

FOUR MILE FIELD GUIDE



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 **DENVER**
PARKS & RECREATION



Four Mile Historic Park

Grant Family Education Center: Your entryway to Denver's Western heritage! This building has ADA accessible restrooms.

Bee House: The Bee House was built in 1866 and was used by Millie Booth to process and can honey. Millie kept around 120 hives, which produced about 2 tons of honey each year! The Bee House burned down in 1941 and was rebuilt in 1980, and is now used as a one-room schoolhouse.

Historic Four Mile House: The Four Mile House 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 prosperous farm, spanning 600 acres at its height!

Summer Kitchen: A feature of many Western 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.

Chicken Coop: The chickens on the Booth farm would have roamed the property, but ours are kept in a coop to protect them from coyotes and other predators. Visitors can feed the chickens! Look for the feed machine by the coop.

Privy: Indoor plumbing was not common in homes until the early or mid 20th century. Most homes, including the Four Mile House, had an outdoor toilet, or privy. Ours is a three-seater!

Root Cellar: The root cellar was a necessity for a farm needing to keep produce fresh for a long period 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 reconstruction log barn was built using only tools and local materials that were available in the 1800s. It is indicative of a classic log barn style of the time, complete with chinking and daubing.

Goats: (please do not feed) Livestock like sheep and goats provided valuable commodities for settlers like milk, meat, and wool to spin into textiles including clothes and blankets. Follow Pearl on Instagram [@PearlTheAngoraGoat!](#)

Pigs: (please do not feed) Our two resident pigs are sisters Tig and Clover. They are Kunekunes, a breed originating in New Zealand. Farm pigs are typically larger than these two, and are typically kept for food. Don't worry, these two are only pets!

Horses: (please do not feed) Horses were typically working animals on farms, used to pull carts and other equipment. Our horses used to pull carriages around the Park, but have since retired.

Tipi: The Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Ute peoples have lived in Colorado since time immemorial - long before wagon trains came through the Cherry Creek Valley. The use of tipis as shelters is unique to the Indigenous peoples of the Plains. Tipi poles are 18-20 feet tall and are covered with bison hides.

Cabin: Miners and fur trappers played a crucial role in the early settler colonial development of the Denver area and the Rocky Mountain West. Our replica gives an example of what these cabins looked like in the 1800s.

Blacksmith: 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. Blacksmiths were incredibly important in the 1800s, becoming crucial to the farming community as "jacks of all trades."

Stagecoach and Schooner Barn: (please do not climb) On the left is a Prairie Schooner, which were like semi-trucks, carrying goods across the plains. Stagecoaches, such as the one on the right, would carry passengers and mail across the country.

Covered Wagon: This is a typical covered wagon a family would use to travel West to this region of the country. The wagon would be packed full with belongings and supplies, leaving no room for riding. The family would walk behind the wagon, which typically traveled 7-10 miles per day.

Gold Panning: (weather permitting) The Colorado Gold Rush began in 1858, when flocks of enthusiastic prospectors made their way to Cherry Creek. Very few people struck it rich, as "color" (tiny specks of gold) are hard to find and not very valuable. Feel free to pan for gold and take two (2) pieces home with you!

Beekeeping: Just like in the 1800s, bees are an important part of a farm ecosystem. Four Mile is proud to partner with the Butterfly Pavilion to host six hives of these productive pollinators!