Fourmile Canyon Historical and Architectural Survey, 2012-2013

Prepared by:

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Prepared for:

Boulder County Parks and Open Space

Certified Local Government
Project CO-12-018

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architectural history | preservation planning | digital preservation media





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Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Section 1: Project Area 3

Section 2: Research Design and Methods 11

- Goals and Objectives 11
- Scope of Work 11
- File Search and Previous Work 12
- Methods 13
- Procedure 15
- Determination of Significance 15

Section 3: Historical Context 19

- Mining Brings Booms, Busts, and Building 19
- Railroads Carry Ore and Tourists on the Narrow-Gauge 23
- Recreation in the Mountain Air 24
- The Cycle of Fire and Flood 26
- Conclusion 30

Section 4: Results 31

Section 5: Recommendations 37

- Recommendation 1: Nominate Eligible Properties 37
- Recommendation 2: Share the Findings 37
- Recommendation 3: Complete Additional Research 37

Notes 39

Bibliography 41

On the Cover. Two years after the fire, charred trees stand as a reminder of the devastation. *(Mary Therese Anstey)*

Introduction

Fourmile Canyon Survey

Boulder Rural Fire Department captain Christopher O'Brien referred to the Fourmile Fire as a "landmark fire in Boulder County, both for the resources that were used and also for the amount of loss," adding this fire was "probably, in my memory, the most devastating fire we've ever faced in Boulder County."[1] The fire started on September 6, 2010, and it destroyed 169 homes and buildings. More than a thousand firefighters fought the 6,500-acre blaze for eleven days. This particular fire was the most destructive in Boulder County; yet fires and the subsequent issues with flash flooding have punctuated the history of the survey area.

The tragic loss of so many homes indicated the importance of accurate and thorough survey records. The survey was designed to gather historical and architectural details about previously unrecorded resources. Spearheaded by Carol Beam, Historic Preservation Planner, Boulder County Open Space pursued a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant to conduct a selective intensive-level survey of thirty-five properties in the Fourmile Fire burn area. The county selected Historitecture to complete all work for the project. Three professionals collaborated on the project products. Architectural Historian Mary Therese Anstey conducted all field work, completed the majority of the survey forms, and prepared the survey report. Historitecture principal Adam Thomas created all of the survey maps, printed all of the survey photographs, and contributed to the survey report. Cheri Yost was responsible for both formatting the survey report and administering the project.

The goals of the intensive-level survey were to:

- Inventory thirty-five properties within the Fourmile Canyon area;
- Determine the significance and eligibility of all properties surveyed;
- Analyze historic district potential and boundaries; and
- Develop a report summarizing the findings of the survey.

Of the thirty-five properties, one site was determined officially eligible for individual listing in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties and fourteen resources were determined to be eligible as Boulder County Landmarks. None of the surveyed properties are eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Given the scattered nature of the resources within the survey area, no historic districts were identified.

Based on these results, Historitecture made the following recommendations to Boulder County:

1. Nominate Eligible Properties
2. Share the Findings
3. Complete Additional Research

The following report is organized as stipulated in the *Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Manual*, as revised in 2007.



Image i.1. The Fourmile Fire burned 169 homes and buildings, and the residents and landscape continue to recover. *(Mary Therese Anstey)*

Section 1

Project Area

The Fourmile Canyon survey area is located northwest of the City of Boulder. It is reached via Boulder Canyon Drive, joining Fourmile Canyon Drive nearly three miles from the Boulder city center. Other major thoroughfares within the survey area include County Road 83, Gold Run Road, and Gold Hill Road. The surveyed sites are located in or near the former mining communities of Crisman, Gold Hill, Salina, Summerville, Sunset, Sunshine, and Wallstreet. Located amidst former mining claims, the elevations of the surveyed resources ranged from 6,311 to 8,825 feet above mean sea level. This area enjoys a mountain climate, with relatively cool summers, colorful falls, flood-prone springs, and early winters. Evidence of the 2010 Fourmile Fire is achingly obvious in some locations, where the landscape retains an eerily denuded character punctuated by



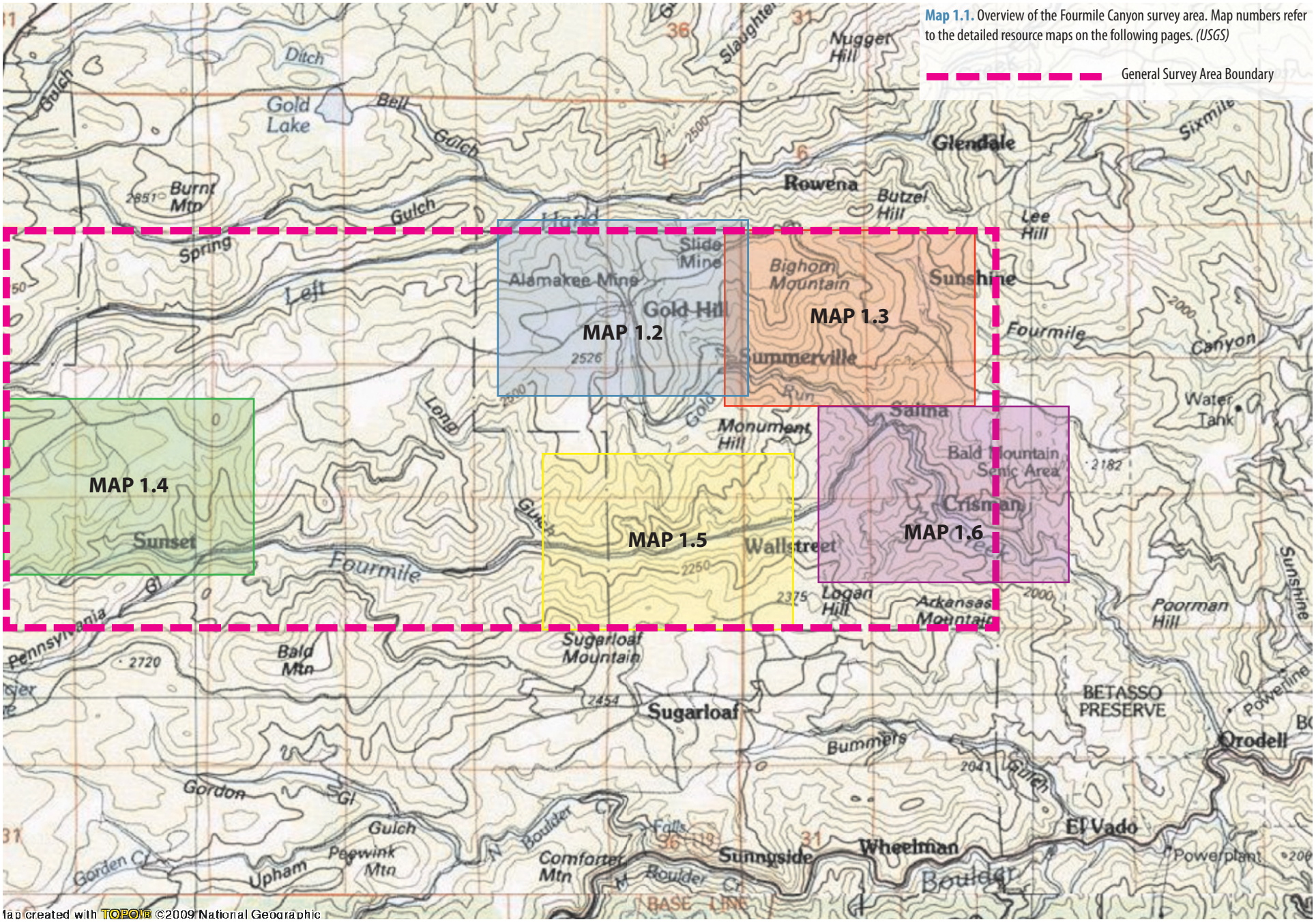
Image 1.1. The photos on this page (also the cover image) and the following page both were taken at the top of Sunshine Canyon Drive, but on opposite sides of the road. These photographs illustrate the extremely capricious nature of the Fourmile Fire. *(Mary Therese Anstey)*



Image 1.2. Some herbacious plants are adapted to pioneering post-fire landscapes, but the recovery of the forest ecosystem itself can take decades. *(Mary Therese Anstey)*

craggy, black stumps which mark all that remains of acres and acres of trees. However, there are other spots which either remained untouched in the fire or have experienced regrowth of green ground cover, small trees, and wild flowers.

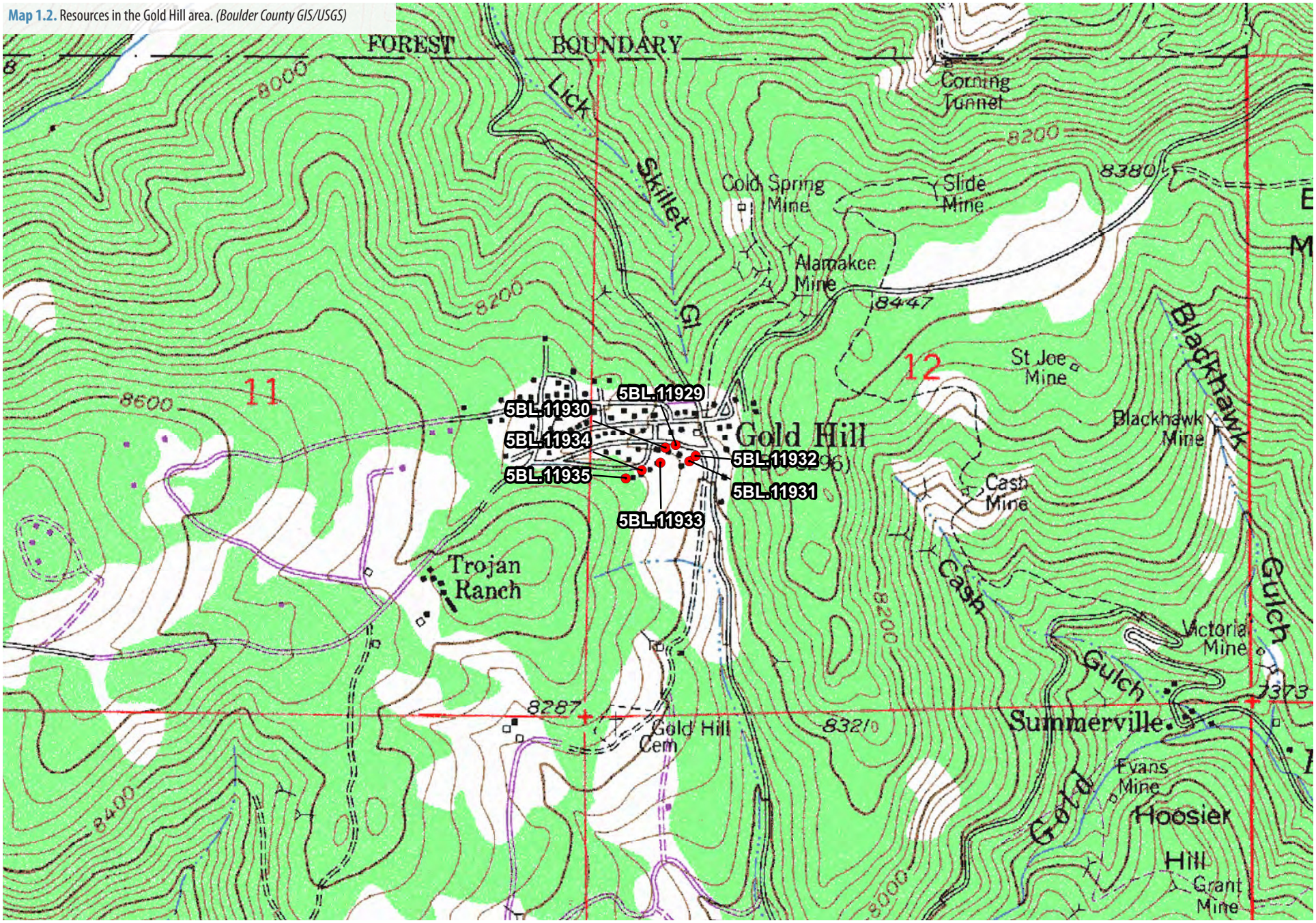
Intensively surveyed sites had legal locations within numerous sections of Township 1 North and Ranges 71 and 72 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, depicted on United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic maps of the Boulder (photo-revised 1966) and Gold Hill (1957) quadrangles. Total acreage for selective intensive surveys is more difficult to determine than for comprehensive surveys of contiguous resources. The approximate acreage for this project, determined by adding the surveyed area for all sites, was nearly 121 acres.



