

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Steamboat Laundry Building  
 other names/site number Soda Creek Building; 5RT255

**2. Location**

street & number 127 and 131 11<sup>th</sup> Street [N/A] not for publication  
 city or town Steamboat Springs [N/A] vicinity  
 state Colorado code CO county Routt code 107 zip code 80487

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark Wolfe Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 6/22/07  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
 ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- other, explain  See continuation sheet.

Edson W. Beall Signature of the Keeper 8-7-07 Date of Action

Steamboat Laundry Building  
Name of Property

Routt County, Colorado  
County/State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing.**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/specialty store  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/restaurant  
COMMERCE/professional  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS / Commercial Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>STONE/Sandstone</u>
	<u>CONCRETE</u>
walls	<u>BRICK</u>
	<u>STONE</u>
	<u>CONCRETE</u>
roof	<u>ASPHALT</u>
other	<u>STONE/Sandstone</u>

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Steamboat Laundry Building  
Name of Property

Routt County, Colorado  
County/State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Architecture

### Periods of Significance

1910-1956

### Significant Dates

1920

### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

\_\_\_\_\_

Steamboat Laundry Building  
Name of Property

Routt County, Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- |    |      |         |          |                            |
|----|------|---------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1. | 13   | 344460  | 4483170  | (NAD27)                    |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |                            |
| 2. |      |         |          |                            |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |                            |
| 3. |      |         |          |                            |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |                            |
| 4. |      |         |          |                            |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing | [ ] See continuation sheet |

The UTM point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHF by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ginger Scott (Historic Preservation Asst.) & Lauren Schaffer (Historic Preservation Officer) (prepared for the property owner)

organization City of Steamboat Springs date August 28, 2006

street & number PO Box 775088 telephone (970) 879-2060

city or town Steamboat Springs state CO zip code 80477

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Soda Creek Building Partnership Attn: Curt Weiss

street & number PO Box 772953 telephone (970) 879-3294

city or town Steamboat Springs state CO zip code 80477

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Steamboat Laundry Building  
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

Located in downtown Steamboat Springs on Eleventh Street between Lincoln Avenue (U.S. Highway 40) and Oak Street, the Steamboat Laundry Building is a prominent visual element marking the western boundaries of the downtown commercial district. Constructed in 1910, the rectangular floor plan, two-story commercial building has a circa 1920, rectangular one-story rear river rock and circa 1920 side brick addition. Overall, the building with its addition measures approximately 57 x 106 feet. Along the southeastern (front) elevation, a concrete sidewalk abuts the building. Street trees are absent; however, one Crawford family yellow rose is present and several large trees grow to the north along Soda Creek. An alley is located to the southwest. The Steamboat Laundry Building is an excellent local example of the Twentieth Century Commercial style of architecture as it appeared in Routt County and is noted for its distinctive blunted south corner. Additionally, historic signage with "Steamboat Laundry Dry Cleaning & Pressing" remains visible to the rear of the upper level on the southwest elevation. The building experienced early expansions associated with the growing laundry business and several recent interior-remodeling phases, yet retains the ability to convey a sense of its history and the evolution of its use over time. The overall condition is consistent with the building's history, with the building maintaining a high degree of integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Steamboat Laundry is a two-story, rectangular plan, flat-roofed commercial building made of pressed red brick and locally excavated blond sandstone with a one-story river rock addition on the rear and a one-story brick addition on the side elevation. Supported by a cut stone and concrete foundation, the building features a double storefront facing Eleventh Street and an oblique corner entry for upstairs access. A decorative brick pattern highlights the intersection of this façade with both the southeastern and southwestern elevations of the building. A wood door with stained-glass transom and concrete lintel is present on the corner facade. The two-story portion of the southeastern (front) elevation features a centrally positioned entry with one large fixed display window on each side. The single wood door is placed to the left edge of the entry opening with a sidelight appearing to the right. Beadboard appears in the lower portion of the sidelight area. Located above the door and sidelight is a stained-glass transom topped with a concrete lintel. A small, square opening is located to the south of the southern window and is filled with painted wood. Three one-over-one windows set in wooden frames penetrate the upper level brick, with another one-over-one in the upper level of the blunted corner. Concrete lintels and sills appear with all of these windows. Brick headers form a rowlock above each of the concrete window lintels. The one-story brick addition appears on the north of the southeast elevation. The addition does not appear on the 1911 Sanborn map of Steamboat Springs, but does show up by 1920 and is constructed in the same style as the two-story portion. The simple addition features an entry on the left (south) section and a display window in a metal frame to the right. The lintels and sills of the addition are sandstone. Located above the wood French door is an area that originally operated as a transom and is now filled with concrete. Above the windows, corbelled brickwork forms a simple cornice that leads to the parapet. Electric lights top the upper story of the former laundry building.

