

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.1741**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **San Miguel**
- 4. City: **Telluride**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Telluride School**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Telluride Elementary School**
- 7. Building Address: **447 W. Columbia Avenue**
- 8. Owner Name and Address: **Telluride School District R1  
P. O. Box 187  
Telluride, CO 814350187**

Parcel number(s):	<b>456536313904</b>



<b>THLD RATING:</b>	<b>Contributing to District</b>
---------------------	---------------------------------

# Architectural Inventory Form

Page 2 of 9

## 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** 253388 mE 4202364 mN
11. USGS quad name: **Telluride, Colorado**  
 Year: **1955** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **Lots 13 thru 17 and 24 thru 35 Blk 3 West Telluride and that portion of the alley lying between Lots 13-17 and 24-28**  
 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: **35,000 square feet (original building)**
16. Number of stories: **2½**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Brick**
18. Roof configuration: **Hipped Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Metal Roof**
20. Special features: **Porch, Chimney, Tower, Finial, Fence**

21. General architectural description:

**This building consists of the historic Telluride School, constructed in 1896 and slightly enlarged in 2002, and a modern gymnasium addition, constructed in 2000, and joined to the original by a connecting element.**

**Featuring a symmetrical plan, the historic school is a 2½-story, rectangular-shaped, building which measures 120 feet N-S by 74 feet E-W. It is supported by an unpainted coursed sandstone foundation, which ranges from 5 feet above grade on the north elevation to 7 feet above grade on the south elevation. The foundation walls are penetrated by 1/1 double-hung sash basement-level windows. The school's walls are made of pressed red brick laid in running bond. There are six brick stringcourses: 1) two projecting stretcher courses are at the level of the first story window sills; 2) one projecting stretcher course is even with the bottom of the first story window lintels; 3) two projecting stretcher courses are even with the top of the first story window lintels; 4) two projecting stretcher courses are even with the bottom of the second story window arches; 6) two projecting stretcher courses are located just below the cornice. The building is covered by a double-pitched hipped roof, with projecting intersecting gables on the south, west, and north elevations. The roof is covered with metal, and the eaves are boxed with painted cream white boxed eaves. A tall red brick chimney, with a corbelled cap, is located near the north end of the roof ridge. A bell tower cupola is also located on the ridge, while a flagpole finial rises from the apex of the projecting intersecting gable on the south elevation. The school's symmetrical facade faces Columbia Avenue on the south elevation, with the main entrance located within a rounded sandstone arch beneath the projecting gable. A set of paired, painted white, glass-in-wood-frame doors, with sidelights and**

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 3 of 9

transom lights, are set within the rounded sandstone arch which has a center keystone and radiating sandstone voussoirs. Above the rounded arch, a bracketed sign (possibly of terra-cotta) is inscribed with the words "HIGH SCHOOL" flanked on either side by a shield motif. The main entrance is approached by a porch and a wide set of poured concrete steps, with flanking knee walls and metal pipe railings. Below the main entry porch, a set of paired wood-paneled doors, each with nine upper sash lights, enter the basement level. The facade wall is penetrated by: six triple-hung sash first story windows, with sandstone lugsills and lintels; ten triple-hung-sash second story windows, with sandstone lugsills and rounded brick arches; three 1/1 double-hung sash windows, with sandstone lugsills and rounded brick arches, centered in the upper gable end above the rounded arch entrance. The school's west elevation measures 120 feet, and faces toward the playground and Townsend Street. The west elevation's first story is penetrated by fourteen triple-hung sash windows, with sandstone lugsills and lintels, as well as by a larger 4-light window with flanking sidelights, within a rounded sandstone arch below the projecting intersecting gable. The west elevation's second story is penetrated by eighteen triple-hung sash windows with sandstone lugsills and rounded brick arches. Three 1/1 double-hung sash windows, with a continuous sandstone lugsill and rounded brick arches, are located in the upper gable end of the projecting gable on the west elevation. The original north elevation measures 74 feet, and faces Galena Avenue. The north elevation is penetrated by eight triple-hung sash first story windows with sandstone lugsills and lintels, and by nine triple-hung sash second story windows with sandstone lugsills and rounded brick arches. The projecting intersecting gable on this elevation contains a rounded arch entrance with a set of paired wooden doors with a transom light. The original east elevation is penetrated by sixteen triple-hung sash first story windows with sandstone lugsills and lintels, and by nine triple-hung sash second story windows with sandstone lugsills and rounded brick arches.