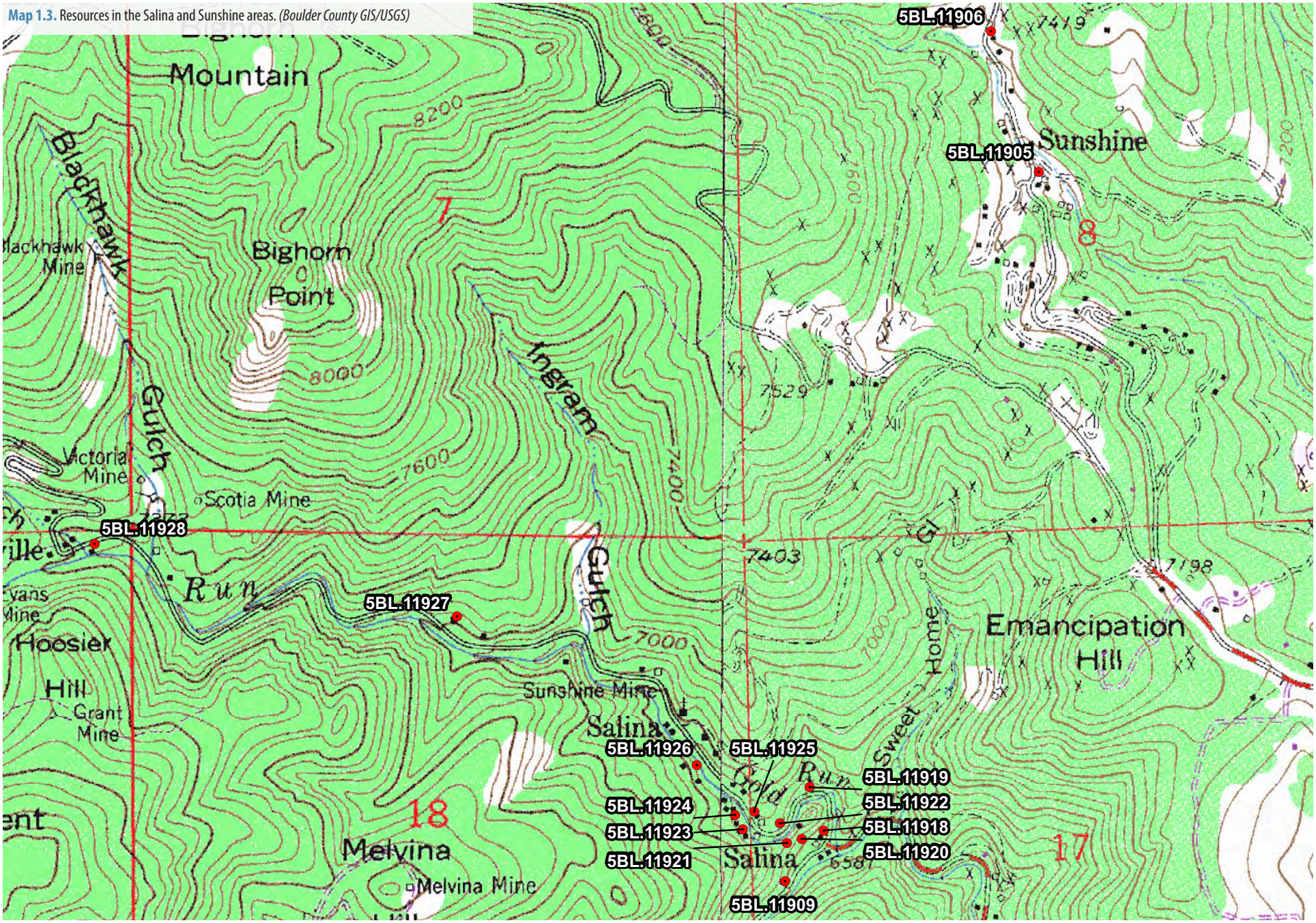
Map 1.1. Overview of the Fourmile Canyon survey area. Map numbers refer to the detailed resource maps on the following pages. *(USGS)*

General Survey Area Boundary

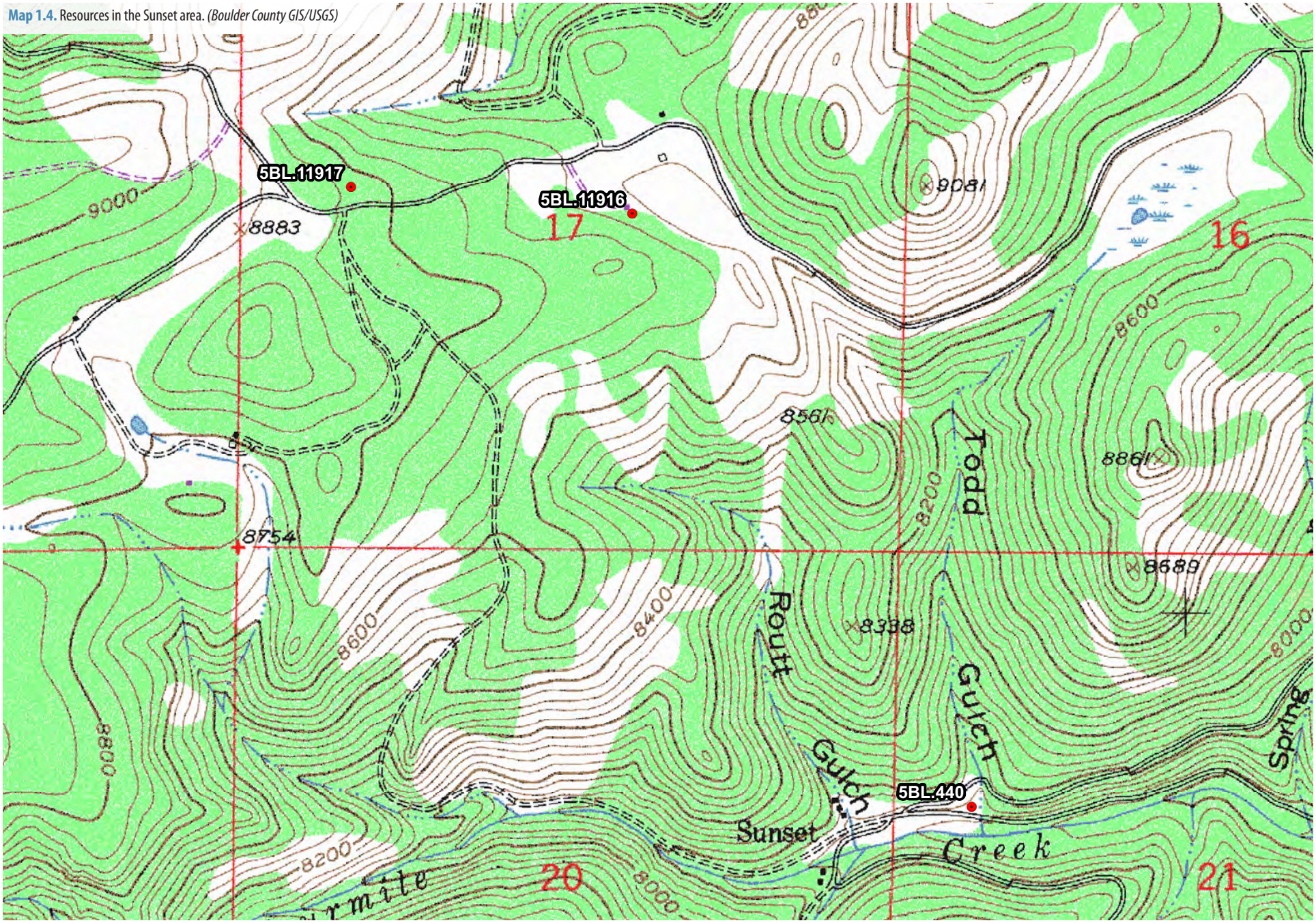
Map 1.2. Resources in the Gold Hill area. *(Boulder County GIS/USGS)*

