

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

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.1553** Parcel number(s): **477901123007**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A** **477901123006**
- 3. County: **San Miguel** **477901123005**
- 4. City: **Telluride**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Nunn and Wrench Block; National Club Building**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Nunn and Wrench Block**
- 7. Building Address: **100-114 E Colorado Ave**
- 8. Owner Name and Address: **The Buck LLC, P. O. Box 2097, Telluride, CO 81435**
Robert James Lincoln Jr., P. O. Box 352, Telluride, CO 814350352
Cansan LLC, P. O. Box 3104, Telluride, CO 814353104



THLD RATING:	Contributing to District
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II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **New Mexico** Township: **42N** Range: **9W**
 ¼ of ¼ of ¼ of ¼ of Section 1
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)
 Zone: **13** **253035 mE** **4202330 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Telluride, Colorado**
 Year: **1955** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **Lots 60, 62, 64, 66, Block 8**
 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: 125 feet x Width: 100 feet**
16. Number of stories: **1**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Brick**
18. Roof configuration: **Flat Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Asphalt Roof/Composition Roof**
20. Special features:
Window/Segmental Arch
Roof Treatment/Decorative Cornice
Chimney
Window/Segmental Arch
21. General architectural description:
This large one-story, mixed-use, commercial building occupies four lots at the southeast corner of Colorado Avenue and Pine Street in downtown Telluride. The façade, which faces onto Colorado Avenue on the north elevation, contains five storefronts. Current (2007) retail tenants include: Rustico Ristorante, Zutler Realty, Brown Dog Pizza, and the Last Dollar Saloon. Each of the five storefronts feature a recessed entryway, with either a glass-in-wood-frame entry door or a wood-paneled entry door, with sidelights and transom lights. The entryways are flanked by large storefront display windows, with large vertically-oriented transom lights. The kickplate areas beneath the windows are variously finished with painted brick, painted concrete, and wood-panels. A single brick column is located at the east end of the façade. The historic door entering the center entryway has been replaced with a single-light fixed-pane window, with a transom light. An ornate overhanging metal cornice extends along the entire façade, and wraps around to also cover the south end of the west elevation (facing Pine Street). The cornice is adorned with a dentil course, and egg-and-dart motif, and with acanthus leaves. The building's long west elevation wall is primarily made of red brick laid in running bond. This elevation is penetrated by: three large 2-light fixed-pane windows with segmental brick arches and painted blue wood frames (historically, these windows were probably 1/1 double-hung sash); and a 6-light window with a segmental brick arch and a painted blue wood frame. A large wagon door bay was historically located near the south end of the west elevation. This former opening, however, has been filled in with painted salmon color concrete blocks, and is spanned by a large steel I-beam header. The in-fill concrete block wall is penetrated by two 16-light industrial sash windows with painted blue metal frames and concrete sills. A painted mural of a

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flower basket adorns the wall beneath these two windows. The west end of the south (rear) elevation is made of red brick laid in running bond, partially covered with concrete pargeting. The center portion of the south elevation is clad with board-and-batten, which has been applied over the brick and concrete pargeting. The east end of the south elevation is made of coursed sandstone. Multiple windows, most with segmental brick arches, and multiple service doors penetrate the south elevation. The north (front) end of the east (side) elevation is covered by a shed-roofed wood frame addition which is utilized as a dining room for the adjacent restaurant. This addition has stained natural brown vertical wood plank walls and corrugated metal roofing material.

