

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED SEP 28 1982

DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Kauffman, William, House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Silver Street off Mantz Avenue

n/a NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rico

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Colorado

n/a VICINITY OF

CODE

08

COUNTY

Dolores

CODE

033

**CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

n/a IN PROCESS

n/a BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Alan F. Houston and K. Jourdan Houston

STREET & NUMBER  
Whiteface RoadCITY, TOWN  
North Sandwich

n/a VICINITY OF

STATE  
New Hampshire**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of Clerk and Recorder, Dolores County

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Dove CreekSTATE  
Colorado 81324**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE  
Historic Sites Inventory of ColoradoDATE  
1982 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Colorado Preservation OfficeCITY, TOWN  
DenverSTATE  
Colorado

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Kauffman House is a two-story brick residence built in 1891-92. Rectangular in shape, the structure measures 25' by 35' with the long axis nearly east-west. It sits in the heart of the small community of Rico, in southwest Colorado.

The roof is flat and pitched approximately 2"/12" from front to back or from east to west. A wood cornice topped the walls on the east and south, but now only survives on the east (front) facade. Originally a porch surrounded the west and south sides and an outbuilding stood near the southwest corner.<sup>1</sup> Both are now gone. The immediate surroundings have also undergone change over the years; frame residences which formerly stood to the north were destroyed some years ago by the flooding of Silver Creek.

The brick surface on the east and south sides is relieved by rectangular recessed sections containing the bays. The front (east) facade contains an arched entrance with transom and a large window on the first level. Two segmentally arched bays are placed on the second level. The south side contains a central entrance with a large window on the east end, a narrow (32" by 80") window to the other side. The upper story has three arched bays. The north wall contains only two bays, one on each floor.

The rear or west wall of the building was severely deteriorated due to water and ice damage. Therefore the rear wall was removed and rebuilt on a new foundation with matching old brick. The entire foundation was repointed, as were the remaining three walls where necessary.

Interior renovation has been complete and in the building's original cast. Wiring and plumbing are new and heat is by wood stove and electric baseboard. The original window openings have been retained and custom built red oak sash with insulating glass have been fitted. An exception is the reconstructed west wall where the window frames were destroyed. Here, stock windows as close in size as possible to the original were fitted.

<sup>1</sup>According to information provided by Mrs. Dazarene Kauffman Ames, a resident of Rico since 1915.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891-92

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank L. Hill<sup>2</sup>

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1891,<sup>1</sup> the William Kauffman House, the only brick or masonry residence in Rico, reflects the economic development of the community and the history of the town's principal activity, silver mining.

Rico, incorporated in October 1879, began as a log cabin mining camp in the 1870s and boomed in the 1880s until the Silver Panic of 1893. During this period, some of the hastily built frame houses, often built without foundations, were replaced with more enduring and refined buildings of stone and brick. The William Kauffman House was built on the site of a frame house which was moved nearby to allow construction on the site.

At its time of construction and still today, the William Kauffman House is unique in both its size and quality of construction when compared to the small frame residences that still typify Rico. Built at the height of prosperity, with 10' ceilings, 80" high arched windows, plaster on wood lathe interior, and wainscoting in much of the downstairs, it reflects the success of Rico mining. Its vernacular Victorian elements are shared by the diagonally adjacent Old Dolores County Courthouse (built 1892; restored 1976; listed National Register). Almost all of the other remaining masonry buildings in the town, none of which were originally residences, date from the late 1880s to 1893.

Lived in by the Kauffman family until 1915 (Dazarene Kauffman Ames lives in California, age 82); the subsequent use of the house is not certain but was probably residential. It was acquired by the Rico Argentine Mining Company in the late forties and housed miners for that company until the Rico Argentine (mine) closed in 1971. Vacant and further deteriorating since 1971, it was restored in 1980-81.

The surrounding town, 320 acres amid the San Juan National Forest, depressed and boarded up, is now reawakening. Other buildings are being rehabilitated and there is increasing interest in tourism and recreation as well as mineral extraction. A number of mining artifacts and structures are now being stabilized and protected by the new owners of the Rico Argentine.

<sup>1</sup>According to Darzarene Kauffman Ames, descendent of the original owner, in a letter, August 8, 1982, the house dates to around 1872, which is as yet unsubstantiated.

<sup>2</sup>According to Darzarene Kauffman Ames, Hill was originally from Chillecothe, Missouri. With partners V. J. Kraft and Robert Pellet, he was responsible for other buildings in Rico, such as the Congregational Church. He died c. 1893 and is buried in Rico.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Reid, James Anderson. "A History of Rico, Colorado: 1879-1971."  
Masters Theses, University of Texas at Austin.

Ames, Dazarene Kauffman. Letters, Oakland, California.

