

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Historic American Building Survey (HABS) Documentation: Perry Cabin, Rocky Mountain National Park

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 9/30/2009 - 5/1/2011
Funding Amount: \$6,491

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Perry Cabin is believed to be the last remaining structure associated with Sprague's Ranch. Abner Sprague homesteaded in what is now Rocky Mountain National Park. He built this cabin in 1921. Over time, the ranch evolved from hosting cattle to dudes or guests, eager to stay at his resort and soak in the awesome landscape in which it sat. The resort closed in 1957 and the park systematically removed most of the associated resources, including a pool, a golf course, and numerous buildings. In 1958, the park moved the cabin north 300 feet to house wranglers associated with the private livery. Unfortunately, the park moved it into a wetland. Despite the move, the cabin was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. It is an excellent example of rustic design with log construction, wood shingles, divided light windows, and exposed rafter tips. The building is vacant, subject to vandalism, and quickly deteriorating. The park has considered moving the cabin to a new location. While the final disposition of the cabin has NOT been determined, this documentation will provide the needed background information to consult with the SHPO and make a sound decision about the long term use and preservation of the building.

Following the CO SHPO's guidelines, the investigator, will research and document the Perry Cabin. According to these guidelines, Level II is the "intermediate level of site documentation, to include full descriptive and historical narrative (including relevant contexts), measured drawings, and medium format black and white photography, all in archivally stable format." Further the guidelines clarify that "Level II documentation is a good way to create archival records for previously identified properties of significance, when effects to a site must be mitigated due to impending loss, or when a site should be recorded because of progressing deterioration." The project will be completed by a student, as selected by the investigator, and a research associate. The park will provide logistical support including camping or bed space in the research dorm and a volunteer to assist with taking measurements.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

- 1) Quarterly reports due, September 30, December 31, March 31 for the duration of the project.
- 2) Draft HABS report (Architectural and Historical Narrative, Measured Drawings, Photographs), due September 30, 2010.
- 3) Final HABS report, due December 31, 2010.

Keywords: Historic American Building Survey (HABS), Perry Cabin, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado State University