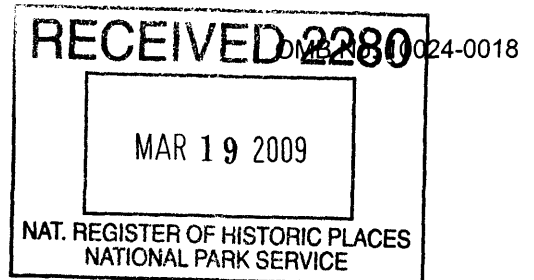


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

250



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mill City House

other names/site number 5CC.313

2. Location

street & number 247 County Road 308 [N/A] not for publication

city or town Dumont [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Clear Creek code 019 zip code 80436

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer 3-6-09
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register See continuation sheet.
- other, explain See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 4.30.09

Mill City House
Name of Property

Clear Creek County, Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling/ hotel

COMMERCE/ restaurant / specialty shop

GOVERNMENT/ post office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/pioneer log

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD/log

walls WOOD/log

WOOD

roof WOOD

METAL/steel

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Mill City House
Name of Property

Clear Creek County, Colorado
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Periods of Significance

1868

Significant Dates

1868

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

Mill City House
Name of Property

Clear Creek County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- | | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------|---|
| 1. | 13 | 484 707 | 4401 602 | (NAD27) |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 2. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 3. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 4. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet |

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHF by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larrice M. Sell, President
organization Mill Creek Valley Historical Society date October 20, 2008
street & number P.O. Box 84 telephone (303) 567-2677
city or town Dumont state CO zip code 80436

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mill Creek Valley Historical Society
street & number P.O. Box 84 telephone (303) 567-2677
city or town Dumont state CO zip code 80436

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Mill City House
Clear Creek County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

Located in the small mountain town of Dumont, the Mill City House faces south toward County Road 308 and Interstate 70. Dumont, originally named Mill City, is situated on the I-70 corridor five miles west of Idaho Springs and six miles east of Georgetown. It is claimed to be the oldest mining camp in Clear Creek County.¹ A small dirt area in front of the building provides parking for the Mill City House and the neighboring county shops to the west. The boundary of the Mill City House is clearly marked by a six foot tall chain link fence encompassing the sides and back. A large vacant space behind and to the east of the building was the location of ancillary buildings to the Mill City House, long since removed and now owned and used by the adjacent property owner for storage. The vacant area abuts a hillside covered in Ponderosa pine trees, brush, and other vegetation including a large apricot tree. The road on which the Mill City House sits was at one time a toll road running the length of Clear Creek County and in later years became the joined U.S. Highways 6 and 40.² It now serves as the frontage road to the interstate.

Once established and fully operational, the Mill City House property included the grounds north, east, and west of the Mill City House, and was fenced all around. Within the boundary was a large barn to the northwest that bordered Mill Creek Road, four sheds and an outhouse behind the Mill City House, a log cabin blacksmith shop to the east, and the Green family frame residence east of the blacksmith shop; all of these buildings are now gone. The sheds included a tool shed, coal shed, and wood shed. The large barn housed horses for the stage line. The stage tender, who cared for the horses, assisted stage drivers in exchanging the road worn horses for fresh ones when the stage stopped at the Mill City House.

The only remaining building is the Mill City House. It is comprised of two distinct one and one-half story, rectangular plan log cabins joined together perpendicularly at a right angle to create an "L-shaped" plan. The side gabled east cabin measures approximately 22½ feet x 16½ feet while the west front gabled cabin measures approximately 21 feet x 25½ feet. The south walls of both buildings are aligned to form a single plane. The east building's roof overlaps the west building's roof and although the cabins' roofs are the same height on the exterior, the interior attic floors differ slightly in height.

There is no evidence of foundation piers in either cabin, and they sit directly on the ground. A historic structure assessment completed in 2005 found fist-sized cobbles below the lowest sill logs, suggesting that a cobble filled trench foundation may have originally existed under the logs. However, the foundation has since deteriorated to the point of being non-functional. As a result, the wall logs at the base are deteriorating and need restoration.³ A small ditch about six inches deep was dug around the building in 2007 to allow the storm waters to run away from the foundation and stop further deterioration.

¹ *Rocky Mountain News*: September 8, 1880.

² U.S. Highway 6 and U.S. Highway 40 merge westbound where they both join Interstate 70 through Idaho Springs until splitting at Empire.

³ The Collaborative Inc. "Mill City House Structure Assessment 2005-HA-032", Boulder, Colorado, Pg. 10, on file at The Colorado Historical Society.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Mill City House
Clear Creek County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 2

Broad-axe hewn logs with squared-up exterior and interior faces (roughly parallel) comprise the four exterior walls of each cabin. V-notched corners intersect the west section's logs, while half-dove tail notched corners intersect the east cabin's logs. All notching remains tight despite twisting of some of the logs. The logs on the east cabin (or east section of the building) are typically larger than those of the west cabin (or west section of the building) and extend to the full height of the cabin. Sawn wood chinking and lime composition daubing exists between the logs on both cabins, although the daubing is missing in many places.

Rafter logs, measuring 5" in diameter and with the top surface hewn flat, comprise the construction of both cabin roofs. The east cabin's rafters meet at a ridge board, while the west cabin's rafters are butted against each other without a ridge board. The rafters are covered by a spaced sheathing of pine boards. Wood shingles blanket both roofs with a steel corrugated overlay added, some of which has blown off on the north side of the east cabin.⁴ Historic photos reveal the addition of the steel overlay between 1940 and 1950.

