

Golden State Heritage Site Development Plan

The Ghost of a Mining Settlement



September 2008

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department





The air of ruin and abandonment at Golden is the essence of all great ghost towns (above is the remnant of the Ruble House, home of the founding family, OPRD 2008). Ghost towns draw people from miles around to enjoy the rare atmosphere of places that are a testament to our lack of permanence. When walking through Golden you find yourself imagining a story, finding your own path and guessing at the former activities that occupied the land.

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At its peak, Golden was home to over one hundred inhabitants and served as a hub for many others who worked the land in more remote locations. The remnants of Golden's past are represented today by a church, the Ruble house, store (front window of the store pictured above), carriage shed, several orchard trees, road beds and fences marking property lines.

*“we love things partly
because we know
they will perish”*

Kevin Lynch; *What Time is This*

1. Overview

1.1 Abandonment and Ruin

Golden is a ghost town located four miles east of Wolf Creek, Oregon. This newly opened state heritage site is an abandoned relic representing a very interesting chapter in Oregon's history. Established in 1890, the mining town was unique in western annals, distinguished by keeping saloons out of the town center, hosting two active churches and having a large orchard dominating the center of town, planted by the founding families. At its peak, Golden was home to over one hundred inhabitants and served as a hub for many others who worked the land in more remote locations. The remnants of Golden's past are represented today by a church, the Ruble house, general store, carriage shed, several orchard trees, road beds and a few fences that mark property lines. Over time the site has taken on the patina of abandonment with one structure leaning heavily; another is missing two of its outside walls; the orchard trees are wild looking having lost their clipped and cared for shape; the old roadbeds are disappearing under a layer of duff; and the historic land partitions can only be discerned with a knowledgeable eye.

This air of ruin and abandonment is the essence of all great ghost towns. They draw people from miles around to enjoy the rare atmosphere of places that are a testament to our lack of permanence. They allow our imagination to run riot; there is no one telling us how to behave, where to go or what to expect. They are the anomaly in an age of finger-tip ready information, directional signage and deliberate experiences. When walking through Golden you find yourself making up your own story, figuring out your own path and guessing at the former activities that occupied the land.

From a heritage perspective, Golden is one of the state's best examples of an abandoned mining settlement; a true Ghost Town. It is the only former mining community which is owned and managed by Oregon State Parks. As such, the park represents an important opportunity to retain and present the "ghost" qualities of the old town; sharing with the public a little known segment of Oregon's history. The town of Golden was largely founded by the Rubles, a pioneer family that established a homestead in the Willamette Valley's Eola Hills. Lured by the southern Oregon gold rush, William Ruble Sr. began buying placer mining claims along Coyote Creek in 1878. By 1896, William Ruble Sr. and his family

had established a settlement complete with a church, store and post office. By 1900, two of Ruble's sons, Schuyler and William Jr. patented the Ruble Rock Elevator, and hydraulic mining near Golden was soon in full swing. After 1914, the people of Golden slowly faded away, until only fragments of the original settlement were left. The site, which is now the Golden Historic District, was listed on the National Register in 2002 and Golden was purchased by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in 2006.

The purpose of this plan is to address development concerns, preservation needs and conservation strategies. By addressing the needs in this development plan the activities and appearance of the park will be guided by a long-term vision for Golden. Heritage assessments of the property looked at natural and historic resources, covering the period when the town was first settled up to the present day. The findings from these assessments, as well as a series of meetings with park staff and reviews by a local friends group, provided key information that guided the preservation approach and design concept plans.



View of Yellow House/Golden Hotel, circa 1900 (GCW Archives).

1.2 Design Framework

Many alternatives were discussed to determine an overarching approach for the future of Golden. They ranged from allowing controlled decay to restoration of some of the major buildings that existed during Golden's boom years. All of the ideas presented were valid, but the major criteria for determining the overarching approach emerged when the concept of retaining the abandoned qualities of the site were discussed. At first, this sounds like a controversial idea because a more traditional option would be to try and restore the town. After consideration, consensus was reached that the qualities represented by a ghost town and all that goes into making them fascinating places is what needs to be retained at Golden. The visitors first reaction to the abandoned qualities of this site conjure up the magical appeal of what makes the ghost town a major draw to children and adults alike. Therefore, the overarching concept for Golden State Heritage Site is to retain the character that makes it a ghost town while enhancing that experience through thoughtful interventions in the landscape. The design framework below describes the practical implications for development and conservation.

Design Framework for Golden:

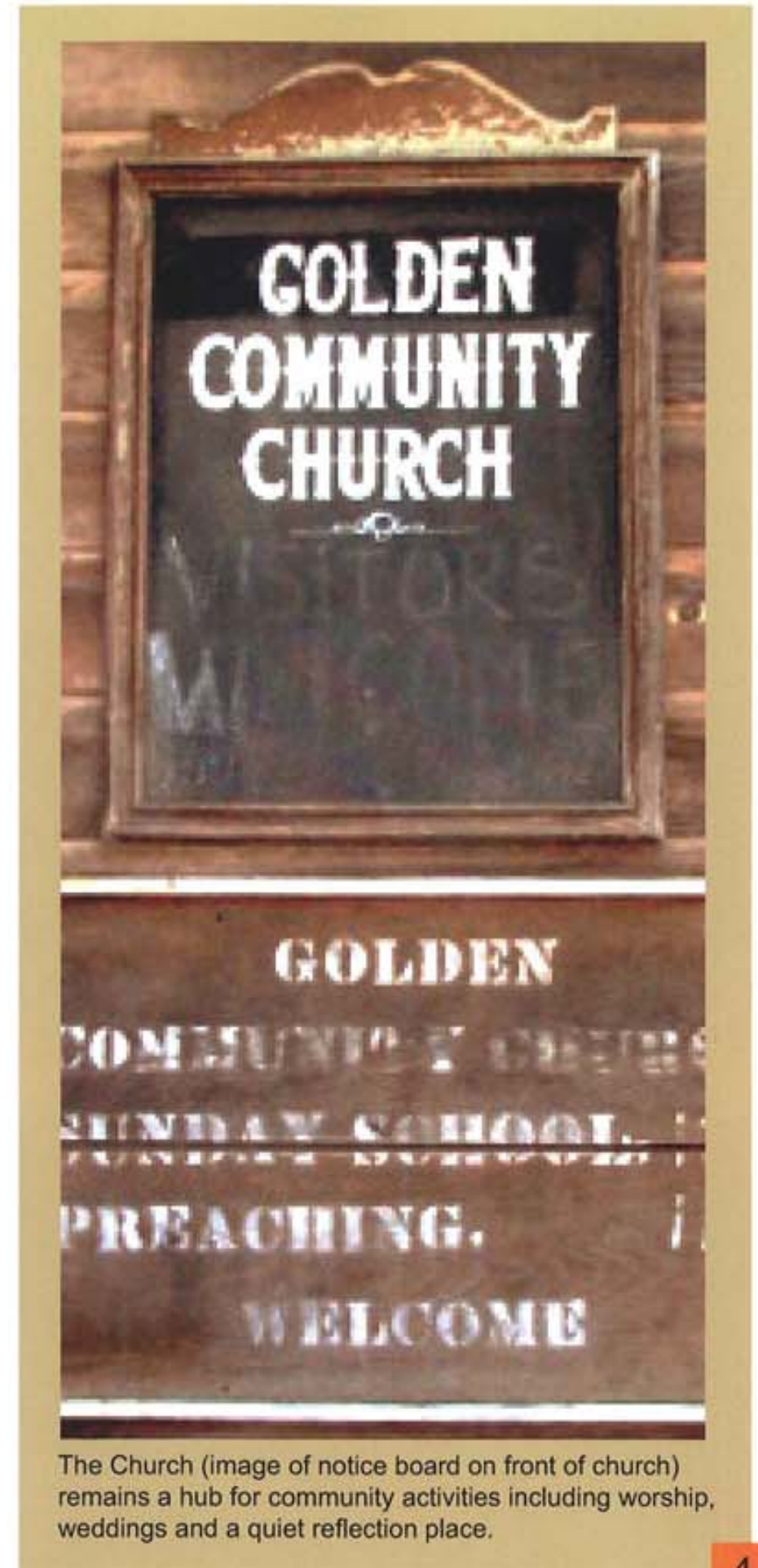
1. Retain the abandoned character of this old mining town and recognize decaying features convey a message to the public about human experience.
2. Apply minimal interventions and arrest further decay with the goal of enhancing Golden's historic character and conveying the experiential aspects of what it was like to live during Golden's boom era from 1878 to 1913.
3. Any new needs (including universal access) will require the use of compatible materials that will blend with the abandoned character of Golden. This will include short walking loops, a small parking area and the occasional use of interpretation signage.
4. An integrated design plan will actively oversee protection of the significant natural, cultural and scenic resources. With this approach, emphasis will be placed on the cultural resources found at the site.



View of Ruble house in current state of abandonment.



View of leaning outhouse adjacent to general store.



The Church (image of notice board on front of church) remains a hub for community activities including worship, weddings and a quiet reflection place.

"if you can learn the history of a land over a hundred years, the knowledge can tell you what processes are at work in the region—both constructive and destructive. From these, you can learn how to use the land, how to plan a development; where to locate buildings, roads and plantings. You do not necessarily have to conform to the processes at work, but at least, if you choose to go against them, you are in a better position to estimate the consequences and the costs."

Dick Reynolds from *Patina of Place*

1.3 Project Objectives

The ghost town of Golden is a rare example of human abandonment and a visit to the site conjures up images of what might have been - in this case a once thriving mining settlement. By understanding what makes this place important to the Oregon public and to the local community, the goals and strategies attempt to capture the experiential aspects of visiting the site and how the appeal of the site, with its strikingly ruinous appearance, can be managed over time. The objective is not to change Golden or to restore it, but to manage the process of decay in such a way that it appears natural. This will require a minimalist approach on the site that balances preservation of what we know to be precious with the natural changes that occur over time. If this balance is achieved, Golden will continue to make us discover something out of the ordinary and explore something mysterious. To meet these objectives the following goals and strategies have been developed from the design framework and they guide the physical development and management of the site.



The abandoned remnants of a once thriving settlement (the view above shows the general store) are a powerful driver behind the development of design concepts for the plan.

