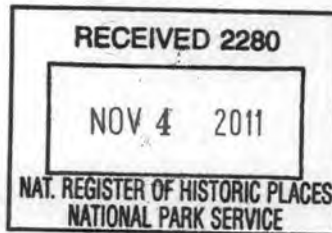


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



903

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) - Wagner & Askew
other names/site number Russell Gulch Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Russell Gulch Post Office / 5GL.125

2. Location

street & number 81 Russell Gulch Road

N/A	not for publication
N/A	vicinity

city or town Russell Gulch
state Colorado code CO county Gilpin code 047 zip code 80427

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 at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local
[Signature] Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 9/30/11 Date
Signature of certifying official/Title
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain) _____
[Signature] 12.15.11
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State

5. Classification

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- SOCIAL/Meeting Hall
- COMMERCE/TRADE/General Store
- GOVERNMENT/ Post Office

- DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals

- foundation: Stone
- walls: Stone
- Brick
- roof: OTHER: Urethane foam with acrylic coating
- other: Cast iron

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew

Gilpin County, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Russell Gulch Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I O O F) Hall #41 is a two-story masonry building, being the only surviving commercial building in the midst of what was once a bustling mining town. The 1895 brick and rubble stone building is an excellent example of a Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival building with character-defining features including a recessed entry, transomed doors, storefront windows, and decorative brick. It is a two-part commercial block building, which housed the I O O F meetings on the second floor while providing retail space on the first floor where the only town post office operated for nearly fifty years.

Narrative Description

Setting

Remnants of mining claims litter the mountains of many parts of Gilpin County where a prospector located one of the earliest and largest gold vein discoveries in Colorado's mining history in 1859. The large discovery near what is now known as Blackhawk, Colorado, prompted thousands of eager prospectors to search for their gold fortunes in the nearby hillsides including those near what became Russell Gulch, less than four miles south of Blackhawk. Located in the midst of what was at one time the main commercial area for the booming town of Russell Gulch, today the Russell Gulch I O O F building joins only a few residential homes and commercial building ruins occupying Russell Gulch's main street. Originally known as Building 75 of Russell Gulch, the I O O F building now has the address of 81 Russell Gulch Road.

Built into a hillside, the Russell Gulch I O O F building's main façade faces the south toward Russell Gulch Road, an improved dirt road. A small rock driveway traverses up the hillside on most of the building's west side where it meets a fence at the back of the building. A small parking area exists on the east side of the building, which also contains a small storage shed moved to the property circa 1975. A small area with indigenous coniferous trees and vegetation exists on a slope to the north and northeast, the approximate location of the original privy, no longer extant. To the west of the building is a private residence dating to circa 1880s, across the road to the south is vacant property once the site of one of the town's saloons, to the east is a private residence dating to the late-1890s, and the hillside to the north is a vacant of buildings and extends to the main road, which leads two miles north to Central City. In front of the I O O F building, a rubble stone retaining wall with a garden planter, built in 2005, rises from Russell Gulch Road to the concrete sidewalk, which is level to the building's main façade.

I O O F Building, 1895

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I O O F) building is a two-story masonry building with a 30' x 60' rectangular plan and flat roof, which sits on a loose brick and rock foundation. It is an example of a two-part commercial block building in a Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival style. It features a horizontal division of the façade into two distinct sections. The lower section, at the first story, was designed historically for a retail business while the upper section, at the second story, was designed for the I O O F meeting space. Red brick covers the main façade while locally quarried rubble stone creates the remaining walls, which are 2' thick.

South-facing (main) façade

The first story of the south-facing façade has typical storefront elements, including a central recessed entry flanked on either side by large plate glass display windows. There is a transom band of windows above the

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State

display windows and entry. A protruding molded cornice band with brackets marks the fenestration division and tops the entire storefront. Fluted cast-iron pilasters flank the recessed entry door bay and appear again as they frame the outer edges of the display windows. The original double entry doors have outer screen doors with lower paneled wood sections. The three-over-three display windows have three paneled wood kick plates or bulkheads, corresponding to the three transom windows and display windows. Each display window features fixed panes set in a wood frame with mullions aligning the three transom windows.

A slightly raised brick course, extending the full width at the second story windowsills, divides the first and second stories. The course is broken at each window with a rough-cut stone still. Above the brick course, two sets of two-over-two double-hung windows flank a centered small stone plaque that contains the three ring Independent Order of Odd Fellows symbol at the top, an inscription of "I O O F" in the middle, and the date of "1895" at the bottom. A double rowlock forms a camber arch above each window. Between the windows is a double dogtooth brick course. The cornice slightly protrudes from the building and contains a corbelled brick course.

East-facing side

The main façade brick wraps around the east and west sides in a quoin fashion. Rubble stone makes up the remainder of the east wall. Toward the rear on the first-story level is a back entrance, which contains the original wood door along with the original screen door, which contains wood in the lower section and a divided screen in the upper portion. A four-light transom appears above the door, which is set under a four-rowlock camber arch constructed of red brick. Four brick chimneystacks, with corbelled edges and arched caps appear above the roof line on this side; two serve as chimneys and two as air vents. A two-over-two double-hung window exists toward the rear on the second story with a sandstone sill. A double-rowlock camber arch constructed of red brick tops the window.

