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

For NPS use only received DEC - 9 1983 date entered

1. Nam	e					
historic	Idaho Springs Downtown Commercial District					
and/or common	Idaho Springs Downtown Commercial District					
2. Loca	ation Racel	Oran inde of love Car	ter Alley 14th	Aug Riverside		
street & number	on the north; Ele	mentary School on	n; Center Alley <u>***</u> <del>vest; Clear Creek on</del>	<del>east. (225 15th and</del>		
city, town	Idaho Springs	n/a vicinity of	and 1601 Col.	Blvd also included)		
state	Colorado co	de <sup>08</sup> county	, Clear Creek	code 019		
3. Clas	sification					
	Ownership public private XX both Public Acquisition n/a in process n/a being considered	Status  XX occupied  unoccupied  work in progress  Accessible  XX yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted  no	Present Use agriculture xx commercial educational xx entertainment industrial military	XX museum XX park XX private residence religious scientific transportation other:		
4. Own	er of Prope	rty				
name	(multiple see	continuation sheet	)			
street & number						
city, town		n/a_ vicinity of	state	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
	ation of Leg	al Descript				
courthouse regi	stry of deeds, etc.					
	405 Argentine St	ear Creek County Correct	ourthouse	•		
street & number	Georgetown			Colorado 80444 .		
city, town			state			
6. Repi	esentation	in Existing	Surveys	·····		
title Colorado	Inventory of Histo	ric Sites has this p	roperty been determined el	igible? yes XX no		
date 1976			federalx_sta	tecountylocal		
depository for su	rvey records Office	of Archaeology & H	listoric Preservation	n. 1300 Broadway		

## 7. Description

Condition  XX excellent deteriorated  XX good ruins  XX fair unexposed	Check one  XX unaltered  XX altered	Check one  XX original site  moved date
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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The city of Idaho Springs, Colorado, is in the Clear Creek valley at an elevation of 7540 feet, about 30 miles west of Denver in the central Rocky Mountains of Colorado. The Miner Street Commercial District, which forms the heart of the two mile long and one-quarter mile wide city, is a collection of one-story and two-story brick and a few frame buildings that housed the markets, hardware stores, banks, offices and saloons of the 19th century mining center. Only one structure in the district is a residence. Of the 60 buildings within the district, 46 are considered contributing and 14 non-contributing.

Only a few clapboarded frame structures, such as the McKinley Building (54), the frame portion of the Queen Hotel (3), and the Gaubatz residence (25), survive from the early commercial district which was composed mostly of false-fronted wood frame buildings constructed between 1868 and 1877. Although there was never a major fire, the coming of the railroad in 1877 made it easier to obtain bricks, iron and other durable construction materials and the frame buildings were gradually replaced.

The newer brick buildings reflect the late 19th century commercial style characterized by recessed entrances, large display windows, elaborate metal cornices, and cast-iron pilasters. (Much of this iron was cast by the Colorado Iron Works.) Intricate patterns of decorative brickwork, is especially well displayed in the upper facades and cornices on the Underhill Museum (4), the Clear Creek Pharmacy (10), and the Queen Hotel(3).

Only a few round-arched windows, such as on the Hanchett Building (33) and the Canyon's Claim (18) reflect the Romanesque Revival Style. Colonial Revival characteristics are rare, appearing only on the Columned Idaho Springs Library, (2), and the pressed metal swage across the frieze of the Mining Exchange Building (39) and the Buffalo Bar (47).

Most of the contributing structures of the commercial district were constructed between 1877 and 1910. Later modifications, particularly on the first floor storefronts, include the use of stucco, board and batten, plywood sheathing and composition stone; but the alterations are, in general, a minor compromise to the automobile and tourist oriented economy of the 20th century.

The following is a list of all properties within the Miner Street Commercial District numbered according to the enclosed map. The letter "C" indicates "contributing" and "NC" indicates "non-contributing."

- 1. C HoserHouse (1340 Miner) Central Hose House. One-story frame, garage with gabled roof. Wooden hose-drying tower with clapboard siding behind the garage.
- 2. C <u>Library</u> (219 14th) Idaho Springs Library. 1904. One-story brick with medium pitch reverse gable roof with triangular pediment in center of front facade. Boxed cornice, circular window in pediment. A wide stairway leads to a recessed central entrance flanked by wooden columns.

