

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination
(OAH P use only)

OAH P1403
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.1844**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **San Miguel**
- 4. City: **Telluride**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Silver Bell Liquor Cache; "The Madame's House"**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Toland House**
- 7. Building Address: **121½ E. Pacific Avenue**
- 8. Owner Name and Address: **Esther White
P. O. Box 422
Telluride, CO 814350422**

Parcel number(s):

477901123012



THLD RATING:

Contributing to District

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II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **New Mexico** Township: **42N** Range: **9W**
 ¼ of ¼ of ¼ of ¼ of Section 1
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)
 Zone: **13** **253060 mE** **4202270 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Telluride, Colorado**
 Year: **1955** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **Lot 5, Block 8**
 Addition: **Popcorn Alley Subdivision** Year of addition:
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: **~288 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **1½**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Stone**
18. Roof configuration: **Shed Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Metal Roof**
20. Special features: **N/A**
21. General architectural description:
This building features a basic rectangular plan which measures approximately 12' N-S by 24' E-W. Its walls are made of thick, unpainted, roughly-coursed stone, and there is a basement beneath the main level. The building is covered by a shed roof with corrugated metal roofing material laid over 1x wood decking and 2x wood rafters. The eaves are nearly closed, as rafter ends, with a fascia board, are barely exposed at the roof eave. A stained brown wood-paneled door enters the east elevation from an uncovered wood porch with an open wood railing. A 1/1 double-hung sash window penetrates the east elevation north of the entry door. The west elevation, facing the alley, is penetrated by a 1/1 double-hung sash window, and by a single-light fixed-pane window (which originally was a double-hung sash window. The west elevation is also penetrated by a basement-level opening, and there are two other basement-level openings on the south elevation. There are no doors or windows on the north elevation.
22. Architectural style: **No Defined Style**
 Building type:
23. Landscape or special setting features:
This building, is located located on the north side of Pacific Avenue, at the rear of the small property behind 121 E. Pacific Avenue, in the block between Spruce and Pine Streets. The Silver Bell building is located to the east at the northwest corner of Spruce Street and Pacific Avenue. A small yard, shared with 121, 123, and 125/127 E. Pacific Avenue is located immediately east of this building.

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24. Associated buildings, features or objects:

121 E. Pacific Avenue (5SM1614.); 123 E. Pacific Avenue (5SM1613.); 125/127 E. Pacific Avenue (5SM.1612)

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: **1902** 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: **Unknown**
- Source of information: **N/A**

29. Construction history:

Sanborn Insurance maps reveal that this building was constructed between December of 1899 and July of 1904. On the 1904 and 1908 Sanborn maps, it is labeled "D" for "Dwelling." Oral tradition, though, holds that the building was mostly used for liquor storage and as a money cache by the operators of the Silver Bell(5SM.1611), an infamous brothel, located just to the east of this property. This building was converted into residential use during the latter decades of the twentieth century.

30. Original location: Moved: Date of move(s): **N/A**

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Commerce/Trade / Warehouse**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Commerce/Trade / Warehouse**
Domestic / Single Dwelling
33. Current use(s): **Domestic/Single Dwelling**
34. Site type(s): **Historically associated with the Silver Bell, a boardinghouse, saloon, restaurant and brothel; presently a dwelling.**
35. Historical background:
- Sanborn Insurance maps reveal that this building was constructed between December 1899 and July 1904. According to oral sources, it was associated with the Silver Bell (5SM.1611). Located just to the east of this building, the Silver Bell was a popular and infamous saloon, dance hall, restaurant, and brothel. The owners of the Silver Bell reportedly used this building primarily as a liquor warehouse and as a money cache. Beginning in the late 1890s, the Silver Bell's original owners were Joseph Mattivi and Baptist Boetto. These two men were both European immigrants, Mattivi having been born in Austria in 1864, and Boetto in Italy in 1870. U.S. census records indicate that they both worked as gold miners, in addition to their business partnership involving the Silver Bell.**

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36. Sources of information:

Colorado Business Directory listings for Telluride, 1881-1950.

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

Telluride *Daily Journal*, March 13, 1899.

Telluride *Daily Journal*, April 15, 1899.

Telluride *Daily Journal*, June 7, 1899.

Telluride *Daily Journal*, July 3, 1923, p. 1.

Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, San Miguel, County, Colorado, South Telluride precinct.

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 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.

