



Kiowa County Heritage Trails

A joint effort between:

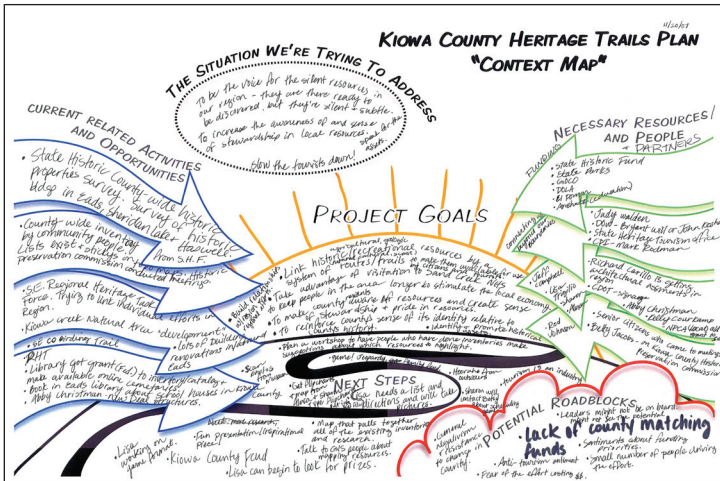
Kiowa County Historic Preservation Commission

and the

National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance
Program

April 2010 DRAFT

Purpose



Understanding context



Undiscovered resources in Kiowa County



figuring it out together

PROJECT PURPOSE

Kiowa County has many resources: cultural, scenic, historic, natural, and recreational. The Kiowa County Historic Preservation Commission recognized that many of these significant resources were hidden from the average visitor and county residents as well. In order to tell the stories of those resources and provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to experience these resources, a Working Group has formed to create a Kiowa County Heritage Trails Plan. This plan will identify significant resources in the county and suggest means for linking the resources through stories and interpretation and physically via driving routes and recreational resources.

PROJECT GOALS

- Link historic, recreational, agricultural, geologic, natural, and scenic resources in Kiowa County through a system of driving routes and recreational trails and to make them available for use by residents and tourists.
- Take advantage of visitation to Sand Creek NHS to keep people in the area longer and stimulate the local economy.
- Make county residents aware of resources and create a sense of stewardship and pride in county resources
- Reinforce County's sense of identity relative to the County's history.
- Identify and promote historical assets.
- Build relationships with region and regional efforts.

THE PROCESS

From the beginning of the process, the KCHPC looked to county residents in an effort to better understand what the existing resources are and where they are located. Through public meetings, targeted interviews, and considerable research of existing documentation and with the assistance of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and NPS Intermountain Regional Office GIS Division, a comprehensive map was created detailing resources in Kiowa County.

Community-Identified Resources



Three community meetings held in _____, April 2008, and October 2009 resulted in a comprehensive list of county resources. Community-identified resources appear as follows:

Ranching/Farming/Early Settlements/ Homesteading

- Bowyer – East Side of Nee Nosha (homestead)
- Dave Cline (Haswell) Before 1887
- January Ranch (Haswell)
- George Hadick Ranch (section 4 township 18 range 50) current Beechner residence
- Reinert (Farming and Ranching) (still standing)
- Al Winger – South of Glatatea 6 miles and west of Frazee
- Floyd Lambertson – NW of Arlington
- John & Minnie Walhouser W ½ 23-18-51 (homestead)
- A.R. Camp (homestead) east side of Nee Nosha by Lake Center school
- P.P. and Carrie Anderson (homestead)
- Raymond and Pansy Philpy (homestead)
- France Homestead west of Clyde Lane's
- Lambertson (homestead)
- Fred Lady (homestead) still standing (silo)
- Kline (homestead)
- Winger (homestead)
- Evans House (homestead)
- Amyx – just a home, still standing (Kim Barlow)
- Simmons – just a home
- Holly/SS Ranch line camp – on Sand Creek N. of Dawson Ranch
- Andrews place – tank and windmill still there (big berm of dirt) on Andrews Lake