Major Opportunities for Golden:

- Ensure a long-term public benefit from our wise stewardship of the site.
- Create a concept for the physical preservation of Golden that will improve the visitors understanding of its historic significance.
- Provide a sense of arrival at the boundary to the site and use the proximity of the Wolf Creek Inn to promote Golden.
- Develop the existing parking area and take action to prevent parking on the road shoulder.
- Rehabilitate the church and retain its current public uses.
- Reestablish the historic property boundary lines to highlight the former settlement patterns during Golden's boom era.
- Preserve the remaining historic buildings and structures as ruins with occasional public access for interpretation programs.
- Remove the stage and barn; they are not historic features.
- Establish short walking trails with mowed paths through the meadows around the historic site, following historic circulation patterns where possible.
- Develop a planting plan that will include the creation of meadows, transition portions of the meadow back to an orchard, reintroduce historic gardens and restore foundation plantings.
- Retain scenic vistas of the creek from the two major view points.
- Provide universal access to the major site features using compatible materials.
- Foster partnerships to support long-term care and interpretation of Golden.
- Develop an interpretation plan to educate the public about Golden's past and its ongoing preservation.
- Develop a long-term maintenance plan for Golden, which integrates principals of sustainability into all aspects of the ongoing maintenance program.
- Monitor and evaluate the erosion of the cliff face to ensure it does not threaten the historic site features.



Existing Conditions

Golden's General Store



The community store (top left building) was located along the high street and supplied miners with all their needs, circa 1905 (GCW Archives).



Over the years the store was used as a supply shop, post office, community meeting area and occasional school house, circa 1925 (GCW Archives).



Owners, Myra McIntosh and Columbus Bennett behind the counter inside the store, circa 1904. Note the wood stove on the right, a similar stove is in the store today (GCW Archives).

2. Golden Times

2.1 Cultural Resources

This historic overview provides the basis for the prospects and constraints analysis that ultimately led to the management guidelines for the park. The following abbreviated history is drawn from the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) that was completed for Golden in 2008. For further information on Golden's history please refer to the CLR for Golden.

A Rough Guide To Golden's History

How did Golden evolve? Proximity to Wolf Creek enabled the initial growth of Golden due to the availability of sawn lumber, transportation and supplies, which was enough to keep nearby small gold prospecting operations running. Golden declined for various reasons. Families eventually left to give their children better education and to seek the benefits of living in a more urban setting. Golden reached the mining camp stage, but fell short of ever being a mining town with a stabilized population and diversified economy. Most of the residents of Golden were involved with gold mining, so when that industry suffered, they also suffered. After World War II, gold mining never recovered from its wartime restrictions.

The founders of Golden may never have expected it to be their home forever. The church is of balloon framing and has some excellent craftsmanship that would seem to indicate the intention of a permanent residence, as would the planting of the orchard. However, the church may simply be a testament to the importance of religion to the Rubles and their neighbors. As far as the orchard is concerned, William Ruble planted orchards elsewhere on his journey westward, also it was not uncommon for mining settlements to have gardens and fruit trees. For example, Historian Corri Jimenez studied the mining town of Bodie, California, in relation to other mining settlements and found that, "though the miners lived in isolated towns, they valued the comforts of home and imported them, whether fruit trees or familiar architectural styles."

How did the Ruble family perceive mining? William Ruble's background was in grist mills and nursery work, not mining. The Rubles appear to have approached Golden as a temporary business location; hiring help or renting claims but never giving up their land near Salem. It was a profitable venture but William N. Ruble did not continue to pursue it and

he later went into medicine after returning permanently to Eugene.

How does Golden reflect the development of southern Oregon? Josephine and Jackson Counties were created because of the influx of gold prospectors and homesteaders. Golden was one of many mining camps or small outposts served by Wolf Creek, which was sited along a major transportation and shipping route. Chinese immigrants were among a variety of nationalities active in Oregon's early development, and they are documented as mining on Coyote Creek as early as the 1860s. Golden's population of Chinese immigrants is typical for the period; they settled in the town to work the gold, but were never able to gain a permanent living due mostly to racially biased laws that prevented ownership of property.

How does Golden reflect mining's evolution? Before, during and after Golden's period of vitality, mining operations of various sophistication were conducted on Coyote Creek. It progressed from pans and sluice boxes to hydraulic giants and hard rock mining in the surrounding hills, eventually ending with a backhoe operation reworking the old tailings along the creek bed. Hydraulic mining was conducted from the 1870s until 1964 and "sniping" occurred before and during that time. Dredge mining occurred at nearby Laurel Camp. In total, mining occurred in the area for approximately 140 years but not at a constant rate of activity.

How did buildings and structures appear during Golden's Boom Era? By 1913 it is estimated that there were at least twenty-five buildings associated with Golden including: twelve residences, one hotel/residence, one church, one school, two barns, one store/post office (Schuyler Ruble's store was inactive after the Bennett's store opened), one carriage house, one blacksmith shop, one shed (often referred to as the granary) and four other unidentified sheds or buildings. If in fact, more than two-hundred residents lived in Golden at its peak, there were probably more residences located beyond the core area of the town. The mining activities included an extensive flume that carried water along Coyote Creek to feed the hydraulic giants. Local historian, McLane, estimates that there were more than fourteen miles of pipes, flumes

and ditches in the Coyote Creek area. Within the settlement, fences surrounded the orchard and divided the cleared land to mark property lines and control animals.

How did circulation features appear during Golden's Boom Era? All the roads through Golden were dirt. Coyote Creek Road was still the main artery that connected to the main stage road that ran through Wolf Creek. A central road split Golden's orchard in half and the former trail along Jack Creek was improved to access the growing mines up Robinson Gulch.

How did vegetation features appear during Golden's Boom Era? In 1913, the virgin mixed-conifer forest formed an edge along the northern boundary of Golden, and a young stand of mixed conifers and broad-leaf trees formed a buffer between the settlement and the hydraulic mining area. The Ruble's planted the orchard and it seems to be composed primarily of apples and pears with the occasional cherry tree. The grove of fruit trees appears to have been approximately ten to fifteen feet in height during this period, but the height would have varied after pruning. There were two main gardens or crop-fields in the settlement: one next to the Ruble's barn and the other next to William Ruble's house. There were also grass fields or pastures within the fenced portions of the settlement.

How did mining operations appear during Golden's Boom Era? The Ruble's hydraulic mining equipment stripped away the alluvial soils and riparian vegetation along Coyote Creek. Small cliffs of exposed soil and gravel would have marked the extent of the mining activity. The mining scar was strewn with piles of boulders, some as high as thirty feet. These hydraulic mine tailings were stacked by the Ruble Rock Elevator. The mining scar left a broad depression devoid of vegetation, littered with boulders and exposing bedrock.

Golden's Evolution

The history of Golden has been divided into four periods: 1850s-1877, 1878-1913, 1914-1967, and 1968-2008. These periods have been determined primarily by shifts in the site's ownership and use, but they closely reflect changes in mining technology and population as well. Across these historic

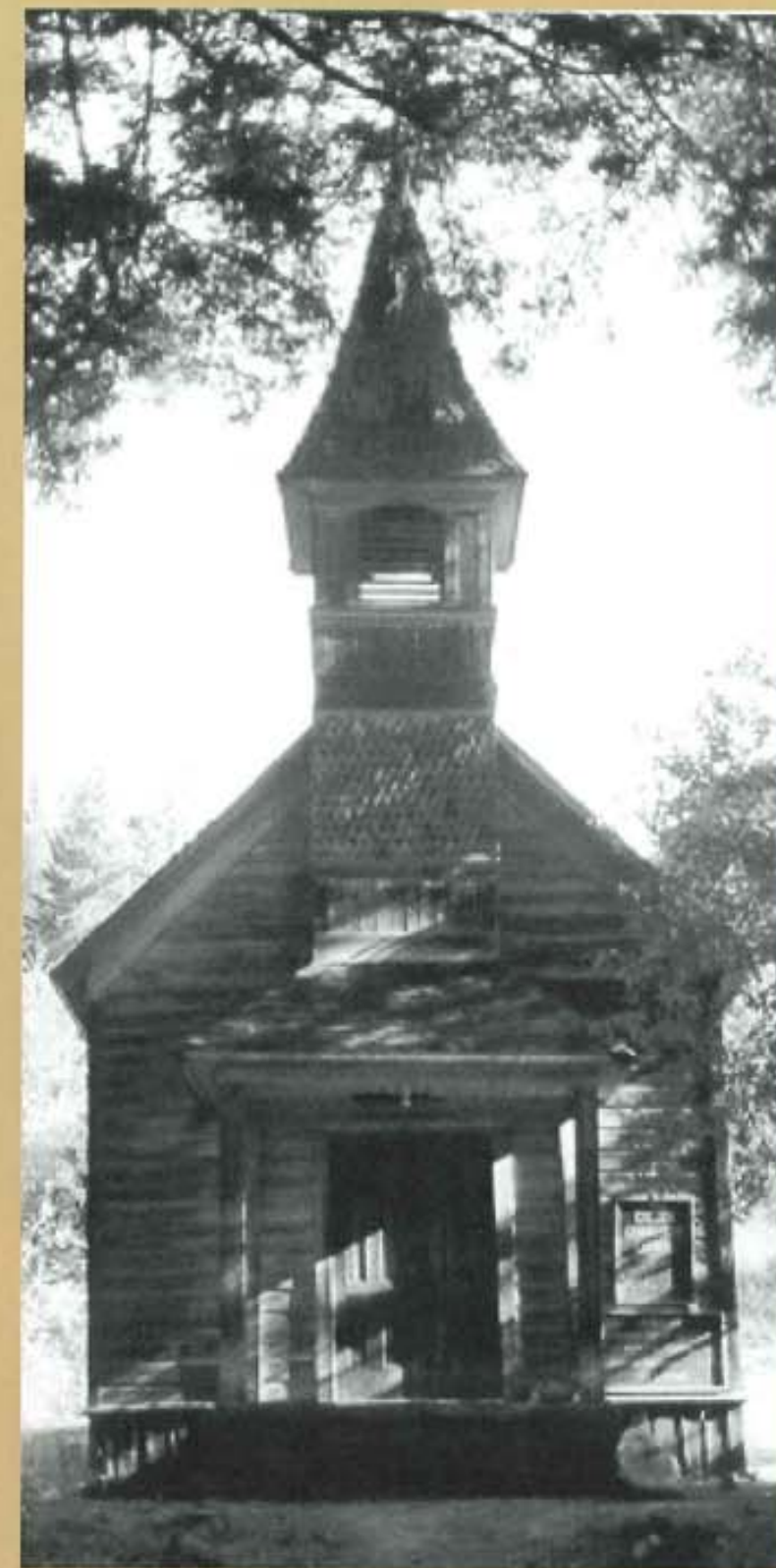
periods, three different boom cycles can be observed. The first predates the settlement of Golden and the last falls after its principal demise. It is the middle boom cycle that brought about the founding of Golden and which anchors the primary period of significance, 1878-1913.