North-facing side (rear)

Rubble stone comprises the exterior wall of the rear side. Toward the west-facing side of the rear entrance on the second floor, an original wood door, matching the one on the east-facing side, allows access to the upper story. A screen door resembling the original one on the east side covers the door, although the current owner added it the late 1970s. This entrance provides the only entrance to the second story. A fixed transom appears above the door, which is set under a three-rowlock camber arch constructed of red brick. Security bars exist on the exterior of the transom window. A small wooden landing exists between the door and the west end of the building with three stairs leading to the ground level, which is the upper level of the hillside.

West-facing side

Mirroring the east side, the main façade brick wraps around the west side in a quoin fashion. Rubble stone makes up the remainder of the building's west wall. No fenestration exists on this side. A rock driveway extends along this side of the building traversing the hill to the upper portion. Two brick chimneystacks, with corbelled edges and arched caps appear above the roof line on this side.

Interior

The first-floor interior exhibits a very high degree of integrity with the original store shelving, raised display window ledges, original store counter, and rounded top flour-type bins. Once the I O O F received electricity in circa 1919, new lighting adorned the store and I O O F hall. The original knob and tube wiring, as installed circa 1919, continues to adorn the original corrugated metal ceiling in the store area and is functional. Originally, the layout of the store contained a large general mercantile in the front three-quarters and the remaining quarter section was a storeroom, which ran up against the hillside. Wagner & Askew, the original store merchants, cut an arch doorway into the rear rubble stone wall and made a cold storage area into the hillside. At an unknown date, an owner filled in the doorway to the cold storage area. The storage room was also where the merchants kept barrels of beer and whiskey. The upper story was the I O O F meeting hall with a small office and coat room. The remainder was a large open room.

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State

The original transomed door, into what was originally the I O O F office, the woodwork, wainscoting, coat hooks, kitchen door, raised seating area around the main meeting area, and the prominent wooden canopy, centered in the south wall, continues to exist. The wooden overhang originally had curtains on either side and was the place where the grand master of the Russell Gulch I O O F sat when conducting meetings.

Alterations

When the current owner purchased the building in 1973, the roof was deteriorated and leaking to the point that toward the back of the second story, the ceiling was hanging down by 18". Water damage and neglect left the first-level wooden floor completely rotted with most of it completely gone. During the 1930s, as the population of Russell Gulch decreased to less than 100, some remaining residents sold vacant buildings to others for repurposing them in other venues or for the materials. The Russell Gulch Methodist and Episcopal Church (known as the M & E Church) was offered for sale, Marion (Wagner) Lewis (the daughter of the merchant Charles Wagner) and her husband acquired it intending to reuse the materials in the future. Close to forty years later, the current owner offered to purchase the clapboard siding from the church from Marion Lewis, who obliged. The clapboard now serves as the wooden floor of the first-story store area. The current owner has slowly restored the building and made a few alterations for current uses.

Along with replacing the store floor, the current owner added a second storage room/work room and reduced the store area to one-half of the total first-floor space. To prevent the original flat roof from leaking, the current owner had it sprayed with urethane foam and then coated with acrylic in circa 2009. The current owner converted the second-story, large open room into living quarters circa 1980s. It now includes two bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, and living room. The current owner converted the office into a bedroom and the coat room into a kitchen. He added three skylights, not visible from the ground level, to accommodate the living quarters in the second story. This was completed concurrently with the new urethane roof.

The wood and windows on the storefront were restored and repaired in the fall of 2010. In this process, thermal pane windows were installed. The storefront window configuration was restored to its original three-over-three configuration. A 1914 fire in the saloon across the street caused the I O O F building's storefront glass to burst. The I O O F replaced the original three-over-three display windows with two-over-two display windows at that time.¹ Upon the recommendation of the Gilpin County Historic Preservation Advisory Board in 2009, when the building was locally landmarked, the owner replaced the two-over-two windows with three-over-three display windows in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Historically, store operators made two modifications; one consisted of a wood lean-to shed attached to most of the east side of the building circa 1900, and the second was the addition of an awning over the storefront. Neither of these modifications exists today. It is unknown when they were removed.

A concrete walkway in front of the store replaced the original boardwalk circa 1920s. Due to the deteriorated concrete sidewalk, the current owner replaced it circa 1990s and by doing so fortified the wood storefront, which was sitting on loose bricks and rock as its foundation.

Shed, circa 1890, non-contributing building

A small rectangular shed sits at the eastern property boundary. Originally the shed served as the outhouse for the Zancanella & Co. Saloon located in Russell Gulch. By 1911 the saloon was one of four remaining saloons in Russell Gulch.² By the mid-1970s when the current owner purchased the I O O F building, many other

¹ Abbott & McCoy, *The Gilpin Railroad Era*. (Denver, CO: Sundance Publications, Ltd, 2009), pages 176-178.

² *The Colorado State Business Directory*. (Denver, CO: The Gazetteer Publishing Co, 1911).

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew

Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado

County and State

buildings in the town were vacant and for sale. The current owner acquired the outhouse, built a wood foundation, and moved it to the I O O F lot to serve as a utility shed. Metal clads the exterior and a metal shed roof tops the building. A wood door provides access on the west-facing side.