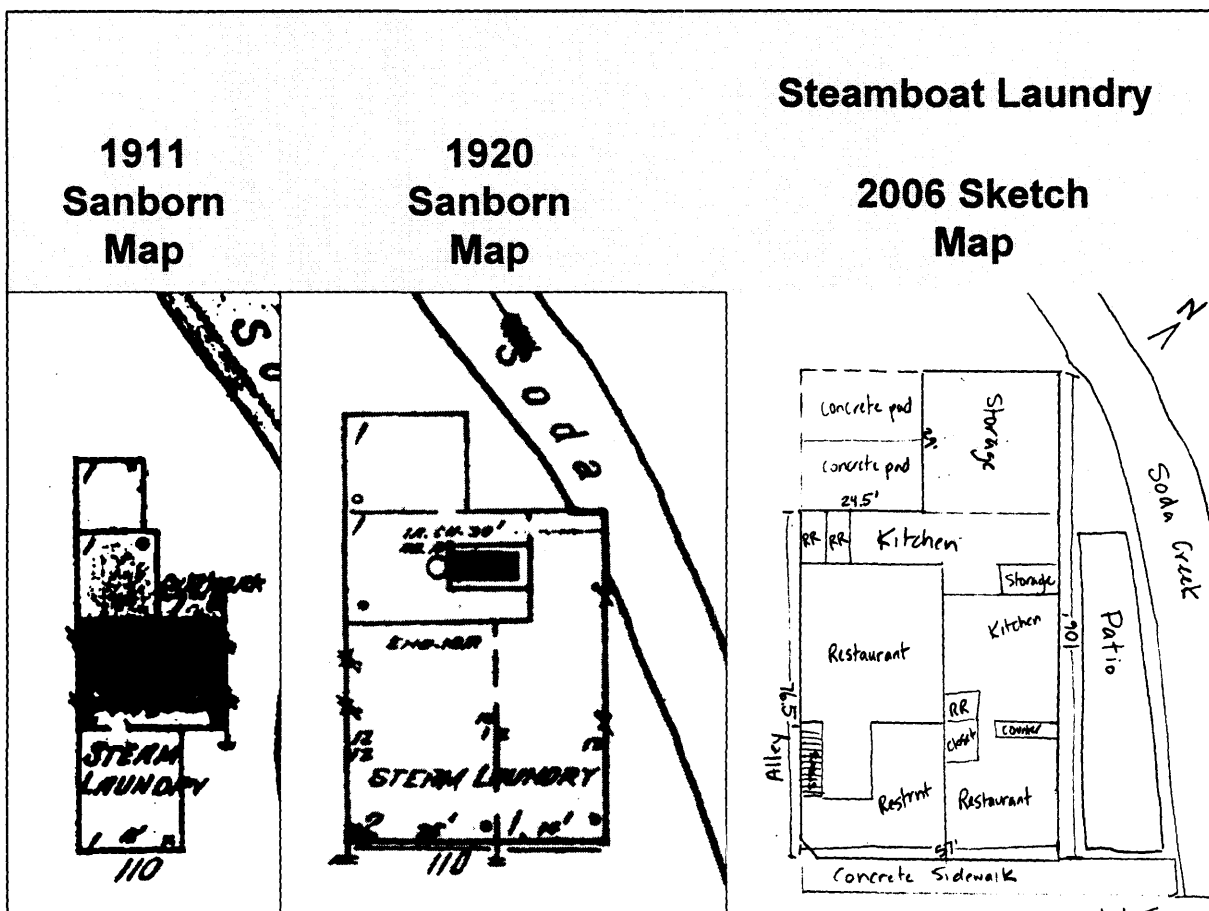
The alley (southwest) elevation comprises four sections. The red brick portion of the building is two stories high and measures approximately 31 x 50 feet. The 50-foot length along the alley has been constructed in two phases. Sanborn maps date the front, Eleventh Street, portion constructed by 1920, while the western half of the two-story portion of the building appears in 1910 photos with the Steamboat Laundry signage. At that time (1910), the two-story brick building that appeared is now the central portion of the alley elevation. The river rock addition appears in the 1920 Sanborn map. Supported by a concrete foundation, the front half of the alley elevation features two one-over-one