The west cabin façade has a centrally positioned modern hollow core door flanked by matching six-over-six double hung windows with hand sawn frames, as are all of the window frames. Clapboard covers the logs of the west cabin's gable face with a six-over-six double hung window punctuating the center of the gable. Plain fascia boards exist on the west cabin. A slightly off centered modern hollow core door provides the main entrance to the side gabled east cabin façade flanked by six-over-six double hung windows. Plywood currently covers the windows as protection from weather and vandals.

Brick rubble, remnants of the fireplace formerly centered on the east wall, lies on the east side of the building (the east cabin). At an unknown date the either it collapsed or the owner removed it. Wainscot of the interior east wall covers the opening and cutouts in the eave for a chimney are absent. A hole in the east cabin roof approximately the size of a metal flue exists and is located in front of where the fireplace opening would have been. Weathered boards cover the fireplace on the exterior opening. Clapboard covers the gable end of the east side with two evenly spaced single windows without sashes and covered with plywood. Two rows of missing clapboard in the gable reveals vertical wood below the clapboard, indicating that board-on-board or board and batten may have originally existed in the gable ends. The east cabin's builder added square molding to the east gable's fascia boards.

One door on the north side of the east cabin that leads to the billiard room; it is now covered with plywood. The east side of the west cabin, or the long side of the ell, reveals another entrance door that previously led to the billiard room; the owner removed the billiard room from the cabin in the late 1960s. Plywood currently covers the opening. The north wall of the west cabin retains all of its clapboard siding, barring one row at the very top. Centered in the gable is a window with the glass gone and covered by plywood. It appears to be the size of the other intact six-over-six double hung windows in the cabins.

The west elevation (west cabin) contains one window opening towards the north end that is covered with plywood. It appears to have contained a six-over-six double hung window. An

⁴ Ibid.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Mill City House
Clear Creek County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 3

abandoned electrical service box is located near the south end. There was electrical service to the building when it served as a post office during the 1950s and 1960s; though currently, there is no service. Interior plumbing was never installed in the building. The building is no longer heated; however, during the 1950s and 1960s propane heated the east cabin.

Interior

West cabin

The interior is divided into four rooms totaling approximately 437 square feet. It contains a large entry room, a small room to the west, another of equal width to the northwest, and one more to the north of the large room. An undivided loft area above the first floor covers the entire upper space. The first floor walls are between 6' 8" and 6' 11" in height and contain up to nine layers of wallpaper over a cardboard backing. The most recent layer is vinyl wallpaper from an unknown date. In some areas, the wallpaper is completely gone exposing the logs. Cardboard covers some of the logs in the north and northeast rooms where the wallpaper once existed. The ceiling is wood, probably installed after the initial construction. The interior has no doors between the rooms; however jambs in door-ways between the cabins (first and second floor) are present.

The loft is made of hand hewn logs with pine flooring nailed to the logs with several layers of materials including 4" wide by ¾" thick pine floorboards, tar paper, resilient tiles, particle boards, and sheet linoleum. Whitewash covers the wall logs and exposed roof rafters make up the ceiling.

East cabin

The interior is comprised of one large room on the first floor, a staircase and evidence of a second floor loft space. A previous owner removed the original loft floor logs in the 1980s as he started dismantling the building. When the current owner, the Mill Creek Valley Historical Society, received the property in 1989, it replaced all but one of the original loft floor logs with newer hewn logs to restore stability. The floors are 6"-10" wide pine boards placed on floor support logs, which lay directly on the ground and are flat on the floor and grade sides. Wainscot extends half way from the floor in most areas with one wall near the staircase covered floor to where the original ceiling would have been. Evidence of whitewash on the wainscot is still very noticeable. At some point after the initial construction, the owner added the wainscot. Above the wainscot, remnants of various layers of wallpaper cover the large logs.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Mill City House
Clear Creek County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 4**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Mill City House is significant under Criterion C in the area of **architecture** as it represents a method and period of construction of a rare intact one and one-half story Pioneer Log building associated with Colorado's early mining settlements. Simple construction materials and techniques include the broad-axe hewn log walls that have squared-up exterior and interior faces, V-notched and half-dove tail notched corners, sawn wood chinking, lime composition daubing, and gable roofs, all of which exemplify the Pioneer Log method of construction employed by miners. Popular in Colorado's early mining communities, it exhibits the readily available materials from nearby forests miners with limited means found quickly and inexpensively. The Mill City House reflects the evolution of the early Pioneer Log cabin constructed quickly for a mining settlement to a refined road house with clapboard covering the logs at one time. It began as two cabins constructed during the early mining period in Clear Creek County, possibly for miners and their families. At an unknown date, likely in the mid-1860s, the two cabins were joined to create the Mill City House.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In January 1859 George A. Jackson made a significant placer gold discovery on South Clear Creek at the mouth of what later became Chicago Creek in Clear Creek County. This site was later known as Jackson Flats. His discovery, along with a significant find in Boulder Canyon later in January 1859, and that of John Gregory in May of 1859 in what is now Gilpin County, helped dispel what some eastern United States journalists dubbed as just a rumor or "humbug" of the gold discovery in what was known at the time as the Pikes Peak region. A town soon emerged near Jackson's site named Idaho Springs. By 1880, Clear Creek County, and Gilpin County to the north, accounted for more than two thirds of Colorado's gold, silver, and copper exports. Most of the rivers and streams in the area were sites of placer mining and gold strikes;⁵ mining camps and boom towns sprang up overnight near many of the strikes.

