

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERVICES

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## STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO



### Preservation Plan for Perry-Mansfield Camp

Winter & Company developed a preservation plan for the Perry-Mansfield Camp in Strawberry Park near Steamboat Springs, Colorado for a non-profit corporation organized to preserve what may be the oldest continuously operating arts camp in the nation.

Portia Mansfield and Charlotte Perry established the camp in 1913. Created as a place for young students to develop their skills as artists in a rustic western setting, the camp includes working ranch buildings, a dining hall, classrooms, a theater and numerous sleeping cabins. In all, more than fifty structures are scattered across the two-hundred acre camp.

Young artists who studied there include Julie Harris and Dustin Hoffman. Agnes DeMille was inspired to choreograph her ground-breaking modern dance, "Rodeo," while a guest faculty member.

Perry and Mansfield sold the camp to Stevens College which continued to operate the facility until it was put up for sale. Concerned that it would be demolished and the land would be redeveloped for vacation homes, a citizen organization formed to save the camp.



### SERVICES:

- » Condition assessment
- » Identification of significant features
- » Rehabilitation properties

### CLIENT:

Friends of Perry Mansfield

### DATE:

1994



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Winter & Company researched the history of the camp and then evaluated the condition and significance of each of the buildings. They also identified preservation and maintenance needs and located areas where new construction could occur while retaining the rural character of the site. A conceptual plan for reuse identified opportunities to upgrade arts-related facilities while also establishing some cabins as income producing assets.

With the report in hand, the Friends of Perry Mansfield completed a fund-raising drive and purchased the property. Following recommendations of the study, the camp also was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

