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Internment Camp of Anacaha
Communities Negotiating Preservation: The World War II Japanese
This land at Amache was largely ignored for over forty years, with the exception of small groups occasionally visiting in order to reflect on the internment experience. The return of the Japanese Americans to a more normal existence.

With the end of the war in 1945 came the closing of these internment camps and the travel to desolate areas of the country to live behind barbed wire in crowded barracks. They leave their homes and the majority of their possessions behind (May 2005). They by Franklin D. Roosevelt in February of 1942, forced the Japanese American citizens to be by the American public after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Executive Order 9066, signed by the American president, was a result of the hysteria felt by the Japanese ancestry from the west coast into these camps was a result of the hysteria felt by the American public after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The relocation of individuals smaller of the camps and the only one located in Colorado. The relocation of individuals in the center, which housed Japanese Americans during World War II, was the largest relocation center, more commonly known as Amache, was one of the

management and preservation of this National Historic Landmark site. Years, but they have needed to learn to work together in order to negotiate the the town of Granada. Each has contributed unique resources to the project throughout the the Japanese American community, the student-based Amache Preservation Society, and the Japanese American community near Granada, Colorado. These groups include War II Japanese internment camp located near Granada, Colorado. Numerous distinct groups have collaborated over the years in order to preserve the former World War II Japanese internment camp located near Granada, Colorado. Their efforts are based on different opinions about how to work together toward a common goal.

The addition of multiple voices within preservation efforts can serve to create a...
Japanese American Reclamation During World War II

I, however, was far from forgotten. Preservation work is being carried out at

the unknown diestricted towards Japan that transferred over to individuals of Japanese

ow after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. There were widespread feelings of anger and fear

Public opinion toward Japanese Americans in the United States was at an all-time

preservation.

et already been taken, and long-term goals have also been identi
ced. Preliminary steps have already been taken in order for long-term preservation efforts to be successful.

when cause tensions and conflicts to arise. Open communication and collaboration

on multiple perspectives and missions to the preservation taking place at Amache, which can

be it owns the land on which Amache rests, these three community groups have

interpreted at the site. Cooperation with the town of Granada has also been necessary,

as a group of Japanese Americans that has also shown great dedication to the preservation and

accomplished over the years in conjunction with the Denver Central Optimist Club, a

preservation given to organizations in both Colorado and Kansas. This work has been

upkeep and maintenance at the site and has also spanned time educating the public through

local history teacher more than 15 years ago. The APS is responsible for the majority of

This group is made up of students from Granada High School through a class started by a

Amache today, largely due to the efforts of the Amache Preservation Society (APS).

camp, however, was far from forgotten. Preservation work is being carried out at
smaller of the internment camps (Yubanet et al. 2002).

Relocation Center by the October of 1942, with a peak population of 7,181 making it the

for habitation (Fitzsimons 2004). A total of over 7,000 Japanese Americans came to Granada

completed. The entire complex consisted of 569 structures, 348 of which were barracks

residents of the center began to arrive in late August before the camp was even

Construction began on the Granada Relocation Center in June of 1942, and the first

resettlement towards the camp (Hosokawa 2005; Simmons and Simonds 1994).

private owners, forcing local farmers and ranchers off their land and causing early

it was not federal land. The government purchased the undeveloped 10,500 acres from

acquisition of land for Granada differed from that of the other relocation centers because

ultimately caused him his political career (Harvey 2004; Hosokawa 2005). The

necessary, a racially colored attitude not shared by any of the political counterparts which

this time, Ralph Carr, expressed willingness to house as many Japanese Americans as

the town of Granada in the southeastern portion of the site. The Governor of Colorado at

The site of Colorado housed one of the largest relocation facilities near the small

the War Relocation Authority (WRA) throughout seven western states (Smith 1995).

Washington and Oregon, until ten permanent relocation centers could be established by

homest. They were first moved to eleven temporary facilities located in California.

