

PH0086991

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado	
COUNTY: Gilpin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 18 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
TELLER HOUSE

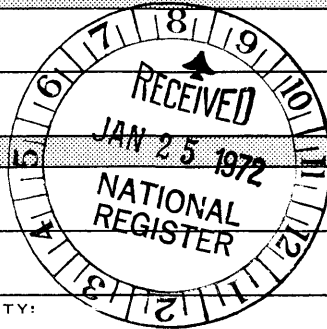
AND/OR HISTORIC:
TELLER HOUSE

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Eureka Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Central City

STATE: Colorado CODE: 08 COUNTY: Gilpin CODE: 047



3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
University of Denver, Colorado Seminary

STREET AND NUMBER:
University Park

CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 80210

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Gilpin County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Eureka Street

CITY OR TOWN: Central City STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Little Kingdom Council Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Colorado Library

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 Fourteenth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Colorado
COUNTY: Gilpin
ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 18 1973
DATE: _____
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Teller House is a four-story (and basement) Romanesque Revival brick building constructed on a square plan. Additions to the back (south) and the west side of the building have been made in recent years. The windows on the second, third and fourth floors, eleven irregularly placed on each floor in the front, and nine irregularly placed on each floor on the west and east side, are double hung 2/2 with plain stone lintels. The original boxed crowning cornice is missing.

Iron braces under the windows on the second and third floors on the north and east sides once supported wrought iron "promenade balconies," placed there in 1873 in order that the building would not look like a "New England factory." It is not clear when the balconies were removed but it was done before Central City's "revival" in the early 1930s. All second, third and fourth floor windows on the front, east and west sides have iron pins on each side. These once held metal shutter doors, removed at an unknown date.

The ground under the hotel slopes gently toward the east. Thus the front of the building requires additional foundation and additional steps into the entrances toward the east. The front of the building has an arcading design pattern with Roman arches over the large main door, off center to the right, and three smaller dorrs, and six large windows. One of the smaller doors is to the west of the main entrance and the other two are to the east. In order, they enter into the main desk of the hotel, the Teller House Bar and the Little Kingdom Bar. The main entrance is flanked by street lamps and opens into the main hallway and stairway.

The assay office is a one-room, one-floor addition at the west end of the building, flush with the front of the Teller House but running only about half way along the west side of the building. It was added before 1900. It is made of a slightly lighter color brick than the Teller House proper. Its facade continues the arcade appearance with a center double door with glassed arch transom, an arched window on either side. (The Assay Office is now used primarily as a ticket office.) The roof of the Assay Office is a balcony with a wooden post balustrade which lines the balcony and extends to the rear of the building on the west side, forming a narrow walkway from the balcony to the rear. One French door opens onto the balcony on the Assay Office roof and another provides access to the walkway near the rear of the building. There is a similarly balustraded flight of steps leading to the ground from the rear of the balcony. The remainder of the ground floor behind the Assay Office is a flowered terrace, used as a restaurant during the tourist season. Eight wood cut-out brackets support the walkway above.

The addition at the rear of the building is irregular in plan. It consists of a three-floor extension from the west side of the building and a one-floor extension from the east side which is the kitchen. Fire stairs lead from the fourth floor down to the roof on the one-floor addition and from its roof to the ground.

In the center of the building is an irregularly-shaped courtyard. In the early years it was noted for its many flowers, but today it is another eating area. On the second and third floors on the east side of the court are balconies, fronted by a wooden balustrade.

The long bar and seven of the eight frescoes in the Teller House Bar are said to be original. The frescoes are of classical subjects and were painted by English illustrator Charles St. George Stanley. When the Teller House was refurbished in the 1930s, the frescoes were found under several layers of wallpaper. They were retouched by artist Paschal Quackenbush.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Colorado	
COUNTY	
Gilpin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 18 1973

(Number all entries) Description: (continued)

A popular attraction in the Teller House Bar is the "Face on the Barroom Floor." It was inspired by a poem written by Hugh Antoine D'Arcy, first published in 1912. The face on the Teller House barroom floor was painted by Denver artist and newspaperman Herndon Davis in 1936 while on a "convivial lark."

