

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED	SEP 17 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Thomas B. Townsend House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

222 South Fifth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Montrose

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Montrose

CODE

085

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

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 RESIDENC

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Van Gemert

STREET & NUMBER

222 So. Fifth Street

CITY, TOWN

Montrose

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montrose County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

300 South First Street

CITY, TOWN

Montrose

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

43/02/0016

DATE

Ongoing

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 222 South Fifth Street in Montrose, the Thomas B. Townsend House is a single detached structure two and one-half stories in height, rectangular in shape, and built of pinkish-brown brick laid in courses of stretcher-bond. The architectural style is Victorian. The main or southeast facade has four bays, the northeast facade six bays, the southwest facade five bays, and the rear of the structure two bays. The house also has three porches, all made of wood with hand-turned posts and gingerbread trim; one is on the left front of the house, a second--a Juliet Porch--is located above, and a third comes off the kitchen on the northeast facade. The foundation is made of cut native stone. Stone labels and lugsills outline most of the windows, all of which are two-sashed and double hung. The roof is hipped and gabled and covered with the original copper and zinc, still in excellent condition. The cornices are boxed; there is a very elaborate gingerbread trim around the roofline, in the gables, and on the porches; and there is a row of metal "hogback" trim along the peak of the roof parallel to the front facade. On each side of the structure there is a single brick chimney.

The house was built on a center hall plan. The main entry occurs through a double wooden front door. Window lights made of rectangular pieces of stained glass surround the doors and make a window in each. The central staircase runs from the front hall, and the servants' staircase from the kitchen. Upstairs there are four bedrooms. Originally, there was a sleeping porch above the old kitchen, but it has since been torn down.

All the paneling and flooring in the house is fir. The front staircase is entirely paneled, and the bannister and railing are walnut. Of the five original fireplaces, only two remain, one in the dining room and one in the back parlor. The back parlor fireplace is brown and white Italian tile. The pieces across the top of the fireplace are designed with apple blossoms in relief; the side tiles show tall asters growing out of fish bowls. The fireplace frame is oak with carved brackets and shelves. Sunbursts and panels are set with mirrors. The cherrywood fireplace in the original dining room has wine-colored tiles decorated with geometric designs. In the upper outside corners of the tiled area are two tiles, one of a man, the other of a woman, in Shakespearean garb.

Original light fixtures still remain on the front porch and in the two parlors. Like the front door, the back door of the house has a window made up of pieces of stained glass.

There are two outbuildings located behind the house. One is a wooden one-story garage. The other is a one-story brick outhouse.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> __COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> __RELIGION	
__1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> __CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> __LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> __SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> __AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> __ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> __LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> __SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> XARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> __EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> __MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> __ART	<input type="checkbox"/> __ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> __MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> __THEATER	
__1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> XCOMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> __PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> __TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> __COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> __INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> __OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> __INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca 1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas B. Townsend house is significant for its historical associations with the development of Montrose, Colorado and its banking industry. This town landmark is also an excellent example of the American Victorian style of architecture which was common to this area, and is significant for its craftsmanship and detailing.

Montrose was platted in 1882 as a railroad town near the San Juan Mountain mining area. Among its early settlers were mining investors, many from Europe. One of these men was Thomas B. Townsend, an Englishman who moved to the Montrose area in the 1880s to invest in various mines near Silverton. He was also the co-founder of the Montrose County Bank, now the First National Bank of Montrose. Townsend built his home on the corner of Fifth and Townsend Streets about 1888. However, he and his wife did not enjoy living in the United States, and after living in their new home only six months, they returned to England. Nonetheless, they maintained their American interests, and even today their descendants are associated with the First National Bank.

The house remained vacant until 1899, when it was bought by E. L. Osborn, Vice President of the bank, for \$8000.00. Three generations of Osborns lived in the house, and it remained in the family until sold to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Childs in 1971. It is presently owned by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Van Gemert, who bought it in 1978.

When the house was first built, it was not within the city limits of Montrose. In 1904, the town was extended to include the house so it could hook up to the water and sewer mains. This addition is known as the Osborn Addition.

Besides being one of the oldest permanent residences in the valley, the Townsend House is an excellent example of the American Victorian style of architecture. It is made of pinkish-brown brick, with stone foundations, and has numerous porches, gables, bay windows, hand-turned wooden posts, hogback roof, and intricate gingerbread trim. The house also had the first "running water" in the area. As rain ran off the zinc and copper roof, it was carried in eave troughs down to a cistern near the rear of the house. The water was pumped back into the attic, and was carried by gravity throughout the house.

Townsend also had the house wired for electricity although there was no electricity in the town. Kerosene lamps were used for lighting until it arrived. The house has always been heated by coal.

The bricks used on the exterior were made in Townsend's own brick plant, built on the Uncompahgre River near town. The factory closed soon after the house was finished, which leads to the conclusion that its sole purpose was to make bricks for the house.

