

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 18 1984  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Daniel Sciumbato Grocery Store

and/or common Daniel Sciumbato Grocery Store

**2. Location**

street & number 706 Second Street n/a not for publication

city, town La Junta n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Otero code 089

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>n/a</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>n/a</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Emmett J. Colosimo

street & number 706 West First Street

city, town La Junta n/a vicinity of state Colorado 81050

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Otero County Courthouse

street & number Third and Colorado

city, town La Junta state Colorado

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Ongoing  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, 1300 Broadway

city, town Denver state Colorado 80203

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sciumbato Grocery is a detached building, 18' by 24', occupying a corner lot in a modest residential neighborhood in La Junta. Houses in the area vary from small "shotgun" dwellings to larger two-story structures. The Sciumbato Grocery is composed of two distinct parts: A one-story frame grocery of c. 1908 construction and, attached to the rear (south), a two-story brick residence built for the owner c. 1910.

Located on the property when it was purchased by Daniel Sciumbato in 1901 was a two-room adobe house. A frame commercial structure was constructed in front of the adobe c. 1908. The grocery, set flush with the public sidewalk, is characterized by a false front with two large display windows, one on either side of the central entrance. A single wood storefront lintel extends across the bays. Above the door is a transom. Underneath the windows are spandrel panels typical of the period. The false front extends above to mask the gabled roof and is topped with a single boxed cornice with crown and bed moldings having returns at the ends. Covering the building is rabbeted lap-siding, set with corner boards.

The two sides (east and west) of the grocery contain no windows or additional entrances. On the east wall is painted a large, faded black sign--"Dan Sciumbato Groceries and Meat." On the west side, a chimney with corbeled cap is set in the roof slope.

Around 1910 the present two-story brick house was built around the adobe building--a common practice in the area. The total structure, therefore, is composed of a grocery, of which the north section, 18' by 24', is frame and the back portion, 15' by 18', is adobe; and a dwelling, of which the easternmost room is adobe. (See sketch plan.) Although the original adobe walls are not visible, the walls of the adobe section are 16" as compared to the 8" walls characterizing the rest of the structure. In the residence, the adobe room floor is slightly lower.

The house is 31' by 34' and has a pyramidal roof. The block is modestly detailed both on the interior and exterior. The formal entrance is on the west end of the north wall, with a one-story porch covering the doorway and window to one side. The one-half hipped roof porch supported on two single wood columns, with minimal caps, extends to the stone wall, meeting just below the store's eave. The main eave of the house, with an open soffit, meets the ridge of the store roof. There is one center window at the second level. A brick chimney protrudes from the roof at the apex.

At the rear (southeast) of the residence is a one-story addition used as a kitchen. Another addition, 16' by 8', is at the southwest end of the house.

# 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	<u>XX</u> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
___ 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
<u>XX</u> 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

<b>Specific dates</b>	grocery--c.1908 house--c.1910	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	—
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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Sciumbato Grocery is one of the earliest and most intact neighborhood grocery stores in La Junta. This type commercial structure once characterized residential neighborhoods from the late 19th century of the first half of the 20th century; few, however, survive in La Junta. Also typical of the resource was the attached residence for the store owner, illustrated by the brick house adjoining Sciumbato's grocery.

La Junta was founded in 1875 as a railroad center, serving as the terminus of both the Sante Fe Railroad and the Kit Carson branch of the Kansas Pacific. The railroad was the main support of the town during its early years. Agricultural development in the 1880s gave impetus to the community's growth and increased its economic importance as a service center. Thus the population increased from 1,465 in 1890 to 4,154 in 1910.<sup>1</sup>

Within La Junta's population at the turn of the century were a few Italian residents, most of whom were employed by the railroad. In the state it could be said that there were no significant number of Italians in Colorado until the 1880s. (The census of 1880 indicates only 335 Italians were in the state at that time.<sup>2</sup>) Many had come in response to promotional literature designed to recruit cheap labor for Western mines, smelters, and railroad construction.

When Daniel Sciumbato moved to La Junta with his wife and family around 1898, he worked for a period for the Atchison, Topeka and the Sante Fe Railroad, as did four of his brothers. Sciumbato had emigrated from Rizzuto, Italy, with his father around 1888 to Nova Scotia. After Sciumbato was injured at his job with the railroad, he decided to open a grocery store in Pueblo with a partner. In a year, he bought out the partner and moved the store to La Junta around 1908.<sup>3</sup>

In 1901, it is recorded that Dan Sciumbato acquired Lot 3, Block 6 in the A. J. Anderson Addition from Nicholas Vigil. The property was located in a neighborhood which had grown up around a nearby Catholic church. The area was composed of a mix of modest residences of frame and adobe construction, as well as a few more imposing two-story houses. The people who lived there were from a variety of ethnic backgrounds--Anglo, Greek, Italian, and Hispanic.<sup>4</sup>

On the lot purchased by Sciumbato was a two-room adobe house. About 1908, he opened his grocery in the east room of the adobe structure and the false-fronted frame building he built in front of the adobe. He then bought the lot and house adjacent to his lot on the west. That house and the west room of the adobe, connected by a hall, became the family residence. About 1910, the west house was moved elsewhere and the present brick house was constructed around the adobe one.

Sciumbato, a well-known and respected member of the community, operated the store until his death in 1942 at which time his son George assumed control. The store continued under family management until 1974 when it was closed. The property was subsequently acquired by Urban Renewal, who will be donating the land and buildings to the Otero County Historical Society for development as a museum complex. The grocery is scheduled for renovation

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Hafen, LeRoy R. Colorado and Its People, Vols. I and II. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Incl, 1948.  
Information from interview with Margaret Sciumbato Rizzuto, January 3, 1984 by Francis Keck Writers' Program, Colorado, Vol. 2. 1933.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .3

Quadrangle name La Junta Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	3	6	2	7	0	9	0	4	2	0	5	1	1	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

North 82' of lots 1 and 2 and all of lots 3 and 4 in Block 6, Anderson Addition.

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 Francis Keck Edited: Gloria Mills

organization

date November 1983

street & number 701 Grace Street

telephone

city or town La Junta

state Colorado

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

*Barbara Sudler*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/10/84

For NPS use only

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

*John A. Larson, Byron*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5/17/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet Daniel Sciumbato  
Grocery Store

Item number 8

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in the near future for use as a museum.

<sup>1</sup>Writers' Program, Colorado, Vol. 2

<sup>2</sup>Hafen, Vol. II, p. 110.

<sup>3</sup>Information from interview with Margaret Sciumbato Rizzuto, January 3, 1984 by Francis Keck.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

Daniel Sciumbato Grocery Store  
Otero County, Colorado

Frances Keck  
January 1984 Floor Plan  
No Scale

