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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1. Overview

1.1 Abandonment and Ruin

Golden is a ghost town located four miles east of Wolf Creek, Oregon. This newly operated 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 dust; 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 1886, 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 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 (GOV Archives).

"we love things partly because we know they will perish"
Kevin Lynch; What Time is This
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 Rubble 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.
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 those objectives the following goals and strategies have been developed from the design framework and they guide the physical development and management of the site.

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.

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.

Dick Reynolds from Patina of Place
2. Golden Times

2.1 Cultural Resources

A Rough Guide To Golden's History

How did Golden's history evolve? Provincially, the town was named after the province of Golden. It was established in 1858, with the construction of the town's first post office and the building of a school. The town grew rapidly due to the discovery of gold in the area. Over the years, Golden has been a major centre for mining and has played a significant role in the economy of the region.

How did mining operations develop in Golden? The town's first mine was established in 1870, and over the years, many more mines were opened. The town's economy was largely dependent on mining, and the town was once the largest producer of gold in the world. However, by the 1930s, the gold ore was depleted and the mines were closed. Today, the town is a tourist destination, and many of the old mining operations have been preserved as heritage sites.

How did Golden's population grow? The town's population grew rapidly in the early 1900s, with the arrival of miners and their families. The town was also home to many farmers and ranchers, who came to settle in the area. Over the years, the population has remained relatively stable, with some fluctuations due to economic factors.

How did Golden's landscape change? The town's landscape has been shaped by mining operations over the years. Many of the old mining sites have been preserved as heritage sites, and some of the old mining equipment can still be seen in the town. Today, Golden is a popular destination for tourists, and many of the old mining sites have been transformed into parks and recreational areas.

How did Golden's architecture change? The town's architecture has been influenced by its mining heritage. Many of the old mining buildings have been preserved and are now used as museums, galleries, and other cultural institutions. Today, Golden is a popular destination for tourists, and many of the old mining sites have been transformed into parks and recreational areas.
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 cropfields 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 slacked 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 was at that time. Late in 1855, 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, Bertha Ruble, credits her father, William N., with the construction of Golden's most significant building, circa 1925 (GOW Archives).
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 extent 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 unoffcial 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 was 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 1889, 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. 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 McIntosh, 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 reflection of the times when desperate, unemployed men and their families left the major towns and occupied the former mining settlement to try and eke 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 1956 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 OPARD's purchase of Golden.

By 1966, 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 tourists. 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 buildings 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).
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 on 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.
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.
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 though 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.
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 Minneimus in Church; “All beauteous 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.
Prospects and Constraints Diagram
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 in this section. 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 historical 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 overlapping areas and in other cases overlapping each other. For instance, interpretation will take place throughout the site covering the history of the building and natural 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 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 be some trail 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 outbuilding 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 loops 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 fir near the church and other remnants of 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 oastgrass, 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 pennycress 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: 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 Aquanmaster 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 lateral 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 woodland 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 town's 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 town's 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revegetation and clearing to achieve park arrival feeling along county road</td>
<td>Clear understory and revegetate 75' buffer from park boundary along road</td>
<td>Improve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrance Sign at park gateway</td>
<td>2 at park boundary on either end of county road</td>
<td>Build</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Improvements</td>
<td>Pedestrian refuge, clear sight distance, reduce shoulder width to prevent unauthorized parking</td>
<td>Improve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Parking Area</td>
<td>Mow end of meadow to provide for event parking with access off Jack Creek Road</td>
<td>Establish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Area</td>
<td>7 spaces (5 vehicular / 2 RV's)</td>
<td>Build</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private property access road</td>
<td>Resurface with aggregate</td>
<td>Improve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal pedestrian walkway</td>
<td>Compacted aggregate trail adjacent to main road (follow historic alignment of old road) and regrade bank to provide bench for trail</td>
<td>Build</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian trails</td>
<td>Mow path around edge of Orchard and Vegetable Gardens and path to Ruble house</td>
<td>Establish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard</td>
<td>Remove nonhistoric trees, Plant 8 historic fruit tree grafts</td>
<td>Preserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow</td>
<td>Establish 4' tall meadow in footprint of historic orchard</td>
<td>Establish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruble property</td>
<td>Establish 2' tall meadow in vegetable garden and mow remaining yard space with 6' blade height</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Preserve Church with community access</td>
<td>Preserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruble House</td>
<td>Building has been stabilized and needs maintaining</td>
<td>Maintain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store</td>
<td>Preserve store with standing areas to view interior</td>
<td>Preserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>Stabilize barn structure</td>
<td>Maintain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn outhouse</td>
<td>Remove nonhistoric structure</td>
<td>Remove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown residence</td>
<td>Mow footprint to create outline of former building</td>
<td>Establish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage</td>
<td>Remove nonhistoric structure</td>
<td>Remove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shed</td>
<td>Assess stabilization options and secure</td>
<td>Stabilize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store outhouse</td>
<td>Assess stabilization options and secure</td>
<td>Stabilize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetland</td>
<td>Retain wetland and add nature blind</td>
<td>Maintain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Panel</td>
<td>Add orientation panel to parking area</td>
<td>Build</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive panels</td>
<td>Add panels adjacent to church, general store and nature blind</td>
<td>Build (consider in interpretive plan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive brochure</td>
<td>Guided tour around townsite with stopping points at major features</td>
<td>Establish (consider in interpretive plan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cliff face</td>
<td>Assess and monitor</td>
<td>Evaluate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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

Design Guidelines - The Story

Build interpretive pavilion on footprint of old Blacksmiths Shop

View North from open Blacksmith Shop

Approach to Interpretive building from the West

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

Interpretive pavilion with doors that close to protect exhibit (left). Sliding panels show historic development of Golden.

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

*Development Plan*
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.