

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado	
COUNTY: Clear Creek	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.12.08.0018	DATE 12/18/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
The Georgetown Loop Railroad (roadbed)

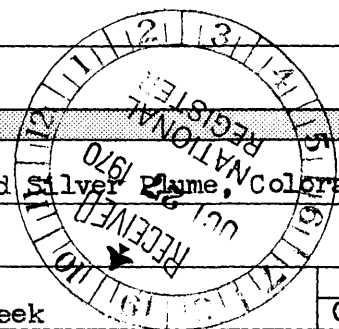
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
same

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Between city limits of Georgetown, Colorado and Silver Plume, Colorado

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Colorado      CODE: 08      COUNTY: Clear Creek      CODE: 019



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Not available to public at present</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
State Historical Society of Colorado

STREET AND NUMBER:  
200 Fourteenth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Denver      STATE: Colorado      CODE: 08

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
State Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:  
200 Fourteenth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Denver      STATE: Colorado      CODE: 08

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: State Highway No. 91 Clear Creek County - Federal Aid Project No. I - 70

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
State Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:  
200 Fourteenth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Denver      STATE: Colorado      CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Colorado  
COUNTY: Clear Creek  
ENTRY NUMBER: 70.12.08.0018  
DATE: 12/18/70  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

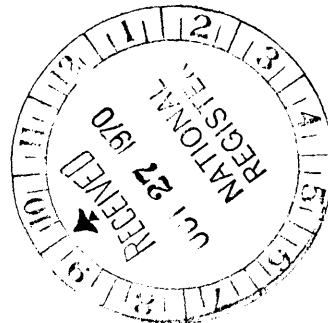
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Georgetown Loop lies in the alpine valley between the mining towns of Georgetown and Silver Plume. This area comprises a National Historic Landmark and is listed in the National Register as an historic district.

When the railroad, a narrow gauge, was built in 1877, it was intended to haul silver ore of the area. However, the ride proved to be extremely popular with tourists from Denver and as many as five trips a day were made up and down the valley.

The term "loop" is derived from the fact that the railroad bed forms several turns on itself in order to negotiate the 600 feet-plus difference in elevation between Georgetown and Silver Plume. In all, the 1½ mile straight-line distance is covered by some 4 ½ miles of railroad grade.

The railroad was dismantled in 1939 and all that remains today are the grade cuts and the masonry bridge supports. Highway I-70 passes nearby but does not intercept the railroad at any point. The State Historical Society of Colorado owns much of the property and is in the process of restoring both the railroad and the early mining tunnels in the same location.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | <u>Early mining</u>                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | <u>interpretive</u>                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | <u>site</u>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |   |

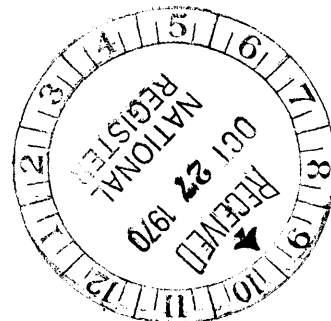
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Georgetown Loop Railroad was one of the Victorian tourist attractions which was rivalled only by excursions to the Pikes Peak summit. It was likewise, an engineering feat of the day; connecting the two silver mining towns of Georgetown and Silver Plume with the world east of the Rockies.

In the same area, are located two of the earliest silver mines in the Rockies; the Lebanon and the Everett tunnels. Higher up on the slope, on the east, was the Argentine tunnel, another vastly rich mine which helped rescue Colorado from a slumping economy.

The road grade, the dry wall construction and a few of the original buildings are still visible in the Loop. The roadbed itself is in good condition but the remaining bridge abutments will require stabilization in order to support weight. The state of Colorado will restore the area, train and all, to its original condition as the Georgetown Loop Historic Mining Area, an historic interpretive site. At present, the state is negotiating with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to include the land from ridge line to ridge line as the north-south limits. It is proposed herein, however, to nominate only the roadbed between town limits, as shown on the enclosed map.

To date, only the bridge abutments and parts of the roadbed grade are discernable. The Silver Plume station remains intact; the Georgetown depot has been privately converted to a restaurant. Except for a few cabins, etc. the valley has grown over with vegetation.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Special Site Report on Georgetown Loop Mining District, Clear Creek County, Colorado" by San Francisco Service Center, National Park Service, U.S.D.I. July, 1966.



12/14/79 10/14/79 10/14/79 10/14/79  
 13/14/79 10/14/79 10/14/79 10/14/79  
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39 ° 42 ' 27 "	105 ° 42 ' 12 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39 ° 42 ' 10 "	105 ° 41 ' 56 "				
SE	39 ° 41 ' 25 "	105 ° 43 ' 13 "				
SW	39 ° 42 ' 00 "	105 ° 43 ' 29 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: roughly 365 acres (area within coordinates)

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 AND TITLE: Susan A. Nieminen, Assistant to the Director

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Colorado DATE: 10-19-70

STREET AND NUMBER: 200 Fourteenth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Stephen H. Hart  
 Title: Colorado State Liaison Officer

Date: 23 October 1970

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

Ernest A. Connelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 DEC 18 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William J. Stewart  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 DEC 7 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Blue lines indicate original loop railroad grade within nominated area.



- A. 105 42' 12" / 39 42' 27"
  - B. 105 41' 56" / 39 42' 10"
  - C. 105 43' 13" / 39 41' 25"
  - D. 105 43' 29" / 39 42' 00"
- (Longitude) (latitude)  
Georgetown Loop Site

Georgetown Loop Site  
U.S.G.S. Map 7.5 minute series  
Georgetown, Colo. Quadrangle  
1957 Scale: 1:24000

