

Reynold's Cabin (not open to the public)

This home from 1873 is the oldest structure in the park. A family with three little girls lived here before the Pearce family acquired it. Today, it is used for special events and public programs.

Outhouse

This outhouse, tucked around back and out of sight, is a two-seater. Every home needed one. In place of toilet paper, corncobs and newspapers were used along with the ever-popular Sears and Roebuck catalog.

Root Cellar

Welcome to the refrigerator and frontier storeroom. It also functioned as the first basic shelter for many a miner and homesteader until they built a more permanent structure. After homesteaders moved out of their dugouts they were used to store food stuffs and other supplies.

Pearce/Helps Cabin

James Helps built this cabin in 1878 and called it home before the Pearce family bought and moved it onto their growing homestead. Like Tom Pearce, Helps came to Colorado and worked in the nearby gold mines until he drilled into an unexploded stick of dynamite.

Smokehouse (not open to the public)

Without a refrigerator, fresh meat quickly spoiled and was wasted. Meat was preserved by drying and smoking over a fire. This red shed is a replica smokehouse. It is currently used as a workshop.

Heirloom Gardens

Family gardens like these were essential for growing enough food to live on throughout the year. Any extra produce was taken into town where it was sold or traded for other necessities like coffee and sugar.

Seeds were considered a valuable possession to be passed along to succeeding generations. They were harvested one year, saved through the winter, and planted in the spring.



Hay Barn & Stage

Structures like this were built for drying hay—the stuff draft animals like horses and oxen eat. When drying hay in an enclosed barn, it creates a lot of dust that presents an extreme fire hazard. An open drying barn reduces this risk and prevents many barns from burning to the ground.

Blacksmith Shop

A blacksmith was a welcome addition in any new community. An expert metal worker, he created countless tools, household items, iron parts and implements that were necessary for life in the west. Horseshoeing accounted for only a small portion of their daily routine.

Corral & Barn

This type of corral was used to gentle and break-in horses. Horses were first urged to walk around the circle. Next, a blanket was placed on its back, and finally a saddle was added. When a horse became accustomed to a saddle, the horse was ready for riders.

Chicken Coop

People moving west packed chickens along with all of their other necessities. Chickens are the perfect multi-purpose animals. Not only were they raised for their eggs and meat, their feathers were used for bedding while their manure made a great fertilizer.

Notice the black and white speckled chickens. They are Dominiques—one of the oldest American breeds.

Bee Yard

How to act around bees: Be calm, gentle, and friendly

The first bee colony was brought to Colorado by ox cart in 1862. Once established, the honey they produced was sold to miners in Central City for one dollar a pound—a sweet delicacy for sure—equal to about twenty-five dollars at today's prices! By 1901, the Denver Times reported that Colorado honey is "... the purest and best honey in the world."

Guy Hill Schoolhouse

This 1876 one-room schoolhouse was originally located in Golden Gate Canyon, where it served the needs of many families until 1951. Grades one through eight spent many hours here learning to read, write, and crunch numbers.

Start Here

Please feel free to wander off the path and explore.



**CLEAR CREEK
HISTORY PARK**

walking guide



Right: Members of the Pearce family in front of the Pearce/Helps Cabin. Photo courtesy of C Lazy Three Press

Below right: Ray and Jack Pearce, c. 1930. Photo courtesy of Pearce family



Below: Guy Hill Schoolhouse, graduating class, about 1910

Corner below: In spite of long hard days, people found time to enjoy themselves

Below right: Horses were the settlers' best friend. Photos courtesy of C Lazy Three Press



We had hardships and everything, but we enjoyed our lives



LOCATED AT THE MOUTH OF CLEAR CREEK CANYON AS A GATEWAY TO THE MINES,

Golden quickly became a government and trade center. Golden's coal mines, railroads, brickworks, smelters, and university all played a central role in the development of Colorado and the West. This place became home to those in search of a better life for themselves.