The single-story gymnasium addition features a rectangular plan, with a poured concrete foundation, red brick walls, and a flat roof. The addition is joined to the original school by a two-story gabled connecting element. A set of paired, painted cream white, glass-in-metal-frame doors enter the west end of the north elevation. Nine 1/1 double-hung sash windows also penetrate the north elevation. Another set of paired, painted cream white, glass-in-metal-frame doors enter the west elevation from a concrete patio. Three large multi-paned windows penetrate the addition's south elevation.

22. Architectural style: **Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century Revivals / Romanesque Revival**  
 Building type:
23. Landscape or special setting features:  
**This property comprises the entire west half of Block 3 in the West Telluride Addition, bordered by Columbia Avenue on the south, Townsend Street on the west, and Galena Avenue on the north. Playgrounds and a playing field west of the building are enclosed by a chain link fence. A low sandstone retaining wall parallels Galena Avenue. A planted grass lawn with low native plants and shrubs, and three spruce trees, is located in front of the building's facade on the Columbia Avenue side.**
24. Associated buildings, features or objects: **N/A**

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 4 of 9

### IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: Actual: 1896  
 Source of information:
26. Architect: John J. Huddart, Denver. CO  
 Source of information: *The Herald Democrat* (Leadville), January 31, 1896, p. 1.
27. Builder: Brown and Schrepferman, Denver, CO  
 Source of information: *The Herald Democrat* (Leadville), January 31, 1896, p. 1.
28. Original owner: San Miguel County School District No. 1  
 Source of information: *Telluride Daily Journal*, February 29, 1896, p. 1.

29. Construction history:

Efforts to build the Telluride School began in 1895 when San Miguel County School District #1 contracted with John James Huddart, a Denver architect, to design the building, and awarded the construction contract to Brown and Schrepferman, also of Denver. Construction began late that year, and by January 1896, the foundation, walls, and roof were in place. Then on January 30, 1896, as the contractors were preparing to begin work on the interior, disaster struck. Early that morning, the walls began to crack and bulge, and the entire building then collapsed. No one was injured; however, tons of debris had to be cleared away before the project could begin anew. In March 1896, the school board and the contractors came to an agreement on a course of action to reconstruct the failed building, as reported by the *Telluride Daily Journal* on March 19, 1896:

After some discussion, the following order was unanimously passed to wit: That the contractors, Brown & Schrepferman, take down and remove all brick work standing on the foundation of the school house and remove all debris from said building; to repair the stone foundation, and then proceed to reconstruct and rebuild the school house from said foundation in accordance with the original contract and specifications, with the following exceptions to wit: First.- Instead of Telluride brick, use Durango white pressed brick for all inside walls and backing of all outside walls. Second.- Put concrete footing under all inside wall at least nine inches thick. Third.- Move the four air ducts one foot nearer the center of the rooms, so as to strengthen the four main piers which carry the principal portion of the roof and to further strengthen said piers by making the walls in the basement nine inches thicker to the first floor and four and one-half inches thicker to the second floor. That in consideration of the use of such additional material, the school district agrees to pay said contractors the sum of \$7,000 extra in addition to the contract price, \$2,000 of said sum to be paid in cash and the balance, \$5,000 to be paid either in cash or warrants of said district, at the option of the board, when said building shall have been fully completed and accepted by the board.

Also in March 1896, the school board contracted with R. C. Cameron (presumably a structural engineer) to: make an examination of the walls standing of the collapsed school building and determine what portion of them are safe and substantial and unnecessary to tear down, and what portion should be torn down before work of reconstruction begins...

Cameron presented his report on March 30, 1896, and the contractors then began then to rebuild the school in accordance with the revised specifications. Founded in 1889, the contracting firm of Brown and Schrepferman was headed by Alexander Brown and Conrad Schrepferman. Other individuals involved in the school's original construction included Sidney Baker, of Baker and Norton, (plasterers), and C. A. Creighton (steam fitter). The school was successfully completed during the summer of 1896, and Brown and Schrepferman would go on to build

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 5 of 9

---

the Nunn and Wrench Block (5SM.1553) at the southeast corner of Colorado Avenue and Pine Street, in 1899, and the San Juan County Courthouse in Silverton, in 1907, among numerous other commissions.