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The drawings above are all to approximately the same scale and show the evolution of the building from 1911 through 2006.

windows that provide light to the interior stairway. Plywood has been inserted in the lower portion of the windows. The southeastern-most window is arched with three bands of brick courses. The window to the left of it is stepped higher to accommodate the stairway and has been retrofitted with a rectangular wood-framed window. Three one-over-one windows are located on the upper story. These windows are arched with two bands of brick present. All five of the windows have concrete sills.

The original portion of the building, which is now the back half of the two-story portion of the laundry building, has a sandstone foundation. The lower story windows are square, fixed windows and were originally arched. The square windows appear in a set of two, divided by a concrete mullion and topped with a concrete lintel. Each window has 15 square pieces of glass, most of which are painted green. The sills are brick. Two upper story windows are present: each one a one-over-one arched window in a wooden frame with a wood windowsill. Above the windows is the prominent painted historic signage "Steamboat Laundry Dry Cleaning & Pressing." The parapet gradually steps down to the rear of the two-story brick section, displaying four tiers. On the rear elevation of the two-story portion (northwest elevation), there are three one-over-one arched windows with two bands of brick forming the arch. The central window is smaller than the outside two.

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Adjoining the brick building along the alley is the flat-roofed, river rock addition. This addition is present by 1920 as noted in Sanborn maps. The southwest elevation of the addition features an entry to the rear of the restaurant. Wooden stairs with a handrail lead to the raised entry. The large opening has been filled with horizontally placed wood planks and a wood door. A wood lintel appears above the opening. The central opening has been filled with a plywood covering and meters are present. Once a window, the opening has a cut sandstone lintel. The third opening, located to the west, is a large square that has been filled with concrete blocks. A wooden lintel spans above. Around the corner, the northwest elevation of the river rock addition is a solid wall of cobblestone.

A small, one-story concrete block and wood frame rear addition is present at the north end of the rear of the building and is of unknown construction date. The roof slants down slightly to the rear (northwest) of the building. There are two entries, a window, and various siding materials on the southwest elevation. There are no openings on the northwest elevation, simply a wall formed of concrete block. Around the corner to the north, the northeast elevation of the addition is concrete block on a poured concrete foundation.

The remainder of the northeast elevation dates to the pre-1920 addition, has a flat roof, and is constructed of concrete block. Three fixed display windows set in metal frames are present on the eastern portion of the elevation, closest to Eleventh Street. A door with a transom provides access to an outdoor dining area. Two more windows are present, one of which is multi-light, with a door to the north. One additional window appears. It is a multi-light metal window with casements. A metal fire escape ladder is placed toward the rear, slightly sloped roofed addition. The windows of the two-story portion of the building are visible on the elevation. Three, one-over-one arched windows feature in the upper level.

**Interior**

The interior of the Steamboat Laundry Building experienced alterations in conjunction with changes in ownership and change in use from the original laundry service facility to the current restaurants and professional offices. The Routt County Assessor's Office dates interior remodels in 1979, 1982, and 1984. Little original material remains from the upper portions of the building, with rooms reconfigured to accommodate office space. However, all upper story and several first story windows appear to be original. Brick walls are exposed in the restaurant spaces. The entryway and stairway to the second story offices feature painted beadboard.

