.

Prominent Persons Buried at Como Cemetery

As a public cemetery, Como Cemetery not only served the Town of Como but the surrounding smaller communities of Jefferson, Hamilton, and King and rural ranching families. Individuals from all spheres of life found a final resting place in Como Cemetery, but Como was fundamentally a blue collar, working class town, with most of its labor force employed with the railroad or in mining. Some notable Como Cemetery burials are discussed below. Names italicized are of those buried in the graveyard.

Daniel McLaughlin (1822-1873) was born in Pennsylvania and with his wife, Sarah A. McLaughlin (also born in Pennsylvania in 1822), established a ranch and stage station south of Hamilton in the 1860s (see Figure 6). In 1867 the *Rocky Mountain News* reported Dan McLaughlin discovered a coal deposit about a mile from his ranch that was judged to be of "very superior" quality. The ranch was purchased by a coal company and mining began in the area, which the Italian miners dubbed "Como" due to the presence of a nearby lake. When Daniel McLaughlin died in 1873 after being hit in the head by a limb from a tree he was cutting, he was called "an old and well-known citizen of Tarryall Creek." A 1906 report described McLaughlin as "one of Colorado's first settlers."⁵¹

James Morrison Link (1817-1899), described as a pioneer at the time of his death, was born in Kentucky and later moved to Missouri, where he married *Elizabeth Whitley Martin* (1827-1906) in 1844. In 1850 Link crossed the plains to California in pursuit of gold. In 1862 he visited Park County and eight years later moved his family to the territory, acquiring a ranch near Como where he engaged in mining, livestock raising, and operating a hotel at Hamilton. An 1899 book containing biographies of notable people in Colorado judged: "in the list of pioneers of Colorado mention belongs to the subject [Link] ... whose active life was largely passed in the west

⁴⁶ Tarryall Lodge No. 64, IOOF, to W.H. Lilley, Quitclaim Deed, 14 June 1915, in the files of the Park County Clerk and Recorder, Fairplay, Colorado. The deed made reference to a sale of half a lot in the "I.O.O.F. plot of Como Cemetery."

⁴⁷ Although three successive newspapers were published at Como, only a few editions are extant. It is likely these newspapers covered events at the cemetery in greater detail.

⁴⁸ *Denver Times*, 1 October 1899, 2; *Rocky Mountain News*, 7 October 1899, 8.

⁴⁹ *Fairplay Flume*, 18 March 1904, 2 and 13 August 1915, 1.

⁵⁰ *Como Head Light*, 5 November 1884, 1.

⁵¹ *Rocky Mountain News*, 7 November 1867, *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 10 January 1874; *Fairplay Flume*, 30 March 1906; Simmons, *Bayou Salado*, 110, 117-119, 164.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

and amid the usual environments of the frontier.” He died in Helper, Utah, where his wife had taken him in hopes of improving his health, and was temporarily buried there by the Masonic lodge. It is reported that in 1920 one his sons, Celsus P. Link, carried his father’s remains in a suitcase to Como so he could be buried in the cemetery. Elizabeth (1827-1906) was born in St. Louis and became the mother of eight children, three of whom are also buried in Como Cemetery. She was described as “a woman of wonderfully strong and excellent character.”⁵²

Civil War veteran *Davis Sperry Hallock* (1833-1901), a native of New York, lived in Nebraska Territory by 1860. He served in both the Iowa and Nebraska cavalries during the Civil War and later claimed an invalid’s pension. In 1869 he married Elizabeth Brandt Steinman (born in 1846 in Columbus, Ohio) in Bethany, Missouri, where he worked as an engineer. The couple moved to Park County in 1879 and lived on the Eight Mile Ranch. By 1883 they settled in Como, where he was described as a well-known dairy ranchman. The Hallocks had eight children. At the time of his death he was cited as “an old citizen of Park County, whose home was in Como.”⁵³

George Champion (1884-1982) was born in Nebraska and moved with his parents (George, Sr. and Bertha) to Colorado. His father opened a general store and post office in Hall’s Gulch and after the railroad crossed Kenosha Pass moved to Jefferson where the Champions operated the general merchandise store and a cheese factory before settling in Como in 1898. There, the senior Champion established a mercantile in partnership with his brother-in-law, David Gwinn. George, Jr. attended the one-room school in Como and then became an apprentice machinist in the Como Railroad Shops. In 1908 he married *Mayme Delaney* (1884-1968), daughter of James and Anne Delaney of Como. The George, Jr. and Mayme lived in Como intermittently before returning to permanent residence there.⁵⁴

Hiram Beede Turner (1815-1904) was born in Biddeford, Maine, moved with his parents to Canada as a child, and learned the skill of tanning. While searching for work as a young man he apprenticed at stone cutting in Massachusetts, later using his knowledge to construct buildings and structures in New York and the Midwest. He married *Julia Ann Sneider Turner* (1825-1890) in New York in 1850. After a time farming in Nebraska, Turner headed overland for Pike’s Peak, reaching Boulder in June 1859 and exploring other mining areas of the state with some success. The following year he gathered his family and returned to Colorado, settling in the Blue River region (Breckenridge) for several years and continuing his mining interests. He was described as having done “much to develop the mining industry in the state.”⁵⁵ He also acquired a ranch in Park County. Most of the Turner children remained in South Park; three are buried at Como Cemetery. When Hiram B. Turner died in 1904 his obituary indicated: “The funeral took place ... in Como from the M.E. Church, Rev. Thompson preaching an appropriate sermon, supplemented with a few remarks on the long and useful life of the deceased and the important part he had taken in the development of Park County in its early days.”⁵⁶

Peter Schattinger (1853-1935) came to Colorado from Cincinnati in 1878 with his brother, Henry, who hoped to improve his health. The Schattingers worked at a sawmill, trapped, and hunted to support themselves. They then returned to Ohio with the intention of settling their business affairs and returning. In about 1879 the two traveled west to Denver and then set out for Park County, where they purchased a quarter-section of land and established a hay and cattle ranch. Mary Dyer observed that “they were among the first ranchers to make a success of cattle raising and haying.”⁵⁷ In 1885 Peter and *Elizabeth “Lizzie” Leseberg* (1853-1890) of Denver married. The *Fairplay Flume* noted the match and called him “one of Park County’s most thrifty ranchmen.”

⁵² *Fairplay Flume*, 31 March 1899 and 24 August 1906; *Portrait and Biographical Record of the State of Colorado*, part 2 (Chicago, Chapman Publishing Co., 1899), 1096; “James Morrison Link” and “Elizabeth Whitley Martin Link” Find A Grave Memorial, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

⁵³ *Fairplay Flume*, 15 February 1883 and 13 January 1911; U.S. Census, 1860-1900; U.S. Civil War Pension Index, Ancestry.com; “Davis Sperry Hallock and Sarah Jane Steinman Hallock” Find a Grave Memorial, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

⁵⁴ Dyer, *Echoes of Como*, 18-21.

