A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
OF CITY OF BOULDER OPEN SPACE LAND
FOR THE VALMONT CONNECTOR

BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

by

Robert J. Mutaw, Ph.D.

Submitted to
City of Boulder
Open Space/Real Estate Department

Submitted by
Peter J. Gleichman
Principal Investigator
Native Cultural Services

September 10, 1993
INTRODUCTION

At the request of the City of Boulder Open Space/Real Estate Department, Native Cultural Services conducted a cultural resource inventory of open space land in the vicinity of Valmont and 57th Street. The work was performed in compliance with Open Space guidelines concerning the protection of cultural resources on Open Space land. The Transportation Department intends to use the land as part of the Tributary Greenways Program, including development of a trail, buffer, and wetlands mitigation area in portions of the property.

Approximately 14.5 acres were inventoried in portions of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 and SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, and the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 27, T.1N., R.70W., 6th P.M. (Figure 1). The project area is located on the USGS Niwot 7.5' topographic quadrangle map 1967, photorevised 1979. Much of the land has been cultivated or disturbed by the construction of a railroad grade and a ditch. This property is located near an area that is considered archaeologically sensitive because of its proximity to Boulder Creek and to a branch of South Boulder Creek. The area around Boulder Creek contains a number of known archaeological sites and probable unknown sites.

The intent of the cultural resource inventory was to identify and record any cultural resources located on the property and to assess their significance so that appropriate management decisions can be made regarding their protection. The inventory included a detailed literature search on the area and a 100% pedestrian survey of all portions of the property. The field reconnaissance was conducted on August 14, 1993 by Robert J. Mutaw, Ph.D and Anne M. Mutaw. Field notes are on file at the offices of Native Cultural Services. No artifacts were collected during the reconnaissance.

ENVIRONMENT

The project area is in the short-grass prairie of the Great Plains. The area is encompassed by the Colorado Piedmont, an area of high plains along the base of the Rocky Mountains characterized by gently rolling terrain with mesas and ridges, cut by numerous small drainages, ephemeral streams, and creeks. Being situated in the floodway of Boulder Creek, the project area contains little topographic relief, ranging in elevation from 1579 to 1582 meters (5180 to 5190 feet). Loveland and Nivot soils are found in the project area and both consist of deep, somewhat poorly drained loams and clay loams formed on terraces and bottomlands in loamy alluvium (Moreland and Moreland 1975).
The growing season in eastern Boulder County averages 140-148 days, and is ideal for cultivation of several crops including corn and alfalfa. A large portion of the study area is cultivated and used for growing hay. Historically, one of the distributary channels of South Boulder Creek crossed the property from south to north and joined Boulder Creek about one-quarter mile to the north. A portion of the channel of South Boulder Creek as it crosses the project area has been altered by the construction of the outlet for the KOA Lake which uses this distributary as a supply.

Vegetation in project area included grasses, forbs, willow, cottonwood, thistle, and recently mowed hay. Vegetation was thick in noncultivated areas and ground visibility was poor, about 10%, in cultivated areas ground visibility averaged about 40%.

EXISTING DATA AND LITERATURE REVIEW

The known culture history of the general area is summarized in the two RP3 documents produced by the Colorado Historical Society for the eastern plains by Eighmy (1984) and Mehls (1984).

A files search conducted on August 10, 1993 at the operations office for the City of Boulder Open Space/Real Estate Department revealed that no previous surveys had been conducted in the project area and that no known cultural resources existed in the project area. However, air photo maps provided by City Open Space identified an abandoned railroad grade and the Butte Mill Ditch crossing the project area.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the inventory were to provide the Open Space/Real Estate Department with an inventory of archaeological and historic sites, to assess the significance of any sites located, and to produce recommendations on how to avoid adverse impacts to significant cultural resources from the planned projects.

Prehistoric sites in the area of the plains are generally limited to small scatters of lithic debris and tools left by groups following a nomadic hunter-gatherer adaptation. Bone beds from kill/butcher sites are present on the plains, and stone circles ("tipi rings"), firepits or hearths, and substantial layers of culturally deposited material are known from sites in Boulder County. Prehistoric sites tend to be in areas near water sources.
or other critical natural resources. Most historic sites in the area are related to homesteads and agricultural or mining pursuits from the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.

