

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC Silverton Historic DistrictAND/OR COMMON Silverton Historic District**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER on Route 550

CITY, TOWN

Silverton

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

San Juan

CODE

111**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☒ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER: town**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME San Juan County Commissioner

STREET & NUMBER

County Courthouse, Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Silverton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Registry of Deeds; San Juan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Silverton

STATE

Colorado**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE Colorado State Inventory

DATE

in progress☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS1880 Gaylord Street

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD	☒ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The town of Silverton is situated in the center of San Juan County, Colorado. It was this location which made the city the center of the rich mining district and brought to the town the prosperity as exemplified by its homes and institution buildings.

Prospecting had been conducted in this region of San Juan County, as early as the 1860's. However, it was not until 1871 that the first profitable vein was located in Arrastra Gulch, just east of the town, and caused the influx of other prospectors. This early find was silver ore. Progress was rapid and Silverton by 1874 was organized into a township. Prosperity continued and by the turn of the century, Silverton became a bustling community of 3,000 people. It was at this point that institutional buildings began to be built. These buildings remain and are the central focus of the town's architecture.

8
The Imperial Hotel (photo #1) sits at the northwest corner of Green and 12th Streets. One of the oldest of the major structures in the town, the Imperial Hotel was constructed about 1882. It is a three-story building with mansard roof. Dormers are situated around the third floor of the building. This impressive hotel, the largest of the three in Silverton, was billed "the finest hotel on the western slope except the La Veta, at Gunnison" by the builders, the Thompson Brothers. Presently on the first level of the building are a restaurant located in the hotel as well as various shops which occupies rented space. There is a glass facade (storefront in character) which runs the length of the southeast elevation.

The County Courthouse (photo #2) sits at Green and 15th Streets. The county courthouse is one of the more ornate buildings in Silverton. It is a two-story building topped by a clock tower and cupola which has a gold painted dome. There are marble floors throughout the interior of the building. The hallways converge at a fountain under the tower, which stands exposed from first floor to tower. The staircase rises, then circles, one to either side, to the second floor. There are county offices located throughout the building.

The San Juan County Jail (photo #3) sits to the north of the county courthouse on the same block. Apparently built as a one-story structure in 1909, two-stories were added making a three-story building. Fashioned of brick in common bond, the jail has entrances on the south and east side. Small porches are located at each entrance.

City Hall (photo #4) sits on the southwest corner of Green and 15th Streets. A two-story brick building, with a bell tower, the City Hall is not presently occupied. Having fallen into disrepair in recent years, plans have been formulated for its purchase and restoration by the San Juan County Historical Society. The building is not open to the public. City Hall was built in 1908.

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Congregational Church (photo #5) sits on the southeast corner of Reese and 11th Streets. Built around 1878 Congregational Church is one of the oldest of existing buildings in Silverton. Constructed of clapboard the church has small dimensions. On the northeast side, the building faces east, is a spire which is topped by a cross. The entrance which opens into a small foyer is located beside the spire. To the south side is the parsonage also a wooden building. The church has a gabled roofline which runs lengthwise. The church still holds services.

There are a number of other institutional buildings which date back to the early 20th century. Though far less impressive as the above mentioned structures these other buildings aid in the representation and interpretation of Silverton. These buildings include the Carnegie Library, constructed in the first decade of the 20th century with funds donated by Andrew Carnegie, the Avon Hotel, a less important back district hotel on the corner of Empire and 10th Streets. Other churches include the Catholic Church, corner of Reese and 10th Streets and the newer Church of Christ. In a community like Silverton, some distance from other towns over difficult terrain, fraternal orders played an important role in the community. The American Legion Building, located on the corner of Green and 11th Streets, a wooden two-story structure fulfilled the need for fraternal camaraderie.

On the other hand, homes in Silverton were rather modest. These homes, in many cases, retain this pioneer/pro prospector flavor. There are some few examples of the wealth of the community. One splendid example exists in the Hamner House.

The Hamner House (photo #6) sits on Reese Street between 8th and 9th Streets. Constructed by a bank president during the late 19th century, this house best exemplifies the money that was produced in the Silverton Historic District. A two and one half story clapboard building, it is presently under restoration by the owner of a local business. Built in Victorian style, the building has lintels over the windows and there is a bay on the first story. Characteristic gingerbread has been removed but the house is being returned to its original appearance.

Prospector's House (photo #7) sits on the southwest corner of Reese and 11th Streets opposite the Congregational Church. A small clapboard structure of two stories, Prospector's House is one of the more typical houses of mine workers. Built during the 1880's, the house has an entrance on the left (southwest) side, while there is a rear porch side entrance just off the kitchen with a rear chimney. The house is topped by a gabled roof which runs the length of the house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1874-1920

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Silverton, Colorado was the center of an extensive mining district which stretched across the northern half of San Juan County. Established in 1874, by 1879 the population of the town had multiplied to 3,000 people. The town was founded in a rich silver mining district, (from which the town received its name). This region was later found to be rich in other ores including gold, lead and copper. The prosperity of the town continued and numerous buildings, organizations, churches, and other towns were the result of the district's prosperity. Between 1882 and 1918, the district had produced more than 65 million dollars in precious ores.

Today Silverton is a sleepy community in a valley surrounded by mountains. The major industry remains mining. The mining district has not seen massive intrusions though a number of the locations of former prosperous towns have been lost, primarily because of the decline in mining. The district retains much of the rustic character which is so significant to its landmark designation. Access to Silverton is made by U.S. Route 550 from both the north and south.

HISTORY

Silverton, Colorado and the historic mining district surrounding it is one of the great silver-producing areas of the Trans-Mississippi West. This region between 1882 and 1918 alone produced more than 65 million dollars in precious metals.

Silverton owes its greatest importance in the early years to silver. In the early 1870's, miners searched the region for gold but no one found anything but silver. However, after they became convinced that silver was worthwhile, they started extensive operations in the region which proved to be a virtual treasure house. Before the signing of the Brunot Treaty with the Utes in 1873, a number of miners penetrated the region but many of them were run off, or killed by the Indians. In 1871 and 1872, while the treaty was being negotiated, miners worked their way over Stony Pass and began staking claims. By the end of 1873, nearly 4,000 claims had been recorded and most of the big mines had been discovered.

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 530

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 266790 41881540
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
✓ C 13 266100 4187660 ✓
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 13 264990 4186820 ✓
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 13 265780 4189490
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The boundary of the landmark is coterminous with the boundary of the city of Silverton as shown on the USGS Map Quadrangle entitled Silverton, Colorado, dated 1955, 7.5 minute series, except that at the south corner of the intersection of 10th and Green Streets the landmark boundary turns northwest and proceeds approximately 700 feet to a point of intersection with the city boundary.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Joseph Scott Mendinghall, Historian; original form prepared by

Ray Matteson

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

DATE

12/10/75

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

STATE

D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) NATIONAL _____

STATE _____

LOCAL _____
Designated: _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys
DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Boundary Examined: _____
Action: _____

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Director, OAHIP
DATE _____

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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By 1873, extensive mining had begun in the district and by the subsequent year towns had risen all across the district. With the influx of men, the towns of Howardsville, Eureka, Animas Forks, Mineral Point and Silverton began to prosper.

According to an official plat of the township, Silverton was officially organized as a town in September 1874. The first newspaper was established in July 1875; the second appeared in 1889. A Hook and Ladder County was organized in 1878. By 1879, Silverton had a population of about 3,000 people.

Likewise, in the other towns, signs of prosperity appeared. Schools were built, newspapers organized and shops were opened for business.

One of the most important aspects of life in the Colorado mining community was the church. In 1878, the Congregationalist Church organized and erected its first church. Shortly, thereafter, the Catholics built their church, then the Methodists, and finally the Episcopalians.

Much of the Silverton social life centered around the many fraternal organizations which flourished during the 1880's and 1890's. Among these were the Masons, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Woodmen of the World, Women of Woodcraft, Rathbone Sisters, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Silverton Miners Union which had a membership of 1,300 people. In 1889, the Silverton Jockey Club was organized.

Railroad service was first initiated to Silverton in 1881 and service began in July, 1882. The first railroad was the Denver and Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Railroad which extended its tracks from Durango up the Animas Canyon along treacherous mountain ledges and along the to Silverton. It was the Durango-Silverton connection which made possible the construction of other lines. The first line built after the Denver-Rio Grande was the Silverton Railroad. This was to be followed by the Silverton Gladstone, completed in 1889 and the Silverton Northern Railroad, incorporated in September 1895.

Silverton and its surrounding towns continued to prosper well into the 20th century. In 1910, Silverton had a population of 2,153. It was a railroad supply center for the other cities of the district. Annual production of ore exceeded 2 million dollars.

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Gradually the mines of the district were exhausted and the district began to decline. Silverton, likewise, declined and no major construction, other than minor motels, has occurred.

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Brown, Robert, Empire of Silver, (Caxton Publishers: Caldwell Idaho) 1965.

_____, Ghost Towns of Colorado (Caxton Publishers: Caldwell Idaho)
1967.

Cooper, Raymond, A History of San Juan County (unpublished, n.d.)

Griswald, Don and Jean, Colorado's Century of Cities (Griswald-Mazulla:
Denter) 1958.

Olsen, Mary Ann, The Silverton Story (Beaber Printing Co.: Cortez, Colorado)
1962.

Osterwald, Doris B., Cinders and Smoke (Western: Lakewood, Colorado).

Wolle, Muriel S., Stampede to Timberline: The Ghose Towns and Mining Camps
of Colorado (Wolle: Boulder, Colorado) 1959.

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Silverton Historic District (Boundary Increase)
San Juan County, CO

ENDNOTES

1. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the year 1930: Metals, Mines, and Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 15 August 1930, (Photocopy).
2. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the years of 1929 and 1949: Metals, Mines, and Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 6 December 1929 and 8 February 1950; T. R. Hunt and Leon M. Banks, "Operation of the Shenandoah-Dives Mining Company," The Mines Magazine, February 1934, p. 49 ; William Jones, interview by Dawn Bunyak, Silverton, Colorado, 15 June 1995; and Photographs of the Aerial Tramway taken in the early 1930s. Western Historical Collection of the Denver Public Library, Denver, CO (notations on the back of the photographs by the photographer).
3. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the year 1929 and 1949: Metals, Mines, and Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 6 December 1929 and 8 February 1950; Fred Carstarphen, "The Mayflower Aerial Tramway of the Shenandoah-Dives Mining Company," The Colorado School of Mines Magazine, XX no. 9 (Sept. 1930): 24-26; Margaret Barge, "History of Shenandoah-Dives Mining Company, 1959(?)" TMs [photocopy], p 6, San Juan County Historical Society, Silverton, CO; and William Jones, Montrose, Colorado, to [Dawn Bunyak, National Park Service, Denver, CO], TLS, 8 August 1995.
4. William Jones, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 8 August 1995.
5. Darnall Zanoni, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996.
6. Ibid.
7. William Jones, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996 and Darnall Zanoni, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996.
8. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the year 1929 and 1949: Metals, Mines, and Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 6 December 1929 and 8 February 1950; Barge, "History of Shenandoah-Dives," 6; Hunt, "Operations of Shenandoah-Dives," 49; "Shenandoah-Dives," Mining World, 3-7; Jones, Interview, 15 June 1995; Photographs, Western Historical Collection; Chase Collection of Correspondence [photostat] in Private Collection of William Jones divulges "Charles A. Chase wrote to Fred Carstarphen on 14 September 1930 concerning the proper name for the tramway for publication purposes was to be referred to as the Shenandoah-Dives Aerial Tramway." William Jones, Correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 3 August 1995.
9. "Shenandoah-Dives," Mining World, 3-7; William Jones, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996; Darnall Zanoni, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996; and Jones, Interview.

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10. Carlo Poloine was the Italian spelling of his surname; but it would eventually become the Americanized "Palone," according to Joe Todeschi in a phone interview with Dawn Bunyak on December 16, 1996.
11. Joe Todeschi, phone interview with Dawn Bunyak, 16 December 1996.
12. William Jones, phone interview with Dawn Bunyak, 27 July 1995; Frederic J. Athearn, Historian, phone interview with Dawn Bunyak on 6 September 1995; Frederic Athearn, photograph of Mayflower Mine--Avalanche Diverter and Tram Tower No. 1 taken in 1991. "It is important to note the upper terminal is still intact (along with towers 1 and 2) and is complete with all mechanical equipment, chutes, grip sheaves, gears etc. This site is located on the Mayflower #2 lode mining claim U.S. Mineral Survey Number 16551," William Jones notes in his correspondence of 1 April 1996 and 21 April 1996 to Dawn Bunyak.
13. William Jones, phone interview by Dawn Bunyak, 18 August 1995 and Jones, interview, 15 June 1995. Due to the evidence of archival photographs and speed in erection of the mill, it is surmised that the mill was designed and pre-cut in Denver, bundled up, and shipped to Silverton for erection by the construction crew.
14. Jones, interview; Allen Nossaman, personal interview by Dawn Bunyak, 13-15 June 1995; Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the years of 1927, 1929, 1930: Metals, Mines, and Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 8 February 1928, 28 May 1929, 6 December 1929, and 15 August 1930.
15. Nossaman, interview; Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the years 1929-1930: Metals, Mines, and Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 28 May 1929, 6 December 1929, and 15 August 1930; and Colorado Historical Society Historic Building Inventory Record filed by Allen Nossaman on the Mayflower Mill, 1995.
16. Mayflower Mill of the Shenandoah-Dives Mining Company in Silverton, San Juan County, Colorado, Photographs, 1930 and 1932, Mining Collection, Western History Department, Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado.
17. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the years of 1929 and 1949: Metals, Mines, and Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 6 December 1929 and 8 February 1950; Barge, "History of Shenandoah," 6; Hunt, "Operations of Shenandoah-Dives," 49 and "Shenandoah-Dives," Mining World, 6.
18. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the years of 1929 and 1949: Metals, Mines, and Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 6 December 1929 and 8 February 1950; Barge, "History of Shenandoah," 6; Hunt, "Operations of Shenandoah-Dives;" "Shenandoah-Dives," Mining World, 7; Jones, interview; and Jones, correspondence, 3 August 1995. There has been a discrepancy in the reporting of the length of the aerial tramway cable in a variety of publications. The figure referred to in this report is drawn from the survey notes compiled by Fred Carstarphen for designing and erection of the aerial tramway. These survey notes were supplied by William Jones of Montrose, Colorado who owns photostat of correspondence collection of Charles A. Chase, manager and Vice-President of the Shenandoah-Dives Mining

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Company.

19. Barge, "History of Shenandoah," 7; Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the year 1929: Metals, Mines, Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 28 May 1929; Hunt, "Operations;" Charles A. Chase, "Flotation Widely Employed in San Juan Milling," Engineering and Mining Journal, 136, no.8 (August 1935): 395-397; "Shenandoah-Dives" Part 2, Mining World, June 1942, 10-13.
20. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the year 1929: Metals, Mines, Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 28 May 1929.
21. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the year 1937: Metals, Mines, Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 5 January 1938.
22. William Jones, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 and 21 April 1996.
23. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the year 1962 and 1975: Metals, Mines, Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 21 January 1963 and 15 December 1975; Jones, interview; Darnall Zanoni, personal interview by Dawn Bunyak, 13-15 June 1995; Nossaman, interview; and archival photographs, Western History Collection of the Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado.
24. Duane A. Smith, Mining America: The Industry and the Environment 1800-1980, (Kansas City: University of Kansas Press, 1987) 34-41.
25. Charles A. Chase and Dan M. Kentro, "Tailings Disposal Practice of Shenandoah-Dives Mining Company," in Mining Year Book, Mining Congress Journal, (Denver, CO: Colorado Mining Association, 1937), 31-32 and 74-76 and Charles A. Chase and Dan M. Kentro, "Tailings Disposal Practice of Shenandoah-Dives Mining Company," in Mining Congress Journal, (Washington, D.C.: American Mining Congress, 1938), 24 (March 1938): 19-22. In these articles, both men argue the cost-efficiency, as well as environmental benefits, of using tailing ponds instead of other methods of disposal.
26. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the year 1929: Metals, Mines, Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 28 May 1929 and 6 December 1929.
27. Picture windows are unusual in historic structures in mountainous regions of Colorado due in fact to the difficulty of transporting such a large single sheet. When the mill office was built in 1930, Charles Chase's office was fitted with two sets of double-hung windows. In an historical photo of the mill taken in 1948, there was no picture window in evidence. In the editorial column of the 21 February 1953 Denver Post, the columnist wrote, "Guiding spirit of Shenandoah-Dives is Charles A. Chase . . . whose office adjoining the company's mill has a large picture window which gives a view of the whole giddy course of the aerial tramway line." William Jones, Chase Historian, states, "James W. Cole, a past assayer at Shenandoah-Dives Mill, told me the picture window was

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installed in the late 1940s as a gift from a supplier to Charles A. Chase, mill superintendent." William Jones, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996.

28. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the year 1929: Metals, Mines, Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 28 May 1929 and 6 December 1929; and Field survey, 14 June 1995.

29. William Jones, phone interview with Dawn Bunyak, 13 January 1997. Based upon maps prepared by the Standard Metals Corp. the estimates for the tailing pond acreage and amount were figured.

30. William Jones, phone interview by Dawn Bunyak, 7 January 1997. Jones reviewed maps of the mill site and estimated that the approximate acreage of the tailings ponds as: Pond 1: 33 acres; Pond 2: 23 acres; Pond 3: 4 acres; and Pond 4: 25 acres.

31. Nossaman, interview; San Juan County, promotional book published by the Silverton Standard on 1 December 1899; and Field survey notes from Mineral Survey No. 7608.

32. San Juan's Mining Journal, Silverton Standard, 1 Dec. 1899; and Mineral Survey 7608, includes field notes and plat of the Polar Star Mill Site, San Juan County, Colorado, 1 August 1892, Bureau of Land Management Lakewood, CO.

33. The Silverton (Colorado) Miner, Golden San Juan Edition, 1907, Commemorative edition is in the collection of William Jones of Montrose, Colorado, 9-11.

34. "While the hydroelectric generating plant in the Animas Canyon was originally and technically known as the Rockwood Plant, it has more predominantly been known as the Tacoma Plant. It is identified as such on more recent power company and railroad materials," states Alan Nossaman, Honorable Judge of San Juan County. Alan Nossaman, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996.

35. Freda Peterson, personal interview by Dawn Bunyak, 14 June 1995; and Nossaman, interview.

36. Inscriptions were noted when Freda Peterson took Dawn Bunyak on a field visit of the cemetery on 14-15 June 1995. Freda Peterson has written an extensive history of all the inhabitants of the cemetery. Her second edition will be out in 1997. Years of research in newspapers, oral histories, county records, and family accounts has been made this a comprehensive history of the individuals who populated Silverton from its early years. Copies of this publication are found worldwide in private and public libraries. All information is available on microfilm at the Genealogy Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

37. Peterson, interview.

38. William Jones, interview by Dawn Bunyak, Silverton, Colorado, 15 June 1995; Darnall Zanoni, interview by Dawn Bunyak, Silverton, Colorado, 15 June 1995; and Paul Krabaucher, Western Slope agent of the Colorado State Office of Mining, Denver, Colorado, phone interview by Dawn Bunyak, 11 September 1996.

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39. Carol Affleck, phone interview with Dawn Bunyak, 24 January 1997. Carol Affleck has researched the history of the mill with the assistance of Tom Hendricks, miner and businessman. Mr. Hendricks said the mill was built in 1935 by the St. Joe Mining and Milling Company to mill gold from the Grand Republic Gold Mine at Christmas, Colorado. In 1940-1942, the mill was reconfigured by the General Chemical Company to mill fluorspar from the Invincible Mine in Jamestown. The mill was reconfigured again in 1976 to mill gold, whereupon it was closed in 1984.

40. William Jones, phone interview with Dawn Bunyak, 7 January 1997; Duane Smith, phone interview with Dawn Bunyak, 7 January 1997; Robert Spude, phone interview with Dawn Bunyak, 6 January 1997. Interviews dealt with the mills in the state of Colorado, region, and nationally. These five examples were a consensus on the mills built approximately in the time frame as the Shenandoah-Dives Mill in Silverton, CO. Duane Smith referred to the 1920s as a real slow period in mining and milling history. There were virtually little construction due to the national economic slump, which included the beginnings of the Depression.

41. Harrison Cobb, Prospecting Our Past: Gold, Silver and Tungsten Mills of Boulder County, (Boulder, CO: The Book Lode, 1988) 5, 46-49, 137-141.

42. William R. Jones, "Charles A. Chase & The Shenandoah-Dives Mine," Unpublished essay, 1994; Jones, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996; Barge, "History of Shenandoah, 3-6; Charles A. Chase, "Shenandoah-Dives Mine: Past, Present, and Future," San Juan County Historical Society Silverton, CO, 8 December 1954.

43. Ibid.

44. Ibid.

45. Jones, interview; and Barge, "History of Shenandoah," 3-6.

46. Barge, "History of Shenandoah," 8; Chase, "Past, Present;" Jones, interview; Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the year 1927: Metals, Mines, Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 8 February 1928.

47. Jones, interview; Chase, "Past, Present;" and Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the years 1927 and 1929: Metals, Mines, and Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 8 February 1928 and 28 May 1929.

48. Barge, "History of Shenandoah," 8 and Jones, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak 1 and 21 April 1996. The company paid \$375,000 for the mill's construction and \$85,000 for the aerial tramline.