Engel, Charles. Letters, interviews, clippings. Rico, Colorado.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately .10 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Rico, Colorado

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,2 7,6,1 9,5,0 4,1 7,5 7,2,0

B                  

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The NE corner of the nominated area is located 40' from the intersection of Silver Street and Silver Creek with the boundary running S 87' on Silver Street; then westerly 100' to the SW corner; then northerly 87'; then 100' E to the corner of origin. (See Map 3)

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

STATE n/a CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Alan F. Houston /Gloria Mills

ORGANIZATION /Colorado Preservation Office

DATE 1982

STREET & NUMBER Whiteface Road /1300 Broadway

TELEPHONE (603) 284-6947  
(Houston) (303) 967-2713

CITY OR TOWN North Sandwich /Denver

STATE New Hampshire/Colorado

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

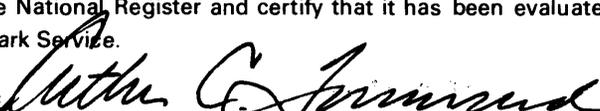
NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL x

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

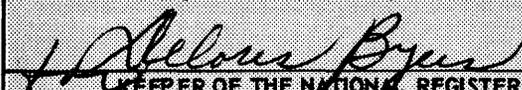
DATE 9/22/82

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the  
National Register

DATE 10/29/82



KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

TEST: CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

William Kaufman House  
Dolores County, Co.  
UTM REFERENCES:  
A: 12 761950 4175720