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Routt County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 4**SIGNIFICANCE**

The 1910 Steamboat Laundry Building is a significant building for the community of Steamboat Springs as well as for northwest Colorado. The commercial building is an architectural reflection of the early development of Steamboat Springs and is eligible for designation to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of *commerce*. The Steamboat Laundry Building exemplifies the early commercial development of Steamboat Springs; the laundry building played an important role in fostering the frontier town's development through the service industry. By 1910, when the existing Steamboat Laundry was constructed, what began as a pioneer homestead for the Crawford family in 1876 had transformed to a thriving western town that could support an expanding specialized service business that catered to the needs of locals and tourists alike. The 1910 construction and circa 1920 expansion of a permanent brick and stone building of relatively large-scale proportions to house Steamboat's increasing and prospering population reflected the economic success and growth occurring in Steamboat Springs during the first two decades of the twentieth century.

The Steamboat Laundry Building is also significant under Criterion C in the area of *architecture*. The two-story brick building is a noted and well-recognized feature of the western edge of the original downtown commercial area. At the time of its construction, this substantial two-story brick building stood out among its mostly one-story frame and residential neighbors. The Steamboat Laundry is a good example of the Twentieth Century Commercial style of architecture as it appeared in northwest Colorado and is distinguished from other local commercial structures by its southern corner entry. A very early river rock addition (circa 1920) appears at the rear of the building. Many cobble and mortar structures are located throughout alleys in Steamboat Springs. Close to numerous streams and rivers, Steamboat Springs has a natural abundance of river rock and cobblestone. Often when a space was dug for a foundation or new construction, the rocks uncovered were saved for use in building a shed, outbuilding, or rear addition. The sandstone utilized for decorative features and lintels was quarried locally and features throughout the more permanent local building stock. The historic signage, "Steamboat Laundry Dry Cleaning and Pressing," is painted on the side of the building. Two different versions of the verbiage have appeared over the years as evidenced in historic photographs; however, both versions appear in the same location on the building and occurred during the 1910-1956 period of significance. The Steamboat Laundry Building combines locally available building materials with a simplified version of the prevailing architectural style of the period to create a property that is the product of its time and place, while illustrating aspects of local heritage to become part of the character of the region.

**Commercial History**

Although the Yampa Valley was home to the Ute Indian for many years prior, the town of Steamboat Springs, which lies within this valley, was officially incorporated in 1900. James H. Crawford, known to many as the founder of Steamboat Springs settled here with his family in 1876 and became the town's first mayor after its inception. Growth in Steamboat Springs was slow in the beginning due to transportation difficulties, challenges with growing crops, and early apprehension among settlers of conflicts with the Indians. Less than a dozen families lived in the town in the late 1800s.

The farming and ranching industry dominated in the area until the early twentieth century when the commercial industry also began to thrive due to the growing population and increase of travelers. FM Light and Sons Clothiers, the First National Bank, and the Steamboat Springs Steam Laundry began during this time.<sup>1</sup> The long distance phone line completed in 1900 connected Steamboat to Denver

<sup>1</sup> Tread of Pioneers Museum, *The Historical Guide to Routt County*, (Denver, 1979), p. 67



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and other Colorado communities, and was a sign of the expanding popularity of this northwest Colorado community.<sup>2</sup> Rumors of Steamboat's stunning scenery, abundant hunting and fishing, and therapeutic hot springs lured visitors from distant towns. At this time, travelers to the area could go by train to Wolcott, and then transfer to the stage line for a two-day trip north to Steamboat Springs.

The first passenger trains came to Steamboat Springs in January of 1909 with the Denver, Salt Lake and Pacific Railroad bringing many more visitors and their money to the valley and sparking an economic boom for commercial industry.<sup>3</sup> The Cabin Hotel, a 100-room hotel built with therapeutic hot springs pools, was erected at this time in response to increased market demands from tourists as well as residents in Steamboat Springs and nearby towns in the county. The population of Steamboat Springs increased to roughly 2,000 people by 1910.<sup>4</sup>

The Steamboat Laundry Building has been a consistent presence in the commercial history of Steamboat Springs and qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion A. The Steamboat Springs Steam Laundry is noted to have been in operation as early as 1903 with William Fisher acting as proprietor<sup>5</sup>. H.D. Moller purchased the property in 1904, and in 1908 changed the name to the Steamboat Springs Steam Laundry, Cleaning and Dye Works.<sup>6</sup> Advertisements in local news speak of the laundry not being able to keep up with business and notes plans for a new brick building in the summer of 1910. According to these ads, photographs, and the 1911 Sanborn map, a two-story portion of the current brick structure was built in 1910 to accommodate this growth.<sup>7</sup> At that time, there was also a one-story wood structure attached to the southeast side and a one-story wood structure on the northwest side of the brick building. (See 1910 photo)

