

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.1537** Parcel number(s): **477901106001**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **San Miguel**
- 4. City: **Telluride**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **First National Bank of Telluride**
- 6. Current Building Name: **First National Bank Building; Nugget Theater Building**
- 7. Building Address: **201 (207) W. Colorado Avenue**
- 8. Owner Name: **Nugget Building LLC**
- Owner Address: **3825 Lake Austin Blvd. No. 402  
Austin, Texas 78703**



THLD RATING:

Contributing to District

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## II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **New Mexico** Township: **42N** Range: **9W**  
Section **1**
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)  
Zone: **13** **252999 mE** **4202342 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Telluride, Colorado**  
Year: **1955** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **Lots 35, 37, 39, Block 3**  
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: 75 feet x Width: 75 feet**
16. Number of stories: **2**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Stone/Sandstone**
18. Roof configuration: **Flat Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Asphalt Roof/Composition Roof**
20. Special features: **Window/Stained Glass**  
**Roof Treatment/Decorative Cornice**  
**Tower**  
**Chimney**
21. General architectural description:  
**The First National Bank Building is a prominent two-story, Richardsonian Romanesque style, building located at the northwest corner of Colorado Avenue and Fir Street in downtown Telluride. Supported by a coursed sandstone foundation, and with rusticated coursed sandstone walls, the building features an elaborate southeast corner entry which faces the intersection of Colorado Avenue and Fir Street. Located beneath a square, two-story, corner tower (which originally had a third story and a pyramidal roof), the entry features a 5-step sandstone-color concrete floor, and two rounded sandstone arches, supported by polished red granite columns with carved sandstone capitals and heavy sandstone bases. A set of paired stained natural brown wood-paneled doors, with single upper sash lights and with stained and leaded glass sidelights, enter the building from within the corner entry. The entry doors, and their sidelights, are topped by elaborate stained and leaded glass transom lights, while the doors and sidelights are divided and flanked by stained brown fluted wood columns. The header over the entry doors and sidelights is decorated with a bead-and-reed motif, a dentil course, and rosettes. The tower's second story is penetrated by two sets of paired 1/1 single-hung sash windows, with transom lights. The words "FIRST NATIONAL BANK" are chiseled in the sandstone, beneath each of these sets of windows, and above the rounded arches, facing both toward Colorado Avenue and Fir Street. To the west of the corner entry, the façade (north elevation) fronts directly onto the wide concrete sidewalk paralleling Colorado Avenue. From west to east, the façade's first story is penetrated by two storefronts with canvas awnings, a set of paired wood-paneled doors, and a large 2-light display window adjacent to the corner entry - each separated by a coursed sandstone column. The storefront at the west end of the façade comprises a recessed entryway which leads into**

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the Nugget Theater at 207 W. Colorado Avenue. This entryway contains a set of paired glass-in-wood-frame doors, flanked on either side by large single-light fixed-pane display windows, all topped by large transom lights, and with wood-paneled kick plates. The words "NUGGET THEATRE" is painted in gold lettering on both of these windows. The storefront near the center of the façade comprises a recessed entryway which enters 205 W. Colorado Avenue, occupied by the Scott Brown Realty Company. This entry also contains a set of paired glass-in-wood-frame doors, with flanking single-light fixed-pane display windows, and large transom lights. The set of paired wood-paneled doors, to the east of the two storefronts access an interior staircase ascending to the second story. These doors feature vertically-oriented upper sash lights, and is situated beneath a large transom light with the following text painted on the transom glass in gold lettering:

The  
NUGGET BUILDING  
1892  
COLORADO 201 AVENUE

The large 2-light display window adjacent to the corner tower features a painted black wood frame and is set over two wood-panels. The façade's second story is penetrated by four evenly-spaced 1/1 sash windows with rounded sandstone arches.

The east elevation fronts directly onto a narrower concrete sidewalk which parallels Fir Street. This elevation's first story is penetrated by four sets of paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows, with wood frames and flat sandstone arches, as well as by two painted brown paneled entry doors with transom lights. The east elevation's second story is penetrated by four sets of paired 1/1 sash windows with rounded sandstone arches. The original north (rear) elevation wall is built of sandstone construction with concrete buttresses; however, a portion of the rear elevation is covered by a historic wood frame addition.

The building is covered by a flat roof, hidden behind parapet walls, with simple sandstone cornices, extending above the roof line on the south and east elevations. A large brick chimney is located near the center of the rear elevation.

A plaque, erected by the Telluride Historical Museum is fastened to the façade wall, and contains the following text:

### OLD FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

The Old First National Bank Building, home of the Nugget Theater since 1935, occupies a prominent role in Telluride's history. The building was completed in 1892 by Lucien Lucius Nunn, father of alternating electrical current. Nunn commissioned well-known Denver architect James Murdoch to work on the design of the building - a building that would house the First National Bank, as well as the Telluride Power Company.