The 1858 to 1859 Colorado gold rush beckoned many fortune seekers to peruse the rivers, streams, and creeks for placer gold. These individuals constructed shelters as quickly and cheaply as possible. Materials included canvas, dirt, and pine or cottonwood logs. They often settled initially for a cabin with six or eight-log high walls with a canvas or dirt and log pole roof until they had the time and money to add a proper roof or until they moved on to another gold strike area. A dirt floor was typical with a fireplace at one end of the cabin and a makeshift bed at the other. Often muddy water dripped through the roof and into the provisional home as the snow melted or with the summer thunderstorms.⁶

Mill City began as a mining camp in 1859 and continued its existence by supporting its and other area's mining with smelters and various other mineral processing industries. Two

⁵ Frank Fossett, *Colorado: Its Gold and Silver Mines, Ranches, and Pleasure Resorts: 1876-1880* (Glorieta, New Mexico: The Rio Grande Press, Inc., 1976, p. 355; Charles W. Henderson, *Mining in Colorado: A History of Discovery, Development and Production*, (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1926), p. 9.

⁶ Thomas J. Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), 12-13.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Mill City House
Clear Creek County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 5

streams run through the town site, Mill Creek runs north to south and Clear Creek runs west to east. With ready access to water, the town was home to numerous mills, placer sites, and arrastras, thus the name Mill City. None of the mills survive today; however one of the arrastras still sits on its original site on Mill Creek. Roads into the town connected the surrounding mining areas, including Nevadaville, Central City, Blackhawk, and Idaho Springs. As more camps became towns and some early miners established their niche, in mining or other professions, the log cabins became more of a permanent home rather than a temporary shelter. This included larger and taller log cabins, often with a loft or one and one-half stories. Rather than the dirt and log pole roofs, miners built roofs to endure the heavy wet snowstorms experienced in Mill City at an elevation of nearly 8000 feet. Builders added more windows and a cook stove. With the larger cabins, married male miners often sent for their families who they may have left in the "states" until they were settled.

Mill City House

The earliest history of the Mill City House is unknown; however, the construction reveals that the Mill City House was originally two log cabins constructed in conjunction with the early mining industry occurring in and near Mill City. Some sources date the Mill City House to 1860⁷ and others to 1866. It is quite possible that one of the cabins pre-dates the other by one to six years. At some point, the two log cabins were brought together at the current site of the Mill City House, although there is no documentation as to when this occurred. As mining towns prospered and grew, often a sense of a "rush to respectability" emerged. Covering rustic log buildings with other materials provided a more refined look to the town. Whether this trend influenced the Greens or not, they would have had to have covered the large rustic logs with clapboard siding sometime after 1864 if they used local lumber, since the first sawmills appeared in the Mill City area that year.

The earliest written documentation of the building is an 1868 deed to Sarah Green (1821-1903). Sarah and her husband John immigrated to Mill City from Wisconsin.⁸ John's profession is unknown. From census and cemetery records it appears the Greens had four children, Ida (1859 – 1909), Thomas (1861 – 1940), Minnie (1866 – 1886), and Alice (ca. 1870 - unknown death date). The original use of the Mill City House was a stage station and boarding house for travelers who were headed west to Colorado's mining communities. One traveler noted that, "The Mill City House located across the creek on the wagon road...offered many conveniences for the western traveler."⁹ The 1880 census indicated that in addition to her own children, Sarah Green had 21 residents at her property: comprised of two women, one child, and eighteen men. Some of these individuals may have been in her employ to keep the stage station and boarding house running, while the majority was most likely boarders who worked in the Mill City mining industry. Of the men listed, only one was older than 40. The 1880 census reveals that Sarah was widowed.¹⁰

⁷ Kenneth Jessen, *Ghost Towns, Colorado Style*. Vol. 1, Northern Region. (Loveland: J.V. Publications, 1998), 325-326.

⁸ Clear Creek County Record of Deeds, 1868.

⁹ *History of Clear Creek and Boulder Valleys, Colorado*, Chicago, Illinois: O. L. Baskin & Company, Historical Publishers, 1880.

¹⁰ U.S. Census 1860 for Sarah Green and Boarders; U.S. Census 1880 for Sarah Green, Mill City/Dumont; "The Foothills Inquirer," Vol. 6, No.2, Lakewood: Foothills Genealogical Society of Colorado, Inc. May 1986, p. 32.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Mill City House
Clear Creek County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 6

Little documentation has been found regarding Mill City House's history as a stage station. A receipt dated May 19, 1866, shows that a one-way passage from Central City to Mill City cost \$5 for a J. A. Menton & lady. The stage line was the J.A. Love & Co. Express Line, with Baily and Venine as the agent. In Colorado, stage drivers typically found stage stations every 10 to 12 miles. Ascending the steep mountain trails, a stage line often used a ten to twelve horse hitch. The return trip, if it was downhill most of the way, took fewer horses. Approximately, every 40 to 50 miles (depending on the terrain) stage drivers found home stations typically operated by a family. These stations provided not only fresh horses, but also an opportunity for the stage passengers to briefly rest, buy a meal, and occasionally buy minor provisions (e.g., plugs of tobacco). Some home stations doubled as a wayward home for travelers of any means of transportation. Travelers by horse, horse/oxen and wagon or by foot could buy meals, re-shoe their horses or oxen at the blacksmith's shop and, if necessary, spend the night.¹¹