It was expected that if aboriginal cultural resources were located within the project area, information obtained from those resources would be applicable to a number of research concerns such as regional chronology, settlement patterns, resource utilization, site functions, and cultural affiliation. Many of these issues are outlined in Eighmy's (1984) "Colorado Plains Prehistoric Context". Historic resources will aid in documenting early historic activities in the area.

The project area has a low potential for containing aboriginal cultural resources. Even though it is located near Boulder and South Boulder Creeks, the extreme levels of long-term disturbance severely reduce the potential for locating aboriginal materials. In historic times, the area has been extensively disturbed by cultivation, construction of Valmont and other roads, excavation of Butte Mill and other ditches, and canalization of South Boulder Creek.

The potential for locating additional historic materials is greater, given the presence of the agricultural land and irrigation features within the project area and a railroad grade crossing it.

FIELD METHODS

All portions of the property were surveyed by means of parallel pedestrian transects that were oriented to compass direction and spaced no more than 20 meters (50 feet) apart. The project area was located by means of a low altitude air photo map showing boundaries and their relationship to obvious features, such as Valmont Road, 57th Street, and portions of the existing and abandoned segments of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Evidence of cultural resources was sought in the form of material debris, structural remains, or any unusual surface anomaly. Any cultural remains more than 50 years old were recorded. Isolated Finds were defined as areas with fewer than four artifacts in a space of 100 square meters. Sites were minimally defined by the presence of four artifacts or at least one structure or feature.
RESULTS

Portions of one previously recorded site and of an unrecorded site were encountered in the project area. The previously recorded site, 5BL469.1, is an abandoned segment of the Union Pacific Railroad. The newly recorded site, 5BL4153, is a segment of the Butte Mill Ditch. Both of the sites are described below and on the attached site forms.

Site 5BL469.1 is a 580 meter (1900 ft) segment of railroad grade that enters the project area from the northeast at Indian Road and exits to the southwest at Valmont Road. The railroad grade averages about 5 meters (16 feet) across and is constructed from crushed stone. Approximately 90 meters (300 feet) of the easternmost portion within the project area is still laid with track. All track and ties have been removed from the remaining portion of the grade in the project area. Where the route crosses the Butte Mill Ditch a few wooden piers are still in place along the banks. These would have provided a foundation for a bridge across the ditch. No evidence remains of the bridge that would have existed at the crossing of South Boulder Creek. Railroad related artifacts, such as, spikes, rail plates, and other hardware, were observed lightly scattered over the entire extent of the abandoned grade.

This segment of railroad grade was a part of the Union Pacific line that ran from Erie to downtown Boulder. It began operations in 1873 as the Denver and Boulder Valley Railroad Company. This company had been formed in 1870 by John Evans, Walter Cheeseman, William E. Turner, and William N. Byers. Subsequently the line was acquired by the Union Pacific Railroad which extended the line to west Boulder in 1881 and built the historic Boulder Depot in 1890 (Fetter 1983; Weiss 1981). The importance of this line has always been overshadowed by the earlier completion of the Colorado Central line to Boulder via Marshall (Fetter 1986). The segment of the Union Pacific line in the project area was in service until the 1980s. Site 5BL469 was recorded in 1981 by Manuel Weiss and has since been officially determined not eligible for the NRHP.

Site 5BL4153 is a 550 meter (1800 ft) segment of the Butte Mill Ditch that enters the project area from the southwest north of Valmont Road and exits to the northeast at Indian Road. The ditch begins about one-quarter mile to the southwest at Boulder Creek where a concrete headgate diverts the water. At one point near the center of the project area the ditch shares a channel with a distributary of South Boulder Creek. A concrete spillway and headgate are then used to separate the two flows. An existing spur of the Union Pacific Railroad crosses the ditch in the eastern end of the project area. This crossing is facilitated by means of two
galvanized steel culverts. The culverts are held in place on the west side by a stone and mortar retaining wall and on the east side by a brick and mortar retaining wall.