49. "The Mayflower Aerial Tramway of the Shenandoah-Dives Mining Company," The Colorado School of Mines Magazine, 26 and "Shenandoah-Dives" Part 2, Mining World, 11 and 13.

50. William Jones, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 3 August 1995.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 35

Silverton Historic District (Boundary Increase)
San Juan County, CO

51. In a phone interview on December 16, 1996 between Joe Todeschi and Dawn Bunyak, Joe said Carlo Poloine was a middle-aged man, approximately 45 to 47 years old when they worked together on the building of the "snow breaker" above the number 1 and 2 towers of the Shenandoah-Dives Aerial Tramway.

52. During the 1996 interview with Dawn Bunyak, Joe Todeschi said that Tony Bazz was his step-father, who worked at the Shenandoah-Dives mine. He was never sure if he got the job because of his step-father or his persistence when approaching Al Andrean for a job after he had been laid-off. "One day I collared Al on the street and asked him for a job, as I had gotten laid off at Sunnyside where I had been working on the installation of their tram," Joe related. "Mr. Andrean, I need me a job real bad," I said. "I had to eat you know." Continuing his conversation with Mr. Andrean, Joe said, "Do you have anything for me?" Mr. Andrean was obliged to tell Joe that he had no work then but would keep the boy in mind. "The next day, Mr. Andrean came to our door and told me he had some work for me," Joe continued.

53. Todeschi, interview.

54. Ibid.

55. "Shenandoah-Dives," Mining World, 7; Jones, interview; and Jones, correspondence, 3 August and 8 August 1995.

56. Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the years 1929-1938: Metals, Mines, and Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 28 May 1929, 6 December 1929, 15 August 1930, and 5 January 1938.

57. Barge, "History of Shenandoah-Dives," 4.

58. William Jones, interview by Dawn Bunyak, Silverton, CO, 15 June 1995.

59. Beverly Rich, Chair of San Juan County Historical Society, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak on 6 November 1995. Ms. Rich's research on the Silverton Miners Union, Local #26, found that the union representatives and company officials had agreed on a six hour workday for miners citing hazardous and hard working conditions. This "portal to portal" exception came after many years of negotiations.

60. "San Juan Federation of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Formed," The Silverton Standard, 1 Sept. 1939.

61. Ibid.

62. Barge, "Shenandoah;" Jones, "Chase;" and Report to the Bureau of Mines, State of Colorado for the years 1929-1938: Metals, Mines, and Mills, submitted by Shenandoah-Dives Syndicate for the Mayflower Mine, (County: San Juan; Dist.: Animas), 28 May 1929, 6 December 1929, 15 August 1930, and 5 January 1938.

63. Chase and Kentro, "Tailings Disposal," 1937; and Chase and Kentro, "Tailings Disposal," 1938.

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 36

Silverton Historic District (Boundary Increase)
San Juan County, CO

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64. Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, Duane A. Smith, A Colorado History, 6 ed., (Boulder, CO: Pruett Publishing Co., 1988), 333-36, 346.
65. Chase and Kentro, "Tailings Disposal, 1937," 20-22; and Chase and Kentro, "Tailings Disposal, 1938," 31-32, 74.
66. "Shenandoah-Dives" Part 2, Mining World, 10.
67. Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, Duane A. Smith, A Colorado History, 6 ed., (Boulder, CO: Pruett Publishing Co., 1988), 333-36, 346 and "Shenandoah-Dives, Part II," Mining World, 10.
68. "Mine, Mill Shutdown Held a 'Catastrophe'," Denver Post, 19 February 1953, p. 60; Barge, "History of Shenandoah," 11; and Jones, "Chase."
69. Barge, "History of Shenandoah," 11; Jones, "Chase;" "Mine, Mill Shutdown Held a 'Catastrophe'," Denver Post, 19 February 1953, 60; "End of a Chapter," editorial, Denver Post, 21 February 1953; and Obituary of Charles A. Chase, Rocky Mountain News, 1 Sept. 1955, 14.
70. William Jones, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996.
71. William Jones, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996 and Darnall Zanoni, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996.
72. Beverly Rich, San Juan County Treasurer and Chairperson of the San Juan County Historical Society, correspondence to Dawn Bunyak on 6 November 1995. Ms. Rich's interest in the historical preservation of her community has motivated her to research numerous topics in local records concerning the Miner's Union #26, San Juan Federation of Mine, Mill, & Smelter, Miner's Union Hospital, and mine labor issues. She has received grant funding from the Colorado Historical Society for her research in labor issues.
73. Christine Whitacre, Historian, Front Range Research Associates, Inc., "Telluride National Historic Landmark District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, September 30, 1988, 4-5.
74. The Silverton (Colorado) Miner, Golden San Juan Ed., 1907, 9-11 and "Western Colorado Power Company History," unpublished manuscript, 1979(?), 74-78.
75. "Animas Power and Water Company," The Silverton (Colorado) Miner, Golden San Juan Edition, 1907, 9-11. This is a commemorative edition in the collection of William Jones of Montrose, Colorado.
76. Ibid.
77. Alan Nossaman states the landing strip was laid out on the old railroad grade of the Silverton Northern Railroad and used extensively by the personnel of Standard Uranium Corporation. This is the only airstrip that Silverton ever had. The landing strip was terminated due to the encroachment of new tailings ponds. Alan Nossaman,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 37

Silverton Historic District (Boundary Increase)
San Juan County, CO

correspondence to Dawn Bunyak, 1 April 1996.

78. Beverly Rich, Chair of San Juan County Historical Society, phone interview by Dawn Bunyak, 20 August 1995.

79. Lee Scamehorn, Albert Eugene Reynolds: Colorado's Mining King (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995), 87.

80. Nossaman, interview; San Juan County, promotional book published by the Silverton Standard on 1 December 1899; and Field Survey notes from Mineral Survey No. 7608; and "Polar Star Mill," Denver Republican, 12 January 1882, 6.

81. Peterson, interview; and Freda Peterson, History of Hillside Cemetery San Juan County, Colorado 1883-1988, (Oklahoma City, OK: 1989).

HABS no. CO-53-2

HABS

COLD,

56-SILTN,

1-2

W 12th & Green Sts.,
general view

Silverton Hist. Dist.
San Juan Co., Colorado

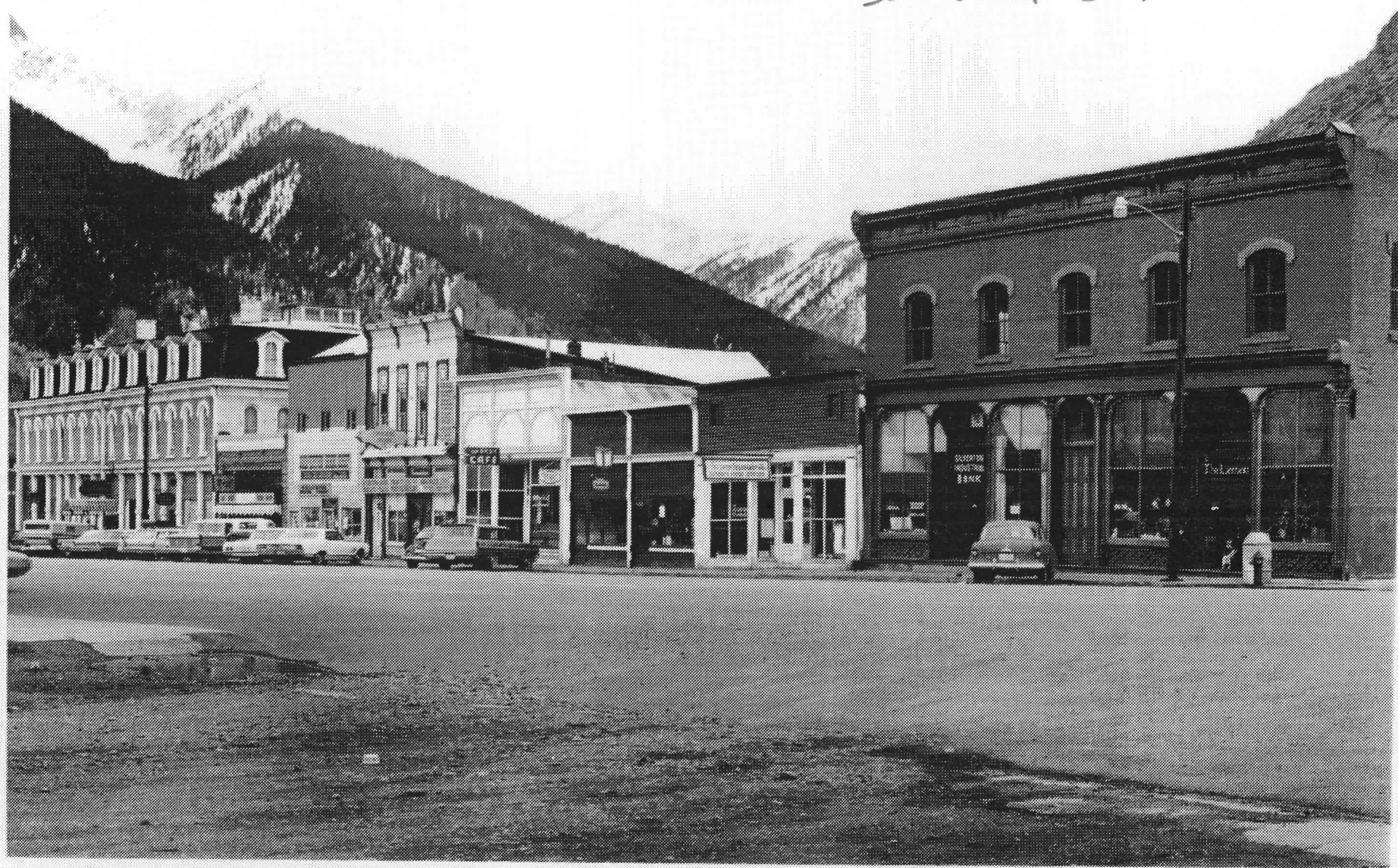


photo by Wm. Edmund Barrett, 1971



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Silverton Historic District

2 LOCATION

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____ VICINITY OF

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San Juan

STATE

Colorado

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Joseph Scott Mendinghall

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PHOTO NO. 1

The Imperial Hotel, south and east elevations
looking north



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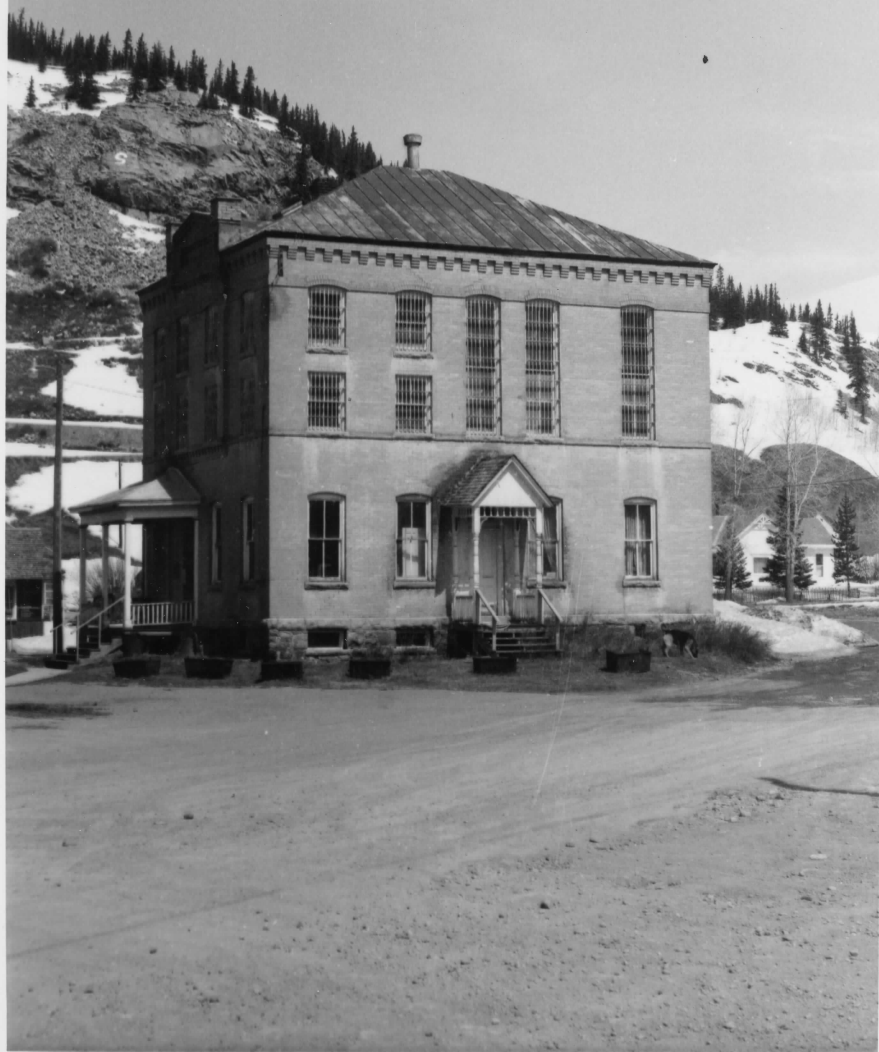
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PHOTO NO. 2

San Juan County Courthouse, south and west facade,
looking north



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County jail, west facade, looking north

PHOTO NO. 3



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City Hall, north and west facades, looking south

PHOTO NO. 4



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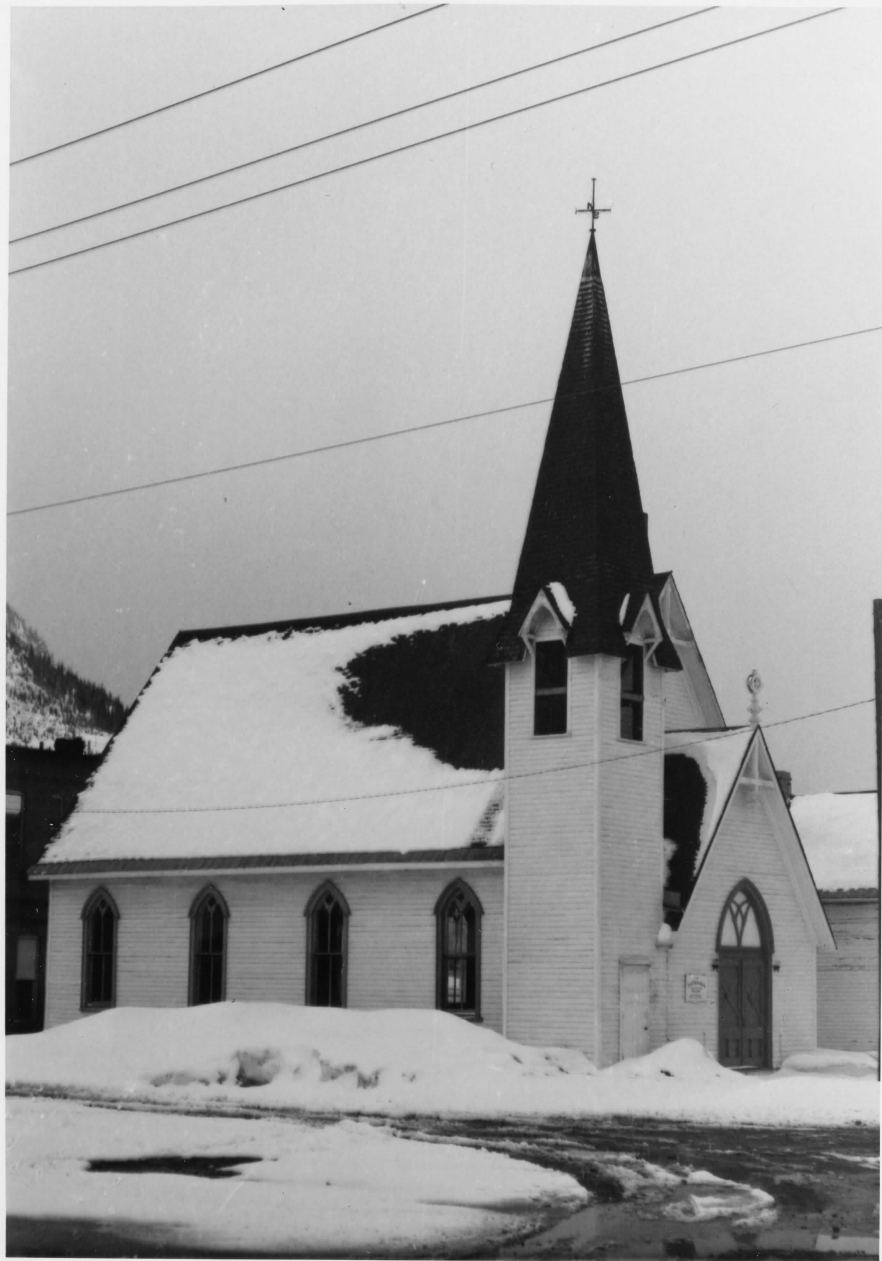
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Congregational Church, west facade, looking northeast

PHOTO NO. 5



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PHOTO NO. 5A

Congregational Church, north and west facade,
looking southeast



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PHOTO NO. 6

Hamner House, north and east elevations, looking
south



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PHOTO NO. 7

Prospector's House, east elevation, looking west.



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PHOTO NO. 8

Carnegie Library, east and south elevations looking
north.



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PHOTO NO. 9

Lodge Building, east and north elevations looking west.



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PHOTO NO. 10

Street scene along Green Ave. looking south.



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PHOTO NO. 11

Residential street scene, looking north on Reese Street



House, Silverton, Colo.,
1940, Russell Lee, FSA

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COLID,
56-SILTN,
1-2

Silverton Historic District, 1971
Silverton, San Juan County, CO
Courtesy of HABS

06 SILV



61-1037

Silverton, Colorado:
covered mountains.

Source: Ansel Adams

P.O.F 2/1/61

Early frontier homes against tree

Copy Neg.















ACKCOUNTRY

INDIAN STYLE

Blown Bear Cafe

Blown Bear Cafe

Blown Bear Cafe





FRONT PORCH FLOWERS

STILL LIFE GIFTS

TELLER HOUSE HOTEL

WELCOME















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2 LOCATION

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COUNTY

San Juan

STATE

Colorado

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

USGS 7.5' series--Silverton, Colorado Quadrangle

SCALE

1:24,000

DATE

1955

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

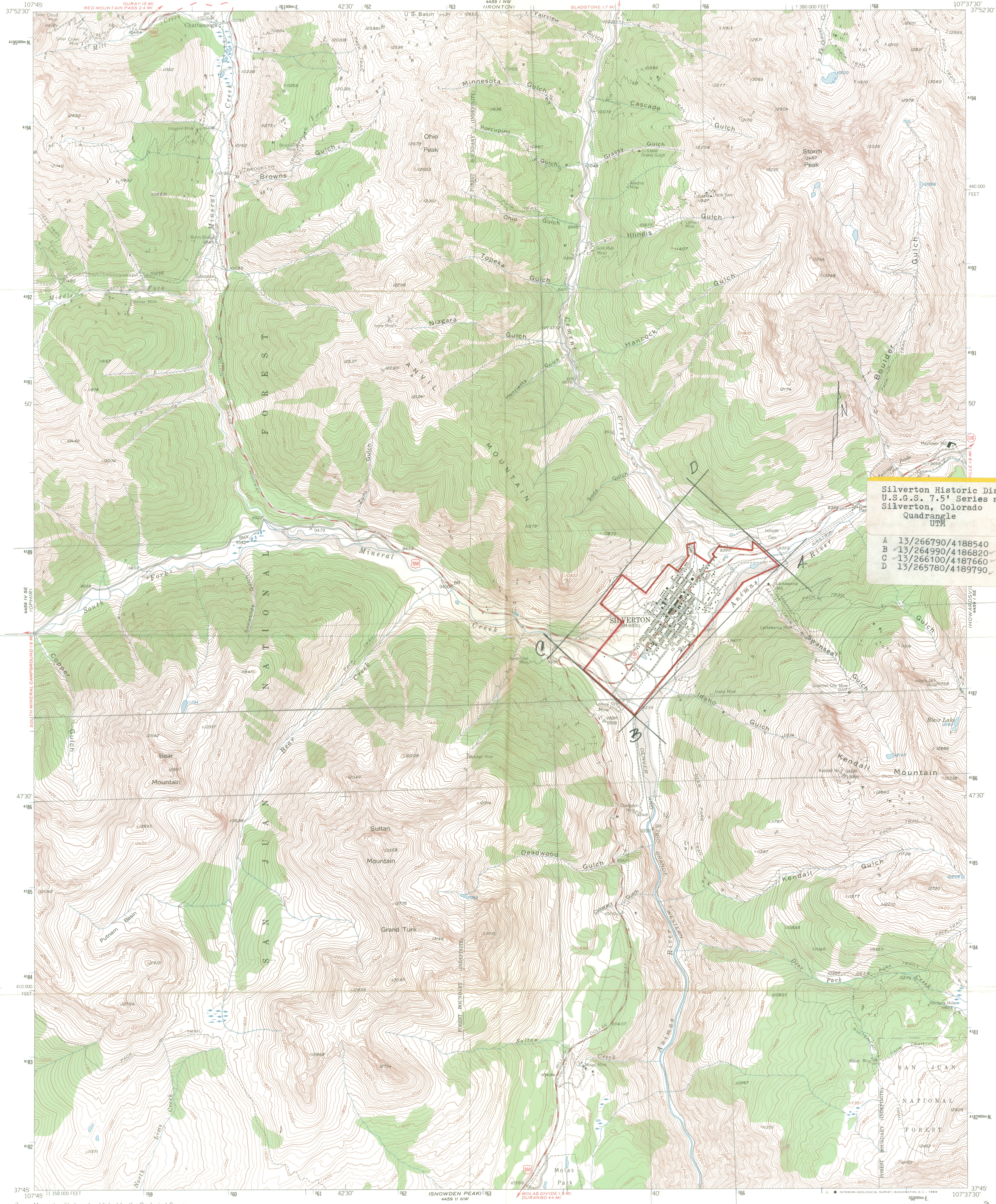
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2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