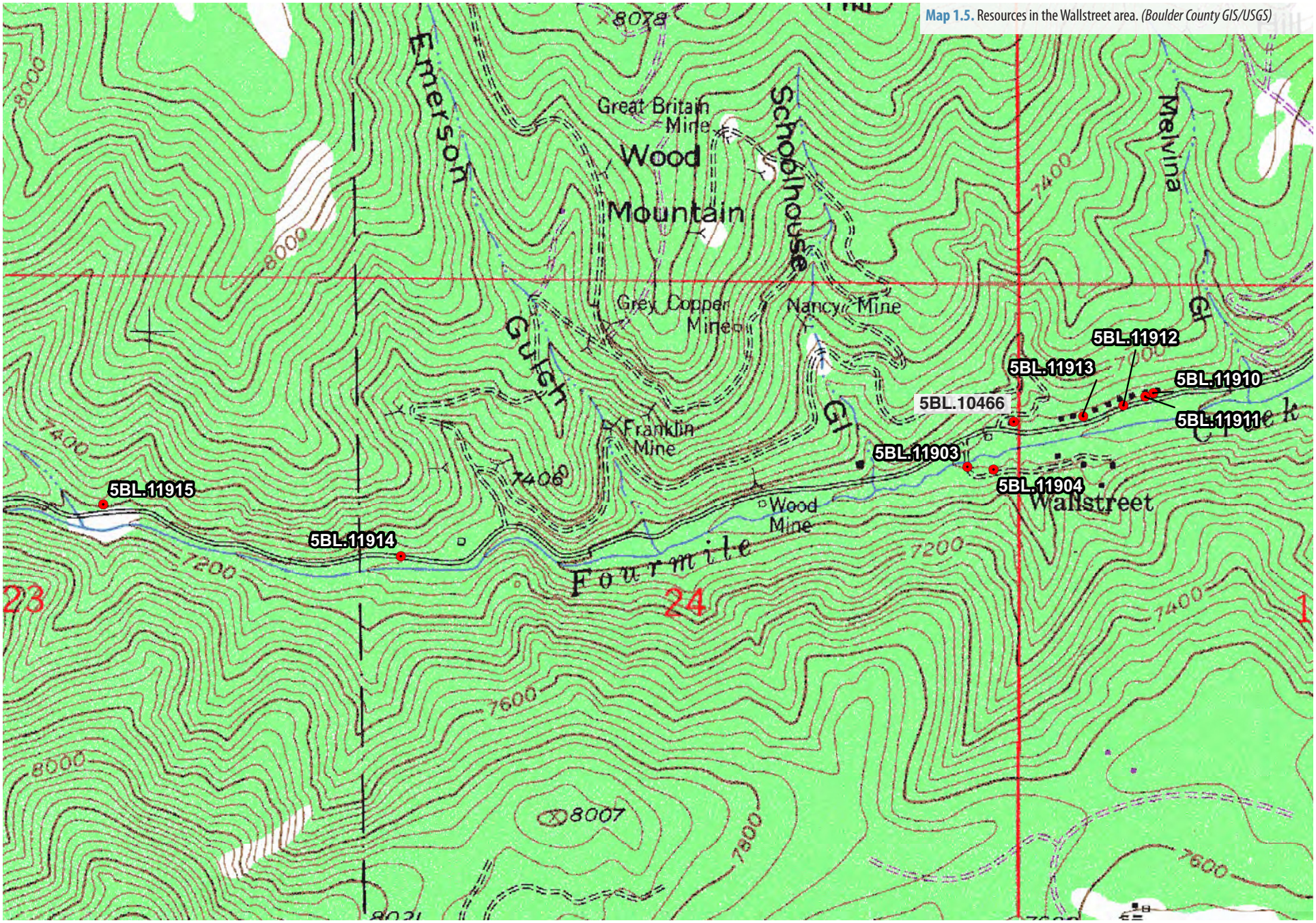


Map 1.3. Resources in the Salina and Sunshine areas. *(Boulder County GIS/USGS)*



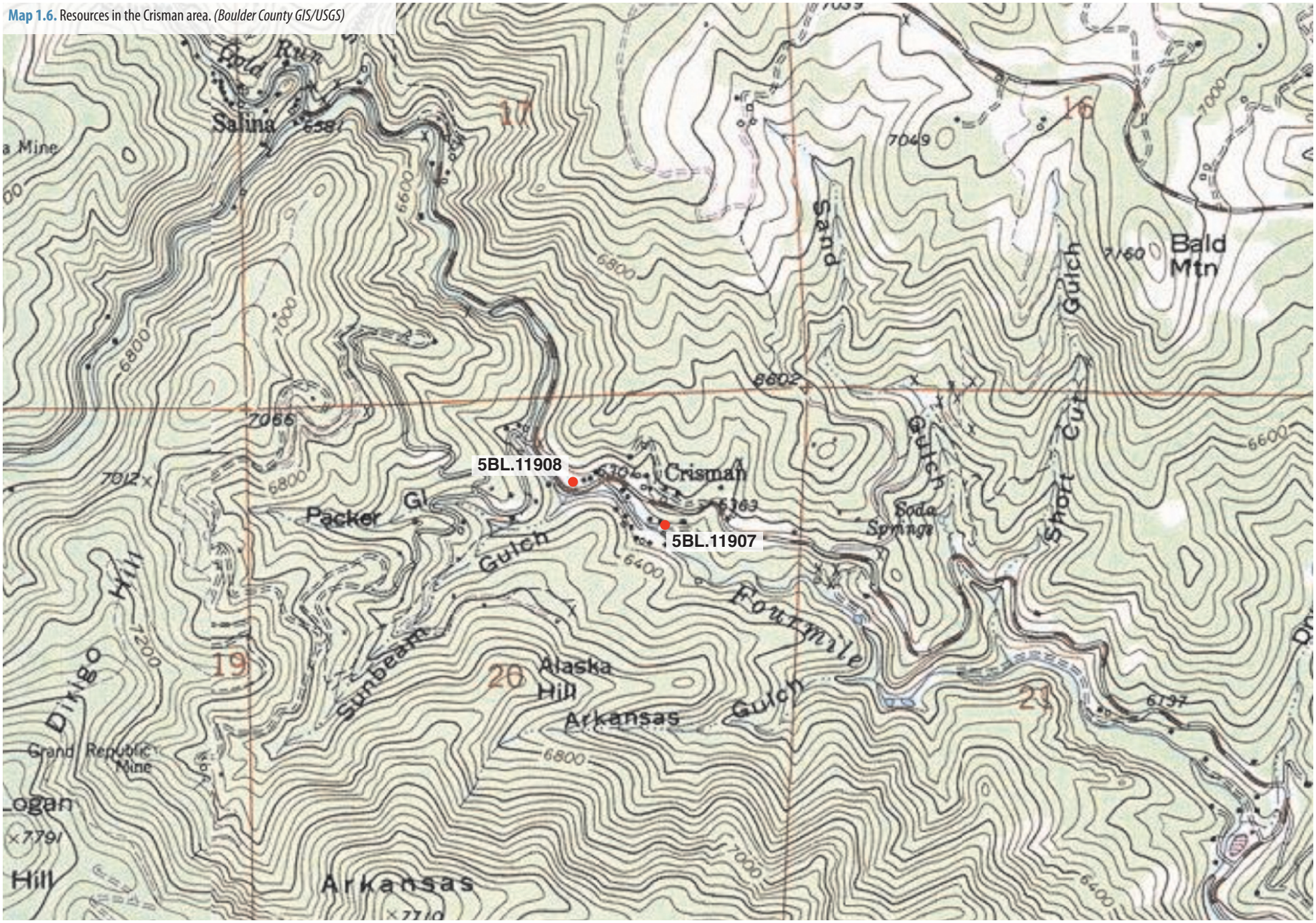
Map 1.4. Resources in the Sunset area. *(Boulder County GIS/USGS)*





Map 1.5. Resources in the Wallstreet area. *(Boulder County GIS/USGS)*

Map 1.6. Resources in the Crisman area. *(Boulder County GIS/USGS)*



Section 2

Research Design and Methods

Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of this project was to collect and analyze architectural and historical data for thirty-five buildings within the Fourmile Canyon. Boulder County Parks and Open Space chose this survey area based upon a number of factors. In the aftermath of the 2010 fire, the county received a cruel reminder about the importance of having accurate, thorough records for historic homes and other buildings. Recent surveys—with their photographs, architectural descriptions, and construction history—can be particularly useful in the restoration or rehabilitation of building elements or entire properties destroyed by fire or other accidents. In those unfortunate circumstances when a home is completely consumed, accurate survey forms provide a lasting record of the location, history, and significance for much-cherished but now-lost community assets. The county's efforts to assist Fourmile Canyon homeowners uncovered the fact that relatively few of the historic homes within the burn area had been sufficiently documented, inspiring a Certified Local Government grant application to rectify this lack of documentation. The county sought to proactively inventory historic homes in order to be ready should a fire or other disaster, natural or human-made, strike in the future. Staff also recognized a post-fire survey, conducted in areas cleared of vegetation either as a direct result of the fire or owner mitigation efforts, could more easily be completed from the public right of way given the absence of foliage which often obscures clear views of properties. The results of this survey also should prove useful for planning purposes, including the possible designation of individually eligible buildings.

Scope of Work

Boulder County Parks and Open Space developed the following scope of work for the Fourmile Canyon area survey project:

A. Survey Work

1. Complete a selective intensive-level historical and architectural survey for thirty-five (35) properties in the Fourmile Canyon area that includes the areas Salina, Sunset, Sunshine, Wallstreet and Summervillle after consultation with Boulder County Parks and Open Space. This project will be primarily, if not completely, a right-of-way survey.

2. The project will meet the standards and requirements set forth in the *Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Manual* (revised 2007) and meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Identification and Evaluation* (48FR 44716).

B. Products

1. The consultant shall submit four (4) draft architectural inventory forms with properly processed black and white photos for review by both Boulder County Parks and Open Space

and History Colorado. In addition to the required field determinations of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, Boulder County landmark determination of eligibility, either as an individual landmark or as a contributing building to a local landmark district, should also be included in the architectural inventory forms.

2. Upon approval of the revised four (4) draft architectural inventory forms, the consultant shall submit the remaining thirty-one (31) draft architectural inventory forms and draft survey report for review and comment by both Boulder County Parks and Open Space and the Colorado Historical Society.

3. The consultant shall submit with the draft survey report, a USGS 7.5' quad map, plus a planning map outlining the boundaries of the survey area with a key that identifies the boundaries of eligible districts (if any), contributing and noncontributing properties and individually eligible properties for the National Register of Historic Places and or as a Boulder County landmark. Each resource recorded during the project should be clearly identified on the map by appropriate site number.

4. The consultant shall submit six (6) hardcopies of the final survey report, two (2) sets of the final 35 architectural inventory forms with properly processed, sleeved and labeled black and white photos, one (1) digital copy of final survey report in each Microsoft Word and Portable Document Format (PDF) and one (1) digital copy of final architectural inventory forms in a Portable Document Format (PDF) to Boulder County Parks and Open Space.

C. Meetings

1. The consultant agrees to consult with Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff through email, phone, or if necessary, in person, to develop final list of properties to be surveyed prior to start of fieldwork.

2. The consultant agrees to consult with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation two (2) times to discuss the project prior to June 1, 2012 and before September 15, 2012. The first meeting will be in person and the second a conference call.

3. The consultant agrees to consult with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to discuss concurrence on eligibility and contributing/noncontributing status of surveyed properties and any other issues concerning the project prior to December 1, 2012.

4. The consultant shall attend the May 2, 2013, Boulder County Historic Preservation Advisory Board meeting to discuss the results of the project.

D. Reports

1. The consultant shall submit four (4) progress reports via email to Boulder County Parks and Open Space on August 1, 2012, December 1, 2012, March 1, 2013 and June 1, 2013.

File Search and Previous Work

Choosing the thirty-five buildings to survey was a key task completed early in the project scope. In July 2012 Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff held a public meeting to introduce area residents to the project. At this session they distributed a "Permission for Historic Study Access" form. Owners willing to have the surveyor enter their property to document the site were asked to sign the form and return it to the county. While historical and architectural survey work can be completed from the public right of way, having the option of get-

ting closer to buildings and structures often improves the overall quality of both photographs and architectural descriptions. The county received a total of seventeen forms granting permission for such closer documentation.

As a further aid in choosing the properties to inventory, Boulder County Historic Preservation Specialist Carol Beam provided an Excel report detailing all resources built prior to 1962 located within the survey area. Based upon data from the Boulder County Assessor office, this chart also included parcel number, a building count for each address, date of construction, address, owner name and contact details, and other pertinent details for each property. Beam color-coded this report, dividing the resources into five categories: permission to survey, high priority to survey, permission to survey and high priority, survey or landmark completed, and other. Historitecture's Mary Therese Anstey used these details to organize an informal reconnaissance of the entire survey area. The purpose of this preliminary fieldwork was to choose the thirty-five resources to document intensively. This decision, made in collaboration with Beam, sought to choose properties which were the most physically intact. Consideration also was given to the physical distribution of resources across the Fourmile Canyon survey area.

The chosen properties were located in a number of the early mining camps, including Crisman, Gold Hill, Salina, Summerville, Sunset, Sunshine, and Wallstreet (initially known as Sugar Loaf). A total of eight properties with owner permission ultimately were among the thirty-five chosen for intensive-level survey. In addition, Beam requested re-survey of two previously recorded resources: the Sunset and Wallstreet schools. These sites were recorded in 1977 and 1980 respectively and, since that time, the level of required documentation for intensive surveys has increased exponentially. Including these two schools, which have been converted to residential use, in this project provided more thorough and up-to-date information about these two important historic buildings.

On October 15, 2012, Historitecture completed an official search of OAHP files, using the COMPASS online database, in anticipation of requesting site numbers as needed for properties surveyed during this project. This file search confirmed the accuracy of Beam's Excel report regarding which properties had been previously surveyed or designated.

Methods

All survey work was completed in accordance with the *Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Manual Guidelines for Identification: History and Archaeology (2007)*. This survey project was organized in three major steps: fieldwork, archival research, and form completion.

Fieldwork: Reconnaissance

The purpose of the informal reconnaissance survey was to choose the thirty-five buildings to be surveyed intensively. The color-coded Excel report and county address maps were particularly helpful in planning this fieldwork. Architectural historian Mary Therese Anstey traveled to the Fourmile Canyon survey area on both August 23 and August 30, 2012, to complete the reconnaissance survey. Canvassing by car, she recorded notes on the physical integrity of historic homes and took selected digital photographs.