In 1902, an addition composed of four classrooms was built onto the original north elevation. Necessitated by increased enrollment, the 1902 addition was built at a reported cost of \$20,000, funded by the issuance of school bonds. The modern gymnasium addition was erected in 2000.

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

---

### V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Education / School**

32. Intermediate use(s): **Education / School**

33. Current use(s): **Education / School**

34. Site type(s): **School**

35. Historical background:

This building served as the Telluride School from the time of its construction in 1896 until the late 1970s. The building was then privately owned for a few years before it was reacquired by the School District to become the Telluride Elementary School. Prior to when this building was erected in 1896, the region's earliest schools were located in the settlement of San Miguel, and at two other locations in the fledgling town which would become Telluride. (Originally named Columbia in 1883, the town was renamed Telluride in 1887.) The town's first school was established in 1881, in the Blair House at the southwest corner of Pine Street and Galena Avenue (5SM.1758), with Miss Lillian Blair as the first teacher. 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 the northeast corner of Columbia Avenue and Fir Street. A \$3000.00 bond reportedly funded construction of the school at that location. That building (5SM.1748) became the Telluride Town Hall when this school opened in 1896.

36. Sources of information:

"Architects of Colorado – Biographical Series." (Huddart, John James)

<http://www.historycolorado.org/oaahp/architects-colorado-biographical-series>

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

"Brown-Schrepferman." [http://www.brownschrepferman.com/index\\_files/Page569.htm](http://www.brownschrepferman.com/index_files/Page569.htm)

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

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

"School Building Falls." *Aspen Weekly Times*, February 1, 1896, p. 1.

"The Building Collapsed." *The Herald Democrat* (Leadville), January 31, 1896, p. 1.

"Telluride *Daily Journal*, February 6, 1896, p. 1.

"Telluride *Daily Journal*, February 7, 1896, p. 4.

"The Mass Meeting Yesterday." *Telluride Daily Journal*, February 10, 1896, p. 1.

"Telluride *Daily Journal*, February 29, 1896, p. 1.

"Special School Board Meeting." *Telluride Daily Journal*, March 19, 1896, p. 4.

" *Telluride Daily Journal*, March 27, 1896, p. 1.

" *Telluride Daily Journal*, April 28, 1896, p. 4.

" *Telluride Daily Journal*, April 29, 1896, p. 4.

# Architectural Inventory Form

Page 6 of 9

---

"R. C. Cameron's Report." *Telluride Daily Journal*, March 30, 1896, p. 4.

" *Telluride Daily Journal*, May 20, 1896, p. 4.

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

"Proposed Addition to School Building." *Telluride Journal*, April 10, 1902, p. 7.

*Telluride Journal*, May 5, 1902, p. 3.

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>

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](http://www.telluridemuseum.org)

Trommer, Wahtola. *Telluride's Victorian Vernacular: A Walking Tour*. Telluride: Telluride Historical Museum, 2001.

---

## 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

**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

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**

40. Period of significance: **1896; 1896-present**

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

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 7 of 9

42. Statement of significance:

**This school building is historically significant for its long use as the Telluride School beginning in 1896. The building is also architecturally significant because it is one of San Miguel County's very best Romanesque Revival style buildings, and because it was designed by John James Huddart, a master architect who practiced architecture in Colorado from 1882 to 1930. This building is individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and in the State Register of Historic Properties. It also qualifies as a contributing resource within the Telluride National Historic District.**

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

**This school building 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. A modern gymnasium addition is the only notable alteration. The addition is well-executed. It is separated from the original by a connecting element, its form and materials complement the original, and it is well placed extending from the rear northeast corner, obscured from the facade by adjacent residences.**