Map 1

HERMOSA PEAK  
4459 III NW

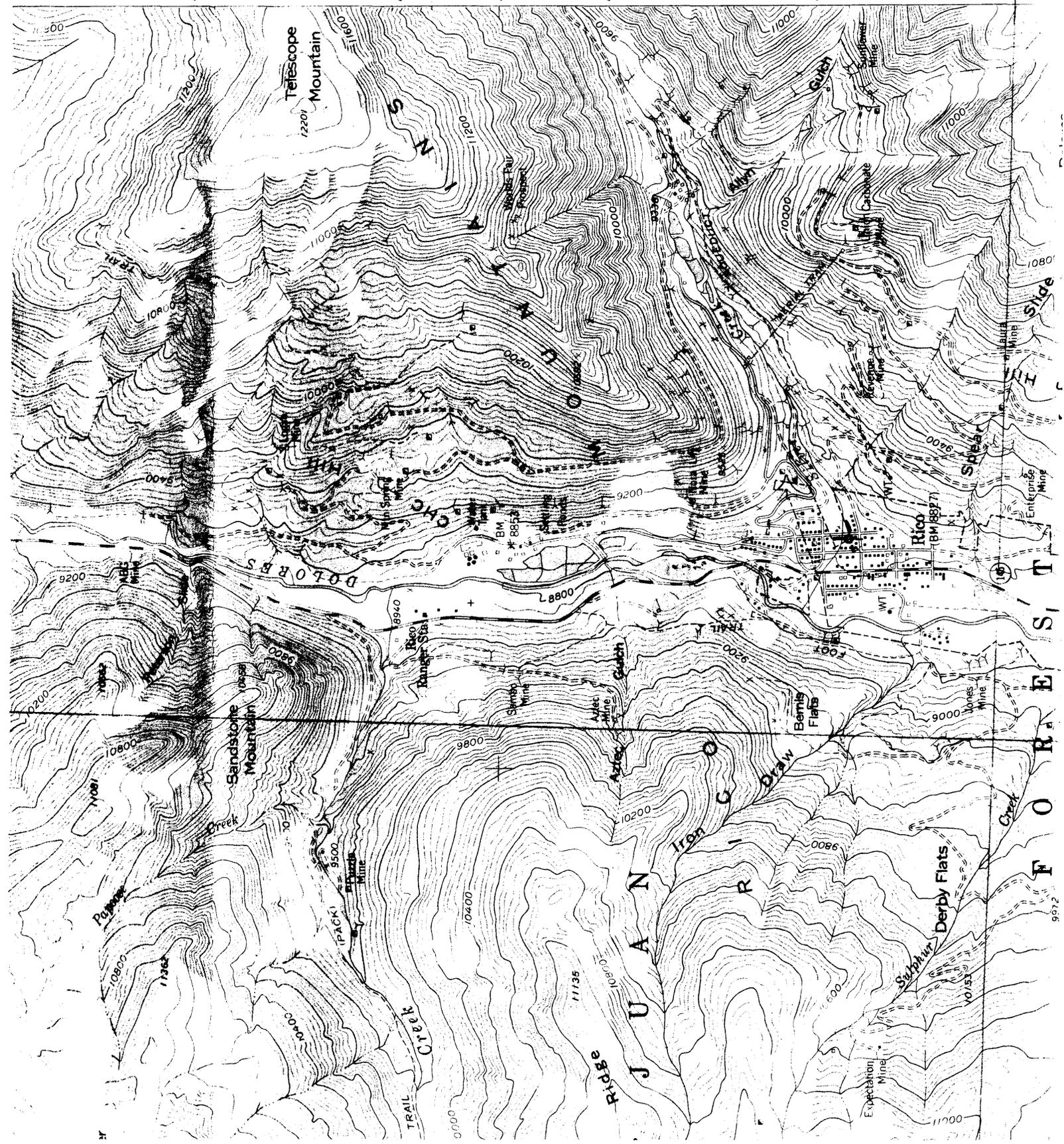
4179

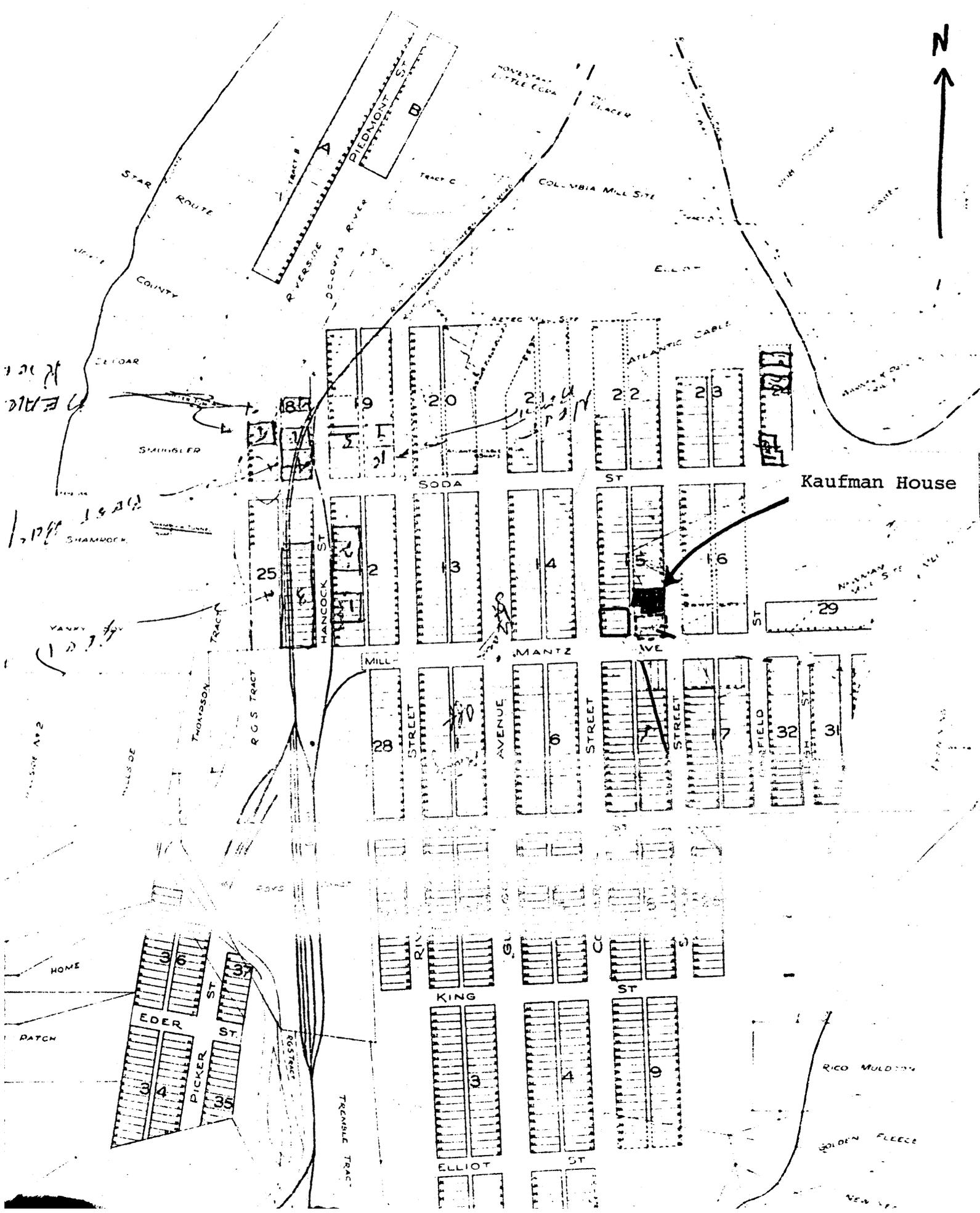
4178

42°30'