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

39. Area(s) of significance: **Architecture, Commerce**

40. Period of significance: **ca. 1902; ca. 1902-ca. 1960**

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

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42. Statement of significance:

This building is historically significant for its association with the Silver Bell, an infamous saloon and brothel, in the heart of Telluride's red light district. This building, along with a few bordello cribs which have also been preserved, played an integral role in Telluride's socioeconomic development during the mining boom years of the early twentieth century.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This building displays a reasonably 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. There are no additions to the historic building, and only modest exterior alterations due to its adaptive reuse as a dwelling. The building conveys a sense of its history as a contributing resource within the Telluride National Historic Landmark District.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Not 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 #5, Images 410, 416** CDs filed at: **Town of Telluride**
CD #6, Images 54-56
CD #7, Images 26-28

48. Report title: **Town of Telluride Re-Survey of Historic Structures** **Planning and Building Dept.**

49. Date(s): **September 24, 2009** **113 West Columbia Avenue**

50. Recorder(s): **Carl McWilliams** **Telluride, CO 81435**
Timothy Wilder

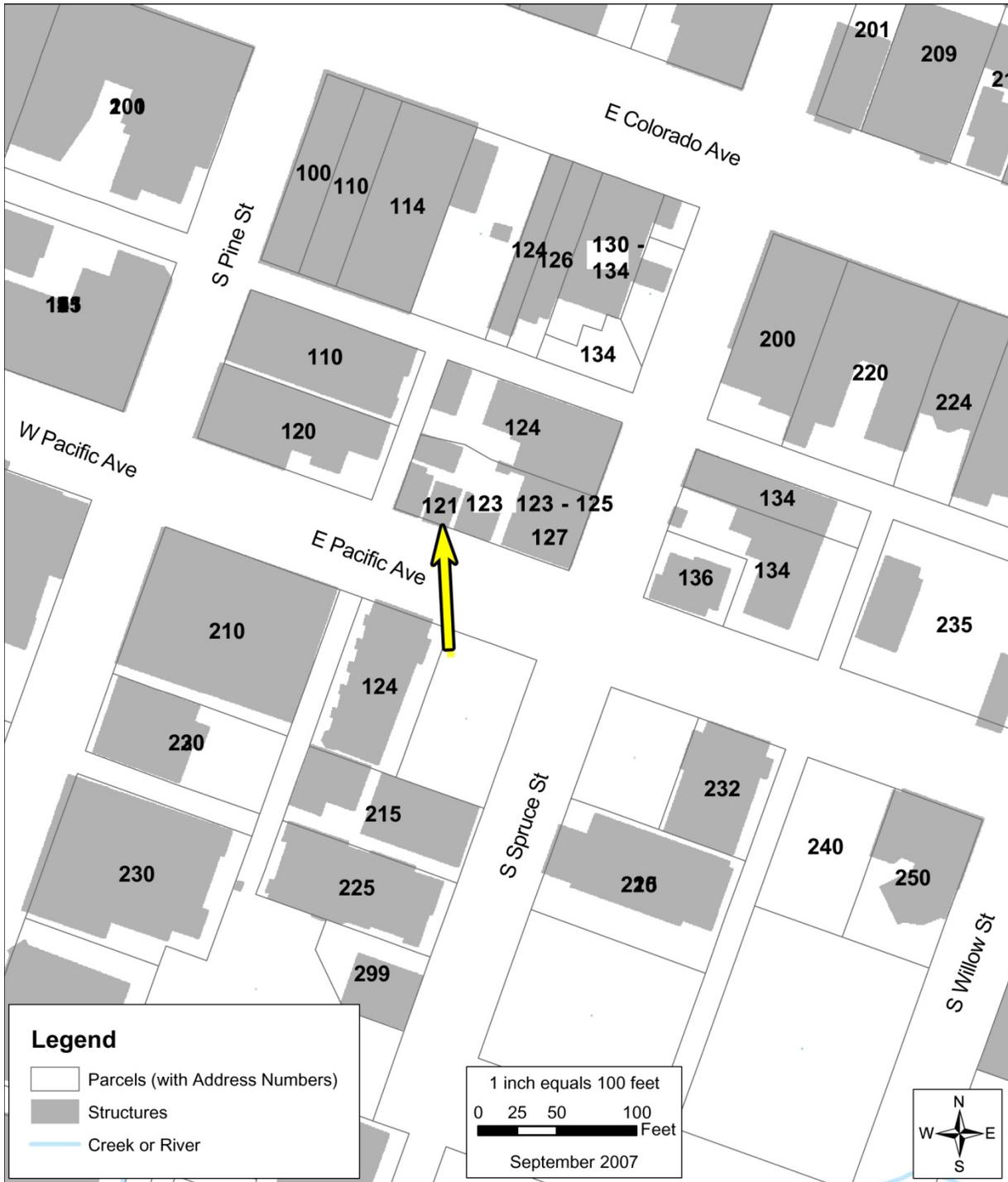
51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**

52. Address: **1607 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