Early advertisements for the Steamboat Laundry boast of their customers extending throughout Routt and Eagle Counties as well as Southern Wyoming<sup>8</sup>, and noted the fact that their agents "worked throughout the country for 100 miles."<sup>9</sup> A search of the Colorado State Business Directories found that there were no other commercial laundries in the greater Routt County and Moffat County area for much of the laundry's early existence. From 1908 until about 1915, the Steamboat Laundry appears to be the only commercial laundry business of its kind in Steamboat Springs, south to Oak Creek and Yampa, west to Hayden and Craig, and north to Columbine.<sup>10</sup>

Steamboat's neighbor to the west, Hayden recognized a need for its own local laundry business in the early 1900's, however it was 1950 before one was opened. Oak Creek, which rivaled Steamboat Springs in population size, saw local laundry businesses intermittently between 1916 and the early 1920s.<sup>11</sup> Although there were several changes in ownership over the course of its existence, the Steamboat Laundry building operated regularly from 1903 until well into the latter half of the twentieth century, and thus represented a consistent, reliable source for laundry services for Routt County and beyond.

<sup>2</sup> 'Steamboat Keeping in Touch', in *The Denver Times*, (October 17, 1900), p.3, c.4

<sup>3</sup> Tread of Pioneers Museum, *The Historical Guide to Routt County*, (Denver, 1979), p. 67

<sup>4</sup> *The Steamboat Pilot*, (February 2, 1910)

<sup>5</sup> *Colorado State Business Directory* (1903)

<sup>6</sup> *Colorado State Business Directory* (1903), p. 1147

<sup>7</sup> *The Steamboat Pilot*, (February 1910, and March 30, 1910)

<sup>8</sup> *The Steamboat Pilot* (November 18, 1908)

<sup>9</sup> *The Steamboat Pilot* (March 30, 1910)

<sup>10</sup> *Colorado State Business Directories* (1908, 1911, 1915)

<sup>11</sup> *Colorado State Business Directories* (1915-1922, 1930, 1939 and 1950)

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The ethnic backgrounds of the Steamboat Laundry workers in the early period of significance were primarily Caucasian American, as was consistent with the make up of the rest of the town at that time. A search of the 1910 Federal Census found that three of the four workers at the laundry were Caucasian American, and one was an immigrant from Germany. The 1920 Census revealed six Caucasian Americans and one German American, and the 1930 Census showed all eleven employees were Caucasian Americans. As stated before, this was consistent with the town's make up as there were only a handful of people with documented color/races being something other than white.<sup>5</sup>

The Steamboat Laundry did, however serve as a place for women to work at that time. A search of the 1910, 1920 and 1930 Federal Censuses found that in most of these years, the majority of the laundry employees were women. These women workers constituted heads of households, wives, mothers, older unmarried daughters in the household, and single women rooming with other families. In 1910, there were two female and two male employees. In 1920, there were four female employees and three males. And, by 1930, the laundry employed 11 workers, 6 of which were women.<sup>6</sup>

The building acted as a laundry and dry cleaning for many years until the 1970s. Advertisements in the *Steamboat Pilot* over the years appeal to the changing demographics and evolving community of Steamboat Springs. Ads in 1910 call for "laundry girls" to apply, and appeal to single men by offering free mending to bachelors. Later ads in the 1930s suggest mom gives herself a break by bringing the laundry to them. The laundry provided service not only to local residents, but also hotels, and other communities in Routt County and beyond. Local resident Barney Bartlett noted that when he worked at the laundry in 1958, he "drove a delivery truck to deliver clean sheets to Steamboat Springs motels and Craig motels, and also helped clean out the boiler."<sup>12</sup>

Moller owned the property until his death in 1919 when the building was then sold to Capitolia Deboer<sup>13</sup>. A *Steamboat Pilot* advertisement from 1913 and an article in 1934 show that for several years during Moller's ownership of the property, it appears that first Ed Kline, and then Everett Cole owned and operated the laundry business. By 1920, the building looks as it does today, with brick additions including the front two-story portion adjoining the sidewalk on Eleventh Street, and the one-story addition toward the creek, which currently houses the Creekside Café. Both of these additions were built in similar style to the original structure, with identical color and shape of brick, as well as matching architectural detail like that located on the southeast elevation of the building near the roofline.

