

Summary of internship with History Colorado, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for Scott Murdock

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Scott Murdock was an intern with History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in the Preservation Planning Unit (PPU) for the month of June in 2018. As the unit that administers the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Properties for the State of Colorado, PPU works with owners to designate their eligible properties to either or both of the Registers, as well as provide outreach to the general public about the Registers and the diverse types of properties listed in them. During his tenure, Scott accomplished a number of tasks that will prove extremely helpful to PPU and its organizational duties.

As such, one of Scott's assigned tasks was to write several blog posts of 500 to 2,000 words in length that highlighted specific National Register- or State Register-listed properties across the state. Such posts offer a way to engage the public with historic preservation and the Register programs and educate them on the immense variety of property types and communities that have historic ties to Colorado. Many of these posts focused on buildings associated with different ethnic communities and will be showcased over the year during various heritage history months, such as Italian-American Heritage Month in October. With the posts that Scott authored in hand, PPU is poised to easily engage in this kind of outreach.

Scott also helped PPU staff with additional research needed to complete a National Register nomination. Although many nominations to the Registers are completed by paid consultants, a fair amount of them are submitted by private property owners or volunteers with no previous experience with nominations, historic research, or historic preservation. PPU strives to serve these preparers and their Register-eligible properties as much as possible by providing support as time allows, such as further research, writing, and editing. Scott assisted with the National Register nomination for the David Hull Holmes House in Boulder, an architect-designed home with a large later addition constructed for a sorority, by completing additional research on the sorority.

Most critically, Scott prepared a context document for miscellaneous Cold War-associated sites across the state, providing information on previously unknown or uninvestigated sites in Colorado. Among its priorities for needed contexts, PPU identified Cold War era resources as needing further research and investigation. Scott's expertise and interest in military resources proved an excellent fit in creating such a context for this era of Colorado and U.S. history. His work will be an excellent starting point for future researchers and surveyors considering the significance and integrity of Cold War properties.