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Social History
- Architecture
- Commerce
- Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1895 -1945

Significant Dates

1895

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1895, the construction date, and extends to 1945 when the Russell Gulch I O O F chapter merged with the Central City chapter and no longer used this building.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Fraternal organizations played a significant part in the social lives of small town residents across the United States in the late nineteenth-century, but were especially important in Gilpin County's mining towns. They provided much needed social outlets for the male-dominated communities and served as one of the earliest "civilizing" influences in these rough and tumble times. The Russell Gulch International Order of Odd Fellows (I O O F) provided a social outlet for miners and the community of Russell Gulch, Colorado, along with insurance that medical assistance was available in the event of injury and in the event of death, burial and survivors' benefits were available. The Russell Gulch I O O F building is significant under **Criterion A** for social *history, commerce, and politics and government* as well as under **Criterion C** for its *architecture*. The 1895 two-story brick and stone building is an excellent example of a Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival style building and is the only intact commercial building remaining in the once bustling mining town. The upper story served the I O O F while the Wagner & Askew merchants occupied the first story with its general mercantile business significant for the commercial role it played locally. It offered the residents of Russell Gulch a wide variety of necessities along with additional services including the only town post office. All three organizations, the I O O F, the mercantile, and the post office, existed in this building for close to fifty years. The building is significant at the local level for all criterions.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Russell Gulch Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I O O F) Hall (#41) building is significant under **Criterion A** for *social history* for its long association with the I O O F Lodge #41 providing an important social venue to interact with other miners and members and to receive assistance from their fellow members in times of need. The 1895 building's second floor provided a meeting place for the Russell Gulch I O O F Lodge members as well as a community-meeting place for fifty years. The I O O F commissioned construction of the building circa 1893 to replace previous meeting quarters as membership grew; construction was complete in 1895. As an investment opportunity, the I O O F leased the lower section of the building for a retail business and post office. It met at this building for fifty years.

Additionally, the 1895 two-story stone and brick building is significant under **Criterion C** for *architecture* as an excellent intact example of a Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival style building. Character-defining features of the style found on the building include, cast iron pilasters, a double recessed entry, transomed windows and doors, multi-pane display windows, and decorative brickwork. It is the only extant two-story masonry commercial building in Russell Gulch as well as the only intact commercial building remaining in the once bustling mining town.

The Russell Gulch I O O F Hall is an example of a two-part commercial block building. These were the most common property type (based on a typology of façade arrangement) for small and moderate-sized commercial buildings throughout the country for nearly a century. They were prevalent from the 1850s to the 1950s across America. In Gilpin County, the Russell Gulch Odd Fellows Building is the only known masonry example outside of the Central City – Blackhawk National Historic Landmark District (NRIS.66000246). Within the NHL district, there are several examples in Black Hawk (most are altered), and one in Nevadaville.

The Russell Gulch I O O F Hall is significant under **Criterion A** for *commerce* for its long association with Wagner & Askew, a general mercantile that offered a wide variety of groceries, sundries, dry goods, clothing, and other supplies to the residents of Russell Gulch and the surrounding mining areas for fifty years. For most of its tenure, the store was the only general mercantile in the town and out lasted many other commercial enterprises.

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew

Gilpin County, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Finally the Russell Gulch I O O F Hall is significant under **Criterion A** for *politics and government* for its long tenure as the only post office in Russell Gulch. Although a post office existed in Russell Gulch beginning in 1879, it moved to the I O O F Building in 1895 and continued offering full service postal services to Russell Gulch residents and the surrounding area until 1943, serving forty-eight years in the Wagner & Askew store with the owners of the mercantile named as postmasters.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Russell Gulch's settlement

The Pikes Peak gold rush in 1858-59 spurred the interest of thousands of individuals seeking their riches by placer mining the mountainous area west of the Front Range. Although few miners found riches, some found enough to chase the gold fever until it was more lucrative to work for a hard rock mining company or simply dabble in the venture on the side of another profession. William Green Russell of Auraria, Georgia, was among the very earliest prospectors arriving in the fall of 1858. While he found limited gold flakes in the streambeds near what is now Denver, he made a much larger discovery in a gulch south of Central City in the spring of 1859. He staked his claim there, called it Russell Gulch, and built a cabin. The settlement of the Russell Gulch soon emerged near the gulch. By that fall, over 800 prospectors investigated the hills in and near Russell Gulch. By 1860, the population peaked to about 2000, which included a limited number of women and fourteen children creating the necessity for a school, market, and stores. The population dwindled as quickly as the placer gold did, and by the mid-1860s, only 400 people resided in Russell Gulch with miners turning to hard rock mining, a much more arduous task requiring equipment that was more complicated. Population rose again by 1888 to over 500, after which it varied between 150-500 residents until 1931 when the population dwindled to 100. The small community has less than 100 residents today.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I O O F) History

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I O O F) origins date to 1745 in Manchester, England with a group of common working class individuals joining together to assist others calling themselves Manchester Unity. The concept of working class men joining forces for fellowship and mutual aid of others contradicted cultural practices of the time to the extent that the group was often deemed peculiar or odd. Outsiders believed that the group was “an *odd bunch of fellows*’ who would behave in such a selfless and seemingly impractical fashion.”³ The I O O F did not organize in North America until 1819 when in Baltimore, Maryland, Thomas Wildey and four others sought a charter. Once organized, a wide-spread yellow fever epidemic along with a high numbers of unemployment swept the city. The initial five-member Baltimore lodge determined its focus was to “visit the sick, relieve the distress, bury the dead and educate the orphans.”⁴ Wildey traveled throughout North America to establish additional lodges. The growing organization became the first national fraternity to include women when in 1851 it adopted the Rebekah degree for membership. By 1881, lodge members totaled 489,363 nationwide.⁵ It continues as an international organization focusing on a united and universal brotherhood. Some of its tenets include:

The purest principles of equality, non-political and non-sectarian.
A source of comfort in times of trouble and adversity.

