

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

- 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.1746**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **San Miguel**
- 4. City: **Telluride**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Byers' Photography Studio**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Ranta Shop Building**
- 7. Building Address: **107 (119) N. Fir Street**
- 8. Owner Name and Address: **Vicki Eidsmo-Ranta
P. O. Box 475
Telluride, CO 81435**

Parcel number(s):

456536411019
456536411020



THLD RATING:

Noncontributing With Qualifications

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II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **New Mexico** Township: **43N** Range: **9W**
 ¼ of ¼ of ¼ of ¼ of **Section 1**
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)
 Zone: **13** **252977 mE** **4202429 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Telluride, Colorado**
 Year: **1955** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **UNIT B, RANTA SHOP BUILDING CONDOMINIUM LOT 35R BLOCK 3 TELLURIDE ACC TO PLAT BK 1 PG 3985-3987 REC 9 3 08 AND DECS AT RECEPTION 403525 RERECORDED 9 4 08 AT RECEPTION 403538**
 Addition: **RANTA SHOP BUILDING** Year of addition: **Unknown**
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: **2561 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **1-story , with a 2½-story addition**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Brick**
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof / Front Gabled Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Metal Roof**
20. Special features: **False Front**
21. General architectural description:
This building consists of a historic (circa 1900) single-story front gabled building, with a large, modern, 2½-story addition to the west (rear) elevation, and a small shed-roofed extension to the south (side) elevation. The historic portion measures 25' N-S (across) by 44' E-W (deep). The addition measures approximately 18' N-S by 34' E-W, and extends over the west end of the original building. The original building features red brick walls laid in common bond, and a moderately-pitched front gable roof partially hidden behind a non-historic false front on the east elevation (facade). The roof is covered with corrugated metal roofing material, and the eaves are closed. The false front is clad with painted buff red horizontal weatherboard siding below a simple painted blue wood cornice with a dentil course. Two stained brown wood-paneled doors, each with an upper sash light, enter either end of the facade from the front sidewalk along Fir Street. A set of paired 16-light windows penetrate the facade wall in between the two doors. Three 6-light windows penetrate the original south elevation, while a band of three 6-light windows and a single 6-light windows penetrate the original north elevation. All windows on the original portion have painted blue wood frames. The rear addition appears to incorporate two condominium units and an open 3-stall parking garage in its lower west end. The addition is supported by a poured concrete foundation, while its walls are clad with stained brown board and batten. It is covered by multiple gabled roofs with corrugated metal roofing material and stained brown boxed eaves. Windows in the addition are primarily double-hung sash.
22. Architectural style: **False Front Commercial**
 Building type:

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23. Landscape or special setting features:

This building is located on the west side of Fir Street in the block between Colorado and Columbia Avenues. The building fronts directly onto the sidewalk along Fir Street, with an alley to the north.

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

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: **1900** Actual:

Source of information: **Sanborn Insurance maps, December 1899 and July 1904**

26. Architect: **Unknown**

Source of information: **N/A**

27. Builder: **Unknown**

Source of information: **N/A**

28. Original owner: **Joseph E. Byers (probably)**

Source of information: **Telluride *Daily Journal* articles; Sanborn Insurance maps**

29. Construction history:

Sanborn Insurance maps reveal that the original portion of this building was erected between December 1900 and July 1904. The building was enlarged prior to 1986 with additions to the west and south elevations. The extant building's false front facade and large 2½-story addition postdate 1986.

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

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Commerce/Trade / Business/Professional (Photography Studio)**

32. Intermediate use(s): **Commerce/Trade / Specialty Store (hardware store)**
Commerce/Trade / Specialty Store (plumbing shop)

33. Current use(s): **Commerce/Trade / Business/Professional (architects' studio)**
Domestic / Multiple Dwelling

34. Site type(s): **Presently an architects' studio and condominiums**

35. Historical background:

Sanborn Insurance maps and San Miguel County Assessor records indicate that the original portion of this building was built circa 1900. The 1904, 1908, and 1922 Sanborn maps depict the building with the notation "Photo." Secondary sources, including contemporary Telluride *Daily Journal* articles, indicate the building served as the Joseph E. Byers photography studio between circa 1900 and 1916. Joseph Byers was born in Callaghan, Virginia on September 9, 1870. On June 22, 1894, he was married to Miss Mary Belle Huddleston in St. Louis. A Missouri native, Mary Belle had been born in St. Louis in 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Byers moved to Telluride, from St. Louis, at the turn of the twentieth century. A son, Elwood, was born to the couple in 1903, followed by another son, John, in the spring of 1910. Already well-established as a professional photographer, Mr. Byers opened a photography studio at this location shortly after his arrival in Telluride. A highly-respected and prolific photographer, Byers was best known for his panoramic views of the region's mines and mills, and spectacular

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mountain scenery, as well as photos of street scenes in Telluride and elsewhere. Byers' photographs were published regularly in the Telluride *Daily Journal* newspaper, and occasionally in other newspapers around the state, including in Denver. Telluride photographic images from 1900 to 1916, on file with the Telluride Historical Museum and with the Denver Public Library's Digital Image Collection, are primarily credited to Joseph E. Byers.

Tragedy struck the Byers family in the fall of 1912 when Mary Belle passed away at the young age of 39, after suffering briefly from typhoid pneumonia. She was survived by her husband, Joseph, son Elwood age nine, and son John age two. Following their mother's death, Elwood and John went to live with the family of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Weller. Joseph Byers continued with his photography business in Telluride until his own untimely death in July of 1916, at just 46 years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Byers are both interred in Telluride's Lone Tree Cemetery.

Secondary sources indicate that in later years, this building may have housed Harry Lowe's hardware store and the Ranta Plumbing Shop. Presently owned by Vicki Eidsmo Ranta, the building has been associated with the Ranta family for the past several decades.

36. Sources of information:

Colorado Business Directory listings for Telluride, 1881-1950.

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

Telluride *Daily Journal*, September 10, 1904, p. 3.

"Mrs. Jos. E. Byers Called by Death Angel." Telluride *Daily Journal*, September 26, 1912, p. 4.

"Sudden Death of Jos. E. Byers Shocks City." Telluride *Daily Journal*, July 10, 1916, 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 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.telluridemuseum.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.

U. S. Census records.

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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).

xx 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: **N/A**

40. Period of significance: **N/A**

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

42. Statement of significance:

The original portion of this building is historically significant for its use as Joseph Byers' photography studio between circa 1900 and 1916, and for other commercial uses in the years that followed. Due to a substantial loss of integrity, the building is ineligible for inclusion in the National and State Registers, and it rates as a "noncontributing with qualifications" resource within the Telluride National Historic Landmark District.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This building displays a below average 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 historic building's integrity has been diminished by a large, badly incompatible, rear addition, a non-historic false-front facade, and other insensitive alterations. As a result, the building no longer conveys a sense of historic or architectural significance.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Not Individually Eligible**

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Local landmark eligibility field assessment: **Noncontributing Without Qualifications**

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 193-196	CDs filed at:	Town of Telluride
48. Report title:	Town of Telluride Re-Survey of Historic Structures		Planning and Building Dept.
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



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Location Map

