

Indian Park School House Association



**PRESERVING THE PAST.
BUILDING COMMUNITY.**

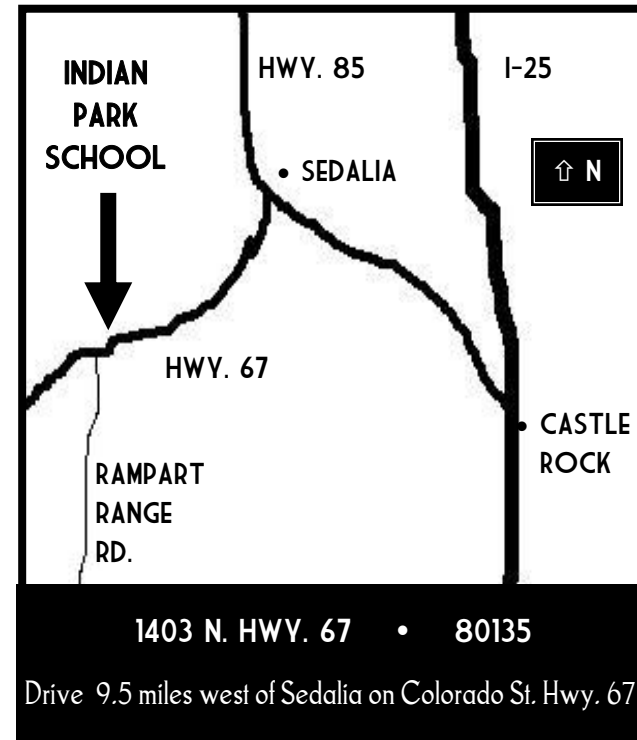
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FAITH'S STORY

In 2004, the unmarked grave of a pioneer woman was accidentally unearthed during a construction project in Castle Pines North, Colorado. The square coffin nails & glass buttons found with her indicate she lived a short, hard life in the mid to late 1800s. IPSHA volunteered to provide a resting place for the woman in the pioneer cemetery on the School House grounds.

Today, she is known as "Faith."

In 2006, the Colorado Historical Society awarded IPSHA the Hart Award for their stewardship of Faith's remains.



THE CEMETERY

In addition to Faith, the cemetery is the final resting place for the Smiths, a local family of homesteaders.

In 1900, Hannah Smith deeded one acre next to the School House for the burial grounds when her husband, William, died in the middle of a long and snowy winter. Mary Davis, a local historian,

is also buried here.

It's rumored that the Brown's, another area pioneer family, are also buried on the Indian Park School House grounds.



Indian Park
School House



EST. 1884

The one-room Indian Park School House stands on the edge of a horse pasture, in the pine-covered mountains above Sedalia, Colorado.

**SCHOOL'S OUT,
BUT NEIGHBORHOOD
CAMARADERIE &
120+ YEARS OF
HISTORY REMAIN.**

Today, the Indian Park School House Association is preserving the past & building community.

THE SCHOOL HOUSE

In the late 1800s, a handful of families homesteaded in the mountains of western Douglas County. The nearest school was too far away for local children to attend, so the community banded together to solve the problem (this neighborhood knack for collaboration continues to this day).



In 1884, the community built a one-room school house on a one acre parcel provided by William Smith. The school was deeded to the school district in 1885. Teachers were brought in from afar and boarded at local homes. Children walked, or rode horses to the school from distances as far as four miles away. In the winter, many traveled by two-runner sled. Most years, the school had a dozen students of various ages, but some years, attendance dwindled to a single pupil.

Over the years, the school had many a name, including Brown's School, Mountain School, Jarre Canyon School, and finally Indian Park School.



In 1959, Indian Park School House was one of the very last rural schools to close in Douglas County. In 1978, the school was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
INDIAN PARK SCHOOL HOUSE,
THE RESTORATION & PRESERVATION
EFFORTS, BUILDING AVAILABILITY,
& VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
-OR TO MAKE A DONATION-
CALL 303-688-8357.**

THE INDIAN PARK SCHOOL HOUSE ASSOCIATION (IPSHA)

In 1972, IPSHA purchased the School House and two acres from the Douglas County School District. The sale was made on condition that the property would always be used for public purposes.

IPSHA unites the community in a multitude of positive efforts, while actively preserving the Indian Park School House, its grounds and pioneer cemetery, and the history of western Douglas County's mountain communities, including Jarre Canyon, the Rampart Range and the South Platte River Corridor.

A non-profit all-volunteer organization, IPSHA raises funds to restore the building and preserve a collection of historic photos and documents. Many of these items can be viewed in archival scrapbooks at IPSHA functions and by request.

The 120+ year-old school house is showing its age. IPSHA is committed to making sure the school

house is available to future generations. IPSHA has applied for, and received two grants from the Colorado State Historic Fund to finance a historical restoration assessment, and to restore the school house's rock foundation. The United States Forest Service has agreed to conduct an archaeological assessment on the school house grounds. All artifacts will be preserved by IPSHA, and put on exhibit in the school house.

IPSHA members participate in fund raising efforts, preservation projects, the Adopt-a-Highway program, community meals, local history presentations, classes and special events, and summer-time melodrama productions.



Bulldog Saves the Day, Community Melodrama, 2008.