L. Nunn purchased the land for \$1,800 and began construction of the native red sandstone building in 1891. The building is a fine representation of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture which typically included rugged stone masonry, large arches, and imaginative towers.

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Some of the architectural features of this building include a tower with a pyramidal roof that stood higher than the Courthouse tower, semi-circular sandstone arches surrounding the second story windows, polished imported red granite columns at the corner entryway and stained glass windows that flank the northeast corner doors. In the large corner portion of the building you can see the original vault complete with a time lock as well as the bank's original tin ceiling. Inside the Colorado Avenue entry, the original grand staircase leading to the second floor still exists.

In 2000, this building received the coveted Save America's Treasures grant. The federal Save America's Treasures grants are administered by the National Park Service, and allocate money only to nationally significant historic structures and sites. For the year 2000, this grant was one of forty seven issued nationwide and the only grant issued in the state of Colorado, verifying the national historic significance of this building.

22. Architectural style: **Late 19th And 20th Century Revivals/Romanesque Revival**
23. Landscape or special setting features: **The First National Bank Building (also known since 1935 as the Nugget Theater Building) is a prominent Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style building located at the northwest corner of Colorado Avenue and Fir Street in the heart of downtown Telluride.**
24. Associated buildings, features or objects: **Not Applicable**

### IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: Actual: **1891-1892**  
 Source of information: **Sanborn Insurance maps, October 1890 and February 1893; San Miguel County Assessor records; Telluride Historical Museum plaque.**
26. Architect: **James Murdoch**  
 Source of information: **Telluride Historical Museum plaque; Buys, Christian J. Historic Telluride in Rare Photographs. Ouray: Western Reflections, Inc., 1998, p. 75.**
27. Builder: **Unknown**  
 Source of information: **N/A**
28. Original owner: **Lucien Lucius (L.L.) Nunn**  
 Source of information: **Telluride Historical Museum plaque.**
29. Construction history:  
**Sanborn Insurance maps for Telluride show that by August 1886, a small log building had been built on Lot 39 of Block 3, directly at the northwest corner of Colorado Avenue and Fir Street. The October 1890 Sanborn map shows the building's dimensions unchanged from 1886, and indicate that the building was then occupied by a printing shop. In 1891, prominent Telluride banker and mining entrepreneur L.L. Nunn commissioned Denver architect James Murdoch to construct the First National Bank Building, which still stands today, on Lots 35, 37 and 39 of Block 3. Built of locally-quarried sandstone, the Romanesque Revival style building was completed the following year. In 2000, the First National Bank building received a \$250,000 Save America's Treasures restoration grant from the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. In comparing the restored extant building with the original, the only notable exterior alteration is that the square corner tower originally had a third story and a pyramidal roof.**
30. Original location:  Moved: Date of move(s):



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The bank was located in this building until 1925 when it was liquidated and the building was sold for \$7500.00. In the meantime, by 1899, the west half of the building was occupied by a grocery store. The Nugget Theater moved into the grocery store portion in 1935, a use that continues to the present day, while from the 1920s to the 1980s, the original bank portion was used as the Elks Lodge.

In 2000, Scott Brown Realty, the building's owners, obtained a \$250,000.00 Preserve America's Treasures restoration grant for the building, working in concert with the Colorado Historical Society and the National Trust For Historic Preservation. Today the restored building is owned by Nugget Building LLC, of Austin Texas.

36. Sources of information:

Buys, Christian J. *Historic Telluride in Rare Photographs*. Ouray: Western Reflections, Inc., 1998, p. 75.

Colorado Business Directory listings for Telluride, 1891-1950.

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

*Telluride Journal*, September 9, 1899, p. 2.

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

<http://www.photoswest.org>

"Nugget Theater." Cinema Tour Cinema History Around the World. <http://www.cinematour.com/tour/us/1818.html>.

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.

"White House Millennium Council 2000, U.S. Department of the Interior-National Park Service Save America's Treasures FY 2000 Historic Preservation Fund

Grants." [http://clinton4.nara.gov/Initiatives/Millennium/AndersonCottage\\_ListofGrants.html](http://clinton4.nara.gov/Initiatives/Millennium/AndersonCottage_ListofGrants.html)

### 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.

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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, Industry, Commerce, Settlement**

40. Period of significance: **1891-1892; 1892-1925; 1935-1957**

41. Level of significance: National: State:  Local:

42. Statement of significance:

**The First National Bank Building in Telluride is architecturally significant relative to National Register Criterion C for its Romanesque Revival architectural style. Built of native sandstone, it is Telluride's most notable Romanesque Revival style building. The building is also historically significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with Telluride's commercial mining boom in the 1890s, and for its association with L.L. Nunn who made notable contributions to broad patterns of the historical development of Telluride and San Miguel County. This property, thus, is individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and it should be rated as a strongly contributing resource within the Telluride National Historic Landmark district.**