22. Architectural style: **Late 19th And Early 20th Century American Movements/Commercial Style**
 Building type:
23. Landscape or special setting features: **This building is located at the southeast corner of Colorado Avenue and Pine Street in downtown Telluride.**
24. Associated buildings, features or objects: **N/ A**

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: Actual: **1899**
 Source of information: **Sanborn Insurance maps, February 1893 and December 1899; San Miguel County Assessor records.**
26. Architect: **Unknown**
 Source of information: **N/A**
27. Builder: **Brown and Schrefferman**
 Source of information: **"Another Brick Block Begun." Telluride *Daily Journal*, May 18, 1899, p. 1.**
28. Original owner: **L.L. Nunn and A.M. Wrench**
 Source of information: **"Another Brick Block Begun." Telluride *Daily Journal*, May 18, 1899, p. 1.**

29. Construction history:
San Miguel County Assessor records list 1899 as this building's year of construction, and Sanborn Insurance maps document that it was built between 1893 and 1899. The Telluride Daily Journal published the following small article regarding the building's pending construction on May 18, 1899 and again on May 20, 1899:

"Another Brick Block Begun

Brown and Schrefferman [*sic*], the Denver contractors who built the Telluride school building have been in town a day or two, Mr. Schrefferman [*sic*] returning to Denver today. This firm has the contract for building the new brick block of Nunn and Wrench at the corner of Pine and Main Streets."

The construction of this building, along with the Stellmacher and Pheasy Block at 130-134 E. Colorado Avenue and the Masonic Lodge at 200 E. Colorado Avenue, are all discussed in a retrospective article titled "The Year Has Been Reasonably Profitable" published in the *Journal* on December 30, 1899:

"...Messrs. Nunn and Wrench have erected a brick block fronting 125 feet on Main street with a depth of 100 feet. This comprises five handsome and roomy store rooms. The

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architecture is of the most modern design and forms a block that adds greatly to the appearance of the street. A little further down, Stellmacher and Pheasy have built a fine two story brick, 50 feet front by 80 feet in depth, constructed in a substantial manner calculated to stand for all time. The Masonic Temple in course of construction a year ago, has been completed, furnishing two large stores on the ground floor, the entire second floor being occupied by the Masonic fraternity with its several orders, and comprising what is universally conceded to be the finest lodge home in the state outside of Denver."

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

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Commerce and Trade/ Specialty Store**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Commerce and Trade/Bar**
Commerce and Trade/ Specialty Store
Commerce and Trade/ Restaurant
33. Current use(s): **Commerce and Trade/Restaurant**
Commerce and Trade/ Bar
Commerce and Trade/Business
34. Site type(s): **Single-story, brick, late nineteenth century, mixed-use commercial building.**

35. Historical background:

The Nunn and Wrench Building was constructed in 1899 by Brown and Schrepferman, Denver contractors who had previously built the Telluride School. The building's original owners were L.L Nunn and A.M. Wrench.

Ohio native Lucien Lucius. Nunn came to Leadville, Colorado circa 1880, before moving to Durango and then to Telluride in 1881. In Telluride, Nunn quickly established himself among the town's leading businessman. By 1891, Nunn's mining and financial interests were substantial, and in that year, he gained prominence by building the Ames electrical plant along the Lake Fork of the San Miguel River to power the Gold King Mill. Located above Ophir, the Gold King was owned or managed by L.L. and his brother Paul Nunn. Prior to that time the mill had been powered by coal, shipped in by rail at a cost of nearly \$2500.00 per month. Nunn chose to use Alternating Current (AC) power, rather than Direct Current (DC) power in the Ames plant - a decision that proved a resounding success, and reduced the Gold King Mill's operating costs to less than \$500.00 per month.

Reportedly the first commercial AC power facility in the world, the Ames plant was constructed at a time when electrical power was in its infancy, and when a great scientific debate was occurring regarding the relative merits of AC versus DC power. In what became known as the "war of currents", the development of low voltage DC power was promoted by Thomas Edison, while AC power was championed by George Westinghouse and Nikola Tesla. Following the successful installation of AC power at the Ames plant near Telluride, the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company was awarded a contract to establish an AC power plant for the Columbian Exposition (the World's Fair) at Chicago in 1893. Alternating Current subsequently became the standard power scheme used throughout the United States, with the advantages that it may be stepped up or down through a transformer, and that it can move long distances over thin copper wire.