The Butte Mill Ditch was given a fee appropriation in 1865 and was adjudicated, along with many other ditches in the area, on June 2, 1881 (Dyni 1989; Smith 1986). The ditch was built to power a grist mill that was built by Judge P. M. Housel and Company (Bixby 1880; Schoolland 1980). Judge Housel bought the equipment and John DeBacker, a Belgian millwright, built the mill on the north side of the road about three-quarters of a mile east of the town of Valmont. Twenty-two feet of water from the ditch powered a 24-inch double turbine wheel which drove the burrs. Judge Housel bought out DeBacker and then sold the mill and ditch to George Sawhill, whose son later built a house on the former millsite at 6967 Valmont Road (Schoolland 1980).

P. M. Housel was born in Pennsylvania in 1836 and came to Colorado in 1859. For three years he worked at the Horsfal Lode and then settled in the Boulder Valley. He was elected Boulder's first county judge in 1862, re-elected in 1864 and eventually served as a trustee for the Denver and Boulder Valley Railroad (Bixby 1880; Schoolland 1980). As a pioneer settler and early member of the political and business communities of the Boulder Valley, Judge Housel is certainly of local importance. The Butte Mill was not the first grain mill in Boulder County, but it was an early one.

The Butte Mill Ditch has been in continuous use with a modern allotment of 1200 acres (Dyni 1989). The segment crossing the project area has been lined with concrete and the entire ditch is probably wider than when it was built. The headgates and diversion features located within the project area were probably built in the early Twentieth Century. Although the ditch is associated with Judge Housel, a person of local importance, the alterations to it and the surrounding area, the loss of the mill, and the change in character from a ditch powering a mill to one for agricultural use detract from the integrity of the site to such and extent to make it not eligible for the NRHP.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Two cultural resources were encountered during the inventory of City of Boulder open space land in the vicinity Valmont and 57th Street. Site 5BL469.1, an abandoned segment of the Union Pacific Railroad, has been officially determined not eligible for the NRHP. Site 5BL4153, the Butte Mill Ditch, is evaluated in this report as also being not eligible for the NRHP. As appears that no significant cultural resources are located within the project area.
it is recommended that the proposed projects be allowed to proceed as planned.

Peter J. Gleichman 9-10-93
Principal Investigator

REFERENCES CITED

Bixby, Amos
1880 History of Clear Creek and Boulder Valley. O.L. Baskin and Company, Chicago.

Dyni, Anne

Eighmy, Jeffrey H.

Fetter, Richard

Mehls, Steven F.

Moreland, Donald C. and Ronald E. Moreland

Schoolland, John B.

Smith, Phyllis

Weiss, Manuel M.
Colorado Cultural Resource Survey
Management Data Form
(page 1 of 5)
Complete this form for each resource in addition to other appropriate forms—see Manual for information

1. State Site Number SBL469.1
2. Temporary Site Number

3. Attachments (check as many as apply)
   __ Prehistoric Archaeological Component
   __ Historical Archaeological Component
   __ Historical Architectural Record/
   __ Sketch/Instrument Map (required)
   __ Photograph(s)
   __ Other, specify

4. Official determination (OAHP use only)
   ______ Determined Eligible
   ______ Determined Not Eligible
   ______ Nominated
   ______ Listed
   ______ Need Data
   ______ Contributing to NR Dist.
   ______ Not Contributing to NR Dist.

I. IDENTIFICATION

5. Resource Name Union Pacific Railroad/Denver and Boulder Valley Line

6. Project Name/Number Open Space near Valmont and 57th Street

7. Government Involvement:
   Local X State Federal
   Agency City of Boulder, Open Space/Real Estate Department

8. Site Categories: Check as many as apply
   Prehistoric: archaeological site_ paleontological site
   __ in an existing National Register District? yes no name
   __Historic: archaeology site X building(s) structure(s) object(s)
   __ in an existing National Register District? yes no X name

9. Owner/Owner's Address City of Boulder, Open Space/Real Estate Department

10. Boundary Description and Justification based on linear extent of features
    associated with portion of site crossing project area

11. Site Dimensions 5 m 580 m Area 2900 m² (~4047) 0.72 acres
    Area was calculated as Length x Width X OR (length X width) X .785
    rectangle/square ellipse