⁵⁵ *Fairplay Flume*, 4 February 1904.

⁵⁶ Dyer, *Echoes of Como*, 24; *Fairplay Flume*, 4 February 1904; *Portrait and Biographical Record*, part 2, 1313; “Hiram Beede Turner,” Find A Grave Memorial, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

⁵⁷ Dyer, *Echoes of Como*, 109.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

The brothers operated as partners until 1889, when Henry acquired his brother's interest in the operation. Peter then obtained another ranch west of Jefferson and raised cattle. Lizzie died in childbirth the following year at age thirty-seven and was buried at Como Cemetery, leaving two living children: Walter and Emma. Peter was highly regarded in the county, well to do, and involved in ranchers' protective organizations. Walter purchased his father's ranch in 1916 and continued to live there with his wife, Lillian, and family. Walter and Lillian Schattinger are also buried at Como Cemetery.⁵⁸

Peter Marinelli, King mining camp saloon keeper, died in 1898, when a gun he was removing from his wagon accidentally discharged. The *Fairplay Flume* judged the thirty-five-year-old Austrian immigrant "one of Park's most influential citizens."⁵⁹ He received a large dark gray stone monument in Como Cemetery carved with a cross and inscribed "RIP." Nearby is the polished granite marker for "Baby Marinelli" dated 1895. When Peter's wife, *Annunziata* (born 1863), died in 1922, her name was added below her husband's on his monument. In addition, the mutual benefit organization she belonged to, the Neighbors of Woodcraft, added their emblem to the marker. One of the organization's mottos, "Courage, Loss, Remembrance," was featured in the emblem.

Two members of the Michigan Creek school board, *Lincoln F. McCurdy* and *George Wyatt*, are buried in Como Cemetery; a third lies in Denver's Fairmount Cemetery. All were shot and killed in 1895 by Civil War veteran Benjamin Ratcliff, who confronted the three men at the Michigan Creek schoolhouse, a few miles northeast of Como. The dispute stemmed from issues over Ratcliff's children's education and his belief that a board member had spread rumors about his relationship with one of his daughters.⁶⁰ The *Rocky Mountain News* called the incident "one of the most sensational that ever occurred in this [Park] county."⁶¹ McCurdy's grave is marked by a red granite monument with his name, date of death, and age. Wyatt's marker is of a very similar design, but composed of white marble heavily veined with black. Ratcliff was convicted of the crime, hanged at the state prison, and buried on his ranch.⁶²

King Coal Mine Disaster and Mass Funeral at Como Cemetery

The 1893 King Coal Mine tragedy received detailed newspaper coverage statewide and comprised a major event in the history of Como Cemetery. Coal mining constituted an important but short-lived industry of Park County during the late nineteenth century. Park County historian Gary Minke reviewed county coroner records for the period 1872-1913 and found mining was a dangerous profession and "by far the most hazardous job in Park County was working the slope coal mines at King, the little mining village in Park Gulch three miles east of Como."⁶³ Minke found coal mining provided work for a single generation of miners, including large numbers of Chinese and Italians, as well as some Austrians, Swedes, and native-born Americans; at its height of production about 350 miners worked at the Union Pacific Coal Co. mines at King. Many of the Italian workers lived in the small company town next to the mine.⁶⁴ On 10 January 1893 an explosion in the No. 5 mine at King, later attributed to combustion of methane gas and coal dust and improper blasting, killed twenty-five men, of which the largest percentage consisted of Italian workers.

As families and friends of workers in No. 5 waited at the entrance of the mine for news of their loved ones, rescuers entered the site of the explosion. Bodies of twenty-four men who died in the mine were bought out

⁵⁸ *Portrait and Biographical Record*, part 2, 1296 and 1469; *Fairplay Flume*, 6 August 1885, 14 October 1898, 12 April 1912.

⁵⁹ *Fairplay Flume*, 15 July 1898.

⁶⁰ Chris O. Andrew, *The Legend of Benjamin Ratcliff: From Family Tragedy to Legacy of Resilience* (N.p.: Bookends Press, 2010); *Fairplay Flume*, Special Publication, 2 September 2011, 1; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 27 July 1895, 1 and 8.

⁶¹ *Rocky Mountain News*, 7 May 1895, 1.

⁶² As evidence that old grudges never die, someone at an unknown date affixed a small plaque at the base of McCurdy's monument reading "McCurdy spread immoral lies about a handicapped girl." Attached to Wyatt's marker is a small plaque reading, "Wyatt shouldn't have been shot. Sorry."

⁶³ Gary Minke, "Deadly Jobs in Park County," *Colorado Central Magazine*, May-August 2006.

⁶⁴ Edwin A. Bathke, P.M. Bathke, and Nancy Bathke, "The Doctor is Out . . . With his Camera: Clinton H. Scott, Railroader, Physician and Photographer," *Denver Westerner's Roundup* (November-December 1997), 4.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

and placed side by side in the carpenter's shop.⁶⁵ Como Cemetery became the final resting place for seventeen of the miners.⁶⁶ South Park historian Richard C. Barth reported that in preparation for the burials "a 'large force' of men started digging two trenches, each eight by twenty feet, at the Como cemetery that overlooks South Park. Because the ground was frozen, the men used dynamite to make the excavations."⁶⁷ Undertaker W.B. Fowler worked "night and day with a force of men to get the caskets and bodies in readiness."⁶⁸

A special funeral train, composed of two box cars and two passenger cars, carried the bodies and grieving families the short distance from King to Como. Funeral services for most of the victims took place at the Catholic Church (5PA.426.33) in Como, with Father John Fogerty of Breckenridge officiating. Due to space limitations in the church, only one casket symbolizing the group was brought into the building. After the service the coffin was returned to its railroad car, and the funeral train moved up the Breckenridge branch line to a point closer to the cemetery, where the dead and mourners were disembarked. Approximately one hundred miners attended the services: "Every man wore a black suit, and pinned on each lapel was a black and orange ribbon tied in the form of a cross."⁶⁹ Local author Laura Van Dusen found that one week after the explosion one hundred miners went on strike over safety concerns at the mine.⁷⁰

The only man to survive the initial explosion, James Carmosini (sometimes reported as Carmincini) never regained consciousness and died after enduring more than a week of suffering. The day after his death the King mines suspended work and a special train again carried all the miners and friends of the last victim to Como Cemetery for burial under the auspices of Father Fogerty. In regard to the company's workforce the *Rocky Mountain News* commented, "A number of coal miners have arrived to take the place of the absent ones."⁷¹ By 1900 the village of King stood abandoned and many of its houses were moved to other communities or sold for scrap. Foundation remnants at the site of the village and waste mounds at the collapsed entrances of the mines (5PA.201) are the only obvious signs of the coal era today. As Minke notes, "Today, when you gaze across the lonely landscape, you can barely tell that King ever existed."⁷²

The lack of remaining historic resources at King emphasizes the importance of cemetery monuments as records of past lives, industries, conflicts, triumphs, and disasters. A white marble monument in Como Cemetery marks the shared grave of the miners (Photograph 31). The monument is topped with a white marble cross and displays the inscribed names of only four of those buried, as well as the towns where they came from: Celeste Corrozzolla of Tres; Antonio Tachelini of Carciato; Angelo Giuliani of Malgolo; and Francesco Pomarolli of Pressero. The monument is inscribed in Italian and includes the following information, as translated from the original: "Died on 10 January 1893 in a mine of King Park, Colo."