Pre-Settlement Era: 1850s-1877

Gold was discovered in southern Oregon in 1852 and mining on Coyote Creek likely began shortly thereafter. This era is intended to capture the period of early mining activity on Coyote Creek, before the settlement of Golden was conceived. It ends when Golden's founder, William Ruble Sr., begins purchasing the area's placer mining claims.

In the mid-nineteenth century after the discovery of gold in southern Oregon, this area experienced an increased, if inconsistent, rate of settlement. In 1851, prospectors from the Willamette Valley bound for California thought to look for gold in the streams along the way, and southern Oregon soon became Gold Rush country. Local accounts relate that placer mining on Coyote Creek began in the 1850s with pans and sluice boxes, but there is little evidence to verify this or estimate how much mining activity there was at that time. Late in 1859, there was a whipsaw lumber mill operating in the Wolf Creek area. Logging was initially the principle industry in the area as it was more profitable than mining. When mining became more popular as the price of gold rose, miners were able to order lumber from the mill operation to build their sluices and houses with this lumber. By 1860, there were 30 cabins on the upper reaches of Coyote Creek.

By the early 1860s, mining was mostly carried out by not only North Americans but immigrants from other countries joining the gold rush. According to local historian, McConnell, "By 1857 there were several hundred [Chinese miners] working the alluvial deposits of the gold-bearing streams of Jackson and Josephine counties." However, Oregon's Constitution of 1857 prevented any Chinese from owning real estate (including mining claims) or even working any mining claim unless they were born in Oregon before 1857. As shown in the recorded mining claims, however, Chinese miners eventually prevailed and did purchase and/or work mining claims in Josephine



William Ruble is generally given credit for building Golden's church with a congregation of 50-60 people. One story is that an "itinerant craftsman" did the "fancy work" (diamond shingling) on the steeple. Another story from a Ruble family member, Bernice Ruble, credits her father, William N., with the construction of Golden's most significant building, circa 1925 (GCW Archives).



Pearl Sams, one of Golden's schoolteachers and Ethel Smith McIntosh (standing) pan for gold on Coyote Creek in the hydraulic mining scar near the settlement, circa 1910 (GCW Archives).



Members of both the Ruble and McIntosh families appear in front of the Golden school in 1908 (GCW archives). The reverend and miner, Mark Davis, also held church in the school.

County after the state constitution was enacted. These miners, although suffering racial and economic prejudice, did engage in formal business transactions and were recognized as the rightful owners of real estate. Thus, Chinese miners had a key role despite the social and legislative barriers put up against them. The height of the Chinese presence on Coyote Creek came during the years 1862-1867. This period could also be considered the first "boom" in mining for Coyote Creek.

During the 1870s, Wolf Creek became an important outpost for the area as an outlet for transportation, supplies, mail, and even social events. Leland, Grave Creek and Placer were also important settlements to those early miners on Coyote Creek, for mail, supplies, and entertainment. During this period, the unofficial mining settlement of Golden had an unsteady population. The period saw new construction with additional cabins built above the creek. One prominent figure during this period was Jack Robinson who is credited with homesteading and mining in the late 1860s, and for whom Robinson Gulch/ Jack Creek is named after. He purportedly had a house and a barn for livestock. The frequent buying and selling of mining claims and the fluid movement of miners to bonanzas in other regions made permanent settlement at Golden impossible during this period. A store for supplying the miners was the only visible form of commerce in the camp. Coyote Creek's mines lagged in their technological evolution behind the larger operations of the region and the Coyote miners went after the easily recoverable nuggets only.

Golden's Boom Era: 1878-1913

William Ruble Sr. purchased numerous placer mining claims on Coyote Creek in 1878. This era captures the period of Golden's rise as a mining settlement. Ruble's hydraulic mining activity reached its peak, and the settlement contained an estimated twenty-five buildings. The period ended when the last of the Ruble family's Coyote Creek holdings were sold off.

Although there were other miners already working claims in the area, hydraulic mining was just getting a foothold. Ruble's investment brought more settlers and more attention to the mining opportunities at Golden. Through the 1880s, William, with his two sons William and Schuyler, worked part of the year

on the hydraulic mines and lived at Golden. The landmark year of 1890 began when the Ruble children moved from Salem to Coyote Creek. The peak of this boom era was in the 1890s and early 1900s, when a building boom increased the size of the town to approximately 100 structures and the Ruble mines were known throughout Oregon. By 1897, the Ruble placer claim was deemed the most important on Coyote Creek because of its elevator and separator, which was the largest and most productive of its type. The newspaper accounts showed Wolf Creek and Golden as booming communities. The Golden Post Office opened in 1896, running out of the Schuyler store.

By 1902, the fortunes of the town were waning and William senior was nearly 80, too old for the daily rigors of mining. It was his will and drive that had created the town and so the town's demise paralleled his own life. With William seniors passing in 1905, the rest of the family slowly moved back to the Salem area, their permanent home. With the Rubles gone, the town had lost its most prominent citizens and could never recover from this blow. One of the other prominent families, the McIntoshs, did return to Golden in 1908, at which time Mary McIntosh bought her brother's store and began working as deputy postmaster. By 1910, however, the exodus from Golden was complete as families moved to more established towns, if only to get their children a decent education and William Ruble and family, Henry Gross, Myra and Henry McIntosh, and many others left Golden to live in larger communities.

Golden's Bust Era: 1914-1967

This era began as Charles E. Forsyth assumed ownership of many of the Ruble family's mining claims. During this period, the settlement of Golden declined sharply and the post office closed in 1920. The majority of the buildings associated with the settlement disappeared and hydraulic mining operations washed away most of the settlement south of Coyote Creek Road.

In 1914, the last remaining Ruble owned property along Coyote Creek was sold with Ruth Ruble's estate and ownership was transferred to W. P. Ely. Evidence of the change in population

was the enrollment at the school, which reached a peak of 36 during the boom years, but by 1915 the teacher, Mrs. Ethel Loller, had enrolled only six students for the year. Golden continued to slowly fade away and a brief increase in population during the 1930s was only a sad reflection of the times when desperate, unemployed men and their families left the major towns and occupied the former mining settlement to try and eek out a living during the Great Depression years.

At the end of the 1940s, the Porters became the major land owners in the area. The property included the core of the townsite, 900' long (west from Robinson's Gulch) and 300' wide (approximately north from Coyote Creek Road). Ms. Forsyth also sold them part of the Ruth Ruble Mining Claim as Porter tried in vain to revive Golden. A Courier article from 1978 states, "in 1950 the people of the [Golden] community restored the little church and again held meetings until the attendance gradually fell away." The reopening of the Golden church is attributed to Rev. Newton A. Carman, but the growing lack of jobs forced many residents to move out of the area and the church closed again and the short revival of the town's fortune was over.

The last hydraulic miners on Coyote Creek were Joe Inman and Hap Fitzpatrick, operating from 1958 to 1964. Their operations were closed down for environmental reasons, relating specifically to water quality concerns. It was during this period that most of Golden's buildings were demolished and the Golden School was moved to the Davis property. The land south of the main road, (which included a pasture field, large barn and numerous buildings) was lost due to the hydraulic mining operations. All that was left was a steep cliff, dropping nearly 30 feet down to the despoiled creek below. The era ended with Golden virtually uninhabited and Josephine county investigating the possibility of purchasing the former mining area along the creek.

End of Mining Era: 1968-2006

This era began with Josephine County's purchase of the old Ruble placer mining claims near Golden. During this period, the core of the settlement and its few remaining buildings changed hands several times. Also, alternative methods of

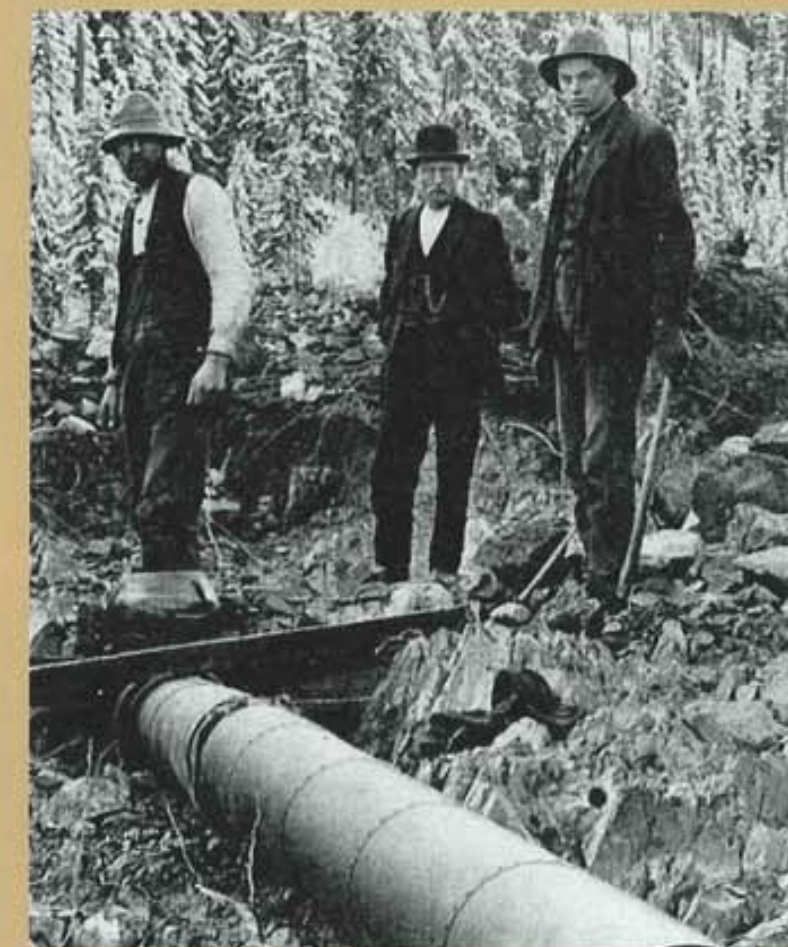
mining were still allowed on Coyote Creek, and Jack Smith was the last miner (non-hydraulic) to work what was once Ruth Ruble's placer mining claim. Smith's efforts to meet the environmental stipulations of his mining permit created the Golden Coyote Wetlands. The end of this era was marked by OPRD's purchase of Golden.