- Davis Sheep Ranch - Stavely, Elda in Haswell
- Families (East Side): Frost-Elden's grand parents – no remains, Shadovitz (?) – no remains, Stonebreaker, Crum (superintendent of school's wife) in Towner cemetery – see book in library) – Lois Mc Cracken
- Fischer Homestead – Otto Albert Fischer homestead
- John Mays home
- Martha and John Burke homestead
- Parkini home
- George Eads house
- Burt Camp home
- Fred Ware home
- Fergus home
- Boone Best house (section 36 T18 R53)
- Norris Anderson House (1927)
- W.S. Durrett house
- Carl Rose house
- Ross Anderson homestead

Canals/Irrigation/Headgates

- Colt Canal (ditch) – Arlington?
- Switzer Canal & Reservoir – 9 miles north of May Valley Rd & 96
- Kicking Bird Canal (Nee Gronda)
- Ray Canal – on Sand Creek
- Chivington Canal – on Sand Creek
- Brandon Canal – on Sand Creek



Churches

- Crosses burned in Haswell in 1920's (in front of Methodist Church erected in 1913)(KKK)
- Played basketball in Methodist Church basement in 1903? (Before 1927) (Played there before gym was built)
- United Methodist Church – Haswell
- United Brethren/EUB Church – Arlington (now in the Arlington Chapel and Boys Ranch – La Junta)
- Brown Funeral Home was once EUB Church
- United Methodist Church – Towner
- Sheridan Lake – nondenominational
- Chivington Friends Church

Schools

- Prairie Center
- Prairie Queen (Cordon Berry owns land)
- Diston – 4 miles east
- Galatea (golf course) built to be 2-story, but when it was remodeled in 1931, they cut it down to one story
- Lake Center (east side of Nee Nosha) – see Betty's photos (and associated dugout)
- Lake View School – near Nee Gronda
- Chivington (falling down)
- Brandon (gone)
- Sheridan Lake (Kiowa Albright Center)
- Water Valley (Woelk Park)
- Arlington (Wyckoff), North of Arlington
- Meadowlea School – Dorret House (main floor) county road 6 M
- Hillcrest School – Arlington, county road 7
- Pleasant Hill – Towner (w/bus tragedy), also Stewart School
- Towner Grade and High School
- Soddy (Arlington) – west and south of Hillcrest
- Black Lake School – southwest of Eads
- 1 ¼ mile northeast Rieheart Place – Victory (see museum for list of school registrations from courthouse)
- 10 miles south of Haswell (Spady/Kline) – closed 1928, no remains. 4 miles south of Spanish style building
- South of Towner – 7 miles – section 36 (Butler), made into house (Paul Wilson then Butler)
- Fine Flat School

Trails

- Benny Fisher's land – Smokey Hill Trail through Lily Fox's, Jackson, Fisher property halfway to Lindhomes (south fork) (Barlo-Sanderson)
- Stage coach stop – north of Chivington
- Stage coach stop – 2-3 miles west of Abrams
- Kansas/Colorado Boulevard – from Kansas into Eads, not completed
- Chisholm Trail
- Montana Trail – XTN Goodnight – Loving
- Well #2 Barlow, Sanderson Stage

Railroads

- Arlington Stockyard – shipping yard for railroad
- Roundhouse – Chivington
- Spur from Kit Carson to Las Animas (Arkansas Valley RR, K Pacific RR)
- Turn table on old railroad east of salt lake
- Haswell Stockyard – had water, could hold train car of cattle – built 1925 or 1926. Torn down?
- Haswell Coal Chute – replaced by mechanical chute in Eads in 1934

Towner Bus Tragedy

- August Reinert House was built before 1916 (when they came – Hess, owner). House is more than 100 years old. Will Lieker owns. 1/2 mile south and 1 mile straight west of bus tragedy. Elden's Grandfather
- Marker where bus stalled (Towner)
- Andy Reinert – where they took the kids – 1/2 mile south, 1/2 mile East (see map at museum) Built in 1925.

Cemeteries

- Arlington – 1890 oldest tombstone (1916 official plaque)
- Galatea – 1917 founded
- Haswell
- South of Chivington (ask Adamsons – one north of Chivington where someone buried a baby)
- Jackson property
- “France” Cemetery
- North of Towner – in Co. – Hert Burnett. East of Schmitz? Near Whitewoman Creek.
- Howell Cemetery – (George Crow's wife's family) – 9 miles west of Eads, turn north on Prairie Queen Road, go 1 1/2 mile and 1 or 2 miles east.
- Brandon
- Towner
- Sheridan Lake
- Eads
- Queens Beach (Betsy B.)

