

PH008 7114

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

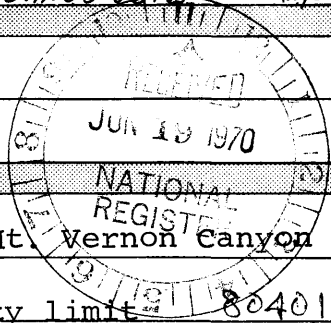
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.11.08.0016	DATE 11/20/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mount Vernon House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
(Robert W. Steele House)



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Junction of Interstate 70, State 26, and Mt. Vernon Canyon Rd.

CITY OR TOWN:
Approximately one mile south of Golden city limit 80401

STATE: Colorado CODE: 08 COUNTY: Jefferson CODE: 059

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 type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Dorothy Matthews Baugher

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mount Vernon Road

CITY OR TOWN: Golden STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Tax Assessor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
1700 Arapahoe

CITY OR TOWN: Golden STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Preliminary Ownership Map of T.4S, R.70W., Jefferson Co. I-70

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Colorado State Highway Department

STREET AND NUMBER:
4201 East Arkansas Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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See also: HABS survey of Feb. 15(?) 1934 No. 36-C-1. Federal; deposited with Colo. St. Mus., Denver & HABS, W., D.C.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

The present location of this house is very near Interstate 70 as it penetrates the foothills west of Denver. However, the house has not been relocated or damaged due to the highway development.

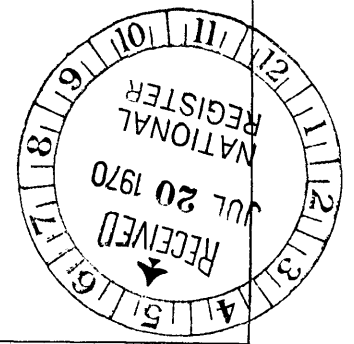
The house appears today much as it did when detailed drawings were made by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1934. The plan of the house shows thirteen rooms, including the bath and storage areas. Construction is of stone for the lower story and wood and shingle for the second. Incorporated into the gabled roof are three dormers.

Of interest is the stone lintel over the front door which is inscribed with the date, "1860." This may well be the erection date of the house as the first recorded date for the building is 1867. Although authentication is difficult, evidence indicates that the Steele house may have been one of the earliest stone houses built by those who came to Colorado seeking gold in the Rockies.

A recent real estate transaction has taken place in the area of the old stone house indicating a forthcoming residential or commercial development is in the making. The Steele property was not included in the sale, due to the deference of the owner. At present, however, the house is little known, despite its proximity to the highway, due to the lower elevation of the house with relation to the roadway.

To sum up the architectural features; the house belongs to the class called "rural cottage." The exterior treatment is a dual one of rusticated polygonal stone on the first level and a "shingle style" treatment on the second.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Colorado	
COUNTY Jefferson	
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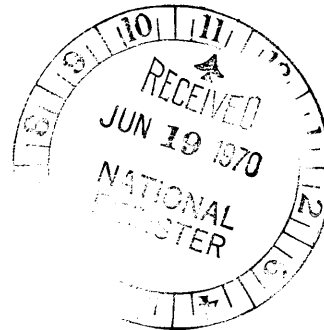
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7. Description (continued)

The original portion of the house is the north-east wing which houses the present kitchen and pantry facilities. The roof over this portion is lower and smaller than the roofs of succeeding additions. The roof over the original portion is a hipped roof; the rest of the roof is a combination hip and gabel roof with dormers.

The house has had various additions during its lifetime; not all of which can be assigned to specific dates. Dates carved into the lintels of several windows intimate the periods when various additions or removals were made. Two windows have the dates "99" and "96" over them. The front (south) door possess a stone lintel marked with the dates "1860" and "1922"; the last two numerals of which have not been completed. The lintel was, in all probability, removed from the original section and re-mortared into the doorway after the south wing was removed circa 1922. The south wing, according to the owner was that portion of the house which served as a tavern and toll house. It faced a small toll road which later became U.S. 40 or the the Mt. Vernon Canyon Road. A photograph of the house taken prior to 1922 shows the wing as it existed. The exact date of the south wing's construction is not known.