Many of the structures you'll see today were once part of the 1878 Pearce Homestead, which was located in Golden Gate Canyon. These buildings were in continual use on the Pearce family ranch until the 1970s before they were relocated here.

Like many before him, Thomas Pearce Sr. came to Colorado to work in the gold and silver mines in Central City and Black Hawk. After he arrived in 1878, Pearce homesteaded a parcel of land between Central City and Golden. Pearce was a busy man—when he wasn't working in the mines he was farming and ranching to supplement his income.

At Clear Creek History Park, we invite you to see how early settlers worked and played in the late 1800s. Thank you for stopping in to visit, and we hope to see you again soon.

Why not visit the Astor House Museum too? When it was built in 1867, it was known as the finest hotel west of the Mississippi. Do you want to keep one foot in the frontier?

Ask how you can become a member.



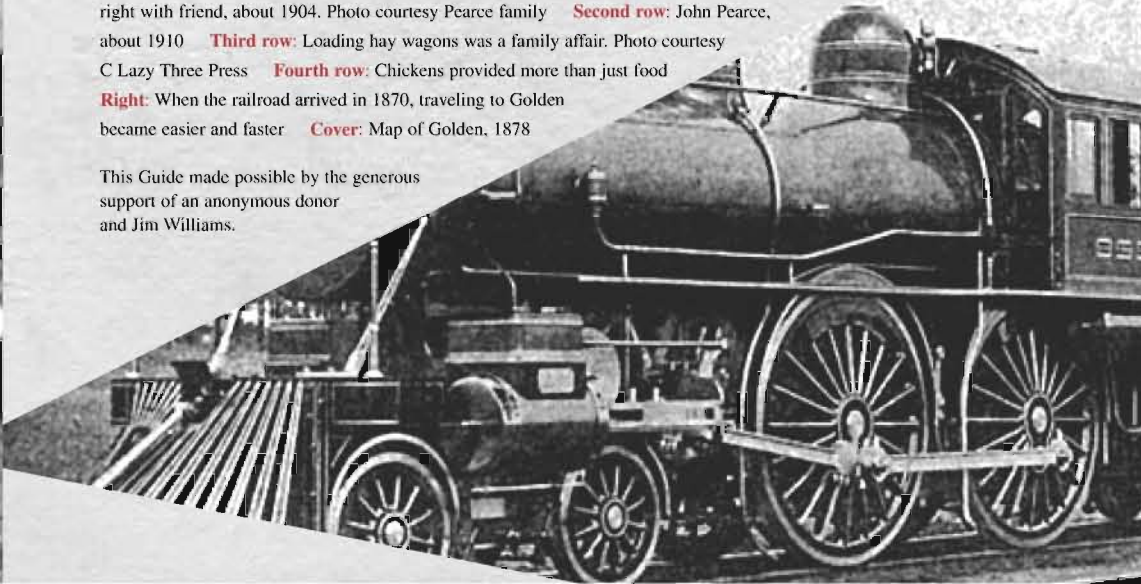
You'll find us at the corner of 11th and Arapahoe Streets in Golden

phone: 303.278.3557

GoldenHistoryMuseums.org

Top left: Gold miner panning for gold in Clear Creek **Top right:** Henrietta Pearce, right with friend, about 1904. Photo courtesy Pearce family **Second row:** John Pearce, about 1910 **Third row:** Loading hay wagons was a family affair. Photo courtesy C Lazy Three Press **Fourth row:** Chickens provided more than just food **Right:** When the railroad arrived in 1870, traveling to Golden became easier and faster **Cover:** Map of Golden, 1878

This Guide made possible by the generous support of an anonymous donor and Jim Williams.



CLEAR CREEK HISTORY PARK

walking guide

WELCOME TO THE FRONTIER

In 1859, when gold was discovered in Clear Creek, it wasn't long before thousands of people poured into this area with hopes of striking it rich. When prospecting didn't pan out, the disillusioned returned to the east or looked for other ways to earn a living.