³ Ibid.

⁴ The Sovereign Grand Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows website, last accessed July 13, 2011: www.I.O.O.F.org/aboutus

⁵ Theodore Ross, *History and Manual of Odd Fellowship*. New York, NY: M. W. Hazen, Co., 1899, p. 621.

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew

Gilpin County, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

A world-wide force that stands for all that is noblest and highest.
An everyday guide for conduct, a mantle that should be worn always.
An organization that favors no person for their wealth and frowns on none for their poverty.
An ideal that exists in the heart and mind of every genuine Odd Fellow or Rebekah.
Fulfilling a mission in the world which no other institution has successfully attempted.
A vitalizing, sympathetic, and actuating influence in the lives of all its real members.
A ministering spirit succoring the needy, cheering the despondent and protecting the helpless.
The handmaid of virtue and religion.
Founded on the inspired word of God as revealed to man in the Holy Bible.⁶

Many fraternal societies had altruistic motives. Most of these societies, including the International Order of Odd Fellows, provided a form of insurance for their members, insuring that their members received medical care and support when injured, which was a common occurrence in mining towns. In the event of death, many of these organizations provided burial services and benefits for the widows and orphans, as did the I O O F. During the height of the mining activities and large populations, Gilpin County had at least twenty-three fraternal organizations with fifty lodges. The I O O F was one of the largest of these types of philanthropic fraternal organizations in Gilpin County. There were three I O O F lodges in Gilpin County, the largest and earliest was in Central City, less than three miles northeast of Russell Gulch, another in Blackhawk, less than four miles northeast of Russell Gulch, and the later one in Russell Gulch. The Central City Lodge established an I O O F cemetery in Russell Gulch in circa 1879 (5GL.113), although some burials may predate the formal cemetery establishment. The discontinuously located cemetery, still extant today, is the only cemetery in Russell Gulch with burials as recent as the 1980s.

Russell Gulch I O O F

By the 1880s Russell Gulch's varying population stabilized considerably with approximately 500 residents; miners and their families made up a large percentage of that population. The I O O F Deputy Grand Master for Colorado, R. Batchelder, applied for a charter to establish the Russell Gulch Lodge #41 on June 28, 1881. Colorado's I O O F Grand Lodge granted the charter at the Grand Lodge's 14th annual session on October 19, 1881. It is unknown what facilities the newly established organization occupied during its early years. As a popular fraternal organization, the lodge soon grew to the point of requiring a larger space of their own. W. B. Askew, a lodge member and co-owner of Wagner & Askew mercantile, owned a two-story Late Victorian house in the center of the commercial district. He owned the neighboring lot to the east as well. When he learned of the I O O F's intention of constructing a new building, he offered to sell and the Lodge offered to buy the lot next to his house. In 1895, the construction of the Russell Gulch I O O F Lodge #41 building was complete. The Russell Gulch I O O F Lodge membership included a wide range of Russell Gulch area residents including miners, workers, the local physician, Dr. Edwin Fouts, and Charles Wagner of Wagner & Askew mercantile.

I O O F lodges built during the late nineteenth-century in the United States were typically built or purchased buildings with commercial enterprises on the first floor and the lodge occupying the second or upper story. The I O O F typically acted as the owner and landlord. This provided lease income to the lodge supplementing its financial aid to others and to fellowship activities. The Russell Gulch I O O F constructed its building in the same tradition. Additionally, the I O O F leased the meeting area to other community organizations including the Foresters of America and Societta Alpina Americana. Both of these organizations' by-laws and other documents were written in Italian to accommodate their member base. The Russell Gulch School used the meeting hall for its plays. Other community organizations and social events utilized this

⁶ The Sovereign Grand Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows website, last accessed July 13, 2011: www.IOO.org/faq

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State

space including a local group of young women from Russell Gulch called the Merry Milkmaids who hosted a charity ball for a Mrs. Curtis, described in *The Denver Times* as a local woman “who has quite a family dependent upon her for support.”⁷ Community dances were regularly held at the I O O F, including one noted in the *Register Call* in Central City announcing one held on February 18, 1921.⁸ On September 29, 1945, the Russell Gulch I O O F merged with the Rocky Mountain Lodge #2 in Central City. The Rocky Mountain Lodge #2 continued owning the building for a few more years subsequent to the merger.

Wagner & Askew

Built for a retail enterprise to occupy the first floor, the general merchandise firm of Wagner & Askew leased the entire first floor from the I O O F beginning in 1895 after the building’s completion. Charles A. Wagner and W. B. Askew began their grocery and general merchandise business by 1892. They housed the Russell Gulch post office in their store from at least 1895 to 1943, with first Askew and later Wagner as the postmasters. The post office was housed in a cage inside the store. Recently the current owner learned of the location of the original cage, which after the decommissioning of the Russell Gulch Post Office became separated from the Wagner & Askew store, and is working toward acquiring it and returning it to the store area of the I O O F Building.

