



Contact Information

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Why Survey?

HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

Historic preservation is the stewardship of the important places from our past, including buildings, structures, sites, districts, and landscapes. These places comprise the cultural resources of Colorado.

Understanding the character of Colorado's cultural resources is essential for their protection. This knowledge provides the basis for effective preservation planning, cultural resource management, and historical research. Information about the types of resources, their distribution and condition, and the forces threatening them enables sound decision making and provides the basis for appropriate actions to preserve Colorado's rich cultural heritage.

An historical & architectural survey is the collection and analysis of information concerning the buildings and structures that represent our past. Surveys generate historical background information, architectural descriptions, and locational data that become the basis for evaluation, planning, and management.

By documenting domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and spiritual areas we can better understand how people lived, worked, and played; how communities grew; and how our state has changed over time. In short, a survey documents the physical evidence of the past that expresses and contributes to the history and identity of a region.

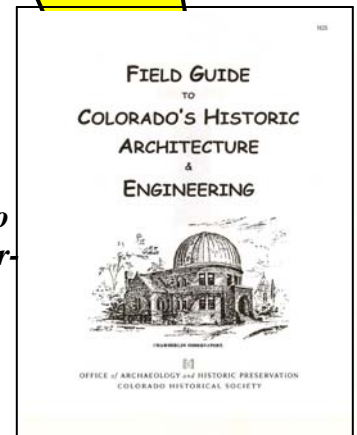
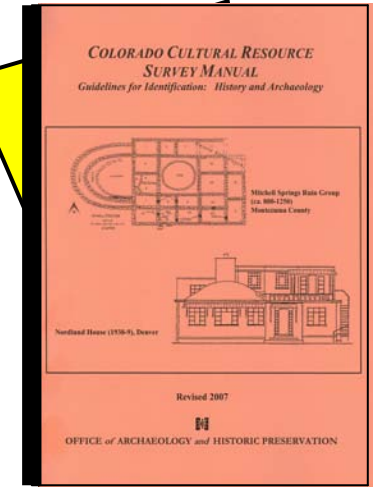


Source: Denver Public Library

SURVEY MANUAL AVAILABLE

The *Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Manual* is available online at: historycolorado.org/archaeologists/survey-manual.

For those preferring to own a hard copy, an order form is available in the publications section of the website.



Also available is the *Field Guide to Colorado's Historic Architecture & Engineering*

**WHY SHOULD WE CONDUCT
AN
HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY?**

Historical & architectural surveys provide tangible and lasting evidence of who we are, how we got here, and how we have changed through time. Identification, designation, and protection of historic buildings and structures ensure that communities retain their special sense of time and place.

Completed inventories provide the foundation for informed resource management and planning decisions. By considering historic resources early in the planning stages, it is more likely they can be preserved for future generations. Preservation planning studies providing for the recognition and protection of cultural resources are usually based on the results of historical & architectural surveys.

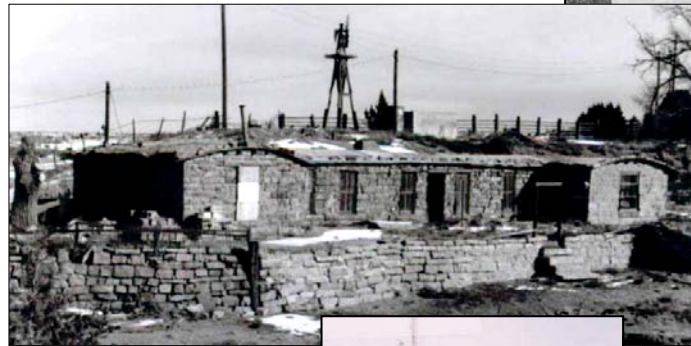
Survey information is a valuable educational tool for local residents, business owners, and the general public who are interested in learning more about a region. Property owners often use the information to help in the appropriate restoration or rehabilitation of their houses and places of business.

Survey information can also be used to establish walking tours or in the general reconstruction of a community's history. Information gathered during surveys often becomes the basis for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Properties, or as locally-designated landmarks.

Historical & architectural survey may encompass a wide variety of resource types, including urban surveys...



rural surveys...



and surveys of special property types, like those related to heritage tourism.

Photos from the collection of History Colorado



surveys of modern architecture...



What are the steps in conducting an historical & architectural survey?

There are several basic steps when conducting historical & architectural surveys. Although surveys vary depending on the purpose, location, intensity, and types of resources present, following these major steps will facilitate a successful project.

- Step 1:* Review the *Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Manual*
- Step 2:* Define the Purpose of the Survey
- Step 3:* Fund the Survey
- Step 4:* Select the Project Personnel
- Step 5:* Plan the Survey
- Step 6:* Inform and Involve the Public
- Step 7:* Conduct the Fieldwork
- Step 8:* Conduct the Office/Lab Work
- Step 9:* Evaluate the Resources
- Step 10:* Identify and Record Districts
- Step 11:* Prepare the Report
- Step 12:* Present the Findings
- Step 13:* Use the Findings

Although these steps represent a logical progression, there are occasions when conditions warrant some rearrangement of activities to achieve desired survey goals. The steps should be viewed as a general framework for conducting a cultural resource survey — not all steps pertain to all surveys and additional steps may be required in some cases.



Survey projects may be funded by grants from the State Historical Fund and by the Certified Local Government program, for eligible communities.