

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination (OAH use only)

OAHP1403 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.1733/THAS13**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **San Miguel**
- 4. City: **Telluride**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Weller House**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Miller House**
- 7. Building Address: **513 W. Columbia Avenue**
- 8. Owner Name and Address: **Philip S. and Linda J. Miller
P. O. Box 883
Telluride, CO 814350883**

Parcel number(s):	456536312017



THLD RATING:	Primary - Contributing to District Secondary Residence – Non-Contributing without Qualifications Shed – Non-Designated – New Construction
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II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **New Mexico** Township: **43N** Range: **9W**
NE ¼ of SW ¼ of SE ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 036
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)
 Zone: **13** **252632 mE** **4202638 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Telluride, Colorado**
 Year: **1955** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **Lots 2, 3, Block 10**
 Addition: **West Telluride Addition** Year of addition: **1891**
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): **Irregular Plan**
15. Dimensions in feet: **2334 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **1½**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Brick**
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof / Cross Gabled Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Metal Roof**
20. Special features: **Porch, Chimney, Dormers, Decorative Shingles, Segmental Arch, Fence**
21. General architectural description:
This stately Queen Anne style residence features an irregular-shaped cross gabled plan. It is supported by an unpainted coursed sandstone foundation, and its walls are made of red bricks laid in running bond. A belt course, composed of two sawtooth brick courses between two projecting stretcher courses, is at approximately seven feet above grade, and brick corbelling appears at the top of the wall surfaces just below the roof eave. Painted cream white, diamond-shaped and octagon-shaped, wood shingles appear in the upper gable ends on the east, south, and west elevations. The cross gabled roof is steeply-pitched, with metal roofing material and painted cream white boxed eaves. Two gabled wall dormers, each with a 1/1 double-hung sash window, are located on the south elevation. A red brick chimney is on the roof ridge. The home's asymmetrical facade faces toward Columbia Avenue on the south elevation. A distinctive stained dark brown wood-paneled front door displays painted red wood trim, including a sawtooth motif in the locking rail and cannonball finials. This ornate door also has one upper sash light, and it enters the east end of the facade from an open 6-step porch. The porch features a poured concrete floor, a painted cream white wood railing with turned balusters, painted cream white cannonball columns, and a gabled porch roof with pierced brackets, drop pendants, and a gable ornament. A narrow painted red vertical wood plank door, beneath a segmental brick arch, enters the west end of the north (rear) elevation. A canted hipped-roof bay, with four single-light fixed-pane windows, and with a dentil course, is located on the facade, west of the front porch. A narrow, rectangular, hipped-roof oriel window, with a single vertically-oriented light, and a dentil course, is also located on the facade, east of the front porch. Windows elsewhere are primarily single and paired 1/1 double-hung sash with painted white wood frames and sills, and

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Painted red segmental brick arches. Sets of paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows in the east and west elevations' upper gable ends have flat arches, however.

22. Architectural style: **Late Victorian / Queen Anne**

Building type:

23. Landscape or special setting features:

Located on the north side of W. Columbia Avenue, this is the third house east of Townsend Street. The well-maintained property features a nicely landscaped front yard with a lawn, native plants and flowers, and aspen trees. A low painted white picket fence parallels the front sidewalk along Columbia Avenue.

24. Associated buildings, features or objects:

<u>Secondary Residence (THAS #13)</u>
A secondary residence (THAS #13) is located near the rear of the property. This 1½-story gabled building measures approximately 16' N-S by 20' E-W., with a lower shed-roofed extension to the east end of the south elevation. Its exterior walls are made of stained brown vertical wood planks, while the roof is covered with metal roofing material laid over 1x wood decking and 2x wood rafters. The entry door is on the south elevation.
<u>Shed</u>
A small shed, which measures approximately 8' by 10', is located near the rear northwest corner of the property. This structure has vertical wood plank walls, and a gable roof with metal roofing material laid over 1x wood decking and 2x wood rafters. The rafter ends are exposed beneath the eaves. A vertical wood plank door, side-hinged with metal strap hinges, is on the east elevation. A small window opening penetrates the east elevation as well.

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: **1893** Actual:
- Source of information: **San Miguel County Assessor records; Sanborn Insurance maps, February 1893 and December 1899**
26. Architect: **Unknown**
- Source of information: **N/A**
27. Builder: **Unknown**
- Source of information: **N/A**
28. Original owner: **James C. Weller**
- Source of information: **U.S. census records; Telluride *Daily Journal***

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29. Construction history:

San Miguel County Assessor records list 1893 as this house's year of construction, and Sanborn Insurance maps corroborate that it was built between February 1893 and December 1899. The house is minimally altered from its original construction, although a small shed-roofed extension to the north elevation appears to predate 1922. It was apparently modernized and perhaps enlarged in the 1970s. Sanborn maps also indicate that the secondary residence (THAS #13) was also built between 1893 and 1899, and historically served as a barn. It was converted into a small residence in the 1970s. The small shed at the property's rear northwest corner apparently postdates 1922 as it does not appear on Sanborn maps through that date.