II. LOCATION

12. Legal Location
    PM 6th Township 1N Range 70W 1/4of NW1/4of SW1/4of SE1/4 Section 22
    PM 6th Township 1N Range 70W 1/4of SE1/4of SE1/4of SW1/4 Section 22
    PM 6th Township 1N Range 70W 1/4of SW1/4of SE1/4of SW1/4 Section 22

    if section is irregular, explain alignment method

13. USGS Quad Niwot 7.5' X 15' Date(s) 1967(1979pr)(attach photocopy)

14. County Boulder

15. Other Maps
III. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

19. Topographic Feature(s)

- mountain
- hill
- tableland/mesa
- ridge
- saddle/pass
- alcove/rockshelter
- cliff
- slope
- ledge
- terrace/bench
- canyon
- valley
- basin
- floodplain
- cutbank
- arroyo/gully
- playa
- talus slope
- alluvial fan
- plain
- dune
- floodplain
- cutbank
- arroyo/gully

20. Describe on-site topography (mention named landforms) on floodway near the confluence of a distributary branch of S. Boulder Ck. and Boulder Creek

21. Site Elevation 5180 feet = (x .0408) 1579 meters

22. Aspect north

23. Degree of slope on site __°

24. Soil Depth __ cm

25. Soil description (character and color) brown clay loam

26. Depositional environment

- aeolian
- residual
- colluvial
- alluvial
- none
- moraine
- other, specify

27. Nearest water: name/nature permanent distributary of South Boulder Creek
distance ____ 0 m ____ 0 ft. the railroad crossed this stream.

28. Nearest permanent water: name ______________ distance ______ m ______ ft.

29. Vegetation on site (list predominant species) grasses, forbs, thistle, willow, cottonwoods

30. Vegetation associations/communities surrounding site short grass prairie and riparian
IV. National Register Eligibility Assessment

31. Colorado Historical Society context (RP3) theme(s) Plains Historic

Specify Development and Expansion of The Rail Network

32. Applicable National Register Criteria

_X_ Does not meet any of the below National Register criteria

__A. associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the
   broad pattern of our history

__B. associated with the lives of persons significant in our past

__C. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method
   of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess
   high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity
   whose components may lack individual distinction

__D. has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in
   history or prehistory

__Qualifies under exceptions A through B (see Manual)

Level of Significance  National__  State__  Local__

33. Condition
   a. Architectural/Structural
      __Excellent
      __Good
      __Fair
      __Deteriorated
      __Ruins
   b. Archaeological/Paleontological
      __Undisturbed
      __Light disturbance
      __Moderate disturbance
      __Heavy disturbance
      __Total disturbance

34. Describe condition all of the rail, ties, bridges and abutments have been
    removed from most of the project area segment

35. Is site vandalized? yes__ no_X describe____________________________________

36. Eligibility Recommendation:

Eligible____  Not Eligible_X  Need Data____

Statement of Significance/N.R.H.P. Justification concur with official determination.

37. If in an existing National Register District, is the site
   Contributing____  Non-Contributing____

38. Is there National Register District Potential? yes__ no_X discuss______________
STATE SITE # 5BL469.1
Temporary #

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

vandalism__ recreation X construction__ other (specify) _____________

40. Existing Protection: none X marked__ fenced__ patrolled__ access controlled__
other (specify) _____________

41. Local landmark designation _____________

42. Easement _____________

43. Management Recommendations No further work.

VI. DOCUMENTATION

44. Previous Actions Accomplished at the site:
   a. Excavations: test__ partial__ complete__ Date(s):
   b. Stabilization: Date(s) ___________________________
   c. HABS/HAER Documentation: Date(s) & Numbers___________
   d. Other ___________________________

45. Known collections/reports/interviews and other references (list)
   see additional information section, historic archaeology form

46. Primary Location of Additional Data _____________

47. State or Federal Permit Number CD 93-33 Collection Authorized: yes X no __
   Artifact Collection: yes_ no X
   Method: Diagnostics__ grab sample__ random sample__ transect__
   Other (specify) ___________________________

48. Photograph Nos. NCS-93-??, Exp. 6,11,12 negatives filed at NCS

49. Report Title Cultural Resource Inventory of Open Space Lands in the Vicinity
   of Valmont and 57th Street, Boulder County, Colorado

50. Recorder(s) Robert J. and Anne M. Mutaw Date(s) August 24, 1993

51. Affiliation Native Cultural Services Phone Number 494-5267

Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation,
1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203, (303) 866-3395
Colorado Cultural Resource Survey
Historical Archaeology Component Form
(page 1 of 4)

Use this form in conjunction with the Management Data Form. This form should be completed for each historical site with archaeological potential.