Sarah Green made every effort to make her guests feel at home. She purchased elaborate and high quality wallpaper, including some from the Alfred Peats Company of New York and Chicago. A 2005 historic structure assessment revealed evidence from a wallpaper analysis that nine layers of wallpaper existed on the walls with the oldest wallpaper dating to the 1860s. The fifth layer was the only one accurately identified as being from the Alfred Peats Company. In addition to appeasing the women travelers with the stylish wallpaper, the Green family added a saloon, purportedly the first west of Denver.¹² At an unknown date, the Greens added a billiard room for the guests to pass the time on the north side of the buildings. They furnished the room with a billiard table shipped from New York. Evidence of this room remains as the structure assessment revealed a rim joist and flashing for the roof found on the east elevation of the west cabin for fastening roof joints, cleats on the logs of the north elevation of the east cabin, and floor logs and flooring on the ground, now partially buried.¹³ The Mill City House provided a meeting place in the upper story that doubled as an area for theatrical performances; some referred to the upper story as Mill City's Opera House.¹⁴

Mill City's first post office began on July 5, 1861, and operated through February 10, 1863. Its closure reflected the boom and bust cycle many mining towns experienced. The area's surface ore and placer claims largely played out by 1863 and a transition to hard rock or lode mining occurred at this time. Once the population and the mining boom started again in the mid-1860s, the post office reopened on March 12, 1866, and continued under the Mill City name as its post office until May 26, 1879. The Dumont Post Office opened on May 17, 1880 and continues to today. The locations of Mill City's and Dumont's first post offices are unknown. The 1890 city business directory listed Michael Doyle as the postmaster. Doyle was a boarder with Sarah Green in 1880. It is possible that the post office was in another building on the Green property at an early date; though, it has not been confirmed.¹⁵

¹¹ Passenger ticket. J. A. Love & Co. Express Line, May 19, 1866. Denver Public Library, Western History Collection; Heather Peterson, "Colorado's Stagecoach Stations," M. A. Thesis, University of Colorado at Denver, 2002.

¹² Jessen, p. 326.

¹³ Mill City House Structure Assessment, pp. 5, 33.

¹⁴ Jessen, p.326.

¹⁵ William Bauer, James L. Ozment, and John H. Willard, *Colorado Post Offices 1859-1989*. (Golden, CO: Colorado Railroad Historical Foundation, 1990), pp. 47, 98; 1890 Clear Creek County Business Directory Index, Foothills Genealogical Society of Colorado, Inc. website: <http://www.foothillsgenealogy.org/index.htm>, accessed January 21, 2009

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Mill City House
Clear Creek County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 7

By the mid-1870s the Colorado Central Railroad arrived in Clear Creek County. While the need for the stagecoach diminished from areas such as Denver or Golden, individuals continued to take short trips between the mining communities near Mill City utilizing a stagecoach. In 1880, Mill City changed its name to Dumont, to avoid mail delivery confusion with another town with the same name. The new name recognized Colonel John M. Dumont, a gentleman of prominence who owned a number of mines in the area and employed a large number of local residents. The residents depended on the mines for their livelihood.

In 1903 Sarah Green passed away and her son Thomas took over the boarding house business until his death in 1940. While still owned by a Green family descendant in 1953, the U.S. Government leased the Mill City House for Dumont's post office. Helen Disque, the postmistress at this time, used the west cabin for the post office and the east cabin for a small gift shop. When Mildred Wagner succeeded Mrs. Disque as postmistress in the mid- 1950s, she moved the post office to the east cabin, and the west cabin was not used. This configuration remained until the post office moved to a new building to the west of Mill Creek Road in 1968. Joyce Feidler Bivens was the last postmistress in the Mill City House, and she oversaw the move to the new building. The Mill City House has remained empty since that time.¹⁶

With the building empty, the then owner (a descendant of the Green family) began dismantling the building, removing the billiard room, the floor of the east cabin loft, and the fireplace in the east cabin. When John Harding offered to purchase the building, the dismantling ceased. In 1989, the Harding generously donated the Mill City House to the present owners, The Mill Creek Valley Historical Society (MCVHS). MCVHS replaced the beams in the east building, and they boarded the building's windows to stop vandalism. The society hopes to restore the building, creating a museum of local mining history.

As with other Colorado mining towns, Mill City, nka Dumont, experienced the effects of the booms and busts associated with the mining industry. The early log cabins that miners or merchants constructed were often intended as temporary buildings, abandoning them when the mining busted or when better opportunities in other areas arose. During bust times, particularly during the 1930s Great Depression, individuals occasionally recycled the logs from the long since abandoned early miners' cabins. Individuals incorporated these logs into their own buildings, or in many cases, simply used them for firewood. Few intact log buildings dating from the first generation of mining (the 1860s), particularly buildings of more than a single story exist in their original condition in Colorado. For those that are extant, many underwent renovations and remodeling -- addition of clapboard, new rooms, new windows, and Victorian elements -- to "keep up" with the times. Most other log cabins were victims of weather, vandals, and time, deteriorating them into ruins. Although the Mill City House experienced a period of renovation when the Greens covered the logs with clapboard, only one side and the two gable ends exhibit evidence of this renovation and the family compromised neither the original layout of the buildings nor the original logs. Log cabins from