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In 1890, Nunn contracted for the construction of the First National Bank of Telluride building at the northwest corner of Colorado Avenue and Fir Street. Nine years later, Nunn and A. M. Wrench (who was then employed as Cashier of the First National Bank of Telluride), contracted with Brown and Schrepferman to construct this distinctive single-story brick commercial block at the southeast corner of Colorado Avenue and Pine Street. On July 21, 1899, the *Telluride Daily Journal* reported:

"Three of the five stores in the Wrench Block are already rented. The Fashion Clothing Company takes the corner, Phillips & Kingsbery have the next store and will put in a stock of shelf and builders hardware in addition to their plumbing business."

The Fashion Clothing Company was further described by the *Journal* on August 19, 1899:

"The event of the mercantile season in Telluride will be the grand opening of the handsome new store of the Fashion Clothing Company on this Saturday. The room that they will occupy in the new brick block is one of the most commodious and handsome store rooms in Telluride, and the stock now being received is probably one of the largest and finest ever placed on sale in this section of the state. The management are liberal and thoroughly up to date...A feature of this house will be the merchant tailoring department where gentlemen may get wearing apparel that will fit, and made up in the latest styles."

Sanborn Insurance maps indicate that in addition to the Fashion Clothing Company store, the building's five retail shops housed saloons, a millinery shop, a barbershop, a cafe, and other businesses, in the years prior to 1920. By circa 1904 the "National Club" saloon (one of Telluride's best known drinking establishments) had taken over the corner retail space, while the E. Katz Clothing and Gents Furnishings store was located next door to the east. Telluride's Golden Rule Store was located in this building in later years, before it moved into the Bank of Telluride Building at 109 W. Colorado Avenue.

36. Sources of information:

Buys, Christian J. *Historic Telluride in Rare Photographs*. Ouray: Western Reflections, Inc., 1998.

Colorado Business Directory listings for Telluride, 1881-1950.

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

Telluride Daily Journal, May 18, 1899, p. 1.

Telluride Daily Journal, July 21, 1899, p. 4.

Telluride Daily Journal, August 19, 1899, p. 2.

"The Year Has Been Reasonably Prosperous." *Telluride Daily Journal*, December 30, 1899, p. 1.

Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy, DPL Western History Photos database.

<http://www.photoswest.org>

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 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.

Telluride Museum Digital Photo Collection: <http://www.telluridemuseum.org>

Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, San Miguel, County, Colorado.

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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;
 - 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, Commerce, Industry, Settlement**
40. Period of significance: **1899; 1899-1957**
41. Level of significance: National: State: Local:

42. Statement of significance:

This building is architecturally significant, under National Register Criterion C, as a distinctive example of a late nineteenth, large, single-story, brick commercial block, with five store fronts facing onto Colorado Avenue. It is also architecturally notable for its ornate metal cornice, segmental brick arches, and other details. The building is also historically significant, relative to Criterion A, for its singular association with Telluride's commercial development in the years following 1899. Several important retail businesses have been located in the building, including the Fashion Clothing Company, the National Club Saloon. and the Golden Rule store. The Nunn and Wrench Block, therefore, is individually eligible for inclusion in the National and State Registers, and it may be considered a contributing resource within the Telluride National Historic Landmark District.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This building displays an overall high level 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. A sense of time and place of a late nineteenth century, large, one-story brick commercial building remains largely intact.

