

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

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Official Eligibility Determination
(OAHF use only)

OAHF1403

Rev. 9/98

Date _____ Initials _____

☐ Determined Eligible – National Register

☐ Determined Not Eligible – National Register

☐ Determined Eligible – State Register

☐ Determine Not Eligible – State Register

☐ Need Data

☐ Contributes to eligible National Register District

☐ Noncontributing to eligible National Register District

I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: **5SM.1608**
2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
3. County: **San Miguel**
4. City: **Telluride**
5. Historic Building Name: **Telluride City Jail**
6. Current Building Name: **Telluride City Jail**
7. Building Address: **134 S. Spruce Street**
8. Owner Name and Address: **Telluride Capital Leasing Corporation
1225 17th Street, Suite 2300
Denver, CO 80202**

Parcel number(s):

477901124905**THLD RATING:****Contributing to District**

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II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **New Mexico** Township: **42N** Range: **9W**
 $\frac{1}{4}$ of $\frac{1}{4}$ of $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section **1**
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)
 Zone: **13** 253088 mE 4202295 mN
11. USGS quad name: **Telluride, Colorado**
 Year: **1955** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **Lot 2, Block 10**
 Addition: **Telluride Original Townsite** Year of addition: **1883**
13. Boundary description and justification:
This legally defined parcel encompasses, but does not exceed, the land historically associated with this property.
 Metes and bounds?: Describe:

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

14. Building plan (footprint, shape): **Rectangular Plan**
15. Dimensions in feet: **Length: 22 feet x Width: 36 feet**
16. Number of stories: **1**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Stone/Sandstone**
18. Roof configuration: **Shed Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Metal Roof**
20. Special features: **N/A**
21. General architectural description:
This stone building, which measures approximately 22' N-S (across) by 36' E-W (deep) was constructed as Telluride's "City Jail" in 1903. Its walls are made of solid coursed sandstone blocks, and are covered by a shed (nearly flat) roof with metal roofing material. The jail's symmetrical façade fronts directly onto the concrete sidewalk which parallels Spruce Street on the west elevation. A heavy, padlocked, iron-clad door enters the center of the façade, and is covered by a heavy sandstone lintel. The door is flanked on either side by a high, narrow, 1/1 double-hung sash window. These windows feature sandstone lugsills and lintels, with black steel or iron security bars. Four 1/1 double-hung sash windows with steel or iron security bars penetrate the north elevation. There are no doors or windows on the south elevation. The modern "San Miguel County Marshal's Department" building is principally located to the southeast of the historic jail; however, the modern building abuts the historic jail's east elevation. A plaque affixed to the façade wall contains the following text:

OLD JAIL

This rudimentary old stone jail was built in 1885,* replacing the original "calaboose," that now resides in Town Park. The calaboose, built in approximately 1878, was made out of stacked wood framing. Telluride's outlaws required something sturdier and bigger. The jail held all sorts of rough characters, and its location at the edge of the red light district was most certainly strategic. The bars and windows are original. The grapevining (the projecting bead at the center of the mortar joint) is thought to have been built by Billy Anderson, who owned a livery

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stable in town.

***The 1885 date is incorrect. This jail was built in 1903.**

22. Architectural style: **No Defined Style**

Building type:

23. Landscape or special setting features:

This historic stone jail building is located on the east side of South Spruce Street, and immediately south of the alley between Colorado and Pacific Avenues. No longer in use as a jail, the building is, however, located on property maintained by the San Miguel County Marshal's Department. The modern Marshal's Department building abuts the jail on its east elevation, and extends to the southeast.

24. Associated buildings, features or objects: **San Miguel County Marshal's Department Building**

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: Actual: **1903**
 Source of information: **Telluride *Daily Journal*, October 22, 1903, p. 3 and November 5, 1903, p. 5; Sanborn Insurance maps, December 1899 and July 1904.**

26. Architect: **Unknown**
 Source of information: **N/A**

27. Builder: **Billy Anderson (probably)**
 Source of information: **Façade plaque; Historic Building Inventory Record form, prepared by Front Range Research Associates, May 1986.**

28. Original owner: **Town of Telluride**
 Source of information: **Telluride *Daily Journal*, November 5, 1903, p. 5.**

29. Construction history:

This stone jail was constructed in 1903, replacing an earlier jail of stacked plank construction which had been built circa 1878. The Telluride *Daily Journal* reported on the new jail in brief articles published on October 22, 1903 and November 5, 1903. On October 22nd, the *Journal* reported:

"The plasterers are at work on the city jail and this new hostelry [*sic*] will soon be in shape to receive guests."