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- 3. C Rooming House (1404 Miner) Idaho Springs Senior Center, formerly Queen Hotel. Frame structure ca. 1877, brick structure added ca. 1888. Two-story frame portion has clapboard siding and gable roof. Brick portion is two-story, flat roofed with brick cornice and corbelling, and decorated frieze. Windows and doors are topped by brick arches radiating voussoirs. Wood porch with columns and balustrade.
- 4. C <u>Museum</u> (1416 Miner) Underhill Museum, formerly Underhill home. 1912. One-story brick. Decorative brick detailing on upper facade.
- 5. NC <u>Store</u> (1420 Miner) Clark Creek Supply. Late 1800's. One-story brick. Large display window, recessed doorway. Upper facade covered by a wooden sign and plywood facing.
- 6. C Store (1424 Miner) Clear Creek Supply. Late 1800's. One-story brick layered in common bond. Display window, recessed doorway.
- 7. C Store (1428 Miner) Clear Creek Supply. Late 1800's. One-story strecher bond brick. Display window, recessed doorway. Upper portion of building has decorative brickwork and corbelled belt course.
- 8. C Store (1434 Miner) Mountain Bell. Late 1800's. One-story brick. Display window, recessed doorway. Decorative brick cornice at top of upper facade.
- 9. NC <u>Store</u> (1438-1446) Miner) Late 1800's. One-story, stucco over brick. Original integrity gone.
- 10. C. Store (1502-1506 Miner) Clear Creek Pharmacy ca. 1890. Two-story brick. Modern display windows, recessed doorway. Brick arches with radiating voussoirs over second-story windows. Corbelled brick cornice with decorative sawtooth frieze.
- 11. C Store (1510 Miner) Clear Creek Courant. Late 1800's. One-story brick. Display windows, recessed doorway. Corbelled brick cornice with decorative sawtooth brick frieze.
- 12. C Store (1514-1518 Miner) Barber Shop/Main Street Restaurant ca. 1884. One-story brick. Display windows, recessed doorway. Rectangular brick turrets at corners.
- 13. C Store (1520 Miner) Ferd's Sporting Goods ca. 1885. One-story brick, display windows, recessed doorway, cast-iron sill plate. Corbelled brick cornice with decorative brick frieze.
- 14. C Store (1524 Miner) Ward's Catalog Store ca. 1885. One-story brick. Display windows, recessed doorway. Corbelled brick cornice with decorative brick frieze.
- 15. NC Store (1534 Miner) Farris Clothing, formerly Plummer Building ca. 1905. One-story stucco.
- 16. NC <u>Store</u> (1536 Miner) This and That Shop ca. 1877. One-story. Street level facade of modern brick and glass. Upper facade of wood-frame and stucco, false front on gable-roofed wood structure.

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- 17. C Store (1542-1546 Miner) Package store and law offices, formerly First National Bank of Idaho Springs. ca. 1880. One-story brick. Tall display windows with dressed sandstone sills and pediment-shaped lintels. Recessed corner door flanked by attached wood columns. Metal cornice with consoles and decorated frieze.
- 18. C Store (1600-1604)Miner) Canyon's Claim Restaurant, formerly Boston Clothing House ca. 1890. Two-story brick. First-story windows and doors separated by cast-iron pilasters and engaged columns. Metal entablature dentil frieze and end brackets separate first and second story. Upper story has paired round arched windows with drip cap. Cornice missing. Sandstone sills continuous with brick belt course.
- 19. NC Store (1608-1612 Miner) Idaho Springs Emporium ca. 1883. Two-story stucco over brick.
- 20. C Store (1614-1620`Miner) ca. 1876. Two-story stretcher course brick. Simple wood entablature separates lower and upper facades. Second-story double-hung wooden sills and two-brick arches with radiating voussoirs. Brick cornice with header-brick corbelling. Formerly Thero Brothers Meat Market.
- 21. C Store (1624 Miner) Bread Basket Bakery ca. 1880. Recessed doorway with cast-iron pilasters. Second story windows have two-brick arches with radiating voussoirs. Brick cornice with header brick corbelling. Single brick belt course under corbel row.
- 22. C Stores (1628-1638 Miner) Entrance to Majestic Center second floor offices, Ornamental Resources, Miner Street Antiques. Formerly Faivre Grocery (1634), and Weinberger's Liquor and Cigar Store. Also formerly the Capital Saloon. Two-story brick. Display windows, recessed doorways flanked by cast-iron pilasters. Metal cornice with simple metal brackets.
- 23. C Store (1640 Miner) Kincannon Heating and Front Range Journal. Early 1900's. One-story wood building sheathed with stamped metal panels resembling stone. Boxed wood cornice with simple wood modillions.
- 24. C Lodge (210 17th) Idaho Springs Masonic Lodge ca. 1883. Two-story brick. No display windows. Decorated cast-iron pilasters on ends and one in center of first story facade. Decorated cast-iron engaged columns frame recessed doorways with cast-iron sill plates. Brick covered with clapboard on firt floor. Metal entablature with end and center brackets separate lower and upper facade. Metal boxed, decorated cornice with brackets.
- 25. C Residence (1714 Miner) Gaubatz Home. 1874. Two-story with wood clapboard siding, gable roof, and one-story wing with reverse gable and porch. Boxed wood cornice. Stone retaining wall in front.
- 26. NC Bank (1730-1740 Miner) First National Savings Bank. 1900's. One-story. Cinder block and brick.
- 27. C Railroad engine, tender and passenger car (Miner and Idaho Streets) Engine built in 1877 by Rhode Island Locomotive Works. B-4-C class with four drive wheels on each side. Served sixty-four years on Colorado & Southern Line.