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

**The First National Bank 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. Following restoration work in 2000 (funded by a Preserve America's Treasures grant), the only notable exterior alteration is that the third story and pyramidal roof over the corner tower no longer exist.**

### 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 rated as a contributing resource within the Telluride National Historic Landmark District. It is among the district's most architecturally and historically significant buildings.**

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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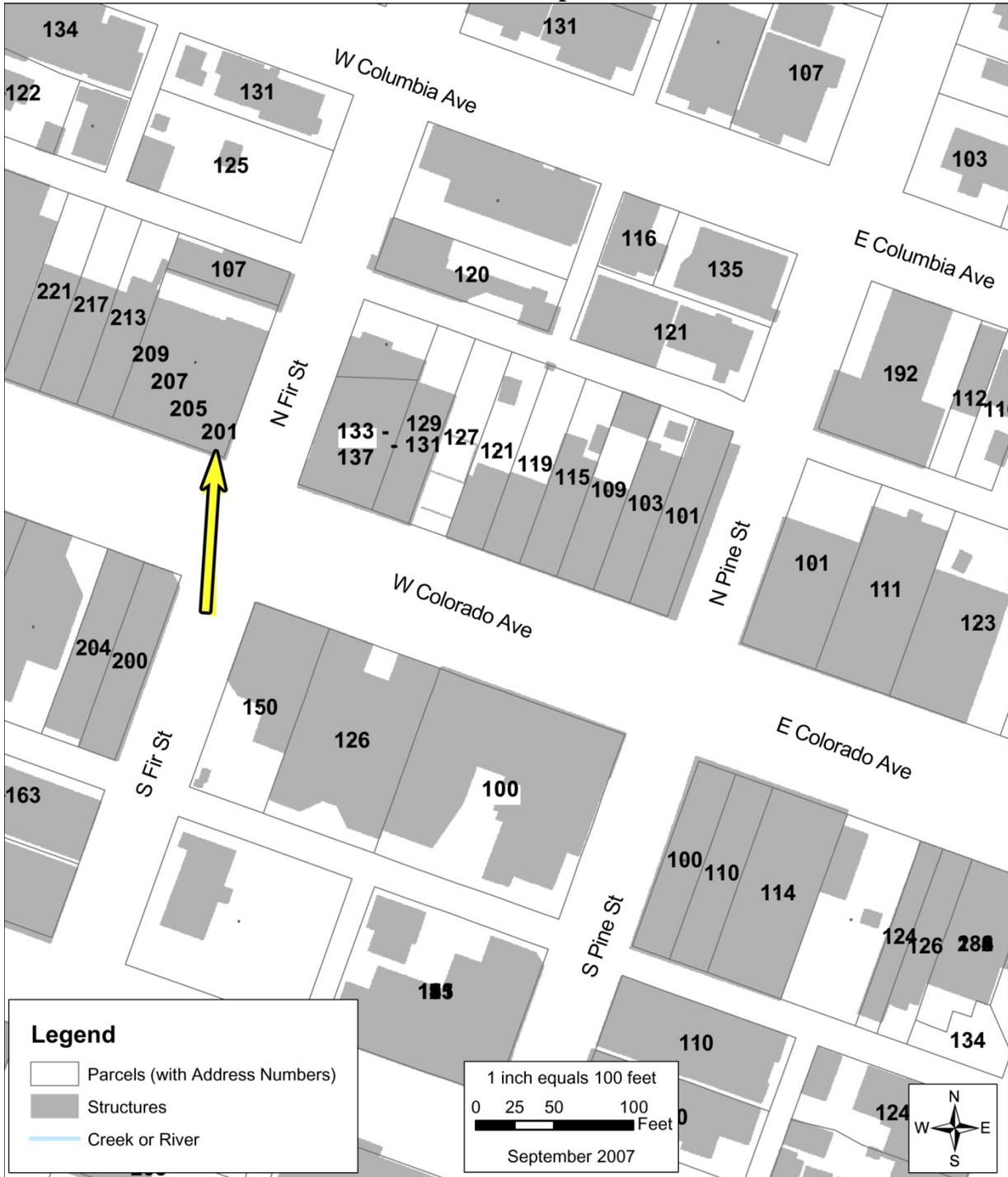
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## VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph number(s):	<b>CD #1, Images 18-27CD #1</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>04/28/2007; revised 04/10/2012</b>		<b>113 West Columbia Avenue</b>
50. Recorder(s):	<b>Carl McWilliams</b>		<b>Telluride, CO 81435</b>
	<b>Timothy Wilder</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

## Sketch Map



# Architectural Inventory Form

## Location Map