By 1968, Josephine County owned the mining property along Coyote Creek and the few remaining residents tried to keep the town going by promoting the town as a tourist destination. The filming of an episode for the television series "Gunsmoke" in 1972 contributed to the town's reputation as a ghost town. In 1973, an antique shop in the old Bennett Store opened that would catch occasional sightseers. Fake wooden grave markers were installed on both the west and east sides of the church during the filming of the "Gunsmoke" episodes. Owner of Golden, Roger Ramsey, found the removed wooden markers in one of the outbuildings and replaced a few of them on the east side of the church as interpretation aids for the building's role in Hollywood history. Despite these attempts at reviving the town, it continued along its path to total abandonment. In the early 1990s, Golden Coyote Wetlands (GCW) was formed by concerned local residents to preserve the abandoned town and restore the creek below. Since it was founded in 1993, GCW has worked to transform the mined area of Coyote Creek into a natural preserve through careful planning and the contribution of thousands of volunteer hours. They also undertook stabilization projects for the major historic site with the help of Boy Scouts, grants and other volunteers. By 2002, the board of GCW was successful in getting Golden designated on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2006, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department acquired the property and began the process of securing the long-term future of the site for the Oregon public.

The two historic period plans on the following pages show how Golden appeared in 1877 and 1913. These plans are compared with the existing conditions to understand how Golden has changed over the years and what integrity remains from the period of Significance (1878 to 1913).

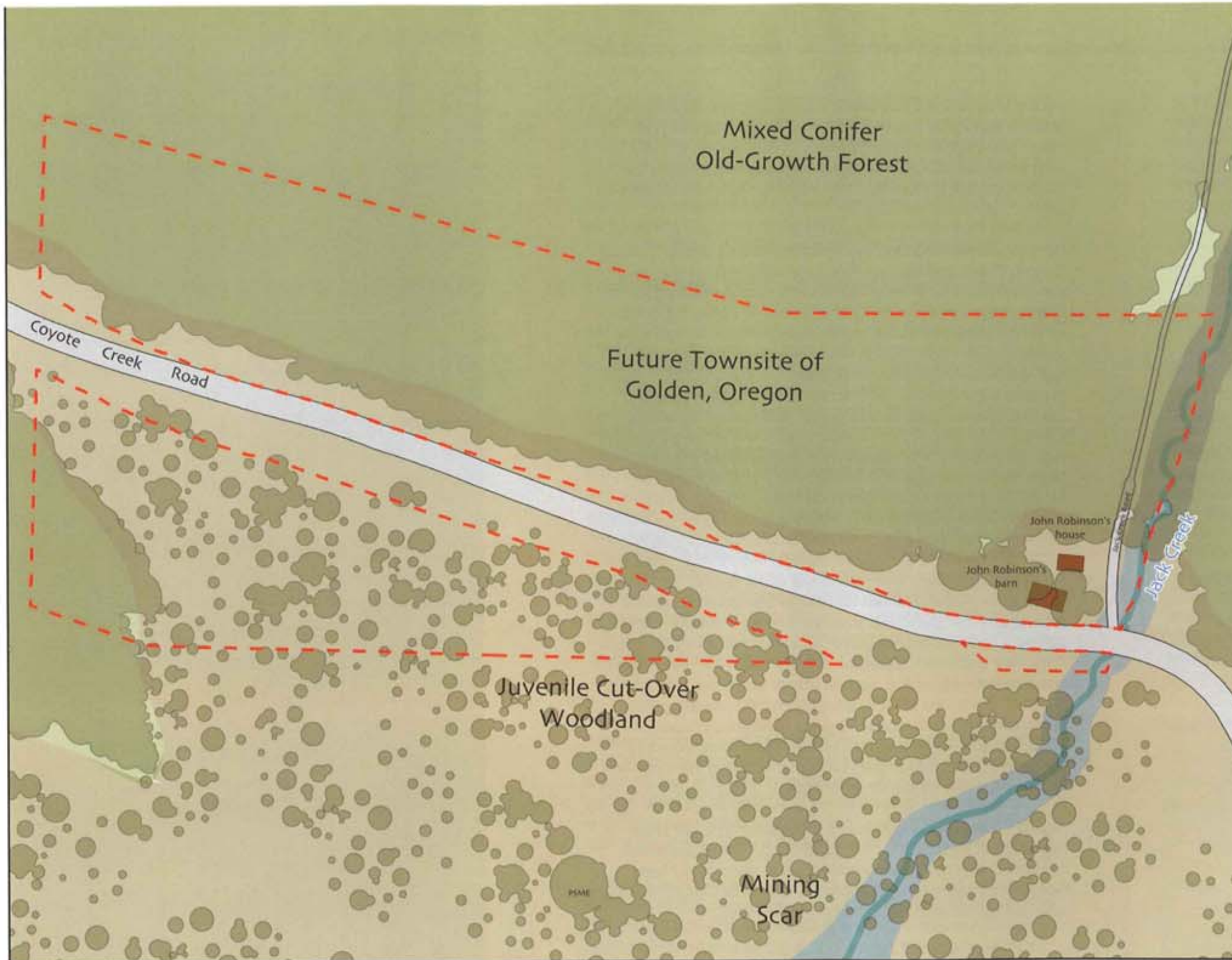


Looking southeast toward Golden's church with the large barn on the south side of Coyote Creek Road in the background, circa 1905 (GCW Archives). The barn and this side of the town was completely obliterated as part of the hydraulic mining operations (see 1913 Period Plan on P13.)



Members of the McIntosh family inspect a blown waterline near Coyote Creek, circa 1900. Such waterlines were used to feed the water cannons, or hydraulic giants that blasted away up to 3,000 cubic yards of gravel per day (GCW Archives).

Coyote Creek, 1877



Looking north at Golden, ca. 1900. In 1877 before the town was cut out of the forest, large conifers like this Douglas Fir spread across the landscape.

Legend: contour interval ?

-  Buildings & Structures
-  Tree Canopy
-  Mined Areas
-  Mixed Shrub & Grassland
-  Agricultural Field
-  Future State Park Boundary



0 50 100 200 Feet

Vegetation Appearance Prior to Mining

The character of the valley bottom prior to mining activities is not fully understood because of the intense topographic modification of the valley floor. Under typical conditions for this region it would be reasonable to presume the valley floor was characterized by a braided channel running through a relatively flat gravel expanse covered in hardwood trees, such as black cottonwood, big leaf maple, and red alder. If the creek was not subject to catastrophic flooding, a coniferous forest (consisting largely of cedar) may have been dominant, with broadleaf dominated riparian areas occupying the fringes of stream channels and other water features. Photographs of the site in the early 1900s (see photo below) show riparian hardwood forest upstream from the site, but by the time the photo was taken, the valley floor within the property boundary was already heavily modified by mining activity.



2.2 Natural Conditions and Alterations

Golden State Heritage Site consists of a 6.7 acre parcel surrounding the historic center of the town of Golden in Josephine County, Oregon. It is located in the southeast quarter of section 19, township 33S, range 5W. The majority of the park is situated on relatively flat ground at an elevation of 1,600 feet. South of the road bisecting the property, the landscape drops abruptly to a valley bottom wetland complex along Coyote Creek. The transition between the valley bottom and the terrace of the town site is almost entirely an approximately 30-foot tall cliff. The cliff is mostly composed of a loamy soil, not rock, and susceptible to erosion. The understory vegetation on the cliff face and at the toe of the cliff is composed of early seral, disturbance associated species, indicating rapid soil movement.

Existing Conditions

From a natural resource perspective the property's vegetation reflects more than a century of human occupation and modification, both in the areas north and south of the Coyote Creek Road. Human modifications have resulted from agriculture, ornamental landscaping, mining, and forestry. Nearly all of the property shows some sign of change since European-American settlement. The portion of the property on the north side of Coyote Creek Road shows the most signs of human modification. Pasture grasses and weeds that may have been introduced as a result of keeping livestock dominate open meadow areas as well as the understory of the orchard and some portions of forest. Past ornamental landscaping of the property is evident, though presently appears primitive and overgrown. The non-native horticultural species used in landscaping are present primarily along the edges of buildings and roads. Fruit trees are present in the open area north of the buildings and infrastructure. These appear to be a mixture of remnants from the old orchard and more recent plantings or volunteers. The forested areas on the property are second growth, and are dominated by conifers. The forest on the east side of the property appears to have encroached on remnants of the historic orchard's former extent.

South of the Coyote Creek Road, a narrow strip of forest sits atop the earthen cliff that drops to the valley bottom about 30 feet below. Below the cliff, nearly everything has been intensely modified from dredge mining and more recent

restoration efforts. The valley floor is characterized by artificial gravel topography that forms ponds and channels. The land surrounding open water areas is dominated by scrub-shrub wetland and riparian shrubland dominated by willows, soft rush, and various weeds. Some trees are emerging from the artificial landforms, indicating that if left alone, the area would at least partially reforest within 20 years. Submerged plant communities are still relatively sparse, but show signs of increasing development. The edge of the valley floor at the toe of the property's eroding cliff face is dominated by early seral species and weeds such as himalaya blackberry, scotch broom, red alder, and black cottonwood. The majority of the cliff-face is entirely devoid of vegetation due to constant erosion.

Alterations to the Native Vegetation

The historic pattern of vegetation at the site is reported in the work of Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center (ONHIC) as dominated by Douglas fir forest. The coarse scale of this survey understates the historic diversity of the parcel, especially the riparian area adjacent to Coyote Creek, where broadleaf trees or scrub-scrub wetlands could have thrived. The ONHIC documentation of the historic vegetation of most sites in Oregon, including this one, is based on very scant evidence – primarily from the early land surveyors' field notes. Nevertheless, judging from photographs of the site in the early 1900s, it appears that nearly all of the property outside of the riparian valley bottom was old growth coniferous forest prior to European-American settlement. It is possible, but unverifiable, that the stream terrace on which Golden is situated was a small meadow or hardwood forest prior to European-American modification. If so, it would have been maintained as open either by Native American use and burning, or by flood damage. The presence of California oatgrass and mariposa lily hint at the possibility of long-term open conditions, although these species could have been introduced through passive seed movement sometime in the last 150 years, since the clearing of the original vegetation.



Coarse Scale Vegetation Land Cover Mapping



When assessing the historic character of Golden as a whole, the site retains integrity and remains an excellent example of an abandoned mining town in Oregon.