1. State Site Number SBL469.1
2. Temporary Number

Does this form pertain to the site in general? yes X no OR a particular feature/structure (please note feature/structure number)

3. Site/Feature Type: railroad grade

4. General Site/Feature Description: Site SBL419.1 is a 580 meter (1900 ft) segment of railroad grade that enters the project area from the northeast at Indian Road and exits to the southwest at Valmont Road. The railroad grade averages about 5 meters (16 feet) across and is constructed from crushed stone. Approximately 90 meters (300 feet) of the eastern-most portion within the project area is still laid with track. All track and ties have been removed from the remaining portion of the grade in the project area. Where the route crosses the Butte Mill Ditch a few wooden piers are still in place along the banks. These would have provided a foundation for a bridge across the ditch. No evidence remains of the bridge that would have existed at the crossing of South Boulder Creek. Railroad related artifacts, such as, spikes, rail plates, and other hardware, were observed lightly scattered over the entire extent of the abandoned grade.

5. Historic Component date(s) and/or sociopolitical period 1873-1980s

6. Component Function(s)
   Original Use railroad
   Present Use abandoned
   Comments

7. Ethnic affiliation of occupants Euro-American

justification historic records
Artifact Classes: Please list specific attributes in the first blank and artifact quantity (either count or estimate) on the second line. Particularly important attributes are listed following the artifact class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Feature(s)</th>
<th>Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Glass** (function, color, manufacturing technique, makers marks, inscriptions, thickness, shape)
  bottle | | | |
  | | | |
  | | | |
| window | | | |
| other | | | |

| **B. Ceramics** (function, surface treatment/glaze, shape, trademarks, color, decorations, earthenware) | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| **C. Nails** (size, material type and manufacture techniques if not wire or cut) | | | |
| cut nails | | | |
| wire nails | | | |
| other | | | |
**State Site # 5PL469.1**

**Historical Archaeology Component Form**

(temporary #________)  
(page 3 of 4)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Feature Association</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>D. Cans</strong> (function, size, material type, type of opening, seams, inscriptions, hole-in-top/hole-in-cap)</td>
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<td>sanitation</td>
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<td>other:</td>
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| **E. Cartridge Cases** (size, inscriptions, material type) |          |                     |
|                                                            |          |                     |
|                                                            |          |                     |

| **F. Construction Material** - logs, milled lumber, brick, adobe, cement/concrete, stone/rock, corrugated metal, asphalt/tar, pipe, etc. |          |                     |
|                                                                 |          |                     |
|                                                                 |          |                     |
|                                                                 |          |                     |
|                                                                 |          |                     |
|                                                                 |          |                     |

| **G. Misc. Other Items** - utensils, stove parts, wire, nuts, bolts, rivets, screws, buckets, barrels, animals shoes, wagon or car parts, machinery, leather, fabric, clothing, bone, furniture, buttons, coins, etc. |          |                     |
|                                                                 |          |                     |
|                                                                 |          |                     |
|                                                                 |          |                     |
|                                                                 |          |                     |

|                                                                 |          |                     |
State Site # 5BL469.1  

Historical Archaeology Component Form

Temporary #_______  (page 4 of 4)

9. Artifact Density: Heavy____ Medium____ Light X Describes only occasional metal artifacts were observed on portions of abandoned grade inspected

10. Additional information

This segment of railroad grade was a part of the Union Pacific line that ran from Erie to downtown Boulder. It began operations in 1873 as the Denver and Boulder Valley Railroad Company. This company had been formed in 1870 by John Evans, Walter Cheeseman, William E. Turner, and William N. Byers. Subsequently the line was acquired by the Union Pacific Railroad which built the historic Boulder Depot in 1890 (Fetter 1983; Weiss 1981). The importance of this line was always overshadowed by the earlier completion of the Colorado Central line to Boulder via Marshall (Fetter 1986). The segment of the Union Pacific line in the project area was in service until the 1980s. Site 5BL469 was recorded in 1981 by Manuel Weiss and has since been officially determined not eligible for the NRHP.