Little is known about W. B. Askew. He and his wife Louise had an infant daughter die in 1894 at the age of three months; the baby is buried in the Russell Gulch I O O F cemetery. It is unknown whether they had additional children. While it is unknown what may have contributed to his decision, W. B. Askew committed suicide in June 1899. Louise joined Charles A. Wagner and continued the business under the Wagner & Askew name until 1935. In the May 1905 edition of the *Western Grocer, Butcher and Clerk*, it described the business:

The firm deal[s] in general merchandise, including fine staple and fancy groceries and provisions, dry goods, boots and shoes and furnishing goods. The firm has the largest store and do the largest trade in their line in the town. Their store is large and commodious, well stocked and conveniently arranged for the speedy transaction of business.

The firm is composed of Mr. C. A. Wagner, who is a native of Iowa, is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and is the postmaster of the town. . . .the partnership is still continued by the wife of Mr. Askew, who assumed his interest after his death.

This firm is well known in business circles as straightforward and responsible merchants who take an interest in all the public welfare of the town.⁹

In addition to offering groceries, dry goods, and clothing to the Russell Gulch area residents, Wagner & Askew sold beer and whiskey. Joseph F. Schieffer (1899-1985) was one of seven boys born and raised by parents living at the Pendleton Mine, just outside of Russell Gulch. In a circa late-1970s interview with the current owner, Schieffer recalled events of Russell Gulch. As a lad, he was the mascot for the Russell Gulch baseball team. About the same time, a Mrs. O’Hara often hired Joe to go to Wagner & Askew’s store and retrieve beer or whiskey, which they added to her account. Customers brought their own whiskey jugs or other containers to the store. From barrels in the back storeroom, the storeowners filled the customers’ containers charging

⁷ “Danced for Sweet Charity,” *The Denver Times*. May 20, 1900. p.8 c.2.

⁸ *Weekly Register-Call* Volume 148, No.38; February 17, 1921.

⁹ “Wagner & Askew,” *Western Grocer, Butcher and Clerk*, Central City, Blackhawk, Apex, Russell Gulch and American City Edition, May 1905, p. 9.

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State

them ten cents for beer and twenty-five cents for whiskey. Joe became an electrician and installed the first electrical components in the I O O F building circa 1919.

In 1935 Edna Redland took over the store operations and assumed the role of “acting postmaster” through 1943. Due to the decline in the town’s population, to about 85 residents, the post office was decommissioned on May 31, 1943.¹⁰ The store closed shortly after the post office closed. Edna Redland transferred to a postal position in Denver.

After the Russell Gulch I O O F Lodge merged with the Central City Lodge in 1945, an individual acquired the property, however, since he did not pay the property taxes, he lost the building in a tax sale in the late 1940s. Local resident, Calvin Smith, purchased the property from the tax sale. However, he did not re-open it as a mercantile, and primarily used the building for storage.

In 1973 the Edward and Ann DeCicco family purchased the building from Smith and began restoring it. They continue to leave the store shelves, counter, and bins in place as a reminder of Wagner & Askew’s commercial influence to the town and area of Russell Gulch.

¹⁰ William H. Bauer, James L. Ozment & John H. Willard, *Colorado Post Offices: 1859 to 1959* (Golden, CO: The Colorado Railroad Museum, 1990) page 126.

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Abbott & McCoy, *The Gilpin Railroad Era* (Denver, CO: Sundance Publications, Ltd., 2009) pages 176-178.
- Bauer, William H., James L. Ozment & John H. Willard, *Colorado Post Offices: 1859 to 1959*. Golden, CO: The Colorado Railroad Museum, 1990, page 126.
- Colorado State Business Directory*. Denver: The Gazeteer Publishing Company, 1885 - 1945.
- The Denver Times*. "Danced for Sweet Charity." May 20, 1900, p. 8. c. 2.
- I O O F Grand Lodge History Book*. On file at the Archives of I O O F Grand Lodge, Canon City, CO.
- Longstreth, Richard. *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture*. Reprint: Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira Press, 2000, page 24.
- Pearce, Sally. "I.O.O.F. Hall—Russell Gulch," Architectural/Historical Component Form, October 16, 1982. On file with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado.
- Ross, Theodore. *History and Manual of Odd Fellowship*. New York, NY: M. W. Hazen Co., 1899, p. 613, 626.
- Schaeffer, Joseph. Interview, circa 1980, by Edward DeCicco, at the Russell Gulch I O O F Hall, Russell Gulch, Colorado. Transcript on file with Edward DeCicco.
- Sovereign Grand Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows website, last accessed July 13, 2011: www.IOOF.org/aboutus and www.IOOF.org/faq .
- Stoehr, C. Eric. *Bonanza Victorian*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1975, page 78.
- "Wagner & Askew." *Western Grocer, Butcher and Clerk*, Central City, Blackhawk, Apex, Russell Gulch and American City Edition. May 1905, p. 9.
- Weekly Register-Call*, Volume 148 No.38; February 17, 2011, page 8.
- Wolfenbarger, Deon. "Russell Gulch I.O.O.F. Building Historic Eligibility Report," July 15, 2009. On file with the Gilpin County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission.