the Japanese Americans residing in the western United States be relocated from their

sentiments, citing military necessity for the action (Hayashi 2004). This order mandated

by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, was a direct response to the

desecrnative in the United States (Smith 1995; Taylor 1993). Executive Order 9066, signed
social activities. These included various Japanese and American sports, the publication
conditions at the camp more tolerable by participating in various organizations and other
members (Harvey 2004). The internment did what they could do make life and the
an easy task to undertake, and children began to view their parents in a less authoritative
traditional family meal time was no longer
bathrooms (Simmons and Simmons 1994). The structure of the family also deteriorated
residents of Amache as well, having to contend with close living quarters and community
from California were not prepared for. The loss of privacy was a difficult issue to the
and dry in the summer to bitterly cold in the winter, weather that many of these internees
were accustomed to before internment. The environmental conditions varied from hot
Life at Amache was vastly different than what most of the Japanese Americans
Relocation centers (Blum et al. 2002).
Hoochwa 2005). The camp benefited because the land had previously been used as
be self-sufficient, including vegetables, beef, dairy, poultry, and hops (Harvey 2004);
exclusive farming land produced a large volume and variety of products and helped it to
Powers County is named (Blum et al. 2002; Harvey 2004). Camp Amache also had
Cheyenne wife of John Wesley Powers, a settler in this area in Colorado and for whom
center. The name of Amache, suggested by a local Cheyenne citizen, was that of the
Amache as a distinction was necessary between the town of Cheyenne and the Relocation
(Wei 2005). The post office was actually the reason the camp began to be called
a hospital, schools, several stores, a post office, a fire department, and numerous churches.
The Cheyenne Relocation Center was fully functional as its own city and included
War II, as well as to the rest of the individuals that lived and died at Amache (Punyo et al).

memorial for both the 31 soldiers from Camp Amache that died in battle during World

War II, as well as to the rest of the individuals that lived and died at Amache (Punyo et al).

have taken place at Amache over the years. In 1983 the members decided to erect a

War II, as well as to the rest of the individuals that lived and died at Amache (Punyo et al).

has been responsible for much of the preservation and commemorating activities that

American community chartered the Denver Central Optimist Club in 1979. This group

gather and reflect on the internment experience. Members of the Denver Japanese

interviews of Amache and other camps, their families, and other community members to

interviews and now take place every spring. These pilgrimages are a time for former

Pilgrimages to Amache began in 1976 to commemorate the memory of the

Preservation Work at Amache

through the present day.

camp. It has primarily been used by the town for its water supply and cattle grazing

was left deserted and the town of Granada purchased land from the main section of the

school after the official closing of the camp on January 26, 1946 (Field, 2004). The camp

enlisted at 2002). Survivors from Amache were dislocated and sold to local towns and

January of 1945, and the last eighty-five depart on October 15 of the same year (Punyo

Amache for over two years. The first individuals were allowed to leave the camp in

families were forced to deal with these less than ideal conditions as inhabitants of

communities that the residents had no choice but to be a part of

activities to take part in, Amache and the other internment camps were still article[1]

scouts, and the American Legion (Simmons and Simmons, 1994). Even with all of these

of a local camp newspaper called the Granada Pioneer, Landschaphe, Boy and Girl
been displayed through their efforts over the years. They are dedicated to preserving the history and remains of Amache, which has clearly responsibility for the preservation of objects and photographs related to the Amache and former inmates and their families. The Amache Historical Society has also been responsible for the organization of Amache reunions taking place throughout the Western United States over the years, including at Amache itself in 1998. This particular reunion drew over 500 participants, demonstrating the importance of this activity.

In California, an organization composed of former Amache inmates living in Hill's California, an organization consisting of former Amache inmates living in California, has been integral to the organization of Amache reunions taking place throughout the state. This group formed in 1978 and

Through fundraising and other activities, the Amache Club which remains involved with the preservation process has been established in 2005 due to decreasing member numbers, many of these individuals disbanded in 2005 due to decreasing membership numbers, many of those individuals.

Despite technical difficulties, the group has continued to protect and preserve the cemetery. Although the group technically received a grant from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund in 1999 to facilitate archaeological investigations and other preservation work (Elkins 2004), the group still struggles every year and assistance with raising money for endeavors at the site. This annual club has remained involved with the camp since this occasion, making annual excursions to Obadiah's trailhead. The Optimists, exemplified by the early relationship between the two groups. The Optimists were eventually compromised, but this working on the memorial (Shakes 2001). The idea eventually crystallized, but this council prior to its construction, a meeting that turned into a shouting match over the council of the Optimists discussed the idea with the Granada Town Council.
Followingle year, and as a result the student-based Amache Preservation Society formed a class project related to Amache (Spikes 2001). The permission was granted for the camp to travel and asked high school principal in Denver for permission to begin a high school student project in Granada in 1990, he realized the importance of the remembered hearing his mother talk about the camp, but did not know a great deal about it. When Hopper began teaching in Granada in 1989, he realized the importance of the determination of a Granada high school teacher by the name of John Hopper (Carrillo and Kildain 2004). He had lived in the nearby town of Las Animas as a child and much of the preservation accomplished at the site of Amache is the result of the town of Granada.

