

FOUR MILE FIELD GUIDE



Grant Family Education Center Your entryway to the frontier. Swing by the Four Mile Mercantile and get some snacks, drinks, and unique pioneer gifts.

Bee House The original Bee House was built in 1866 and was used by Millie Booth to store her honey processing equipment. The original structure was destroyed by fire in 1941 and this reconstruction was built in 1980. Today, we use it as a one-room prairie school house.

Four Mile House The Four Mile House is the centerpiece of the Park and is the oldest standing structure in Denver. Built in 1859, the log home was used as a stagecoach stop and tavern in the 1860s. The brick addition was added by the Booth family in the 1880s, when the site was a successful farm.

Summer Kitchen A feature of many pioneer homes, the summer kitchen kept heat from the wood burning stove out of the house during the summer months and decreased the possibility of a house fire. In winter, household tasks such as laundering and butchering might have taken place here.

Chicken Coop 4MHP has a variety of egg-laying hens, including Leghorns and Rhode Island Reds. The chickens on the Booth farm would have roamed the property, but ours are kept in the coop to protect them from coyotes and other predators.

Privy Indoor plumbing was not common in homes until the 20th Century. Most homes, including the Four Mile House, had an outdoor toilet, or privy. Archeological digs have found a privy did stand on this spot until at least 1910-1920. The current privy is a reconstruction, built in 1982.

Root Cellar The root cellar was a necessity for a farm family needing to keep produce fresh for long periods of time. A subterranean cellar has a year-round temperature of 55 degrees allowing fruits and vegetables to stay cool but never freeze.

Log Barn This reconstructed log barn was built utilizing only tools from the 1800s. It is indicative of a classic log barn style of the time, complete with chinking and daubing. This was done using a mixture of clay lime and sand with variations based on what was locally available.

Goats (Please Do Not Feed Them) Livestock like sheep and goats provided valuable commodities for pioneers like milk, meat, and wool to spin into textiles including clothes and blankets. Angora goats like Cocoa, Edward, and Pearl were first introduced to America as a gift to Dr. James P. Davis from the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire in 1849. Follow Pearl on Instagram @Pearltheangoragoat.

Horses (Please Do Not Feed Them) 4MHP has two horses: Jake and Moose. Jake is our black and white Paint Quarter Horse, weighing in at 1000 lbs and standing 15.1 hands high. Moose is our black Percheron draft horse; he weighs 1,850 lbs and stands 18 hands high. Fun Fact: Horses are measured in hands. 1 Hand = 4 Inches.

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Tipi Long before the wagon trains were moving through the Cherry Creek Valley, the area was inhabited by the Ute, Arapaho, and Cheyenne. The use of tipis as shelter is unique to the Native people of the plains. Tipi poles were 18-20 feet tall and were covered with buffalo hides sewn with leather thongs. Our tipi is made with rope and canvas, and we often use it as part of our children's programs and for our special events.

Miner and Trapper Cabin Miners and fur trappers played a crucial role in the early development of the Denver area and the Rocky Mountain West. Our informational display is a tribute to these early pioneers.

Blacksmith Shop Our Blacksmith shop or "smithy" is fully functional and equipped with a "state-of-the-art" 1800s forge blower that brings oxygen to the coals to heat them for forging. Visit the 4MHP Mercantile to see our 'Forged at Four Mile' collection.

Stagecoach & Schooner Barn (Please Do Not Climb) These barns contain rare artifacts here at the Park. On the left is our Prairie Schooner. Prairie Schooners were the semi-trucks of the Old West, transporting goods across the plains. Operating as part of the Overland Mail Company, stagecoaches like this would carry passengers and ensure twice weekly mail delivery between Memphis/St. Louis and San Francisco. **FUN FACT:** The expression "riding shotgun" comes from the armed guards who would sit next to stagecoach drivers. Stages would often transport money from east to west, which made them attractive targets for robbers.

Covered Wagon This is a typical covered wagon a family would use to settle this particular region of the United States. The wagon would be packed with their belongings and supplies, while the family would walk or drive the oxen. **FUN FACT:** A yoke (a team of two) of oxen would pull the wagons, not horses. Horses were harder to care for and maintain, while oxen were much heartier and more versatile.

Gold Panning The Cherry Creek area was initially settled when gold was found in 1859, kicking off the Colorado Gold Rush. Flocks of optimistic prospectors made their way to the creek. They used pans in search of 'color' (tiny specks of gold).