Military

- WWII air base (auxiliary) near Adobe Creek
- Cold War Radar Site – South of Haswell

Commerce/Town Building

- Colokan (see p. 42 Kiowa County History Book Volume 2) East of Towner, no remains
- France/ Kirschman House (oldest house in Eads, 1885) **
- Dayton/New Dayton (West of Lily Fox's)
- Basil/Buck (south of Neil Myers)
- Strahans Café – Gambles – 1st National Bank (added the back half to the 1st National Bank building (white building) per Ruby Wissel) Building on 13th & Maine? **
- Haswell
 - Nation's Smallest Jail
 - United Methodist Church





- Post Office Building
- Hotel
- Old Fire House
- Texaco Station
- Sunday's Garage was located at present-day Stop n Shop – Howard Sunday built the building
- Present Day Theater – Givan's Garage – Star Garage**
- Pool hall was always pool hall **
- Kiowa Press Building was a pool hall and was also a bakery
- Teresa's Building was once the Whitelaw Building**
- Penny Wierich's home was a hospital – Sarah Eder
- Remodeled the Post Office after WWII – the entrance door was moved
- Power and light building – Eads
- Duane Wissel house – 1908
- John Phillip House
- Ruthanna Jacobs house more than 100 years old
- Bentley Building (Betsy B.)
- Town Hall (1937 – WPA) and Masons
- Bransgrove Building
- A.T. Cherry House
- Dentist Building / Old Theatre
- Museum (old State Bank)
- Larry Watts Building
- Kelly Hardware
- Jackson Property (Betsy B.)
- Courthouse – 1908 and now new Courthouse there 1955
- Foster Lumber Yard (Betsy B.)
- Goff Hotel – 1889
- Miller Hardware – 1955
- Commercial Hotel (not standing)
- Home Oil Building – 1950
- First Coop Building
- Fairgrounds Stadium
- Weisbrod Hospital – WPA 1930's
- Rialto Hotel – 1918?
- First National Bank
- Sweetwater Store and Post Office

Springs

- Arlington Springs (Mustang Creek and Sand Arroyo junction)
- Kiowa Spring (Goff Spring)



During a public meeting, Kiowa County residents acknowledged that given the size of the county and the large number of heritage resources, not all of the resources are going to be able to be connected via recreational trails and/or driving routes. Therefore, meeting attendees came up with a list of criteria (see graphic above) by which to measure the list of resources and select priorities for connection.

- Camp Amache
- Bent's Old Fort
- Santa Fe Trail

Kiowa County Heritage Trails can certainly fit within the context of the stories that the larger tourism effort aims to tell. Kiowa County's challenge will be to communicate to national, international, regional, and local markets that there are a cluster of heritage resources in Kiowa County to visit and to tell a compelling story about these resources.

In addition, the working group has identified several specific areas of interest in Kiowa County that should be prioritized as "nodes" along a driving route or recreational trail. These are:

Efforts should be made to create opportunities for visitors who are coming to the county's larger attractions to experience more of Kiowa County's heritage when they are there. Because of the county's size and distance between resources, most paths will be driving routes, but recreational trails can be considered in the areas around some of the larger resources.

