McGilvery Cabin, CO  
October 7 - 26, 2018

PROJECT PARTNERS: City of Boulder Mountain Parks and Open Space

PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY: The McGilvery Cabin, located near Shadow Creek just east of Eldorado Springs, was constructed in the typical style of homesteads built circa 1870-1880. Research has found evidence of flower beds containing lilac and iris, as well as a small vegetable garden. It’s believed Seth Pruden, the original dweller, built the cabin as well, using hand tools to erect hand-hewn log walls, install a roof, and create windows. Though Seth died in 1882, Boulder County records show that in
families began to settle the region. Prior to this period, most settlers were instead miners in search of riches. The gradual inclusion of families indicates a period of social, cultural, and economic changes. One family member was recorded in the 1930s as saying he remembered running cattle in a nearby corral, and milking cows near the homestead. McGilvery Cabin is located just east of Eldorado Springs, an historic and scenic town nestled in a small canyon south of Boulder, CO. Eldorado Springs Resort, which was opened in 1905, was also called the “Coney Island of the West,” and attracted people from all over to its natural mineral springs – including Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower, Jack Dempsey, and other folks of renown. Nearby Eldorado Canyon State Park features excellent hiking and world-class climbing. Volunteers on this project experienced both the Boulder of 2018, a hub of art, culture, and recreation; as well as the Prudens’ Boulder of the late 1800s.

SCOPe OF WORK: Volunteers developed their preservation skills by working with expert field staff to accomplish the following tasks:

- Regrade soil near base of cabin to protect the foundation and improve drainage: 5%
- Replace deteriorated wall logs: 20%
- Repair and replace existing chinking and daubing: 20%
- Repair and replace board siding: 15%
- Remove current roof decking and install new asphalt roof and roof flashing: 30%
- Repair and replace chimney bricks: 10%

WHERE: Volunteers stayed at a rustic farmhouse north of Boulder, and commuted to the jobsite. The McGilvery Cabin is located up the South Mesa trailhead, east of Eldorado Springs and south of Boulder, CO.

Here is a map of the 13-mile commute between our home for the project and the jobsite.

LOCAL AND AREA TOURISM: Volunteers had access to a wealth of attractions, including excellent restaurants, shopping, strolling, and all manner of outdoor activities in this area. Learn more at www.colorado.com/boulder-channel.