

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Official Eligibility Determination  
(OAHF use only)

OAHF1403

Rev. 9/98

Architectural Inventory Form

Page 1 of 8

- 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.1770**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **San Miguel**
- 4. City: **Telluride**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **St. Patrick's Church**
- 6. Current Building Name: **St. Patrick's Church**
- 7. Building Address: **301 N. Spruce Street**
- 8. Owner Name and Address: **Bishop of Pueblo Saint Patrick Church  
1001 Grand Avenue  
Pueblo, CO 81003**

Parcel number(s): **456536418903**




THLD RATING:

Contributing to District

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 2 of 9

### II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **New Mexico** Township: **43N** Range: **9W**  
**NE ¼ of SE ¼ of SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 036**
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)  
 Zone: **13** **253169 mE** **4202543 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Telluride, Colorado**  
 Year: **1955** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **Lots 1, 3, Block 29**  
 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: **1873 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **1½, with a bell tower**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Wood / Horizontal Siding**
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof / Front Gabled Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Metal Roof**
20. Special features: **Porch, Chimney, Tower, Finial, Stained Glass**
21. General architectural description:  
**St. Patrick's Catholic Church is a tall 1½-story wood frame building which measures 31½' N-S (across) by 50' E-W (deep). There is also a single-story hipped-roof extension on the west (rear) elevation which measures 28½' N-S by 10' E-W, and an enclosed gabled vestibule centered on the east elevation which measures 10' N-S by 6' E-W. The building's stone foundation above grade is covered by metal skirting, while its exterior walls are clad with painted cream yellow color horizontal wood siding with painted brown 1" by 6" corner boards. Painted cream yellow vertical wood siding appears in the facade's upper gable end on the east elevation. The church roof is a steeply-pitched front gable, with metal roofing material, and with painted brown sculptured rafter ends beneath the eaves. A distinctive gabled bell tower is at the front end of the roof peak. The base of the bell tower is clad with wood shingles, while the upper portion has painted cream yellow horizontal wood siding, and chamfered 4" by 4" vertical wood posts which support a steeply-pitched gabled roof over the bell. A painted white cross finial is at the apex of the bell tower's roof. An ornate, pierced, gable ornament is in the facade's upper gable end, just below the bell tower. A red brick chimney, with a corbelled cap, is near the east end of the south-facing roof slope. A set of paired, painted green, wood-paneled doors, with a gothic-arched transom light with tracery, enter the vestibule on the facade. Another painted white cross finial is at the apex of the vestibule's roof. The main 1½-story portion of the church features symmetrically arranged gothic-arched windows with painted green wood frames, painted brown wood surrounds, and with stained glass and tracery. Four gothic-arched windows**

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 3 of 9

penetrate the north elevation; four others penetrate the opposite south elevation; two others flank the vestibule on the facade. A set of concrete and metal steps descend to a basement-level door beneath a gabled covering on the south elevation. A green metal-paneled door, with one upper sash light, enters the hipped-roof extension on the west elevation. A painted green wood-paneled door, with five cross panels, enters the south elevation of the hipped-roof extension. There are two facade plaques. One is inscribed "ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH 1896." The other plaque provides historical and descriptive narratives.

22. Architectural style: **Late Victorian / Carpenter Gothic**

Building type:

23. Landscape or special setting features:

**This well-maintained property is at the northwest corner of N. Spruce Street and E. Galena Avenue, in the area of Telluride known historically as Catholic Hill. A sandstone retaining parallels the sidewalk along Galena Avenue, and defines a small planted grass lawn south and east of the church. Concrete steps and a handicap-accessible ramp approach the vestibule on the east elevation.**

24. Associated buildings, features or objects: **N/A**

### IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: Actual: **1896**  
 Source of information: **"Catholic Church Dedicated." Telluride *Daily Journal*, January 6, 1897, p. 1.**
26. Architect: **Unknown**  
 Source of information: **N/A**
27. Builder: **Unknown**  
 Source of information: **N/A**
28. Original owner: **Catholic Diocese**  
 Source of information: **"Catholic Church Dedicated." *Telluride Journal*, January 6, 1897, p. 1.**

29. Construction history:

**St. Patrick's Catholic Church was erected in 1896 for a reported cost of \$4800.00. On August 5, 1896, the Telluride *Daily Journal* reported:**

**Those who have labored so long and earnestly to the end that Telluride might have a Catholic church are about to see success crown their efforts. The building committee have purchased from W. A. Taylor for a consideration of \$400 a piece of ground 100x117 feet at the corner of Galena avenue and Spruce street, and at once will begin grading and preparing the ground for the building of a substantial stone foundation. The church building will be frame, 28x40 feet with a handsome steeple enclosing a bell...It is understood Rev. Father O'Rourke will have charge of the handsome structure when completed.**