¹⁶ Larrice M. Sell, Personal Recollections [Lifetime Resident of Dumont, Colorado]; "The Foothills Inquirer," p. 32.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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

Mill City House
Clear Creek County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 8

the first wave of Colorado's mining communities are rare. The Mill City House epitomizes the methods and construction of pioneer log buildings in the early settlement years of Colorado Territory characterized by heavy, hand hewn logs and gable roofs. It is an unusual example of an intact, one and one-half story early mining cabin and represents the endurance of the design, materials, and method of construction of log buildings protected and cared for by a family for many years. The MCVHS, as the owner and steward, intends to stabilize the building since all of the primary components are mostly sound. The Mill City House represents a significant and rare example of a building that captures Colorado's early mining, frontier, stagecoach, and hospitality history.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Mill City House
Clear Creek County, ColoradoSection number 9 Page 9**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

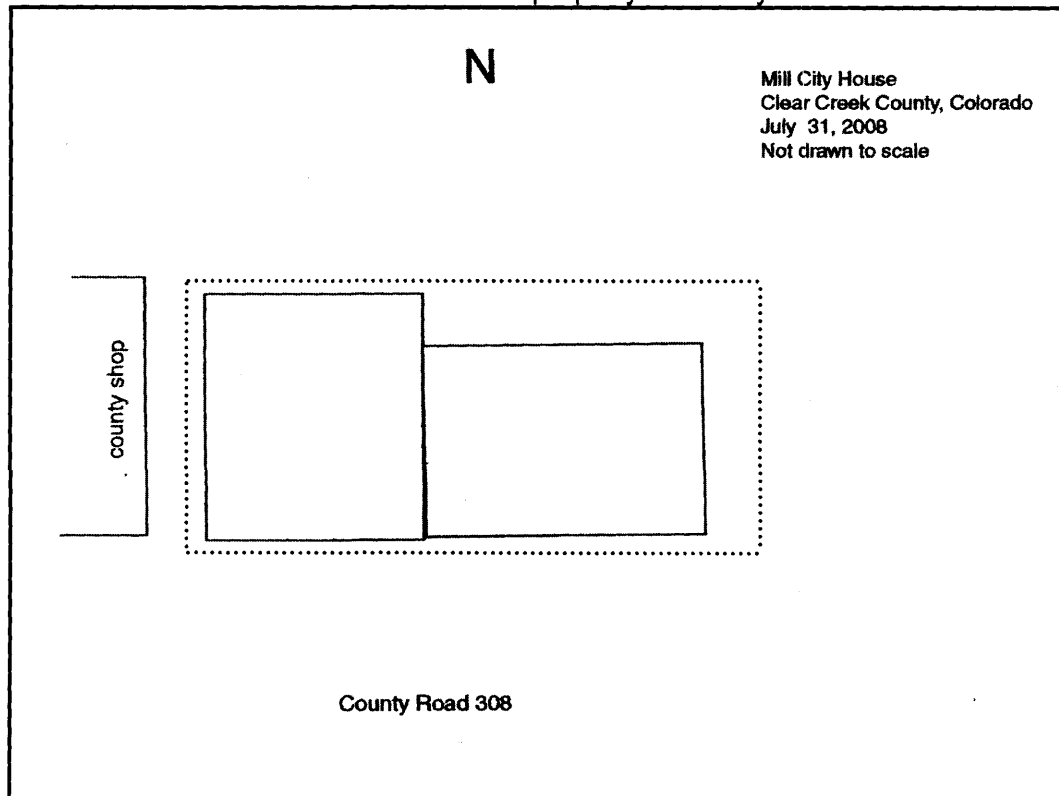
Book 431, Page 392, Portion of Lot 7, Block 1, Townsite of Dumont, Clear Creek County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area includes the parcel of land historically associated with the Mill City House. It is the only extant historic resource of a once larger complex of multiple buildings and structures. Gravel parking lots now exist on the north and east sides of the building and modern buildings stand on the west side.