Social History Reflected in Como Cemetery

Monuments in Como Cemetery provide insights into the social history of the town and surrounding area through tombstone death dates, inscriptions, symbols, emblems, and epitaphs. Memberships, occupations, religious affiliations, ethnic origins, and health topics are illuminated by markers in the burial ground. The high rate of infant and child mortality of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century is illustrated in the short lifespans carved on many monuments. In sharing his memories of Como Cemetery, longtime resident Paul A. Heil noted that several tombstones held the names of two of more children from the same family: "I know that

⁶⁵ Laura Van Dusen, "January 1893 King Coal Mine Explosion Kills 25," *Winter in the Park, 2014-15*, 24, www.theflume.com, accessed 24 January 2015.

⁶⁶ *Fairplay Flume*, February 1990. Historian Harold Warren explained that the remaining bodies were "sent to Denver and other places, some as far away as Italy."

⁶⁷ Richard C. Barth, *Pioneers of the Colorado Parks* (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Press, 1997), 230.

⁶⁸ *Rocky Mountain News*, 13 January 1893, 1.

⁶⁹ Barth, *Pioneers of the Colorado Parks*, 231.

⁷⁰ Van Dusen, "January 1893," 24.

⁷¹ *Rocky Mountain News*, 22 January 1893, 2.

⁷² Gary Minke, "The Coal Mines of South Park," *Colorado Central Magazine*, October 2005, cozine.com/2005-october/the-coal-mines-of-south-park, accessed 12 January 2015.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

there are two tombstones that have three kids' names and some of them died days apart."⁷³ In June and July 1886, three children of the Koehler family died in less than two weeks.

Several tombstones in the burial ground reveal social connectivity and organizational memberships through inscriptions associated with fraternal orders or other groups. Fraternal orders represented include the Masons, Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Wilson Mathews' 1899 gravestone displays the pentagonal symbol of the Grand Army of the Republic (the GAR, a Union Army veterans' group) and his years of service (1861-66). Only six tombstones were government-issued military grave markers.

Some grave markers identify the occupation or union affiliation of the deceased. Webster Ballinger, Jr. a young and much-respected engineer for the C&S, died in a 1901 railroad accident. His gray granite monument bears the inscription "Killed in wreck on Kenosha Hill." Andrew Sheldon's 1892 gray granite monument bears a detailed carving of a locomotive and tender (No. 256) on its beveled top and "B. of L. F." (Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, a mutual benefit society for workers employed as firemen on steam locomotives) above his name (see Figure 7 and Photograph 32).

Monuments may also shed light on religious affiliations. An area in the northern section of the cemetery grounds has a much higher concentration of religious-themed grave markers. The section includes three tall monuments topped by large crosses (those of Andrew Dooner, 1889; Loretto and Mary Gallagher, 1887; and Anne Delaney, 1901), monuments with an etched cross on their faces (Joann Murphy, 1945; Mayme D. Champion, 1968; and Peter and Annunziata Marinelli, 1898/1922), a bas relief of Jesus with three children (on the shaft of the white bronze marker for the three Koehler children, 1886), and two religious statues. It is not known if this area was formally designated as the Catholic section of the burial ground, but the Irish and Italian ethnicity of the deceased may indicate Catholic burial practices.

Late Twentieth-Century Developments

Following the 1950 census enumeration that showed only thirty-nine residents remaining in the community, Como disincorporated in the 1950s. As a result of the disincorporation the county gained ownership of the cemetery (exact date unknown). Artist/historian Muriel Sibell Wolle observed in 1977: "Even as late as the 1930s a good many people lived at Como, but today only a fraction of its original buildings remain, and those that are occupied serve chiefly as summer homes."⁷⁴ Nonetheless, Como Cemetery remained active, serving the smaller population of Como and the surrounding rural community.

The nation's bicentennial and Colorado's centennial in 1976 stimulated interest in local history. In that year Harold and Lenore Warren surveyed several Park County burial grounds including Como Cemetery. In the 1990s Park County established a Cemetery Board to manage burial grounds owned by the county. The eight-member board now oversees Como and four other cemeteries. Burial policies adopted by the county cover such matters as eligibility for burial, permits, locations, funeral procedures, and activities within the cemeteries. Family members bear the responsibility for maintaining graves and plots. The Park County Road and Bridge Department performs opening and closing of graves for burials; the cost ranges from \$400 to \$2,000.⁷⁵ In 2000, Park County reached an agreement to address an incorrect land description contained in the 1887 deed for Como Cemetery. The transaction resulted in a land swap with adjoining landowners and removed a small undeveloped notch from the southeastern corner of the cemetery to provide access to an adjacent piece of property.⁷⁶ Como Cemetery continues to receive burials.

⁷³ Heil, interview, 2002.

⁷⁴ Muriel Sibell Wolle, *Timberline Tailings: Tales of Colorado's Ghost Towns and Mining Camps* (Chicago: The Swallow Press, Inc., 1977), 59.

⁷⁵ Park County Cemetery Board, "Park County Cemetery Burial Policies" and "Rules and Regulations of Park County Owned Cemeteries," www.parkco.us, accessed 17 July 2014.