Directly behind the main hall and the hotel lobby is the large Teller House restaurant, in between the indoor courtyard to the east and the outside court to the west.

The wide, red-carpeted, one-landing staircase is to the left of the main entrance and has intricately carved newel posts.

The front half of the second floor is display area and part of the tour conducted through the hotel. A large room in the northeast corner of the second floor, with some smaller side rooms, is called "the Governor's Suite," and displays classic furniture of the 1870s and 1880s. Facing the stairway in the front center of the building is the "Baby Doe Room" in teakwood and gold leaf trim. The dainty Victorian Rococo furniture in the room was originally owned by Baby Doe Tabor, elfin second wife of Colorado's famed "boom and bust" Carbonate King, H.A.W. Tabor.

The remainder of the bedrooms on the second floor are generally larger than those found on the third and fourth floors. Much of the Victorian furniture on the top three floors is said to be original to the hotel. Missing furniture has been replaced by authentic replicas of the 1870s and 1880s. (Several rooms contain furniture sets.)

There are thirty-five rooms on each of the top two floors. Not all of the rooms have been restored, and work is currently underway in some of them.

The interior of the Teller House was greatly deteriorated at the time of the Central City "revival" in the early 1930s. In reclaiming it, the owners are attempting to return it, as much as possible, to its original appearance and condition. In most rooms, as in the bar, layers of wall paper were peeled off and the original walls and flooring were reconditioned.

Some repair work has been done recently on the roof, and the exterior of the building is in good condition. The glass roof over the courtyard leaks during heavy rains. And the plumbing and the electrical wiring throughout the building needs work.



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) 1872-1900 (approximately) and since 1932

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <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

The Teller House is one of the oldest and most famous buildings in Central City. It was built by Henry M. Teller (Colorado's leading Senator from 1876-1909 and Secretary of the Interior between 1881 and 1885) and his brother, Willard Teller, during 1871 and 1872. According to one contemporary guidebook (Frank Fossett, Colorado, New York: 1880), it was the largest and most elaborately furnished hotel in the Territory, outside of Denver. At the peak of Central City's fame in the 1870s and, again during its revival in the 1890s, the hotel served as the gathering place for the mining camp's society and for much of the elite of Colorado. It also hosted prominent business, political and social figures from the United States and Europe during its days of glory. For example, during April 1873 President Grant and his party walked from their stagecoach to the Teller House over a sidewalk of silver ingots. Once in the hotel the group was served an eight-course meal and was introduced to the community leaders of Central City and Black Hawk.

The Teller House served as a boundary line beyond which the great fire of May 1874 did not go as it destroyed Central City's business district. Thus the hostel is among twenty some buildings in the area which did not burn. Its ninety-nine years of existence make it an old structure for the Rocky Mountain region.

Since 1932 it has served as a cultural and social headquarters for the music festival sponsored in Central City by the nationally famous Central City Opera House Association. At the present time it is still used as a hotel, although much of the building functions as a museum to thousands of visitors helping to tell the story of life in a Colorado mining town in the late 1900s.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daily Central City Register, October 8, 1870 - August 14, 1872, passim. Bancroft, Caroline, Gulch of Gold: A History of Central City, Colorado. Denver: Sage Books, 1958.
 Fossett, Frank. Colorado Its Gold and Silver Mines, Farms and Stock Ranges, and Health and Pleasure Resorts. New York: C. G. Crawford, 1880.
 Perrigo, Lynn. The Little Kingdom: A Record Chiefly of Central City in the Early Days. Boulder, Colorado: The Author, 1934.

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			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	48'	3.5"N	105°	30'	46"W
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than an acre.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Liston E. Leyendecker, Historian & Perry Eberhart
Research Associate
 ORGANIZATION: Little Kingdom Council, c/o Central City Opera House Association : State Historical Society of Colorado DATE: Dec. 7, 1971
 STREET AND NUMBER: Suite 636 University Building : Colorado State Museum
910 - 16th Street : 200 - 14th Avenue
 CITY ~~XXXX~~ and State: Denver, Colorado 80202 : Denver, Colorado 80203 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 7 December 1971