4459 I NE
(TELLURIDE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Silverton
SILVERTON QUADRANGLE
COLORADO-SAN JUAN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 SILVERTON 15 QUADRANGLE

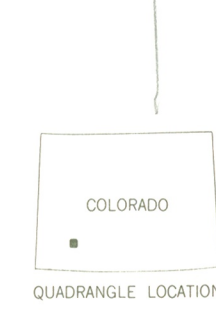
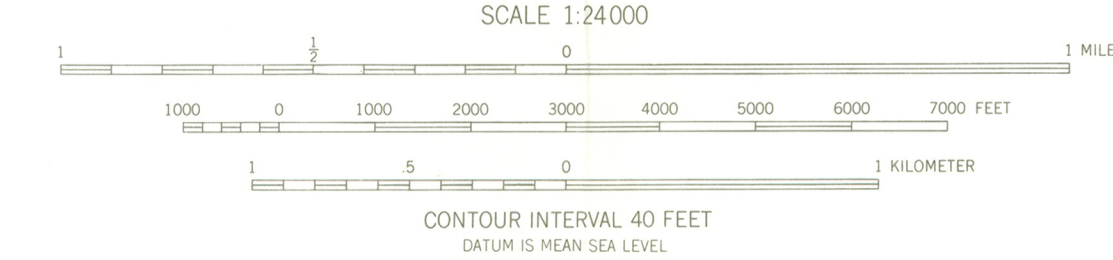
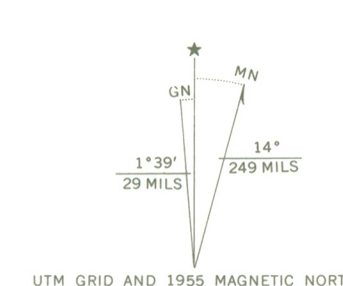
4459 I NE
(HARDY'S PEAK)



Silverton Historic District
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series map
Silverton, Colorado
Quadrangle
UTM

- A 13/266790/4188540
- B 13/264990/4186820
- C 13/266100/4187660
- D 13/265780/4189790

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Colorado coordinate system,
south zone
Land lines are omitted in T. 40 N., T. 41 N., and T. 42 N. R. 7 W. and
R. 8 W. because of insufficient data
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 13, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

SILVERTON, COLO.
SW/4 SILVERTON 15 QUADRANGLE
N3745-W10737.5/7.5

1955

AMS 4459 I SW-SERIES V877

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Duplicate

MAR 1 1960

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Regional Director, Region Two

Subject: The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
"The Mining Frontier," Subtheme of Theme XV, Westward
Expansion

We have Mr. Beard's memorandum sent by error to the Region Three Office, of January 25, requesting additional data for the evaluation of the Silverton-Telluride area.

In the subthematic report, "The Mining Frontier," this office recommended the following mining towns for exceptional value classification; Virginia City and Helena, Montana; the Deadwood-Lead area in South Dakota; Leadville, Central City and Cripple Creek in Colorado. In this study, our historians evaluated the Silverton district as a single unit. They did not feel that the town and the immediate area surrounding it was sufficiently significant to warrant exceptional value classification. For that reason, we placed it in the "Other Sites Considered" category. We likewise did not consider Telluride as nationally significant.

If the combined Silverton-Telluride areas, encompassing the mines in much of the San Juan district, are to be considered as a single unit in this study, we believe it would merit classification of exceptional value. Both Silverton and Telluride are centers of rich mining regions. In the Telluride district there were a number of mining towns such as Lizard Head, Matterhorn, Ophir, Ames, Vanadium, San Miguel, Sawpit, Fall Creek, Placerville, Rico, Dunton and Ouray. Up to 1909 the Telluride district produced more than \$60,000,000 in precious metals. In the Silverton district are the existing or ghost towns of Gladstone, Chattanooga, Ironton, Red Mountain Town, Guston, Howardsville, Middleton, Eureka, Animas Forks, and Mineral Point. Miss Muriel S. Wolle wrote in Stampede to Timberline of the Silverton area, "Once convinced...that silver was worth while, the miners opened the greatest mineral treasure chest in Colorado, one which produced between 1882 and 1918 alone, metals

valued at more than \$65,000,000."

We, therefore, recommend that the Silverton-Telluride district be placed in the exceptional value category.

(Sgd) Howard W. Baker.

Regional Director

✓
in duplicate

MAR 29 1960

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Regional Director, Region Two

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Subtheme, "The Mining Frontier"--The Silverton-Telluride
District

We have Mr. Stagner's memorandum of March 4 requesting additional information on the Silverton-Telluride District in Colorado.

Our evaluation of the Silverton-Telluride District is the subject of our memorandum of March 1 which was apparently not received by your Office prior to the submission of Mr. Stagner's memorandum of March 4.

We are forwarding herewith in quadruplicate revised inventory forms, prepared by Mr. Mattison, of the Silverton-Telluride area. We trust that these will provide you with sufficient data to support our claim of March 4 that the area merits classification of exceptional value. Unfortunately, Mr. Mattison has only had the opportunity to make a reconnaissance of the town Silverton and not of the Silverton-Telluride District as a whole.

(Sgd.) M. H. HARVEY
Regional Director

In duplicate

Enclosures



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Region Two Office
307 Federal Office Building
Omaha 2, Nebraska
MAR 29 1960

1960 MAR 31 AM 8 49
ADDRESS REPLY TO:
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGION TWO
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

158.

MAR 31 1960
Kahler
Littleton L.

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Acting Regional Director, Region Two

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Subtheme, "The Mining Frontier"--The Silverton-Telluride District

We have Mr. Stagner's memorandum of March 4 requesting additional information on the Silverton-Telluride District in Colorado.

Our evaluation of the Silverton-Telluride District is the subject of our memorandum of March 1 which was apparently not received by your Office prior to the submission of Mr. Stagner's memorandum of March 4.

We are forwarding herewith in quadruplicate revised inventory forms, prepared by Mr. Mattison, of the Silverton-Telluride area. We trust that these will provide you with sufficient data to support our claim of March 4 that the area merits classification of exceptional value. Unfortunately, Mr. Mattison has only had the opportunity to make a reconnaissance of the town Silverton and not of the Silverton-Telluride District as a whole.

W. H. Harvey
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Enclosures *E*

Silverton

L58-GHA

January 2, 1961

Mr. Phil McCluskey
Chairman, Board of
County Commissioners
San Juan County
Silverton, Colorado

Colorado

Dear Mr. McCluskey:

We have received your applications for Registered National Historic Landmark bronze Markers for the San Juan County Court House, Silverton, and for the Silverton Mining District, Silverton, Colorado. We wish to apologize for our delay in replying to you on this matter.

At its 44th meeting, May 1961, the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments classified Silverton, Colorado as a historic district. The Advisory Board is composed of a group of qualified experts in the fields of American history, archeology, architecture, and conservation who make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior concerning such matters.

In evaluating sites commemorating the mining frontier, the Advisory Board felt that it was the community of Silverton as a whole that typified this phase of American history rather than any one structure within the City.

Notification was made to the Mayor of Silverton concerning the Advisory Board's action, and Mayor George Bingel made application for both the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate and bronze Marker. The certificate has been forwarded to our Region Two Office in Omaha, Nebraska for presentation, and the marker will follow when completed.

We regret that multiple markers cannot be issued in such cases as that of Silverton, but we are happy to be able to accord Landmark status to Silverton as a community of significance in our Nation's history.

Sincerely yours,

WILFRED D. LOGAN

Wilfred D. Logan
Acting Chief Historian

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Two
Mr. Littleton

WDLogan:bfr 1/2/62

FEB 9 1961

L58-IBH

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Two

From: *Acting* Chief, Division of Interpretation

Subject: The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
The Silverton-Telluride District in the "Mining Frontier."

When the "Mining Frontier" was reviewed by the Consulting Committee for the Survey, it was recommended that the Silverton-Telluride District be given further study to see if it merited classification of exceptional value. In the study proper, it was not so recommended by you and was listed as one of the other sites considered.

Our memorandum of January 25, 1960, called this matter to your attention. Your reply of March 1, 1960, stated that if Silverton and Telluride were to be considered as a unit, you would recommend it for the exceptional value category. On March 29, 1960, you submitted revised inventory forms under the name of "Silverton-Telluride Areas," with the statement that you hoped this would be sufficient data to support its claim for exceptional value.

From the inventory forms we gather that the area is of considerable extent (fifteen miles from Silverton to Telluride), though the inventory is very general in describing the area involved. And while the information gives good grounds for classification, we do not see how such an extensive strip of country can be presented to the Advisory Board as an historic site, which if classified would be eligible for landmark status. To whom will you present the certificate and marker in case it is classified? Would it not be better to designate some point (spot, town, etc.) which best represents the area? We do need basic information as to the size of the area involved and specific recommendation as to the site which best represents the area. This may be given as a supplement to the inventory.

Will you please give the matter your careful attention and let us know your views by March 10? *underscore due dates!*

We have placed the study on the agenda for the spring meeting of the Advisory Board, and we will need this supplementary material.

Acting

(SGD) HERBERT E. KAHLE

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four
Chief, Division of Interpretation
Branch of History

JOLittleton:gr:2-6-61

L58

FEB 24 1961

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: ^{Acting} Regional Director, Region Two

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: The
Silverton-Telluride District in the "Mining Frontier"

We have Mr. Kahler's memorandum of February 9 requesting information regarding the Silverton-Telluride District of Colorado and requesting information on what portion of the district should be designated for landmark status in case the area is classified of exceptional value.

Actually, this mining district encompasses an area of more than 25 square miles. It includes not only the towns of Silverton and Telluride, but also the smaller mining settlements of Ouray, Dallas, Ridgeway, Placerville, San Miguel City, Ironton, Eureka, Gladstone, Howardsville, Middleton, Pandora, Ames, Ophir, Animas Forks, Old Ophir, and perhaps Rico and a number of mines. Since the town of Silverton, the largest of the group of towns, has retained much of its historical integrity, we believe it best represents the area. We suggest, therefore, that the certificate, in case the Silverton-Telluride District is classified as eligible for landmark status, be presented to Silverton.

(Sgd) George F. Baggley
Regional Director

Acting

✓
In duplicate

March 31, 1961

L58-IBH

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Two

From: Chief Historian

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
The Silverton-Telluride District in "The Mining Frontier"

We have received Acting Regional Director Baggley's memorandum of February 24 regarding the Silverton-Telluride District.

We have noted that you have recommended Silverton-Telluride District for classification, and that you have suggested that the certificate and marker be presented to Silverton.

We realize that classifying the mining towns poses special problems as they can hardly be treated in the same way as a limited site, such as, a historic house. Do you know if there is a historic district involved in the classification of Silverton, or would you recommend that the entire town as representative of the district be so designated?

If the Silverton-Telluride area is classified as having exceptional value, we can present the certificate and marker to the Mayor of Silverton. Do you think that Telluride or some of the other towns in the area would feel that they should also receive a certificate?

We would appreciate it if you could submit a brief statement on Silverton-Telluride along the lines of the statements on sites recommended for classification of exceptional value as presented in the various studies. We will reproduce the statement here and attach it as a supplement to the Mining Frontier study.

As we must present the Silverton-Telluride proposal to the Consulting Committee April 13-14, and to the Advisory Board in May, we would appreciate receiving the statement by April 10.

(SGD) HERBERT E. KAHLER
Chief Historian

Copy to: Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg

APR 7 1961

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Regional Director, Region Two

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: The Silverton-Telluride District in "The Mining Frontier"

We have Mr. Kahler's memorandum of March 31 relative to the certificate and marker to be presented in case the Silverton-Telluride District is made a Registered National Historic Landmark, and also requesting additional information on that site.

Although the Silverton-Telluride District covers a large area, and a number of mining towns, we believe that Silverton is the most representative and the best preserved of all. We suggest, therefore, that the entire town of Silverton be designated for Registered National Historic Landmark status and that it be the only one to receive a certificate and marker. Our views regarding more than one owner receiving a marker for a single site are expressed in our memorandum to you of March 29. The same reasoning would apply to single mining districts.

A summary of the historical significance of the Silverton-Telluride District, requested in the last two paragraphs of Mr. Kahler's memorandum, is attached.

(Sgd) Howard W. Baker

Regional Director

✓ In duplicate

Attachment

Silverton-Telluride District

State: Colorado

Ownership and Administration: This area consists of a number of mining towns and mines, all of which are in private ownership.

Significance: The Silverton-Telluride mining district, one of the great silver-producing areas of the trans-Mississippi West, played a significant role in the mining frontier.

From 1882 to 1918 the Silverton and Telluride areas combined produced over \$125,000,000 in precious metals.

During the gold rush of the early 1870's, miners came into the Silverton region in quest of gold. They found, however, nothing but silver. When they were convinced silver was worth while, they started extensive operations in the region which proved to be a virtual treasure house. By the end of 1873 there were 4,000 claims recorded and most of the big mines had been discovered. In 1874 the towns of Silverton, Mineral Point, Animas Forks, Howardsville, and Eureka had sprung up. Later on, other towns such as Ironton, Guston, Ouray, Red Mountain Town, Gladstone, Middleton, and Rose's Cabin came into being. With a population of 3,000 in 1879, Silverton was the center of this mining region. In that year half the mineral output was gold, silver, and lead while copper made up the rest of the metals produced in the immediate region.

The region was without a railroad until 1882 when the Denver & Rio Grande Narrow Gauge extended its line from Durango up Animas Creek to Silverton. This provided a much needed outlet for the minerals produced in the region.

The most famous mine in the Silverton area is the Camp Bird Mine, near Ouray. Discovered in 1896, this mine produced between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 in gold and silver ore. In 1902 the owner sold the mine to an English syndicate which operated it until 1911 during which period it produced \$18,000,000 in ore. It is still being profitably operated.

Telluride, located some 15 miles from Silverton, is the center of another very rich mining district. First established as Columbia in 1876, it grew slowly in the decades of the 1880's. When the Denver & Rio Grande Southern reached there in the 1890's, Telluride boomed and its population reached 5,000. Other towns, such as San Miguel, Pandora, Vanadium, Placerville, Ames, Ophir, Matterhorn, Lizard Head, Dunton, and Rico, sprung up around it. The famous producing mines in the region were the Smuggler, Alta, Liberty Bell, Tomboy, and the Black Bear.

In 1960 the population of Silverton was 822; Telluride, 677.

A number of significant structures have survived in Silverton. The most elaborate of these is the Imperial Hotel, originally built in 1882 by the Thompson Brothers, who claimed it "the finest hotel on the western slope, except the La Veta, at Gunnison." Others are the Methodist Church, built in 1881; the Court House, erected in 1907; and, the City Hall, constructed in 1908.

Bibliography: Muriel S. Wolfe, Stampede to Timberline: The Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Colorado (Boulder, 1949), 341-449; WPA, Colorado: Guide to the Highest State (New York, 1941)

L58 IBH

April 19, 1961

*Silverton, Telluride
+ Reg 2*

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Two

From: Chief Historian

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Silverton-Telluride District in "The Mining Frontier"

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your statement on the historical significance of the Silverton-Telluride District, which accompanied your memorandum of April 7. We appreciate receiving this material in time for use in the April 13-14 meeting of the Consulting Committee and for use in preparing recommendations for the Advisory Board.

(SGD) HERBERT E. KAHLEN
Chief Historian

Copy to: ✓ Mr. Littleton

WDLogan:bfr 4/19/61

April 19, 1961



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For Release JULY 4, 1961

SECRETARY UDALL DECLARES 43 MORE SITES ELIGIBLE FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS

Forty-three additional sites commemorating America's historical heritage are eligible for the Registry of National Historic Landmarks, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

These sites possessing exceptional historic value to the American people are described in four new studies in the National Park Service series. The Registry eventually will cover all major periods of human history in the United States.

The 43 sites are included in the studies: Political and Military Affairs, 1830-1860, two subthemes under Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898 entitled The Mining Frontier and Great Explorers of the West; and a supplement to the subtheme Military and Indian Affairs entitled Indian Affairs.

Secretary Udall said that the Registry of National Historic Landmarks is designed to recognize and endorse the preservation and protection of structures and sites now administered by States, other public agencies, or historical societies, and to encourage private owners of historic landmarks to maintain them.

The Registry is an outgrowth of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings program of the National Park Service. This program was authorized by the Historic Sites Act of 1935, which provided for a "survey of historic and archeologic sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States."

Owners or administrators of sites found eligible for Landmark status may apply to the National Park Service for such recognition and will receive a certificate. Suitable markers will be furnished upon request.

To date there have been 377 sites recommended for landmark status. Of these 255 have been found eligible.

Descriptive summaries of the sites in the presently announced theme studies are attached. A list of themes under study is also attached. Additional studies will be announced from time to time. The various theme studies may be published later for public distribution. Only reading copies are currently available.

X X X

Political and Military Affairs, 1830-1860

In the study of "Political and Military Affairs, 1830-1860," 14 sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value. Twelve of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks. They are as follows:

1. Lindenwald, New York. As the home of Martin Van Buren, from 1841 until his death in 1862, no other structure is so intimately associated with the eighth President of the United States. Since Van Buren's death, the property has passed through several hands, but has not suffered major alterations. Located east of Kinderhook, New York, on State Route 9H, the house is privately owned.

2. Sherwood Forest, Virginia. This was the home of John Tyler, tenth President of the United States, during the last 20 years of his life. The house is little changed from the time of the President's occupancy. The 1,000-acre estate includes a 12-acre yard surrounding the house with a variety of ancient trees and remains of formal gardens. The house is furnished with original pieces and family mementos. Located near Charles City, Virginia, on State Route 5, the house is still owned by the Tyler family.

3. James K. Polk Home, Tennessee. Built in 1816 by Samuel Polk, father of James K. Polk, this was the home of the future President for several years during his young manhood. The house remained in the family for many years then changed owners several times before being purchased by the State of Tennessee and the James K. Polk Memorial Association in 1929. It was opened to visitors in 1930. The James K. Polk Home is located on U. S. Highways 31 and 43, Columbia, Tennessee. It is owned by the State of Tennessee and administered by the James K. Polk Memorial Association of Nashville and the James K. Polk Auxiliary of Columbia.

4. Springfield, Kentucky. Springfield was the home of Zachary Taylor for more than 20 years prior to the beginning of his military career in 1808. It was the scene of his marriage, and the birthplace of five of his six children. When Taylor died in the White House in 1850, his body was brought back to rest at Springfield in the family burial ground, which later served as the nucleus of the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery. Springfield has passed through the hands of several private owners. Constructed of brick, the 3-story house of 8 rooms evidently has not undergone extensive alteration since Taylor lived there. Located at 5608 Apache Road, Louisville, Kentucky, it is privately owned.

5. Franklin Pierce Homestead, New Hampshire. This dwelling, built in 1804, was the home of Franklin Pierce. Although other houses were occupied by Pierce for shorter intervals later, the family home at Hillsboro is most intimately associated with him, since it was his home from infancy until his marriage in 1834. It is also the dwelling most typical of his time and background. The Pierce Homestead is a handsome example of New Hampshire village architecture. It consists of 2 stories containing 8 rooms. Architectural investigation has disclosed the character of the interior at the time of Pierce's occupancy. Located in Hillsboro, New Hampshire, on State Route 31, it is owned by the State of New Hampshire.

6. Wheatland, Pennsylvania. Wheatland was the home of James Buchanan, fifteenth President of the United States, from 1849 until his death in 1868. Wheatland was built in 1828 on the order of one William Jenkins who also named the estate. After Buchanan's death, the house passed through the hands of several private owners before it was acquired by a foundation. Wheatland has been spared remodeling and major alteration. It is a two and a half story brick house containing 17 rooms with furnishings appropriate to the Buchanan period, including many pieces belonging to Buchanan. The house and grounds are in excellent condition and are open to visitors. It is located on State Route 340 in the western outskirts of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and is owned by the James Buchanan Foundation for the Preservation of Wheatland.

7. "Old Main," Knox College, Illinois. "Old Main" constitutes the best preserved physical remains relating to the historic Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858. These debates brought nationwide attention to Abraham Lincoln and keynoted the momentous issues of the sectional controversy carrying the Nation toward disunion and civil war. Extensive restoration of the building's interior was carried out in 1937. The exterior, carefully restored in the 1930's, has retained its original appearance to a remarkable degree. "Old Main" is located on the campus of Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, facing South Street and is owned by the college.

8. Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims, New York. Brooklyn's Plymouth Church was a foremost center of anti-slavery sentiment between 1847 and the outbreak of the Civil War. Its minister during this period was the famed Henry Ward Beecher. From its pulpit spoke such notable opponents of slavery as William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Charles Sumner, and John Greenleaf Whittier. The original church building has changed little since it was opened in 1850. Plymouth Church is located at 75 Hicks Street, Brooklyn, New York City. It is owned by Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims (Congregational), Brooklyn, New York.

9. Cooper Union, New York. Here on February 27, 1860, Abraham Lincoln spoke to a large and influential audience concerning the mounting crisis dividing North and South and threatening to destroy the Union. The address made Lincoln more widely known in the East. From it he emerged as a formidable rival to Senator William H. Seward for the Republican Presidential nomination. Cooper Union, in addition to serving as an educational center for more than a century, has been a forum for important issues in the history of the last 100 years. Located at Cooper Square, 7th Street and 4th Avenue, the site is owned by Cooper Union, Cooper Square, New York 3, New York.

10. Okeechobee Battlefield, Florida. On the northern shore of Lake Okeechobee, on Christmas Day, 1837, Zachary Taylor won a decisive victory over a band of Seminole and Mikasuki warriors. The battle was a turning point in the Second Seminole War. The battlefield location is well established. A monument, erected in 1939 by descendants of Colonel Gentry (killed in the battle) and the Florida Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, stands at the southwestern edge of the field. The site, located 4 miles southeast of Okeechobee, Florida, on U. S. Highway 441, is privately owned.

11. Fort Jesup State Monument, Louisiana. Fort Jesup was the most southwesterly military outpost of the United States from its establishment in 1822 until the Mexican War. From there, in 1845, Zachary Taylor's Army of Observation marched to launch the opening campaign of that war. During 1845, with the frontier moved far to the west, Fort Jesup was inactivated. Fort Jesup State Monument was established in 1957 and consists of some 22 acres. The only remaining building, a log kitchen, has been repaired and furnished with period reproductions as well as authentic utensils. One of the officers' quarters has been reconstructed and is used as a visitor center and Park office. Fort Jesup is located on Sabine Parish, Louisiana, 7 miles northeast of Many on State Highway 6, and is owned by the State.

12. U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. The Naval Academy at Annapolis has produced the top ranking career officers who have commanded the United States Navy for more than a century. At once a college and technical and vocational school, it has played a significant role in American education and military affairs. Established in 1845, at the Army's former Fort Severn, it was known first as the Naval School. In 1850 the name was changed to the U. S. Naval Academy and in the following year, a 4-year course of study was inaugurated with summer cruises to give practical experience to young midshipmen. The Naval Academy is located on the west side of the Severn River, with its main entrance at Maryland Avenue gate. It is owned by the United States Government.

13. Mesilla, New Mexico. One of New Mexico's most historic towns of territorial days, Old Mesilla preserves much of the charm and flavor of the past. Over the Plaza of Mesilla on July 4, 1854, the United States flag was first raised in the territory of the Gadsden Purchase. Mesilla was an important stop on the Butterfield Overland Mail route. During the Civil War, Mesilla was first Confederate headquarters, and later Union headquarters. Old Mesilla was associated with the range cattle industry and with such frontier figures as Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid. Located two miles from Las Cruces, New Mexico, in Dona Ana County, Mesilla is in private and municipal ownership.

14. Sangamon County Court House, Illinois. In this building, the fifth capitol of Illinois, Abraham Lincoln sat in the State legislature and argued cases before the State Supreme Court. It was here also that he accepted Republican nomination for Senator in the historic contest with Stephen Douglas. On that occasion he made the famous "House Divided" speech. Here too, his body lay in state before internment. The building is therefore intimately associated with the events leading up to the Civil War. Located in the center of the business district in Springfield, Illinois, the building is owned by Sangamon County.

In addition, six sites relating to this period are represented and interpreted in the National Park System as follows:

1. Harpers Ferry National Monument, West Virginia
2. The Second Bank of the United States, Independence National Historical Park, Pennsylvania
3. Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyoming
4. Fort Union National Monument, New Mexico
5. Everglades National Park, Florida
6. Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Florida

* * * * *

The Mining Frontier - Westward Expansion and Extension of the
National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898

In the study of the Mining Frontier, 16 sites in non-Federal ownership have been recognized as possessing exceptional value for the purpose of commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. They are as follows:

1. Bodie, California. One of the best preserved gold mining "ghost" towns of the Far West, the first strike here was in 1859. In the 1870's the town reached its peak with a population of about 10,000 people. One mine yielded nearly \$15,000,000 in a 25-year period. Total output up to World War II, when mining was discontinued, is estimated at \$70,000,000. Located in Mono County, only a few miles from the high Sierra Nevadas, the more than 100 surviving deserted buildings are unusually well preserved. It is privately owned.
2. Coloma, California. John Marshall, a foreman for John Sutter, discovered gold here on January 24, 1848, while building a sawmill tailrace. This resulted in the greatest series of gold strikes on the North American continent, and one of the greatest in the history of the world. The California gold rush followed in the wake of Marshall's discovery. At the time of the gold discovery there were only a few thousand Americans in California. The next year there were 100,000, and in 1850 California was admitted as a state. The California gold discovery had incalculable consequences on the economic and political development of the United States. Located 7 miles west of Placerville on California State Highway 49; the site is owned by the State of California.
3. Columbia, California. A gold town dating from 1850, Columbia today probably has more original buildings than any other town of the Mother Lode country. At one time it was the third largest city in the state. Its surrounding mining district yielded about \$90,000,000 in gold. Unlike most of the gold camps, Columbia was never completely deserted. The site is located 60 miles east of Stockton and is in private and State ownership.
4. New Almaden, California. Here were discovered the first quicksilver deposits in North America. It is the oldest mine in California, and has been one of the four greatest sources of quicksilver in the world. It has yielded greater value than any mine in California, and produces about one-third the mercury mined in the United States. Since 1927 the New Almaden mines have been active only intermittently. At present they are inactive. New Almaden is located 14 miles south of San Jose, California, and is in private ownership.

5. San Francisco Old Mint, California. A San Francisco branch mint was established in 1854 as a result of the discovery of gold in 1848. The added flood of silver from the Comstock Lode in the 1860's necessitated enlargement of the mint and a new one, begun in 1869, was completed in 1874. It was placed on an independent basis and soon became the principal mint in the United States and the chief Federal deposit for gold and silver produced in the western states. It possesses architectural distinction and is considered a fine example of 19th century Federal building architecture. One of the few remaining structures in downtown San Francisco that survived the 1906 earthquake, the building is located at Fifth and Mission Streets and is in Federal ownership.

6. Virginia City, Nevada. Virginia City, the great community of the rich Comstock Lode, was the greatest silver strike in the United States. From their discovery in 1859, the Virginia City mines yielded \$300,000,000 in gold and silver in the next 20 years. Largely because of the wealth, population, and influence that accompanied the exploitation of the Comstock Lode, Nevada became a territory in 1861 and a state in 1864. The great wealth of the mines resulted in many fine brick and stone buildings, rather than the usual board structures of a boom camp. Many of these buildings survive. Virginia City is located 16 miles south of Carson City, Nevada, and is in private ownership.

7. Tombstone, Arizona. Tombstone is probably the most celebrated in story and popular folklore of the mining towns of the southwest frontier. It grew up after Ed Schiefflin's discovery of silver there in 1877. By 1881 it had 7,000 population, and an unrivaled reputation for lawlessness and violence. The Wyatt Earp-Clanton feud and the climactic OK Corral gunfight are known to every schoolboy. The town is unusually well preserved and is one of the finest surviving examples of the authentic boom towns of the once wild west. It is privately owned.

8. Central City, Colorado. Central City, center of the first great mining boom in Colorado, for many years ranked next to Denver in size. Most of Colorado's mining law originated at Central City. Gold was mined at Central City until 1919; only intermittently since then. Most of the old buildings surviving today were built after the fire of 1874. Central City was a cultural center in its day, and in recent years has been restored to that role. The town still retains the atmosphere of an old mining town. It is owned by the Central City Opera House Association, and private individuals.

9. Cripple Creek, Colorado. Discovery of gold at Cripple Creek in 1891 resulted in one of the biggest gold strikes of the mining era in the United States. At its peak the Cripple Creek area

had a population of 40,000 and was served by five railroads, had 41 assay offices, 46 brokerage houses, 14 newspapers, and 70 saloons. About \$400,000,000 in gold were taken from the Cripple Creek area. The railroad station is a municipally owned museum; otherwise, the site is in private ownership.

10. Leadville, Colorado. At its peak, Leadville was the world's greatest silver camp. It has been an important producer of gold also, and has yielded a greater number of minerals of total value over a longer period than any other United States mining area. Because of this, the city has had an unusual degree of stability for a mining community, and a relatively large number of early buildings survive. The mining boom which began in the early 1860's at Leadville continues as an important activity to the present day. It is in private ownership except for State ownership of the Healy Cabin and the Dexter Cabin.

11. Virginia City, Montana. The gold strike at Alder Gulch in 1863 was one of the greatest in the West. Virginia City grew up on the spot, and at its peak from 1865 to 1875, had a population of about 10,000. One of the best known vigilante groups came into existence at Virginia City and Bannack to deal with the notorious Henry Plummer gang of outlaws which plundered gold shipments. The lower and more historic part of Virginia City is owned and has been restored by Charles A. Bovey. The remainder is also in private ownership.

12. Butte, Montana. Butte is the center of the largest copper mining region in the world. Since 1864, an area of less than five square miles has produced more than two billion dollars worth of mineral wealth. Mining began with silver, but in the 1870's the copper discovered proved to be the area's great mineral wealth. Butte is still a great copper producing center, and is in private ownership.

13. Bannack, Montana. Bannack, Montana's oldest town, was the first territorial capital. Gold was discovered there in 1862 and a mining camp of 1,000 people quickly arose. The Alder Gulch (Virginia City) gold discoveries, 90 miles away, however, soon eclipsed those at Bannack. Bannack had the first quartz mine and stamp mill in Montana Territory. The place retains the atmosphere of a frontier mining camp. It has a large number of original buildings, and since it always remained a small town and was not abandoned until 1938, it underwent very little change since its earliest period. It is a fine example of an authentic mining ghost town. The site is in State ownership.

14. Deadwood, South Dakota. The discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1874 led to the opening of the area to miners despite treaties with the Sioux forbidding this area to white exploitation. Deadwood soon became a wild miner's camp attracting an assortment of notorious persons. The Homestake Mine produced most of the \$550,000,000 in mineral wealth that has come from the Black Hills since 1875. Deadwood is in private ownership.

15. Silverton-Telluride Area, Colorado. Silverton and Telluride are the two principal towns in the San Juan basin of southwestern Colorado and the center of a rich gold, silver, lead, and copper mining district that played an important part in the economic development of the Rocky Mountain area. The mineral wealth of this high, isolated mountain country was brought out by narrow gauge railroads, of which the Durango-Silverton branch of the Denver, Rio Grande, & Western is the only remaining one maintaining passenger service. The area is privately owned.

16. Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Colorado. This 45-mile stretch of narrow gauge railroad tract was completed in 1882 along the gorge of the Las Animas River between Durango and Silverton. It climbs 2,800 feet to an elevation of 8,302 feet in that distance. Its purpose was to bring gold and silver ores of the Silverton area to smelters at Durango. As the sole surviving regularly scheduled passenger narrow gauge railroad in the West, it is an important historical survival of a facility that played a significant role in the history of the Rocky Mountains.

There are no historic sites representing this theme in the National Park System, although Yosemite National Park has a great many associations with the mining era of California and its early history is directly related to it.

* * * * *

Great Explorers of the West

In the "Great Explorers of the West" subtheme of "Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898," five sites not in Federal ownership have been recognized as possessing exceptional value. They are as follows:

1. Chinook Point, Washington. The discovery of the Columbia River, in 1792, by the American Capt. Robert Gray, marked the climax of a long search for the legendary Great River of the West, and gave the United States a valid claim to the Northwest under international law. Chinook point, overlooking the mouth of the river, is a salient landmark at the discovery site. It is located along U. S. Highway 101, and is owned by the State of Washington.
2. Pike's Peak, Colorado. One of the best known landmarks of the West, it was discovered by Zebulon Pike on his 1806 expedition. Both the peak and its name serve as eternal reminders of Pike's explorations for the infant United States. Located west of Colorado Springs, Colorado, the mountain is owned by various private individuals.
3. Pike's Stockade, Colorado. Here Zebulon Pike raised the American flag over what was actually Spanish soil, and was taken into custody by Spanish soldiers. The location of the stockade has been verified through descriptions in Pike's journal, supplemented by testimony of old settlers. Located four miles east of Sanford, Colorado, in the San Luis Valley, it is owned by the State of Colorado.
4. South Pass, Wyoming. As the earliest passage of the Rocky Mountains, South Pass was used more than any other route by westbound settlers. The significance of the Pass in western development is hard to exaggerate. It figured in every major phase of western United States history. Effective discovery of the Pass was made by Jedediah Smith in 1824, when, with a party of William H. Ashley's trappers, he crossed the Pass in search of richer beaver-trapping territory. Although members of the returning Astoria party may have crossed South Pass, our real knowledge of it dates from Smith's crossing. Located in western Wyoming, on State Highway 28, South Pass is in private ownership.

5. Walker Pass, California. The discovery of this pass by Joseph Walker, the famous mountain man, established a new route to California. Through this pass in 1843 Walker himself led the first emigrant wagon train into California. Later he guided part of Fremont's third expedition over the Sierras by way of this pass. Walker Pass is located 60 miles northeast of Bakersfield, California, on State Highway 178 and is owned by the Federal Government and private individuals.

* * * * *

Indian Affairs

In the Indian Affairs Supplement to Military and Indian Affairs, eight sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value. Six of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks. They are as follows:

1. Fort Union, North Dakota. As the principal Upper Missouri fur trade depot, a small westward projection of the white men's world, Fort Union afforded northern Plains and mountain tribes their first long contact with the alien white culture. Built in 1828, it was encircled by a wooden palisade guarded by square stone bastions. With the exception of a few cellar pits, little surface evidence of the fort remains today. Located at the east edge of Buford, North Dakota, south of U. S. Highway 2, it is owned by the State of North Dakota.

2. Cataldo Mission, Idaho. In 1848, Jesuit missionaries began construction of the old Mission of the Sacred Heart, using only primitive tools and Indian labor. The Mission played a successful role in educating Indians of Idaho. The peaceful influence of the Jesuits probably was partly responsible for the refusal of the Coeur d' Alenes to join Chief Joseph during the 1844 Nez Perce War. The Mission, completed in 1853, is the oldest building in Idaho. It is located about 20 miles east of Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, on U. S. Highway 10, and is owned and administered by the Catholic Church.

3. Carlisle Indian School, Pennsylvania. In its 39-year existence (1879-1918), the Carlisle Indian School gave thousands of young Indians elementary education and instruction in mechanic arts, agriculture, and home economics. It represented a sincere effort to better the Indians, and its success prompted founding of other schools. Carlisle and similar schools were important in educating the Indians. Several school buildings survive near the western limits of the current military reservation. Located in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on U. S. Highway 11, the old Carlisle School is owned by the United States Government as part of the Army War College.

4. Haskell Institute, Kansas. Established in 1884 as the "Indian Training School," Haskell Institute has continued to be a leader in Indian education. It has had a wide effect on young Indians, preparing students to take part in the Nation's life, and to return to their tribes, improving both their own and their people's social and economic conditions. Today the school offers a four-year high school course supplemented by both vocational and pre-professional training. Located in Lawrence, Kansas, Haskell Institute is owned by the United States Government and administered by the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

5. Cherokee National Capitol, Oklahoma. The Cherokee National Capitol is a landmark to one important Indian tribe's solution to the problem of survival when faced with invasion by a technologically dominant civilization. It represents the culmination of successful acculturation beginning in colonial times and continuing into the late 19th century. The Cherokee seem to have recognized early that they could survive only through adjusting their own life-way to changes thrust upon them by the whites. The Cherokee Capitol is located in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and serves as the Court House of Cherokee County.

6. Creek National Capitol, Oklahoma. The Creek National Capitol symbolizes successful adjustment of a tribe whose culture and very existence was threatened by white pressure. Through their earlier Confederacy, the Creeks had had a form of representative government. Building on this tradition, the Creeks, after removal to Oklahoma, developed a government similar to our own. The Creek National Capitol is located in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, and is owned by the Creek Indian Memorial Association.

Two sites commemorating this phase of American history are represented and interpreted in the National Park System as follows:

1. Whitman National Monument, Washington
2. Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Wyoming

As the result of additional study, two new sites have been added to the list of those recognized as possessing exceptional value in commemorating the military affairs phase of the "Military and Indian Affairs" subtheme of Westward Expansion. They are as follows:

1. Fort Atkinson, Nebraska. One of the line of forts guarding the western frontier, in the 1820's, Fort Atkinson lay south and west of Fort Snelling and held this portion of the line from 1819 to 1827. It served to advance the interest of the Upper Missouri fur trade in this period. The Upper Missouri Indian Agency was located at Fort Atkinson. Although nothing remains of the fort above ground, recent archeological studies have uncovered the fort's foundations. Located about one mile east of the town of Fort Calhoun, the site of Fort Atkinson is privately owned.

2. Fort Concho, Texas. Of the line of forts protecting the Texas frontier, Fort Concho was among the more important due to strategic location at the point where east-west trails converged to avoid the Staked Plains on the north and the desert to the south. Troops from the fort took part in campaigns against the Kiowa and Comanche from 1870 to 1875. Substantial remains of the fort exist today on the south edge of San Angelo, Texas. The buildings are owned in part by private individuals and in part by the City of San Angelo.

* * * * *

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

AUG 1 8 39 AM '61

L58

Fahler
Littleton

AUG 2 1961

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

As the (owner, owners) of GRAND IMPERIAL HOTEL located in
(name of site)

Silverton
(City)

San Juan
(County)

Colorado
(State)

(I, we) hereby make formal application for a certificate (x) and bronze marker, 17" x 18", (x) designating this historic property as a Registered National Historic Landmark. (Check one or both as desired)

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having exceptional value and worthy of Registered National Historic Landmark status (I, we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my, our) ability, the historical integrity of this important part of the national cultural heritage.

2. Toward this end, (I, we) agree to continue to use the property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.

3. (I, we) also agree to permit an annual visit to the property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a basis for continuing landmark status.

4. If for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the Registered National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until such status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate nor the Marker will be displayed.

Sincerely yours,

Grand Imperial Hotel
AD Fawcett

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

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L 58

Xaker
Littleton

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

As the (owner, owners) of Silverton, Colorado
~~Town Hall~~
(name of site) located in

Silverton San Juan Colorado
(City) (County) (State)

(I, we) hereby make formal application for a certificate (X) and bronze marker, 17" x 18", (X) designating this historic property as a Registered National Historic Landmark. (Check one or both as desired)

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having exceptional value and worthy of Registered National Historic Landmark status (I, we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my, our) ability, the historical integrity of this important part of the national cultural heritage.

2. Toward this end, (I, we) agree to continue to use the property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.

3. (I, we) also agree to permit an annual visit to the property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a basis for continuing landmark status.

4. If for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the Registered National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until such status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate nor the Marker will be displayed.

Sincerely yours,

George Bingel
Mayor, Town of
Silverton
Bingel

Silverton - Telluride Area.

Note: see silverton, see Telluride.

Silverton and Telluride
are separate landmarks,
although the Regional
at first proposed they
be combined as one
landmark.

L58-IBH

August 7, 1961

Silverton, Col.

Hon. George Bingel
Mayor of the City of Silverton
Silverton, Colorado

Dear Mayor Bingel:

We have received your application form for Registered National Historic Landmark status for the Town Hall, Silverton, Colorado.

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, at its 44th meeting, recommended classification of Silverton, Colorado, as possessing exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. It was the Board's opinion that the city of Silverton typified the history of the mining frontier in the western United States. Since the classification referred to the entire community, application for Registered National Historic Landmark status should be for the historical community as a whole rather than for an individual site. Our intent was that the certificate and marker would be issued to the city of Silverton for placement in or on some public building, such as the City Hall.

Since the Board's action was for the community as a whole, we will issue the certificate and marker in the name of Silverton, Colorado. However, it will not be necessary for you to submit new application forms since the set you have already submitted will be acceptable.

We are pleased at your response to Acting Director Scoyen's notification and are happy to be able to offer Landmark status to the community of Silverton.

Sincerely yours,
(SGD) HERBERT E. KAHLER

Herbert E. Kahler
Chief Historian

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Two
✓ Mr. Littleton

WDLogan:bfr 8/7/61

158-IBH

August 7, 1961

Mr. L. W. Purcell
Grand Imperial Hotel
Silverton, Colorado

*Grand Imperial Hotel
Colorado*

Dear Mr. Purcell:

We have received your Registered National Historic Landmark application forms for the Grand Imperial Hotel, Silverton, Colorado.

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, at its 44th meeting, recommended the classification of Silverton, Colorado, as possessing exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. It was the Board's opinion that the city of Silverton, Colorado, typified the history of the mining frontier in the Western United States. Since the classification referred to the entire community, application for Registered National Historic Landmark status should be for the historical community as a whole rather than for an individual site. Our intent was that the certificate and marker would be issued to the city of Silverton for placement in or on some public building, such as the City Hall.

