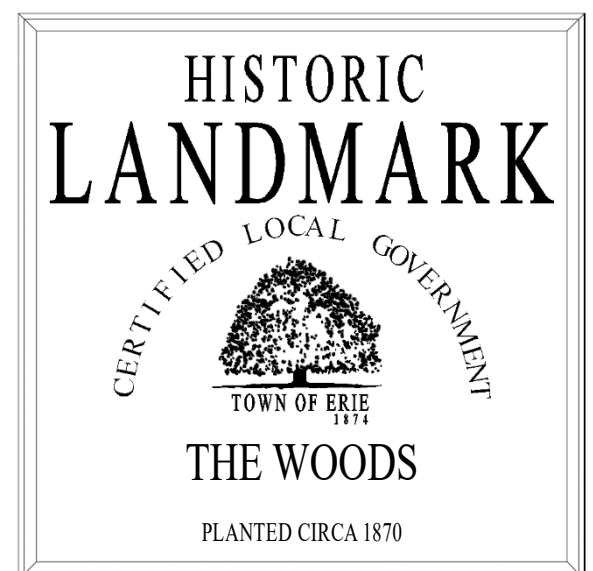




Adjacent to Wise Homestead, Erie, Colorado

The Woods

Historic Landmark Properties Nomination



HISTORIC LANDMARK



HISTORIC LANDMARK PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

PLEASE NOTE: If this property was included in the 2009-2010 or 2015-2016 surveys of potential historic sites for the Town of Erie by Front Range Research Associates, then most of the information can be used from that Survey Report to fill out this form. Attach a copy of the Report to this form. The Survey Report is available from the Town Clerk's Office, Erie Library or the Community Development Department.

Owner(s) of (Site) Property: [Town of Erie, CO & Boulder County](#)

(Only the owner(s) of properties can nominate the property. If there are multiple owners, list the principal owner first for contact purposes. List all owners of interest in the property and use the exact name(s) as it appears on the recorded Title.)

Address of contact person: [Town Clerk, Nancy Parker, 645 Holbrook St., Erie, CO 80516](#)

Phone: [303-926-2731](#) **Email:** nparker@erieco.gov

Historic Name of Property (if applicable) [The Woods](#)

Address of Property: [11611 Jasper Road, Erie CO, 80516 \(approximate\)](#)

Use of Property:

Historic: [Tree Grove/ Open Space](#)

Current: [N/A](#)

Source(s) of information: [EHPAB Survey and official land survey](#)

Year of Planting: [ca. 1870s](#)

Year(s) of Exterior Remodeling (if known): [N/A](#)

Maps:



Google Map Indicating approximate location of The Woods near 11611 Jasper Road, Wise Homestead.

Historical Narrative:

Written by Sherri Barksdale, Erie Historic Preservation Advisory Board History Researcher

Oliver Ellsworth (O.E.) Wise moved from Wisconsin to Colorado in 1868 or 1869 with his wife and three children. The Wise Family chose Colorado because Mrs. Wise had asthma, and they hoped the milder climate would improve her health. The Wise family homesteaded in the area that became Canfield, Colorado, just outside of Erie. Because the family was looking for farmland, Canfield was the ideal location. Homesteaders who planned to raise cattle looked for land closer to Boulder Creek.

Sarah Wise is a long-time Erie resident and descendant of O.E. Wise. She grew up on the family farm. According to Sarah, Oliver Wise most likely brought seeds or tree starts with him from Wisconsin. A photo of the Wise Homestead house in 1870 shows no trees. A photo from the same location in 1892 shows the tops of trees surrounding the home.

O.E. Wise used an informal planting method to plant the first phase of what is now known as The Woods. According to a 2007 survey by the Erie Parks Department, about 80% of the woods was planted around 1870. The remaining area was planted in the 1960s.

Sarah Wise, born in 1923, says the north part of the woods was planted as an orchard. She recalls playing in the apple trees and the grape arbor in that section. The south side consisted mainly of trees planted for wood. Sarah remembers a variety of trees such as Maple, Ash, Elm, Box Elder, and Cottonwoods. There was a large oak tree. The stump of that oak tree is still in the Woods. Oliver Wise planted Cottonwoods along Wise Lane, which is now called Jasper Lane.