⁷⁶ Robert C. Brownlee, Esther R. Brownlee, Kenneth L. Waesche, and Kathleen Waesche to Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Quitclaim Deed, 15 March 2000, Reception Number 522359; Board of County Commissioners of Park County to Robert C. Brownlee, Esther R. Brownlee, Kenneth L. Waesche, and Kathleen Waesche, Quitclaim Deed, ca. 15 March 2000, Reception Number 522358.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Aldrich, John K. *Ghosts of Park County*. Lakewood, Colo.: Centennial Graphics, 1984.
- Andrew, Chris O. *The Legend of Benjamin Ratcliff: From Family Tragedy to Legacy of Resilience*. N.p.: Bookends Press, 2010.
- Barth, Richard C. *Pioneers of the Colorado Parks*. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Press, 1997.
- Bathke, Edwin A., P.M. Bathke, and Nancy Bathke. "The Doctor is Out . . . With his Camera: Clinton H. Scott, Railroader, Physician and Photographer." *Denver Westerner's Roundup*. November-December 1997.
- Benson, Maxine. *1001 Colorado Place Names*. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1994.
- Board of County Commissioners of Park County to Robert C. Brownlee, Esther R. Brownlee, Kenneth L. Waesche, and Kathleen Waesche. Quitclaim Deed. ca. 15 March 2000. Reception Number 522358.
- Brown, Marshall P., Director, Aurora Water, Aurora, Colorado. Letter to Erica Duvic, Park County Department of Heritage, Tourism & Community Development. Fairplay, Colorado. 2 February 2016.
- Brownlee, Robert C., Esther R. Brownlee, Kenneth L. Waesche, and Kathleen Waesche to Board of County Commissioners of Park County. Quitclaim Deed. 15 March 2000. Reception Number 522359.
- Champion, George W. "Remembrances of South Park." *Colorado Magazine*. January 1963.
- Chandler, Allison. "The Story of Como and King Park, Colorado." *Denver Westerners Monthly Roundup*. February 1963.
- Chappell, Gordon, Robert Richardson, and Cornelius Hauck. *The South Park Line: A Concise History*. Colorado Rail Annual No. 12. Golden, Colorado: Colorado Railroad Museum, 1974.
- Coel, Margaret. *Goin' Railroading*. Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Co., 1991.
- Colorado Springs Gazette*.
- Como Head Light*.
- Croft, George A. *Croft's Grip-Sack Guide of Colorado*. Omaha, Nebraska: Overland Publishing Co., 1885; reprint with supplement by Francis B. Rizzari, Richard A. Ronzio, and Charles S. Ryland, Boulder: Johnson Books, 1966.
- Davis, Jerry, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Email to Tom and Laurie Simmons. 11 August 2014.
- Denver Times*.
- Dyer, Mary. *Echoes of Como, Colorado, 1879 to 1988*. N.p.: George Meyer, 1988.
- Fairplay Flume*.
- Heil, Paul Anthony, Como, Colorado. Interview by Cara Doyle. 29 June 2002. In the files of the Park County Local History Archives, Fairplay, Colorado.
- Hemingway, Katharina. PinPoint LLC, Morrison, Colorado. "Locating Graves with Ground-penetrating Radar in Park County." Letter report to Erica Duvic, South Park Heritage Area. Fairplay, Colorado. 17 July 2014.
- Kinney, J. Iron Fences, Patent Number 199651. Filed 30 July 1877, patented 29 January 1878. *Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office*. Vol. 13. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1878.
- Mangan, Terry W. *Colorado on Glass: Colorado's First Half Century as Seen by the Camera*. Denver: Sundance Limited, 1975.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

- McGuire, Randall. "Dialogues with the Dead: Ideology and the Cemetery." In *The Recovery of Meaning: Historical Archaeology in the Eastern United States*, edited by M. Leone and R. Parker, 435-80. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988.
- McMichael, Ellen. Como Cemetery Database, 2010. In the files of the Park County Office of Historic Preservation, Fairplay, Colorado.
- Minke, Gary. "The Coal Mines of South Park." *Colorado Central Magazine*. October 2005.
- _____. "Deadly Jobs in Park County." *Colorado Central Magazine*. May-August 2006.
- Park County Cemetery Board. "Park County Cemetery Burial Policies" and "Rules and Regulations of Park County Owned Cemeteries." www.parkco.us. Accessed 17 July 2014.
- Petition for Adjudication of Rights to the Use of Water for Irrigation in Water District No. Twenty-three. District Court, Fourth Judicial District. Fairplay, Colorado. 11 October 1889.
- Poor, Meredith C. *Denver, South Park & Pacific*. Mem. ed. Denver: Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, 1976.
- Portrait and Biographical Record of the State of Colorado*. Part 2. Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1899.
- Rocky Mountain News*.
- Simmons, Virginia McConnell. *Bayou Salado: The Story of South Park*. Rev. ed. Boulder, Colorado: Fred Pruett Books, 1992.
- Stott, Annette. *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2008.
- Tarryall Lodge No. 64, IOOF, to W.H. Lilley. Quitclaim Deed. 14 June 1915. In the files of the Park County Clerk and Recorder. Fairplay, Colorado.
- Union Pacific Coal Company to Board of Trustees of Como. Warranty Deed. 28 November 1887. Book 38, Pages 288-89.
- Van Dusen, Laura. "January 1893 King Coal Mine Explosion Kills 25." *Winter in the Park, 2014-15*. www.theflume.com. Accessed 24 January 2015.
- Warren, Harold. Como Cemetery. Grave survey and map, 1976. In the files of the Park County Local History Archives, Fairplay, Colorado.
- _____. Como Cemetery, 5PA.385. Inventory Data Form. 27 January 1976. In the files of History Colorado, Denver, Colorado.
- _____. "We Hear Only the Whispered Tales. . ." *Fairplay Flume*. February 1990.
- Washburne, Chester W. "The South Park Coal Field, Colorado." In U.S. Geological Survey, *Contributions to Economic Geology, 1908*. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin Number 381-C. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1910.
- Wolle, Muriel Sibell. *Timberline Tailings: Tales of Colorado's Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. Chicago: The Swallow Press, Inc., 1977.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF) Park, Colorado
Name of Property County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Park County Local History Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 5PA.385

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 4.48

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	39.326588	-105.902893	4	39.325018	-105.901979
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
2	39.326579	-105.901651	5	39.324739	-105.901975
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
3	39.325021	-105.901631	6	39.32471	-105.902892
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

OR

UTM References

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1	13	422177	4353408	4	13	422254	4353233
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	13	422284	4353406	5	13	422254	4353202
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	13	422284	4353233	6	13	422175	4353202
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)⁷⁷

The nominated area includes all of the current fenced area of Como Cemetery. This tract consists of all of Park County Assessor parcel schedule number 43865, described as that tract of land in the East 1/2 of the East 1/2 of Section 29, Township 8 South, Range 76 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Park County, Colorado, occupied by the existing Como Cemetery and more particularly described as: beginning at the East One-Quarter Corner of said Section 29; thence S 00° 00'00" E along the East line of said Section 29, 567.68 feet; thence S 89° 14'14" W, 33.90 feet; thence S 00° 00'00" E 100.00 feet to the South line of said Cemetery; thence S 89° 36'35" W, along said South line 257.14 feet to the Southwest corner of said Cemetery; thence N00° 57'14" W along the West line of said Cemetery, 669.95 feet to the Northwest corner of said Cemetery;

⁷⁷ Per 36 CFR 60, this National Register nomination relies upon the public records of the county assessor's office in determining the boundary; however, History Colorado staff have more specifically determined that the cemetery is 5.236 acres and is located in PM 6th Township 8S Range 76W Section 29 NE NE SE, SE SE NE Section 28 SW SW SW NW, NW NW NW SW

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF) Park, Colorado
Name of Property County and State

thence N 89° 14'14" along the North line of said Cemetery 301.04 feet to a point of intersection with said North line of said Cemetery and the East line of said Section 29; and thence S 00° 00'00" E along said East line of Section 29, 4.00 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes all of the land established as a cemetery in 1887 (except for the notch at the southeast corner removed in 2000) and all of the land within which burials took place. While it appears some areas in the eastern and southeastern portions may not contain burials, those areas were within the fenced area designated as a cemetery and are included within the nominated area.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas H. Simmons and R. Laurie Simmons, Historians (for property owner)
organization Front Range Research Associates, Inc. date 10 November 2016
street & number 3635 W. 46th Avenue telephone 303-477-7597
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80211
e-mail frraden@msn.com website www.frhistory.com