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: History Colorado

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

UTM References (NAD 27)

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 13 454 243 4403 298
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew is located in township 3 south, range 73 west of the 6th Principal Meridian in an unsectioned area of land. It is further described as 81 Russell Gulch Road (formerly building 75), Russell Gulch, Gilpin County, Colorado.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

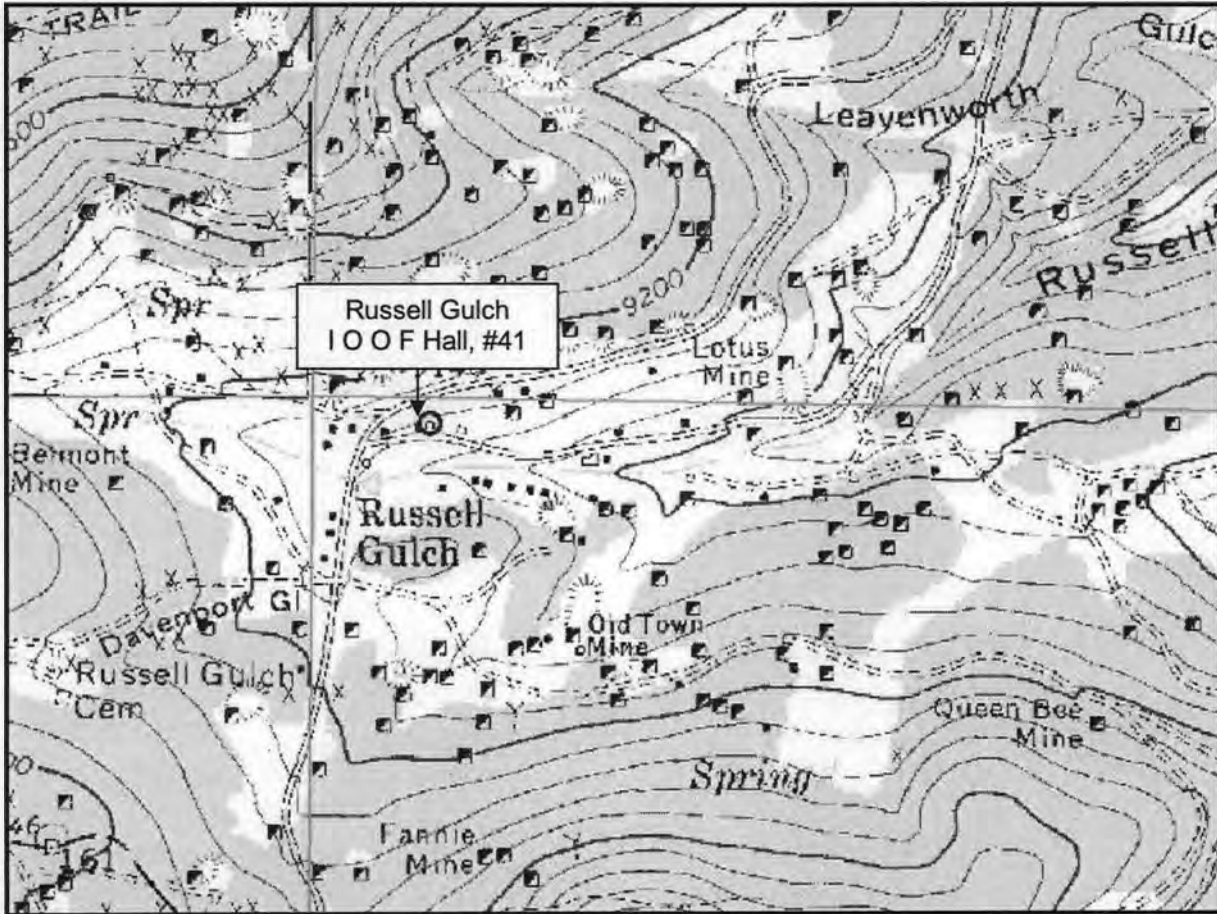
The boundary represents all of that land historically associated with the Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew.

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State

USGS Map Section
Central City 7.5 minute Quadrangle

Elevation: 9120 feet



Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward DeCicco (for property owner)
organization _____ date May 13, 2011
street & number 10860 W. 23rd Ave Dr telephone _____
city or town Lakewood state CO zip code 80215
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
City or Vicinity: Russell Gulch
County: Gilpin State: Colorado
Photographer: Edward DeCicco
Date Photographed: November 2010 and May 2011

Photograph number:	Photograph description
0001_CO_Gilpin__Russell Gulch I O O F	Overview of I O O F Hall, shed and site, camera facing north
0002_CO_Gilpin__Russell Gulch I O O F	Main façade of I O O F Hall, camera facing north
0003_CO_Gilpin__Russell Gulch I O O F	Close-up of upper story of main façade of Hall, camera facing north
0004_CO_Gilpin__Russell Gulch I O O F	Close-up of lower story of main façade of Hall, camera facing north
0005_CO_Gilpin__Russell Gulch I O O F	Southeast corner and east-facing side of I O O F Hall , camera facing northwest
0006_CO_Gilpin__Russell Gulch I O O F	East-facing side of I O O F Hall, camera facing west
0007_CO_Gilpin__Russell Gulch I O O F	North-facing side (rear) of I O O F Hall, camera facing south
0008_CO_Gilpin__Russell Gulch I O O F	West-facing side of I O O F Hall, camera facing southeast