We have received an application form from Mayor Bingel requesting a certificate and marker for Silverton, Colorado, and will prepare both for the community in the near future.

Since the Board's action did not specifically mention the Grand Imperial Hotel, we regret that we can not give Landmark status to it as a single structure within the community. However, we appreciate your interest in our historical preservation program and wish to encourage your continued preservation of the Grand Imperial Hotel as an important part of the historic community of Silverton.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) HERBERT E. KAHLER

Herbert E. Kahler
Chief Historian

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Two
✓ Mr. Littleton

WDLogan:bfr 8/7/61

AUG 11 9 20 AM '61

L58
AUG 11 1961

*Kahler
Littleton*

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

As the (~~owner~~, owners) of San Juan County Court ^{House} located in
(name of site)

Silverton,
(City)

San Juan
(County)

Colorado
(State)

(~~I~~,we) hereby make formal application for a certificate() and
bronze marker, 17"x 18", (X) designating this historic property
as a Registered National Historic Landmark. (Check one or both
as desired) "Gold Domed Court House Erected in 1907"

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation
that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as
having exceptional value and worthy of Registered National Historic
Landmark status (I,we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and
to the best of (my,our) ability, the historical integrity of this
important part of the national cultural heritage.

2. Toward this end, (I,we) agree to continue to use the
property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.

3. (I,we) also agree to permit an annual visit to the
property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a
basis for continuing landmark status.

4. If for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above
cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the Registered
National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until such
status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the
Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate nor the Marker
will be displayed.

Sincerely yours,

Phil McCluskey

Chairman Board of County Commissioners
San Juan County, Colorado

L58
Holler

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

As the (owner, owners) of Silverton Mining District LOCATED IN
(name of site)

Silverton San Juan Colorado
(City) (County) (State)

(I, we) hereby make formal application for a certificate () and bronze marker, 17" x 18", (x) designating this historic property as a Registered National Historic Landmark. (Check one or both as desired)

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having exceptional value and worthy of Registered National Historic Landmark status (I, we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my, our) ability, the historical integrity of this important part of the national cultural heritage.

2. Toward this end, (I, we) agree to continue to use the property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.

3. (I, we) also agree to permit an annual visit to the property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a basis for continuing landmark status.

4. If for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the Registered National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until such status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate nor the Marker will be displayed.

Sincerely yours,

Phil Mc Cluskey
Chairman Board of County Commissioners
San Juan County, Colorado

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

Nov 3 8 54 AM '61

NOV 3 1961

2 copies - In
1 copy - Keep

L58

Fahler
Littleton

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

As the (owner, owners) of Congregational Church located in
(name of site)

Silverton San Juan Colorado
(City) (County) (State)

(I,we) hereby make formal application for a certificate () and bronze marker, 17" x 18", (☒) designating this historic property as a Registered National Historic Landmark. (Check one or both as desired)

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having exceptional value and worthy of Registered National Historic Landmark status (I,we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my,our) ability, the historical integrity of this important part of the national cultural heritage.

2. Toward this end, (I,we) agree to continue to use the property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.

3. (I,we) also agree to permit an annual visit to the property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a basis for continuing landmark status.

4. If for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the Registered National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until such status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate nor the Marker will be displayed.

Sincerely yours,

Robert K. Wyman
Trustee.

L58-CHA

January 2, 1962

Mr. Robert K. Wyman
P. O. Box 368
Silverton, Colorado

Colorado

Dear Mr. Wyman:

We have received your application for a Registered National Historic Landmark bronze Marker for the Congregational Church in Silverton, Colorado. We regret the delay in replying to you concerning this application.

Silverton, Colorado was recommended for classification as possessing exceptional value in commemorating the history of the mining frontier by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments. The Advisory Board, which makes its recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, is composed of a group of experts in the fields of American history, archeology, architecture, and conservation.

In evaluating sites connected with the mining frontier, the Board believed that it was the entire community of Silverton which typified this phase of American history rather than any individual structure within the city. They therefore classified Silverton as a historic district. Since this is the case, only one certificate and marker may be issued to Silverton attesting to the Landmark status of the community as a whole. Mayor George Bingel made application for the Landmark Certificate and Marker, and the certificate has been forwarded to our Region Two Office in Omaha, Nebraska for presentation to the City of Silverton. The bronze marker will be delivered when it is completed.

We regret that markers cannot be issued to individual structures in Silverton. However, we believe the historic district designation reflects honor and credit on all buildings of historic significance within the community.

Sincerely yours,

WILFRED D. LOGAN

Acting Chief Historian

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Two
Mr. Littleton

WDLogan:bfr 1/2/62

Curecanti Recreation Area,
Colorado and Black Canyon of the Gunnison
National Monuments
334 South Tenth Street, Montrose, Colorado 81401

ORY
TE

OCT 2 1969

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September 24, 1969

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Midwest Region

From: Superintendent, Curecanti, Colorado and Black Canyon

Subject: Inspection of National Historic Landmark Plaque,
Silverton, Colorado

Management Assistant Lancaster of this office visited the Town of Silverton, Colorado, on August 29, 1969, to inspect the National Historic Landmark plaque and to contact the official in charge of maintaining the integrity of this site.

Mayor Lee Lopez, who is employed full time by one of the local mining companies, was not available for this inspection. However, the Town Clerk, Mrs. Betty Phillips, was present and was very cooperative in showing the plaque and providing general information pertaining to the site.

The plaque, which had not been installed at the last inspection July 11, 1964, has been placed near the entrance to a county operated museum dedicated to the theme of mining. The building housing this museum is the old San Juan county jail building next door to the county courthouse, located in the extreme northern portion of the Town of Silverton. The plaque is located in such a manner as to suggest that the museum, rather than the Town of Silverton, has been designated as the National Historic Landmark. It would have been more appropriate to mount the plaque near, but not on, the museum. However, it is in a safe place and all visitors to the museum have an opportunity to view and read the plaque.

[(SGD)] J. M. CARPENTER

J. M. Carpenter

✓ In duplicate

Enclosures



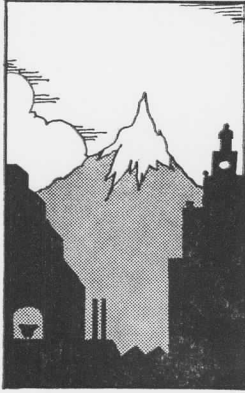
SILVERTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE PLAQUE



PLAQUE MOUNTED ON LEFT SIDE OF MUSEUM ENTRANCE



Museum building (Old San Juan County jail)
where Plaque is located



LAND USE ADMINISTRATOR

SAN JUAN COUNTY

POST OFFICE BOX 11
SILVERTON, COLORADO 81433

TELEPHONE 387-5644

April 30, 1976

A.R. Mortensen, Director
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Mortensen:

It has been nearly a year now since the visit of Mr. Joseph S. Mendinghall to our community for the purpose of recommending definition of the precise boundaries of the Silverton Historic District. We have anticipated the results with some degree of interest, but none have been forthcoming.

This definition would, of course, be of great interest to both the Town of Silverton and San Juan County in present and future planning efforts.

We trust someone here will be hearing from your office when the recommendations are complete.

Sincerely,

Allen Nossaman
Allen Nossaman
Land Use Administrator

cc: County Commissioners
Town of Silverton
San Juan County Historical Society
State Historical Society of Colorado

U.S.S.
- Mr. Levy - Could
ALLEN NOSSAMAN
Please prepare
reply
c/f

B Levy 5/14/76
11 J Sheely 5/14/76
C. Heine

H3417-PS

May 14, 1976

Mr. Allen Nossaman
Land Use Administrator
San Juan County
Post Office Box 11
Silverton, Colorado 81433

Dear Mr. Nossaman:

Thank you for your letter of April 30, 1976, requesting information on the boundary of Silverton Historic District National Historic Landmark. We are pleased to inform you that the landmark boundary has now been officially approved. We are enclosing a copy of the landmark inventory form which contains both a map and verbal description of the boundary. We trust this information will be helpful to you. Thank you again for your expression of interest in our program.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

Cornelius W. Heine
Chief, Historical and Architectural
Surveys Division

Enclosure

FNP:B Levy:mc 5/14/76

bcc: Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region w/c of inc.
Director's Reading File

DI

PS-Mr. Heine w/c of inc.

PS(HSS)-Mr. Sheely w/c of inc.

PS(HSS)-Mr. Levy w/c of inc.

HP-Colorado-Silverton Historic Dist.

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PS(HSS)

NHL

Advisory Council on
Historic Preservation
1522 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

COPY

May 3, 1977

Mr. Silvan C. Charron
Facilities Planner
Mountain Bell
P. O. Box 1976
Denver, Colorado 80201

Dear Mr. Charron:

This is in response to your recent letter, received in the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Denver office on April 8, 1977, requesting Council review of Mountain Bell's proposed construction of a Microwave Terminal facility at Mountain Bell's abandoned open wire repeater site in the town of Silverton, Colorado. As a result of our staff's conversations with you on April 14, 1977, we understand that your request resulted from this proposed Microwave Terminal's location in or adjacent to the Silverton Historic District, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places.

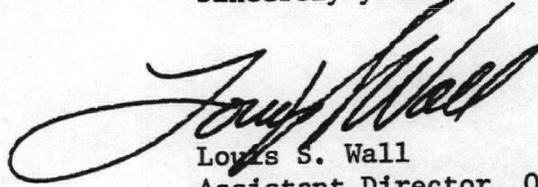
However, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320), the Council is charged with the responsibility of providing Federal agencies with comments on their undertakings which affect cultural resources. Therefore, until the Council has been notified by a Federal agency that it has determined an undertaking will affect a property included in the National Register, the Council is unable to comment.

Because the Federal Communications Commission will license this facility, it does appear that there is a Federal agency which may be responsible for obtaining the comments of the Council in accordance with Section 106 at some point in the future. To avoid delays in the future, it is suggested that Mountain Bell work very closely with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to assure that the design of this facility avoids impact on the Historic District. Such consultation in the design stage of Mountain Bell's planning for this project should effectively avoid any adverse effect and expedite any necessary compliance with Section 106 which FCC may undertake. The SHPO for Colorado is Mr. Stephen H. Hart, Chairman, State Historical Society, Colorado State

Page 2
Mr. Silvan C. Charron
Microwave Terminal facility

Museum, 200 14th Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80203.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Louis S. Wall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "L" and "S".

Louis S. Wall
Assistant Director, Office
of Review and Compliance

Advisory Council on
Historic Preservation
1522 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

COPY

October 17, 1977

Mr. Benjamin Bailor
Post Master General
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Mr. Bailor:

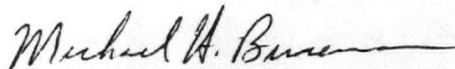
We have been informed by Mike Quinn, staff to the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), that the renovation of fixtures and remodeling of the Silverton Post Office, an undertaking of the Postal Service, may have an effect on the Silverton Historic District, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places. A copy of the SHPO's letter is enclosed.

Please investigate this matter to determine whether the nature of the effect requires that you obtain the comments of the Council in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320). Steps to determine this responsibility are set forth in Section 800.4 of the Council's "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 C.F.R. Part 800).

The Council requests that you report the results of your investigation to this office at the earliest opportunity. If you have further questions or require assistance, please call Brit Allan Storey at (303) 234-4946, an FTS number.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



Louis S. Wall
Assistant Director, Office of
Review and Compliance, Denver

Enclosure

San Juan County Historical Society

P.O. Box 154

Silverton, Colorado 81433

February 14, 1989

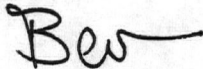
San Juan Regional Planning Commission
Silverton, CO. 81433

Dear Member of the Commission,

The San Juan County Historical Society would like to add our voice in support of the Town of Silverton's venture to become a World Heritage Property. We have read over the criteria for inclusion as a World Heritage Mining Town, and we certainly feel that Silverton meets all of that criteria, particularly because we are still a mining town!

We would be pleased and proud to help in any way that we can in this venture.

Sincerely,



Beverly Rich
Chairman



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
San Juan County

P.O. Box 466

Silverton, Colorado 81433

303-387-5671

February 16, 1989

Alfred Klinke
Chairman
San Juan Regional Planning Commission
Silverton, CO. 81433

RE: World Heritage List.

Dear Chairman Klinke:

At the last regularly scheduled San Juan Board of County Commissioners meeting, March 6, 1989. The Commissioners approved of the concept of seeing the Town of Silverton included in the World Heritage List. The Commissioners believe that the Towns unique mining history, the geology of the region and other environmental aspects lend itself to this designation.

If the Board of County Commissioners can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Douglas S. Murray
Douglas S. Murray
County Administrator

San Juan Regional Planning Commission

SAN JUAN COUNTY TOWN of SILVERTON
Silverton, Colorado 81433

February 16, 1989

Mr. Robert C. Milne
Chief of Division of International Affairs
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Milne:

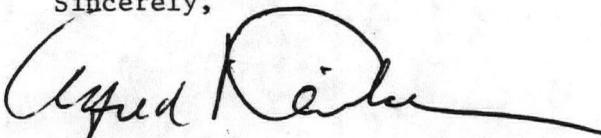
The town and community of Silverton, Colorado is interested in being designated as a World Heritage Site. Our mountain mining community has been designated as a National Historic Landmark since 1962 and we are interested in taking a further step.

Enclosed please find copies of resolutions by our local governing bodies, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Silverton and the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, indicating their interest and support of such a designation.

Additionally, I am enclosing a copy of a letter to this commission from the local historical society, indicating their support.

We would appreciate it if you would send us information regarding what step is next in making an effort to secure this designation.

Sincerely,



Alfred Klinke
Chairman

AK: pdm

enc.: 3

RESOLUTION #1989-4

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE TOWN OF SILVERTON BEING INCLUDED IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AS A HISTORIC MINING TOWN

WHEREAS, the Town of Silverton appears to fulfill the criteria for inclusion on the World Heritage List, and

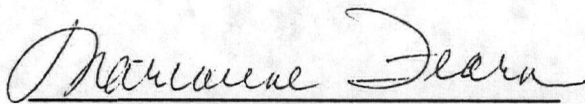
WHEREAS, the San Juan Regional Planning Commission has recommended that the Town be included in the World Heritage List as a Historic Mining Town, and

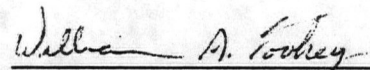
WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Silverton agree that it would be in the Town's interest to be included in the World Heritage List;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF SILVERTON, that the Town support the efforts of the San Juan Regional Planning Commission in having the Town of Silverton accepted on the World Heritage List as a Historic Mining Town.

Read and Adopted this 13th day of February 1989.

ATTEST:


Marianne Fearn, Clerk and Recorder


William A. Tookey, Mayor

L66(023)

MAR 17 1989

Mr. Alfred Klinke
Chairman
San Juan Regional Planning
Commission
Silverton, Colorado 81433

Dear Mr. Klinke:

This is to respond to your letter of February 16 regarding the World Heritage Convention. Your letter expresses interest in Silverton's consideration for possible nomination to the World Heritage List. For a variety of reasons, listed below, we strongly doubt that this proposal can be successfully pursued.

As requested, I am enclosing information on the World Heritage Convention, including the Treaty text, the international criteria for selection of properties of outstanding universal value, the World Heritage List as of December 1988, and the legislation and regulations adopted by the United States to guide its participation.

Under the terms of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, (P.L.96-515) properties considered for nomination by the United States must meet three requirements: they must have previously been recognized as being nationally significant; the owner of the property or properties must give written consent to the nomination; and, evidence of a legal guarantee for protection of the property and its environment must be given.

Silverton meets the first test through its designation as a National Historic Landmark. The other requirements are intentionally quite stringent. Because of the legal requirements involving property rights, the Department of the Interior has not previously considered nominations of inhabited historic towns and urban districts.

In addition to this requirement, the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage must be satisfied on the professional merits and comparative assessments of each possible nomination. Thus,

even if the legal requirements could be met, it would be necessary to examine the relative merits of other 19th-century western U.S. mining towns, and to then contrast those examples with other mining settlements around the world.

One site, Ouro Preto in Brazil, is already on the List, but in addition to its interpretation of historical mining efforts, it was recognized also for its superlative Portuguese colonial baroque architecture. It, therefore, satisfied two of the international criteria for cultural properties.

The exclusive nature of the World Heritage List can not be over emphasized. All designations undergo an exhaustive professional review at the international level, and must be approved by a Committee of 21 elected nations. Their objective has been to recognize unique and superlative properties, and those that are the best representations of a particular heritage theme, among all similar examples worldwide.

Our experience with the submission of nominations and the evaluation of other member nations' nominations over the past decade, leads us to believe that the Committee would not endorse the nomination that you propose.

Since the designations are a function of international professional consensus, member nations are obliged to put forward nominations that can be strongly justified as meeting the tests of outstanding universal value. As one among 106 member nations, the United States has the same obligations with its own nominations.

Finally, you will note that the Committee's Operational Guidelines require that Criterion vi (association with events, ideas, or beliefs of outstanding universal value) has been restricted in its application, and can now only be used to support a nomination, in conjunction with at least one other criteria. Since this is the only criterion that would appear to apply to Silverton, a possible nomination would not meet the Committee Guidelines.

I regret, that I cannot be encouraging in this response. The World Heritage Committee has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to maintain the exclusive nature of the List, under the terms of the Convention. For this, and the above reasons, we do not believe that your proposal could be successfully pursued.

We do appreciate your interest in the Convention, and are pleased that, through its National Historic Landmark status, the significance of Silverton in United States history is formally recognized and secured.

Sincerely,

~~Tagd~~ Robert C. Milne

Robert C. Milne
Chief, Office of International Affairs

Enclosures

bcc: /418 Bearss w/inc.
023 WH. 5.16 (89 Panel w/inc.)
023 Reading File
023 Cook
RCook:fad:3/16/89:343-7063
DISC:RICK7/SLVER

[16] From: Christine Whitacre at NP-RMRO 10/10/96 9:59AM (3701 bytes: 60 ln)
To: Beth Boland at NP-WASO-NRHE, Robie Lange at NP-WASO-NRHE, Carol Shull at
NP-WASO-NRHE
Subject: Silverton Historic District

----- Message Contents -----
An update on the Silverton Historic District project:

As you know, Dawn Bunyak, a volunteer, prepared an NHL nomination (boundary increase) of the Silverton NHL District to include the historic Mayflower Mill and other historic properties on the edge of town. Silverton has been trying for a long time to expand the district boundaries to include these properties (largely because they want the mill to be eligible to receive funds available through the Colorado Historical Society).

In your review comments, which we received early last month, you noted that the national context of the mill needed to be expanded, both in terms of significance and integrity. We agree that these areas should be expanded. However, this will be a substantial work load. Dawn consulted with several mine and mill experts in the course of this project, and is confident that the Mayflower is the only intact and operational mill of its era in the Rocky Mountain West. She also knows what other mills were operational during that time period. But, since there is so little literature on that era of mining/milling, the assessment of the integrity and significance of these other properties will require a substantial amount of travel and primary research. We've put this project in our future work plans. Dawn may or may not continue to work on this project as a volunteer, and it's unclear when we will have the wherewithall to complete this project.

In the meantime, Silverton does not want to wait for the NHL nomination to be completed. Until it's listed on the National Register, they can't get funding for the mill's preservation. The longer they have to wait, the more the mill suffers. So, at their request, Dawn has revised the nomination to be an expanded National Register District. In discussions with the state, they believe it clearly has at least statewide significance. With the exception of the expanded national context, Dawn made all of the other corrections that you noted. She also added some additional information that strengthened the significance statement. The nomination will go to the Colorado State Review Board on November 22.

Although the ideal situation would be to wait until the national context is complete, we also felt that, by helping Silverton prepare a National Register nomination, we could best assist the town in preserving its historic resources.

Again, we appreciate your timely review of the draft nomination. Any questions, comments, or concerns, give me a call, (303) 969-2885. Also, I'll be at the National Trust conference in Chicago, and am hoping to attend the National Register conference. Hopefully, I'll see some of you there. The folks from Silverton will also be there, since they'll

be receiving a National Trust Honor Award for their
restoratin of the Silverton Town Hall.

Thanks,

Christine



COLORADO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The Colorado History Museum 1300 Broadway Denver, Colorado 80203-2137

July 30, 1997

Ms. Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

RE: Silverton Historic District Boundary Increase (5SA59), reference # 97000247

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find corrections for the Silverton Historic District Boundary Increase which was approved by the Register on 4/3/97. We amended these pages after finding some errors in the numbering of the endnotes. Please replace the ones currently on file with these corrected pages.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call our office at (303) 866-4684.

Sincerely,

Holly Wilson
Historian

Enclosures

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Colorado	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XV "Westward Expansion, 1830 to 1898" (Mining Frontier of the Trans-Mississippi West)	4. APPROX. ACREAGE Undetermined
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Silverton		
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet)		

6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner)

Private ownership

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)

Silverton, Colorado, and the region surrounding it is one of the great silver-producing areas of the Trans-Mississippi West. This region between 1882 and 1918 alone produced metals valued at more than 65 million dollars.