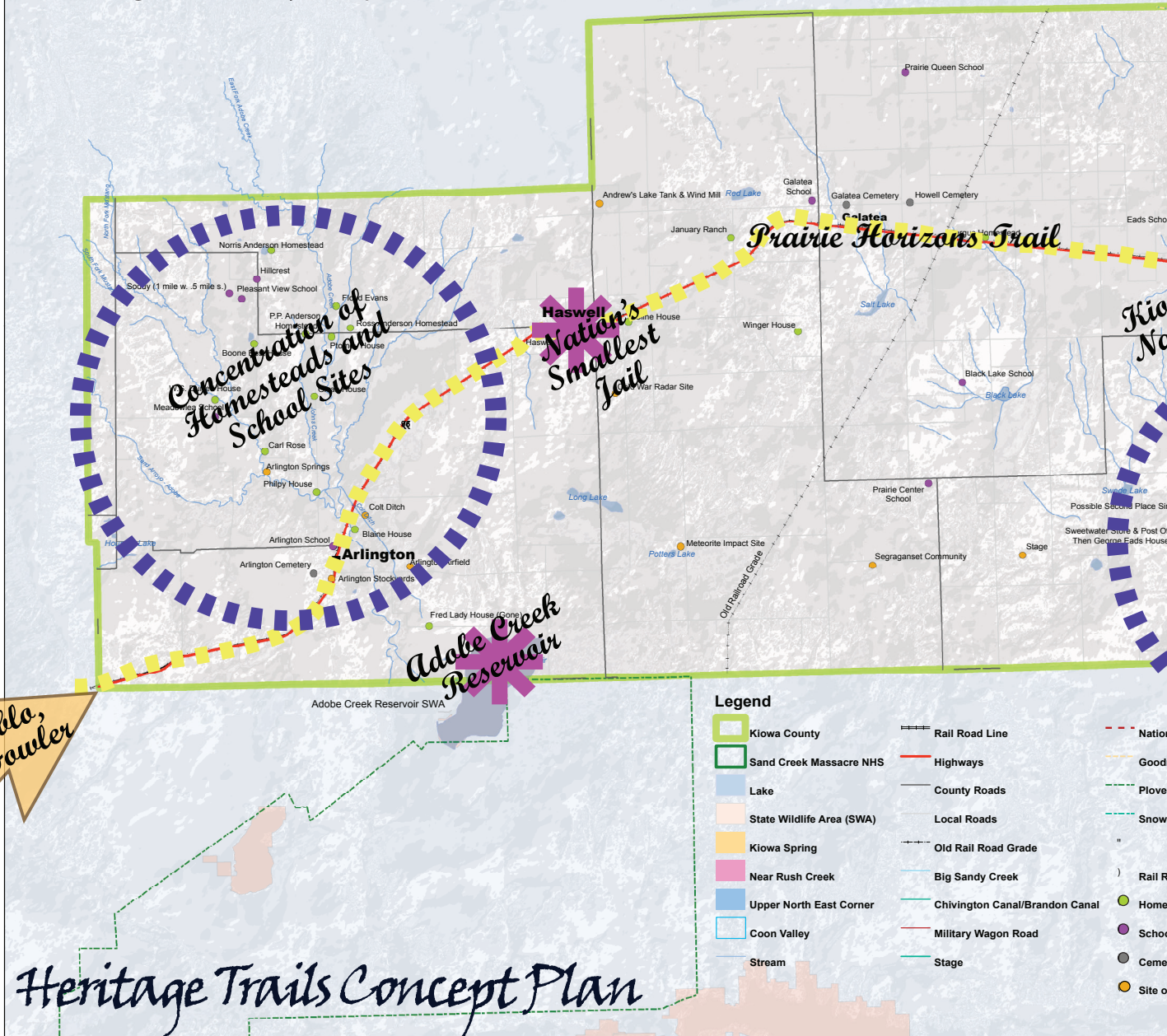
- Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
- Kiowa Creek Natural Area (Eads)
- Towner Bus Tragedy related sites
- Nation's Smallest Jail (Haswell)
- Woelk Museum (Sheridan Lake)
- Adobe Creek
- Great Plains Reservoirs

The Southeast Colorado Regional Heritage Tourism group (SECORHT) had identified 6 regional historic assets as priorities for promotion and connection in southeast Colorado. These are:

- Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
- Boggsville
- Comanche National Grasslands

Kiowa County Colorado

Though the Working Group and community residents have identified and mapped many resources and the county, there are significant areas of interest that should be the focus and starting point of the heritage trails plan. These are shown as purple asterisks. Blue circles represent areas of concentration of resources or visitors. All efforts will be made to build upon the larger regional tourism effort while showcasing Kiowa County's unique resources.



From Limon, Carson

From Cheyenne Wells, Burlington

From Eads Creek Cultural Area

Sand Creek Massacre N.H.S.

Week Museum

From Tribune

Great Plains Reservoirs

Towner Bus Tragedy Sites

From Lamar

From Granada / Camp Amache

From Holly