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

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Domestic / Single Dwelling**
 32. Intermediate use(s): **Domestic / Single Dwelling**
 33. Current use(s): **Domestic / Single Dwelling**
 34. Site type(s): **Single Family Residence**

35. Historical background:

This Queen Anne style dwelling was built circa 1893 and was originally the long time home of J. C. Weller and family. Among the region's earliest pioneers, James C. Weller first came to the San Miguel Valley in the early 1870s, before moving his family here permanently in the mid-1880s. Mr. Weller was born in Virginia, in April 1837, where he spent his formative years before moving to Ohio. He was married to Rosina Pauline Weller (maiden name unknown) in 1859. Born in Germany in December 1837, Mrs. Weller had immigrated to the United States in 1851. (Census records indicate that she was known by her middle name, spelled variously in the census as Pauline, Paulina, and Pollena.) Mr. and Mrs. Weller lived for a time in DeGraff Township in Logan County, Ohio, and later in Moulton Township, Auglaize County, Ohio. They owned and operated a sawmill there before moving to Telluride in the mid-1880s. They raised a large family of seven sons and two daughters: Edward (born October 1861), Frank (born February 1864), William and Charles "Charley" (perhaps twins, both born in 1866), Cora (born in December 1873), Harry (born in August 1875), Earl (born in November 1878), Margaret "Maggie" (born in June 1880), and James Jr. (born in 1883).

The Wellers developed the Ballard group of mining claims in San Miguel County and also had a ranch on Coal Creek, in addition to this home in Telluride. In 1892, daughter Cora was married to J. Hulbert Litchfield. They subsequently established a home at 135 W. Galena. By 1900, Mr. and Mrs. Litchfield had two daughters, named Helen and Frances, and an infant son. Pauline Weller passed away between circa 1901 and 1905. Maggie Weller, the youngest daughter, was married to Edgar M. Titus during the very early 1900s, and also continued to live in Telluride. Edward Weller, the eldest son, meanwhile, had moved to Alaska to prospect and hopefully strike it rich in the gold fields there. He remained there for many years before taking ill and eventually passing away in a Seattle hospital in October of 1913.

Tragedy struck the Weller family in March of 1905 when Earl Weller and his brother-in-law Edgar Titus disappeared in Death Valley while bringing a string of pack animals to the Nevada gold fields. Their bodies were never found, and newspaper accounts speculated they must have died due to a lack of water. The circumstances surrounding their deaths seemed suspicious, however, and the news accounts also intimated they may have met

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with foul play. James Weller Sr. subsequently made a number of trips to Death Valley to investigate the deaths of his son and son-in-law, but apparently he never uncovered the exact circumstances of how or where they died. The two men were reportedly buried by other prospectors who came upon their bodies; however, Mr. Weller was unable to find the burial site or to question the prospectors. Interestingly, two other Weller sons had already died at a relatively young age, both killed in avalanches, Charley in the late 1880s, and Harry while working above Pandora in the early 1900s.

Widowed at the age of 24, Maggie Titus (nee Weller) gave birth to a daughter shortly after her husband's disappearance and presumed death. She named the child Titus Ruth in his honor. Maggie then moved back into this house to live with her widowed father and younger brother, James Jr. In the years surrounding 1910, James Weller Jr. worked as a clerk in W. B. Van Atta's clothing store. By 1920, Maggie had married her second husband, a man named Carl Cheadle. Maggie and Carl, daughter Titus Ruth, and James Weller Sr. were all residing at this address according to that year's census. Mr. Weller was then 83 years of age. He apparently passed away during the next few years. The home stayed in the Weller family, however. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, it became the residence of John and Cora Litchfield (nee Weller).

From 1978 to the present (2011) this residence has been owned and occupied by Philip and Linda Miller. Employed by the U. S. Forest Service in the 1970s, Mr. Miller came to Telluride to work on a wilderness study. They are now retired.

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>.

"Telluride Men Lost in Death Valley." *Telluride Journal*, July 20, 1905, p. 1.

"Weller Back From Nevada." *Telluride Journal*, September 21, 1905, p. 6.

"Mrs. Maggie Titus Nearly Blind From Cataracts." *Telluride Journal*, September 5, 1907.

Telluride Journal, May 11, 1911.

"Ed Weller Dies in Seattle Hospital." *Telluride Journal*, October 23, 1913, p. 4.

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.

U. S. Census records:

1870 Census, DeGraff Township, Logan County, Ohio

1880 Census, Moulton Township, Auglaize County, Ohio

1900 Census, West Telluride precinct, San Miguel County, Colorado

1910 Census, West Telluride precinct, San Miguel County, Colorado

1920 Census, West Telluride precinct, San Miguel County, Colorado

1930 Census, West Telluride precinct, 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:

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

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

xx 7-505.A.6. The structure has a "contributing or qualified contributing" rating on the THAS

39. Area(s) of significance: **Architecture; Ethnic Heritage/European**

40. Period of significance: **ca. 1893; ca. 1893-1930**

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

42. Statement of significance:

This house is architecturally significant for its late nineteenth century for its Queen Anne style of architecture. It is regarded by many as Telluride's best example of the Queen Anne style. The property is also historically significant for its association with Telluride's residential development, from the late 1800s through the early decades of the twentieth century. It is particularly notable for its long original association with the Weller family who made notable contributions to broad patterns of regional history. This residence is individually eligible for the National and State Registers, and it qualifies as a contributing resource within the Telluride National Historic Landmark District. Of the two secondary buildings at the rear of the property, the secondary residence (THAS #13) is rated as a "noncontributing without qualifications" resource within the Landmark District. The Shed is non-designated.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This residence 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. The house is minimally altered from its original construction. The property clearly conveys a sense of its historic and architectural significance.

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VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Individually Eligible / Contributing to District**
 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 144-148 | 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; revised April 10, 2013 | | 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