The plan arrangement of the Mt. Vernon House is that of a cross with its arms lying in the direction of the cardinal points of the compass. This effect was heightened before the removal of the south wing. Today, a covered porch with stone columns stands in its stead. All stone work appears to match closely that of the older sections of the house.



8. 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	"transportation"
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	i.e., a stage stop
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

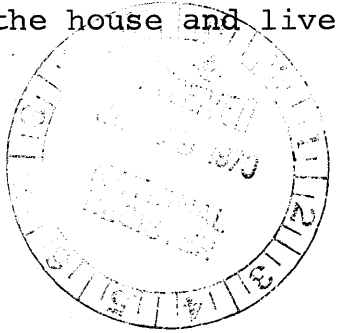
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In addition to being the first Colorado structure to be entered in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS no. COLO-1), the Steele House has a distinctive historical background. The house was built by George (pete) Morrison, after whom Morrison, Colorado is named. The first record of the house is September 19, 1867; however, the house may have been built earlier, as the stone lintel about the door is carved with the date 1860.

Robert W. Steele occupied the house during the period he was elected "governor" by the local citizenry. In this capacity, he presided over the governing body which met in his house. From this provisional government of Jefferson Territory emerged the Territory of Colorado. Steele's term of office lasted from October 1859 until June 1861, when Governor Gilpin, President Lincoln's appointee, took office as Territorial Governor.

The Steele house served as a stage station, saloon, general store, and post office during its long life. It was also a Wells Fargo Express office at one time.

In 1870, the house and property were bought by William Matthews and remained in the family's possession ever since. Today, Mrs. Dorothy Matthews Baugher owns the house and lives in an adjoining house.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Circle of Pioneers, by Mary H. Crain 1959
Colorado Transcript, August, 15, 1915; August 31, 1922
Rocky Mountain News, Sunday, February 24, 1952
 HABS Micro-Film Catalogue of Colorado
 Letter by A. Leicester Hyde, District Officer #36 Historic
 American Buildings Survey 1936

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	° ' "	° ' "		39° 41' 41"	105° 12' 30"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than ten**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Robert Fink, Assistant to the Director**

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Colorado** DATE: **4-30-70**

STREET AND NUMBER: **200 Fourteenth Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Denver** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: *Stephen H. Hart*
Stephen H. Hart

Title: State Liaison Officer of Colorado

Date: 6/15/70

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

Ernest Allen Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 20 1970

Date: _____

ATTEST:

J Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: Nov. 12, 1970

13/482140/4390700
 OTM PCF
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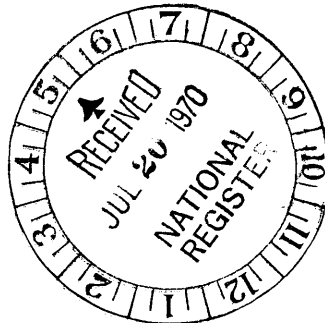
(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY Jefferson	
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Significance (continued)

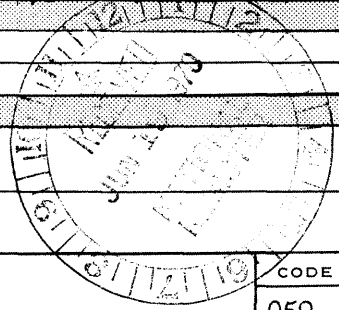
The Robert W. Steele House (common name) is one of two houses which remain as sole survivors of the town of Mt. Vernon, a once bustling settlement. Robert W. Steele served as Governor of extralegal Jefferson Territory (1859-1860) which preceded the legally established territorial government of Colorado Territory (1860-1876). This house is important to the political history of Colorado since it was from it that Steele conducted much of Jefferson Territory's gubernatorial business.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