SKETCH MAP

The dotted line indicates the nominated property boundary



**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

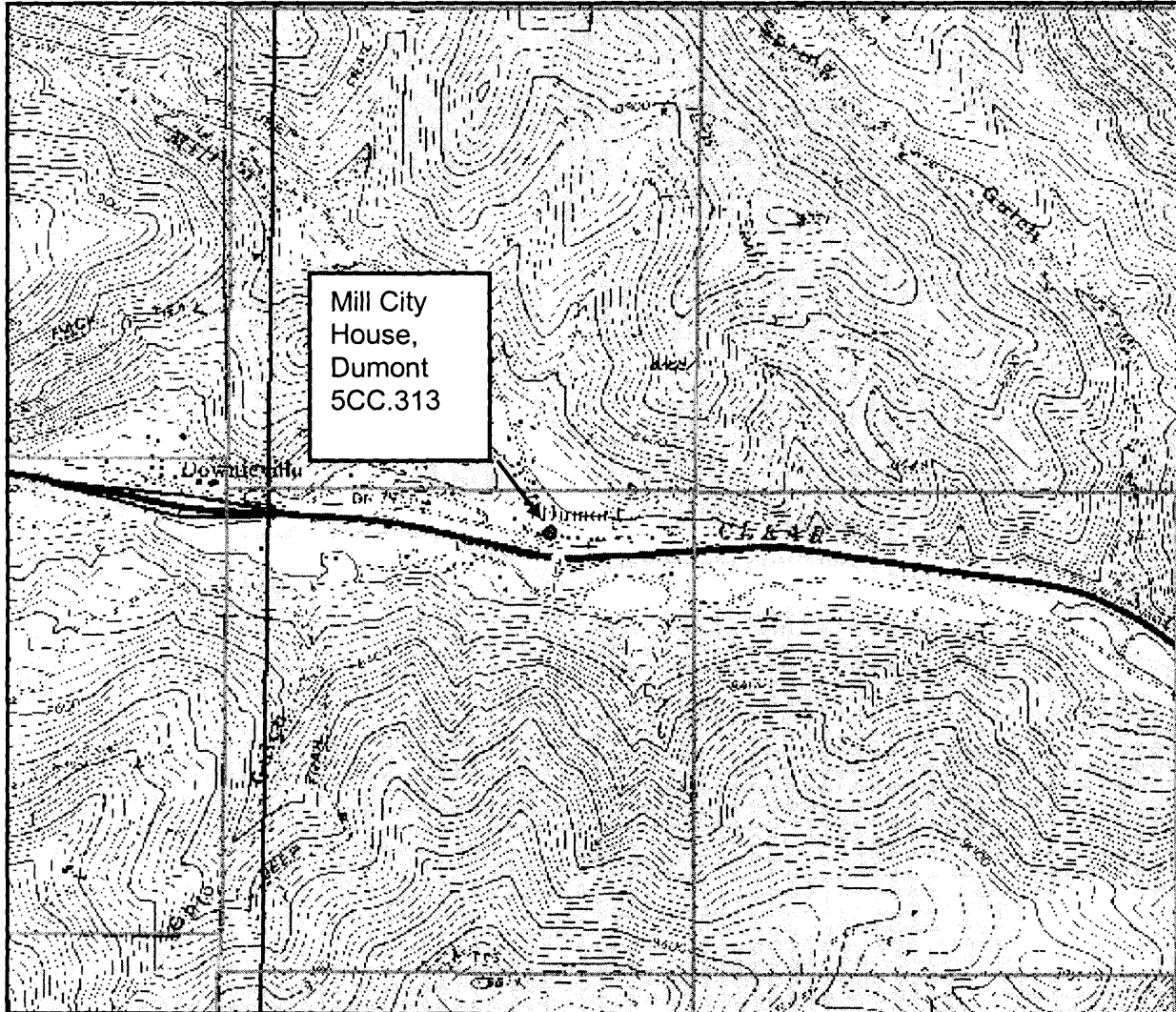
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Central City Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13; 448 707mE; 4401 602mN (NAD27)
PLSS: 6th PM, T3S, R73W, Unsectioned
Elevation: 8140 feet



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PHOTOGRAPH LOG - HISTORIC

These photographs may not be included in Internet posted documents and other publishing venues due to copyright restrictions.

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
H1	Mill City House, ca. 1940s. Denver Public Library Western History Collection.
H2	Mill City House, ca. 1940s. Denver Public Library Western History Collection.
H3	Mill City House and Green Property overview, 1943, camera facing north. Mill Creek Valley Historical Society Collection.
H4	Mill City House, Dumont Post Office 1953. Mill Creek Valley Historical Society Collection.
H5	Post Office at Dumont, July 17, 1964. Denver Public Library Western History Collection X-7744.

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to all photograph numbers except as noted:

Photographer: Kris Miller
Date of Photographs: June 2008
Negatives: Mill Creek Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 84
Dumont, Colorado 80436

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
1	West cabin, north elevation, shows original clapboard on top elevation, camera facing south
2	East and north elevations of the east cabin, and north and east elevations of the west cabin. This "L" shape is the location of the billiard room, removed in the late 1960s, camera facing southwest.
3	East cabin, east elevation, camera facing west. The boarded up area on the bottom middle was fireplace location.
4	West cabin, northeast elevation, camera facing southwest -remnants of "billiard" room still visible on upper elevation.
5	South elevation of both cabins, camera facing north.
6	West cabin, southwest elevation, camera facing northeast. Because of the proximity of another unrelated building, the entirety of west elevation cannot be shown.
7	Southeast elevation, camera facing northwest.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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