## Architecture

The significance of the building is also due to its architectural style and as such, qualifies under Criterion C. The architectural style of the Steamboat Laundry Building as early 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Commercial Style is consistent with building construction in this area during that time. The building was distinctive in that the general location for two-story brick buildings was on Lincoln Avenue at this time. The buildings surrounding this location of Eleventh Street, between Lincoln Avenue and Oak Streets were generally one-story.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Federal Census (1910, 1920 & 1930)

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Federal Census (1910, 1920 & 1930)

<sup>12</sup> The Tread of Pioneers Museum, *Main Street Steamboat Springs Map*.

<sup>13</sup> *Administrators Deed (#42131)*, Routt County, p. 216

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In 1913 there was a fire on the roof of the Steamboat Laundry building, but according to a newspaper article, as there was a water hose on the premises and due to help by several onlookers, damage was limited.<sup>14</sup> The Eisenhower family owned the property for the latter part of the 1920s and most of the 1930s. There is a short ownership period in 1940 by Fred Gibbs, and then Al Nelson took ownership from 1940-1946, when the building was sold to the Wither family. The Withers were descendents of early settlers of Steamboat Springs and owned the building for many years until 1962.

The current owners of Curt Weiss and the Soda Creek Building Partnership have owned the building since 1978. Several interior remodels took place in 1979, 1982 and 1984 to modernize the building for its current commercial uses. The building now houses offices in the upstairs portion, and two restaurants on street level including Giovanni's Restaurant on the south corner and the Creekside Café in the one-story addition on the east corner.

The Steamboat Laundry building has gone through several owners and changes in its 100-year history, but has consistently been an important piece of the evolution of Steamboat Springs as a northwest Colorado town. Despite the many changes, the building has maintained its structural integrity and its appearance still tells us a story of a booming Colorado western town in the early 1900s, and the key role the laundry played in the commercial history of Steamboat Springs.<sup>15</sup> The original two-story brick structure of the laundry building still clearly displays the painted sign present in 1910 with the current lettering, which dates to circa 1930. The brick and stone structure is sturdy and maintains a classic look, while still offering distinctive details that highlight its originality and make it appealing to the eye. While the community's needs have changed over the years, the building has been able to meet these needs and remain integral to the commercial industry, while at the same time offering the visitor a glimpse into the past.

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<sup>14</sup> 'Blaze at Laundry', *The Steamboat Pilot*, (January 8, 1913)

<sup>15</sup> Colorado Cultural Resource Survey, "Historic Property Survey of Downtown Steamboat Springs, Routt County, Colorado, 5RT-255." 1981 and 1996

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*The Denver Post*

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
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Steamboat Laundry Building  
Routt County, Colorado

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## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