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VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

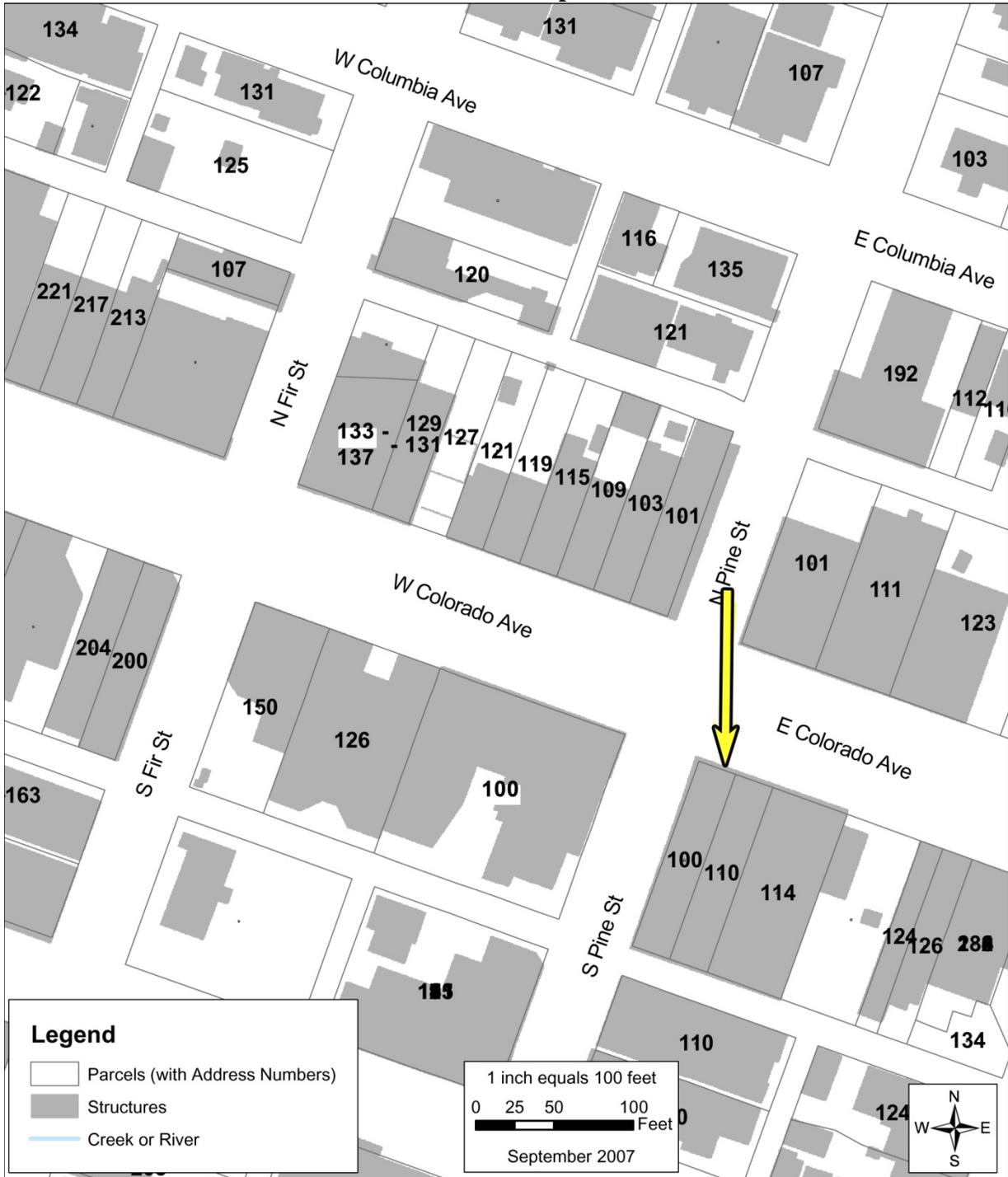
44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Individually Eligible**
 Local landmark eligibility field assessment: **Eligible / Contributing to District**
45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes No
- Discuss: **This property is located within the Telluride National Historic Landmark 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:

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph number(s): **CD #3, Images 94-98** CDs filed at: **Town of Telluride**
48. Report title: **Town of Telluride Re-Survey of Historic Structures** **Planning and Building Dept.**
49. Date(s): **06/30/2007; 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**