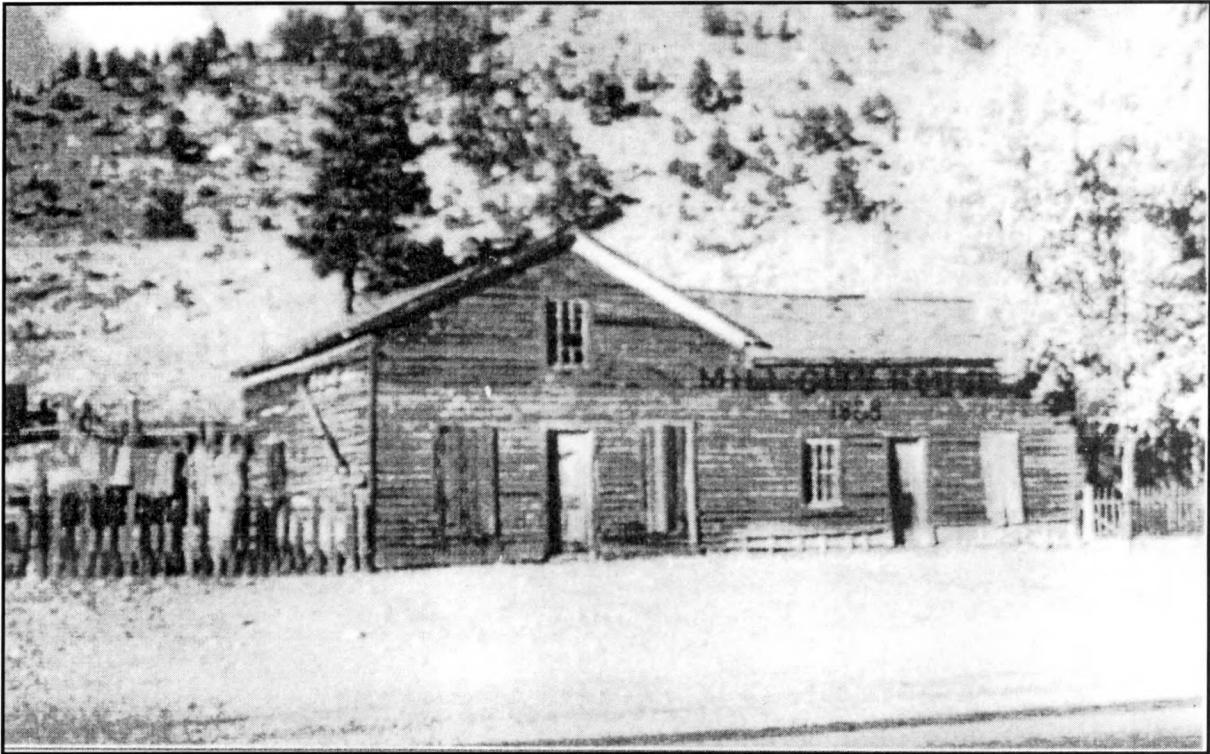
Mill City House
Clear Creek County, Colorado

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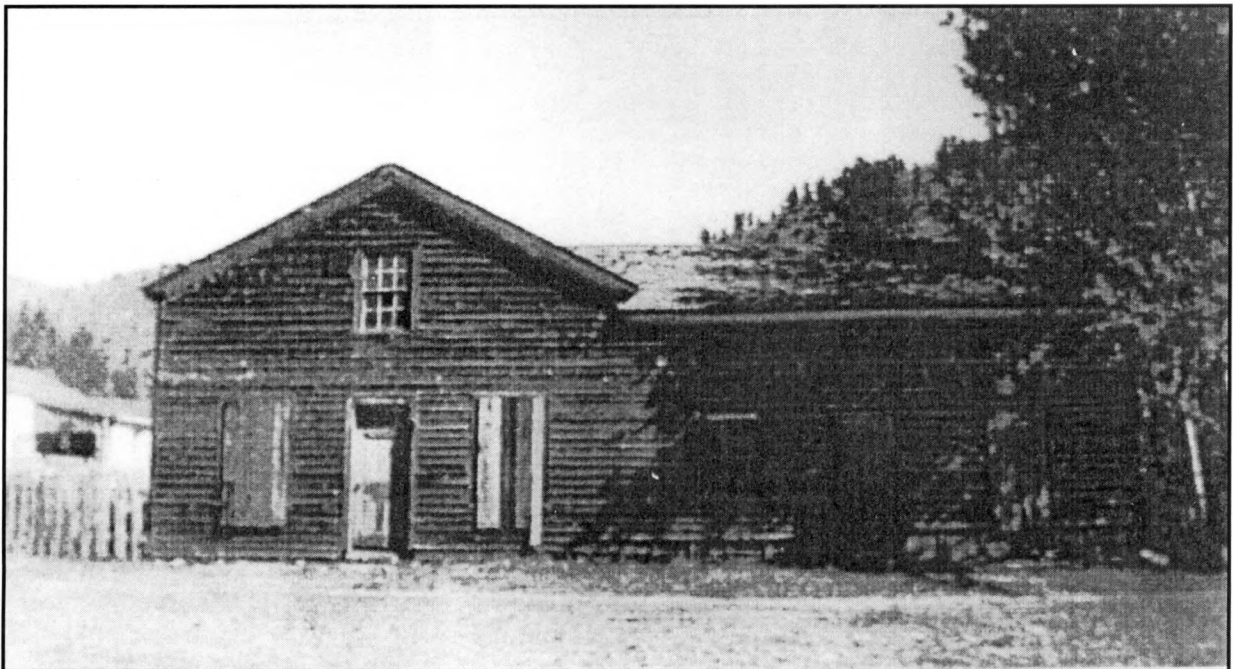
- 8 West cabin interior. Portions of remaining wallpaper visible.
- 9 East cabin interior. Visible are steps, loft, and door leading to the former "billiard" room.
- 10 East cabin interior. Shows loft, door to "billiard" room, and whitewash at the bottom floor level.