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew

Gilpin County, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

HISTORIC IMAGES

- | Figure | Description |
|--------|--|
| 1 | I O O F building shortly after construction, 1895. Edward DeCicco I O O F collection, Lakewood, Colorado |
| 2 | Panoramic view of Russell Gulch from central tunnel Russell Gulch 1, circa 1890. Edward DeCicco I O O F collection, Lakewood, Colorado |
| 3 | Rear view of the Russell Gulch I O O F Building and privy from Virginia Canyon Road, circa 1900. Courtesy Colorado Historical Society. |
| 4 | I O O F front view, 1974, Edward DeCicco I O O F collection, Lakewood, Colorado. |
| 5 | I O O F front view, 1977, on file at the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado. |
| 6 | I O O F front view, 1982, on file at the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado. |
| 7 | Close-up of southwest corner of second story, camera facing northeast, 1982, on file at the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado. |
| 8 | Southeast corner of I O O F Building, 1982, on file at the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado. |
| 9 | Overview of Russell Gulch Road and I O O F Building, 1982, on file at the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado. |

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State



Figure 1

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State



Figure 2



Figure 3

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State



Figure 4

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41) – Wagner & Askew
Name of Property

Gilpin County, Colorado
County and State



Figure 8



Figure 9

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Russell Gulch I.O.O.F. Hall No. 47--Wagner and Askew

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Gilpin

DATE RECEIVED: 11/04/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/29/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/14/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/20/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000903

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12-15-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



#1

Colorado - Gilpin County

Russell Gulch IOOF Hall (#41) - Wagner +

Askew

212850, DSC_0040_0008



#2

Colorado - Gilpin County

Russell Gulch IOOF

Hall (#41) - Wagner & Askew

212850. DSC_0041_0007



10003

Colorado - Gilpin County
Russell Eulich IOOF Hall (#41) - Wagner
& Askew

212850, DSC_0110_0020



0004

Colorado - Gilpin County

Russell Gulch IOOF Hall (#411) -

Wagner & Askew

212850, DSC_0111_0021



#0005

Colorado - Gilpin County

Russell Guich IOOF Hall (#41)

