

PH0087050

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado  
 COUNTY: Jefferson  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: OCT 1 1974

1. NAME  
 COMMON: Green Mercantile Store  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
 STREET AND NUMBER: ~~About 1/4 mile N.W. of town of Buffalo Creek,~~ <sup>NW</sup> ~~slightly north of Hwy 126. N. side of North Fort of South Platte.~~  
 CITY OR TOWN: Buffalo Creek *vic.*  
 STATE: Colorado CODE: 08 COUNTY: Jefferson CODE: 059

3. CLASSIFICATION

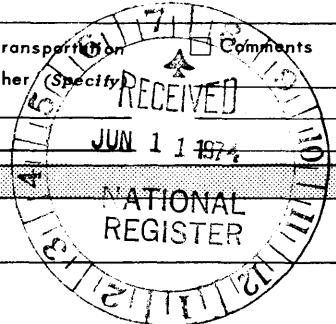
| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both                                    | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |  |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)   |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
 OWNER'S NAME: Donald Green  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Box 144  
 CITY OR TOWN: Buffalo Creek STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Jefferson County Court House  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1700 Arapahoe  
 CITY OR TOWN: Golden STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: State Inventory of Historic Sites  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1971  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 200 14th Avenue  
 CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

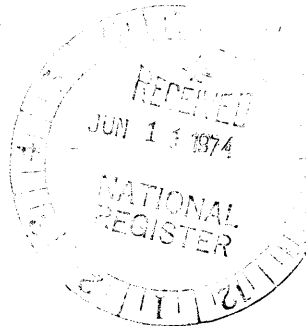
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present condition is essentially the same as when the original building was constructed in 1898. It is made of native granite blocks about 18" square. It consists of one large, high-ceilinged room, which contains counters around the edges, and a square counter enclosed area in the center for the proprietor and the cash register. There is a post office area partitioned off and fronted by a barred window and the post office boxes. There is also a second floor which is no longer usable. It is a square building with a flat roof. The floors are the original wooden floors.

The building measures 40 feet by 60 feet and has a half-basement used for storage. It was constructed with a foot thick fire-wall around the roof, which is flat.

The ceilings are 14 feet high with pressed tin. Most of the store's equipment is original and practically no remodeling has been done since it was built.

The store front is characterized by rounded arch door entry and windows on the first floor with radiating voussoirs. The second floor windows are flat with plain lintels and sills. The name of the store and the data appear above the door. The entry door is a plain doubleleaf affair with windows at a 45 degree angle in the embrasure and a mullion above. The chimney for the traditional pot-bellied stove is situated to the left rear.



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 checked="" 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) 1881 to present

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 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>community</u>                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>center typical</u>                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>to frontier</u>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | <u>towns</u>  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  |   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Green Mercantile's main historical significance evolves from the fact that it is one of the few general stores still operating under circumstances very similar to those existing at its inception. It exists as the only general merchandising store serving its small mountain community. It provides essentially the same categories of items--food, dry goods, hardware and home items, some farm items. It provides the same basic services to the community--a community gathering place and center for notices, and a post office. It is operated by the grandson of the original owner. Other general stores exist as museums and tourist attractions. Green Mercantile operates for residents of the community, much as it has always functioned.

John W. Green Sr. went to the small mountain community of Buffalo Creek in the 1880s. The small town had evolved as a result of the ranching, lumbering and mining activities in the area. The narrow gauge railroad reached Buffalo Creek about 1878, when Governor Evan's Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad was being constructed to corner the market on the mineral resources between South Park and Denver. After that it also served as a fisherman-tourist area, and as a terminus for supplies for construction of Cheesman Dam.

John W. Green, Sr., a native of Virginia, arrived in Buffalo in 1879. He eventually acquired the first hotel in Buffalo from its proprietor, James Miller, and continued to operate it as a hotel and as a general merchandise store until it burned down in a large general fire that burned many of the wooden buildings of the town in 1897. He worked in Saw Mill until he had enough to purchase a hotel. Green rebuilt only the store in 1898. He contracted with Seerie Investment Company to replace the wooden structure with a fire-proof building of native granite building blocks. The huge blocks were hoisted into place by a construction outfit consisting of six men, a team of mules, and a jim pole.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ryan, Edna Sirois. "Narrative History of Buffalo Creek and Buffalo Park Jefferson County Colorado. Claridge Printing Co., Denver, 1960.

Interview with Jefferson County Historical Society, 3/74.

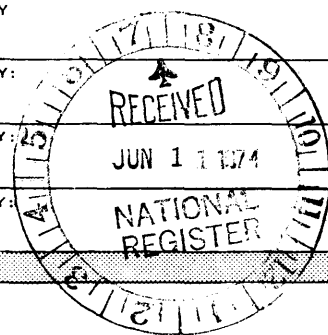
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| 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               |  |
| NW  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NE  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   | 39° 23' 36.1"   | 105° 16' 38"            |  |
| SE  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |   |                         |  |
| SW  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Connie Fahnestock

ORGANIZATION: High Jefferson County Historical Society DATE: 5/17/74

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: Evergreen, STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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: [Signature]

Title: [Signature]

Date: [Signature]

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/1/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9-30-74

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

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| STATE            |            |
| Colorado         |            |
| COUNTY           |            |
| Jefferson        |            |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |            |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE       |
|                  | OCT 1 1974 |

(Number all entries) 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Mr. Green was also active in politics, bought up quantities of real estate, and was appointed postmaster by Cleveland in 1886. The position passed to his son John Green, Jr. in 1914 and remains in the family to this day. The post office is also an integral part of the store. At one time, the second floor of the store served as a community meeting place, and a recreational center where dances were held.

It exists today in essentially the same condition, except that the second floor is no longer safe and usable. Many of the fixtures, such as the "ice box," well eroded butcher block, cheese container, display cases presented to the proprietor by various salesmen, post office area including the original window and post office boxes, are still in use. There is even an ornate telephone booth installed in the store for the first telephone in the area, which the telephone company never retrieved. The original cash register is still in use--causing some problems for the proprietor with today's prices, since it does not register sales of more than \$1.00. The well-worn wooden floors have not seen wax in many years if ever. The ceiling is pressed tin. Electricity has been installed, but the whole store is still heated by a wood burning stove, with the assistance of a space heater.