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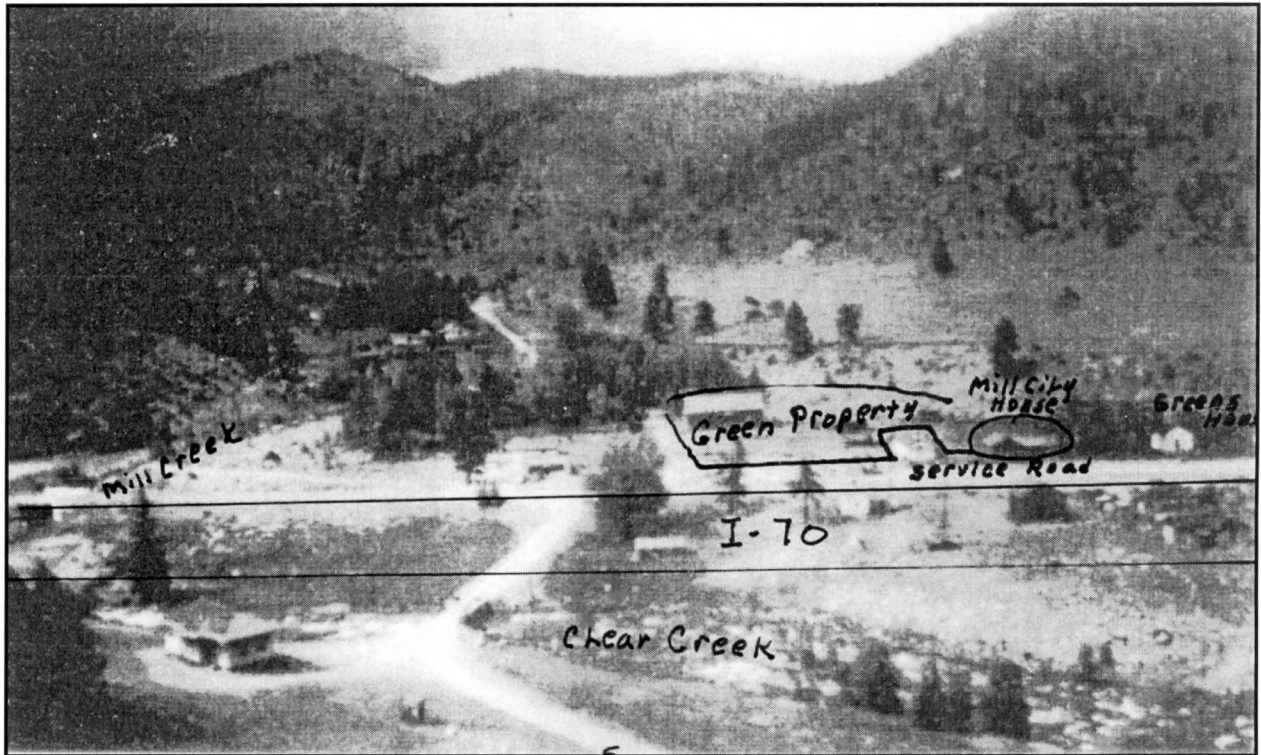
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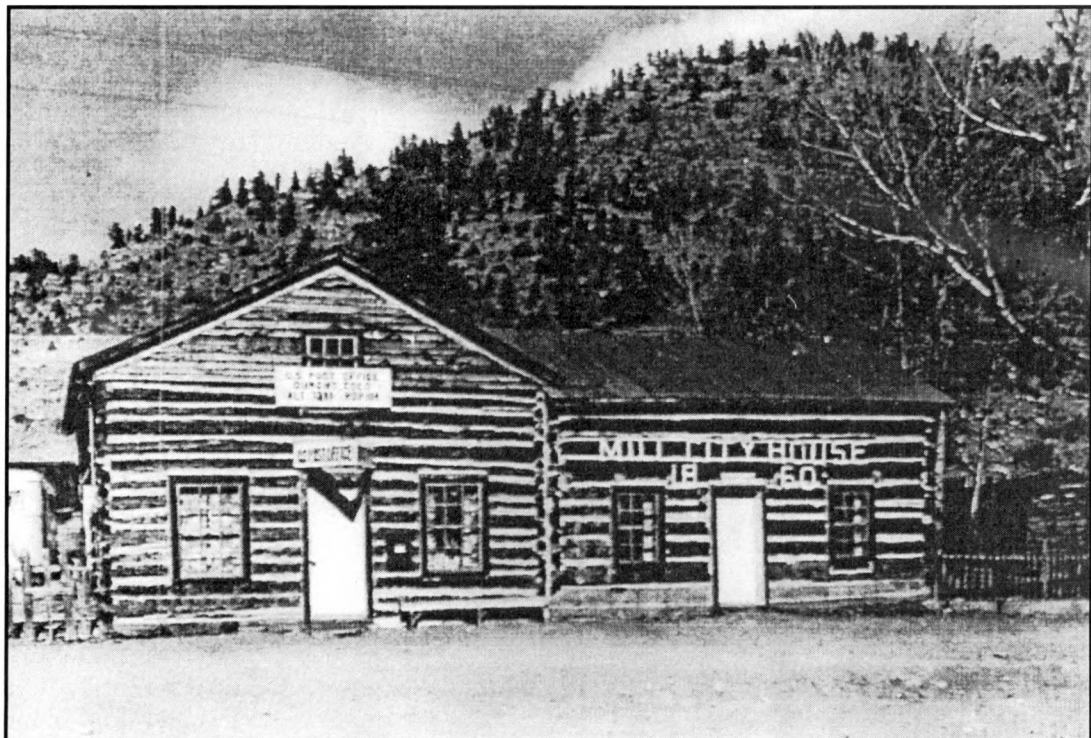
H 2

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H 3



H 4

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H 5