**The building was completed by the end of the year, and it was dedicated with a mass held on January 6, 1897. The rear hipped-roof section of the building historically served as the parsonage. The church is little changed from its original construction.**

# Architectural Inventory Form

Page 4 of 9

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

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 5 of 9

### V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): Religion / Church  
 32. Intermediate use(s): Religion / Church  
 33. Current use(s): Religion / Church  
 34. Site type(s): Catholic Church

35. Historical background:

St. Patrick's Catholic Church was built in 1896, and it has served as a place of worship throughout its history. It was erected for a reported cost of \$4800.00, under the direction of Father Cornelius O'Rourke. Attended by Catholics primarily of Italian and Austrian descent, the church membership was at 200 by 1899. After the church's construction, this neighborhood northeast of downtown Telluride became known as "Catholic Hill." A native of Ireland where he was born in October 1861, Father O'Rourke had immigrated to America in 1880. Prior to coming to Telluride, he had resided in Denver and at Rico.

36. Sources of information:

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

Telluride *Daily Journal*, May 25, 1896, p. 4.

Telluride *Daily Journal*, May 22, 1896, p. 4.

Telluride *Daily Journal*, June 13, 1896, p. 4.

"A New Church Building." Telluride *Daily Journal*, August 5, 1896, p. 1.

"The New Catholic Church Will Be Dedicated..." Telluride *Daily Journal*, January 5, 1897, p. 4.

"Catholic Church Dedicated." Telluride *Daily Journal*, January 6, 1897, p. 1.

Pera, Davine (comp.). *Conversations at 9,000 Feet A Collection of Oral Histories From Telluride, Colorado*. Ouray: Western Reflections Publishing Company, 2000.

"San Miguel County Assessor Data Site." <http://sanmiguel.valuwest.net>

San Miguel County Property Appraisal Record.

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

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

Telluride Historical Museum. [www.telluridemesuem.org](http://www.telluridemesuem.org)

Town of Telluride Building Department building permit files.

Town of Telluride Planning Department files.

Trommer, Wahtola. *Telluride's Victorian Vernacular: A Walking Tour*. Telluride: Telluride Historical Museum, 2001.

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 6 of 9

### VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation:    Yes            No     Date of designation:  
Designating authority:
38. Applicable National Register criteria:
- xx** 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;
  - xx** 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;
  - 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
  - xx** 7-505.A.2. The structure dominates the neighborhood by virtue of its mass, architecture or location
  - xx** 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
  - xx** 7-505.A.5. The parcel was the site of an important historic event or activity
  - xx** 7-505.A.6. The structure has a "contributing or qualified contributing" rating on the THAS
39. Area(s) of significance:    **Architecture, Religion**
40. Period of significance:    **1896; 1896-**
41. Level of significance:    National:                            State:                            Local: **xx**

42. Statement of significance:

**St. Patrick's Catholic Church is architecturally significant for its excellent expression of the Carpenter Gothic style of architecture. Displaying excellent integrity, it is Telluride's only example of this style, often associated with churches in mining towns throughout western Colorado. The building is also historically significant as Telluride's only remaining historic church that has not been razed or significantly altered and converted to other uses. It has had a profound impact on Telluride's cultural development. This building is individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and in the State Register of Historic Properties. It is also a contributing resource within the Telluride National Historic Landmark District.**

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

**St. Patrick's Catholic Church 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 are no additions and no notable exterior alterations to the historic building.**

### VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:    **Individually Eligible**

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 7 of 9

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:

### VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph number(s):	<b>CD #7, Images 252-255</b>	CDs filed at:	<b>Town of Telluride</b>
48. Report title:	<b>Town of Telluride Re-Survey of Historic Structures</b>		<b>Planning and Building Dept.</b>
49. Date(s):	<b>August 8, 2011</b>		<b>113 West Columbia Avenue</b>
50. Recorder(s):	<b>Carl McWilliams</b> <b>Karen McWilliams</b>		<b>Telluride, CO 81435</b>
51. Organization:	<b>Cultural Resource Historians</b>		
52. Address:	<b>Dogwood Court</b> <b>Fort Collins, CO 80525</b>		
53. Phone number(s):	<b>(970) 493-5270</b>		

# Architectural Inventory Form

Page 8 of 9

## Sketch Map



# Architectural Inventory Form

## Location Map