Silverton owes its greatest importance in the early years to silver. In the early 1870's, miners searched the region for gold but no one found anything but silver. However, after they became convinced that silver was worthwhile, they started extensive operations in the region which proved to be a virtual treasure house. Before the signing of the Brunot Treaty with the Utes in 1873, a number of miners penetrated the region but many of them were run off, or killed by the Indians. In 1871 and 1872, while the treaty was being negotiated, miners worked their way over Stony Pass and began staking claims. By the end of 1873, nearly 4,000 claims had been recorded and most of the big mines had been discovered.

Mining began in earnest in the year 1874 and by the following year the entire region was full of men working. They built the towns of Howardsville, Eureka, Animas Forks, Mineral Point, and Silverton.

According to an official platt of the township, Silverton was officially organized as a town in September 1874. The first newspaper was established in July 1875; the second appeared in 1889. A Hook and Ladder County was organized in 1878. By 1879, Silverton had a population of about 3,000 people.

Churches played an important part in the history of early Silverton. In 1878, the Congretational Church organized and erected its first church. The Catholics built a short time later, then the Methodists, and finally the Episcopalians.

(continued)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Muriel S. Wolle, Stampede to Timberline: The Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Colorado (Boulder, 1949)

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES ☒ NO ☐	11. CONDITION	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.)	13. DATE OF VISIT October 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Ray D. Matteson</i>	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE DEC 19 1958	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/4 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

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Page 2

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Colorado	Silverton

Much of the Silverton social life centered around the many fraternal organizations which flourished during the 1880's and 1890's. Among these were the Masons, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Woodmen of the World, Women of Woodcraft, Rathbone Sisters, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Silverton Miners Union which had a membership of 1,300 people. In 1889, the Silverton Jockey Club was organized.

The town was served by the railroad in 1882 when the Denver and Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Railroad extended its rails from Durango up Animas Canyon through the tortuous mountains and along the ledges to Silverton. This provided a much needed outlet for the increasing mineral production of the entire district.

By 1897 half the mineral output was gold--silver, lead, and copper made up the rest of the metals produced in the immediate region.

The buildings in the town indicate that there was considerable prosperity there after 1900. In 1910, Silverton, which had a population of 2,153, was a railroad supply center which served surrounding towns that annually produced over 2 million dollars worth of ore. The population in 1950 is listed as 1,375.

A number of the significant structures have survived in Silverton. The most elaborate building in the town is the Imperial Hotel, originally called the Grand, which was built in 1882 by the Thompson Brothers, who claimed it "the finest hotel on the western slope, except the La Veta, at Gunnison." The Congregational Church was built in 1881. The imposing Court House was erected in 1907; the City Hall in 1908.



Courthouse at Silverton, Colorado, completed in 1908.
Southeast view. Photograph by Ray H. Mattison, October
1958. Negative in Region Two Office Library, Omaha,
Nebraska.



Congregational Church and parsonage, erected about 1878, at Silverton, Colorado. Southeast view. Photograph by Ray H. Mattison, October 1958. Negative in Region Two Office Library, Omaha, Nebraska.



Grand Imperial Hotel, erected about 1882, at
Silverton, Colorado. South-southeast view. Photograph
by Ray H. Mattison, October 1958. Negative in Region Two
Office Library, Omaha, Nebraska.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Colorado	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XV Westward Expansion 1830-1898 "Mining Frontier of the Trans-Mississippi West)	4. APPROX. ACREAGE Undetermined
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Silverton-Telluride areas		
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet)		
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Private ownership		
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Silverton owes its greatest importance in the early years to silver. In the early 1870's, miners searched the region for gold but no one found anything but silver. However, after they became convinced that silver was worthwhile, they started extensive operations in the region which proved to be a virtual treasure house. Before the signing of the Brunot Treaty with the Utes in 1873, a number of miners penetrated the region but many of them were run off, or killed by the Indians. In 1871 and 1872, while the treaty was being negotiated, miners worked their way over Stony Pass and began staking claims. By the end of 1873, nearly 4,000 claims had been recorded and most of the big mines had been discovered.

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8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Muriel S. Wolle, Stampede to Timberline: The Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Colorado (Boulder, 1949), 341-449; WPA, Colorado: Guide to the Highest State, (New York, 1941)

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES ☒ NO ☐	11. CONDITION	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.)	13. DATE OF VISIT October 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Roy H. Mellison</i>	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE March 8, 1960	

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STATE Colorado	NAME(S) OF SITE Silverton-Telluride areas
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Much of the Silverton social life centered around the many fraternal organizations which flourished during the 1880's and 1890's. Among these were the Masons, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Woodmen of the World, Women of Woodcraft, Rathbone Sisters, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Silverton Miners Union which had a membership of 1,300 people. In 1889, the Silverton Jockey Club was organized.

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By 1897 half the mineral output was gold--silver, lead, and copper made up the rest of the metals produced in the immediate region.

The leading mine in the region is the Camp Bird Mine, near Ouray. Discovered in 1896, this mine, between 1896 and 1902, produced annually from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 in gold and silver ore. In 1902 Walsh sold this mine to an English syndicate which operated it until 1911 during which period it produced \$18,000,000 in ore. The mine is still being profitably operated.

Silverton was the center of a mining district which included the towns of Ironton, Guston, Ouray, Red Mountain Town, Gladstone, Howardsville, Middleton, Eureka, Animas Forks, and Rose's Cabin.

The buildings in the town indicate that there was considerable prosperity there after 1900. In 1910, Silverton, which had a population of 2,153, was a railroad supply center which served surrounding towns that annually produced over 2 million dollars worth of ore. The population in 1950 is listed as 1,375.

A number of the significant structures have survived in Silverton. The most elaborate building in the town is the Imperial Hotel, originally called the Grand, which was built in 1882 by the Thompson Brothers, who claimed it "the finest hotel on the western slope, except the La Veta, at Gunnison." The Congregational Church was built in 1881. The imposing Court House was erected in 1907; the City Hall in 1908.

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STATE

Colorado

NAME(S) OF SITE

Silverton-Telluride areas

Telluride, located some 15 airline miles from Silverton, was the center of another very rich mining district. Some of the towns near it were San Miguel, Pandora, Vanadium, Placerville, Ames, Ophir, Matterhorn, Lizard Head, Dunton and Rico. By 1909, the Telluride district had produced more than \$60,000,000 in precious metals.

First established as Columbia in 1876, Telluride grew slowly in the decade of the 1880's. When the Denver and Rio Grande Southern reached there in 1890 and ore could be shipped rail instead of by burro and wagon, Telluride boomed. Among the more famous producing mines in the vicinity at that time were the Smuggler, Alta, Liberty Bell, Tomboy, and Black Bear. At its peak in the early 1890's, Telluride had a population of 5,000; in 1950 it numbered 1,101.

UNITED STATES
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NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
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STATE
Colorado

NAME(S) OF SITE
Silverton-Telluride District

Historical Remains: The Silverton-Telluride District encompasses an area of about 40 square miles and includes such towns and mining camps as Ouray, Chattanooga, Red Mountain, Guston, Ironton, Ophir, Old Ophir, Eureka, Middleton, Animas Forks, Pandora, Vanadium, and Placerville. Silverton, a town with a population of approximately 800, retains much of its historical integrity. It would be the most suitable site for landmark status.

THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

The Mining Frontier, Subtheme of Theme XV,
Westward Expansion and Extension of the
National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898

Silverton-Telluride Mining District, Colorado

This addendum to the subtheme report, The Mining Frontier, was requested by the Consulting Committee for the Survey at the time it reviewed the subtheme report.

Location. Southwest Colorado

Ownership. Private and Municipal

Significance. Silverton and Telluride are the two principal towns in the San Juan basin in southwestern Colorado and the center of a rich gold, silver, lead, and copper mining district that played an important role in the story of western mineral wealth and economic development of the Rocky Mountain area in the period 1873-1920. A few of the mines are still operating. Of the many mining camps and towns of this area, Silverton has the most impressive surviving buildings of the early period.

Silverton is located at an elevation of 9,302 feet in a mountain valley between the San Juan and the La Platte Mountains where Mineral Creek joins the Las Animas River. It is the county seat of San Juan County. Its historic tie with the outside world has been the Durango-Silverton branch of the Denver, Rio Grande & Western Railroad, a 45-mile stretch of narrow gauge track built in 1882 between the two towns along the gorge of the Las Animas River. Durango is almost due south of Silverton.

Silverton's importance derives from the great silver mines that were found in the region. Prospectors in the early 1870's searched there for gold but instead found silver. At first, many prospectors were killed by the Ute Indians who held this part of the country, and it was only after the 1873 Brunot Treaty with the Utes that it was safe to try to exploit the mineral wealth of this remote mountain region. But during 1871 and 1872, miners had staked out many claims and by the end of 1873, nearly 4,000 claims had been recorded and most of the big mines had been discovered. By 1874, heavy mining operation were in progress and several towns had sprung up, including Silverton, Mineral Point, Animas Fork, Eureka, and Howardsville. Subsequently, other towns dotted the mountain sides and little valleys, including Ouray, Tronton, Gladstone, Red Mountain Town, Middleton, and Rose's Cabin. By 1879, Silverton had a population of 3,000.

The most famous mine in the Silverton area is the Camp Bird Mine near Ouray. Discovered in 1896, this mine produced annually between \$3,000,000-\$4,000,000 in gold and silver from 1896 to 1902. In the latter year, an English syndicate bought the mine and operated it until 1911, during which time it produced \$18,000,000 in precious metals. This mine is still being operated profitably. Silverton became a narrow gauge railroad center and served the surrounding mountain area that for a long time produced annually about \$2,000,000 in ores.

Telluride is located at an elevation of 8,500 feet in a cup of gray granite mountains about 15 miles north of Silverton. It was founded in 1876 as the town of Columbia and grew only slowly during the 1880's. After the narrow gauge railroad built to it in 1890, it became one of the busiest gold camps in Colorado and its population for a time reached 5,000. The Telluride gold producing region gave rise to other camps and towns, such as San Miguel, Pandora, Vanadium, Placerville, Ames, Ophir, Matterhorn, Lizard Head, Dunton, and Rico. The more famous mines were the Smuggler, Alta, Liberty Bell, Tomboy, and the Black Bear. From 1882 to 1918, the Silverton-Telluride areas produced more than \$125,000,000 in precious ores.

Condition of Site. After the first decade of the 1900's both Silverton and Telluride declined in mining importance and population. Ranching and the tourist business now are important economic resources of the region. In 1960, Silverton had a population of 822; Telluride, 677. Silverton has the more impressive surviving historic structures. Among these are the Imperial Hotel, built in 1882 by the Thompson Brothers, who claimed that it was "the finest hotel on the western slope, except the La Veta, at Gunnison." Other notable buildings at Silverton are the gold-domed courthouse erected in 1907, the Methodist Church erected in 1881, and the City Hall erected in 1908.

Recommendation. Because of its great concentration of mineral wealth and the role it played in the economic development of the Rocky Mountain region and of the United States, it is recommended that Silverton, as the center and most important of the mining towns of the region, be evaluated as possessing outstanding significance in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. This evaluation is enriched by the impressive early structures, dating from the period of its mining greatness, that survive in the town, and the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge branch of the Denver, Rio Grande & Western Railroad that still operates over the track laid in 1882. This is the last of the Rocky Mountain narrow gauge railroads still to operate and is a sole survivor of its kind harking back to the early period when their kind made possible the exploitations of the mineral wealth of the remote western mountain regions.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Silverton-Telluride Mining District, Colorado

Silverton and Telluride are the two principal towns in the San Juan basin in southwestern Colorado and the center of a rich gold, silver, lead, and copper mining district that played an important role in the story of western mineral wealth and economic development of the Rocky Mountain area in the period 1873-1920. A few of the mines are still operating. Of the many mining camps and towns of this area, Silverton has the most impressive surviving buildings of the early period.

Prospectors found silver in the Silverton area in the early 1870's and by the end of 1873 nearly 4,000 claims had been staked out. But it was only after the treaty in 1874 with the Ute Indians who controlled the region that it was safe for white men to enter it for mining purposes. It was in that year that boom development in the Silverton area began. The towns of Silverton, Mineral Point, Animas Fork, Eureka, and Howardsville dotted the hillsides and little valleys. Later the mining towns of Ouray, Ironton, Gladstone, Red Mountain Town, Middleton, and Rose's Cabin sprang up in the vicinity. Telluride, located 15 miles north of Silverton, was founded two years later than the latter, in 1876, and grew only slowly during the 1880's, not coming into its peak production until the narrow gauge railroad reached it in 1890. Thereafter it became one of the busiest gold mining camps in Colorado, and for a time had a population of 5,000. Other nearby gold-producing camps in the Telluride area included Pandora, San Miguel, Vanadium, Placerville, Ames, Ophir, Matterhorn, Lizard Head, Dunton, and Rico.

Surviving historic structures in Silverton are the Imperial Hotel, built in 1882, and claimed to be the finest hotel in the western slope, except for the La Veta at Gunnison; the Methodist Church, erected in 1881; the gold-domed courthouse erected in 1907; and the City Hall erected in 1908. The property is in municipal and private ownership.

* * * * *

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

BIENNIAL VISIT REPORT

Silverton, Colorado

Date: July 10, 1964

Visited by: Ray H. Mattison
Edwin C. Alberts

1. Location: San Juan County, Colorado
2. Theme: XV--Westward Expansion and Extension of the National
Boundaries, 1830-1898
Subtheme: "The Mining Frontier"
3. Owner:
 - a. 1961: City of Silverton
 - b. Present: ☒ Same
☐ New
4. Use
 - a. 1961: Mining town
 - b. Present: ☒ Same
☐ Changed as follows:

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

BIENNIAL VISIT REPORT

Silverton, Colorado

5. Physical condition

a. 1961: Good

b. Present: ☐ Excellent; ☒ Good; ☐ Fair; ☐ Poor

Comments: Owing to the popularity of the Rio Grande narrow-gauge railroad which operates between Durango and Silverton, this town has a heavy visitation during the summer months. Little change has taken place in the town since my visit in 1962. The Landmark plaque has not yet been erected. However, the Mayor informed me that the Boy Scouts of the town would undertake its installation this summer as one of their special projects.

6. **Special Problems:** There appears to be no serious problems in preserving the historical buildings of Silverton at the present time. Since the mining industry in the region is not expanding, the town remains quite stable; therefore, there is no pressure on the part of expanding business or industry to tear down the historic structures. Most of the citizens of Silverton regard the historic structures of the town as an asset and as tourist attractions.

7. **Suggestions offered to the owner:** I discussed the matter of the preservation of the historic buildings in Silverton with Mayor George Bingel. Mr. Bingel informed me that there were no serious problems relating to the preservation of historic Silverton.

Ray H. Mather

for

LANDMARK VISIT REPORT

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

1. Name of Site: Silverton Historic District, Colorado
2. Type of Landmark: Historic XX Natural Environmental
Education
3. Name of Visitor: Ronald R. Switzer
4. Title: Superintendent, Mesa Verde National Park
5. Organization: National Park Service
6. Name and title of person contacted: Mr. Allen Nossaman,
Land Use Administrator, San Juan County, P.O. Box 11
Silverton, Colorado 81433, (303) 387-5644 (303) 387-5571.
7. Name and title of person responsible for the management of the
site: Silverton Town Board of Trustees
8. Owner - telephone and address: P.O. Box 65, Silverton, Colorado
81433 (303) 387-5522
9. Briefly state why site was declared a landmark:
Established in 1874, Silverton became the center of a vast mining district in
northern San Juan County. By 1879 silver mining had attracted to the Town
a population of 3,000 persons. (continue on next page)

II. OWNERSHIP

1. What is the attitude toward continued participation in the
landmark program? Wish to continue XX. Does not wish to continue .
Is not participating . The climate for preservation ordinance(s) is not
good at present, there is, however, increased interest by the Chamber (continue
2. Have any changes in land ownership taken place since designation? next page)
Yes No XX. If yes, if possible, list new owners and addresses.
Except for individual sites/properties within the district.
3. If ownership changes have taken place might these changes nullify
"registered" status or allow a change from "eligible" to "registered"
status? Yes No XX. If yes, please explain:

GENERAL BACKGROUND

9. As gold, lead, and copper were discovered in the area the town continued to prosper, and, between 1882 and 1918 the district produced more than 65 million dollars in precious metals. Most of the big mining strikes were made between 1871 and 1873, by which time nearly 4,000 claims were recorded.

Large silver deposits sparked the establishment of neighboring towns such as Howardsville, Eureka, Animas Forks, and Mineral Point.

Town newspapers were started in 1875 and 1889, schools were built, and the Congregationalist church^{was} constructed in 1878, the same year in which a hook and ladder company was organized. Shortly thereafter, Catholic, Methodist and Episcopal churches were organized. Fraternal organizations flourished here, and Silverton boasted of such groups as the Masons, Eastern Star, Woodmen of the World, Women of Woodcraft, Rathbone Sisters, Eagles, and the 1,300 member Miner's Union. A jockey club was organized in 1889.

Construction of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Line began in 1881, and service commenced in 1882. Soon thereafter the Silverton, Gladstone and Northerly Railroad came to the community (1889), only to be followed in 1895 by the Silverton Northern Line.

Silverton prospered into the early 20th Century, with an annual ore produced in excess of 2 million dollars. After 1910 the mines began to decline, as did the population of the town. Recent new strikes have made Standard Metals the leading gold producer in the state.

OWNERSHIP

1. of Commerce in such activities. There appears to be two factions in Silverton, those who strongly support historic preservation and retention of the town's historic character, and those who feel threatened by such and believe that some ordinances already in effect are "unconstitutional" and impinge upon their rights.

4. Does the present owner wish to change from "eligible" status to "registered" status? Yes XX No _____. (Continue on next page)

III. CONDITION AND MAINTENANCE OF SITE

1. Condition includes any structures(s), grounds, furnishings, etc. that are a part of the landmark. Please check applicable box(s). (Cross out "no" as needed)

- a. ☐ Condition of the site is excellent, signs of regular maintenance.
- b. ☒ Condition of the site is good, regular maintenance performed.
- c. ☐ Condition of the site shows decline, no regular maintenance performed.
- d. ☐ Condition of the site shows serious deterioration, no regular maintenance performed.
- e. ☐ Condition of the site threatens integrity of the landmark.
- f. ☐ _____ shows signs of deterioration but the rest of the site is in good condition, no regular maintenance performed.
- g. ☒ Other

2. If c, d, e, f, or g has been checked, please explain.

Many individuals in the Town of Silverton have taken an active interest in restoring and otherwise improving historic properties without the enforcement of ordinances, a few have not. Of the latter are a small number of commercial enterprises located on Blair Street between 12th and 14th Streets. In general the Town and most of the sites specifically identified in the historic district are in good repair and are receiving maintenance. The owners of certain commercial and residential properties are very interested in having their holdings specifically identified as Register Sites.

3. Measures that are being taken or planned to improve condition of site: Building and lot size ordinances have been placed in effect to help preserve the visual integrity of the district. Signing ordinances have not yet been placed into effect.

An Archive and Research Center has been organized in Public Library Building and is run by the San Juan County Historical Society.

Renovation of Town Hall was started in 1975. The interior has been finished and a grant from the National Park Service for exterior work is still in effect. The total cost of rehabilitation will be about \$20,000, shared equally by the National Park service and the Town of Silverton.

IV. SITE INTEGRITY

1. Has there been any destruction or alteration of all or part of the landmark? Yes XX No _____. If yes, please explain:

Two significant residences were lost to fire in the last 12 - 16 months. One was built by a pioneer surveyor. It was a two story building with a hipped roof and continuous 2 story bay window in front.

2. Have there been circumstances or events on the lands adjacent to the landmark that have resulted in serious impairment, diminishment, or destruction of landmark resources, character, and/or significance? Yes ____ No XX. If yes, please explain.

The town is trying to keep urban sprawl to a minimum and will not permit house trailers inside town limits.

3. Has there been an introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the property and its setting? Yes XX No _____. If yes, please explain. The town still has some back-lighted plastic signs, such as the ones on the Grand Imperial Hotel (see photo). In addition much commercialism on Blair Street has resulted in a menagerie of sites and a substantial loss of visual integrity there. Standard Metals tailings ponds are within 100 yards of town limits.

4. Have any other threats to the integrity of the site taken place? Yes XX No _____. If yes, please explain.

Loss of railroad resources threatens the integrity and historic character of the district. The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad has placed emphasis on facilities and services in Durango and has all but withdrawn from Silverton. Passengers are loaded and unloaded in the middle of 12th Street, nearly three blocks from the historic Silverton depot.

5. Are there any threats likely to occur in the future? Yes XX No _____. If yes, please explain:

While some concern for preservation matters is in evidence, and appears to have grass roots support, the town still has much to do in order to insure its western historic integrity. If it elects not to support an active and continuing program, commercialism and loss of integrity will soon engulf the community.

6. Is there urgency regarding any of the threats? Yes ____ No XX. If yes, please explain:

7. Do any financial problems exist in maintaining the landmark? Yes XX No _____. If yes, please describe.

Income situation - miners who work here don't live here. Shops have out-of-state residence, tax collection sporadic, personal property tax income tax. (continue next page)

SITE INTEGRITY

7. Because of the town/county income situation, problems do exist with regard to maintenance of the town as an historic district. Miners who work for Standard Metals and other mining concerns live mostly outside of the state and there apparently is little control over regular inventory control for tax purposes. Personal property tax and income taxes, according to Mr. Nossaman are collected only sporadically. Money is not available for "extras", as Mr. Nossaman phrased it.

