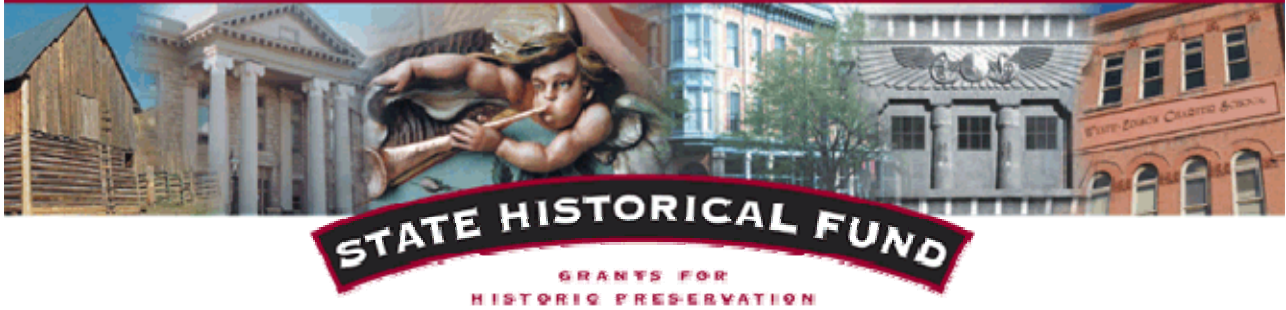


SAVING COLORADO'S PAST FOR THE FUTURE



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For Immediate Release:

State Historical Fund Awards nearly \$9 million in grants to help preserve Colorado's heritage

Projects across the state demonstrate community support for preserving historic resources

DENVER—August 12, 2008— The State Historical Fund, a program of the Colorado Historical Society, has awarded 54 grants for historic preservation totaling \$8,946,064 for the first competitive grant round of Fiscal Year 2009. People across Colorado value preserving their unique built heritage, as evidenced by communities' commitment of both volunteer time and contributed money: more than \$100 million in matching cash has been raised to supplement grant funds since 1993, when the first State Historical Fund grants were awarded.

Among the new and continuing grant projects this round are Holly City Hall, the Calkins Building in Cortez, the Baugh House in Wheat Ridge and the Burlington Gymnasium.

The Holly City Hall restoration project is keeping this small town's history alive following a devastating tornado last year. The 1909 Calkins Building, Cortez's center of education since 1909, is being rehabilitated by the school district with the support of many former students and teachers. The Baugh House is an 1860s hand-hewn log cabin enclosed within a circa 1900 clapboard farmhouse. This pioneer dwelling, along with its three-acre site, reminds a Denver suburb about its rich agricultural history. The Burlington Gymnasium, built in 1940 under the Works Progress Administration, is the heart of this eastern Colorado community and will be rehabilitated for use as a much-used community center.

"Many people in Colorado care deeply about preserving these tangible pieces of their history," said James Stratis, preservation projects manager and interim director of the State Historical Fund. "In small towns and in big cities, people give their time and money to make sure these irreplaceable resources aren't

lost. We at the State Historical Fund are honored to work alongside them as they pass these treasures on to future generations.”

Other historic public buildings and sites that are receiving grant funds for preservation include the Baca County Courthouse, the Manitou Springs Public Library, the Bent County Courthouse and the historic stone landscape walls in La Junta City Park. The Colorado State Capitol, the seat of Colorado’s lawmaking and one of the state’s most popular tourist attractions, received a grant to begin repairs of its character-defining dome, which has become unstable because of water intrusion.

Heritage tourism is a growing industry in Colorado, generating millions of dollars for the state’s economy. The State Historical Fund has supported the preservation and interpretation of hundreds of heritage tourism destinations in Colorado since 1993. Heritage tourism projects funded this round include the stabilization and preservation of historic mining structures in the San Juan Mountains and restoration of a narrow gauge steam engine on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad.

Archaeology projects statewide are opening the worlds of pre-history to visitors. Grants this round will help to stabilize the Great House at Chimney Rock Pueblo, near Pagosa Springs; and fund study of the Falls Creek Rockshelters near Durango, home of ancient Puebloan people.

Education projects funded include the continuing collaboration between the University of Colorado at Denver and Colorado Mountain College, offering an innovative shared curriculum in historic preservation studies. In Denver, historic Union Station will be the subject of a 30-minute educational video about the city’s development as a transportation hub.

Survey and planning projects this round include a study of historic mid-20th Century suburban properties around Denver, to be completed by the Colorado Department of Transportation. A second cultural resource survey, undertaken by Historic Denver, Inc., will document the homes in an 1898-1920 “streetcar suburb” in the West Highlands neighborhood of Denver.

Other statewide and regional initiatives, totaling \$230,000, will continue support for the Colorado Tourism Office’s heritage tourism program; and help fund Colorado Preservation, Inc.’s annual historic preservation conference.

The State Historical Fund, a program of the Colorado Historical Society, awards grants to public and non-profit organizations to preserve Colorado’s architectural and archaeological treasures for public benefit. Program funds are provided by tax revenues from limited-stakes gaming. SHF grants have helped preserve thousands of historic schools, town halls, agricultural sites and other important resources in all 64 Colorado counties. Since 1993, the SHF has awarded more than \$211 million in nearly 3,300 grants.

The application deadline for SHF’s next grant round is October 1, 2008. For a complete list of SHF grants funded during this round, please refer to the attached list, visit the website at www.coloradohistory.org, or call Laurie Dunklee, SHF public relations specialist, at 303.866.2049.

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