

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.1748**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **San Miguel**
- 4. City: **Telluride**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Telluride School, Telluride Town Hall**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Telluride Town Hall**
- 7. Building Address: **135 W. Columbia Avenue**
- 8. Owner Name and Address: **Town Of Telluride
P. O. Box 397
Telluride, CO 814350397**

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Parcel number(s): | 456536415905 |
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|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| THLD RATING: | Contributing to District |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|

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II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **New Mexico** Township: **43N** Range: **9W**
SE ¼ of SW ¼ of SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 036
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)
 Zone: **13** **253016 mE** **4202505 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Telluride, Colorado**
 Year: **1955** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **LOTS 6 AND 8 BLK 24 TELLURIDE LESS IMPROVEMENTS ONLY ON EAST 72.48 FEET OF LOTS 6 AND 8 BLK 24 TOWN OF TELLURIDE LEASE IN BOOK 586 PAGE 605 (FIRE STATION)**
 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: **1672 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **One, with a tower**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Wood / Weatherboard**
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof / Front Gabled Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Metal Roof**
20. Special features: **Porch, Tower, Chimney**
21. General architectural description:
This building consists of an original (1883) front gabled section, an early (ca. 1906) shed-roofed addition to the west elevation, and a tall gabled bell tower. The building is supported by an unpainted sandstone foundation, which ranges in height from approximately 7½' above grade at the front southeast corner, to at grade at the rear northwest corner. The exterior walls are clad with painted peach color horizontal weatherboard, with painted green 1" by 6" corner boards. A painted pale green 1x board separates the foundation from the weatherboard siding. The original gabled roof and the early shed-roofed addition combine to create a saltbox roof form. The roof is covered with corrugated metal, and the eaves are boxed with pale green wood trim. A red brick chimney is located just below the ridge on the east-facing roof slope. A tall tower, with a bell, rises fifteen feet above the roof ridge. The tower's exterior walls are clad with painted peach color horizontal weatherboard, with painted pale green 1" by 4" corner boards. Four 4" by 4" square wood posts extend from the corners of the tower to support a gabled roof directly over the bell. The building's asymmetrical facade faces Columbia Avenue on the south elevation. A set of wood-paneled doors enter the facade from a 14-step poured concrete porch. These doors are painted black, with peach color trim, each with four upper sash lights, and with transom lights. The porch and its stairs are flanked by black metal railings, and the porch features a poured concrete floor, two painted pale green chamfered wood posts, and a flat roof. A wooden sign hanging from the underside of the porch roof is inscribed: "TELLURIDE TOWN HALL" in black lettering on a painted cream yellow color background. A painted black solid wood door enters the west end of the north elevation from a metal stoop. Another entry door leads into the east end of the north elevation from within a small gabled porch. The building's windows are entirely 1/1 double-hung sash with painted black wood frames and painted pale green wood surrounds. Three windows penetrate the

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facade wall on the south elevation; two windows penetrate the east elevation; two windows penetrate the north (rear) elevation; four windows penetrate the west elevation, facing Fir Street.

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

Building type:

23. Landscape or special setting features:

This building is located at the northeast corner of Columbia Avenue and Fir Street. A small front yard is nicely landscaped with low native plants and flowers, behind a sandstone retaining wall which parallels the front sidewalk along Columbia Avenue. Narrow strips between the sidewalks along Columbia and Fir are also landscaped with low native plants and flowers. A small gravel parking lot and the alley are located behind the building to the north.

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

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: Actual: **1883**

Source of information: **Sanborn Insurance maps; San Miguel County Assessor records; Simmons, Laurie and Christine Whitacre. Historic Building Inventory Record, May 1986; Facade plaque.**

26. Architect: **Unknown**

Source of information: **N/A**

27. Builder: **Unknown**

Source of information: **N/A**

28. Original owner: **San Miguel County School District No. 1**

Source of information: **Facade plaque**

29. Construction history:

The original front gabled section of this building was constructed as a school in 1883. It became the Telluride City Hall and Fire Department in 1896. Circa 1906, a shed-roofed extension was built onto the west elevation. The 1908 Sanborn Insurance map depicts the building with the Telluride City Hall in the front (south) part of the building, and the fire department in the rear (north) end. The north end is labeled:

1 HOSE TOWER

50' ABV. RF.

9 HOSE CARTS

1 H. & L. TRUCK

2000' 2½" HOSE

FIRE BELL

The southern part of the building is labeled "CITY HALL" with the notations that the building was outfitted with "HEAT, STOVES, LIGHTS, ELEC." The location of the extant bell tower is also depicted, with the notation that it rises "15' ABV. RF." The fifty foot high hose tower was removed an unknown date. The building otherwise is minimally altered from how it appeared during the early twentieth century.

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

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V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Education / School**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Government / City Hall**
 Government / Fire Station
33. Current use(s): **Government / City Hall**
34. Site type(s): **Originally a School; Presently the Telluride Town Hall**

35. Historical background:

The original front gabled portion of this building was constructed as a school in 1883. The region's first school had been established two years previously in the town of San Miguel, then part of the Ouray County School District. The first school in Telluride (originally known as Columbia) was also established in 1881, taught by Miss Lillian Blair in the Blair House at the southwest corner of Pine Street and Galena Avenue (5SM.1758). When San Miguel County was created in 1883, the Town of Columbia was designated the county seat, and a new school building was erected at this location. (Columbia was renamed Telluride in 1887.) A \$3000.00 bond reportedly funded the school's construction. By 1893, this was reportedly one of eight San Miguel County schools, with up to 383 total students. In 1895, the School District contracted to have a new Telluride School built on the property northeast of the corner of W. Columbia Avenue and N. Townsend Street. Completed during the summer of 1896, the new school was designed by Denver architect John. J. Huddart. (For further information on that school's construction and history, please refer to its inventory form, 5SM.1741.)

After its initial use as a school, this building became the Telluride City Hall in 1896. By 1904, the Telluride Fire Department was located in the building's north end. A shed-roofed addition to the north elevation, a 50' high hose tower, and a 15' high fire bell tower were installed between 1904 and 1908. The building has remained in use as the Telluride Town Hall to the present day. The fire department is now located next door to the east.

36. Sources of information:

Barbour, Elizabeth. *Telluride Images of America*. Charleston, SC, et. al.: Arcadia Publishing, 2006.

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

"School Directors Want to Trade Lots." *Telluride Daily Journal*, August 5, 1896, p. 3.

"The Public Schools of San Miguel County." *Telluride Daily Journal*, December 30, 1899, p. 7.

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 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

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.

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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
 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, Education, Politics/Government**

40. Period of significance: **1883, 1883-1896, 1896-**

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

42. Statement of significance:

This building is architecturally significant for its early, 1883, date of construction, its representative vernacular front gabled plan, and for its prominent fire bell tower. The building is also historically significant for its original use as a school, between 1883 and 1896, and for its later use as a town hall and fire department. Displaying a high degree of integrity, this building is individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and in the Colorado 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:

This building displays an overall 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. The loss of the historic hose tower near the north end of the building , at an unknown date, is the only notable adverse exterior alteration.

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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 #7, Images 204-207 | CDs filed at: | Town of Telluride |
| 48. Report title: | Town of Telluride Re-Survey of Historic Structures | | Planning and Building Department |
| 49. Date(s): | August 5, 2011 | | 113 West Columbia Avenue |
| 50. Recorder(s): | Carl McWilliams Timothy Wilder | | Telluride, CO 81435 |
| 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

