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### **Historic 17 Mile House Farm Park receives facelift** *Arapahoe County receives \$175,007 grant for restoration of 150-year-old property*

**Centennial, CO** --- Arapahoe County's historic 17 Mile House Farm Park will receive a facelift thanks to a \$175,007 grant for building rehabilitation and restoration from the State Historical Fund. The County is matching the grant with \$112,603 of Open Space funds.

The restoration includes stabilizing the existing first and second level floors, updating plumbing and electrical, adding period-specific fixtures including a kitchen, doors and coverings and adding an ADA accessible bathroom. The ultimate goal is to create a period-specific house museum complete with exhibits and educational displays for the public to enjoy.

The 17 Mile House has had a long and rich history with great historic significance. When the gold rush of 1859-1860 resulted in the permanent large-scale settlement of Colorado, six way stations emerged along the east bank of the Cherry Creek to accommodate travelers coming to Denver. These stations or mile houses were originally located every two to three miles along the Cherokee/Smoky Hill Trails, all leading to and named based on the distance to the intersection of Colfax Avenue and Broadway in Denver. Upon arrival, travelers could get meals, spend the night, rest their animals, and have minor repairs made to their coaches or wagons. Out of the original six miles houses, only 17 Mile House and 4 Mile House exist in their entirety today.

"The site has undergone extensive work during the past few years including the structural stabilization of the house and barn, exterior paint and a new roof on the house," said Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, who serves as Board Chairman.

Fortunately, the 17 Mile House and barn have not changed substantially in over a century. They exist today because concerned citizens waged a 20-year battle to protect the site from modern development. In 2001, Arapahoe County was one of nine public and private agencies to join forces to preserve this important part of Colorado history, while at the same time provide an open space for people to enjoy.

The \$112,603 monetary match comes from Arapahoe County Open Space funds. The County's Open Space program has in just five years protected more than 15,000 acres of land that preserve natural habitats and wildlife corridors, protect sweeping vistas and provide outdoor recreation for residents of all ages, thanks to the voters who generously approved the Arapahoe County Open Space Sales and Use tax in 2003.

Tours are available by appointment. For more information, call Glen Poole, Arapahoe County Open Space, at 720-874-6826.

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To download photos click on the link: [ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/17Mile\\_House/](ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/17Mile_House/)

***17 Mile\_House\_AL:*** Arapahoe County receives \$175,007 grant for the restoration of 17 Mile House Farm Park

***17 Mile\_BarnFlowers\_AL:*** Arapahoe County's 17 Mile House Farm Park will undergo further renovation in preparation for public enjoyment.

***Our House 1941:*** Arapahoe County's 17 Mile House Farm Park as it looked in 1941.