8. Are there any special problems, or special problems that we can assist in solving? Yes XX No _____. If yes, please explain.

Ordinance models, curatorial assistance in setting up collection and collection maintenance, building maintenance needs advice.

V. ACCEPTABILITY OF USE

1. How is the landmark used:

Residential property	☐	Mixed use	☒
Commercial property	☐	Private property	☐
Public property	☐		

2. Is present use of the site acceptable to maintenance of the landmark's integrity? Yes XX No _____. If no, please describe unacceptable uses.

With some exceptions such as the developments on Blair Street, and the loss of terminal facilities and services from the railroad.

3. Is the landmark interpreted to the public via brochures, signing or other means? Yes XX No _____. If yes, describe the nature and accuracy of the interpretation.

The San Juan Women's Club and The San Juan County Historical Society have published a Walking Tour booklet for the town which sells for 10¢ in many establishments. The town has established two new billboards on the highway, about which residents feel both pro and con.

4. If a registered landmark, is the bronze plaque displayed? Yes XX No _____. If no, explain.

5. Where is the landmark certificate located?

The certificate is framed and hangs on the wall in the Silverton Town Clerk's Office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

/1./ On the basis of this report is landmark designation recommended to continue for this site? Yes XX No _____. If no, explain citing specific examples from this report and any other sources.

/2./ What follow-up action do you suggest for the RMRO and/or others?

The San Juan County Land Use Administrator has requested ordinance models, curatorial assistance with historic archives and collections, and advice on building preservation. The north wall of the County Court House, especially in the District Court needs repair badly. I have referred Mr. Nossaman's request for ordinance models to the Town of Telluride. The Mesa Verde staff curator may be able to visit the site sometime soon.

/3./ Is a special team needed to assess threats, problems, or special items? If so, what type of expertise is needed, approximately how long, and when will they be needed?

) Yes, see note above (2) on repairs to the Court House.

4. Is there any new information, corrections, or comments on the significance of the area as described in the original report or brief? Yes XX
No ____

5. Did you offer any suggestions to the owner/administrator? Yes XX
No _____. If so, please note. See notes on (2) above. This visitor also suggested the American Association of Museums, the National Endowment for the Humanities and several other sources from which the Town and the Historical Society might draw assistance.

6. Did you give the owner/administrator the tax and grants-in-aid handouts? Yes XX No ____.

7. Did you contact local/state agencies to ascertain threats? Yes XX
No _____. I talked extensively with Mr. Allen Nossaman, San Juan County Land Use Administrator, Mr. Fritz Klinke, proprietor of the Pickle Barrel (continue next page)

8. Did you attach to this report dated, captioned photographs of threats, site condition, site use, display of plaque, and other conditions? Yes XX
No ____.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. and civic leader, and several other townspersons.

9. General Comments:

The community presently is somewhat divided in its attitudes regarding historic preservation, however, many property owners are concerned and are restoring sites through individual initiative.

The boundaries of the Historic District should remain co-terminus with those of the Town. As a corporate body, and in concert with the County, the Town needs to proceed with zoning and building codes which would strengthen the preservation of the districts integrity as an important late 19th Century mining center.

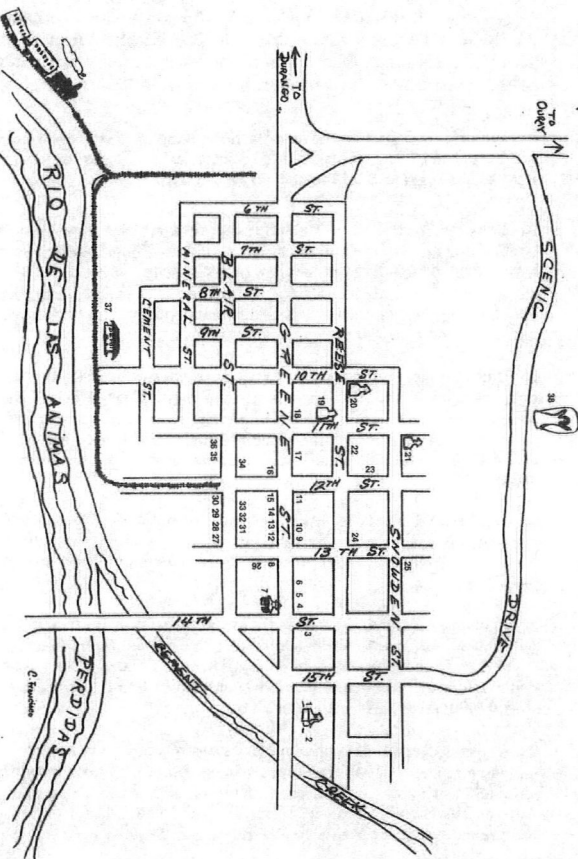
Mr. Noasaman has asked for and received information concerning the Tax Reform Act of 1976 and the Grants-in-aid Program. This visitor devoted considerable time explaining how such benefits can enhance the community and its attractiveness for all activities including commercial enterprise. Mr. Nossaman has also requested preservation advice on the Court House wall and porches as well as counsel on the curation of historical collections as soon as a responsible party can be named locally to care for them.

I believe there is growing interest and pride in the town and that some persons are definitely active and concerned about the Blair Street problem and their relationship with the railroad.

* SEE PHOTOGRAPHS AND APPENDICES

Ronald R. Switzer
Signature of Visitor

8/10/77
Date



1. San Juan County Courthouse
2. San Juan County Museum
3. Old Assay Office
4. Silver Queen Mining Museum
5. Old Jail
6. Hardware and San Juan Milling Co.
7. Silver Queen Mining Museum
8. The Pickle Barn
9. The Lannon Tree
10. The Silverton Standard and The Miner
11. Grand Imperial Hotel
12. Old Livery Stable
13. French Bakery and Teller House
14. Millers Wheel
15. Benson Hotel
16. San Juan Museum of Mining History
17. American Legion Hall
18. United Church of Silverton
19. St. Patrick's Church
20. Baptist Church
21. Silverton Library
22. Silverton School
23. Masonic Hall
24. Miners Union Hospital
25. Crows Elephant
26. Zivago's
27. Zivago's
28. Zivago's
29. Zivago's
30. Old Arcade
31. Swanson's Market
32. Original City Hall
33. Old Caboose Information Booth
34. Rocky Mountain Smoke House
35. Shady Lady Boutique
36. Bent Elbow
37. Old D&RGW Depot
38. Christ of the Mines Shrine

The Hitchin' Post. This was the original Monte Carlo Saloon and arding House. At different times, it was a gambling hall, part of a livery stable, a chile parlour and "a crib."

30. The Old Arcade. This is one of the newer buildings on Blair St., probably built in the 1920's. It has been at various times a pool hall, a saloon and a place of gambling.

31. Swanson's Market. Now Silverton's only grocery, it began as a saloon and rooming house. In 1941 Mary Dalla Swanson inherited the building which she and son Gerald continue to operate, making this the oldest continuously run family business in Silverton.

32. The Original City Hall. In Silverton's early days this building contained city offices on the second floor (which no longer exists) and the fire department before the present Town Hall was built in 1908. The city jail was in the rear of the building. Notice the carved hook and ladder over the door.

33. The Caboose Information. This caboose #17 Silverton R.R. was originally a Denver and Rio Grande caboose built in 1880's.

34. Rocky Mountain Smoke House. The second floor of what was known as the Iron Horse has always been a rooming house. The first floor has been a saloon, a movie theater and a restaurant.

35. The Shady Lady Boutique. Built originally as a "Crib." This building was occupied by Mamie Murphy and Kate Starr for many years, but the most well-remembered Madam was Jew Fanny, considered by many as a good friend.

36. The Bent Elbow. Erected in 1905 and run as the Florence Saloon until 1918. It was the Monte Carlo Mercantile in the '50's. The original Bent Elbow was next door but a 1968 midwinter fire destroyed the building.

37. D&RGW Depot. In continuous use from 1882 to 1966, the depot housed the offices of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. In 1969 it was donated to the San Juan County Historical Society and partial repairs were made in 1971. In the fall of 1975, the building was partially destroyed by a bomb blast. In 1976 it was rebuilt and is presently under lease to Sundance Publications, Ltd.

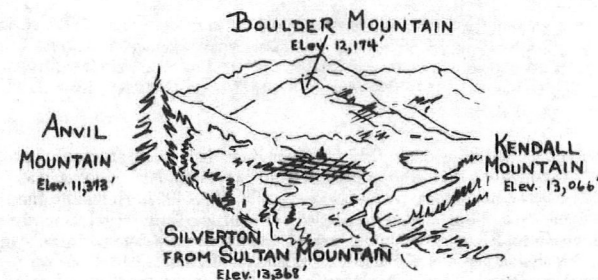
38. Christ of the Mines Shrine. The idea for a shrine came from the Catholic Men's Club after a period in the 1950's when the mining industry hit rock bottom. In the summer of 1958 work began on the project. The alcove is built entirely of native stone (stone used in the base was donated from the Old Fisher Brewery) and the statue, which weighs 12 tons, was carved from Carrara marble at Carrara, Italy, at a cost of \$5,000 plus shipping charges. In only a matter of months after the shrine was completed; the American Tunnel, which is today Standard Metals, was opened.

Grateful acknowledgements for their help in the preparation and completion of this brochure go to Fenrick Sutherland, Terry Kerwin Stanna Meyers of the Silverton Public Library, the Silverton Standard and the Miner, members of the San Juan County Historical Society and the San Juan Woman's Club and to the many unnamed residents of Silverton who no doubt have contributed information used herein.

TOWN OF SILVERTON

Self Guided Walking Tour

10¢



Welcome to Silverton, "The Mining Town that Never Quit".

You are walking at an elevation of 9310 feet, surrounded by the majestic San Juan Mountains.

It was the treasures that lay beneath the mountains and not their beauty that drew courageous and venturesome men here in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Once the business and social center for the surrounding mining area, Silverton shrank to its present diminutive size (800) as new counties were created and the mining activity diminished. However, mining still plays a large role in Silverton's economy.

We hope that you enjoy this brief glance at Silverton's colorful past.

Published by
The San Juan Woman's Club
and
The San Juan County Historical Society

1. San Juan County Courthouse. With its gold mine clock tower, the Courthouse is an outstanding landmark of Silverton. Built in 1907 at a cost of \$79,000, the county didn't have to issue any bonds or raise taxes to pay for its building. This is one of the finest and best kept court houses in Colorado.

2. San Juan County Historical Society Museum. This building was originally the county jail, built in 1902 with sheriff's living quarters on the first floor. Little use was ever made of the jail and during the 1930's it housed indigents. Vacant for over 25 years, it is now open to the public during the summer as a museum run by the San Juan County Historical Society.

3. Assay Office. This building is scheduled to be restored to its original state by its present owner. For many years it housed the two Root & Norton assayers who came to Silverton in 1900 but were forced to move to Durango in 1919 where assayers still operate under this well known name.

4. Silver Queen Mine Tour (The Wyman Building). Constructed with stone taken from the same quarry as the City Hall, this building was erected by pioneer teamster Louis Wyman in 1902. He hand-carved the burro on the building's nameplate above the corner. The structure once housed Hemphill & McCrimmon's Dry Goods store, Gradens general merchandise store and the trucking business of Claude Deering, with second floor uses including a lodge hall, lawyer and dentist office and private apartments.

5. Old Town Jail. Not the oldest jail in the community, this wooden version was among the first, and was previously located behind the old City Hall and barn on Blair St. It was moved to Greene St. in an effort to preserve it.

6. Hardware Store and San Juan Milling Co. The building on the north has always been, through a succession of owners, a hardware store. It was constructed in 1909. The building on the south was built as a dry goods store. The owners of the two stores were good friends and so the buildings were built alike, sharing a common wall.

7. Town Hall. Started in 1908, the seat of Silverton's municipal government was finished in 1909, but not before a colonade of four pillars fell off the front and the project changed contractors. It was built at a cost of \$14,550 of native stone from the Wyman quarry, and is presently undergoing restoration with assistance of a grant from the National Park Service.

8. The Pickle Barrel. One of the oldest commercial buildings in Silverton, this structure was erected in 1878 as the Sherwin building. Near the turn of the century, it became the Iron Mountain Saloon, and during prohibition it became an ice cream parlor, then a confectionary.

9. The Lemon Tree. This building, known as the Posey & Wingate Bldg., was built in 1879-80. It has housed a variety of business, including the first telephone exchange. The First National Bank was located on the corner until 1930, when it closed after paying off all depositors. The vault is still inside. It was also used as a recreation hall for almost 30 years.

10. The Silverton Standard and the Miner. This building which now houses the local newspaper (see plaque) is of 1876 vintage. Among other things, it is known to have been used as a watering hole (Koehlers) and a restaurant (The Texas Cafe). The Gordon jobber you see in the right window is a printing press and has been a fixture of the commercial shop since the founding of the Standard in 1889.

11. Grand Imperial Hotel. Built in 1882 by Thompson Bros. of England and originally called The Grand, this building has remained a hotel through a succession of owners. Its main floor has housed a variety of different businesses, from saloon to newspaper office, and the second floor once was used as the courthouse. A fine mahogany bar and mirrors grace the Cindy Lynn Lounge. A stranger staying at the hotel one night wrote the words to the famous song, "There'll be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" after hearing the wife of a colored porter coming in the side door saying "If I don't find that coon, there'll be a hot time in this old town tonight."

12. City Barn. The present city barn was once the prosperous Doud's Livery Stable. Originally built as a two story building with wagons and buggies kept downstairs and horses upstairs. Miners needing a ride into their claim would rent a horse for \$2. After reaching their claim, they'd let the horse go and it would walk back to town and up the ramp to its stall.

13. French Bakery and Teller House. First named the Fisher building after its builder, Charles Fisher, this structure became the Teller House, a rooming house with a series of saloons on the ground floor, including the Frog and The Office. In 1916 it was bought and converted into the French Bakery and existed as a grocery store into the 1970's.

14. The Miller's Wheel. Built in the 1890's, it housed the famous Chicago Saloon at the turn of the century. It was thought more respectable than Blair Street taverns but made its own liquor during prohibition.

15. Benson Hotel. Built in 1895, at one time it housed the County Club Saloon (the name is still visible at the top of the building). It later housed the Vienna Cafe until 1921 when the building was sold to the grandfather of the present owner. It is presently a residential hotel and gift shop.

16. The San Juan Museum of Mining History. Begun as the Circle Stage Company, this building was a stage stop for the Red Mountain to Silverton route - a six hour trip. It originally was four separate buildings, including three saloons. The fourth building was operated as a Chinese Restaurant until the Chinese were run out of town in 1906.

17. The San Juan Bar. Originally the Silverton Meat & Produce Co. with the Woodsmen of the World Lodge using the second story for their meetings. Later a bowling alley was built on the main floor.

18. The American Legion Hall. Originally the Miners Union Hall, this building housed a variety of unions and lodges. A community dance hall, located on the second floor, is still used. The main floor has housed several businesses including a funeral parlor and a furniture store. The building now belongs to the American Legion Post #14 and houses a bar and a meeting hall.

19. The First Congregational Church of Silverton. This church was established in 1876 and formally organized on November 24, 1878. The cornerstone of the present building was laid on August 20, 1880 (the steeple being added in 1885) making it the oldest Congregational Church structure in Colorado still holding services. In 1961 the name was changed to the United Church of Silverton.

20. St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Built in 1904 this church replaced a wooden structure located on lower Reese Street.

21. The Baptist Church. The present building was built in 1898 as St. John's Episcopal Church. The church closed in the early 1920's. The building was purchased in the 1950's by the Four Square Church. It was sold to the Southern Baptist Church in 1970. The belfry was originally on the Eureka school house. The log addition was built in August, 1973.

22. Silverton Public Library. A Carnegie funded institution, this building was built in 1905 at a cost of \$10,000. The interior furnishings of the library are mostly original. The lower level, once a men's club room, presently serves as a place for the Historical Society archives.

23. Silverton School. The present school, housing grades K-12, was built in 1911. Before then an elaborate Victorian two-story frame structure next to the present building served as the school.

24. The Masonic Hall. The Masonic Lodge #33 AF & AM was chartered in 1878. They moved into this building in 1888 and have been meeting here ever since. This building occupied only the front portion of the lot until 1900 when it was extended to the alley. Over the years the first floor has housed various businesses including a newspaper office, doctor's office, mortuary and apartments.

25. Miners Union Hospital. On the site of the present County Hospital, Francis Snowden built the first house in the town of Silverton in 1874. In 1907 the Miner's Union built the hospital. All the men in the union donated a shift or two at the mine to work on the building. In 1939 it became the property of San Juan County and was used as a hospital until about 1955.

26. The Crewel Elephant. Built circa 1900 as a bottling works in which all types of beverages were bottled. In recent years it was owned by the Baptist Church which held services there until 1969 when it was sold to its present owner.

27. Zhivagos. When originally built in 1874, the first floor of what is now Zhivago's Restaurant, was a saloon and the second floor was a boarding house for miners, being reached by the outside staircase. During the Prohibition era, a still was located in the cabin behind and the products stored behind the false wall in the basement.

28. General Store & Candelshop. Once a combination residence, grocery and shoe store. There were three cows kept in the barn, producing the milk sold at the store. The barn has evidence of the still that operated there during Prohibition. This building and the Little Shop next door have false fronts put there by the movie company when filming on Blair Street.

1. The Grande Imperial Hotel

Address: Northwest Corner Greene and 12th Street

Owner: Mr. Mike Mikalis, Silverton, Colorado

Mortgage Holder: Mr. Don Scott (Scottsdale, Arizona)

This three story stone building was constructed in 1881-82 and was said to be one of the finest hotels on Colorado's Western Slope. Built by the Thompson Brothers of England it has a mansard roof with ten dormers across the front and back and six on either end, all with triangular pediments. It has bold cornice and arched stone lintels over second and third story windows which are fitted with one-over-one double hung sash windows.

The front ground floor has been modified, probably in the 1950's, and the former hotel lobby now has a storefront appearance. This space is now used for retail shops, a bar and a smaller entry than was formerly utilized. The interior, according to Mr. Nossaman has been modified substantially.

When first constructed, it was called the Grand Hotel. It became the Grande Imperial Hotel in the 1950's. Contrary to my records, it never has been the Imperial Hotel. The first floor has had a variety of uses, and the second floor was once used as the courthouse. The present Cindy Lynn Lounge exhibits the original mahogany bar.

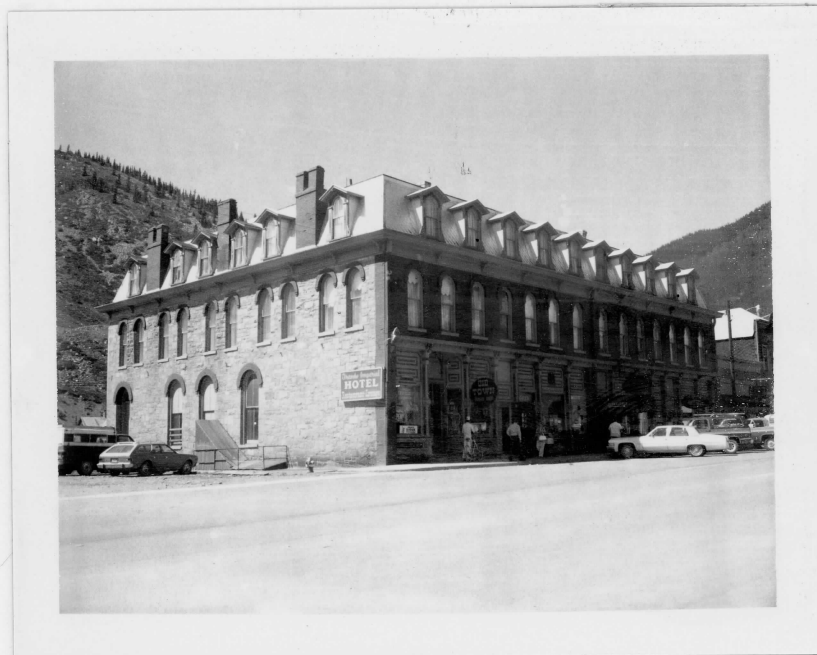


Figure 1.

2. The San Juan County Courthouse

Address: Northwest Corner 15th and Greene Streets

Owner: San Juan County, Colorado

Built in 1907 for \$79,000 in taxes, this is a handsome two story brick building on a raised stone foundation with a basement. It has hipped roof and massive cornice under the eaves. There are small round-windowed dormers three sides, each with a triangular pediment. Paired stone columns support the porches on the south and east sides of the building. This structure is topped by a clock tower and cupola with a gold painted dome. The clocks, sporting original wooden hands have green numerals on white faces.

First floor hallways converge at a central fountain under the tower. The fountain sits on a porcelain mosaic floor and, the under portion of the rotunda under the tower is not exposed. The central staircase rises behind the fountain on the west side of the building to a landing where it splits and rises on either side to the second floor. Flooring millwork are all original. There are no marble floors in this structure. Ceilings are 15 feet or more in height and interior county offices and courtrooms contain original oak furnishings, and globe and shade type light fixtures. The County Courtroom and the District Courtroom both display original oak judges benches, lamps, rails and chairs. The interior of the District Courtroom is decorated with 24 false square columns topped with Ionic capitals. The north wall of this room is experiencing some structural failure.