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Como Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Como vicinity
County: Chaffee State: Colorado
Photographer: Thomas H. Simmons (unless otherwise noted)
Date Photographed: August 2016 (unless otherwise noted)

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Number, camera direction, and description of photograph:

- 1 of 32, view southeast, eastern section of the cemetery with monuments in the foreground, the shed beyond, and Como and South Park in the distance. Photographer: R. Laurie Simmons
- 2 of 32, view west, cemetery entrance from parking area.
- 3 of 32, view west, entrance gates. Photographer: R. Laurie Simmons
- 4 of 32, view west, road extending west from the entrance with 2001 bench to the right
- 5 of 32, view south, the north-south segment of the road from near its north end
- 6 of 32, view east-northeast, overview of northern portion of the grounds
- 7 of 32, view northeast, overview of central portion of the grounds from the north-south road segment
- 8 of 32, view northwest, overview of the portion of the grounds lying west of the O'Neil Ditch. Photographer: R. Laurie Simmons
- 9 of 32, view southwest, overview of eastern area of the grounds from near the entrance. Photographer: R. Laurie Simmons
- 10 of 32, view west, 1885 Frank P. Volz slab on base monument. Photographer: R. Laurie Simmons
- 11 of 32, view northwest, 1889 Mary J. Stewart white marble pedestal monument with a vaulted top on a red sandstone base
- 12 of 32, view northwest, marble pedestal monuments with vaulted tops on tooled bases for Louise Maria Holthusen (1892) and William Henry Holthusen (1894)
- 13 of 32, view west-southwest, 1910 gray marble pulpit monument for Lois P. Shrewsbury. Photographer: R. Laurie Simmons
- 14 of 32, view southwest, 1945 brown granite wedge monument for Thomas Manning Ancell
- 15 of 32, view west, 1868 white marble tablet style marker with a round top for G.H. Hawxhurst
- 16 of 32, view northwest, 1940 and 1952 painted tablet style wood markers for Davy Day and Judy Day, respectively
- 17 of 32, view west, 1934 lawn type marker for Gustaf Johnson
- 18 of 32, view west-northwest, 1888 tapered cylinder with conical top monument (composed of gray marble atop a sandstone base) for George Breen
- 19 of 32, view southeast, 1873 shrouded pedestal monument for Daniel McLaughlin composed of white marble atop a red sandstone base
- 20 of 32, view west, 1901 white marble military monument for Civil War veteran Davis Hallock. Photographer: R. Laurie Simmons
- 21 of 32, view west-northwest, 1909 gray granite marker for Solomon B. Roth Woodmen of the World emblem
- 22 of 32, view west, 1887 white marble monument decorated with ivy entwined on a cross for Willie Peabody
- 23 of 32, view west, 1903 monument of Mabel T. Thomas featuring a tree stump, oak leaves, and a lamb
- 24 of 32, view north-northeast, 1886 zinc monument created by the Western White Bronze Company for Martha E., Arthur G. and George F. Koehler
- 25 of 32, view northeast, 1890 grave plot of Edwin L. Case enclosed with a fence composed of metal posts with ball finials linked by a strand of heavy chain

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

26 of 32, view northwest, 1906 single grave bow and picket enclosure of one-year-old Thomas O. Gutshall manufactured by Stewart Iron Works

27 of 32, view southwest, bow and picket fence enclosing the plot holding the graves of Allen McKinney (1897) and Mary E. Smith (1899) manufactured by Stewart Iron Works

28 of 32, view northwest, bow and picket fence enclosing the plot holding the 1889 grave of Winthrop J. Blanchard produced by Muncie Architectural Iron Works

29 of 32, view north-northwest, front (south) and east wall of the shed

30 of 32, view southeast, O'Neil Ditch and the north bridge

31 of 32, view west, a white marble monument in Como Cemetery marks the shared grave of Italian mines killed in the 1893 King Mine explosion

32 of 32, view west, Andrew Sheldon's 1892 gray granite monument bears a detailed carving of a locomotive and tender (No. 256) on its beveled top and "B. of L. F." (Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen)

Historic Figure Log

1 of 7, This extract of the 1937 Como, Colorado, U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle map shows the location of the Como Cemetery in relation to the Town of Como and the former Denver, South Park, & Pacific Railway line over Boreas Pass, which passes just east of the burial ground. The waterway passing through the cemetery is the O'Neil Ditch. Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey, Como, Colorado, 1:62,500 quadrangle map (1937).

2 of 7, This photograph (view west-northwest) from the parking area shows the entrance gate of the Como Cemetery, the open eastern area, and the treed area to the west. It accompanied a historic inventory form prepared by Harold Warren in 1976. Courtesy of History Colorado, Como Cemetery, 5PA.385, Inventory Data Form, 27 January 1976.

3 of 7, An undated, "early day" plat (covering the northern half of the cemetery tract) appeared in a local history of the Town of Como. The plat shows five blocks of varying shapes, mostly square burial plots, and internal roadways. The names written on the plots correspond to names on tombstones in those locations today. Courtesy of George Champion Collection in Dyer, *Echoes of Como* (1988), 83.

4 of 7, Harold Warren prepared this survey map of Como Cemetery showing graves, enclosures, bridges, the shed, and other features in 1976. Courtesy of the Park County Local History Archives, Fairplay, Colorado.

5 of 7, This 1885 view of Como's business district shows the town after it became a division point for the Denver, South Park, & Pacific Railway. Courtesy of Mangan, *Colorado on Glass* (1975), 271, George Stephans photograph.

6 of 7, This photograph of Daniel McLaughlin's shrouded pedestal monument accompanied the 1976 historic survey form prepared by Harold Warren. McLaughlin (1822-1873) was interred in the earlier Como Cemetery before removal to the new burial ground. Courtesy of History Colorado, Como Cemetery, 5PA.385, Inventory Data Form, 27 January 1976.

7 of 7, The angled top of Andrew Sheldon's 1892 marble gravestone included an engraving of a railroad locomotive and tender (No. 256). The acronym "B. of L. F." stands for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, a mutual benefit society for workers employed as firemen on steam locomotives. Courtesy of Thomas H. Simmons, fieldwork photograph, August 2016.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Figures

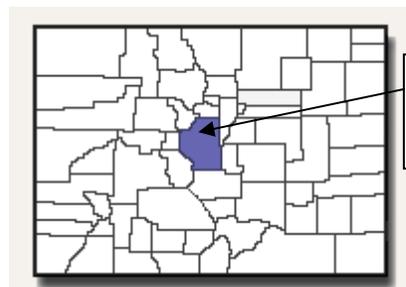
Location Map from Google Earth



The labeled points are the coordinates of the boundary of the nominated resource.