On November 5th, the *Journal* reported on the new jail's completion.

"The new jail is ready for service. A bevy of city prisoners were this morning transferred from the old to the new structure."

Sanborn Insurance maps also document that the jail was built between December of 1899 and July of 1904. The earlier jail, or "calaboose," had also been located on this property, but was a smaller building, and had been set well back from Spruce Street. Oral tradition in Telluride holds that this jail was built by Billy Anderson, a bricklayer, and later owner of a local livery stable. A Swedish immigrant, Anderson is listed as a Telluride residen

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in 1900 and 1910 U.S. census records. A plaque on the building's façade incorrectly states that the jail was built in 1885.

30. Original location: ☒ Moved: _____ Date of move(s): _____

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Government/Jail**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Government/Jail**
33. Current use(s): **Vacant/Not in Use**
34. Site type(s): **Telluride city jail building**

35. Historical background:

This building was constructed as the Telluride City Jail in 1903, and subsequently served in that capacity for many years. In addition to this, the city jail, the San Miguel County jail was also located in Telluride - on the west side of the courthouse on Colorado Avenue. Oral tradition in Telluride holds that this jail was built by Billy Anderson, a local liveryman. Prior to establishing his livery business, Anderson earned his living as a bricklayer, according to the 1900 census. It is thus plausible that Anderson was responsible for the jail's stone construction in 1903.

36. Sources of information:

Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection. <http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>.

Telluride Daily Journal, October 22, 1903, p. 3.

Telluride Daily Journal, November 5, 1903, p. 5

San Miguel County Assessor records.

San Miguel County Commercial Property Appraisal Record.

Sanborn Insurance maps, August 1886, October 1890, February 1893, December 1899, July 1904, November 1908, October 1922.

Simmons, Laurie and Whitacre, Christine. Historic Building Inventory Record, May 1986.

Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, San Miguel, County, Colorado, Central Telluride precinct (reference William Anderson).

Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, San Miguel, County, Colorado, Central Telluride precinct (reference William Anderson).

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation: Yes No ☒ Date of designation: _____
Designating authority: _____

38. Applicable National Register criteria:

- ☒ A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
☒ C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguished entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

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D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (see Manual).

Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria.

Telluride Standards for Designation:

- 7-505.A.1. The structure is representative of a unique historical social activity of an era
- 7-505.A.2. The structure dominates the neighborhood by virtue of its mass, architecture or location
- ☒ 7-505.A.3. The structure was an historically or architecturally important public building
- ☒ 7-505.A.4. The structure has a unique historical significance beyond a local level
- 7-505.A.5. The parcel was the site of an important historic event or activity
- ☒ 7-505.A.6. The structure has a "contributing or qualified contributing" rating on the THAS

39. Area(s) of significance: **Architecture**
Politics/Government
40. Period of significance: **1903; 1903-1957**
41. Level of significance: National: ☒ State: Local:

42. Statement of significance:

Built in 1903, the Telluride City Jail is historically and architecturally significant for its unique association with Telluride's socioeconomic development during the early 1900s. An interesting cross-section of Telluride's society were incarcerated in the jail for various periods of time - including actual outlaws, drunks, cheating gamblers, men who had engaged in saloon brawls, and, notably, protestors involved in labor unrest. The building may be considered individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and in the State Register of Historic Properties. It also rates as a "contributing" resource within the Telluride National Historic Landmark District.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This building displays a high standard of physical integrity, relative to the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Park Service and the Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation - setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. There have been no additions, and no adverse alterations, to the original building. The integrity of setting is somewhat diminished by the presence of the large adjacent San Miguel County Marshal's Department building.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Individually Eligible**
Local landmark eligibility field assessment: **Eligible / Contributing to District**
45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes ☒ No
Discuss: **This property is located within the Telluride National Historic Landmark District.**
- If there is National Register district potential, is this building: Contributing Noncontributing N/A: ☒
46. If the building is in existing National Register district, is it: Contributing ☒ Noncontributing N/A:

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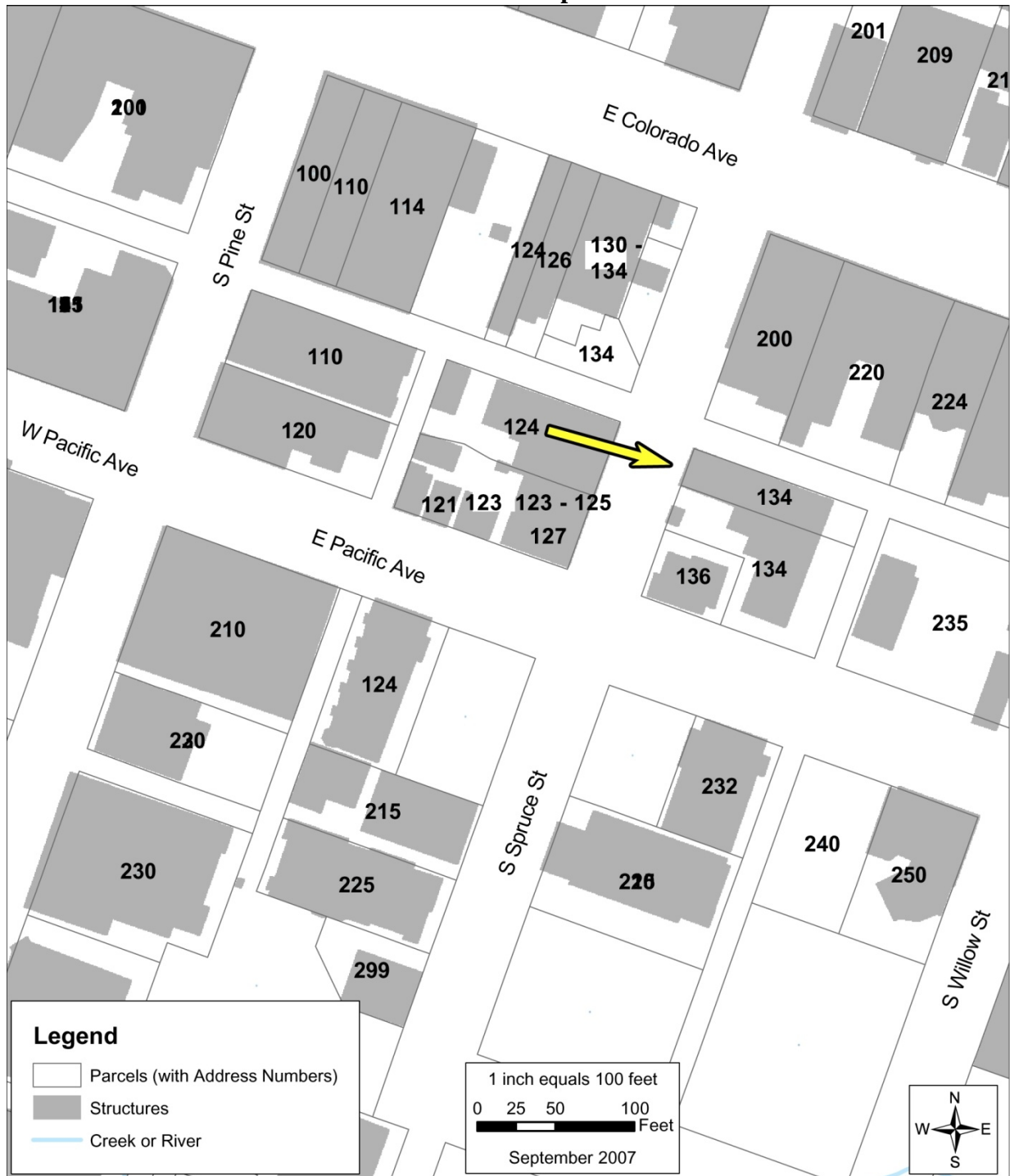
VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph number(s):	CD #5, Images 301-304	CDs filed at:	Town of Telluride
48. Report title:	Town of Telluride Re-Survey of Historic Structures		Planning and Building Dept.
49. Date(s):	08/31/2007; revised 4/10/2012		113 West Columbia Avenue
50. Recorder(s):	Carl McWilliams		Telluride, CO 81435
	Timothy Wilder		
51. Organization:	Cultural Resource Historians		
52. Address:	Dogwood Court		
	Fort Collins, CO 80525		
53. Phone number(s):	(970) 493-5270		

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Sketch Map



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Location Map