2.3 Major Site Features

Character and Integrity

Due to the loss of some major buildings, private yards and a large portion of the orchards, Golden's integrity is diminished. However, when assessing the historic character of Golden as a whole, the site retains integrity and remains an excellent example of an abandoned mining town in Oregon.

Spatial Layout: The basic organization of Golden's major features contributes to the site's significance. Golden is still today, as it was during the period of significance, centered along Coyote Creek Road and organized around the Ruble's orchard. The northern property line is the same today as it was in 1914. However, the spatial layout of the settlement south of Coyote Creek Road was lost when this land was removed by hydraulic mining. The opening for the wetland parking area has persisted since 1952, and it denotes the original location of Golden's school. Therefore, despite the loss of many buildings, the layout of Golden is still evident in property lines, the major roads, a few key buildings and some remnant orchards.

Buildings and Structures: Less than a quarter of Golden's boom era buildings remain. Despite this fact, the remaining contributing buildings retain historic integrity. These buildings provide an authentic link to Golden's past, and define the central remnants of the old town. The church, store and Ruble house from Golden's boom period contribute to the significance of the site. The noncontributing buildings on the site are few, and their removal will enhance the historic character of the site.

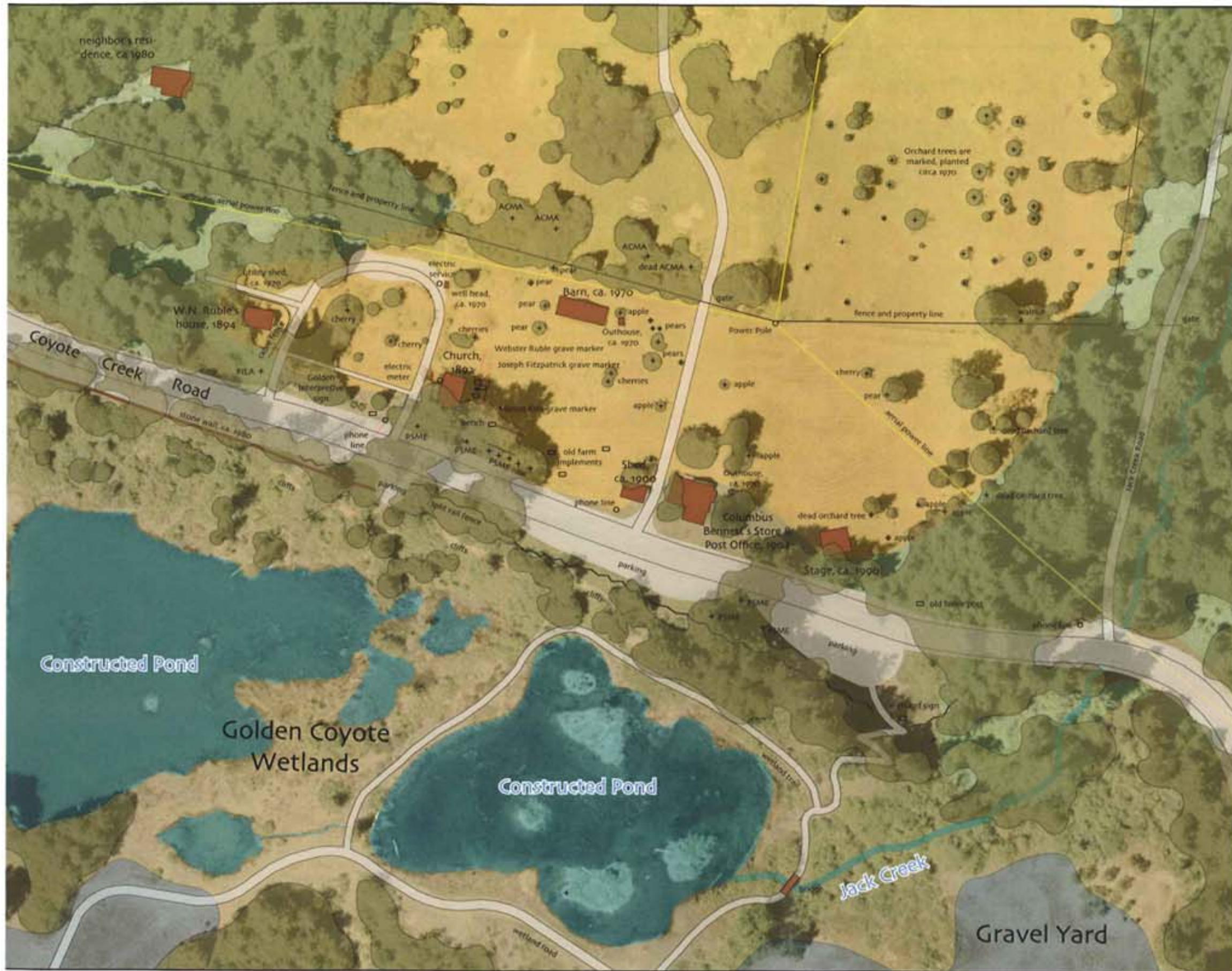
Circulation Features: Coyote Creek Road and Jack Creek Road most likely originated in the pre-settlement era, and they can be considered historic features as they still follow their original alignment. Along with the Orchard Road, these three routes contribute to Golden's historic significance. The horse shoe shaped driveway, does not have historic integrity and impacts the site of the Ruble's former flower and vegetable garden.

Vegetation: The Ruble's orchard has virtually disappeared.

However, the field that the Ruble's orchard grew in remains relatively intact, but there is not enough historic vegetation remaining to retain integrity. The large Sugar pine, the two Douglas firs in front of the church, and the three Douglas firs that mark the location of the Golden Hotel are historic and should be retained. Removing all of the conifers from within the historic orchard boundary would help rehabilitate the fruit grove. Furthermore, removing vegetation from around the existing buildings would not affect historic integrity.

Views: Maintaining a view of the settlement from Coyote Creek road is important as this was the first impression of Golden and the view is the same today. Furthermore, the open area in front of the church afforded an important view across the creek to the opposite side of the valley and this should be maintained.

Wetlands: Riparian areas along Coyote Creek and Robinson Creek are the only areas within the property boundaries containing wetlands. No vernal pools or seeps were encountered in the course of field survey. The Robinson Creek wetlands are forested, and consist of the stream channel itself and minor areas of stream terrace within 25 feet of the stream. The habitat appears to be more or less natural. Wetlands associated with Coyote Creek are more diverse and include ponds, shallow marshland, shrub-scrub wetlands, and riparian forested wetland. Some of Coyote Creek's wetland area has been altered by past human activities, including past mining activity and more recent wetland construction and restoration. The previous landowner retains ownership over the majority of the adjacent constructed and natural wetlands in the Coyote Creek bottomland. Topography and soils of the Coyote Creek area are somewhat artificial and composed of pile and machine contoured river-rounded gravels.



Golden, 2007



Looking northwest at the William N. Ruble house

Legend:

-  Utility Features
-  Tree Canopy
-  Tree Centers
-  Site Furnishings
-  Field
-  Mixed Shrub & Grassland



The site development plan incorporates the wishes of the surrounding community. The church will remain open for the foreseeable future as a community resource. The building is used for meetings, weddings and a quiet place to gather thoughts. With continued efforts to preserve this building it is hoped the community can continue to use it without restricted access. The minimalist approach to development was also affirmed by local community members at a community meeting. They would like to see the town retain its appealing abandoned character with low impact recreational activities.

2.4 Partners

The site development plan incorporates the wishes of the surrounding community. The church will remain open for the foreseeable future as a community resource. The building is used for meetings, weddings and a quiet place to gather thoughts. With continued efforts to preserve this building, the community should be able to continue using it without restricted access. The minimalist approach to development was also affirmed by local community members at a community meeting. They would like to see the town retain its appealing abandoned character with low impact recreational activities. It was also agreed at the community meeting that the gravestone markers used in the filming of a "Gunsmoke" episode would be retained as they have become a part of the story to be told at Golden.

Park management staff will continue to work with the community in coordinating events and developing the site. OPRD will also work with the friends group to develop a partnership that will aid in the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic buildings and landscape at Golden. This can include the reinstatement of some orchard trees and the former Ruble vegetable garden. In addition, the interpretation of Golden affords some excellent opportunities for the friends group to work with the park on providing guided tours for visitors. The park will develop an interpretive plan that will highlight the major stories to be told and how to interpret the abandoned mining town.

The park will also work with the county on the wetland area and will look for opportunities to partner in protecting the river corridor, as well as monitoring erosion of the cliff face.

There are also a number of locations and buildings that are not on the park property that were once part of the Golden township. One of these buildings is the former schoolhouse that was located on the south side of the road (until this section of the town was blasted away for mining purposes). The lands and their associated buildings from the former township era are of interest to OPRD as they afford an opportunity to better tell the story of the Golden. If opportunities arise to acquire former portions of the Golden township, OPRD will consider them as appropriate.



The traces of a once thriving settlement can come to life through community event days, such as A Tour in Time, Josephine County Heritage Days and an Old-Fashioned Picnic and Work Party Day (photos courtesy of Golden Coyote Wetlands Website)



The community of Golden remains strong through the use of the church as a center for activities that range from worship, weddings, local meeting place, preservation efforts, tourist attraction, and a place for quiet reflection (photos courtesy of Golden Coyote Wetlands Website).



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will continue to work with the local friends group to develop a partnership that will aid in the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic buildings and cultural landscape at Golden. This can include the reinstatement of orchard trees, recreating the former Ruble vegetable garden, stabilizing the general store building and continued efforts to preserve the church.

The story of Golden is being told through an integrated design approach that uses historic colors, textures and materials found at the site to inform newly built features. The goal is to enhance the historic character of the mining town, play on its abandoned appearance and provide an informative visitor experience that still allows for discovery.



3. Golden Times

3.1 Approach

Based on information derived from team workshops, meetings and reviews, a detailed design plan emerged. During this process, the opportunities and constraints were assessed for preservation, conservation and recreation potential (see plan on opposite page). With a thorough understanding of site features and constraints --the programmatic spaces, interpretive needs, historic preservation requirements, natural resource needs and access requirements were tested on the site to determine the most appropriate strategies to ensure there was no impairment of the resources and adherence to low impact development.