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- 28. NC Store (1744 Miner) Vacant. Mid-1900's, two-story frame.
- 29. C Store (1405 Miner) Placer Inn. 1920's. One-story stucco over brick with large multi-paned windows.
- 30. C Stores (1405-1419 Miner) Placer Inn ca. 1900. Two-story stucco over brick. Panels between second story windows have brick diamond patterns. Steep-sloping tile roof rises to flat roof on main building. Southwestern adobe appearance.
- 31. C Store (1421 Miner) Ben Franklin. 1897. Two-story brick. Lower story frame with glass display windows. Bracketed cornice with decorated frieze.
- 32. C Store (1427 Miner) Ben Franklin. 1898. Two-story brick. Lower story combined with #31. Bracketed cornice and decorated frieze.
- 33. C Store (1431-1435 Miner) Public Service Co. Hanchett Building. 1890. Two-story brick. Large display windows, recessed doorway, cast-iron pilasters, patterned sill plates, shallow entablature separate lower and upper facades. Narrow, double-hung windows in upper facade topped by semi-circular lunette with stained glass windows in turn capped by brick arches with radiating voussoirs. Decorated metal cornice with ornamental end brackets and decorated frieze. Decorated pediment in center of cornice.
- 34. C <u>Bank</u> (1427-1441 Miner) First State Bank, ca. 1880. Two-story brick. Display windows, plain doorway, cast-iron pilasters. Upper facade double-hung windows with shaped metal lintels. Bracketed metal cornice with star and crescent design on brackets.
- 35.. CC Bank! (1447 Miner) First State Bank, formerly Roberts Brothers Grocery. 1886. Two-story brick. Lower-story modern masonry facade. Former corner entrance no longer exists. Second story has large 1 X 1 corner window. Belt course form sill form all double-hung windows. Metal bracketed cornice with triangular pediment on corner.
- 36. C Store (1501-1503 Miner) Vacant. Formerly Merchants and Miners Bank. 1901. Two-story brick. Metal entablature above display windows. Metal cornice with large corner brackets. Recessed panels on frieze.
- 37. C Store (1511-1515 Miner) Mountain Electric and Dorothy Shop. ca. 1883. Two-story brick. Two recessed doors with flanking display windows. Double-hung windows with wood sill. Modern sheet-metal cornice.
- 38. C Store (1517 Miner) Beau Jo's Pizza. Late 1800's. Two-story brick. Recessed doorway, flanked by display windows. Metal entablature with end brackets separates the first and second stories. Upper facade double-hung windows with wood sills and brick arches radiating voussoirs. Bracketed metal cornice with decorated facia and paneled frieze. Bell-like projections top end brackets.
- 39. C Store (1523 Miner) Beau Jo's Pizza. Mining Exchange Building. ca. 1890. Two-story brick. Display windows, recessed doorway, cast-iron pilasters and columns. Entablature with decorated frieze marks top of lower story. Concrete belt course forms sills of double-hung windows on second story. Ornate bracketed metal cornice with pressed metal swags on frieze. Cornice capped by balustrade.