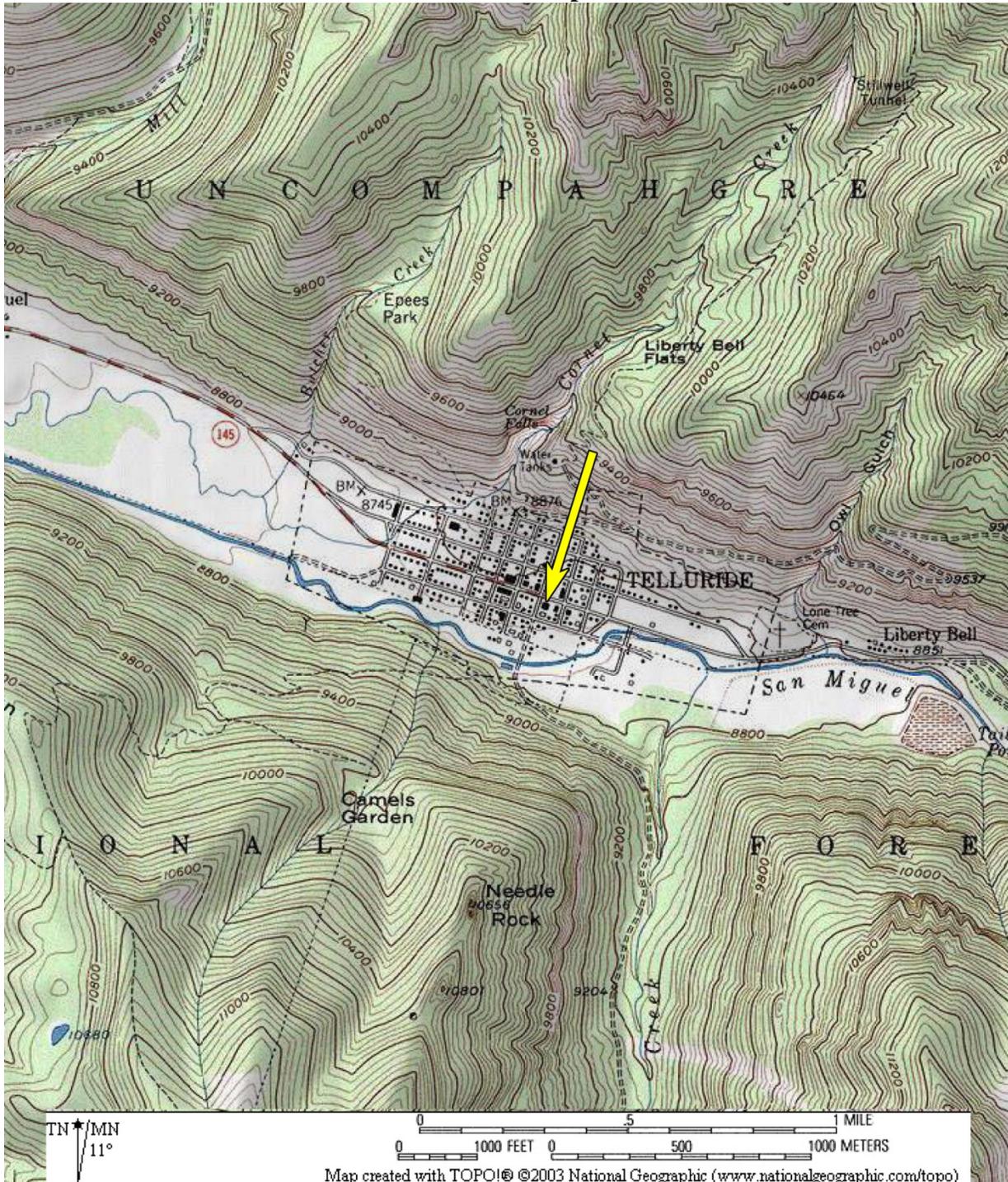
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Sketch Map



Architectural Inventory Form

Location Map



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