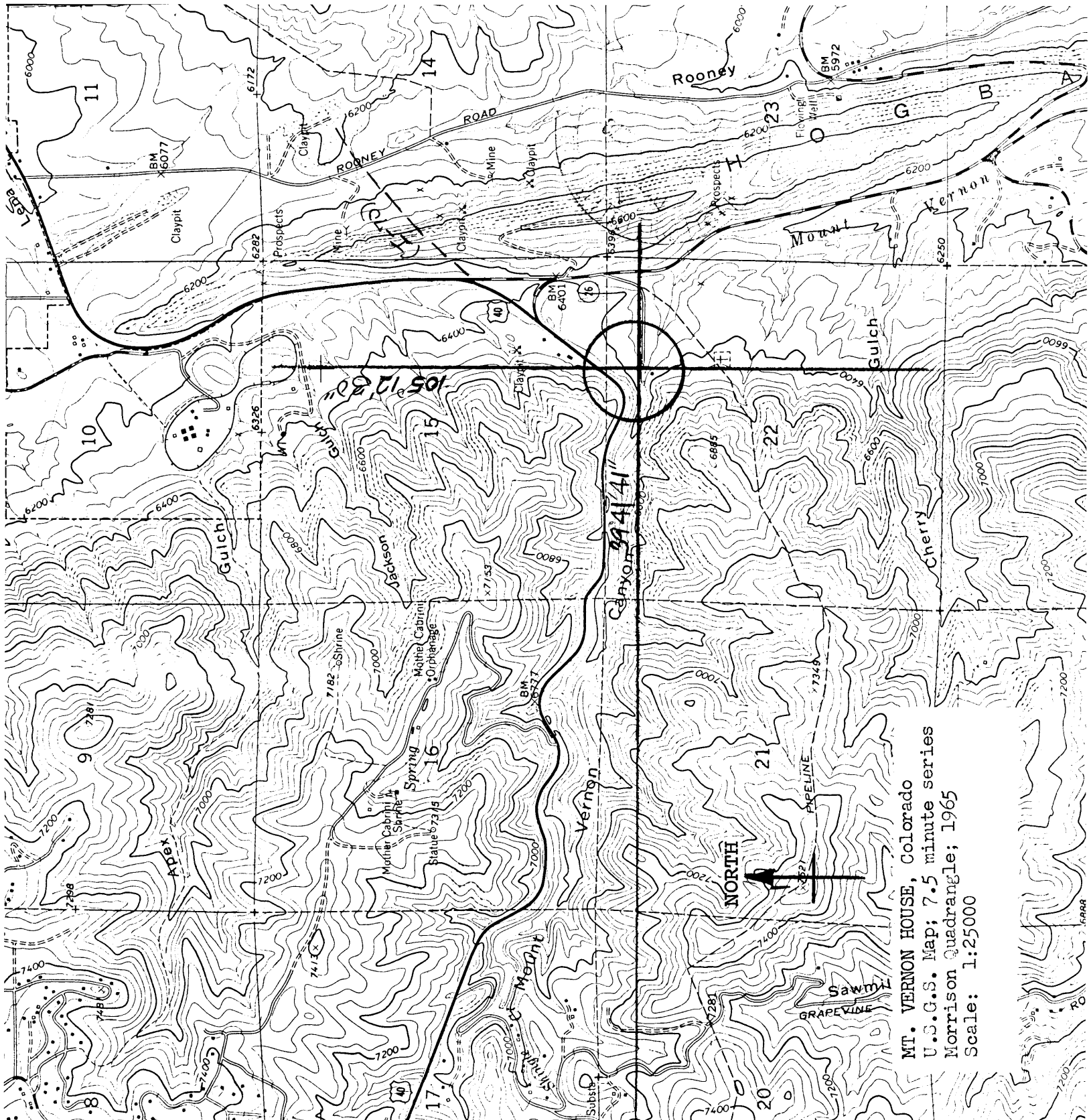
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Colorado	
COUNTY	
Jefferson	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.11.08.0016	11/20/70



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Mt. Vernon House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Robert W. Steele House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
at junction of I-70, State 26 & Mt. Vernon Canyon Road			
CITY OR TOWN:			
approximately one mile south of Golden city limit			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Colorado	08	Jefferson	059
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. Map; 7.5 minute series; Morrison, Colorado Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:25000			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.		note: present I-70 not shown on 1965 map.	
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



MT. VERNON HOUSE, Colorado
 U.S.G.S. Map; 7.5 minute series
 Morrison Quadrangle; 1965
 Scale: 1:25000

4963 111 NE (EVERGREEN)
 41' 33"
 41' 41"
 4394
 4395
 4396
 IDAHO SPRINGS 18 MI. 5 MI. TO COLO. 74
 4230'
 4392