4177

4176





STAR ROUTE  
RIVER SIDE  
COUNTY

TRACT B  
PIEDMONT ST  
TRACT C  
RIVERSIDE RIVER  
DELOUIS RIVER

MOVIE PALACE  
LITTLE CUBA  
COLUMBIA MILL SITE

HERALD  
SMILINGER  
SHAMROCK

Kaufman House

HANCOCK ST  
25

20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
29

MILL STREET  
28  
30  
31  
32

HOME  
PATCH  
EDER ST  
PICKER ST  
34  
35

TRANSIBLE TRACT

KING ST  
4

ELLIOT ST  
4

RICO MULDER  
GOLDEN FLEECE

William Kaufman House  
Dolores County, Colorado

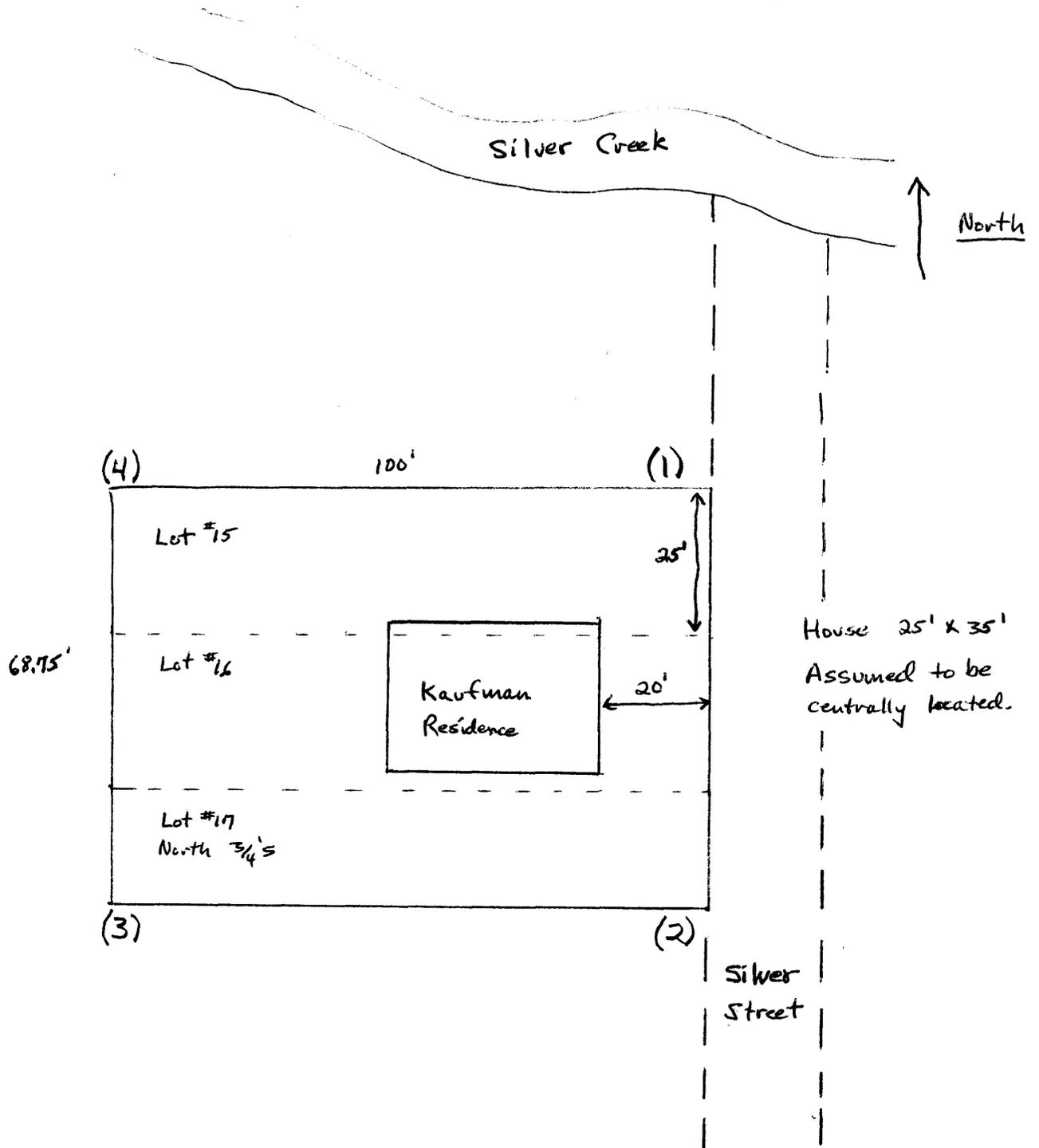
Map 2

Scale; 1 inch = 400 feet.

Date: Unknown.

City map of Rico.

Nominated site shown in red.



Block #15

Lots #15, #16, North 3/4 #17

William Kaufman House  
Dolores County, Colorado

Map 3

Alan Houston  
July 1982

1 inch = 25 feet

1" = 25'