Fetter, Richard

Weiss, Manuel M.

Please complete parts 9 and 10 only if this form pertains to the site in general.

11. Architectural Features (complete "Historic Architecture Record/Building Form" when appropriate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map Ref.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Construction Material</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
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12. Non-architectural Features

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<th>Map Ref.</th>
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<th>Construction Material</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
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13. Recorder(s) Robert J. Mutaw and Anne M. Mutaw

Date August 24, 1993
Colorado Cultural Resource Survey
Management Data Form
(page 1 of 5)
Complete this form for each resource in addition to other appropriate forms—see Manual for information

1. State Site Number 5BL4153 2. Temporary Site Number

3. Attachments (check as many as apply) 4. Official determination (DAHP use only)
   - Prehistoric Archaeological Component Determined Eligible
   - Historical Archaeological Component Determined Not Eligible
   - Historical Architectural Record/Building Form Nominated
   - Sketch/Instrument Map (required) Listed
   - U.S.G.S. Map Photocopy (required) Need Data
   - Photograph(s) Contributing to NR Dist.
   - Other, specify Not Contributing to NR Dist.

I. IDENTIFICATION

5. Resource Name Butte Mill Ditch

6. Project Name/Number Open Space near Valmont and 57th Street

7. Government Involvement: Local X State Federal
   Agency City of Boulder, Open Space/Real Estate Department

8. Site Categories: Check as many as apply
   Prehistoric: archaeological site X paleontological site
   in an existing National Register District? yes no name
   Historic: archaeology site building(s) structure(s) object(s) X
   in an existing National Register District? yes no name

9. Owner/Owner’s Address City of Boulder, Open Space/Real Estate Department

10. Boundary Description and Justification based on linear extent of features associated with portion of site crossing project area

11. Site Dimensions 5 m 550 m Area 2750 m² (-4047) 0.68 acres
    Area was calculated as Length x Width X OR (length x width) X .785 ellipse

II. LOCATION

12. Legal Location
   PM 6th Township 1N Range 70W NW 1/4 of SW1/4 of SW1/4 of SE1/4 Section 22
   PM 6th Township 1N Range 70W NE 1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4 of SW1/4 Section 22
   PM 6th Township 1N Range 70W NW 1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4 of SW1/4 Section 22
   PM 6th Township 1N Range 70W SE 1/4 of SW1/4 of SE1/4 of SW1/4 Section 22
   PM 6th Township 1N Range 70W SW 1/4 of SW1/4 of SE1/4 of SW1/4 Section 22
   PM 6th Township 1N Range 70W SW 1/4 of SW1/4 of SE1/4 of SW1/4 Section 22
   if section is irregular, explain alignment method anchored at NW corner

13. USGS Quad Niwot 7.5’ X 15’ Date(s) 1967(1979pr) (attach photocopy)

14. County Boulder

15. Other Maps
III. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

19. Topographic Feature(s)

- mountain
- hill
- tableland/mesa
- ridge
- saddle/pass
- alcove/rockshelter
- cliff
- slope
- ledge
- terrace/bench
- canyon
- valley
- basin
- floodplain
- cutbank
- arroyo/gully

20. Describe on-site topography (mention named landforms) on floodway near the confluence of a distributary branch of S. Boulder Ck. and Boulder Creek

21. Site Elevation 5180 feet=(x .3048) 1579 meters

22. Aspect north

23. Degree of slope on site __1__°

24. Soil Depth __unknown__ cm

25. Soil description (character and color) brown clay loam

26. Depositional environment

- aeolian
- residual
- colluvial
- alluvial
- none
- moraine
- other, specify

27. Nearest water: name/nature permanent distributary of South Boulder Creek

- distance __0_ m __0_ ft.

