



**Fremont County Colorado
December 1, 2007
Amendments to Nomination**

A: Community Project – 100 year Celebration of the Antiquities Act of 1906 in 2006.

A major event took place in Fremont County on September 30, 2006 bringing together 130 years of preservation of information significant on an international scale and partnering the cities of Cañon City and Florence, the BLM, and several local museums. Wide spread advertisement promoted the rich heritage tourism of our community in this celebration of a culmination of preservation work that took place over a 130 year time span resulting in a fascinating story of perseverance during periods of hardship. It is the story of the significant paleontology resources and pioneer spirit present in Fremont County. The recognition of the Antiquities Act celebrated a story that began during the Civil War where Marshall Felch met Amanda Colburn and later married. Amanda was a civil war nurse who served in most of the major civil war battles in a celebrated career of her own (first women to be given a war pension after the war). They later settled in Fremont County where Marshall became one of the most important paleontology excavators ever. In fact, the largest single dinosaur collection in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum is from specimens collected by Marshall Felch in Fremont County. The complete story of this remarkable family is available on the following website: www.handsontheland.org/felch/home.htm.

There were 8 separate events held in Fremont County in the following locations:

- Marsh Felch Dinosaur Quarry Tours – Four tours provided a total attendance of 350.
- Skyline Drive Dinosaur Trackway Tours – ongoing continuous tours throughout the day with an estimated 250 total attendance.
- Dinosaur Depot provided ongoing free tours and presentations at the facility with an estimated 500 attending.
- The Museum of Colorado Prisons provided free tours throughout the day and four additional guided tours of the downtown area and the Greenwood Pioneer Cemetery with a total attendance of 500.
- The Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center provided hourly tours of the facility with a total attendance estimated at 350.
- Tom Munch developed a historic repertoire of music representing key time periods from 1834 to 1902 in the life of Marshall and Amanda Felch and provided a free open air concert in Cara Fisher Square with an estimated attendance of 250.
- The day was concluded with a special dinner in a historic downtown restaurant with several key individuals recognized for their historic contributions.

The Antiquities Act Event was very inspirational to the local community. Several follow up programs and events followed shortly. Among those were the

- Fremont County Heritage Days held June 1-3, 2007 with significant visitation from around the country and numerous individual events around Canon City and Florence
- Fremont County Days held March 30, 2007 for the purpose of acquainting local citizens with the fine local museums in our area.
- The creation of a training program for our tourist cabin greeters
- A program to bring young people and the elderly to learn together about the various quality historic resources in our county.

All of these combined efforts are making a significant change to the economic vitality of Fremont County. An example of this is the 20% increase in the amount of visitation to the Royal Gorge Railway in the last year. These 108,000 visitors made significant contributions to the economic health of our community while learning about the fascinating history of our community and the Royal Gorge Bridge and railway.

Category 2: Protecting Historic Resources

Fremont County has selected the community-wide historic preservation plan that is being implemented as its primary emphasis. Fremont County completed a major master plan in 2001 (available on line at <http://www.fremontco.com/planningandzoning/masterplan.shtml>) with historic preservation and heritage tourism exerts described below.

Preserve the unique non-renewable natural areas, historic, paleontology and archeology sites, and natural landmarks. (from the master plan).

The following sections specific references to historic preservation and heritage tourism

- C5: Encourage the preservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural amenities of the County...
- C7: Recognize the importance of tourism and recreation and encourage the continuation and expansion of these industries.
- H4: Promote preservation of historic sites and archeologically significant sites.
- H4.1: Coordinate with the historic preservation efforts of the Cañon City Mainstreet U.S.A. organization, including generation of a city Historic Preservation Ordinance and consider conducting a countywide historic resource inventory through this partnership.
- H4.3: Protect significant historical or archeological sites from development through the Planned Unit Development process.
- J4. Partner with federal agencies, the Colorado Historical Society, and local cultural resource protection organizations to protect significant cultural and archeological resources.

In support of those goals, objectives, and strategies, Fremont County has:

- Re-decked and preserved the Adelaide Bridge in Phantom Canyon, a multi-span curved trestle bridge with a steel deck girder built in 1892, in spite of recommendations to remove it. This bridge now has a pull off, trail head, interpretive signage, and is the subject of paintings.
- Preservation of the Portland Bridge near the Holcim Limestone Mine in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation (in progress). This bridge was originally constructed in 1907 and included on the national historic register.
- Preserved the original character of the Shelf Road located on the Gold Belt Byway in spite of pressure to pave it.
- Preserved Tunnel Number 1 along Phantom Canyon Road as a tunnel although recommendations were being made to remove the top because of water seepage.
- Donated significant historic documents to the local history center.
- Participating as a principal player on the Gold Belt Byway Association which works increase the historical awareness of the Byway and many other worthwhile goals.
- Work in close cooperation with both the Fremont Custer Historic Society and the Colorado State Historic Preservation office on preservation of historic resources.
- Works in close cooperation with the Royal Gorge Railway, the BLM, the Royal Gorge and others in relation to heritage tourism.
- Supported all other governmental entities in various efforts and events. A good example is Commissioner Ed Norden representing Governor Peabody in the 2007 Heritage Days Celebration in Canon City.
- Resolved to create a volunteer board described in attachment 12 of the application for the purpose of furthering goals related historic preservation and heritage tourism in the county.
- Identified the need for a historic conservation fund within the master plan.