Fieldwork: Intensive

For all intensively surveyed sites, the first step was to physically visit each property to record its architectural fea-

tures and photograph as many elevations of each building on the property as possible. During the fieldwork, archaeological potential was not considered because this was an historical and architectural survey. This project also featured two intensive-level fieldwork sessions. There was, in many cases, a great deal of distance between surveyed sites and reaching many of the properties required driving on unpaved or minimally-maintained roads, making the fieldwork more time consuming than originally expected. Given the danger of flash flooding within the burn area, care was taken to survey earlier in the day to avoid afternoon thunderstorms. The elevation of the surveyed properties necessitated allowances for the relatively early arrival of winter weather. Anstey completed intensive-level fieldwork on October 2 and October 10, 2012.[2]

Archival Research

To make the best use of the project budget, Historitecture staff purposefully concentrated on consulting available online research materials. Boulder County is one of the few Colorado counties with complete holdings of Clerk & Recorder records available for web-based searching. The county's database offers a wide variety of search options, including by township, range, and section; by grantor; by grantee; by reception number; and for specific date ranges. These search choices were particularly useful in completing research for the thirty-five intensively surveyed properties, nearly all of which were located on or included portions of mining claims. One of the greatest challenges was distinguishing between mineral rights, land ownership, and building ownership. As with any research, issues associated with alternative spellings, variations of addressing, and other changes over time made the research for selected properties more complicated. Finally, given the boom and bust nature of mining, there were frequent transfers of ownership, many of which reverted to the County Treasurer or County Sheriff; given the sheer volume of transactions for these entities, it was sometimes difficult to determine ownership when there was county involvement. Although every effort was made to develop complete chains of title for each of the surveyed homes, it was not always possible. There are gaps in the ownership record for some of the surveyed properties.

Biographical information came from a variety of sources. The Boulder County Genealogical Society's online resources, available at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bgs/indexes.html, include indexes devoted to Boulder County marriage records from 1860 to 1900; the *Boulder Daily Camera* obituary index from 1970 to 1974; and cemetery records from Columbia, Green Mountain, and several smaller county burial grounds. Information from online search engines such as Ancestry.com and Google supplemented details available elsewhere. Another fruitful source: the Boulder Carnegie Library online catalog which includes numerous biographical details for nearly all entries.

Form Completion

The final step combined the results of the fieldwork and archival research for the surveyed sites onto the Architectural Inventory Form (#1403). Adam Thomas drew site plans and created maps for each property. Each inventory form included two maps: a site map based on aerial images and other Assessor's office files provided by Boulder County and a USGS map identifying the surveyed resource by site number. Historitecture generated a form for each property. All universal transmercator (UTM) coordinates were confirmed using the Google Earth online tool. Historitecture printed black and white pho-

tos and attached them to the forms.

Procedure

Nearly all of the intensive survey photographs were captured on a Canon EOS digital camera with 16.1 megapixel resolution. Historitecture printed all survey photographs according to the National Register's 75-year archival standard by way of an Epson Stylus Photo 1400 inkjet printer. This included Epson Claria high-definition inks on four-by- six-inch Epson ultra premium glossy photo paper. Historitecture saved the photos as four-by-six-inch, 300 pixel-per-inch images, in tagged image file format (TIF) and burned onto a 300-year, archival compact disc. Historitecture compiled and generated forms in Archbase, a File-Maker database.

Determination of Significance

Historitecture assessed the selected Fourmile Canyon survey properties for their historical and architectural significance and, thus, their individual eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties, and as Boulder County local landmarks. Initially, in consideration of National Register eligibility, Historitecture ranked each surveyed site on a scale that considered the combined levels of historical significance and physical integrity, based on the four National Register criteria of significance and seven aspects of integrity. Historitecture also applied local criteria for local landmark eligibility. Those rankings were, from low (not significant, low physical integrity) to high (very significant, high physical integrity):

- Not individually eligible;
- Individually eligible, local landmark (or, perhaps, State Register); and
- Individually eligible, National Register and State Register.[3]

National Register Eligibility

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, created the National Register of Historic Places, which the National Park Service administers. Criteria for National Register eligibility are set forth in Title 36, Part 60, of the Code of Federal Regulations and are summarized as follows:

> The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:
>
> A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
>
> B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
>
> C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
>
> D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition to the criteria listed above, the National Register requires some additional considerations before a property can be listed:

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of histori-

cal figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

a. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or

b. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is primarily significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or

c. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building associated with his or her productive life; or

d. A cemetery that derives its primary importance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or

e. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or

f. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or

g. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance. In general, properties achieving significance within the past 50 years are not considered eligible for individual listing in the National Register.

State Register Eligibility

The Colorado General Assembly established the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties by statute in 1975. The State Register became an active program in 1991 and is a listing of the state's significant cultural resources worthy of preservation for the future education and enjoyment of Colorado's residents and visitors. The State Register program is administered by OAHP within the Colorado Historical Society/ History Colorado. The Society maintains an official list of all properties included in the State Register. Properties that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places are automatically placed in the State Register. Properties may also be nominated separately to the State Register without inclusion in the National Register. The criteria for listing are as follows:

Significance in history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in buildings, sites, structures, objects, districts, and areas that possess integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and that meet one or more of the following criteria:

A. The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history; or

B. The property is connected with persons significant in history; or

C. The property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan; or

D. The property has geographic importance; or

E. The property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history.

Local Landmark Eligibility

Boulder County standards for landmark designation are found in article 15-501, section A, of the Boulder County Land Use Code:

In determining whether a structure, site, or district is appropriate for designation as a historic landmark, the Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) and the Board of County Commissioners shall consider whether the landmark proposed for designation meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. the character, interest, or value of the proposed landmark as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county;

2. the proposed landmark as a location of a significant local, county, state, or national event;

3. the identification of the proposed landmark with a person or persons significantly contributing to the local, county, state, or national history;

4. the proposed landmark as an embodiment of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or the use of indigenous materials;

5. the proposed landmark as identification of the work of an architect, landscape architect, or master builder whose work has influenced development in the county, state, or nation;

6. the proposed landmark's archaeological significance;

7. the proposed landmark as an example of either architectural or structural innovation; and

8. the relationship of the proposed landmark to other distinctive structures, districts, or sites which would also be determined to be of historic significance.

Determinations of District Eligibility

This inventory was designed as an intensive-level selective survey and, therefore, lacked the continuity of resource data necessary to recommend the creation of any historic districts.

Section 3

Historical Context

The story of the Fourmile Canyon combines mining, railroads, and recreation. All of these themes have come together to forge a strong community identity in the former mining camps of Crisman, Gold Hill, Salina, Summerville, Sunset, Sunshine, and Wallstreet located within this important Boulder County mineral belt. Although neither mining nor railroads remain in the area, these historical themes have marked the architecture of the surveyed buildings and the histories of both past residents and current inhabitants. And, amidst these historical currents, there always was and continues to be not only the threat but also the all too frequent reality of forest fires often followed by devastating floods.

Mining Brings Booms, Busts, and Building

Mining, by its very nature, is subject to booms and busts. Minerals are discovered and a rush follows. Initial discoveries usually are comparatively easy to locate and retrieve. But, inevitably, when such "easy" resources play out, fortune seekers leave the area in search of the next discovery. However, those individuals committed to establishing roots or continuing to prospect, often discover more embedded resources or benefit from new technological developments to extract wealth, sometimes from previously abandoned tailings. Thus, another boom begins. In addition, economic markets, historical events, and other forces also influence mining development, often impacting these cycles of prosperity and poverty. Mining—for gold and silver, tellurium, and, to a much lesser extent, tungsten—in the Fourmile Canyon region followed these same patterns. Key periods in the evolution of mining included the initial rush (1859-1868), the telluride boom (1872-1880), the late-1890s revival (1897-1910), a period of decline (1910-1933), and the final phase of mining (1942-1980). The 1893 Silver Crash, the Great Depression, and World Wars I and II also affected Fourmile mining.[4]

On January 16, 1859, Captain Thomas Aikens, a farmer-turned prospector, and his group of neighbors and family members discovered gold along Gold Run Creek, a tributary of Fourmile Creek, near the present-day community of Gold Hill. This discovery resulted in not only Boulder County's "first great mineral bonanza" but also establishment of the area's first mining district.[5] Early miners, including many veterans of the California gold rush, established the laws of Mountain District No. 1 in Nebraska Territory.[6] These rules set the cost of claim filing at 25 cents, limited each miner to one mountain and one gulch claim with water rights, and required miners to work their claims at least one day in ten as a way to avoid non-resident speculators. While miners claimed a total of $100,000 in placer gold in 1859, by the following year most gold seekers had shifted to mountain claims and there were a total of twenty-five mills to process gold ore.[7]

In 1860 the boom-town of Gold Hill was established as more and more fortune seekers arrived in response to the



Figure 3.1. Gold Hill was the county's first mining camp. *(Boulder Historical Society Collection of the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)*

GOLD HILL

Gold Hill, Boulder County's first mining camp, is located nearly twelve miles from Boulder via Fourmile Canyon Drive and then Gold Run Road. This community boomed in 1859 after the James Aikens party discovered placer gold. The original town site was on Horsfal Hill near the site of David Horsfal's rich lode, but was relocated to its current site in 1860 after a devastating fire. At the time of the move, the town boasted a population of nearly 2,000, many of whom were veterans of the California gold rush. This figure represented nearly half of the residents living in all of the expansive Nebraska Territory. The town quickly became the site of not only numerous mills but also three general stores, a barber shop, a drug store, a meat market, a surveyor's office, and several boarding houses. In 1872 Gold Hill, and the entire Fourmile mining region, experienced another boom when tellurium, a rare metal originally considered to be worthless, was discovered. Key Gold Hill-area telluride mines include the Cash, Cold Spring, Red Cloud, Slide, Snowbound, and St. Joe. In 1873 the road from Boulder and Fourmile Creek reached Gold Hill but the community never had railroad service. It experienced another fire in 1894; residents buried their possessions, large and small, in the sandy soil and fled to nearby mining tunnels to escape the blaze.[8]

Beyond mining Gold Hill gained a reputation, as early as 1872, as a tourist destination. During the 1920s through the 1950s the town played host to single working women from Chicago who Mrs. Jean Sherwood attracted to the area after establishing the Bluebirds. Gold Hill was the first community in unincorporated Boulder County to establish historic preservation zoning. This distinction came at the request of the Gold Hill Organization to Safeguard the Town (GHOST) and now the town, rather than the county, reviews all permits for new construction.

spreading news, and perhaps exaggeration, of the Aiken party's discovery. Quite quickly these newly arrived prospectors expanded their mineral searches to areas bordering the initial mining district, establishing additional jurisdictions as new discoveries were made. The Boulder Mining District was established in 1859 and the Sugar Loaf Mining District was created in 1860. Over time mining activity became less the case of single prospectors working their claims and more about large business interests investing in the increasingly difficult task of finding less-accessible ore. By the winter of 1864 there were over 200 eastern mining companies working in the mineral fields of present-day Boulder, Gilpin, and Clear Creek counties. These corporations, all keen to have their own facilities, often constructed mills even if there was not sufficient ore to warrant the cost; this pattern continued during every decade of mining activity.