The story of Golden emerges not just through interpretation of the site, but is manifested in the orchestrated design of new features through careful use of form, color, texture and materials. The paths around the site will lead the visitor sequentially to all of the major historic features. The use of native plant materials and the marking of old property lines will create a sense of Golden's historic form and scale. Buildings will not be painted, they will retain their abandoned appearance, befitting the qualities of a ghost town. A careful treatment approach will retain the wood finish with a clear protective surface. These are but a few of the integrated measures that have been developed to ensure the story of Golden is visible in the landscape. This is one of the important visceral qualities of a classic ghost town, the ability of people to discover that story for themselves.

The development of the site will require the work to be carried out in phases. This plan covers the phases, each of which contain opportunities to carve out discrete projects that will improve the historic character of Golden, encourage native species and provide low impact recreation. The successful completion of this plan will require a strong partnership with the local community. The site needs events, volunteers, upkeep, and daily use to keep it alive. Hopefully, the design concepts herein will stimulate new community partnerships, while also retaining existing uses.

The phased approach also indicates this plan will not happen overnight. This slow process respects the nature of Golden, where the rate of growth and deterioration have been left to their own devices. This plan looks to currently arrest the speed

of deterioration at the site, but accepts the patina of time, in order to retain the abandoned qualities of the old mining town. This minimalist approach will ensure any growth is kept to a minimum and recreation or interpretation do not impair the cultural and natural resources.

With this type of approach it is essential that a cyclical plan is developed for all aspects of daily, monthly, seasonal, annual and long-term maintenance at the site. In addition, further work is needed to flush-out details of the story to be told at the site. The framework is in place, but an interpretive plan will build on current concepts to develop themes and programs. Time will also need to be put aside to work with the community group associated with Golden; making it a place they and visitors can enjoy. Golden affords us a rare chance to integrate cultural, natural, recreation and community values. If successful, Golden will be not so much a park as a monument to our impermanence. To quote Johnson Cory in his poem *Mimnermus in Church*; "All beautiful things for which we live by laws of time and space decay. But oh, the very reason why I clasp them, is because they die."



Remnant historic fruit trees (pictured above) are being grafted and the new trees will be planted to mark the extent of the historic Ruble orchard, which totaled nearly three hundred trees during Golden's boom era, OPRD 2008.

Overview of Design Concepts

The Design Concepts section provides an overview of how to proceed with the preservation, conservation and recreational development of Golden. The process to create these concepts required that the approach integrated all three needs into the final design. Over the next few pages the concepts are described in terms of each need (preservation, conservation, and recreation), as well as how they work together (shown in the perspective drawings). The perspective drawings will also show where these features will be located. These drawings show a typical walk through the site, where new features will be encountered, as well as existing features that will be preserved or conserved. Precedent images are used to show the form, color and materials of major and minor compatible features that will be added to the landscape.

Design Concept Section Organization:

- Overview of Preservation, Conservation and Recreation
- Design Guidelines for Individual Features
- Phase 1 Perspective Drawing and Project Matrix
- Phase 2 Perspective Drawing and Project Matrix
- Project Implementation and Process

A major goal of the design concepts is to provide an integrated plan that will enable development of the site to be completed in a fashion that retains the character of a ghost town, while also making sure new features blend with the historic character of Golden. From these concepts, detailed drawings between a 1:100 and 1:20 scale will need to be developed with the construction drawings for the site. The matrixes adjacent to the phased perspective drawings (phase 1 and 2) show discrete projects that will require detailed design work and construction drawings. It is hoped these matrixes will also be used to prioritize projects in the future. There is also an outline of procedures for implementing these projects at the end of this section.

3.2 Design Concepts

Through several meetings with ORPD staff and members of the local community it was possible to create the design concepts presented here. From these discussions the major themes to emerge involved retaining the qualities represented by a ghost town, providing for low impact recreation opportunities as well as retaining access to the church for members of the community. Realizing these concepts will require preservation of the major features including the structures, orchard trees, old road traces and historic property lines. Preserving the historic features will ensure the historic integrity of Golden is retained and the local community as well as the public can still assess the site for activities such as, community events, evening strolls, or to find quiet moments of solace.

In preserving the abandoned mining town other factors have to be considered, which include the natural resources and opportunities for low-impact recreation. With this in mind, the major design concepts can be divided into three areas: Preservation, Conservation and Recreation. These three areas cover the major programmatic needs of the site, sometimes covering discrete geographic areas and in other cases overlapping each other. For instance, interpretation will take place throughout the site covering mostly the preservation of the historic resources, but also the natural areas. Recreation needs such as walking loops, will also cut through the cultural and natural resource areas. The division into preservation, conservation and recreation programs is a tool to aid development, as it will require different types of actions that require different processes, but the overarching goal is that any development will occur through a comprehensive and collaborative effort.

Preservation

This concept will enable the physical rehabilitation of Golden to improve the visitors understanding of its historic significance. Visitors will begin their journey at the parking lot off the county road. They will cross the road and find themselves in front of the store. This area, between the present day road and the store, marks the center line of the old road that ran through the town. The alignment of this route parallels the new road, approximately 5' from the edge of the road shoulder, past

the church and the Ruble residence. This old route will be used to build a new hard surface trail that will allow visitors to experience a walk down the former main street. In a couple of areas there will need to be some fill work completed to retain a steady grade, but this route will provide universal access to view all of the major buildings.

Of all the buildings, the focus will be on rehabilitating the church and retaining its current public use. The remaining historic buildings and structures will be preserved as ruins with occasional public access for interpretation programs. The Ruble house, the store and an adjacent outhouse will be stabilized to retain these structures. Any further treatments of these buildings will be further assessed by a Historic Architect once they have been stabilized. The local community has expressed a strong opinion that the buildings should not be painted. ORPD agrees with this sentiment and will endeavor to preserve the unpainted buildings and keep the raw appearance of the structures. The non-historic features include the stage and barn. The stage can be removed. However, the barn is useful as a storage location and can therefore be retained. If at a later date other storage options are located, then the barn can be removed.

The historic property boundary lines will also be reestablished to highlight the former settlement patterns during Golden's boom era. This will initially be done using a mowing regimen that will highlight property boundaries. These mowed areas will be used as informal trails to walk around the property. In the future, the former fence-lines can be restored if further research indicates the materials used or a compatible, interpretive solution can be sought if historic evidence is not forthcoming. The mowed trails can also be converted to a hard surface if visitor use increases to the point that erosion creates maintenance problems. These paths will enable visitors to come off the main path (the former main street) and take short loop walks around the property to see the extent of the former orchard, vegetable garden and woodlots marking the east and west boundaries of the property.

The historic orchard trees, Douglas firs near the church and other remnants of the historic vegetation will be preserved. As part of a rehabilitation program new orchard trees will be

planted from scions of the historic trees. These trees will be planted in small groupings to mark the extent of the orchard. This design will also provide shade for visitors along the walking routes (hard surfaces and mowed paths).

The Ruble vegetable garden, former yards, and the orchard area will all be rehabilitated to create a facsimile of the historic character. This will involve the creation of meadows of differing heights that represent the yard area (lowest height), vegetable garden (middle height), and orchard area (tallest height). The meadow areas will be planted with native species following typical natural resource specifications (see conservation section below for more details). It is through these meadows that the paths will be mowed marking the former property lines. The replanting of the vegetable garden will require that the turning loop between the church and the Ruble House be removed. This area will be filled with earth to return a gentle sloping grade from the back of the property down to the county road (matching the historic grade on the adjacent portions of the property).

Historic trees and shrubs will also be retained that are remnants of former yards and gardens. In addition, new trees will be planted where historic evidence indicates that historic trees or shrub existed. In order to protect the buildings from vegetation damage, the trees will not be planted closer than ten feet from a building and shrubs will be no further than five feet.

On the south side of the road it is impossible to rehabilitate the former town area. This area was obliterated due to the hydraulic mining process and tells a story of Golden in its own right. However, the trees will be thinned to the east of the scenic viewpoint as this area was formerly open field, and the area to the west of the viewpoint will remain dense, marking the former forested area.

Conservation

The natural resources at Golden are recognized and will be protected, but they are secondary to the cultural significance of the site. However, they have an extremely important role to play in aiding the interpretation of the site's historic character. This will be achieved by transitioning the former

yard, vegetable garden and orchard areas back to a native plant meadow (the vegetable garden may be restored at a later date; replacing the meadow design). The native plant meadow will use species that represent a variety of heights to mark the open yard area, the waist high vegetable areas and the taller orchard area. This use of native species will inform the visitor of the Golden's spatial layout as well as its form. This will require the planting of native grasses up to four feet in height in the orchard area, two feet in height in the vegetable area and up to one foot in height in the yard areas. Currently, the open areas of the site contain a few native species that will serve as a baseline example of what will be in these meadows after the invasive species and non-historic trees are removed. Among the significant native species found are California oatgrass, spreading dogbane, Virginia strawberry, California poppy, California brome, western columbine, and a species of cat's ear lily. In addition, roemer's fescue, California fescue, blue wildrye, California brome, and meadow checkermallow would make excellent additions to the meadow environment. The rehabilitation of the yards, vegetable garden and orchards will require many of the trees that have crept into these former open areas to be removed. This will restore the historic balance between open areas and woodlots at the town site.

The densely forested stands on the east and west extents of the property are in decent condition and have understories composed primarily of native vegetation. These areas will be preserved, highlighting former woodlots that once existed on the outskirts of the town. Shade is the variable responsible for excluding weeds in these areas. Therefore, it is not recommended to open the canopy in the course of any forestry treatments for acceleration of late seral structure, as it would most likely result in increased weed abundance. Only if a vigilant weed control action plan is in place should this be attempted.

The wetland fringe at the bottom of the cliff has a good base structure of native willows and forbs (such as soft rush and cattail), but is highly invaded by weeds. Blackberry and pennyroyal are the most threatening weed species. Upland habitats adjacent to the wetland fringe are also colonized by willows and other riparian vegetation, but are weedier than the wetter portions. Therefore, weed control is the most important

Design Guidelines - Entrance



Carved Entrance Sign

The entrance to Golden will be marked by signs next to the boundary at either end of the County Road, similar to the precedent image pictured on the left.

At the new parking area an information shelter will provide an overview of Golden's history, information on the fragile state of the site, how the public can help protect it, events and volunteer opportunities.

Parking Area Information Shelter



Design Guidelines: Paths

Apart from the path that will follow the alignment of the former high street all other paths at Golden will be delineated by a selective mowing regimen. These mowed paths will follow the alignment of the property lines from the period when Golden was a bustling town.



action in these areas but is complicated by the proximity of water and important wildlife habitat. The use of herbicides labeled for aquatic use (such as the Rodeo and Aquamaster formulations of glyphosate) is recommended, but with any herbicides treatment, caution is recommended. An alternative can include pulling Blackberry plants by hand in areas that do not support deep root structures; the loose, rounded river-rock gravels along the edges of the Coyote Creek wetlands offer potential for this type of removal.