The basement contains storage vaults and an aptment for the live-in custodian. This is definitely one of the best maintained public buildings in the state.



Figure 2.

3. The San Juan County Jail

Address: Immediately north of the San Juan County
Courthouse on the same block

Owner: San Juan County, Colorado
Occupied by The San Juan County Historical
Society Museum

This two story brick building was built in 1902, before the Courthouse. It has entrances covered by small porches on the south and east sides, and rests on a raised stone foundation.

Originally the first floor contained the sheriff's living quarters and a minimum security area for women. The second floor contains a barred 4-cell block. In the 1930's it was used to house indigents. After being vacant for 25 years, it now houses the San Juan County Historical Society Museum.



Figure 3.

4. Silverton Town Hall

Address: Southwest corner 14th & Greene Streets

Owner: Town of Silverton, Colorado

This unusual building is frame, veneered with stone from the local Wyman Quarry. Apparently there is a rubble core between the two wall types. Construction on this building began in 1908 and had to be halted when a colonade of four pillars and part of the front wall fell into the street. The contractor was replaced by the contractor who built the County Courthouse, and the building was completed in 1909 at a cost of \$14,550.

It has a hipped roof with six triangular pediments above massive cornice work. The rotunda is topped by a bell tower with domed roof which is painted silver. The ornate tower exhibits the original bell. Access to the second floor is by means of a ramped stair from the south side of the rotunda. The railing around the second floor of the rotunda and all case and millwork around doors and windows is original. The inside of this building has recently been refurbished, including the pressed metal (zinc) ceiling panels in the town meeting room. The work was done under a grant from the National Park Service, and some money remains to do exterior work.



Figure 4.

5. The First Congregational Church

Address: Southeast corner 11th & Reese Streets

Owner: United Church of Silverton, Colorado

The First Congregational Church of Silverton was established in 1876 and formally organized, November 24, 1878. Construction of the building was apparently completed August 20, 1880 and the steeple, located to the left of entrance was added in 1885.

This is a clapboard or lap sided building with a gabled roof running its length.

- * The parsonage located immediately north of the church, was built at approximately the same time. This white, gabled roof house has a north facing two window dormer on the north side and 4 window bay on the north side ground floor. Window and door casings, and especially the lintels are massive and ornate.

The church and parsonage are very well maintained. This church is said to be the oldest church structure in Colorado in which services are still held.

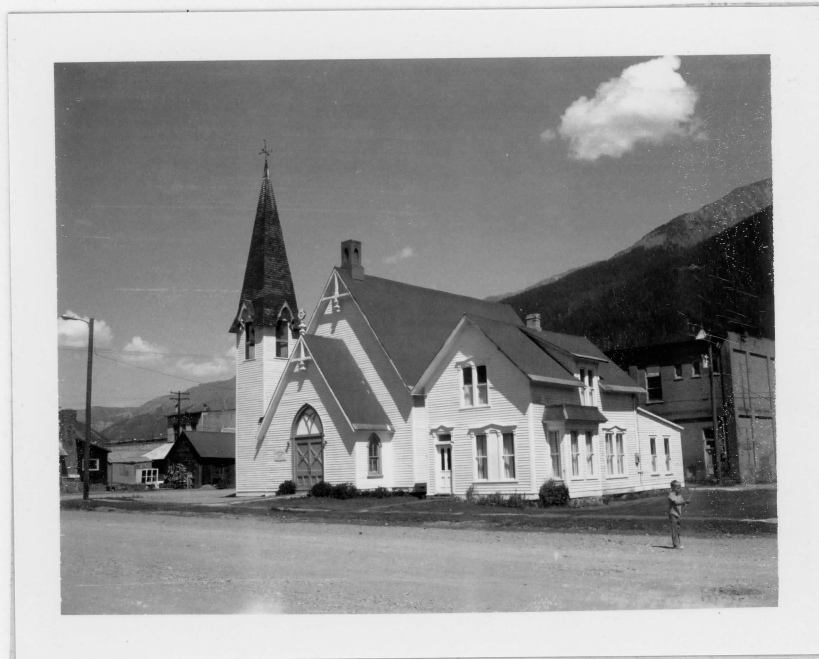


Figure 5.

In addition to these structures there are a large number of additional sites within the Historic District which are historically significant and warrant consideration for the Register. Several are identified in the Walking Tour brochure, others are shown below, as a sample of Silverton's historic resources.

6. The Benson Hotel

Address: Northwest corner 12th & Greene Streets

Owner: Present ownership is by an unknown combine

This two story brick structure was built in 1895. The cornice work is the most elaborate part of the structure exterior. At one time it housed the County Club Saloon, the name of which is still displayed over the corner doorway. Subsequently, until 1921 it housed the Vienna Cafe. Presently it is a residential hotel and gift shop.



Figure 6.

7. The Carnegie Library

Address: Northwest corner 11th & Reese Streets

Owner: Town of Silverton, Colorado

Built with an Andrew Carnegie endowment of \$10,000 in 1905 this simple story brick building with basement is typical of Carnegie endowed library buildings. The interior furnishings are largely original. The basement, once a men's club room, now the San Juan County Historical Society Archives.

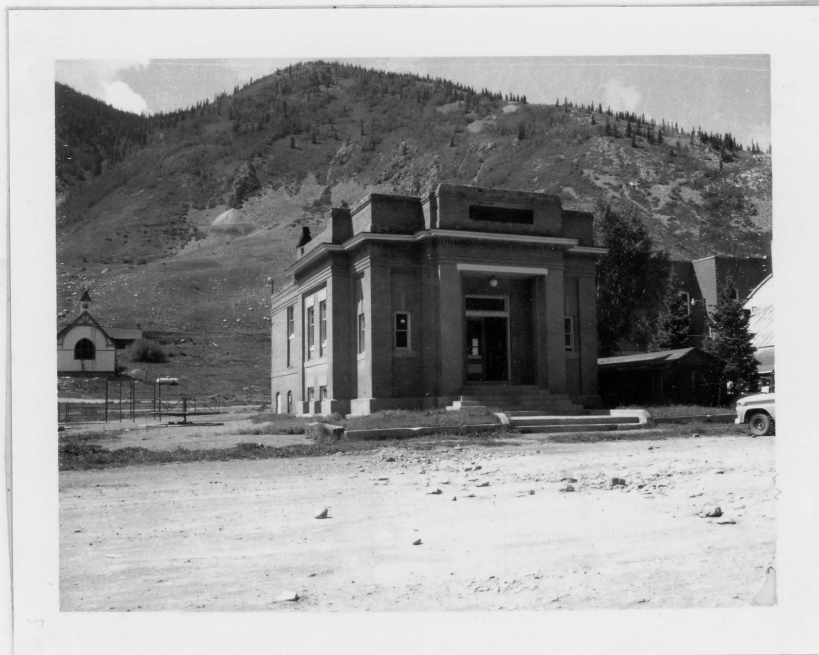


Figure 7.

8. Miners Union Hospital

Address: Northwest corner 13th & Snowden Streets

Owner: San Juan County, Colorado

This large 2 story brick building with a basement is on a raised stone foundation and was built in 1907, with time donated by the miners. It has a metal hipped roof with three dormers, each exhibiting hipped roofs, and two porches on the south and east sides. The Snowden Street entrance steps arch from the first floor to street level on the underside. All windows are sash windows.

The Miner's Union used the structure as a hospital until 1939 when San Juan County acquired the property for use as the County Hospital. In 1955 the building was converted for use as an outpatient clinic, and presently houses a few rental offices as well. The building was constructed on property owned by Francis Snowden, who built the first house in Silverton in 1874.



Figure 8.

9. The American Legion Building

Address: Southwest corner 11 & Greene Streets

Owner: American Legion Post #14

A spacious two story brick building with massive cornice around the roof and a square tower with a hipped roof on the northeast corner, this structure was built after the turn of the century and served as the Miners Union Hall. The roof joists appear to be hung from steel rods bolted to an eye beam running the length of the building, the ends of which look as though they rest on the tops of the front and back walls.

The building has housed a variety of unions, lodges and businesses, including a funeral parlor and a furniture store. At this time the ground floor houses a bar (with two back-lit plastic beer signs out front) and the Legion meeting hall. The second floor is used as a community dance hall.

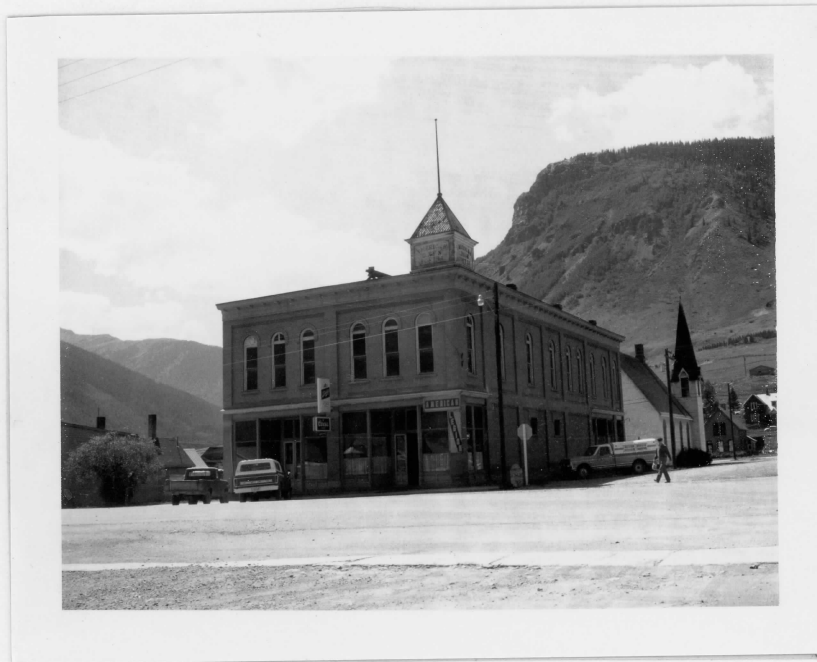


Figure 9.

10. The Masonic Hall

Address: Southwest corner 13th & Reese Streets

Owner: Masonic Lodge #33 AF & AM

This frame building with 2 stories and an attic was commissioned by the Masonic Lodge and was finished in 1888. It has a peculiar false eave or cornice between the attic and the second floor ceiling. The building once occupied only the front portion of the lot, but was extended to the alley in 1900. The roof was not visible to this observer.

The Silverton Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1878 and has owned and occupied the building since its construction in 1888. The floor has housed a number of businesses, including a doctor's office, mortuary, and a newspaper.◊



Figure 10.

11. The Hamner House

Address: Southwest corner 8th & Reese Streets

Owner: Mr. Fritz Klinke, Silverton, Colorado

Listed as the Hamner House in the files, this building is called the Gus Stoiber House by local residents. Built by a mine owner and banker, this elaborate Victorian style house is one of the finest period houses this visitor has seen in the state. This is a two story and attic frame house with a hipped roof and five fire places. The ground floor exhibits an elaborate three window bay on the east side. The second floor has a four window bay on the south corner, which extends in tower-like fashion above the roof and is topped with its own hipped roof. There is a one window dormer on the front with a hipped roof. The windows are quite long and narrow, and are topped with elaborate wooden lintels. The owner is presently restoring the house to its original condition and is doing an excellent job with trim detail.

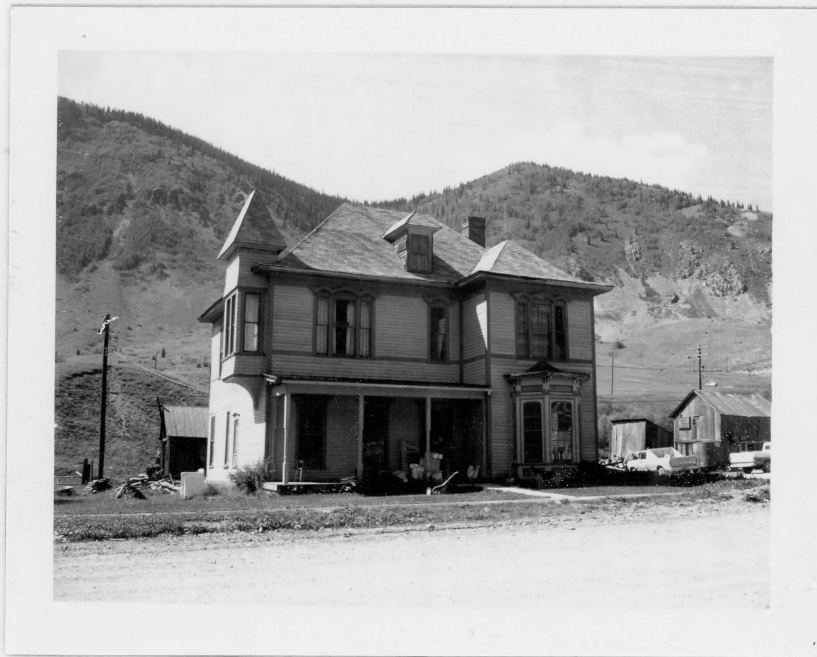


Figure 11.

12. The Prospector's House

Address: Southwest corner 11th & Reese Streets.

Owner: Mr. Terry Kerwin, Silverton, Colorado

Sometimes referred to as the Elmo Slade House (former owner) this two story brick house has a full length gable roof. Built in the 1880's this house and the two illustrated below are typical of Silverton miners' houses.

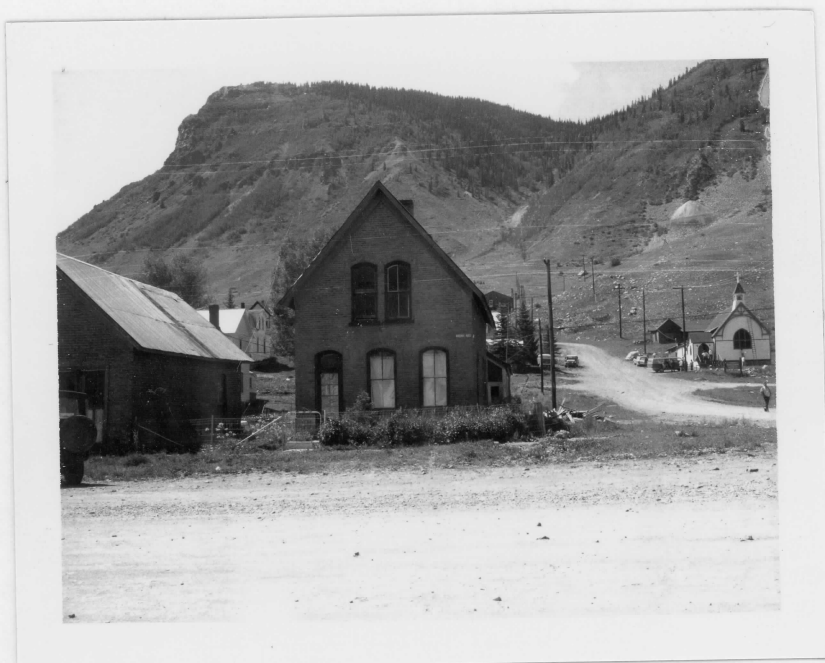


Figure 12.





Figure 12 a.

13. The Frances Beaber House

Address: Southeast corner 14th & Reese Streets.

Owner: Ms. Frances H.H. Beaber, Silverton, Colorado.

Originally the Amanda Cotton House this small frame building was lived in by one of the first women to come to Silverton. This lady was a midwife.

There was an addition to the rear of this structure in 1962-63. It is presently lived in the year around.



Figure 13.

14. The First Southern Baptist Church

Address: Northwest corner 11th & Snowden Streets.

Owner: First Southern Baptist Church
Silverton, Colorado

This gable roofed frame building was built in 1898 for St. John's Episcopal Church. It was closed in the 1920's, and was purchased by the Four Square Church in the late 1950's. In 1970 it was sold to the present owners. The bellfry and bell were originally on the school at Eureka, Colorado. A log addition at the back was built in 1973.

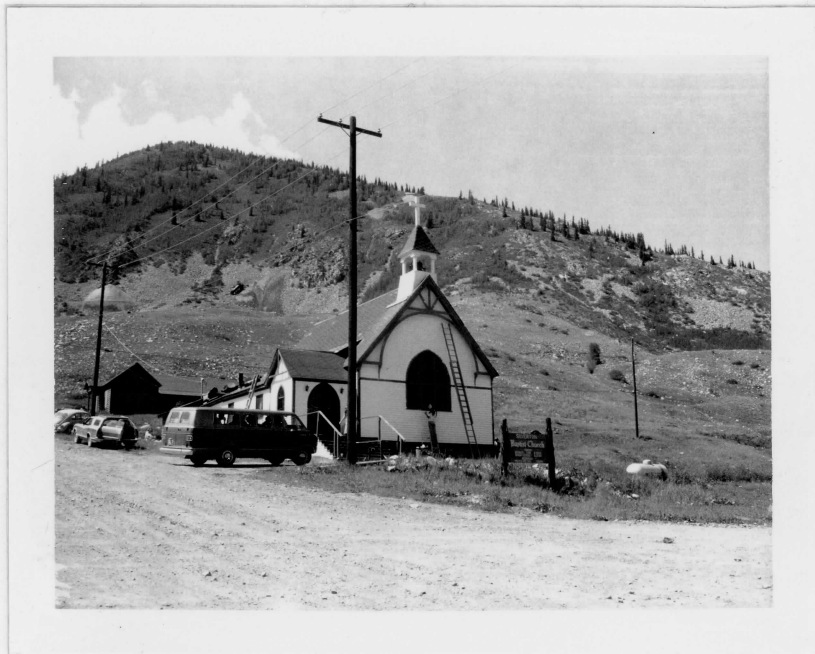


Figure 14.

15. The Allen Nossaman House
Address: 17th & Greene Streets
Owner: Mr. Allen Nossaman

This white frame house is trimmed with light blue and is a most attractive restoration. The hipped roof exhibits two dormers with triangular pediments, one on the west side, and one on the south side. Windows in the pediments have leaded glass borders around them.

This is a one story house, but the attic has been finished with paneling and carpet for use as a study. The attic is fitted with a Franklin stove for heat.

The house contains new wiring and some new plumbing, and a new roof but flooring and linen wallpaper are all original. The house is completely furnished in antiques except for the modernized kitchen/breakfast room.



Figure 15.

16. The Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad Depot
Address: East end of 10th Street
Owner: San Juan County Historical Society
Leased to Sundance Publications, Ltd.
** See Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge National
Historic Landmark Report for details and photographs.
17. The Silverton Northern Depot
Address: Southwest corner 10th & Cements Streets
Owner: San Juan County Historical Society

This is a long gable roofed building adjacent to the D&RGW Depot. Of frame construction, it is in very poor repair, as is the Engine House, but both are slated for rehabilitation and will be used as a railroad exhibit area.



Figure 16.



Figure 16a.

18. The Silverton Northern Railroad Engine House
Address: Southwest corner 9th & Cement Streets.
Owner: San Juan County Historical Society

This is a large frame building with a metal roof. It was built for engine and car maintenance and storage.

Purchased in 1976 by the Society it sits on a tract of about 14 lots.



Figure 17.

•MOUNTAINS/PLAINS•

Residents of Boulder and Silverton, Colo., didn't have much to be thankful for last Thanksgiving. In Boulder, the 110-year-old Walker Ranch House burned to the ground during the state's worst blizzard in recent memory. Heavy winds and snow-covered roads made it impossible for fire trucks to reach the scene. In Silverton, during the same storm, residents nearly lost their beloved National Historic Landmark town hall, which was gutted by fire. Sub-zero temperatures hampered the fire-fighting effort. Constructed of native rose-colored sandstone in 1908, the two-story neoclassical hall was built in the town's heyday when the silver- and gold-mining industries were flourishing. Now workers are trying to salvage what's left of the original woodwork, fixtures, and furniture, much of which had just been restored in early 1992. In an ironic twist to the story, investigators believe the fire started in a special heating system designed to keep snow from accumulating on the roof. But preservationist Beverly

Rich and others haven't given up yet. Already the town is working on an engineering study to stabilize the building, cover it with a temporary roof, and collect money to restore the town hall to its original condition. Most of the restoration work will be delayed for a few months because the building is encased in ice and is not likely to thaw until spring.

USE original _____ intermediate _____ new _____

ESTIMATED COST _____ FINAL COST _____

HOUSING UNITS before _____ after _____ FEDERAL FUNDS () no () yes _____

NHL () NHL District ☒ NR () NR District () State/local District () Proposed ()Name of district Silverton Date listed/certified 10-16-66NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER Benson Hotel Ltd.
Wm. M. Howell
124 E. 13th St., Silverton, CO 81433

SIGNIFICANCE

PRELIMINARY

Date received _____

Date info requested _____

Date info received _____

Date of action _____

() contributing

() non-contributing

() conditional

FINAL

Date received 7-29-80

Date info requested _____

Date info received _____

Date of action _____

() contributing

() non-contributing

REHABILITATION

PROPOSED WORK

Date received _____

Date info requested _____

Date info received _____

Date of action _____

() approved () approved/
conditions

() withheld () denied

Reviewer _____ () plans

COMPLETED WORK

Date received _____

Date info requested _____

Date info received _____

Date of action _____

() approved () denied

Reviewer _____

APPEAL

Date received _____

Date of action _____

() sustained () overturned

APPEAL

Date received _____

Date of action _____

() sustained () overturned