

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination (OAHHP use only)

OAHHP1403 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.1604**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **San Miguel**
- 4. City: **Telluride**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Galloping Goose**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Galloping Goose**
- 7. Building Address: **305 W. Colorado Avenue**
- 8. Owner Name and Address: **San Miguel County
P. O. Box 1170
Telluride, CO 814351170**

Parcel number(s):

| |
|---------------------|
| 456536410904 |
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THLD RATING

Not a Structure – Not Rated

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II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **New Mexico** Township: **43N** Range: **9W**
SW ¼ of SW ¼ of SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 036
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)
 Zone: **13** **252852 mE** **4202462 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Telluride, Colorado**
 Year: **1955** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **Lots 13, 15, Block 1**
 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): **N/A**
15. Dimensions in feet: **N/A**
16. Number of stories: **N/A**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Riveted metal panels**
18. Roof configuration: **N/A**
19. Primary external roof material: **Riveted metal panels**
20. Special features: **N/A**
21. General architectural description:
The "Gallopig Goose" is a modified Rio Grande Southern narrow gauge railroad car, with a truck engine front. Located on the San Miguel County Courthouse lawn for display purposes, this is one of six such vehicles placed in service by the Rio Grande Southern Railroad in the early 1930s. A cow catcher with a bell is mounted on its front of the modified truck engine. Both the truck engine and the railroad car are covered with riveted, painted silver, metal panels, with painted black wood framing around the railroad car's door and windows. A painted silver and black wood-paneled door, with one upper sash light, enters the rear of the car from two painted silver steel steps. The words "THE GALLOPING GOOSE" is printed in painted black block letters on both sides of the truck engine, directly above a painted caricature of a goose. The words "RIO GRANDE SOUTHERN," the numeral "4" and the company's logo, are printed in painted black letters on both sides of the railroad car, along with the names of the following locals served by the line:

TELLURIDE
OPHIR LOOP
LIZARD HEAD
SCENIC LINE
THOMPSON PARK
DELORES CANON

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22. Architectural style: **N/A**

Building type: **N/A**

23. Landscape or special setting features:

The Galloping Goose is located in a landscaped courtyard, adjacent to the San Miguel County Courthouse in downtown Telluride.

24. Associated buildings, features or objects: **San Miguel County Courthouse (5SM.1605)**

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: **1931** Actual:

Source of information: **Buys, Christian J. *Historic Telluride in Rare Photographs*. Ouray: Western Reflections, Inc., 1998, pp. 231, 287-289.**

26. Architect: **Rio Grande Southern Railroad**

Source of information: **Buys, Christian J. *Historic Telluride in Rare Photographs*. Ouray: Western Reflections, Inc., 1998, pp. 231, 287-289.**

27. Builder: **Rio Grande Southern Railroad**

Source of information: **Buys, Christian J. *Historic Telluride in Rare Photographs*. Ouray: Western Reflections, Inc., 1998, pp. 231, 287-289.**

28. Original owner: **Rio Grande Southern Railroad**

Source of information: **Buys, Christian J. *Historic Telluride in Rare Photographs*. Ouray: Western Reflections, Inc., 1998, pp. 231, 287-289.**

29. Construction history:

Jack Odenpugh, Chief Mechanic for the Rio Grande Southern Railroad, reportedly designed six modified, gasoline-powered, truck engines to ride the narrow gauge rails, each pulling a railroad car loaded with passengers and/or freight.

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

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Transportation/Rail-related**

32. Intermediate use(s): **Transportation/Rail-related**

33. Current use(s): **Vacant/Not in Use**

34. Site type(s): **Rio Grande Southern Railroad narrow gauge car with modified truck engine front (on display)**

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35. Historical background:

This narrow gauge railroad car, with a modified truck engine front, was one of six such vehicles placed in service by the Rio Grande Southern Railroad in the early 1930s. The Rio Grande Southern had arrived in Telluride in 1890, connecting the isolated mining town to the Denver and Rio Grande Railway at Ridgway. Before long, the line was extended south to Durango. When Telluride's mining activities were at their peak in the 1890s and early 1900s, the railroad prospered, and Telluride became a key rail center for both passenger and freight service. By 1930, though, both the town and the railroad were in decline. A year or so later, Jack Odenpaugh, the railroad's chief mechanic, created the "Galloping Geese," a fleet of six narrow gauge railroad cars attached to modified gasoline-powered trucks, with Cadillac, Buick, Winton, or Pierce Arrow engines. The small fleet of "geese" was intended to carry both passengers and freight, including mail; they were mostly used to carry tourists, however. The small fleet went out of service circa 1950, and some years later, one of them was placed on display next to the Courthouse in Telluride. Today, Telluride's local public transportation system uses the name "Galloping Goose" for its buses.

36. Sources of information:

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

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.

