



NEWS RELEASE

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Von Trotha – Firestien Farm at Bracewell listed in the National Register of Historic Places



Denver — The Colorado Historical Society announces the listing of the Von Trotha – Firestien Farm at Bracewell in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Von Trotha-Firestien Farm, located northwest of Greeley, Colo. in the

Bracewell vicinity, is important for its long association with the development of irrigated farming, sugar beet cultivation and livestock feeding—all critical to the development of Greeley and Weld County. The intact farm buildings represent more than 109 years of European settlement in the Bracewell area, with more than 93 years directly associated with the Von Trotha and Firestien families. The buildings' architecture and construction techniques are an important representation of those employed by farmers with limited means and materials. The medley of vernacular styles and materials reveal the extent to which the area's farmers could make do by recycling building materials, adapting and reusing buildings and structures and applying do-it-yourself techniques that met restricted budgets while adjusting to changing economic and technological circumstances.

Bodo “Bode” Leopold Von Trotha and his brother Claus “Claude” Wolfgang Von Trotha, who owned significant land holdings in the Bracewell area, owned this farm by 1916

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and were instrumental in building various irrigation ditches and the Shark's tooth Pipeline—all still used today. By 1917, Peter and Sophia Firestien were tenant farmers on the property for the Von Trotha brothers with their six children, including son Conrad. Conrad and his wife Mabel eventually lived on the farm with their six children, including their son Wilbert “Chuck.”

A house was moved to the farm in 1952 for Chuck and his wife Ruth to live in while farming with Conrad and Mabel. Upon the dissolution of Von Trotha Brothers, Inc. in the 1960s, the brothers made it possible for the Firestien family to purchase the farm they had been working. Ruth continues to live on the farm, as does her daughter Judy Firestien. Gerald Firestien (youngest son of Conrad) and his son Mark continue to manage the farming operations. For more information on Von Trotha-Firestien Farm at Bracewell, please visit the website www.BracewellFarm.com.

About the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. These contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundations of the nation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. The National Park Service provides overall program administration. The Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) in the Colorado Historical Society administers the register in Colorado. OAHP assists property owners in listing Colorado's most historically and architecturally significant buildings, structures, and sites in the National Register of Historic Places and the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

In Colorado there are over 1,300 properties listed in the National Register and nearly 1,800 listed in the State Register. Properties listed in the National or State registers may be

eligible for investment tax credits or for grants from the State Historical Fund, another program of the Colorado Historical Society. OAHP staff is available to assist with the initial assessments of eligibility and to provide guidance in the completion of Register nominations.

For more information, contact Heather Peterson, National and State Register Historian, (303) 866-4684.

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Background

The Colorado Historical Society was established in 1879 and is headquartered at the Colorado History Museum in Denver. As the designated steward of Colorado history, the Colorado Historical Society aspires to engage people in our State's heritage through collecting, preserving, and discovering the past in order to educate and provide perspectives for the future. This educational institution contains History Colorado, the museums and historic sites across the state, its public programs and services; the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the Stephen H. Hart Research Library, and administers the State Historical Fund, a preservation-based grants program funded by limited stakes gaming tax revenues. For more information call (303) 866-3682 or visit www.coloradohistory.org.