



10 SPRUCE GROVE CAMPGROUND (MP 28): Starting at the campground, trails lead to nearby mine tailings on the Pike National Forest where people have discovered good specimens of smoky topaz (above), while others have found “color” panning for gold. Trails also lead into the Lost Creek Wilderness and National Landmark Area for the more adventurous.



11 TARRYALL (MP 29.3) was originally named Puma City by gold prospectors who arrived in 1895. Tarryall School (above) was built in 1922 to provide educational opportunities for area children. Much work has been accomplished to rehabilitate the schoolhouse, two outhouses, and the “teacherage” which served as the teacher’s home during the school year. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the school complex now belongs to Park County and serves as a local gathering place and interpretive site for visitors. Stop by the Ute Trail River Ranch (MP 21) to arrange a tour of the school.

THIS 42-MILE FOREST SERVICE HIGHWAY personifies the South Park Heritage Resource Area. Archaeological resources in the valley span Colorado’s prehistoric sequence and reveal insights into Paleo-Indian mountain traditions. Artifacts and peeled pine trees attest to the presence of 18th- and 19th-Century Mountain Ute encampments. Later, Euro-American settlers established ranches, mined for gold, founded towns and educated their children. Their legacies are portrayed in many weathered buildings, cemetery epitaphs, and on the agrarian landscape itself.



Much of the Tarryall Valley is privately owned. Visitors are encouraged to take pictures but should ask permission before entering buildings or crossing fences. To avoid trespassing, please look for these symbols next to each site described in the brochure:

 Please do not enter - View only from the road

 Come and visit!

Trailing Down the Tarryall HERITAGE TOUR



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Park County's Tarryall Valley



1 CENTERVILLE RANGER STATION SITE (MP 6.5): Between 1908 and 1910, Ranger Edwin D. Hepburn and his family lived at a Forest Service ranger station here, remnants of which can be seen across the road from this interpretive site.



2 BORDENVILLE SITE (MP 11.0): Bordenville town site was settled by Olney Borden in 1879. It soon sprouted barns, a sawmill, post office, and a store. The 1885 census listed Olney as owning 2,200 acres and 100 acres of hay. This site may be viewed only from the road.



3 BORDENVILLE CEMETERY (MP 11.4): Gravestone epitaphs reveal the triumphs and tragedies of families who lived and died in the valley. This windswept hill overlooks the rich land they settled, and Observatory Rock.



4 TARRYALL RESERVOIR COMPLEX (MP 15.8): This 1929 building complex housed workers who originally built Tarryall Reservoir as a State fish hatchery. Today it serves as a maintenance facility for the reservoir. The collection of buildings at this site is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The reservoir covers the old Bonis Ranch and is now a popular facility for fishing and camping. After a stop at the reservoir, drive down to the roadside exhibit below the spillway to learn about recent efforts to restore habitat in Tarryall Creek.



5 DERBY CABIN (MP 18.7): This cabin is an excellent example of late 19th Century log architecture. Visitors from the past would find very few changes from the time that William Derby and his family occupied it and ran cattle on the Terhune Ranch across the road. Owned by the U.S. Forest Service, travelers are invited to stop for a closer look. The Derby Cabin is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and contributes to the proposed Tarryall Valley Rural Historic Landscape District.



6 UTE CREEK TRAILHEAD (MP 20.3): Bands of Mountain Ute Indians regularly utilized the natural resources of this lush valley and camped near the stream. Hike along the Ute Creek Trail into Lost Creek Wilderness Area to encounter some of the same plants they gathered and animals they hunted for hundreds of years.



7 UTE TRAIL RIVER RANCH (MP 21): This property personifies early 20th-Century guest ranches in Colorado. Guest houses were added in the 1930s when the owners needed to supplement their farm income. Accommodations were expanded in the 1950s when Charles and Lillian Robbins relocated and rehabilitated old log cabins that still host visitors today. With nearly two miles of private river, the ranch offers quietude and activities such as hiking, bird watching, and fly-fishing. The property is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and contributes to the proposed Tarryall Valley Rural Historic Landscape District.



8 WILLIAMS RANCH (MP 25): Park by the old homestead to tour a typical early ranch complex that included a sawmill, root cellar, and several ranch structures. This historic property now serves as a model for sustainable, high altitude farming. About 2.5 acres are cultivated each year for a combination of produce and cover crops. Visitors can buy fresh produce here each weekend starting in mid-July. The ranch is also leased for public fly-fishing, by reservation only, at www.southparktrout.com.



9 HAY CREEK OVERLOOK (MP 26): This roadside pullout overlooks one of the most scenic hay meadows in Colorado. The wild and craggy mountains across the valley are part of the Lost Creek National Landmark Area. Designated by Congress in 1966, this 15,120-acre natural area is a labyrinth of spires, pinnacles and canyons. Great views and wilderness hiking access are provided one mile down the road at Twin Eagles Trailhead. Hay Creek Ranch is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and contributes to the proposed Tarryall Valley Rural Historic Landscape District.