The next major mining boom occurred in 1872, with the discovery of tellurium gold. This compound, found only in two places in the world, is composed of a mixture of gold, sulfur, and tellurium. Unlike pure gold, its silvery-white to black color makes it nearly impossible to identify simply by sight. Tellurium gold was unearthed in abundance throughout the Gold Hill, Sunshine, and Sugar Loaf mining districts. A rich vein also was discovered near the confluence of Fourmile and Gold Run creeks. The first tellurium gold mine was the Red Cloud and others included the Black Cloud, Cash, Crown, Evans, Keno,

CRISMAN

Obed Crisman, an early settler who owned the local concentration mill, established this small mining community between Boulder and Salina. Originally known as Tellurium, the first group of miners arrived in the area in 1873 and, the following year, General John A. Logan discovered the Logan mine in Crisman. By 1881 Crisman and the Yellow Pine mine were the center of Fourmile Canyon mining activity. In less than two years, miners hauled out $500,000 in ore from this mine located near the head of Sunbeam Gulch. Those residents not engaged in mining were busy, in 1881, chopping wood to provide railroad ties for the Greeley, Salt Lake & Pacific railroad; according to local newspaper accounts, 1,000 ties a day passed through Crisman.[9] The 1894 flood, however, washed out the railway along Fourmile Creek through the town. In 1908 Francois Pierre Ardourel, a former French Army captain who served in the Franco-Prussian War, discovered the profitable Grand Republic Mine which produced $200,000 in its first year and benefitted from a 2000 foot tunnel. In 1915 a fire destroyed the Crisman boarding house. By 1945 the Crisman School closed and joined a consolidated school district in Salina which existed until 1952. Although the town of Crisman originally had a post office, school, and other community resources, currently there are only a few homes, located about seven miles from Boulder and just south of Fourmile Canyon Drive, marking the former town site.

SALINA

The community of Salina is located nearly eight miles from Boulder via Fourmile Canyon Drive and then Gold Run Road. United States Deputy Surveyor O.H. Hamilton and his party, en route to the San Juan Mountains, traveled to the Boulder County tellurium gold fields instead. The group, impressed by the quality of ore they found, established a tent camp named after their hometown in Kansas. Hamilton, who continued to work as a surveyor in Salina, decided to settle here because he believed the area had "reached the point of development where 'businesses had become settled, society established, and the era of chaos passed.'"[10] Nearby mines included the Ingram, Melvina, and Emancipation, and the community, within its first year, established a school district and its thirty families built ten new homes alongside the telegraph and post offices. Additional residences, a meat market, saloon, stores, and a two-story hotel were erected in the next two years.

In 1880 the Salina-based Atchison Mining and Smelting Company purchased a bell for the Methodist-Episcopal church and parishioners planned a cupola for the modest building which once had housed a billiards hall. By 1885 Salina's population reached 150 to 200 and there were a total of twenty-nine homes. That same year the community finally erected a schoolhouse to accommodate the approximately thirty-five students from Salina and the neighboring settlement of Summerville. In addition to academics, the building was used for Salina Glee Club concerts, community suppers, and other programs. The Silver Crash negatively affected the town, with the only store remaining in the community forced to close and the Scottish-Colorado mill ceasing operations from 1893 until 1895.

By the 1900 census, Salina boasted a population of 197 living in a total of fifty-three homes. In 1902 local mining executive Henry Meyering donated land on his Emma lode for a new church building. This building is now known as the Little Church of the Pines and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

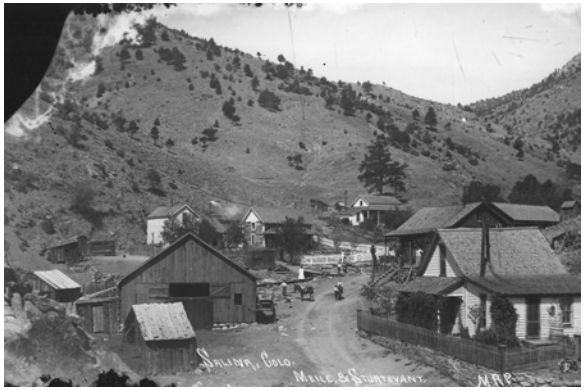
SUNSHINE

There are two stories to explain the name of this small mining camp located nearly eight miles from Boulder along County Road 83. The first attributes the name to D.C. Patterson's discovery of the Sunshine lode in 1874, claiming he choose this name because the gold "threw a ray of sunshine over the previously dark and clouded path of prospectors and miners."[11] The second account links the community's name to the first baby, Sunshine Turner, born in the area; however, the town predated this birth. Sunshine was incorporated in 1876 and that same year experienced its peak population of between 1200 and 1500 residents. Sunshine once had three hotels, two stores, a saloon, and its own newspaper. This community also was home to the American and Tilly Butzel mines. At the turn of the twentieth century, Sunshine was known for its successful baseball team. There was a short mining revival during the Great Depression but, by the mid-1960s, nearly all Sunshine residents worked outside the community.

SUMMERVILLE

Initially known as Victoria Camp, Summerville is over nine miles from Boulder via Fourmile Canyon Drive and then Gold Run Road. In 1877 the nearly eighty residents choose Summerville as the community's new name and prospector John H. Pickel filed a plat for the town with the Boulder County Clerk & Recorder. The entire town was located within Pickel's own placer and encompassed eighty one lots in two blocks near the Black Cloud Mill site. He sold only a few Summerville lots and, in 1879, Pickel transferred his placer, the town lots, his mineral rights, and his interest in the Goldsmith Maid mine to Henry Meyering of Salina. While Meyering sold a few more lots, Summerville, at its peak, expanded to only twenty houses. The Boulder County mines experienced few labor problems, however, in 1899 miners in the town joined a statewide campaign for increased wages and an eight-hour day; after a brief strike, the miners received their demands. In 1912 the Black Swan Mill converted to cyanide processing and enjoyed profits until during World War I when costs increased dramatically forcing closure of the Black Swan.

Figure 3.2. In 1885, Salina's population reached 150 to 200 and there were 29 homes. Firefighters were able to save the historic school house. *(Boulder Historical Society Collection of the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)*



Mountain Treasure, Tammany, and Victoria. During the five year period between 1875 and 1880, there were at least fifty operations devoted to tellurium gold mining in the Gold Hill area alone. The larger mining region also had at least eight mills for processing; this number doubled the number of facilities which had existed prior to the tellurium boom.[12] However, in a short period, the shallow tellurium gold veins were nearly exhausted and many of the newly-opened mines closed almost as quickly as they were opened. Over time, with the need to search more deeply for this rare compound, the search became the business of a few large and wealthy firms. For this reason, ordinary miners did not benefit nearly as much from the tellurium boom as they did from the initial gold boom in the 1860s.

The tellurium boom proved to be a boon for not only mineral wealth but also community development. According to local historian Silvia Pettem, "The discovery of telluride brought a new era to mining in Boulder County. The casual prospector turned into a permanent resident, his family remaining for generations."[13] This change occurred, in part, because the majority of miners were now working in more permanent jobs, earning a wage from the larger business interests needed to mine and process tellurium gold. A local newspaper editor described this era of town development in particularly colorful language. He claimed, "instead of an orgy of booze in gilded parlors, we have a quiet, orderly, industrious community making the world richer and better for its labor. Men go to labor with the feel of the kiss of a good woman upon their lips, and they are never far away from home."[14] The communities of Crisman, Salina, Sunshine, and Summerville all were established either as a direct result of or during the tellurium boom.

The Silver Crash of 1893 drove the United States economy into a depression which affected nearly all aspects of life and industry, including mining. Silver ore was no longer profitable and mining companies associated with extraction of all types of ore did not have the funds to invest in deeper exploration. In light of these conditions, the revival of area mining, which started in 1897 and continued until 1910, was particularly welcome. Prospectors in both the Gold Hill and Fourmile Canyon areas returned to previously explored claims in search of new or under-developed veins and relied upon more and more effective milling technology to produce yields. During this boom a number of smaller but wealthy partnerships emerged, many of which represented consolidation of established mining interests.

In the familiar boom and bust pattern, gold mining in the region suffered a sustained downturn from 1910 to 1933. During the Great Depression unemployed individuals, many of whom had no previous experience with gold mining, traveled to formerly profitable claims in the Gold Hill and Fourmile Canyon mining districts. These amateur miners sorted through waste rock dumps, collecting enough gold dust to make a meager income based upon the 1933 price of $30 per ounce and the 1934 slightly higher fixed rate of $35 per ounce. Longtime Wallstreet resident and local historian Delores Bailey related to a reporter that when she was pregnant with her daughter Theda, she and her husband James were quite poor. However, they decided to sort through the mine dump of the Gladys mine, which the couple owned. After finding some promising tailings, they "pound(ed) it up, then put it in quicksilver and run (sic) it though a chamois," a practice which caused the gold to come out of the rock. This process resulted in a lump of gold a little over two ounces. James Bailey took

this gold to the Mint in Denver and "that's what we paid the doctor with!"[15] Gold and tungsten miner Harrison Sykes Cobb was another individual who made his living from reopening previously closed mines. He arrived in Sunset in 1933 and over the next several decades hauled previously discarded ore from numerous mines, including the Wood Mountain, Gillard, Nancy, Ingram, Richmond, and Myrtle. He also cleaned up tungsten residue in the Black Swan Mill, collecting two to three tons of low grade ore. Cobb wrote *Prospecting Our Past: Gold, Silver, and Tungsten Mills of Boulder County* (1988) and claimed to have produced more tons of ore in Boulder County than any other individual.

On October 15, 1942, the United States War Production Board passed L-208 which closed nearly all American gold mines, since this metal did not contribute to the war effort. Although tungsten mining continued in Boulder County, this activity centered around Nederland and Eldora rather than near Gold Hill or in the Fourmile Canyon. By the end of the war, gold and silver mine owners discovered the Gold Hill industry "had decayed beyond the point of recovery," little profitable ore remained, and there were few experienced miners still living in the area.[16] After nearly ninety years, the Gold Hill and Fourmile Canyon mining industry had come to an end.

Railroads Carry Ore and Tourists on Narrow-Gauge

There was a functional relationship between mining and the railroads. The mineral industry relied upon transportation to haul its ore to market. Although this task can be achieved via roadway, the use of railroads was quicker, more economical, and more efficient. Railroads also possessed the advantage of being suited to carrying large numbers of passengers, therefore, promoting tourism. All of the railroads which served the Fourmile Canyon mining areas provided narrow gauge service since these rails are particularly suited to mountainous landscapes and the challenges of routes requiring numerous curves and switchbacks. A total of four rail lines served the gold camps: the Greeley Salt Lake & Pacific, Union Pacific Denver & Gulf, Colorado & Northwestern (known as the Switzerland Trail), and Denver Boulder & Western.

In May 1881 a crew of former slaves, Italians, and other laborers started preparing the roadbed for the Greeley Salt Lake & Pacific (GSL&P). Given the rocky terrain, these workers used the same types of tools, like steam-jacks and blasting caps, employed for hard-rock mining. The thousands of timbers for the railroad ties came from the forests near Crisman. The fourteen-mile route traveled from Boulder to Pennsylvania Gulch (later known as Sunset) across sixty-five bridges with an average grade of 190 feet per mile. However, the steepest portion of the line, between Crisman and Salina, averaged 230 feet per mile. The first passengers rode the GSL&P along this route on April 6, 1883, and excursion trains from Boulder, bringing city residents up to enjoy the mountains or attend the popular dances in Sunset, became increasingly popular during the 1880s until the advent of the personal automobile. A decade after construction of the GSL&P route from Boulder to the mining camps started, the Union Pacific Denver & Gulf (UPD&G) assumed responsibility for this line, laying their tracks on the same grade as the GSL&P service washed out in the Flood of 1891.