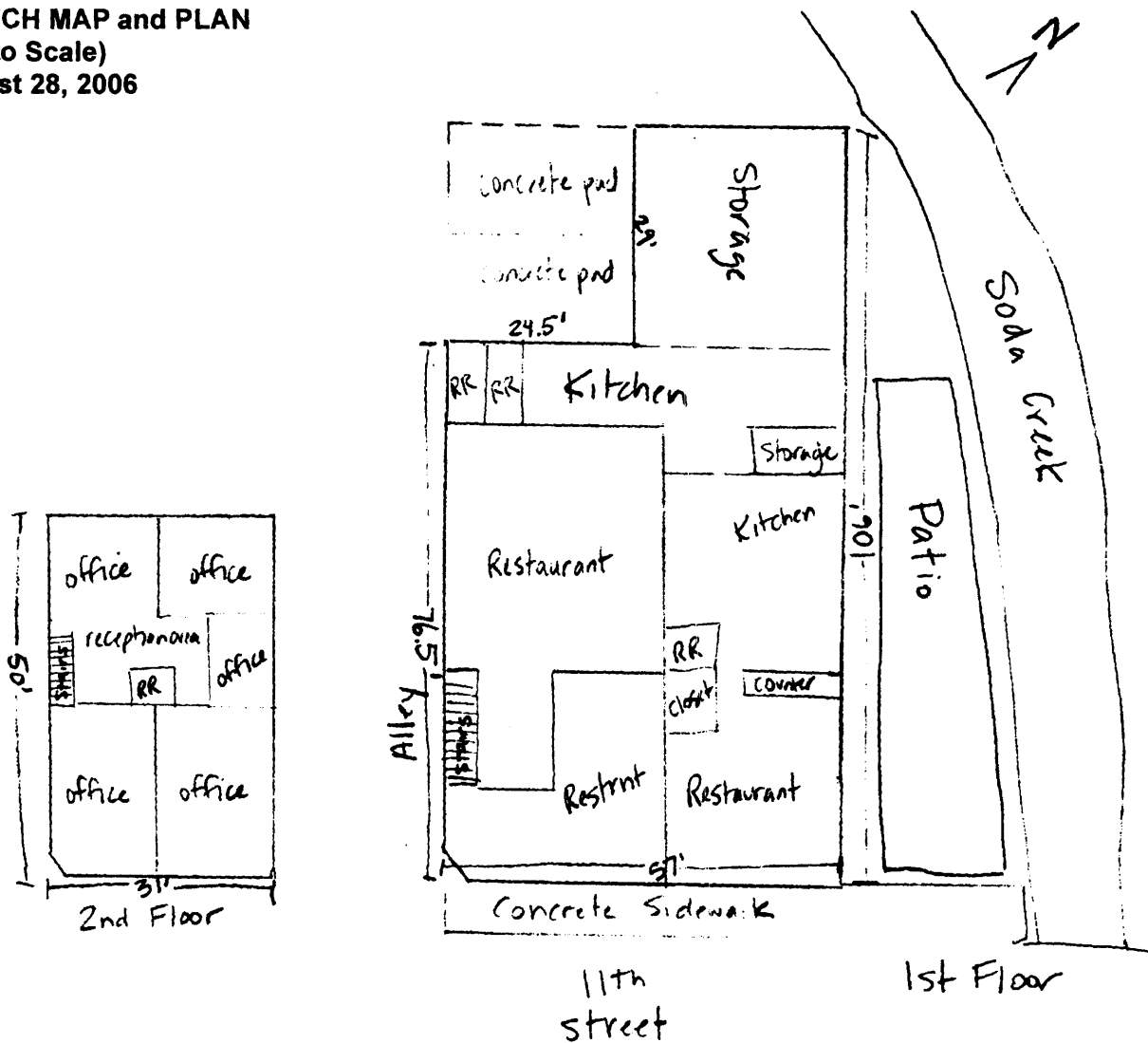
### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary includes Lots 1, 2, and 3 Block 12 of the Original Addition to Steamboat Springs, Section 8, Township 6 North, Range 84 West.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the parcel of land historically associated with the Steamboat Laundry Building (Soda Creek Building).

