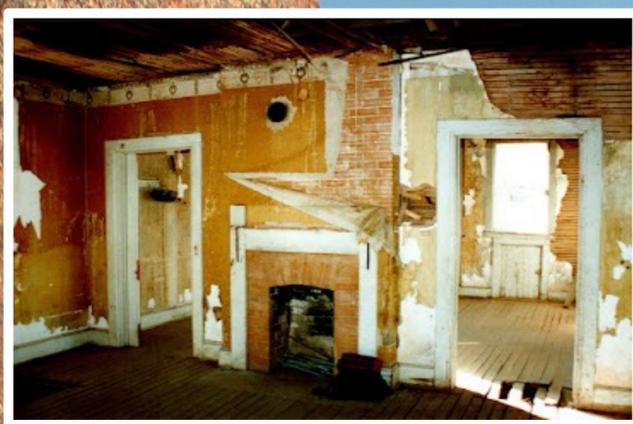


# *Stories of Roxborough* **“Persse Place Restoration”**



As a park volunteer, I have always been fascinated by the history of Roxborough and the Stone House that Henry S Persse built in 1903 is one of my favorite places. It was to be a place to entertain guests while promoting his dream of creating a “splendid resort” but those plans died in 1918 with his death.

His son, John, lived in the house for the next 20 years after which, it was abandoned for almost 40 years before Colorado bought the land for Roxborough State Park in 1975. During the interim, the roof leaked, the front porch and kitchen walls collapsed, windows and doors went missing. Vandals removed the dedication stone containing the Persse family crest from the east eve of the house.

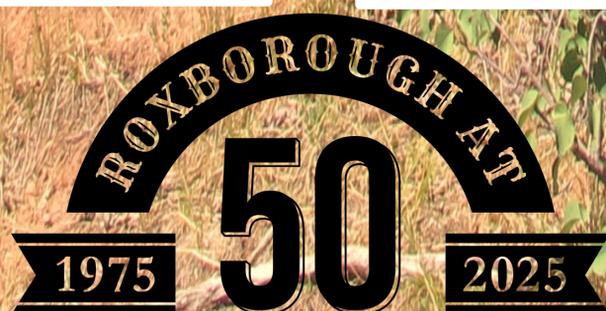
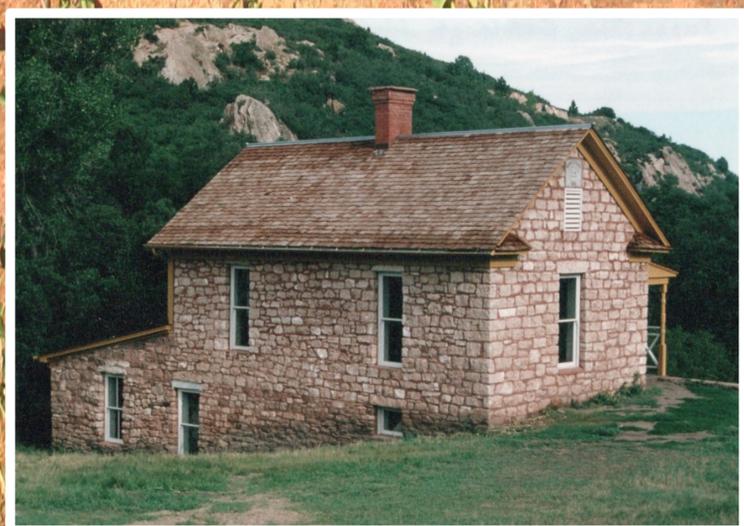
After the acquisition, staff protected the house from further deterioration by boarding up the doors and windows and installing rolled roofing over the original cedar shingles. The park manager put the word out that the Persse stone was needed to restore the house and miraculously, it was “found” in a nearby ditch.

The Persse Place was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 enabling State Parks to apply for a State Historical Fund restoration grant, which was matched by state park funds in 1994. A team of volunteers, of which I was a part, and park staff used these funds for a cedar shake roof, repointing the stone façade, re-constructing the front porch and lower-level walls and replacing windows and doors. The Persse family crest was returned to its original location.

A second grant in 1996 helped us restore the interior of the house. We installed a new floor on the lower level, reinforced the stairway, and repaired the parlor and dining room fireplaces. We found swatches of the original wallpaper that were used to find closely matching reproductions. We received donations of a historic heating stove and a cook stove giving the warm feeling of earlier times when Henry welcomed guests to his home.

Park volunteers continue this tradition by regularly hosting Persse Place open house events.

- Alma Rounds, Volunteer since 1997



*Tranquil & Treasured Forever*