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	39.326588	-105.902893
2	39.326579	-105.901651
3	39.325021	-105.901631
4	39.325018	-105.901979
5	39.324739	-105.901.975
6	39.324731	-105.902892

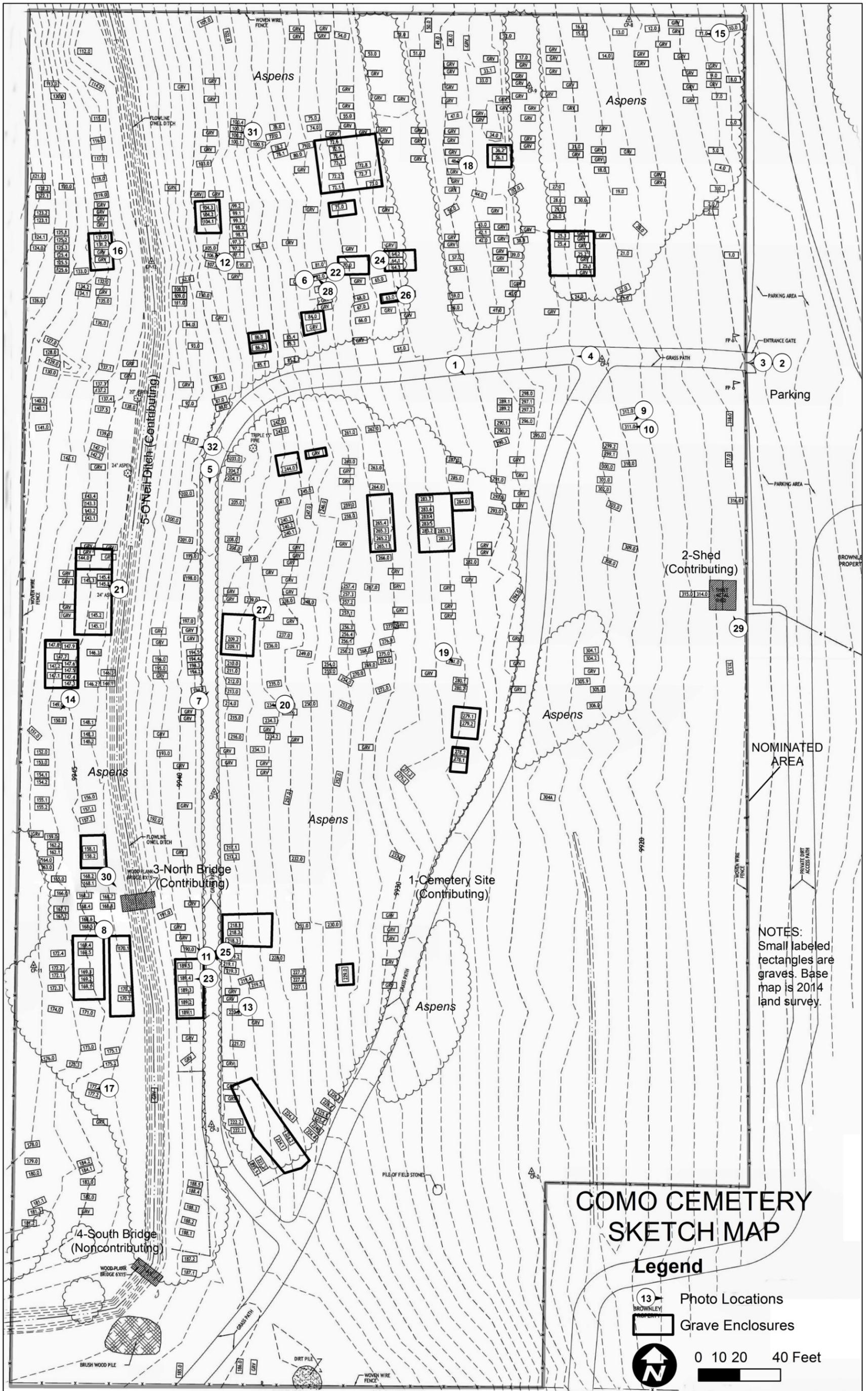
Image Date: 27 September 2013



State Perspective:
Como Cemetery

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)
Name of Property

Park, Colorado
County and State



Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Historic Figures

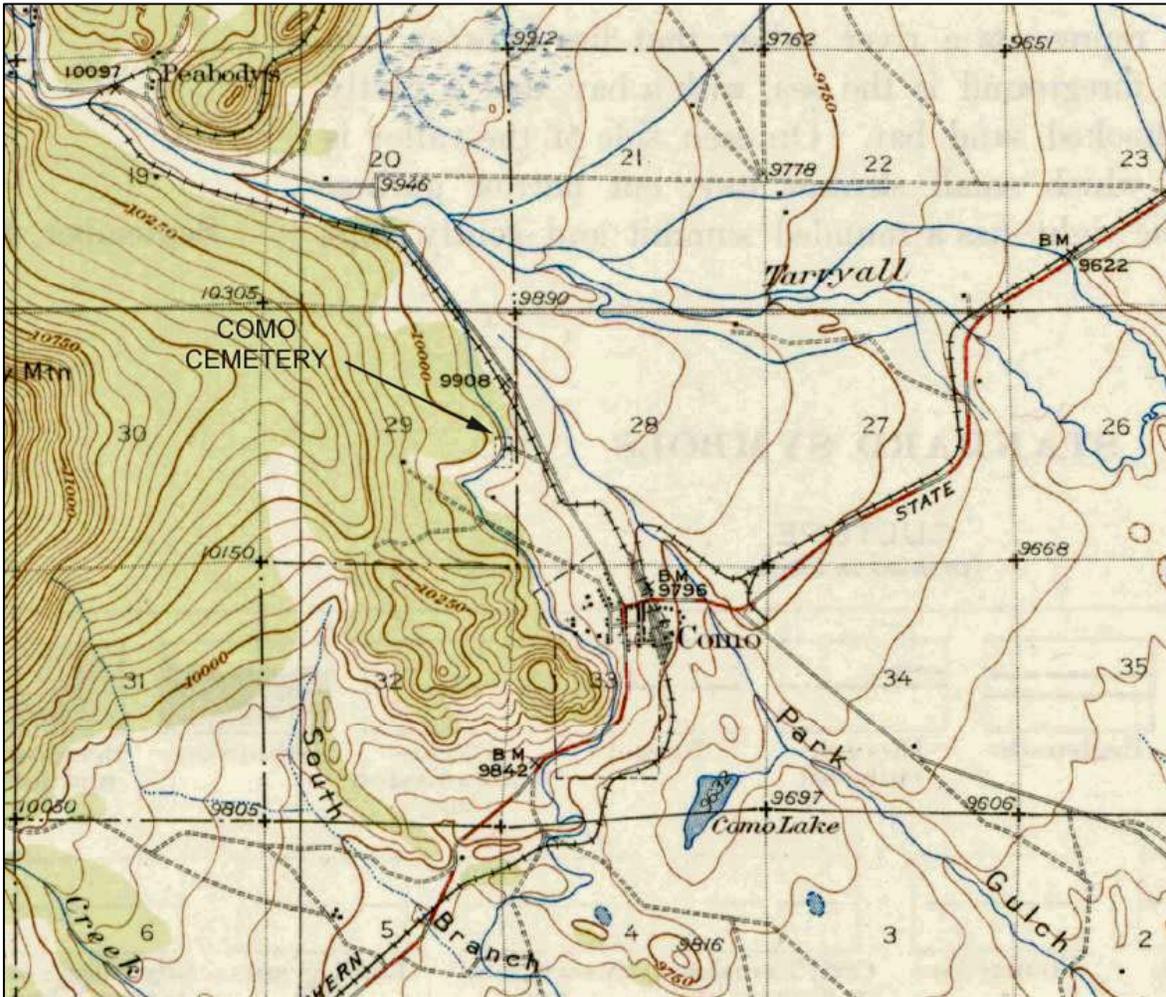


Figure 1. This extract of the 1937 Como, Colorado, U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle map shows the location of the Como Cemetery in relation to the Town of Como and the former Denver, South Park, & Pacific Railway line over Boreas Pass, which passes just east of the burial ground. The waterway passing through the cemetery is the O'Neil Ditch. Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey, Como, Colorado, 1:62,500 quadrangle map (1937).

