

The Story of South Park City

The idea was conceived in 1957 by Leon Snyder from Colorado Springs. He and other individuals organized the South Park Historical Foundation that year and purchased the area of Fairplay now called South Park City. "South Park City" was the name of the town from 1869 to 1874 prior to the name being changed to Fairplay by the legislature.

From 1957, mining and historic buildings from the county were moved to the site and added to the seven existing historical buildings. In addition to the structures, the families of Park County embraced the historic preservation idea and contributed roughly 40,000 items.

Currently there are 43 buildings and structures and over 60,000 artifacts that portray the economic and social aspects of 1860 to 1890's Boom-Town life in the mining towns. Refurbishing of the historic structures is ongoing.

South Park City is an accurate representation of one of these early communities in the late 1800s. Your visit will enhance your understanding of life in those rip-roaring days when life was risky, fortunes were made or lost overnight, and men and women of vision laid the ground work to Colorado's future.

On the right, Rache's Place, a bustling saloon, dancing and gambling house was originally located in Alma.

Below: Friends and Members of South Park City pose in period costumes at August's "Living History Day".



Become a Member and support our future programs & project development!

Become a Volunteer and be part of our progressive South Park City Family!



South Park City is 85 miles from Denver on Hwy. 285,
from Colorado Springs 85 miles on Hwy. 24,
from Breckenridge 23 miles on Hwy. 9,
from Buena Vista 35 miles on Hwy. 285.

INSIDE SOUTH PARK CITY

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Father Dyer Chapel | Star Livery |
| Smoke House | Stage Barn |
| South Park Brewery | Stage Coach Inn |
| Garo Cabin | Blacksmith Shop |
| Park County Court House | Diorama Building |
| Arrastra | Morgue/ Carpenter Shop |
| Assay Office | Summer Collection |
| Mining Tunnel and Display | Barber Shop |
| Gallows Frame | Dentist's Office |
| Head House | Covered Well |
| Burro Room | Ranger Station |
| Transportation Shed | Mayer Home |
| Wagon Barn | Doctor's Office |
| South Park City Depot | South Park Sentinel |
| Narrow Gauge Train | Simpkin's General Store |
| Caboose | Old Lodge Hall |
| Water Tower | Bank of Alma |
| Trapper's Cabin | Merriam Drug Store |
| Rost Barn | Summer Saloon |
| Homestead | Pioneer Home |
| Rache's Place | Company Store |

OPEN SEASONALLY

South Park City is open 7 days a week from 9:00 AM
May 15 through October 15

Admission: Nominal fee

Group and Senior Discounts- Friendly dogs are welcome

Address:

100- 4th Street, P.O.Box 634, Fairplay, CO 80440

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Explore

SOUTH PARK CITY

Fairplay, Colorado



An Authentic Restoration of a Colorado Mining Boom Town

719.836.2387

www.southparkcity.org



The narrow gauge locomotive was built in 1914 and has a tender, two adjoining box cars and a completely refurbished caboose.
Below: Wood and log cabins such as the Blacksmith Shop, the Stage Coach Inn, the Stage Barn, the Star Livery and a ramshackle Homestead. The buildings are filled with authentic period artifacts.



Many of the mid-19th Century hand cut log cabins contain period room settings from the daily life of South Park families. Equipment familiar to every pioneer housewife was used in the care and cleaning of family wardrobes.



Above: In front of the historic South Park Brewery building is an early 1800's ore crushing Arrastra.



The Drug Store features one of the most complete collections of 1800's remedies and medicines and includes a historic soda fountain. On the right is the bottle rack and pharmaceutical utensils used in the Golden Days.



Featured on the west side of the Museum's Main Street is Simpkin's General Store. Included on the premises is a former post office. Beside it is the South Park Sentinel building, featuring a newspaper printing office. Next is the Doctor's Office with an array of 19th Century surgical and medical instruments used by the early day physician. To its right is the house of a Colonel, who was also a buffalo hunter. The green building houses the Barber Shop and the Dentist Office.

Built originally in 1879, the School House (below with bell tower) was originally at Garo, now a ghost town nine miles east of Fairplay. The furniture and displays remind us how our forefathers were taught.



The "Living History Day" is held annually on the 2nd Saturday in August. Volunteers are dressed in period costumes and there are cowboys, gold prospectors, a saloon keeper, dance hall ladies, a doctor, a pharmacist, musicians, a trapper and artists. Goats to pet, a burro and horses are also on the premises. Spend a day of family fun at South Park City and learn about the history and early pioneer time of the 19th Century in the High Country.

