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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AGENCIES WORK TOGETHER, SWINGING THE HAMMER TO RESTORE A  
“MOST ENDGAERED PLACES” SITE**

Volunteers from Colorado Oil and Public Safety, Colorado Preservation, Inc., the Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Brownfield’s Foundation, and Eagle Environmental were on hand to remove vinyl-siding and non-historic elements on a filling station owned by the Black American West Museum.

Littleton----- On Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, volunteers met up at the historic Dearfield Colony to work on preparing a historic filling station so it can be listed as a “contributing” building in the National Register Historic District. The designation will make the Filling Station eligible for various funding sources to help with stabilization and restoration.

Established in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century by Oliver Toussaint Jackson, an African American entrepreneur, the Dearfield Colony was meant to promote ideals of economic independence and self-sufficiency. Beginning strictly as a dry land farming community, the site evolved throughout the years until the Dustbowl destroyed dry land farming efforts throughout the western United States. Founder OT Jackson’s house, which has been restored, and the Filling Station, both owned by the Black American West Museum, are the majority of what remains of this historic town. In 1999 the site was listed on Colorado Preservation, Inc.’s list of Most Endangered Places because of natural weathering and the threat of development.

Volunteers combated heat, bugs, and dirt to accomplish a great deal of work. All non-historic vinyl siding was removed as were non-historic additions including two bathrooms and a sun-porch. After lunch, work progressed to the interior where demolition of the ceiling and removal of insulation revealed wood framing stamped with “O.T. Jackson,” the original developer of the Dearfield site. Although the work was tiring, the results of volunteer’s efforts were clear. The filling station now stands with its original wood siding exposed and secured against vandals and animals.

For more information and pictures, please call Juanita McConkey at 303-962-0941 or email Juanita@ColoradoBrownfieldsFoundation.org

**Colorado Brownfields Foundation:** A 501(c)(3) Colorado nonprofit corporation that partners with communities, local governments, other non profits, and commercial enterprises to help reuse and redevelop brownfields sites.

**Colorado Preservation, Inc.** is a nonprofit, statewide historic preservation organization that provides assistance in historic preservation to Colorado communities through a statewide network of information, education, training, expertise, and advocacy.

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