On November 15, 1897, work on the Colorado & Northwestern narrow gauge line started when the first spike was driven in across the street from the 4th Street Bridge in Boulder. The C&NW route also traveled along the GSL&P's original

SUNSET

Originally a lumber camp known as Pennsylvania Gulch, Sunset is located nearly fifteen miles from Boulder on Fourmile Canyon Drive. As a center of not only mining but also railroad tourism, the community experienced both its greatest prosperity and its highest population in the 1890s. At this peak the town had two hotels, two butcher shops, two stores, and numerous cabins. Notable mines near Sunset included the Scandia, Free Coinage, Poor Woman, and Dolly Varden. The Greeley-Salt Lake & Pacific (GSL&P) narrow gauge railroad reached town in 1881, bringing tourists and weekend excursionists. The Flood of 1891 washed out the railroad tracks, destroyed bridges, and spelled the end of the GSL&P. The Colorado & Northwestern railway took over the service, rebuilding their route on nearly the same grade. The cessation of railroad service in 1919 "began the demise of the proud little community."[17] Today there are only a few scattered homes, including the former Sunset School which has been converted to residential use.



Figure 3.3. Thanks to the railroad, Sunset boomed with two hotels, two butcher shops, and two stores in the 1890s. *(Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)*

WALLSTREET

Originally known as the mining camp of Sugar Loaf and then as Delphi, the community of Wallstreet is located nine miles from Boulder along Fourmile Canyon Drive. The earliest mining activity took place in the 1870s. Key mines included the South American, Wood Mountain, Forest, Great Britain, Star, Mountaineer, and Tambourine.

Between 1894 and 1897, Charles W. Caryl purchased several mines in the canyon above Salina and numerous cabins in Delphi. He renamed the town Wallstreet in honor of his New York investors and sought to establish a utopian community. In his treatise, "New Era: Presenting the plans for the New era union to help develop and utilize the best resources of the country," the president of the Gold Extraction Mining and Supply Company proposed a scheme where miners would share profits. As part of the model city he envisioned, Caryl relied upon a new railroad line to serve Wallstreet. In 1897 the Colorado & Northwestern route started in Boulder and by the following year the initial trip carried high-profile passengers including Colorado Governor Alva Adams. In circa 1902 Caryl financed a $175,000 chlorination mill, one of the first in northern Colorado, in Wallstreet.

Wallstreet experienced a short-lived peak from 1903 to 1904. Caryl left town in 1903 when Wallstreet was not laid out in accordance with his high-minded plans. The following year the Nancy Gold Mine and Tunnel Company shut down. In 1907 the new owners of the chlorination mill, Bostonians J.A. Wilder and Thomas L. Nelson, were forced to sell the facility at a sheriff's sale to cover costs associated with lawsuits against Caryl. Caryl's general manager, James E. Bailey, bought the Wallstreet Assay Office and made it his home. The Wallstreet School, which has been converted to a single-family residence, closed in 1945.



Figure 3.4. Hopefully named Wall Street, this mining community blossomed from 1903 to 1904. *(Boulder Historical Society Collection of the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)*

grade. This train was intended to serve the consolidated mining interests in the Gold Hill and Fourmile Canyon districts who wanted dependable transportation for the nearly 100 tons of ore per day headed to mills in Boulder and additional tonnage destined for Denver. For this reason, several mine owners and capitalists, some directly involved in railroad ownership and others keen to encourage increased investment and town development, were boosters for this line. Charles Caryl, who established the Gold Extraction Mining & Supply Company, represents an example of this second type of industrialist. The mine owner also wanted to establish the town of Wallstreet as a utopian community. He envisioned a new town based upon profit sharing for all miners, investors, and other participants in the mining operation.[18] He also had an ambitious vision for Wallstreet's design as an ideal community which was to be segregated by rank and to feature lakes, boulevards, a railroad, and a subway.

Caryl's fantastic plans for Wallstreet clearly were never realized. However, in 1902, he did construct one of the largest and most expensive chlorination mills in the region. The new mill was capable of processing, each day, 200 tons of ore into gold bricks valued at $7,000 each. This visionary capitalist also followed through on his promise to use the C&NW to transport his product to market. However, Wallstreet's mining demand for the railroad never lived up to Caryl's inflated expectations and the line increasingly shifted to attracting tourists to make money. C&NW renamed the route in an effort to attract excursionists. Professor J.E. Snook, from Greeley, won the railroad company's naming contest when his suggested moniker, the Switzerland Trail of America, was chosen. Attempting to draw a parallel between the scenery shared by the Rocky Mountains and Swiss Alps, this railroad line featured "scenic windings through Boulder County's foothills and mountains, breathtaking views, and rustic charm."[19] The Switzerland Trail managed to have some successful tourist seasons. For example, in 1905, the train carried more passengers in the four summer months than it had shuttled during the entire previous year. However, CN&W failed to make sufficient profits and was forced to sell the line, in 1909, to the Denver Boulder & Western railway. DB&W continued appealing to tourists and day trippers, sponsoring a popular annual wildflower excursion. But one day of high ridership was not enough to save the line's passenger service and the railway also faced increasing competition from a fleet of Stanley Steamer Mountain Wagons. Train vacations also began to feel restrictive and slow to the over 200 Boulder County residents who owned their own cars in 1912. The last year the Switzerland Trail made a profit was 1916, and by 1919 yet another flood along Fourmile Creek spelled the end of railway service for the former mining towns in the Gold Hill and the surrounding area.

Recreation in the Mountain Air

While the train, especially the Switzerland Trail, was important for tourism to the Boulder County mining camps, the railroads were not the only promoters of mountain recreation and rail was not the only way to arrive. The town of Gold Hill clearly illustrates this pattern. Even in its "earliest days" Gold Hill was a tourist destination "especially noted for the agreeable summer climate, unusual healthfulness, and the magnificence of its scenic views."[20] From the 1920s through the 1950s, the former mining camp was the mountain base for the Bluebirds who welcomed hundreds of female visitors each year. Yet, there never was railroad access to this community. Even

when passenger train service arrived in the area in 1883, the nearest station to Gold Hill was located in Salina, with passengers traveling onward to Gold Hill via wagon. As time went on, vacationers arrived by bus or car. Albert "Tim" Walter of Gold Hill and his brothers operated the Walter Brothers Stage Line, a bus service between Gold Hill and Boulder, from 1916 into the 1930s.

While mining camps have a justified reputation for being dirty, Gold Hill tourism actually began when mining was still active in the area. In 1872 Charles Wentworth established the three-story log Miners Hotel, also known as the Wentworth House. From 1884 to 1886 a local couple, the Marshalls, managed the hotel. In 1900 Edwin and Annie Goudge purchased the hotel which, by that time, was known as the Gold Hill Inn. In 1910, due to poor economic conditions and family illness, the Goudges shuttered the Gold Hill Inn and moved to Boulder; it is not clear if they ever reopened the tourist accommodation. Over time, prominent visitors included Leadville miner Horace Tabor, lawyer Clarence Darrow, and poet Eugene O'Neil who penned "Casey's Table D' Hote" and other verses about Gold Hill.

In 1920 the Goudges sold the Gold Hill Inn to the Holiday House Association of Chicago, a non-profit established in 1910 with a mission to provide vacations for single working women from the city. Jean Wirt Sherwood not only started this organization but also initiated its connection to Colorado. Sherwood, the daughter of an Ohio minister, moved to Chicago after her graduation from Oberlin College. In the city she led a group of twenty-four women who formed the Altura-Lend-a-Hand Circle. This group managed a clubroom where young women could eat lunch or rest during the working day. The link between Sherwood and Colorado was established in 1904 when she lectured about art at the Boulder Chautauqua. Experiencing the benefits of its beautiful and restful sending, Sherwood sought a way to share such relaxation and recreation opportunities with the young female factory and office workers she knew in Chicago. Upon returning from Boulder, Sherwood and the Altura club members engaged in fundraising to build a vacation cottage in Boulder. The women, however, were not interested in the association becoming a charity. Instead, they allowed working women to invest in $10 blocks of stock. Each purchase entitled the woman room for two weeks each summer if she agreed to pay a modest fee for board. The Blue Bird Cottage, near the Boulder Chautauqua grounds, opened on June 15, 1911, with Sherwood acting as hostess. A total of forty-three women vacationed in the cottage its first year and the term "Bluebirds" became short-hand for both the Holiday House Association and the visitors from Chicago.

As the Blue Bird Cottage became increasingly popular, Sherwood started to look for other sites to expand her summer program. In 1921 the Gouge's former Gold Hill Inn was converted into the Blue Bird Lodge. Initially only a few women traveled to the mountains near Gold Hill, however, these numbers grew exponentially with many women returning to the former gold camp year after year. In 1926 Sherwood's association hired local carpenter Tim Walter to construct a log extension to the Blue Bird Lodge to provide the visitors with a dining hall. In Gold Hill the Bluebirds enjoyed hiking, horse riding, and other pursuits in the relaxing mountain air. The women became part of summer society in Gold Hill. In an oral history account, seasonal Gold Hill resident Chellee Courtney remembered her mom talking about the Bluebirds hanging their laundry outside the Lodge to dry, relaxing on the porch, and occasionally plugging nickels into the slot machine at the



Figure 3.5. From the 1920s through the 1950s, the Bluebirds traveled to Gold Hill, enjoying hiking, horseback riding, and socializing as a respite from their jobs in Chicago. *(Boulder Historical Society Collection of the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)*

Gold Hill general store. The Bluebirds remained active in Gold Hill until the 1950s, with some women choosing to rent homes rather than staying in the Lodge.

In 1962 new owners Barbara and Frank Finn purchased the Gold Hill Inn and Blue Bird Lodge. The Finns ran a bed-and-breakfast until the early 1990s and their sons established a gourmet restaurant on the property. Currently the site is rented out for weddings and special events. It also hosts murder mystery parties in the summer.

As the mining economy declined, the former mining camps increasingly housed seasonal residents, many of whom had first homes in Boulder. These individuals traveled to their mountain cabins on weekends or in the summer. As time went on, the small communities in the former mining districts became an option for more economical housing than was available within Boulder. And, as roads were improved, many homeowners viewed a home in the mountains as the best of both worlds: nature and recreational opportunities right outside their front door, but easy access to Boulder for necessary services and employment. Better utility and high-speed Internet access have helped to make these small communities even more popular. Many of the original miner cabins have been adapted for contemporary use, with the addition of substantial square footage, large picture windows to bring the outside in, and patios or large porches for outdoor socializing. The entire Fourmile Canyon area is exceedingly popular with mountain bikers, hikers, and motorcyclists.

The Cycle of Fire and Flood

For far too many Boulder County residents, especially

homeowners and first-responders, the memories of the 2010 Fourmile Fire remain vivid. While the fire is gone, there are still signs of its devastation, such as some barren, burned landscapes; new construction to replace destroyed homes; and piles of sandbags intended as protection from flash flood waters which can run fast over the defoliated land the fire left behind. The history of the Gold Hill and Fourmile Canyon mining districts and their immediate surroundings illustrate such devastating wildfires and floods are not exclusively modern phenomena.

The town of Gold Hill was relocated to its current location after an 1860 fire destroyed the original mining camp near the Horsfal lode. The cause of this fire was never determined. A witness described a situation which exists with fires now as well. He noted how "the flames ran along in the pitchy sprigs of green tree-tops, which, in a dry time, burn like tinder."[21] This early fire advanced so rapidly, miners were forced to dive into prospect holes to save themselves and their meager possessions from the flames. The fire destroyed all of the pine trees in the area, but no lives were lost. Over time, the site of this fire became reforested with aspens and then lodgepole pines.