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 2. This photograph (view west-northwest) from the parking area shows the entrance gate of the Como Cemetery, the open eastern area, and the treed area to the west. It accompanied a historic inventory form prepared by Harold Warren in 1976. Courtesy of History Colorado, Como Cemetery, 5PA.385, Inventory Data Form, 27 January 1976.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

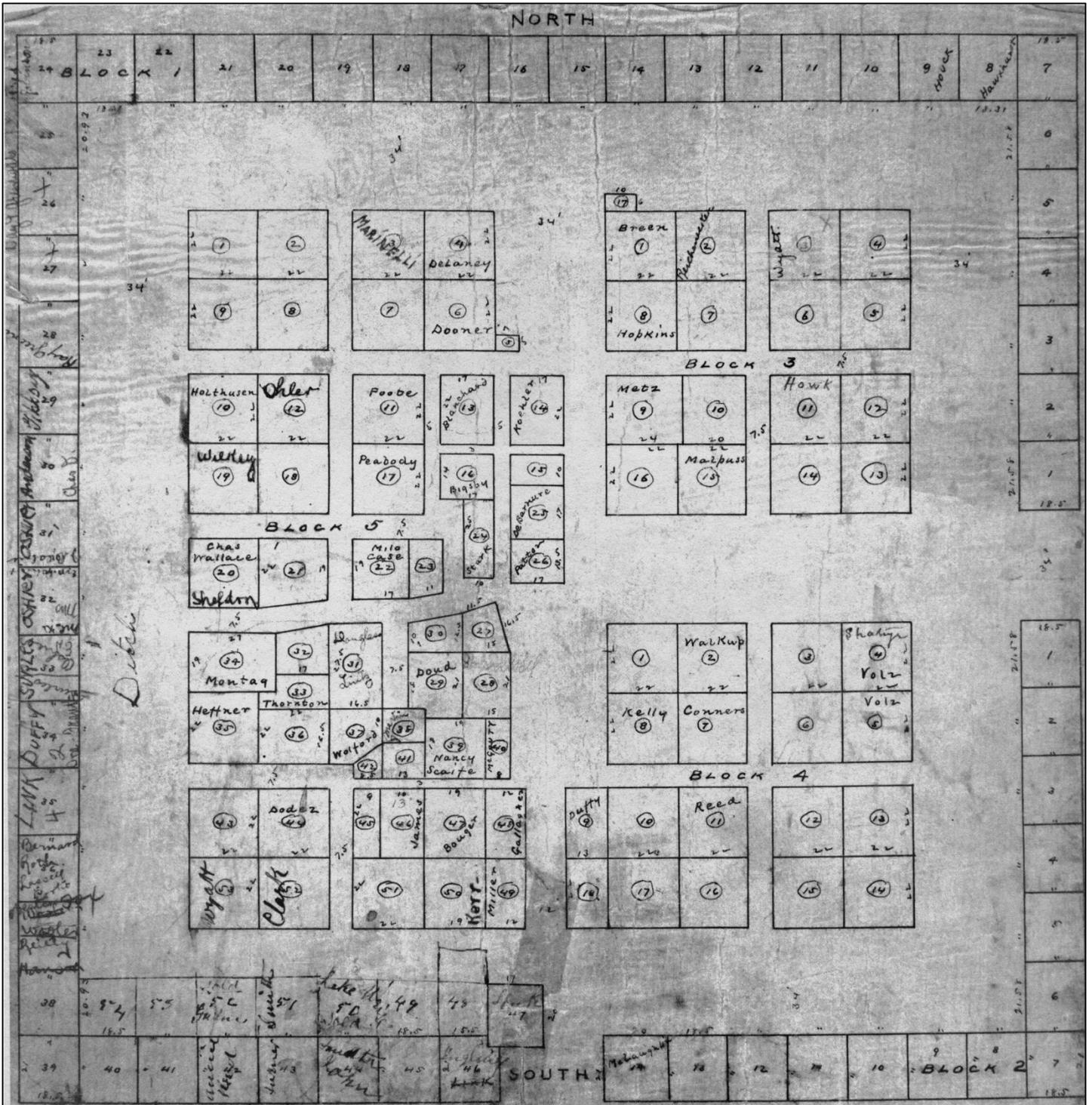


Figure 3. An undated, "early day" plat (covering the northern half of the cemetery tract) appeared in a local history of the Town of Como. The plat shows five blocks of varying shapes, mostly square burial plots, and internal roadways. The names written on the plots correspond to names on tombstones in those locations today. Courtesy of George Champion Collection in Dyer, *Echoes of Como* (1988), 83.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