28. Nearest permanent water: name________ distance ______ m ______ ft.

29. Vegetation on site (list predominant species) grasses, forbs, thistle, willow, cottonwoods

30. Vegetation associations/communities surrounding site short grass prairie and riparian
State Site # 5BL4153
Temporary #

IV. National Register Eligibility Assessment

31. Colorado Historical Society context (RP3) theme(s) Plains Historic

   Specify Early Plains Irrigation and Farming

32. Applicable National Register Criteria

   X Does not meet any of the below National Register criteria

   A. associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the
      broad pattern of our history

   B. associated with the lives of persons significant in our past

   C. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method
      of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess
      high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity
      whose components may lack individual distinction

   D. has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in
      history or prehistory

   Qualifies under exceptions A through G (see Manual)

   Level of Significance

   National__ State__ Local__

33. Condition

   a. Architectural/Structural
      X Excellent
      Good
      Fair
      Deteriorated
      Ruins

   b. Archaeological/Paleontological
      Undisturbed
      Light disturbance
      Moderate disturbance
      Heavy disturbance
      Total disturbance

34. Describe condition the ditch is maintained and in current use

35. Is site vandalized? yes__ no X describe

36. Eligibility Recommendation:

   Eligible____ Not Eligible X____ Need Data____

   Statement of Significance/N.R.H.P. Justification ditch has probably been
   enlarged, it has been lined with concrete and the headgate and diversion
   features are not original, therefore, the site lacks the integrity necessary
   to be eligible for the NRHP.

37. If in an existing National Register District, is the site

   Contributing____ Non-Contributing____

38. Is there National Register District Potential? yes__ no X discuss
MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

   vandalism__ recreation_X construction__ other(specify)_____________
   comments____________________________________

40. Existing Protection: none_X marked__ fenced__ patrolled__ access controlled__
   other (specify)____________________________________

41. Local landmark designation____________________________________

42. Easement____________________________________

43. Management Recommendations: No further work.

VI. DOCUMENTATION

44. Previous Actions Accomplished at the site:
   a. Excavations: test__ partial__ complete__ Date(s):
   b. Stabilization: Date(s)______________________________
   c. HABS/HAER Documentation: Date(s) & Numbers________________
   d. Other__________________

45. Known collections/reports/interviews and other references (list)
   see additional information sections, historic archaeology form

46. Primary Location of Additional Data: NCS

47. State or Federal Permit Number: CO 93-33  Collection Authorized: yes_X no_
   Artifact Collection: yes no_X
   Method: Diagnostics__ grab sample__ random sample__ transect__
   Other (specify)______________________________

48. Photograph Nos. NCS-93-12, Exp.5,7,9,10 negatives filed at NCS

49. Report Title: Cultural Resource Inventory of Open Space Lands in the Vicinity
   of Valmont and 57th Street, Boulder County, Colorado

50. Recorder(s) Robert J. and Anne M. Mutaw  Date(s) August 24, 1993

51. Affiliation: Native Cultural Services  Phone Number 494-5267

Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation,
1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203, (303) 866-3395
Use this form in conjunction with the Management Data Form. This form should be completed for each historical site with archaeological potential.

1. State Site Number SBL4153
2. Temporary Number

Does this form pertain to the site in general? yes X no OR a particular feature/structure (please note feature/structure number)________

3. Site/Feature Type: irrigation ditch

4. General Site/Feature Description Site SBL4153 is a 550 meter (1800 ft) segment of the Butte Mill Ditch that enters the project area from the southwest north of Valmont Road and exits to the northeast at Indian Road. The ditch begins about one-quarter mile to the southwest at Boulder Creek where a concrete headgate diverts the water. At one point near the center of the project area the ditch shares a channel with a distributary of South Boulder Creek. A concrete spillway and headgate are then used to separate the two flows. An existing spur of the Union Pacific Railroad crosses the ditch in the eastern end of the project area. This crossing is facilitated by means of two galvanized steel culverts. The culverts are held in place on the west side by a stone and mortar retaining wall and on the east side by a brick and mortar retaining wall.

