

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Montana
COUNTY: Granite
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 17 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Superintendent's House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Weir, Superintendent Thomas A., House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *E of Philipsburg is located by Hall Street*  
Magnolia Avenue (Silk Stocking Row)

CITY OR TOWN: *Philipsburg*  
Granite (E 1/2 Sec 32, T7N, R13W)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
No. 1

STATE: Montana CODE: 30 COUNTY: Granite CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>historic site</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Montana (Recreation & Parks Division, Department of Fish & Game)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Mitchell Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Helena, Montana

STATE: Montana CODE: 30

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Granite County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Philipsburg, Montana

STATE: Montana CODE: 30

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: September, 1965  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

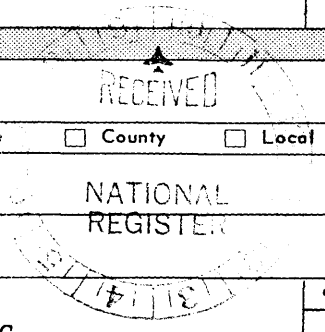
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington, D.C.

STATE: D.C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Montana  
COUNTY: Granite  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE: DEC 17 1974  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

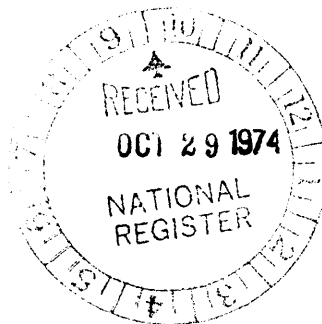
This two-story masonry building is located in the north-northwest part of the town on one of the higher streets that looks down upon the valley floor and general town area.

Little is known of the origin of the stone residence. Reports of 1889 show that it was there then, and that Thomas Weir and his wife were living in it. Probably it had been built several years earlier by the company for Superintendent Plummer, Weir's predecessor. The first story was used as a residence. The second story under the steep gable roof may have served as an office. Access to this level was gained by a gangplank bridgeway from the uphill slope at the rear of the building. There is no inside connection between the two floors, nor has there ever been.

Exterior: This 32 feet by 42 feet structure was built with native granite quarried nearby. The foundation is also of granite. The 3 feet by 7 feet entry and kitchen doors with overhead transoms are now gone. Windows, also missing, are believed to have been double-hung wood and have decorative brick eyebrow head trim. There are two dormer windows on the front facade and a half-circle window on the north facade in the gable end. A narrow rectangular unit occupies a similar space in the south gable. The wood shingled gable roof has approximately a 37° pitch and the chimney is made of brick.

Interior: A small entry centrally located on the west facade opens into the living room in the northwest corner of the building. Behind the living room is a bedroom in the northeast corner and the kitchen with its outside door is in the southeast corner. The southwest corner was probably a dining room. These rooms are separated by a plastered brick food vault. The lath and plaster walls on the first story were wallpapered with the ceiling plastered. The second story walls were of random width boards with a ceiling of visible rafters and sheathing. The building was heated with wood stoves.

Renewed mining activity in 1974 may soon cause a threat to this and other remaining buildings in Granite.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**II. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Granite townsite was laid out in the summer of 1884. Known as the Silver Queen City, she reached her heyday in 1889 when the production of the mines ran as high as \$250,000 to \$275,000 a month.

The St. Louis, Missouri, investors in the two large mine-mills in Granite were richly rewarded. Silver from the Granite diggings financed the big Eadr over the Mississippi at St. Louis. The silver panic in 1893 was felt in Granite on August 1, 1893. Some 3,000 inhabitants left Granite in a 24-hour period. Now a ghost town, Granite experienced being reborn several times.

Not only was the superintendent's house the sole stone structure in town according to the records of 1889, but also the only building having its interior finished in plaster. Of interest in the building's design is the masonry food vault off the kitchen and the lack of stairs connecting the two floors.

The Granite Mountain Mining Company superintendent Thomas A. Weir and his wife lived in this two story stone house located on Magnolia Avenue. All of the houses on this street were located on the upper side of the road backed against the steep mountain side. This street was referred to as "silk stocking row" because it was here that the mine officials and white collar workers and their families lived.

Weir was closely associated with mining operations in Leadville, Colorado, and Granite, Montana. He had been a partner in two mines in the California Gulch area of Leadville. A few months after he sold his share in the mines, a strike was made that richly rewarded the new owner, Meyer Guggenheim.

Superintendent Weir did much to modernize the operations of the mine, improve the working conditions of the men and place the entire operation on a six-day rather than a seven-day week. Weir had been a Presbyterian Elder in Leadville, and he brought his strong religious beliefs with him to Granite when he moved there in December, 1888. He not only devoted his energy to mine and mill operations, but also to the living conditions of his men. He directed the erection of a two-story frame hospital (still standing), fumigated bunkhouses periodically and had a "drying room" constructed at the shaft house to reduce the miner's death rate from pneumonia. Weir was superintendent of the Granite Mountain Mining Company until the summer of 1893 when the Silver Panic forced shutdown of the mine.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Granite Mountain Star, Granite, Mont., June 22, 1889.

McMillan, A.C., "A Young Clergyman Looks at Granite's Glittering Gold",  
Montana, the Magazine of Western History, Vol. XIV, No. 3.

Philipsburg Mail, Philipsburg, Mont., November 8, 1888; December 6, 1888;  
 December 6, 1888; December 20, 1888; March 7, 1889; March 28, 1889;  
 April 25, 1889.

Popham, Fremont, "The Early Activities of the Guggenheims in Colorado",  
Colorado Magazine, Vol 26-27, Jan., 1950.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

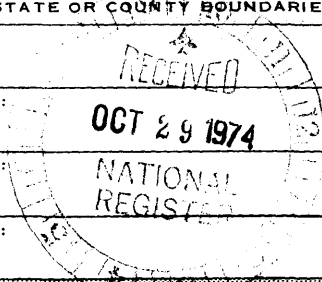
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		N 46° 19' 00"	W 113° 14' 43"	
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

UTM  
 12/32/10L  
 513149C  
 CO

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .05

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
David G. Conklin, Recreation Planner

ORGANIZATION: Recreation & Parks Division, Montana Dept. of Fish and Game DATE: 10-11-74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Mitchell Building

CITY OR TOWN: Helena STATE: Montana CODE: 30

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Ashley C. Roberts  
 Ashley C. Roberts

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date Oct. 11, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AR Montan...  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/17/74

ATTEST:  
George F. Emery  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date Dec. 12, 1974