

CULTURAL RESOURCES

8.1 STATEMENT OF INTENT

The intent of this chapter is to facilitate and encourage the identification and protection of the county's significant cultural resources, enhance awareness of the history of the county, and convey the importance of preserving properties that are significantly linked with that history.

8.2 BACKGROUND/EXISTING CONDITIONS

Preserving cultural resources is a part of maintaining community identity. Cultural resources also provide visitors a connection to the county's heritage and can increase economic development through heritage tourism programs. As the county grows, we need to maintain our ties to the past through preservation of its cultural resources.

Albany County promotes the identification, evaluation, and protection of cultural resource sites throughout the county, as well as the tourism opportunities these sites present. As a result, residents and visitors have an enhanced awareness of the important links of present Albany County with its rich heritage and its significant cultural resources—historic buildings, archaeological sites, historical sites and districts, and cemeteries and gravesites.

Albany County's cultural resources include prehistoric, ethno-historic, and historic archeological sites; historic buildings; and cultural landmarks. Some represent early stages in our community's development and others predate our role in the region.

Some of these resources include:

- * The Overland Trail,
- * The Union Pacific Railroad,
- * Dale Creek Crossing,
- * Wyoming Territorial Penitentiary.

Additional information on cultural resources is located in Appendix 7. See also Map 8.1, Cultural and Historic Resources.



*Figure 8.1:
Monument to Ames brothers, who
were instrumental in development
of the Transcontinental railroad.*



*Figure 8.2:
The Union Pacific Railroad helped
open up the west and helps sustain
it today.*

8.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES OBJECTIVES

1. Promote the identification, evaluation, and protection of cultural resource sites throughout the county.
2. Encourage permanent protection, interpretation, and maintenance of all identified Albany County archaeological sites of significance.
3. Protect, preserve and restore buildings, structures, sites, landscapes, natural features and districts that represent or reflect elements of Albany County's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history.
4. Increase public awareness and appreciation of historic and archaeological resources.
5. Preserve the historic visual character of state-designated roads.
6. Interpret the significance of historic and archaeological sites to educate visitors about the sites, increase interest, and preserve area history.

8.4 IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGIES

1. Utilize long-term residents and Native American tribal leaders to identify and educate about historical and cultural sites. (1)
2. Promote the use of historic resources for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the people. (1, 2)
3. Develop a stronger institutional framework for historic preservation, and improve the tools available for the county to use in protecting significant resources. (1)
4. Encourage the preservation of historically and architecturally significant structures and districts whenever specific sites are proposed for development or redevelopment while respecting the property rights of private landowners with historic resources on their lands. (1)
5. Require the preservation of traditional cultural properties and other archaeological resources on both public and private lands. (1)

ACTIONS

- Create a publicly accessible register of all historic and archaeological places countywide in both online and published forms. Specific locations for archaeological resources will not be provided, except where such resources are, or will be, protected from vandalism. Sites on private property will only be listed with the express consent of the owner. (1)



- ❑ Identify, record, and evaluate archaeological, historical, and cultural resources and sites. (1)
- ❑ Include archaeological significance among the criteria for acquiring and managing lands under all county programs. (1)
- ❑ Proactively designate historic districts and structures, and seek to incorporate principles of this comprehensive plan into redevelopment of historic sites and promote adaptive reuse of historic structures that is consistent with local land use plans. (1)
- ❑ Adopt an Albany County Historic Preservation Plan in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Office and local interests. (1)
- ❑ Incorporate historic places into an adopted Legacy Program (See Chapter 10). (1, 2)
- ❑ Document, through photography and collection of archival information, all archaeological and historic sites in Albany County before their demolition, protection, or restoration. (1)

8.5 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Respect the Past, Live the Present, Dream the Future: Preservation Planning in the Cowboy State: created by the State Historic Preservation Office to preserve and promote Wyoming's heritage; focuses on education, tourism and funding (2002, revision in progress 2007)

