Hahns Peak Fire Lookout Tower, Colorado

Project Partner: Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest

History:

Hahns Peak, known traditionally as Old Baldy, was named after Joseph Henn who discovered gold on the mountain in 1862. He died of starvation and exposure in 1867 after mining gold on the mountain. Constructed in 1912, the Hahn’s Peak Lookout Tower stands as a testament to the early mission of the Forest Service to protect and conserve forest lands, requiring more than one ton of cement and building materials to be packed up to the 10,759 foot-high site! The foundation was constructed of broken rocks laid in cement, and the doors and windows were framed dimensional lumber. The original watchers, often teachers who spent their summers working in the tower, were supplied with a cook stove, a mine-set telephone, detailed maps and an Osborne Fire Finder, hauled to the site by packhorses. Hahns Peak is one of Colorado’s Endangered Places, a program of Colorado Preservation Inc. Watch a video about the fire lookout on their YouTube channel!

Scope of Work:

HistoriCorps returned for a third season to Hahns Peak. Work continued to stabilize and restore the structure. Volunteers completed several tasks, including:
Concrete parging

- Rehabilitated floor/ceiling between stone base and wood cab
- Installed windows and doors
- Installed roofing membrane on catwalk
- Installed exterior siding and trim on cab
- Applied finish to exterior wood surfaces

**Project Location:**

Hahns Peak is located in Routt National Forest one hour north of Steamboat Springs.

Hahn’s Peak Fire Lookout Tower is located at: 40.842676, -106.929711.

The rustic campsite for the project is located at: 40.840136, -106.943972.

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