5. Historic Component date(s) and/or sociopolitical period 1865-present

justification historic records

6. Component Function(s)
   Original Use irrigation ditch
   Present Use irrigation ditch
   Comments

7. Ethnic affiliation of occupants Euro-American

justification historic records
State Site # 5BL4153  Historical Archaeology Component Form  (page 2 of 4)

Artifact Classes: Please list specific attributes in the first blank and artifact quantity (either count or estimate) on the second line. Particularly important attributes are listed following the artifact class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Feature(s)</th>
<th>Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Glass</strong> (function, color, manufacturing technique, makers marks, inscriptions, thickness, shape)</td>
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<tr>
<td>bottle</td>
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<td><strong>B. Ceramics</strong> (function, surface treatment/glaze, shape, trademarks, color, decorations, earthenware)</td>
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<td><strong>C. Nails</strong> (size, material type and manufacture techniques if not wire or cut)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### State Site # 5BL4153  
#### Historical Archaeology Component Form  
( page 3 of 4 )

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Feature Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**D. Cans**  
function, size, material type, type of opening, seams, inscriptions, hole-in-top/hole-in-cap

sanitary

other:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Feature Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**E. Cartridge Cases**  
(size, inscriptions, material type)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Feature Association</th>
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</table>

**F. Construction Material**  
- logs, milled lumber, brick, adobe, cement/concrete, stone/rock, corrugated metal, asphalt/tar, pipe, etc.

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Feature Association</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**G. Misc. Other Items**  
- utensils, stove parts, wire, nuts, bolts, rivets, screws, buckets, barrels, animals, shoes, wagon or car parts, machinery, leather, fabric, clothing, bone, furniture, buttons, coins, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Feature Association</th>
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</table>
9. Artifact Density: Heavy_____ Medium_____ Light_____ Describe No artifacts relating to the ditch or its construction were observed.

10. Additional information

The Butte Mill Ditch was given a fee appropriation in 1865 and was adjudicated, along with many other ditches in the area, on June 2, 1881 (Dyni 1989; Smith 1986). The ditch was built to power a grist mill that was built by Judge P. M. Housel and Company (Bixby 1880; Schoolland 1980). Judge Housel bought the equipment and John De Backer, a Belgian millwright, built the mill on the north side of the road about three-quarters of a mile east of the town of Valmont. Twenty-two feet of water from the ditch powered a 24-inch double turbine wheel which drove the burrs. Judge Housel bought out De Backer and then sold the mill and ditch to George Sawhill, whose son later built a house on the former mill site at 6967 Valmont Road (Schoolland 1980).

P. M. Housel was born in Pennsylvania in 1836 and came to Colorado in 1859. For three years he worked at the Horsfal Lode and then settled in the Boulder Valley. He was elected Boulder’s first county judge in 1862, re-elected in 1864 and eventually served as a trustee for the Denver and Boulder Valley Railroad (Bixby 1880; Schoolland 1980). As a pioneer settler and early member of the political and business communities of the Boulder Valley, Judge Housel is certainly of local importance. The Butte Mill was not the first grain mill in Boulder County, but it was an early one.

The Butte Mill Ditch has been in continuous use with a modern allotment of 1200 acres (Dyni 1989) The segment crossing the project area has been lined with concrete and the entire ditch is probably wider than when it was built. The headgates and diversim features located within the project area were probably built in the early Twentieth Century. Although the ditch is associated with Judge Housel, a person of local importance, the alterations to it and the surrounding area, the loss of the mill, and the change in character from a ditch powering a mill to one for agricultural use detract from the integrity of the site to such and extent to make it not eligible for the NRHP.

REFERENCES CITED


13. Recorder(s) Robert J. Mutaw and Anne M. Mutaw

Date August 24, 1993

Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203. (303) 866-3995
September 9, 1993

Dick Brasher
City of Boulder
Public Works/Transportation
Boulder, Co

INVOICE

For fieldwork and report preparation, cultural resource inventory
Valmont Connector - Tributary Greenways Program

Principal Investigator, 2 hrs @ 30.00/hr. ....... 60.00
Supervisor, 24.25 hrs @ 22.00/hr. ............. 533.50
Milage, 9 miles @ 0.30/mile. ................. 2.70

TOTAL $596.20

THANK YOU

EIN 84-1197893