See the “Wise Open Space Management Plan” document for a more detailed description of the trees found in the woods by a recent survey.

Cottonwoods were the most common tree planted by homesteaders. The Arbor Day Foundation offers this explanation:

Few sights were more welcome to America's early pioneers than the cottonwood. As they pushed westward with their wagons, these brave men and women found food for their livestock in the tree's leaves, as well as shade for themselves and timber for their dwellings. The beauty of the cottonwood leaves as they turned in the wind may also have revived memories of eastern forests, and sustained many a flagging spirit. On the more practical side, cottonwood trunks provided dugout canoes, and the tree's bark was used to produce both forage for horses and a bitter medicinal tea. And in regions with few trees, the very noticeable cottonwoods often served as gathering places and trail markers, and as sacred objects for several Plains tribes. Today, cottonwood is most commonly used in making plywood, matches, crates, boxes, and paper pulp.

Sources:

The National Arbor Day Foundation website <https://www.arborday.org/programs/nationaltree/cottonwood.cfm>

The Boulder Library Oral History program interview with Sarah Wise <http://oralhistory.boulderlibrary.org/interview/oh0781/>

Wise Open Space Management Plan (attach)

Prepared by Town of Erie Parks Department, 2007

Architectural Description:

N/A

General Significance of the Property:

A. Architectural: The property or structure has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction or artisan.

- ☐ Exemplifies specific elements of an architectural style or period.
- ☐ Example of the work of an architect or builder who is recognized for expertise nationally, state-wide, regionally, or locally.
- ☐ Demonstrates superior craftsmanship or high artistic value.
- ☐ Represents an innovation in construction materials or design.
- ☐ Style particularly is associated with Erie area.
- ☐ Represents a built environment of a group of people in an era of history that is culturally significant to Erie.
- ☐ Pattern or grouping of elements representing at least one of the above criteria.
- ☐ Significant historic model.

B. Social/Historic: The property or structure is associated with events or persons that have made a significant contribution to history.

- ☐ Site of a historic event that had an effect on society, community or event in the area's development.
- ☒ Exemplifies cultural, political, economic or social heritage of the community or a particular ethnic group.
- ☐ Associated with a notable person(s) or the work of a notable person(s).
- ☒ A unique example of an event in Erie's history
- ☐ Demonstrates potential to make an important contribution to the knowledge of the area's history or prehistory.
- ☐ An association with an important event in the area's development.

C. Geographic/Environmental:

- ☒ Enhances the sense of identity of the community, or is geographically or regionally important.
- ☒ Exhibits an established and familiar natural setting or visual fixture of the community.

Statement of Significance:

The Woods was originally part of the Wise Homestead, a designed Colorado Centennial Farm. The area referred to as "The Woods" was planted around 1870 by homesteader Oliver Ellsworth Wise. The Woods included a fruit orchard and trees planted for wood including oak, ash, and elm. Cottonwood trees were planted in the woods and along Wise Lane, now Jasper Road. Cottonwoods were a favorite of pioneers and homesteaders.

Description of Property:

1. Legal description of property: [Parcel 1, Wise Homestead Park, according to the Plat recorded February 22, 2001, at Reception No. 2120726, located in the County of Boulder, State of Colorado.](#)
2. Description of manmade site features that contribute to the historic significance of structure being nominated: [N/A.](#)

Photos of Current Structures and Landscape Features:



10/23/16, Image 1: East Edge Looking West.



*10/23/16, Image 2: Inside Eastern Tree Line
Looking North.*



10/23/16, Image 3: Grove Interior.



10/23/16, Image 4: Grove Interior.



10/23/16, Image 5: Grove Interior.



10/23/16, Image 6: Grove Interior, North Edge.



10/23/16, Image 7: Grove Interior, North Edge.



10/23/16, Image 8: Grove Interior.



10/23/16, Image 9: Grove Interior



10/23/16, Image 10: Inside Eastern Tree Line Looking Northeast.