Dear Fellow Residents and Visitors:

In 2002, at the suggestion of some Golden residents and elected officials, the Historic Preservation Board, a group of citizen volunteers appointed by the City Council, initiated a proactive effort to aid in the preservation of historic structures and vistas of the city. Patterned after the state-wide “Most Endangered Places List” of Colorado Preservation, Inc., the Endangered Sites List is designed to identify and help save Golden’s threatened historic places.

Some of Golden’s historic places are experiencing ever-increasing danger due to pressures from development and deterioration. In order to bring attention to those places not protected by historic designation, and to encourage greater preservation efforts, Golden’s Historic Preservation Board will annually identify the city’s most endangered landmarks and landscapes. Starting with nominations from interested citizens and community organizations, the identification process ranks Golden’s endangered historic treasures. The ranking takes account of the historic significance of the nominated sites, their historic integrity, the degree to which the sites are threatened, whether the owners have the capability and interest to support preservation, and the likelihood that designation as an endangered site would yield additional preservation efforts.

Altogether, 19 sites were nominated by Golden citizens this year. These 19 sites were evaluated by the Board, who chose the final sites for the 2004 Endangered Sites List.

All of the sites selected for 2004 reflect the exceptional role the environment has played in the history of Golden. People came here, settled here, and stayed here because of Golden’s proximity to America’s most majestic mountains. Golden enjoyed expansive vistas of the foothills and was the stepping off place for many adventures into the rugged Rocky Mountains. In the old days, Golden was the closest place where people could experience these...
The remaining Barn from the State Industrial School (SIS) for Boys is the sole survivor of at one time many masonry block buildings that supported the famed agricultural program. This building is one of the oldest and among the few remaining structures of the correctional campus and holds a unique place in history and architectural design of this area. This barn has great historical significance to both Golden and Colorado.

Downtown Golden is the original and oldest part of the City and is one of the oldest permanently settled places in Colorado. The downtown area along Washington Street is Golden’s stage for showing off its rich cultural past. The downtown area is filled with historic structures including several significant architectural styles and a number of different methods of historical craftsmanship.

The East Street Barn/Stable is a unique and charming building with historical significance that is sometimes overlooked. Originally used as a barn and stable, this building is a rustic reminder of Golden’s rural and agrarian past and an architectural landmark with its prominent location on the hilltop rising above the town center.

These three sites stand out among the other nominees as places that helped to define and continue to remind us of our environmental heritage. All three are endangered and deserve continued vigilance lest they be lost to the ravages of development and decay. If they receive care and attention, they can all be preserved.

Angela Lafferty
Chairperson
Historic Preservation Board

List in 2004:
n its earliest years of permanent use, the present Lookout Mountain Youth Corrections campus of which this barn is a part served as the Colorado University Schools campus (originally established in 1869). The Colorado state government converted the campus into the State Industrial School (SIS) for Boys in early 1881 to be the main correctional facility for Colorado youth offenders. Three barns and some wooden sheds were constructed at the turn of the century to help support a prosperous and prominent agricultural program started at the SIS. The first barn, the Dairy Barn, was constructed in 1912; the Horse Barn, to the east, was built in 1915. The listed barn, the Blacksmith Shop, was built to the north in 1917. Over time, virtually all the buildings from the agricultural program have been destroyed, with the Dairy and Horse barns torn down on Dec 29, 2003. That makes the blacksmith barn the sole survivor of the once-famed and award-winning program of this Colorado corrections facility. It is also the only remaining blacksmith shop of the many that served Golden commercially and on this campus, all others having been destroyed over 50 years ago. It also represents one of the oldest and among the few remaining historic structures of this historic correctional campus. This building holds a rather unique place in the design history of this area. It is one of the earliest designed for automotive use. It is also one of the few area buildings made of masonry blocks and built by the boys staying at the facility.
On June 12, 1859, the arrival of the Boston Company was one of the most significant events in the history of Golden. Upon reaching the Golden area, these eastern businessmen recognized the site’s strategic location at the base of the mountains and they decided to stay and establish a town. Within days, a permanent association was organized to form the town of Golden City. The association selected 1,280 acres for the townsite, most of which was located on the south side of Clear Creek. That same month, F.W. Beebee platted 320 acres, divided into lots and blocks. William A. H. Loveland advanced the money to record the townsite and in return he gained ownership of all of the town’s unclaimed land. Unlike some of Jefferson County’s earliest towns, Golden did not cease to exist after a few years, but developed into one of the most important communities on Colorado’s front range. The town was incorporated in January of 1871 and the name was officially changed from Golden City to Golden the following year. Washington Avenue is Golden’s historic main street with the city’s earliest commercial buildings. Several of the historic buildings date to territorial days, but most date to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. They are predominantly brick vernacular structures and range in height from one to two and a half stories.
When one mentions the “East Street Barn/Stable,” many Goldenites nostalgically recall this rare reminder of Golden’s rural and agrarian past. This barn/stable was built between 1906 and 1911 and was attached to the Baxter residence at 423 16th Street. The house faces north on 16th Street, while the Barn faces west on East Street. The structure clearly served as a barn originally, as evidenced by the design, which included a haymow above. Old-timers also claim the barn served as a stable. It was later converted into a garage or a coach house as evidenced by the off-center door that is large enough to admit a wagon or automobile. This barn/stable represents one of the few remaining examples of Golden’s agricultural history. It is also an architectural landmark with its rustic design and prominent location on the hilltop rising above the town center. Rustic remembrances like the East Street Barn/Stable are scarce and are disappearing at an alarming rate in this region.
Historic Preservation in Golden

The Golden Historic Preservation Board is a seven-member advisory board appointed by City Council. The HPB is commissioned to administer the City’s historic preservation ordinance that sets standards for designation of historic sites and districts, outlines the designation procedure, and sets criteria for certificate of appropriateness reviews. The HPB assists the City and its residents in seeking grants and preservation tax credits that are possible because of Golden’s status as a Certified Local Government in Colorado. Additional activities for HPB include museum oversight and liaison with other boards and organizations to promote historic preservation activities.

The Board has identified several preservation activities to be emphasized for Golden in the next ten years as a part of the City’s Comprehensive Plan. Those activities to educate and inform citizens about the importance of preserving cultural heritage; protect and preserve Golden’s historical buildings, sites, districts, and traditions; and protect and preserve Golden’s historic and cultural artifacts. Recent projects for HPB include administration of a Cultural Resource Grant to complete the inventory of historic properties within the City, establishment of a new historic district, and development of a policy for financial support of city-owned museums.

For a small city, Golden has a good record of historic preservation. In the area there are now more than 30 locally designated historic sites, more than 30 sites on the National Register of Historic Places, more than 40 on the State Register of Historic Places, one National Historic District (12th Street), and one Local Historic District (8th and 9th Street). More than 400 sites older than 50 years have been surveyed.
Golden’s Endangered Sites List 2004