### SKETCH MAP and PLAN (Not to Scale) August 28, 2006



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

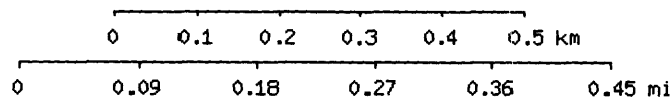
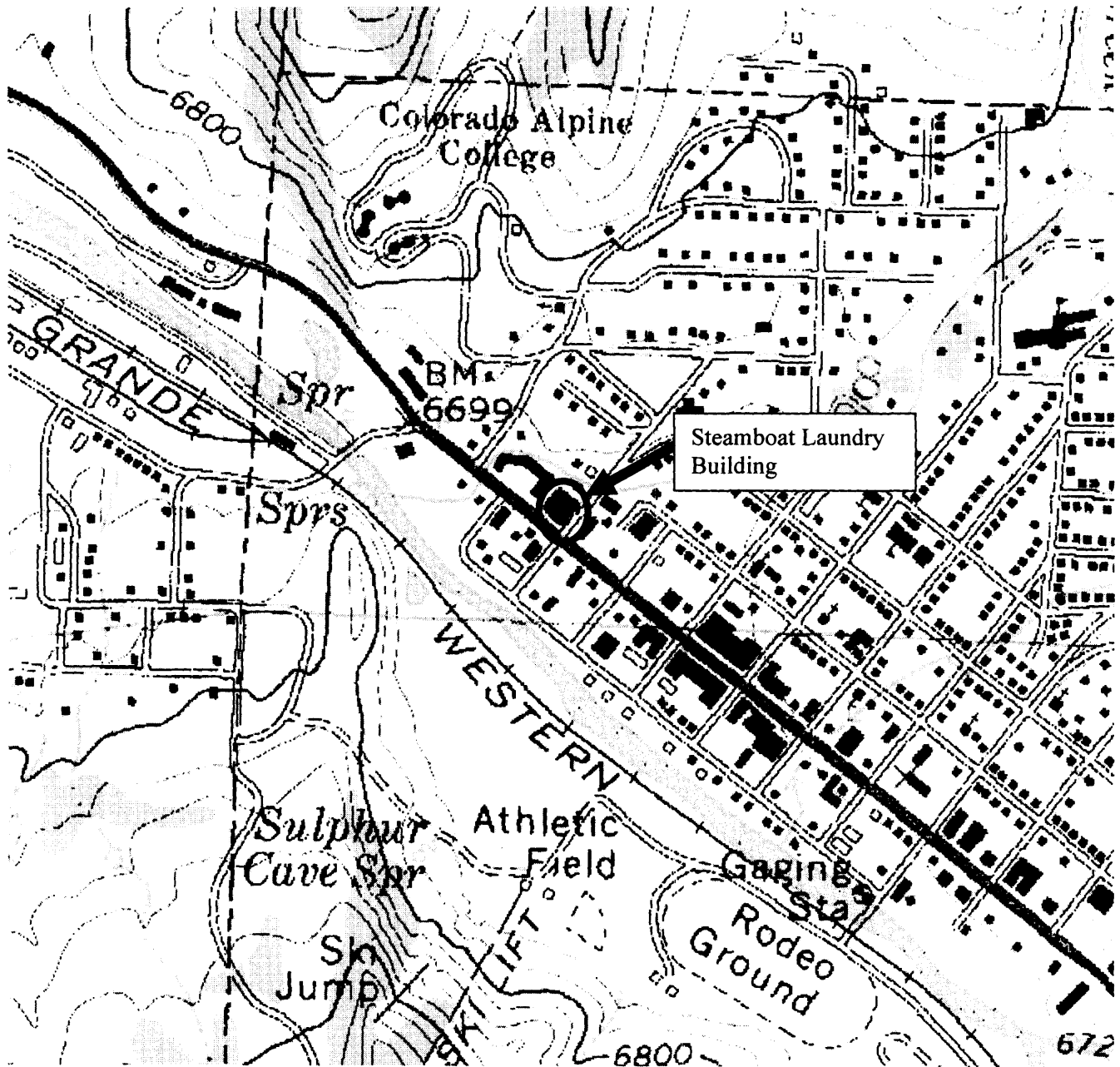
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USGS Steamboat Springs (CO) Quadrangle  
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum



M=11.054  
G=-1.194

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**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-18:

Photographer: Ginger Scott

Date of Photographs: May 23, 2006

Negatives: City of Steamboat Springs Historic Preservation Office

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	East and southeast façade, view to the northwest
2	East façade, view to the west
3	East corner, view to the west
4	East corner, view to the west
5	Southeast façade, view to the northwest
6	Close up of window on first floor of two story structure, southeast face, view to the northwest
7	Second story of south corner and southeast façade, view to the north
8	First story of south corner and southeast façade, view to the north
9	South corner, view to the north
10	South corner and south side of southwest façade, view to the northwest
11	Close up of window on first story of south edge of the southwest side, view to the north
12	First floor of southwest façade, view to the north
13	Northwest and southwest facades, view to the east
14	Southwest façade, view to the east
15	Northwest and southwest facades, view to the east
16	Southwest and northwest facades of one story cobblestone addition, view to the east
17	West corner of one story wood addition, view to the northwest