Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

PHOOS 7089

Colorado	
201112	

Jefferson

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The horizontal handhewn square cut logs with overlapping corners, interstices filled with chinking, and roof made of hand made wood shingles, are typical of the materials used in homes in the mountain area in the 1870's through the 1880's. However, the interior of the home was somewhat more luxurious, and the 2-story construction more commodious than was normal in such homes. The building was square, 27' by 27', and consisted of a living room, dining room and kitchen downstairs and 3 bedrooms on the 2nd floor. Dormers, a bay window, gingerbread window trimming, interior construction materials and style are all typical of the Victorian era, but fancy for a mountain home. The interior walls were 6° ceiling boards covering the walls as well as the ceiling. There are three bays in the front.

The fabric of the house is in excellent condition. Hon. J. Clark had the building erected in 1883 by "the best carpenter in Central City". The addition of the homestead cabin from the property as a bedroom on the main house, and the subsequent construction of additional rooms using the same materials as are included in the original, have produced homogeneity in appearance.

There are 2 storeys, 11 bays. The original homestead cabin was added as a bedroom to the main 27' x 27' house in 1925. It was affixed to the east side. It is 12' x 12', $1\frac{1}{2}$ storey. A sunroom was added to the west side using logs taken from a dismantled barn of the period. It is 18' x 27', all glass in front, consisting of 3 windows, a double French door, a 3 more windows. A glassed in sun porch was also added, 10' x 27', with 2 windows in front. A lean-to type kitchen annex and storeroom and bathroom, the toal 10' x 27', were added to the north side of the house. A glassed-in "back porch" was added to the east side, measuring 12' x 24'. The shape, needless to say, is irregular.

There are 4 chimneys. One in the southeast corner of the downstairs bedroom is of native granite and serves a Franklin stove. One in the west quadrant of the roof of the main house serves a propane stove in the living room. It is the origin al brick chimney that first served a woodburning stove. Another original brick chimney is toward the rear of the house and serves a propane cooking stove now. A fourth chimney is at the rear center of the sunroom and is for a fireplace. It is of native granite. The roof of the main house is a high hip with dormers on 3 of the sections. The south and west are double, the east single. The roof on the rooms added to the east and west are medium gable.

The house faces south with a small hill rising behind it, and a grassy meadow in front leading to more gently rising hills. It is generally located in the valley that runs along Soda Creek, slightly west of the house. It is surrounded by many bushes and plantings of the original owners.



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Humphrey House is an unusual example of mountain architecture in the Victorian era. Built with on-site timber, the logs handhewn, the dimensional material such as floor and ceiling boards, window frames and roof beams produced by an on-site sawmill because of the difficulty of bringing materials in, it maintains its original integrity. Its total interest is enhanced through the thoughtful additions in 1925-27 by an owner dedicated to its historical value. The homestead constructed in 1878 was moved and added to the home as a bedroom, and additional rooms were constructed from logs from a stage coach stop of the era. The result is architectural and historical homogeneity.

The original 2-storey home was constructed by John J. Clark in 1883. He had come to Colorado in 1868 as a "Cousin Jack", and successively and successfully prospected, invested in mining property and eventually become a merchant. He was active in Nevadaville town government and served in several capacities over the years as town clerk, treasurer and mayor. In 1878, he homesteaded 160 acres near Bergen Park on Soda Creek Road, a recently opened and busy stage road linking the mountain community, the stage road from Denver to the mining camps, and the Beaver Brook Station serving the Colorado Central Railroad that was completed to the mining areas in 1872. He built a cabin, proved his claim, and purchased another 160 acres to accomodate cattle raising and farming. The Ute indians continued to summer camp nearby in the lovely valley accompanying Soda Creek on the Clark Ranch.

At the time he built the more commodious home for his family in 1883, he was also the owner of a meat and vegetalbe market in Central City, his ranching and marketing activities no doubt complementing each other. In 1888 he was elected to the State Legislature and served in the Seventh General Assembly.

The Hon J. J. Clark died in 1912, but the ranch remained in the family until 1920 when it was purchased from his widow by Lucius Edwin Humphrey. In 1912, a piece of the property became Filius Park, a part of the Denver Mountain Parks.

Mr. Humphrey was head of the copy desk on the Rocky Mountain News for 25 years, and then the Denver Post for 10 years. He was the mountain area's first year round Denver commuter. He drove a Model T over a rutted wagon road 22 hours daily. The Humphreys called the property Kinnikinnik Ranch.

Today their daughter, Hazel Lucia Humphrey, still maintains the home in mint condition. She takes pride in keeping it in perspective as a comfortable home, but also a representative of our mountain heritage.

Date

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