Another major fire in the Boulder County mining camps broke out in November 1894. The conflagration, which started in Ward, spread rapidly east due to high winds. Ultimately, destruction spread across the numerous ranches in the area south of Ward toward Sunset, east to Copper Rock, and north to Gold Hill. Gold Hill received notice of the approaching flames from a nearby rancher who came to town at 3:00 AM to knock on doors and rouse sleeping residents. These individuals gathered in the Horsfal mineshaft, on the hill outside of town, after burying their possessions, including items as large as pianos, in the hopes of saving these goods from the approaching flames. This time the Gold Hill inhabitants escaped destruction. As the fire was nearing the edge of town, the winds died down and snow fell, extinguishing the fire.

Although there have been several fires in the county over the years, by far the one foremost in everyone's memory is the 2010 Fourmile Fire. It was, at the time, Colorado's most expensive in state history in terms of insurance claims.[22] The fire started on the morning of Monday, September 6, 2010, which was the Labor Day holiday, in Emerson Gulch in the Fourmile Canyon. High temperatures, very low humidity, and days without rain made the conditions ideal for a fire, and gusty winds caused high flames to spread very quickly. The intensity and quick moving nature of the fire prompted a call for evacuations across a very large area, although several independent residents remained to protect their homes.

Longtime resident of Sunshine Canyon and retired Fire Chief of the Sunshine Fire Protection District Douglas Young described the "fire behavior" as "incredible," noting how the fire "exploded" on its first day.[23] He claimed it was "remarkable how active and hot the fire was Monday night," explaining, "It didn't bank down nearly as much as we'd like, as firefighters, because that's when we catch a fire."[24] On Tuesday the fire continued to intensify and spread. Firefighter Christopher O'Brien was task force leader for the firefighters working the fire from Salina to Wallstreet, from Logan Mill Road in Summerville in the Fourmile Canyon, and half of Wallstreet to the Assay Office. Mike Smith from the Forest Service was another task force leader who commanded the line from the Wallstreet Assay Office out, Sugarloaf to Gold Hill on the Switzerland Trail. Both crews were "going from house to house trying to stop fire."[25] O'Brien's crew was present when the Salina Fire Station caught fire. He quickly realized this building likely was lost and redi-



Figure 3.6. Grateful residents thank the organizations and people who assisted during the Fourmile Fire. *(Mary Therese Anstey)*

rected resources to the adjacent building, telling his firefighters, "That one-room schoolhouse, that's a wood-clapboard schoolhouse right next door. That's a historic structure. Our job is to save that. Please, let's save that structure."[26] Experienced firefighters must engage in triaging: looking at building materials, quality of construction, and surroundings in order to assess which buildings are most likely to survive the fire without much intervention. Historic properties usually do not rate well on such assessments and O'Brien stated, "If it's something that's historic, and we can, we absolutely will put the effort into it… You know, those old historic buildings (that) have meaning to a place."[27] He expressed pride in his crew's ability to save numerous historic buildings, including the Salina School House, the Little Church of the Pines, and the Salina Inn, but also added he was "very sad to have lost the homes that we had to lose."[28]

At its peak there were 1,100 firefighters working to extinguish the Fourmile Fire. By the time it was contained eleven days later, the Fourmile Fire had burned an area of over 6,000 acres and destroyed a total of 169 homes and buildings. In the

aftermath of the fire, residents began to return from evacuation to assess damages and begin grieving losses. The Young family was allowed to return five days after the fire started, thankful their home was intact. But the after effects of the fire were everywhere. Young remembered, on the first night the family returned, he went out to the deck with its expansive view of most of the burn area. He was struck that night, and for subsequent nights at

> the lack of lights where homes should have been. It wasn't simply that homes had been destroyed—power was still out in the burn area. But I just remember thinking: This whole vast community has just been devastated, and it's—and it's missing—it's where we partied; it's where we laughed; it's where we cried; it's where we socialized, and it was—it was all turned off, and much of it was gone. So, we lived with that. So… even though we didn't lose our house, we had this sort of residual, peripheral grief we were going through—largely on behalf of our friends.[29]

Those homeowners who lost everything had to decide whether they would return to the Fourmile Canyon area; some did but others did not. There also were endless months of insurance claims and other insurance-related paperwork. Individuals with home businesses had even more decisions to make and often felt the need to re-establish themselves elsewhere, places where they could, at least temporarily, get back to earning a living. Homeowners wishing to rebuild received building permits from the county which allowed a two-year construction window, but the process of receiving an insurance claim, hiring an architect, executing construction, and completing new homes was time-consuming for most. Young remembers his daily trips to the bus stop with his two children. Soon after the fire, the traffic "was a steady stream of disaster-recovery vehicles, going up the canyon—every morning… We'd see the disaster-recovery crews, the Xcel trucks—these armies of Xcel trucks would go up in the morning—we'd see these huge, huge dump trucks … and they'd come down full of cleaned-out foundations, and recovered foundations that had been torn out."[30]

About six months after the fire, the Young family saw mostly county and other official vehicles. Once homeowners received building permits, concrete trucks pouring new foundations made up most of the traffic, an indication to Young of the "first signs of rebirth and regrowth to our community;" for him the "traffic at our bus stop is just a… perfect metaphor, a perfect reminder for what our community is going through, and the really, really long path to recovery that lies ahead."[31]

Those residents brave enough to restart their lives in the burn area also faced the heightened risk of flash flooding, even from relatively small rainstorms. Floods are not new weather events in this area. Historically, notable flooding occurred in 1883, 1890, 1891, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1909, 1919, and 1969. By far, the most severe flood was the one in 1894 which resulted after sixty straight hours of rain and washed out not only roadways but also the railroad.

A little less than a year after the Fourmile Fire, a single inch of rain in less than an hour turned the Gold Run through Salina "into a raging torrent the color of charcoal" that swept away driveways, washed out the road, and piled mud in nearby houses.[32] The owners of 217 Gold Run Road noted how they keep full backpacks of supplies at the ready should they have to quickly leave their home in case of a massive flood. Both the county and local fire departments conducted outreach efforts,

including mulch drops, to encourage regrowth of vegetation within the burn area. But fire education professional and former director of the Boulder County American Red Cross Sherry Kenyon compared what is happening in the Fourmile Canyon to what appears on the news out of California, "the wildfire cycle, and then rains, and then the mudslides, and then it just starts all over again" and commented the wildfire-flood cycle appears to be "here to stay."[33]

Conclusion

Mining, railroads, and recreation all shaped the history of the Fourmile Canyon region. Former mining cabins, abandoned mines, and a few small tailing piles are still visible. The Switzerland Trail grade has become a popular hiking and biking trail. The Gold Hill Inn-Blue Bird Lodge is a tangible reminder of how popular tourism and recreation were in the mining camps, gaining increased economic impact during periods of bust at the area mines and mills. It was exactly this mining, railroad, and recreation history which were at risk during the Fourmile Fire; thankfully, firefighters were able to save some the community's most cherished and well-used historic assets.

Section 4

Results

The Fourmile Canyon Survey resulted in the inventory of thirty-five sites. Of the surveyed sites, none are eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. However, one resource, the former Wallstreet School, was determined officially eligible for listing in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties. This project included fourteen sites determined eligible for listing as Boulder County local landmarks. Figure 4.1 shows selected examples of the local landmark-eligible properties.

The results of this survey are summarized in tables 4.1 and 4.2. The resources in the first table are sorted by site number with the second table featuring sites in address order.

All of the sites recorded currently are in residential use. However, the survey did document two former educational resources—the Wallstreet and Sunset schools—which since have been converted to single-family homes. There also are two former agricultural complexes. The original Crimmins Ranch, at 13711 Gold Hill Road, now features a main house which is a geodesic dome. The original Lally Ranch, at 14050 Gold Hill Road, includes multiple recorded resources: a Rustic main house, numerous outbuildings, and even a tree house. Stylistically, the surveyed resources express the full span of area architectural development, extending from early Pioneer Log examples to more contemporary resources such as a Neo-Victorian home. While no one style or type dominates, nearly a quarter of the surveyed resources are classified under the broad category of Late Victorian. Particularly interesting is the home at 204 Gold Run Road (5BL.11922); the original Late Victorian house received a Modern Movements rear addition in 1967. The majority of the surveyed buildings actually are classified as "Other" types. Most of these represent widely-acknowledged vernacular forms such as Central Hall and Hall and Parlor.

This project also identified a new vernacular expression among the surveyed resources: Evolved Rustic. Defining any vernacular expression requires details about its geography, time period, and culture. Evolved Rustic buildings are found in the former mining camps of central Boulder County, with the original cabins constructed from the 1870s to the 1920s (the most active mining period), and are associated initially with miners and later with non-miners who are interested in living in homes in beautiful natural settings but close to the urban amenities of Boulder.

Evolved Rustic, like the established Rustic style, employs natural materials such as wood or stone intended to blend with the natural surroundings. The modern additions to Evolved Rustic houses use large picture windows as a way to enjoy the wooded settings from the interior of the home and many feature outdoor decks or patios for outdoor socializing. Although the materials employed for later additions are modern and often human-made (such as manufactured log siding), there is often an attempt to make them look older or more nat-

ural via simple treatments such as staining or irregular planing. The forms of the earliest mining cabins within Evolved Rustic homes are usually small basic single cell or hall-and-parlor plans. The original cabins often had gable or shed roofs removed to add additional stories or modified in the process of making significant alterations to increase overall square footage.