The argument that occurred at the first meeting of the Denver Central Optimists and the establishment of these common goals seems to how peer these groups have come from. Service has also been actively involved in these discussions on the future of Amache.

During the internment years, and building an Interpretive center, the National Park back to the site, cleaning up all the dead wood on the camp, preserving the area planted to accomplish building a replica guard tower, obtaining former barracks to where still differ among individuals. Some of the projects Friends of Amache is now working with Amache Historical Society, the Amache Preservation Society, and the town of Granada. Colorado, a non-profit organization called Friends of Amache is now responsible for maintaining the site, a group composed of representatives from the Amache Club, the chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and the Japanese Association of Hi-Me.

Other organizations in Colorado supporting preservation include the Amache Club.
Future research positions with an inventory of photographs and objects in the collection, on important steps for APS members participated in a course on collections management during the summer of 2004. Several objects obtained through preliminary archaeological investigations (Ellis 2004). Several artifacts at the Amache Museum in Granada, a small building open only by appointment, have been donated by former inmates or camp staff, with other artifacts at the Amache Museum in Granada, a small building open only by appointment. The group gives tours of the site upon request and manages a collection of the site. The group has also recently constructed a walking trail and worked about seven wooden informational signs around the camp and plantings over 200 trees.

The site includes parking for the Amache Cemetery, a great deal of preservation work at the physical camp site as well, mainly through the maintenance of the site. This has included caring for the Amache cemetery, placing all types of individuals associated with Amache, much of this accomplished during the Colorado and Kansas (Harry 2004). The group has worked to record oral histories from through presentations given to schools and civic organizations in the surrounding area of in the state of Colorado, but it slowly became educational for the broader public as well.

The group has undertaken a variety of different activities related to Amache. This project began primarily with research about the camp and the inmates that had remained few years later under Hopper’s direction. For over eleven years Hopper and his students
The site of Anache has received increasing attention over the last few years, most not completely support the preservation activities.

Involving with the efforts taking place concerning Anache, there are still some who do demonstrate that while growing numbers of individuals are becoming more open and others who are more resistant to the efforts to preserve Anache from being lost. They wish to prevent individuals from knowing the camp, preventing them from being informed that Anache is being lost. The Archeological Society have versions of the camp and requests that those who show support for the preservation process (Shakespeare 2007). Otherwise in Anache, there is a perception of increasing tourism to the area has also caused concern that the National Park Preserve will attempt to take over all control of the former Anache site. Although the government has not initially realized the importance of the site, although the involvement of local students has begun to lead more adults to appreciate it (Quintana 2007). Some residents such as former mayor Alan Pfeifer, are more resistant to release control of the land on which Anache is located. Preservation efforts have been mixed. While some are excited to see this work taking place, others are
The University of Denver has become actively involved with the preservation of...
Communities that originally began the preservation. These individuals realize the
benefits extensive support over the last few years, it continues to be based within the
amount the community groups have facilitated this process. Although the project has
the goals that have been established, but the collaborative spirit developed in recent years
be quite difficult. There continues to be a great deal of work needed to accomplish all of
their preservation goals at the historic landmark site of Amache, a process that can other
Numerous distinct groups must work together in order to successfully achieve
as a model for collaborations at other preservation sites in the future. Failures of the collaborative process that are occurring in Colorado at this time can be used
order to prevent similar situations from occurring in the future. The successes and
be repeated in today’s society. The public needs to be reminded of these past actions in
violation of basic human rights carried out as a result of fear, an detail that could easily
exceedingly important aspect of the state’s history that should not be forgotten. It was a
but it is still not as widely visible to the public as it should be. The interment is an
more recognition over the past few years through the preservation efforts taking place,
camp existed in this state during World War II. The site of Amache has begun to gain
Residents throughout Colorado are largely unaware that a Japanese internment

The Future of Preservation

available at institutions throughout the United States.

Amache itself and larger collections detailing the entire internment experience are also
Governor Ralph Carr. These all provide an excellent resource base to learn more about
National Park Service (NPS), Intermountain Regional Office


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Would you consider these projects (museum renovation, construction, completion) important? Considerations and plans for designing a visitor center for a local National Historic Landmark Camp Amache site. What are the current plans for the restoration of the Camp Amache museum in town to a museum of American history and heritage at the site.

American life and culture in Japanese internment sites in 1942-45?