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- 40. C Store (1527 Miner) Vacant. ca. 1880. One-story brick. Recessed centered doorway flanked by cast-iron engaged columns and display windows, which are bordered by iron pilasters. Metal entablature with small end brackets over windows. Elaborate metal cornice with brackets, decorated facia and stamped swags on frieze. Topped with balustrade.
- 41. C Theatre (1535 Miner) Mines Theatre. Early 1900's. Two-story brick. First story has board and batten facing below theatre marquee. Second story has rectangular double-hung windows. Brick belt course continuous with masonry sills. Metal bracketed cornice, vertically striated frieze with decorated metal panels below.
- 42. NC <u>Store</u> (1539 Miner) Laundromat. Late 1800's. One-story brick faced with imitation stone on lower portion of facade and composition material simulating cut stone on upper portion. No cornices.
- 43. NC Store (1543 Miner) Colorado Bar. ca. 1880. Two-story with lower and upper facade same as #35 except for casement windows in second story.
- 44. NC Office (1601-1607 Miner) Mountain Bell. c. 1950. One-story cinder block.
- 45. C Store (1609-1611 Miner) Mountain Leather and Toadstool Haire. Early 1900's. One-story brick. Recessed doorway. Large display windows. Decorated brickwork cornice.
- 46. C Store (1613 Miner) The Edge. Early 1900's. One-story brick. Clapboards on upper facade. No cornices.
- 47. C Store (1617 Miner) The Buffalo Bar. 1906. Central door flanked by small fixed windows. Lower portion of front facade altered. Cinder block sheathed with "rock faced" imitation stone laid in stretcher courses. Metal plate with decorated end nuts separate lower and upper facade. Small round arched window with brick arch and radiating voussoirs with keystone in upper facade. Six courses of stepped brick above window. Bracketed metal cornice with large end brackets, and panelled frieze decorated with swags. Central panel on frieze has ""J. Rohner 1906." Ball on top of west end bracket, other ball is missing on east end.
- 48. C Store (1621 Miner) The Other Side. Late 1800's. One-story brick. Recessed doorway, display windows. Metal cornice with four large elaborately decorated brackets. Rectangular recessed panels on frieze.
- 49. C Office (1625 Miner) Dentist. ca. 1883. Two-story brick. First story faced with board and batten. Central oriel window supported by decorative wood brackets on second story. Metâl cornice and decorated frieze.
- 50. NC <u>Store</u> (1631 Miner) West Winds Lounge. Late 1800's. One-story brick. Horizontal log facing with projecting gables over entrances. Upper portion of facade in brown shakes and capped by molded wood cornice on false front.
- 51. NC Store (1633 Miner) West Winds Lounge. ca. 1880. One-story brick. Horizontal log sheathing and shake sheathing on lower facade. Metal pilasters on front edges of structure. Brick upper facade with brick cornice and brick corbelling.

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- 52. C Store (1637 Miner) Valley Cafe. Late 1800's. One-story frame. Pilasters border windows and door. Clapboard upper facade. Metal cornice with large end brackets. Inverted heart-shaped decoration on frieze. Ball on top of west end bracket.
- 53. C Store (1639 Miner) Valley Cafe. Late 1800's. One-story frame. Plain door, composition stone below windows. Upper facade clapboard. Wood boxed cornice.
- 54. C Store (1641-1645 Miner) vacant. McKinley Building, ca. 1876. Two-story frame. Recessed doorway, display windows framed by pilasters. Entablature between first and second stories. Upper facade double-hung windows, clapboard siding. Boxed cornice, gable roof.
- 55. NC Store (1711 Miner) Clear Creek Rental. Mid-1900's. One-story cinder block building. Soon to be torn down and replaced by one-story brick school house built in 1906. Will be torn down and replaced by one-story brick school house built in 1906. Will be used as City Hall.
- 56. NC Store (1743 Miner) Cafe. Early 1900's. One-story frame.
- 57. C Bridge (Miner over Clear Creek) 1902. Single-span steel bridge with wood flooring.
- 58. C Store (225-229 15th Street) Mountainview Woodworking, Trathen Building. 1906. One-story brick. Recessed doorway, large display windows. Bracketed metal cornice. topped by central triangular pediment.
- Office: (217 16th Street) Dentist and Optometrist office. Late 1800's. Moved to this location in 1920's. One-story, gable roof and clapboard siding.
- 60. C Store (1601 Colorado) Hanson's Lodge. Late 1800's. Two-story, horizontal log construction. Hip roof with gabled dormer in center front. Oriel window on second story. Porch on front and west side. Several additions to building including diningroom.

#### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 XX 1800–1899 XX 1900–	agriculture  XX architecture  art  XX commerce  communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlemen	law literature military music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
Specific dates		Duilden/Aughitage	nknown	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Idaho Springs Downtown Commercial District has been the center for commercial activity for Idaho Springs since its development in the late 19th century. The district's superb collection of late Victorian structures, such as the Hanchett Building (#33), Mining Exchange (#39), and the Queen Hotel (#3), form the core of a city that is historically significant as the site of the first major discovery of placer gold in Colorado, and as an important milling and supplyceenter for the mining region which initiated the settlement of Colorado.

George A. Jackson discovered gold in Chicago Creek less than ½ mile from the present Idaho Springs commercial district on January 7, 1859. Although this was not the first discovery of placer gold in Colorado, it was by far the most substantial, and together with the Gregory Gulchydiscovery near Central City, transformed the faltering "Pikes Peak or Bust" gold rush into a bona fide stampede. With this rush of people began not only the mountain communities of Idaho Springs and Central City, but also the initial settlement of Denver, Golden, and much of Colorado.

The first mountain communities were mining camps, and the first governmental units were mining districts. Idaho Springs, the community that developed across Clear Creek from Jackson's bar, was initially called Sacramento because it reminded the miners of the diggings around Sacramento, California. In 1860, it became Idaho Springs to distinguish it from the newly-formed Idaho Territory. The first townsite was marked out in 1860, but itswas not until 1873, after two additional surveys, that patenttwas applied for and, in 1874, received. The 1873 site constituted 105 acres. R. B. Griswold was the first mayor. In 1861, when the territory of Colorado was organized, the city of Idaho Springs became the first county seat of Clear Creek County. It relinguished that title to the more populous Georgetown in 1868.

The development of Miner Street Commercial District paralled the success of the mines. The first placer operations fostered a temporary community of tents and primitive wood structures. Initial underground operations gave some permanence to the community, but it was not until the problems associated with the smelting of sulfide ores were overcome in 1868 that hardrock mining began in earnest, and population, wealth, and permanence came to Idaho Springs. An excellent example of a direct correlation between mining success and commercial construction is provided by Silas Hanchett who struck high grade ore at the Lamartine Mine in 1887 and built the Hanchett Building (#33) in 1890. The Plummer family made money in the livery and ore hauling businesses and returned that to the community by constructing commercial buildings in the 1500 block of Miner Street.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

10.	Geograp	hical Data		
Acreage	of nominated prope	rty <u>approximately 9</u>	acres	<del>1-11</del>
Quadrang	gie name <u>Idaho S</u>	Springs & Squaw Pas	s	Quadrangle scale _1:24000
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List all s	states and counti	es for properties overla	apping state or county	/ boundaries
state	n/a	code	county	code
state	**************************************	code	county	code
11.	Form Pre	epared By		
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name/title	Willis H.	White, President	Mary V. G	Gaubatz, Boardmember
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organizati	HISTORICA	al Society of Idaho	Springs date	July 4, 1983
street & n	umber Box 568		Taraha e a disartelepho	one
city or tov	wn Idaho Spi	ings	state	Colorado
12.	State His	storic Prese	rvation Of	ficer Certification
The evalu	ated significance of	this property within the s	tate is:	
	national	X state	local	
				reservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– certify that it has been evaluated
		procedures set forth by the		
State Hist	oric Preservation O	fficer signature	mbara di	de
title Sta	ate Historic Pr	reservation Officer		date 12/7/83
	Se use only			
	PS use only reby certify that this	property is included in the	e National Register	
	Son P	Interes		day Nelcan
Long	r of the National Re	1001	Registr	date 1/3/84
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Attest				date
Chief of	of Registration			

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The arrival of the railroad in 1877 strengthened the position of Idaho Springs as a mine supply center. Brick commercial buildings, which form the core of the district, came into being between 1877 and 1920, and reflect the vernacular late Victorianearly twentieth century commercial architecture typical of that period.

The buildings constructed during the prosperous late Victorian period prior to the 1893 Silver Crash display an exuberance of arch detailing, bracketed and heavily corbelled cornices, highly decorated friezes, and elaborate window caps not seen in later buildings. After the Silver Crash, a depression followed when virtually all building activity ceased state-wide.for several years. When the economy began its recovery, some construction activity resumed at the end of the late 19th century and early 1900's. The buildings reflected the mood of the times in their design with a sense of cautious optimism and a desire for stability seen in the restrained styles inspired by classical architectures. (Examples in the Idaho Springs district include the Library #2; Mining Exchange Building #39; and the Buffalo Bar #47.)

