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RECEIVED MAR 28 1978
DATE ENTERED SEP 18 1978

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Saguache Flour Mill
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Saguache VICINITY OF Third
STATE Colorado CODE 08 COUNTY Saguache CODE 109

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Ada Fox
STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 626
CITY, TOWN Loveland VICINITY OF STATE Colorado 80537

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registration of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER Saguache County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN Saguache STATE Colorado 81149

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites
DATE Ongoing
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Colorado, 200 14th Avenue
CITY, TOWN Denver STATE Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Saguache Flour Mill (Photo #1) is a very plain building which measures approximately thirty feet square. There are two sections to the structure, one of three stories and the other of two. The three storied section is topped with two towers necessary to accommodate the mill machinery.

The mill is constructed of board and batten siding laid over a hand hewn log frame. Wooden pins and hand forged square nails were used throughout. The gable roof is covered over with wooden shingles and overlaid with corrugated iron sheeting.

On the north side of the building, there is a wooden loading dock to which access is gained by a door. There are two windows on the second story and one on the third. On the east side, there is a window on the second and third story with a door on the ground floor. There is one window on the west side and none on the south side. Almost all windows are double hung sash, and all are presently boarded up.

On the south side of the structure (Photo #2), the remains of the flume and waterwheel are visible. Water diverted from Saguache Creek powered the milling equipment. Reportedly, the mill was noted for its horizontal mill wheel, but from what remains, and given the writer's knowledge of engineering, this cannot be verified. All of the equipment (Photo #3) installed by George Robertson following his purchase of the mill in 1886 remains in place inside the mill although rodents have long since eaten the leather pulleys and silk screens.

To the east of the mill building is the mill house (Photo #5) originally two log cabins. Some time after 1886, the two cabins were remodelled, three rooms were added, and the cabins were combined into one building by means of a covered runway. The exterior was covered with wooden siding. A new roof was put on, and the original wooden shingles are now covered with corrugated metal. The mill house is completely boarded up, and entrance into the interior is impossible.

There are the ruins of several small unidentified outbuildings on the property. A wooden fence, in poor condition, is still standing on the east side of the property along the road.

In spite of its being abandoned, the mill building is still in surprisingly good condition. It stands today, a sturdy monument to the engineering capabilities of the early day pioneers.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-25	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Saguache Flour Mill, believed to be one of the few remaining water powered grist mills in Colorado, is a lone survivor of an important early industry for Saguache County.

The first pioneers settled in the Saguache area in the late 1860s attracted by agricultural possibilities in the rich land. The region quickly developed into an important grain production center; however, during the first few years, there was no adequate grist mill to grind the grain into flour. Otto Mears, a prominent Saguache resident who was later to find fame across the San Juan region as a railroad and toll road builder, operated a mill of sorts, but it was grossly inadequate. These limitations frequently required the shipment of grain eighty miles to Conejos to be milled into flour.

This situation changed in 1873 with the arrival in the Saguache area of Enos Hotchkiss. Two things were to characterize the pioneer throughout his career: vision to perceive problems and energy to solve them. A contemporary newspaper account described him as a "cattle king," but he was also active with Otto Mears who was seeking to establish toll roads throughout the San Juan area. He played an important role in the beginnings of the gold rush to Lake City, and, in addition to founding the town of Hotchkiss, he was one of the leading pioneer settlers in Delta County.

Recognizing the demand for a grist mill, Hotchkiss set about almost immediately following his arrival in Saguache to build one. Much of the original machinery was hewn from hardwoods. Water, diverted from Saguache Creek, turned the mill wheel which operated two mill stones as well as the other machinery by means of leather belts, wooden cogs, and pulleys.

The mill opened in August of 1873 even though it wasn't quite finished; it was an immediate success. Customers came from all over the area to get their grain ground, including, it might be noted, the Tabeguache Ute Band led by the famous Chief Ouray.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Colorado Weekly Herald, XIV, Nov. 26, 1891, p. 4.

Ferguson, Olivia Spaulding. "A Sketch of Delta County History."

Colorado Magazine, V, (L925), pp. 161-162.

Fox, Mrs. Ada. [granddaughter of George Robertson] personal communication.

Gotthelf, Mrs. Isaac. Living History Tape. Located in Saguache County Library.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 39,82,75 4,21,53,90

B 1,3 39,82,75 4,21,51,90

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,3 39,81,65 4,21,51,85

D 1,3 39,81,65 4,21,53,90

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property, which includes the original holding, is located in the

$E\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$ Section 11, Township 44N, Range 7E

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tracey Thrasher Daily

ORGANIZATION

Prepared for the Land Use Administration

DATE

November 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 141

TELEPHONE

303-655-2295

CITY OR TOWN

Saguache

STATE

Colorado 81149

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

Arthur C. Townsend

TITLE Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer DATE March 15, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

R. B. Rettig

DATE

9/18/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William LeBrial*

DATE

Sept 14, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1886, Hotchkiss sold the mill to George Robertson of Pueblo. The new owner installed a modern roller system which utilized silk fabric to produce a high grade of flour. Many grades and styles of flour were made at the mill, including: LaBelle Soft Wheat Flour, White Rose, Pride, and varieties of graham, chop, and bran. On November 26, 1891, Robertson Flour was selling for \$2.00-2.20 per hundred weight, a premium price for a premium flour. Robertson Flour won first prize at the Pueblo State Fair in 1905.

Robertson operated the mill until 1909 at which time it passed to his son. The mill operated full time until 1917 and then intermittently thereafter until 1925.

The structure, now closed, contains most of the mill machinery which was installed by Robertson. The mill, still in a good state of preservation, stands silent and alone--a monument to an industry which is no longer important to the economy of Saguache.