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

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

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39. Area(s) of significance: **Transportation/Rail-related**
40. Period of significance: **1931-1951**
41. Level of significance: National: State: Local:

42. Statement of significance:

This "Gallop ing Goose" (a Rio Grande Southern Railroad car with a modified truck engine front) is historically significant for its association with the Rio Grande Southern Railroad, and with the themes of rail transportation and tourism as they related to Telluride's growth and decline as an important mining town. It may be regarded as individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Gallop ing Goose is not a permanent feature within the Telluride National Historic Landmark District, and it postdates the district's period of significance. For these reasons, it is not a rated resource within the district.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

The "Gallop ing Goose" 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.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

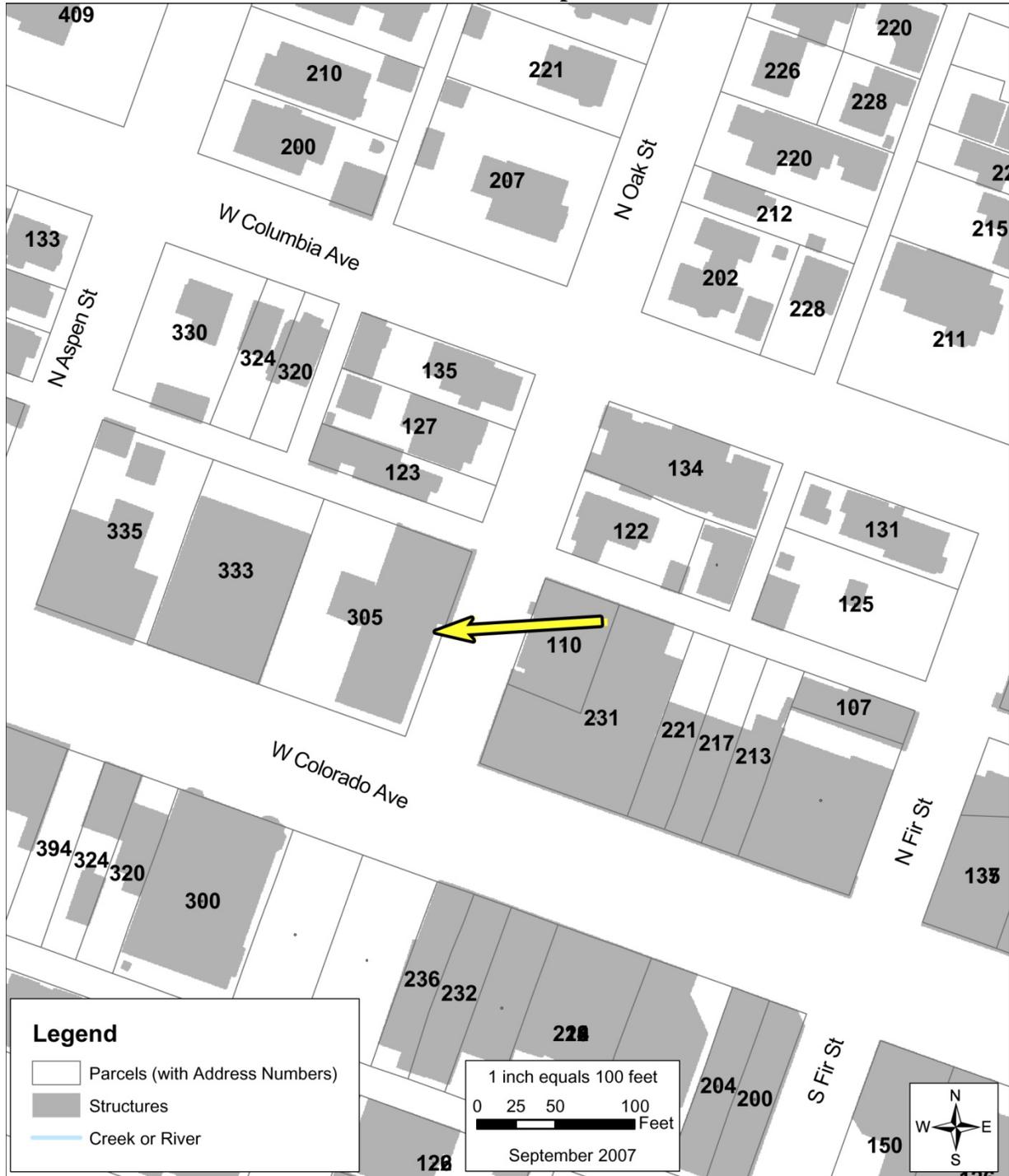
44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Individually Eligible**
Local landmark eligibility field assessment: **N/A**
45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes No
Discuss: **This property is located within the Telluride National Historic Landmark District.**
- If there is National 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 #2, Images 39-43** CDs filed at: **Town of Telluride**
48. Report title: **Town of Telluride Re-Survey of Historic Structures** **Planning and Building Department**
49. Date(s): **05/30/07; revised 4/10/2013** **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