### 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:

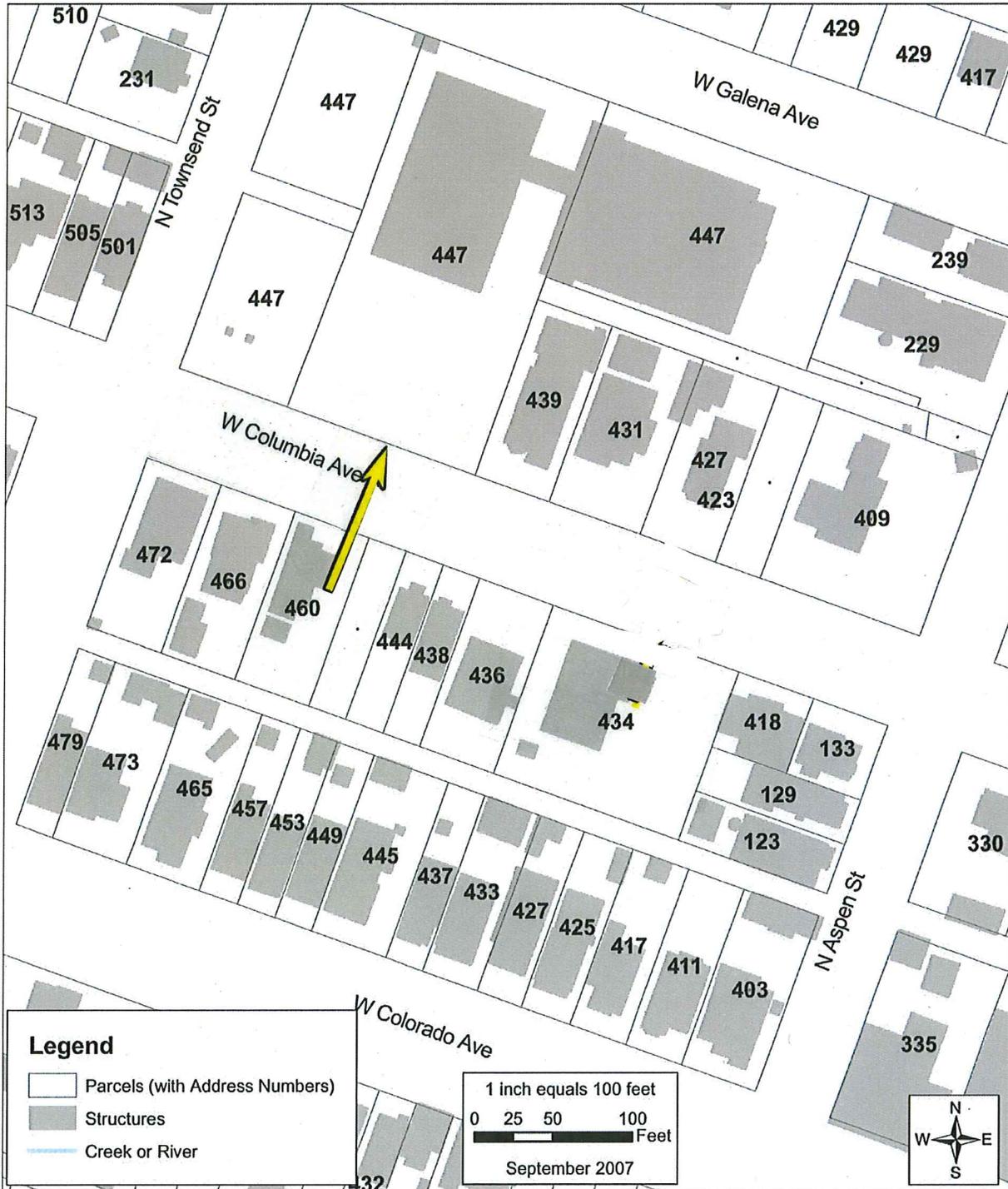
46. If the building is in existing National Register district, is it: Contributing  Noncontributing N/A:

### VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph number(s):	<b>CD #7, Images 165-176</b>	CDs filed at:	<b>Town of Telluride</b>
48. Report title:	<b>Town of Telluride Re-Survey of Historic Structures</b>		<b>Planning and Building Dept.</b>
49. Date(s):	<b>August 5, 2011</b>		<b>113 West Columbia Avenue</b>
50. Recorder(s):	<b>Carl McWilliams</b>		<b>Telluride, CO 81435</b>
51. Organization:	<b>Cultural Resource Historians</b>		
52. Address:	<b>Dogwood Court</b>		
	<b>Fort Collins, CO 80525</b>		
53. Phone number(s):	<b>(970) 493-5270</b>		

# Architectural Inventory Form

## Sketch Map



# Architectural Inventory Form

## Location Map