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

Robert W. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/18/73

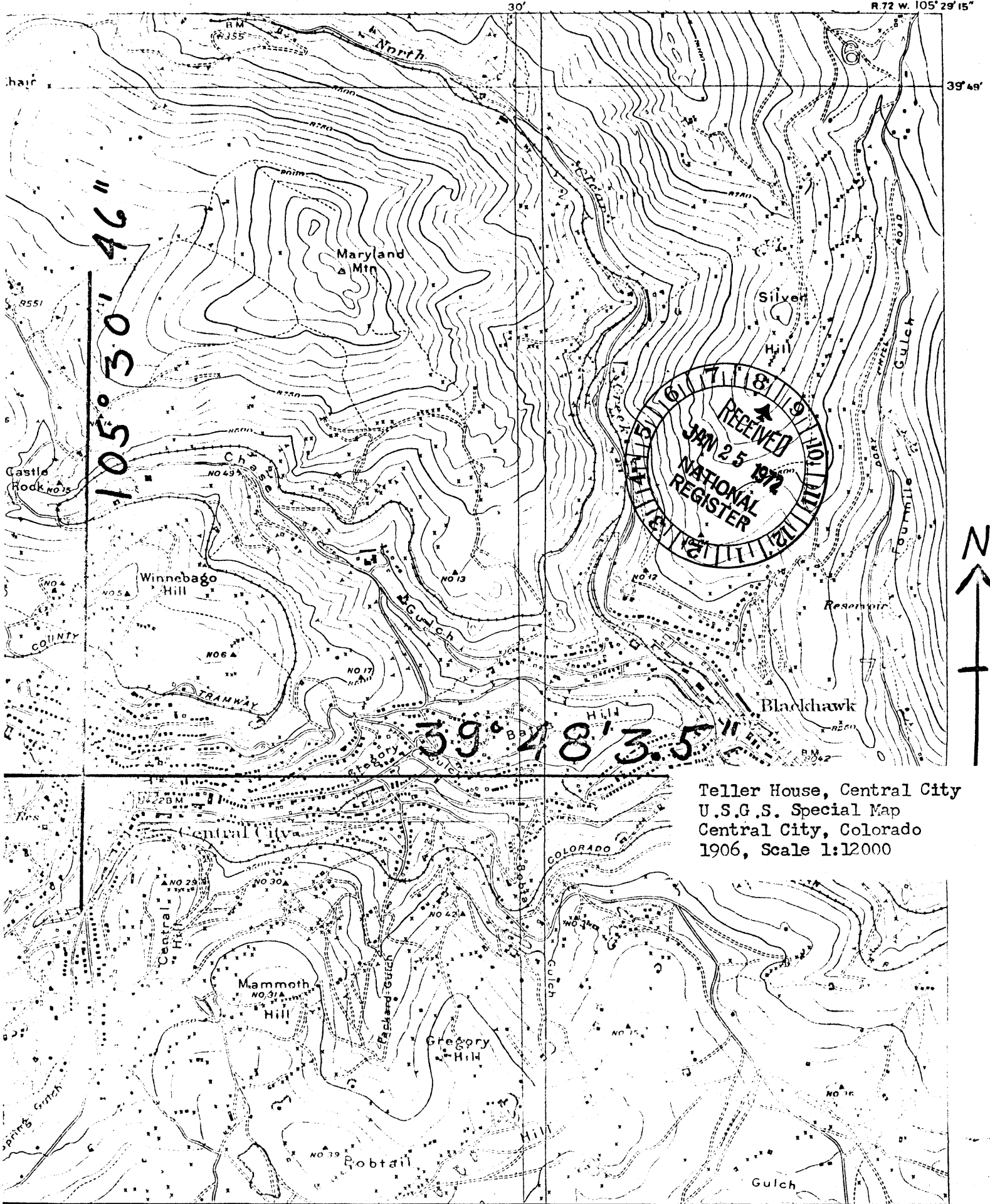
ATTEST:
Wm J. Smutney
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date 1.9.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4-5 no UT

COLORADO
CENTRAL CITY SPECIAL MAP

R. 72 W. 105° 29' 15"



105° 30' 46"

39° 28' 3.5"

Teller House, Central City
U.S.G.S. Special Map
Central City, Colorado
1906, Scale 1:12000