There is a need to monitor and evaluate the erosion of the cliff face to ensure it does not threaten the historic site features. This area is also the highest restoration concern from a natural resource perspective. The cliff's soft soils appear to be eroding at a relatively fast rate, as evidenced by the lack of later seral vegetation on the cliff face. Without effective stabilization of the cliff, the road and historic site features will eventually be in jeopardy. As a first step, it is recommended that the cliff face be monitored to record the rate of erosion. Any assessment of the cliff face should be completed by a professional fluvial geomorphologist. If this assessment highlights a biological or cultural hazard it will likely lead to recommendations to stabilize the slope. This may involve standard bioengineering techniques, but it may be necessary to at least partially resort to hard engineering to achieve success.

As a general point, the control of dense infestations of blackberries, scotch broom, and meadow knapweed around the property will provide the greatest value per unit effort for improved aesthetics and ecological function of all habitats. It will be important to control these infestations before they become even more difficult to control. At present the majority of these patches are manageable. The blackberry along the cliff will be difficult, but is of high priority because of its role in erosion of the bank. At least minimal maintenance cut-back of small satellite populations of highly invasive species through annual or semiannual control will be necessary in order to keep them from becoming large patches themselves.

Recreation

The overarching goal for Golden is to ensure a long-term public benefit from our wise stewardship of the site. This will require a sensitive approach so that it is possible to develop low impact recreational opportunities. These recreational

opportunities will include short loop walks around the historic town site, opportunities to view the major buildings including access to the inside of the church, and a short hiking trail down to the river to view the recently created wetlands. The short loop walks around the town site will include the path along the route of the former Main Street, from the store up to the Ruble house, the mowed paths around the former orchard and vegetable gardens, and paths through the wood lots at either end of the property. Other low impact opportunities include picking the fruit from the orchard trees, small-scale seating to view the town site, and two scenic overlooks to view the creek below.

Built into the short walks and resting areas will be opportunities to describe the evolution of Golden that will show how the landscape has changed over time. This will include information on the Native American occupation of the area, the period of American Settlement and the eventual creation of the hydraulic gold mining operation by the Ruble family that led to the development of the town. The story of the boom period, when the Ruble family ran Golden will focus on the settlement of the area in the town site and the mining operations down in the creek area. In the creek area there are additional opportunities to describe the local fauna and wildlife with potential to provide a blind for wildlife viewing.

There is little, if any of the historic fabric left from the Chinese American period. This is due to racially discriminating laws that prevented ownership of land by Chinese Americans. This story is worth telling when you consider the landscape may have looked very different if it were not for human prejudices that prevented fellow Americans from owning land claims. The Native American history at the site is not fully understood and further research will be required to understand this chapter in the history of the site.

Telling the story of Golden will be done mostly by guide brochures and docent led tours. There will be a couple of kiosks and some discrete panels that will describe various aspects of the site's history, but they will be kept to a minimum so as not to impinge upon the "ghost town" atmosphere. One kiosk will be located between the church and the store, and will orientate visitors to the site and provide an overview of Golden. Another kiosk will be located next to the parking lot and will cover park rules, orientation and information on the story of

how the landscape evolved including all periods of settlement. The panels will be built with rustic materials to blend with their surrounding and located at key points around the property to tell the story of Golden. One will be located near the Ruble house showing how the house used to appear and the family that once lived there; one will show the extent of the orchard, preferably from the back of the property, another will be located at the scenic viewpoint showing the extent of the former town prior to the hydraulic mining actions, and a larger panel will be inside the general store to show how it might have appeared during the Ruble period. Two panels will be located down in the creek, further telling the story of the mining activities and plants and animals that now live in the wetland area.

Facilitating these recreation opportunities will require an approach that provides orientation to first time visitors. This will include information at Wolf Creek Inn, explaining the story of Golden and opportunities to book guided tours or take a self-guided brochure. At Golden the County Road will have signs at either end of the property that indicate you have entered the park. These signs will be rustic in nature and blend with the style of the historic structures. The existing parking area will be developed to provide parking for five vehicles. There will be no striping and the lot can be paved with gravel. The road shoulder inside the park will be reduced to a width of two feet, this will prevent people from parking on the road shoulder, which is currently an issue at the site. The trail path that parallels the county road will be a compacted aggregate to facilitate universal access. Universal access should be considered for the church and this will require a new entrance to the building. It is recommended this new entrance is located on the west side, which will facilitate easier access once the regrading work for the vegetable garden area is completed. All seating will be simple wood benches, there will be no picnic tables or trash cans. Orientation panels will ask the public to remove their own waste from the site. If visitor use increases dramatically it may be necessary to add a bathroom to the property. This can be located in the barn through a rehabilitation project, or a new structure can be built on the footprint of a former building. The new structure will need to blend with the rustic appearance of the buildings on site and should be screened from view with foundation plantings.

These design concepts for Golden preserve the historic fabric and allow those visiting the site to enjoy and understand the

story of why Golden is what it is today. These actions are not enough in their own right, they need to be accompanied by compatible activities that will occasionally bring the ghost town to life. These activities will focus on the what it was like to live in Golden and can include annual events that portray and commemorate moments in the towns history. These events may include the creation of the town, the arrival of Chinese Americans, the destruction of half the town due to hydraulic mining, the restoration of the wetlands, the seasonal harvest of the orchards, cider making and last but not least, the abandonment of the town. By working with the local community it is possible to develop the aforementioned activities with a focus on enhancing a greater understanding of the towns history.

In addition, there are opportunities for volunteer activities, especially the Friends of Golden, that will be cyclical in nature and can include restoration of the orchard trees, replanting the vegetable garden, removing invasive plants, replanting historic trees, maintaining the church, store, ruble house and other structures, as well as planting the native meadow and maintaining it. Other activities will include the guided tours of the site, and possible nature watching opportunities at the creek. The community will also be able to use the site as they always have, especially the church for community events.



Sun shade shelters (example above) can provide a resting area for visitors to view the site. They will be built on the footprint of former structures, highlighting the extent and form of the old mining town.

Design Guidelines - Seating

Seating at the site will be kept to a minimum. Any seating designs should be compatible with the rustic nature of the old mining town and the examples below show possible types of seat that would be appropriate for Golden.



Site Design Plan - Phase 1

Orchard

- Remove nonhistoric trees
- Retain historic trees
- Replant 8 historic fruit trees
- Establish 4' tall meadow
- Mow path around edge
- Stabilize barn
- Remove outhouse
- Resurface aggregate access road
- Remove stage

Church

- Preserve and retain church for community events
- Remove nonhistoric trees
- Retain historic trees
- Reestablish historic grade
- Reestablish gathering area
- Reestablish view of creek
- New info/interp signage
- Retain grave markers

Ruble Property

- Stabilize house
- Remove nonhistoric trees
- Retain historic trees
- Reestablish historic grade
- Establish 2' tall meadow in vegetable garden
- Establish mowed lawn in yard area
- Mow former path trace

Site Entry Points

- New compatible park signs
- Clear roadside understory vegetation to improve visibility

Cliff Top

- Remove trees to open up area east of viewpoint
- Retain historic trees
- Open up view point
- Establish fence along length of cliff
- Monitor cliff erosion



Unknown Residence

- Mow house footprint
- Remove nonhistoric trees
- Retain historic trees
- Establish 2' tall meadow in yard area

Overflow Parking

- Mow grass area to provide event parking
- Aggregate road access off Jack Creek Road

Main Parking

- Asphalt parking lot
- 5 car stalls / 2 RV stalls
- Reduce road shoulder width to stop adhoc parking

Store

- Preserve store
- Provide standing areas to look inside windows
- Preserve shed

Wetland

- Retain wetland
- Retain trail access
- Add nature blind

Trails

- Compacted aggregate trail adjacent to main road (follow historic alignment of old road)
- Regrade bank to provide bench for trail
- Mow all other paths on property to mark old paths

Interpretation

- New interpretive kiosk near church
- Interpretive panels inside blind and store
- Brochure guided tour around townsite with stopping points at major features

Design Program - Phase 1

Item	Description	Action
Revegetation and clearing to achieve park arrival feeling along county road	Clear understory and revegetate 75' buffer from park boundary along road	Improve
Entrance Sign at park gateway	2 at park boundary on either end of county road	Build
Road Improvements	Pedestrian refuge, clear sight distance, reduce shoulder width to prevent unauthorized parking	Improve
Event Parking Area	Mow end of meadow to provide for event parking with access off Jack Creek Road	Establish
Parking Area	7 spaces (5 vehicular / 2 RV's)	Build
Private property access road	Resurface with aggregate	Improve
Universal pedestrian walkway	Compacted aggregate trail adjacent to main road (follow historic alignment of old road) and regrade bank to provide bench for trail	Build
Pedestrian trails	Mow path around edge of Orchard and Vegetable Gardens and path to Ruble house	Establish
Orchard	Remove nonhistoric trees, Plant 8 historic fruit tree grafts	Preserve
Meadow	Establish 4' tall meadow in footprint of historic orchard	Establish
Ruble property	Establish 2' tall meadow in vegetable garden and mow remaining yard space with 6" blade height	
Church	Preserve Church with community access	Preserve
Ruble House	Building has been stabilized and needs maintaining	Maintain
Store	Preserve store with standing areas to view interior	Preserve
Barn	Stabilize barn structure	Maintain
Barn outhouse	Remove nonhistoric structure	Remove
Unknown residence	Mow footprint to create outline of former building	Establish
Stage	Remove nonhistoric structure	Remove
Shed	Assess stabilization options and secure	Stabilize
Store Outhouse	Assess stabilization options and secure	Stabilize
Wetland	Retain wetland and add nature blind	Maintain
Orientation Panel	Add orientation panel to parking area	Build
Interpretive panels	Add panels adjacent to church, general store and nature blind	Build (consider in interpretive plan)
Interpretive brochure	Guided tour around townsite with stopping points at major features	Establish (consider in interpretive plan)
Cliff face	Assess and monitor	Evaluate

Design Guidelines - The Story

Telling the story of Golden will require the careful installation of interpretive panels that blend with the surrounding landscape and do not detract from the sense of "discovery" at the site. This can be achieved by using well crafted wood panels that can include carved faces and routed lettering. Persons with disabilities and children need to be accommodated within the design for the signs, see examples below.