- Wagner & Askew

212850, Southeast corner, 0006



#0006

Colorado - Gilpin County

Russell Gulch IOOF Hall (#41) -

Wagner & Askew

212850, DSC-0020-0010



#0007

Colorado - Gilpin County

Russell Gulch IOOF Hall (#41) -

Wagner & Askew

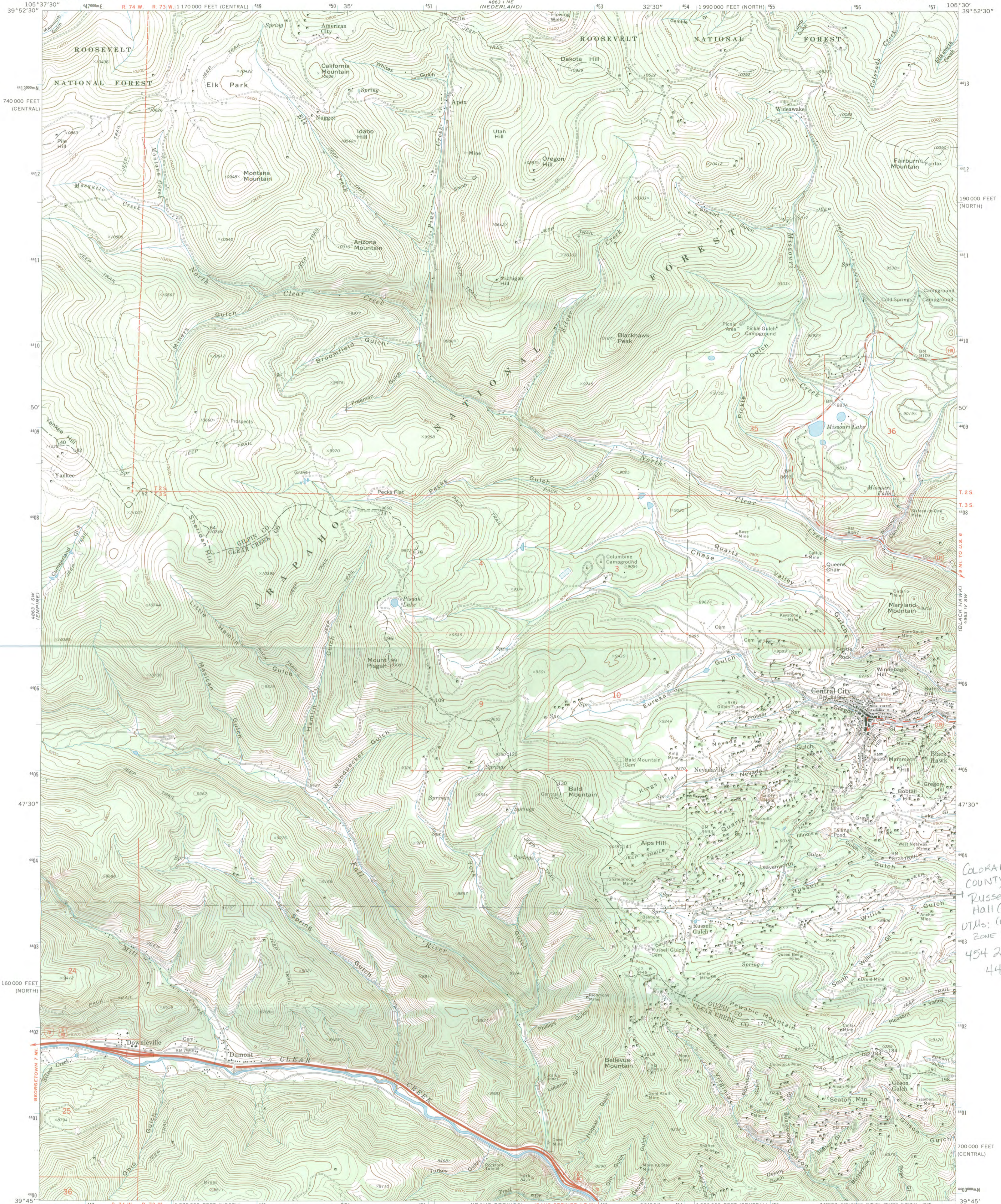
212850, DSC_0022_0009



#0008

Colorado - Gilpin County
Russell Gulch IOOF Hall (#41) -
Wagner & Askeew

212850. NW-CORNER. 0005



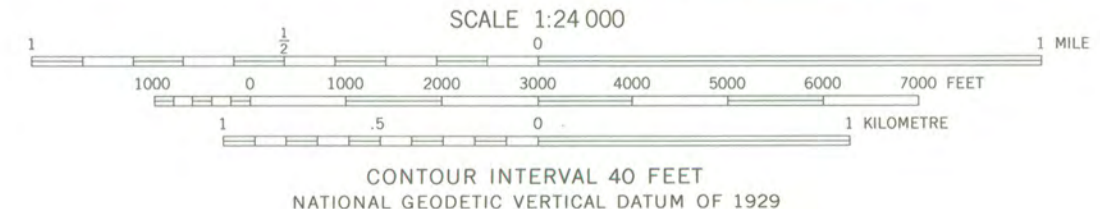
Colorado - Gilpin
County
Russell Gulch 100F
Hall (#41)
UTMs: (NAD27)
Zone 13
454 243mE
4403 298mN

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972
Supersedes map dated 1942

Projection: Colorado coordinate system,
north zone. (Lambert conformal conic)
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Colorado
coordinate system, north and central zones
1000 metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 13, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Where omitted, land lines have not been established
or are not shown because of insufficient data



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

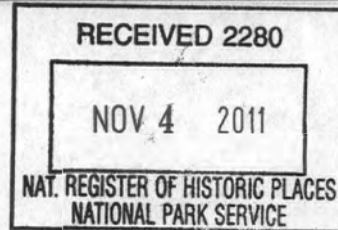
Primary highway, hard surface	Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

CENTRAL CITY, COLO.
N3945-W10530/7.5

1972
AMS 4863 1 SE-SERIES V877

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





 OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

October ²⁵ 18, 2011

Carol Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye "I" Street, N.W. 8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, D.C. 20005-5905

Re: National Register Nomination for Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41), Gilpin County, Colorado (5GL.125)

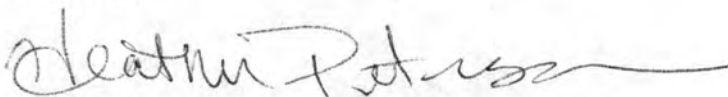
Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to submit for your review the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Russell Gulch I O O F Hall (#41), Gilpin County, Colorado (5GL.125).

The State Review Board reviewed the nomination at its meeting on September 30, 2011. The board voted unanimously to recommend to the State Historic Preservation Officer that the amendment met the criteria for listing in the National Register.

We look forward to the listing of this nomination. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (303) 866-4684 or heather.peterson@state.co.us

Sincerely,



Heather Peterson
National & State Register Historian

- Enclosures
- Nomination
 - Photographs
 - USGS map
 - CD
 - Support Letter



RECEIVED

AUG 24 2011

CHS/CLM

**COLORADO CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION REVIEW REPORT FORM**

Property Name: Independent Order of Oddfellows Lodge #41
Address: 81 Russell Gulch Road; Central City CO 80427
Certified Local Government: Gilpin County

Date of public meeting at which nomination was reviewed: HAC Aug. 16 2011

Eligibility Criteria: (Check applicable boxes) BoCC Aug. 23 2011

- Criterion A
- Criterion B
- Criterion C
- Criterion D

Please check the boxes below appropriate to the nomination review:

Commission/Board

- The commission/board recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.
- The commission/board recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.
- The commission/board chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

Chief Elected Official

- The chief elected official recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.
- The chief elected official recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.
- The chief elected official chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

Attach an additional sheet to make any further comments.

Certify this report with both signatures below

CLG Commission/Board Chair or Representative

Print name: Bret Johnson HAC Chair

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

8-16-11
(Date)

Chief Elected Official or Designee

Print name: FORREST WHITMAN BoCC Chair

Signature: Forrest Whitman

8-23-11
(Date)

ORIGINAL