Mining activity waned after 1910, but enough continued, along with tourism, to maintain a moderate population in the community. With the construction of Interstate 70 and the development of the Henderson Molybdenum Mine, Idaho Springs has again assumed the role as supply:center.not only for miners, but for skiers, hunters, campers, tourists, travelers, and some residents who are now able to commute to jobs in the Denver area. The Miner Street Commercial District, though constructed for 19th century miners, still supports a viable economic community.

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OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

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

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See Map 1 for precise boundaries.

The boundary is roughly bounded on the south by the rear property lines of properties facing Miner Street, extending from the east side of 14th Avenue to the west side of Clear Creek. The northern boundary extends from the Hose House (Building #1) along the south side of Center Alley to the west side of Clear Creek; with the boundary extending further north only to include the structures at 225 15th Avenue (Building #50) and 1601 Colorado Blvd. (Building #60).

City blocks and lot numbers are:

Block #33-Lots 1- 5

Block # 7-Lots 1-12 Block # 8-Lots 1-12 Block # 9-Lots 10-12 Block #15-Lots 1-12 Block #16-Lots 1-12 Block #17-Lots 1- 2 (south 1/2) Block #20-Lots 1-12 Block #22-Lots 1-12 Block #25-Lots 1-12 Block #28-Lots 1-12

#### JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is drawn to include that portion of the commercial downtown district that retains integrity. West of the Hose House (Building #1) is a 1937 school building and contemporary commercial development. The boundary extends east to the boundary that physically and historically marked the commercial limits of downtown. The formal entrance to the downtown from the east is provided by the 1902 metal bridge. North of Genter Alleyis largely residential; south of Miner Street are more contemporary commercial buildings, with I-70 just south of Water Street.

Idaho Springs Downtown Commercial District
Clear Creek County, Colorado
Map 1
Boundary of district
Position from which photos were taken--keyed to photos

Number of buildings (keyed to text)

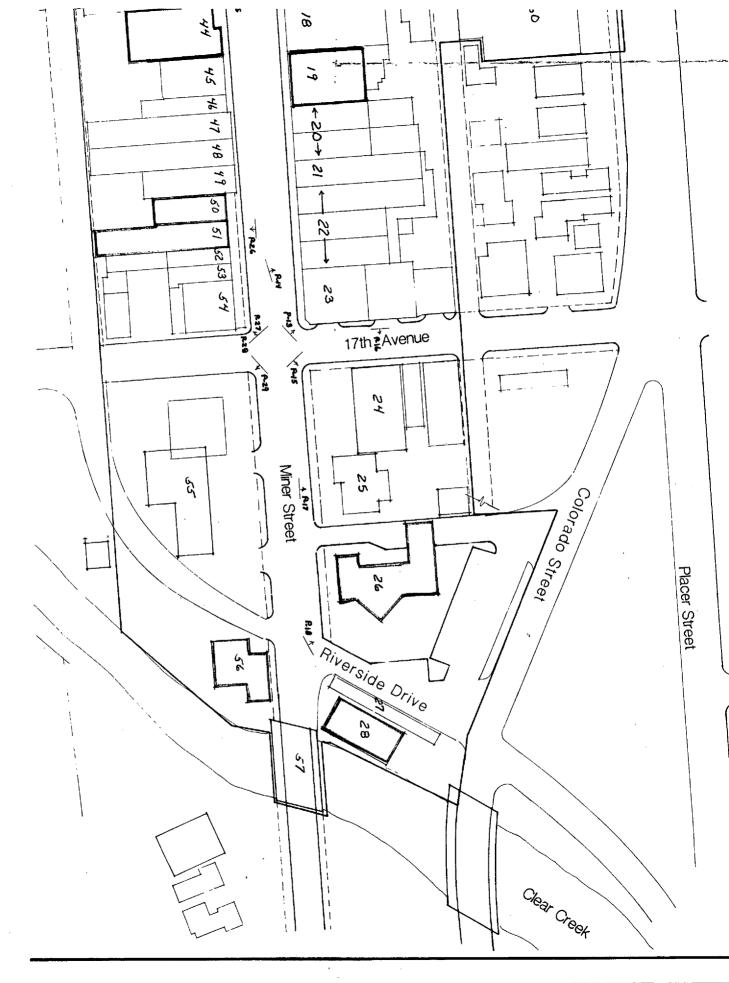
P-30

Intrusions

Jolon

IDAHO SPRINGS
1350 Miner Street
P.O. Box 907
Idaho Springs
Colorado 80452





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Cala