Site Design Plan - Phase 2

Orchard

- Retain historic trees
- Replant additional historic fruit trees to delineate extent of orchard
- Mow path around edge
- Rehab barn with bathrooms and storage

Church

- Preserve and retain church for community events
- Retain view of creek

Shade Structures

- Add canopy structures over footprint of historic structures to provide shade around site

Ruble Property

- Stabilize house
- Retain historic trees
- Maintain vegetable garden
- Retain mowed lawn in yard area
- Mow former path trace

Site Entry Points

- Clear roadside understory vegetation to maintain visibility

Cliff Top

- Retain views of creek
- Retain historic trees
- Monitor cliff erosion



Unknown Residence

- Shade structure on former footprint
- Retain historic trees
- Retain 2' tall meadow in yard area

Overflow Parking

- Mow grass area to provide event parking
- Retain road access off Jack Creek Road

Store

- Preserve store
- Retain standing areas to look inside windows

Interpretive Structure

- Add interpretive structure telling story of site on footprint of former Blacksmith Shop

Wetland

- Retain wetland
- Retain trail access
- Retain nature blind

Trails

- Mow all other paths on property to mark old paths or property lines

Interpretation

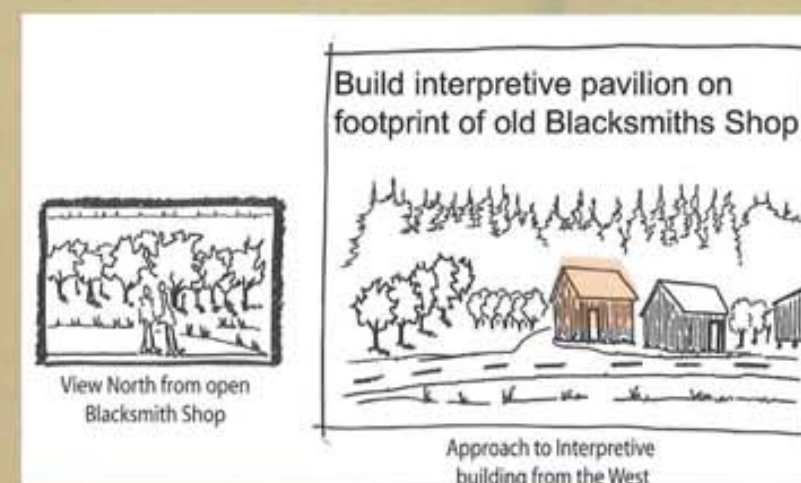
- Add new interpretive structure
- Move kiosk to parking lot
- Retain Interpretive panels inside blind and store
- Add interpretive panels for restoration work

Design Program - Phase 2

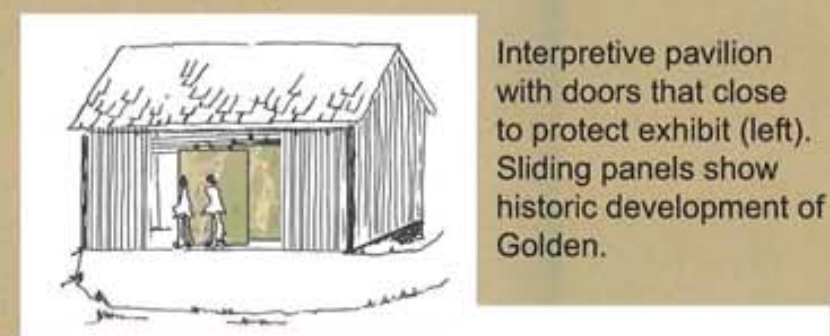
Item	Description	Action
Event parking area	Create area for site caretaker to park RV	Establish
Universal pedestrian walkway	Consider extending aggregate walkway to replace mowed paths and provide increased access to site	Build
Orchard	Plant historic fruit tree grafts to establish extent of historic orchard	Establish
Meadow	Continue to maintain 4' tall meadow in open areas of historic orchard	Maintain
Ruble property	Consider replanting vegetable garden and mow remaining yard space with 6" blade height	Establish
Church	Consider adding universal access ramp to church on west side	Preserve
Ruble House	Assess success of stabilization and consider next steps	Evaluate
Store	Consider providing occasional public access to building for tours and events or maintain building with views to interior from standing areas outside	Evaluate
Barn	Consider adapting barn for use as a public bathroom and park storage area	Maintain
Ruble property structure	Add shade canopy structure over footprint of former building	Build
Unknown residence	Add shade canopy structure over footprint of former building	Build
Interpretive structure	Add interpretive structure telling story of site on footprint of former Blacksmith Shop	Build
Wetland	Assess for invasive plants and remove if necessary	Maintain
Cliff face	Monitor cliff face and take stabilization measures if necessary	Evaluate



Design Guidelines - The Story



View of store with shed and Blacksmith's shop on left hand side of image, c. 1910.



Doors can slide back to create three-sided structure ("abandoned" appearance). Panels slide along rails to compare development periods. Moving panels reveal window that look onto site as it is today.



Phasing Matrix for Construction Projects

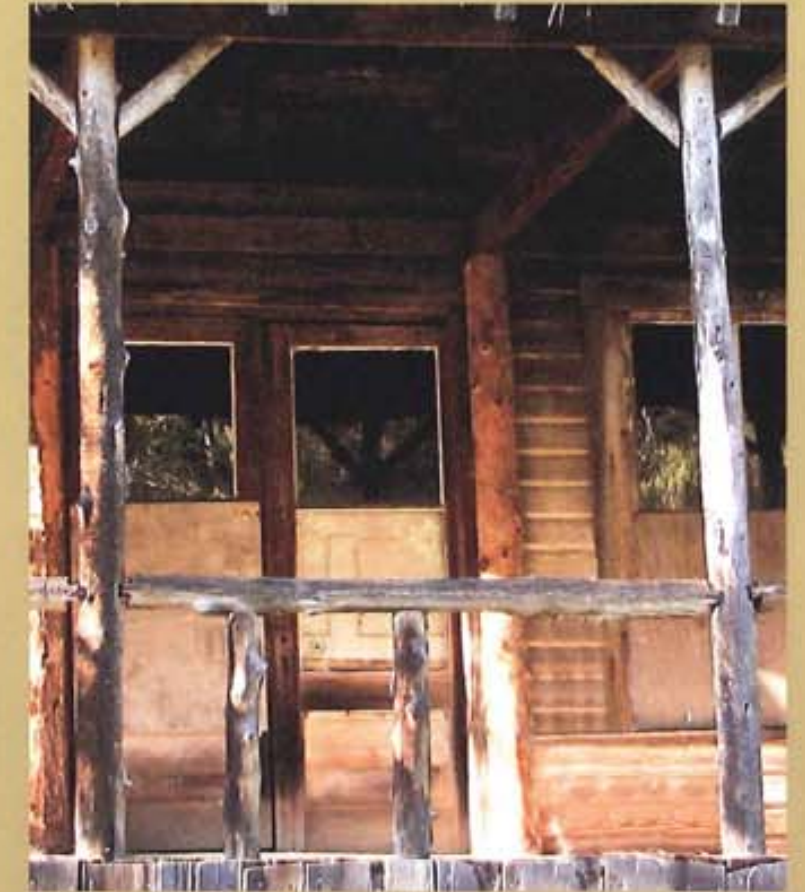
Design Concept Areas	Initial Projects				Later Projects
	1. Entrance and Parking Area	Revegetation and clearing to achieve park arrival feeling along county road	Entrance Sign at park gateway Road Improvements Parking Area	Event Parking Area Add orientation panel to parking area	
2. Former Main Street	Universal pedestrian walkway Stabilize existing shed Stabilize store outhouse	Preserve store with standing areas to view interior	Add interpretive structure telling story of site on footprint of former Blacksmith Shop	Add Interpretive panel adjacent to store	Consider providing occasional public access to store for tours and events
3. Church	Preserve Church with retained community access	Consider adding universal access ramp to church on west side		Add Interpretive panel adjacent to church	
4. Ruble Property	Building has been stabilized and needs preservation plan	Establish 2' tall meadow in vegetable garden and mow remaining yard space with 6" blade height	Add shade canopy structure over footprint of former building		Replant vegetable garden and mow remaining yard space with 6" blade height
5. Orchards Area	Remove nonhistoric trees, Plant 8 historic fruit tree grafts Stabilize barn structure Remove nonhistoric outhouse	Establish 4' tall meadow in footprint of historic orchard	Mow path around edge of orchard, veg. garden and Ruble house Add shade canopy structure over footprint of former building	Consider extending aggregate walkway to replace mowed paths and provide increased access to site	Plant historic fruit tree grafts to establish extent of historic orchard Consider adapting barn for use as a public bathroom and park
6. Forested Edge				Assess and prescribe treatment for forest edge on east and west sides of property	
7. Wetlands Area		Assess for invasive plants and remove if necessary	Assess and conserve wetland	Add nature blind Add Interpretive panel adjacent to nature blind	
8. Cliff Face		Assess and monitor cliff face			Prescribe treatment to stabilize cliff face if necessary

Follow Up Work Required to Implement Development Plan

Establishing an integrated planning approach for Golden will ensure future development of the property responds to the character of the site. A comprehensive approach will be established to carry this process forward and will require the further development of design concepts, specific resources management actions, budget needs, preservation maintenance planning, detailed interpretive planning, and a detailed phasing plan that covers scheduling, cost estimating, sequencing and workload projection.

The following action items will need to be completed as part of the Comprehensive Plan for Golden State Heritage Site:

- Develop detailed phasing plan with class "O" cost estimates (identify short and long-term funding sources) and appoint long-term project manager to run construction projects.
- Create detailed design plans with class "C" cost estimates.
- Construction drawings for discrete projects with class "B and A" cost estimates.
- Monitor and evaluate the erosion of the cliff face to ensure it does not threaten the historic site features.
- Foster partnerships, especially the Friends of Golden, to support long-term care of Golden.
- Develop a comprehensive interpretation plan to tell the story of Golden's past and its ongoing preservation.
- Develop a long-term conservation maintenance plan for Golden (in HUB), which integrates principals of sustainability with cultural and natural resource treatments.
- Complete detailed project scoping and project descriptions for natural, cultural and scenic management projects. base projects on concept guidelines in this plan.
- Complete proposals for needed staff and funding support based on visitor needs and resource management objectives.



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