FIGURE 4.1. A SELECTION OF THE FOURTEEN FIELD ELIGIBLE LOCAL LANDMARK PROPERTIES



228 Gold Run Road



17 Gold Run Road



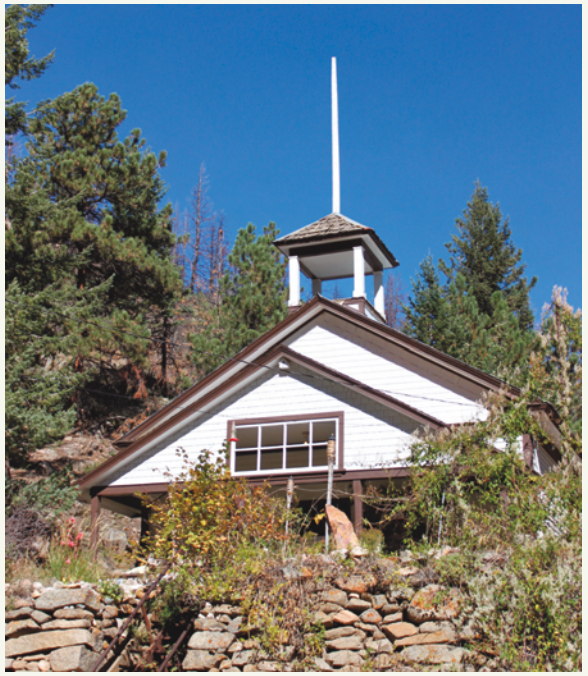
962 County Road 83



204 Gold Run Road



84 Alpine Gulch



6556 Fourmile Canyon Drive (Wallstreet School)



4950 Fourmile Canyon Drive

TABLE 4.1: PROPERTIES BY SITE NUMBER

Site Num.	Address	Historic Name	Style/ Type	Nat. Reg.	State Reg.	Local Lmark
5BL.440	10466 Fourmile Canyon Drive	Sunset School	One-room Schoolhouse	N	N	Y
5BL.10446	6556 Fourmile Canyon Drive	Wall Street School	One-room Schoolhouse	N	Y	Y
5BL.11903	16 Alpine Gulch Road	(likely) Heath Residence	No Style	N	N	N
5BL.11904	84 Alpine Gulch Road	Corson Residence	Rustic	N	N	Y
5BL.11905	718 County Road 83	Bowker Residence	Pioneer Log	N	N	N
5BL.11906	962 County Road 83	Fletcher Residence	No Style	N	N	Y
5BL.11907	161 Crisman	Trimble Residence	Other: Evolved Rustic	N	N	N
5BL.11908	3682 Fourmile Canyon Drive	Swortz Residence	Classic Cottage	N	N	N
5BL.11909	4950 Fourmile Canyon Drive	Finleon Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	Y
5BL.11910	6112 Fourmile Canyon Drive	Hotchkiss Residence	Other: Central Hall form	N	N	N
5BL.11911	6122 Fourmile Canyon Drive	Harris Residence	No Style	N	N	N
5BL.11912	6148 Fourmile Canyon Drive	(possibly) Whitney Residence	Other: Evolved Rustic	N	N	N
5BL.11913	6266 Fourmile Canyon Drive	Phillips Residence	Late-19th and Early-20th Century American Movements	N	N	N
5BL.11914	7336 Fourmile Canyon Drive	Germaine Residence	Other: Evolved Rustic	N	N	N
5BL.11915	7850 Fourmile Canyon Drive	More Residence	Rustic	N	N	N
5BL.11916	13711 Gold Hill Road	Crimmins Ranch	Other: Geodesic Dome	N	N	N
5BL.11917	14050 Gold Hill Road	Lally Ranch	Rustic	N	N	Y
5BL.11918	17 Gold Run Road	Scottish-Colorado Mining & Smelting Company Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	Y
5BL.11919	84 Gold Run Road	Beckman Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	N
5BL.11920	173 Gold Run Road	Knott Residence	Neo-Victorian	N	N	N
5BL.11921	175 Gold Run Road	Snowden Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	Y
5BL.11922	204 Gold Run Road	Krogh Residence	Late Victorian/ Edwardian, Modern Movements	N	N	Y
5BL.11923	217 Gold Run Road	Clark Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	Y
5BL.11924	223 Gold Run Road	Wood Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	Y
5BL.11925	228 Gold Run Road	Cobb Residence	Other: Hall & Parlor form	N	N	Y
5BL.11926	363 Gold Run Road	Alderman Residence	Other: Central Hall form	N	N	Y
5BL.11927	864 Gold Run Road	(possibly) Ivers Phillips Residence	Other: Evolved Rustic	N	N	N
5BL.11928	1577 Gold Run Road	Fortune Dyke Gold Mining Property	No Style	N	N	Y
5BL.11929	350 Gold Run Street	(possibly) Patterson Residence	Rustic	N	N	N
5BL.11930	421 Gold Run Street	Unknown	Hipped-Roof Box	N	N	N
5BL.11931	351 Grove Street	Magor Residence	Rustic	N	N	N
5BL.11932	391 Grove Street	Unknown	Hipped-Roof Box	N	N	N
5BL.11933	420 Hill Street	Unknown	Late Victorian	N	N	N
5BL.11934	500 Hill Street	Johnson Residence	Other: Central Hall form	N	N	N
5BL.11935	560 Hill Street	Unknown	Pioneer Log	N	N	N

TABLE 4.2: PROPERTIES BY ADDRESS

Address	Site Num.	Historic Name	Style/ Type	Nat. Reg.	State Reg.	Local Lmark.
16 Alpine Gulch Road	5BL.11903	(likely) Heath Residence	No Style	N	N	N
84 Alpine Gulch Road	5BL.11904	Corson Residence	Rustic	N	N	Y
718 County Road 83	5BL.11905	Bowker Residence	Pioneer Log	N	N	N
962 County Road 83	5BL.11906	Fletcher Residence	No Style	N	N	Y
161 Crisman	5BL.11907	Trimble Residence	Other: Evolved Rustic	N	N	N
3682 Fourmile Canyon Drive	5BL.11908	Swortz Residence	Classic Cottage	N	N	N
4950 Fourmile Canyon Drive	5BL.11909	Finleon Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	Y
6112 Fourmile Canyon Drive	5BL.11910	Hotchkiss Residence	Other: Central Hall form	N	N	N
6122 Fourmile Canyon Drive	5BL.11911	Harris Residence	No Style	N	N	N
6148 Fourmile Canyon Drive	5BL.11912	(possibly) Whitney Residence	Other: Evolved Rustic	N	N	N
6266 Fourmile Canyon Drive	5BL.11913	Phillips Residence	Late-19th and Early-20th Century American Movements	N	N	N
6556 Fourmile Canyon Drive	5BL.10446	Wall Street School	One-room Schoolhouse	N	Y	Y
7336 Fourmile Canyon Drive	5BL.11914	Germaine Residence	Other: Evolved Rustic	N	N	N
7850 Fourmile Canyon Drive	5BL.11915	More Residence	Rustic	N	N	N
10466 Fourmile Canyon Drive	5BL.440	Sunset School	One-room Schoolhouse	N	N	Y
13711 Gold Hill Road	5BL.11916	Crimmins Ranch	Other: Geodesic Dome	N	N	N
14050 Gold Hill Road	5BL.11917	Lally Ranch	Rustic	N	N	Y
17 Gold Run Road	5BL.11918	Scottish-Colorado Mining & Smelting Company Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	Y
84 Gold Run Road	5BL.11919	Beckman Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	N
173 Gold Run Road	5BL.11920	Knott Residence	Neo-Victorian	N	N	N
175 Gold Run Road	5BL.11921	Snowden Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	Y
204 Gold Run Road	5BL.11922	Krogh Residence	Late Victorian/ Edwardian, Modern Movements	N	N	Y
217 Gold Run Road	5BL.11923	Clark Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	Y
223 Gold Run Road	5BL.11924	Wood Residence	Late Victorian	N	N	Y
228 Gold Run Road	5BL.11925	Cobb Residence	Other: Hall & Parlor form	N	N	Y
363 Gold Run Road	5BL.11926	Alderman Residence	Other: Central Hall form	N	N	Y
864 Gold Run Road	5BL.11927	(possibly) Ivers Phillips Residence	Other: Evolved Rustic	N	N	N
1577 Gold Run Road	5BL.11928	Fortune Dyke Gold Mining Property	No Style	N	N	Y
350 Gold Run Street	5BL.11929	(possibly) Patterson Residence	Rustic	N	N	N
421 Gold Run Street	5BL.11930	Unknown	Hipped-Roof Box	N	N	N
351 Grove Street	5BL.11931	Magor Residence	Rustic	N	N	N
391 Grove Street	5BL.11932	Unknown	Hipped-Roof Box	N	N	N
420 Hill Street	5BL.11933	Unknown	Late Victorian	N	N	N
500 Hill Street	5BL.11934	Johnson Residence	Other: Central Hall form	N	N	N
560 Hill Street	5BL.11935	Unknown	Pioneer Log	N	N	N

Section 5

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Nominate Eligible Properties

This project's intensive survey sought to document historic resources within the Fourmile Fire burn area. The resources found eligible to the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties and as Boulder County local landmarks tell an important story. Designating these homes will help the public better understand the evolution of this area from mining camps to homes for contemporary use and enjoyment.

Recommendation 2: Share the Findings

The completed survey forms and survey report should be made available to all residents in the survey area, making accommodations, as necessary, for homeowners without access to the Internet. The Fourmile Canyon survey area contained a surprising diversity of architectural styles and types, making this area a possible candidate for further interpretation such as a self-guided or cell phone-enabled driving tour. Finally, the description of the newly-identified vernacular expression Evolved Rustic and relevant photographs should be shared with the greater survey community throughout Colorado; such collaboration will allow professionals to determine whether this particular type of architecture, or similar homes, exist beyond this survey area.

Recommendation 3: Complete Additional Research

The story of Charles Caryl and his plans to develop Wallstreet as a utopian community represents an intriguing story. The survey-related research did not expand to a full study of this idealistic industrialist, especially within the fuller context of utopian communities elsewhere in the United States. If sufficient resources exist, such a topic would be appropriate for either a book or dissertation.

Notes

1. Christopher O'Brien. Oral History. (Boulder: Maria Rodgers Oral History Program), 2011. Available at http://oralhistory.boulderlibrary.org/iii_index.cfm?ohid=oh1730.
2. Historitecture is particularly thankful to Boulder County Parks and Open Space Historic Preservation Specialist Carol Beam for taking replacement photos for 420 Hill Street in Gold Hill. This work was completed on January 16, 2013, with the aid of a County four-wheel drive vehicle.
3. Resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places are automatically recognized in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties. This practice also was used when determining eligibility. In other words, if a resource was deemed eligible to the National Register, then it also was noted as State Register-eligible.
4. These time periods are based upon Eric Twitty's *Amendment: Metal Mining and Tourist Era Resources of Boulder County Multiple Property Listing* (2007).
5. Thomas J. Noel and Dan W. Corson. *Boulder County: An Illustrated History*. (Boulder: Heritage Media Corporation, 1999), 30.
6. In 1859 the site of the gold discovery was located in Nebraska Territory. Colorado Territory was established in 1861, with statehood granted to Colorado in 1876.
7. Silvia Pettem. *Red Rocks to Riches: Gold Mining in Boulder County Then and Now*. (Boulder: Stonehedge Books, 1980), 18.
8. According to author and long-time resident Mabel Montgomery, Gold Hill citizens buried a piano, an organ, books, and furniture. All of these items were retrieved after the fire.
9. Marti Anderson. *The Mining Camps: Salina & Summerville*. (Boulder: Junction House, 2005), 20.
10. Ibid., 8.
11. Pettem, 42.
12. Twitty, 114.
13. Pettem, 35.
14. Ibid., 93.
15. Margaret Banman. "Jim and Dee Bailey: Wallstreet and other tales," (*Focus Magazine*. 29 July 1979), 7. Census records did not indicate the exact date of Theda's birth, but she likely was born sometime in the late-1930s or 1940s.
16. Twitty, 136.
17. Charles Wendt. "Sunset Was Once a Bustling Tourist Community." (*Focus Magazine*. 19 July 1964), 23.
18. According to Twitty, Wallstreet miners and investors were to be given military ranks and were paid proportionately. Recruits received $2.00 per eight hour day. Privates earned $3.00 for semiskilled work. Sergeants were compensated $4.00 for skilled work. Lieutenants, who were professionals, received $6.00. Skilled captains were paid at a $10.00 rate and majors received $15.00 for acting as mining managers. Generals earned $25.00 and were company principals.
19. Adam Thomas. *Eldora Historical and Architectural Survey, 2007-08*. (Estes Park: Historitecture, LLC, 2008), 22.
20. Mabel G. Montgomery. *A Story of Gold Hill, Colorado: Seventy-Odd Years in the Heart of the Rockies*. (N.p.: N.p., 1930), 32.
21. Ibid., 10.
22. Insurance claims for the Fourmile Fire were estimated at $217 million. This figure was surpassed by the Hyde Park Fire and then the Waldo Canyon Fire, both in June 2012.
23. Douglas Young. Oral history. (Boulder: Maria Rodgers Oral History Program, 2011) Available at http://oralhistory.boulderlibrary.org/iii_index.cfm?ohid=oh1717
24. Ibid.
25. O'Brien oral history.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. Young oral history.
30. Ibid.
31. Ibid.

32. Erica Metzer. "After the fire, Fourmile owners now fear rising water," (*Boulder Daily Camera*, 3 September 2011).
33. Sherry Kenyon. Oral history. (Boulder: Maria Rodgers Oral History Program, 2011). Available at http://oralhistory.boulderlibrary.org/iii_index.cfm?ohid=oh1736.

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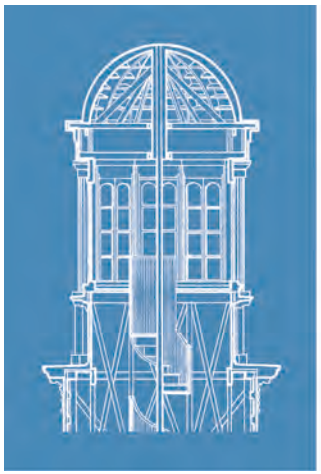
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