

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 21 1982

DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Rock Creek Stage Station

AND/OR COMMON

Gore Pass Stage Station

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Routt National Forest Road #206

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Toponas

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Routt

CODE

107

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Colorado Division of Wildlife

c/o Jack R. Grieb, Director

STREET & NUMBER

6060 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80216

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Routt County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

522 Lincoln Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Steamboat Springs

STATE

Colorado 80477

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Preliminary Cultural Resources Survey, Horse Creek

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Routt National Forest

CITY, TOWN

Steamboat Springs

STATE
Colorado 80477

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The stage station is a 3-bay, 2 -story log structure, rectangular in plan, with wide door openings on each wall and long, narrow window openings on the upper stories. The construction is of hand-hewn logs joined with V-notching at the corners and at partitions. The roof is a moderately-pitched gable type with logs filling the gable ends. The roofing material is not discernible. The sheathing boards consist of 1" x 6" planks laid across the log rafters from eaves to ridge. The building is unusually large for a log structure in Colorado.

The building reveals evidence of door and window openings on the south wall and a large barn door on another wall. There is also evidence that a balcony or deck originally projected from the second floor. Stall partitions on the ground floor of the building indicate its use as a stable. The second floor features a central hall plan and a staircase to the third floor; indicating occupancy by people. There is no evidence suggesting the presence of an interior staircase connecting ground and upper levels. Instead, it is likely that access to the upper level was gained by means of an exterior staircase, effectively separating the animals from the living quarters of the people above.

The structure is currently in need of stabilization and repairs and National Register designation should encourage its rehabilitation. It is the intent of the Forest Service to acquire and maintain the building.

The building is situated at Gore Pass (elevation 9,524) just off the old stagecoach road south of Rt. 84 in Routt National Forest. The nominated area includes the land on which the building sits, extending to the roadway running just to the south of the building, and fifteen feet from all exterior walls to the north, east, and west.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gore Pass Stage Station is significant because of its importance as a main point on the early transportation route in Routt and Grand counties, and as one of the few remaining examples of this building type in Colorado.

Gore Pass was named for Sir John Gore, an Englishman who went through that country on a hunting trip in 1855, guided by Jim Bridger. The Indians continued to use the road he had made for some years later. On November 6, 1861, the first railroad charter granted by any legislative body in the U.S. was given to the Union Pacific Railway, then known as the Colorado & Pacific Wagon, Telegraph and Railroad Company. At this time, Captain Berthoud made a survey of the mountain part of the territory with a view to building a road for overland stages. The new route extended from the Colorado-Kansas border via Denver, Golden, Clear Creek, South Clear Creek, Berthoud Pass, More's Creek, Hot Springs, Gore's Pass, along various tributaries of the Bear River, Yellow Jacket Pass, and the White River to the western boundary of the Colorado Territory. The Gore Pass trail was firmly established by the late 1860s and became a fairly well-traveled wagon route during the following years.

This stage station, historically known as the Rock Creek Stage Station, was a half-way station on the first mail route into the Yampa Valley established in 1878. The stage route operated from Georgetown to Hot Sulphur Springs, Troublesome, Rock Creek (at the foot of Gore Pass), Morrison Creek and Steamboat Springs. The station may have been built by the Gates Brothers in about 1880. The first settlements founded in the Yampa Valley remained small and isolated due to transportation problems. The difficulty of transportation in this isolated region made the presence of the station an important factor in the settlement of the area. Consequently, the station acted as a service center for area settlers until the completion of a Denver & Rio Grande Railroad line to Wolcott in 1887. A Steamboat-Wolcott stage line was established thereafter, providing more extensive stage and freighting service.

Despite its deteriorated condition, the stage station retains its overall architectural integrity and still reveals evidence of its original use. The interior configuration of the station indicates that it originally housed animals on the ground floor and people above on the second floor loft or attic. The occupation of the building by both people and animals appears to be an unusual circumstance in Colorado. Furthermore, the building is unusually large in size (2 stories) in order to accommodate large outfits. Typically, stage stations were smaller 1-story structures.

Overall, the Gore Pass Stage Station merits preservation for its important historic use and as a distinctive example of this building type.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Aaberg, Robert, Routt National Forest Supervisor. Person communication and first draft nomination, 1980-81.
- Athearn, Fred. An Isolated Empire: History of Northwest Colorado. 1976.
- Jerome, John Lathrop. "A Camping Trip to Northwestern Colorado in 1875." Colorado Magazine Sept. 1942, Vol. 19, p. 174.
- National Forest Service. History of Routt National Forest, 1905-1972.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Gore Pass

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 359700 4435225

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The Colorado Division of Wildlife has 160 acres along Rock Creek. Only the building is being considered as the area that was used in the operation of the station. The boundary extends about 30' southward to the north side of the old road, and 15' from the south, east, and west walls of the

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rebecca Herbst

ORGANIZATION

Colorado Preservation Office

DATE

May 1981

STREET & NUMBER

1300 Broadway

TELEPHONE

866-3392

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Robert C. Johnson

9.10.82

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Helena Byers
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

10/21/82

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Rock Creek Stage Station, Routt County, Colorado

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Representation in Existing

Continuation sheet

Surveys

Item number

6

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Colorado State Inventory

1977

Colorado Preservation Office

Denver, Colorado 80203

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Steamboat Pilot. February 19, 1981.
Wilson, Merrill. Personal communication, 1981.