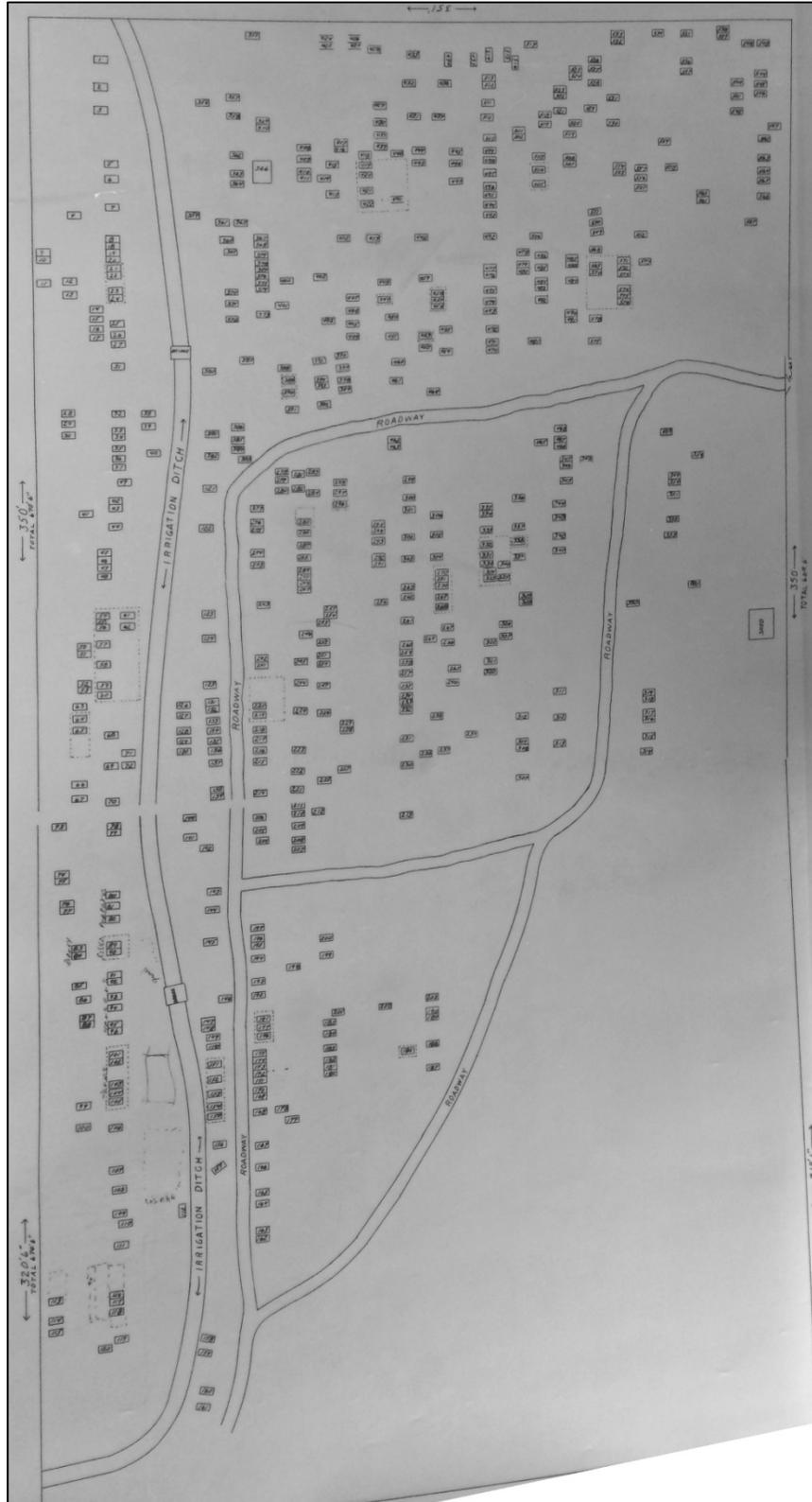


Figure 4. Harold Warren prepared this survey map of Como Cemetery showing graves, enclosures, bridges, the shed, and other features in 1976. Courtesy of the Park County Local History Archives, Fairplay, Colorado.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

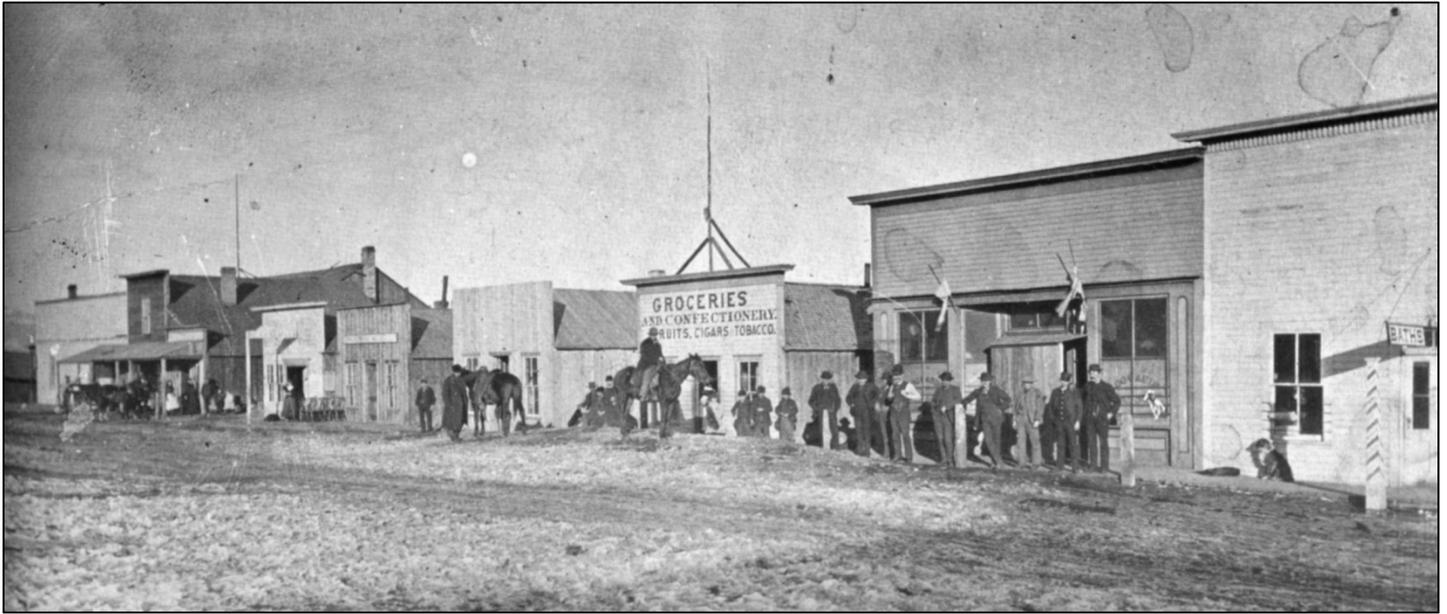


Figure 5. This 1885 view of Como's business district shows the town after it became a division point for the Denver, South Park, & Pacific Railway. Courtesy of Mangan, *Colorado on Glass* (1975), 271, George Stephans photograph.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 6. This photograph of Daniel McLaughlin's shrouded pedestal monument accompanied the 1976 historic survey form prepared by Harold Warren. McLaughlin (1822-1873) was interred in the earlier Como Cemetery before removal to the new burial ground. Courtesy of History Colorado, Como Cemetery, 5PA.385, Inventory Data Form, 27 January 1976.

Como Cemetery (Park County, Colorado, Historic Cemeteries MPDF)

Park, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 7. The angled top of Andrew Sheldon's 1892 marble gravestone included an engraving of a railroad locomotive and tender (No. 256). The acronym "B. of L. F." stands for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, a mutual benefit society for workers employed as firemen on steam locomotives. Courtesy of Thomas H. Simmons, fieldwork photograph, August 2016.