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

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 Columbine

other names/site number Columbine Gold Camp; 5RT438

2. Location

street & number 64505 Routt County Road 129 [N/A] not for publication

city or town Clark [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Routt code 107 zip code 80428

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title: Mark Wolfe, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; Date: 6/22/07

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 of the Keeper: Galson H. Beall; Date of Action: 8.7.07

Columbine
Name of Property

Routt 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	
20	4	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
21	4	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)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
RECREATION and CULTURE:
outdoor recreation
DOMESTIC: camp

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE
RECREATION and CULTURE:
outdoor recreation
DOMESTIC: camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS
OTHER: Pioneer Log
OTHER: Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Granite
CONCRETE
walls WOOD: Log
roof METAL: Tin
other

Narrative Description

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Columbine
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 1**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Columbine is situated at an elevation of 8,697 feet in Routt County, Colorado. It is approximately 30 miles north of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and 15 miles south of the Wyoming border, on Routt County Road 129 (RCR 129), at the west base of 10,839-foot Hahns Peak. The climate and altitude of the area often provide up to 10 feet of snow during the winter. Columbine is located along the Sierra Madre Mountains (the northerly extension of the larger Park Range) in the foothills of Iron Mountain, just west of the town. Historic Hahns Peak Village is at the south base of Hahns Peak five miles to the southeast. Steamboat Lake State Park and its visitors' center and public recreation facility are located between Hahns Peak Village and Columbine. Routt National Forest, with open meadows of grasses, as well as forests of spruce, pine and aspen, surrounds small pockets of private property, including Columbine.

The nominated parcel includes 5.15 acres with its complex of 25 buildings and structures. Columbine is bounded on the east by the RCR 129. Abutting the boundary on the northeast is a .38-acre private parcel previously owned by former Columbine owners, the Juel family. Daughter Janice Juel Kay is the current landholder. Jan Dierks and Lyman Fancher own the remainder of the property on the north and surrounding Kay's property. The boundary on the south and west is the Columbine Estates Subdivision.

Although various reports indicate Columbine was in existence in the 1880s, official records do not exist until 1895. Fred G. Bernoudy, Dan Stukey and Jack O'Donnell are credited with naming Columbine after the state flower in 1895. The following year James R. Caron bought the 11-acre property in Section 6, Township 10 North, Range 85 West and had it surveyed for a townsite in 1897. The property passed through only five owners after 1896 before being purchased in 1993 by its current owners. The area is zoned agricultural by Routt County.

Traveling north along RCR 129, a sign on the west introduces Columbine. The log General Store is easily visible to the north of the sign. The entrance to Columbine is a dirt road bisecting RCR 129. Moving along the dirt road, on the south is the General Store across from Skiers Cabin to the north. Approximately 150 feet west from the county road entrance is a junction where the Summit Creek Barn is located. The road west from the junction provides access to the Merchants, Porcupine, Baker, and Gold Camp cabins and to the northwest Honeymoon, Moose, Beaver, Loggers, and Sisters Cabins, the Caron House and the Sauna. At the Caron House the road turns to the west and passes the Bear Cabin to the north, then turns north and leaves the boundaries of the nominated district. A small pond constructed in the 1980s lies to the east of the Sauna. The north boundary runs from Bear Cabin east to RCR 129 along the south side of the former schoolhouse, now known as The Last Resort, included in the .38 acre Juel Kay portion of the original 11-acre townsite.

All the buildings harmonize with the natural surroundings. The weathered logs of the cabins blend with the bark of the trees, and the warm browns create a relationship to the earth. The simplicity of design establishes an intimacy with nature. The buildings embody simple pioneer and rustic architecture characterized by one-story gabled metal roofs with overhanging eaves, unpeeled log fascia, log and half-log walls, small paned windows, wood floors and entrance doors. The buildings rest on stone masonry or recently placed concrete foundations. Most of the older buildings at Columbine retain their integrity in that their basic form, materials, and orientation remain as they did historically. The rental cabins, with

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the exception of Merchant, are heated by small wood stoves. Original stamped metal plaques identify each cabin by number, together with small painted wood signs by the entry door that identify each cabin by name.

Dirt paths lead from the main road to various cabins and buildings within the boundaries of the parcel and adjoining land. The open meadow to the east of the county road provides views of Hahns Peak and the surrounding national forest, offering generous expanses of sunlight. During the summer, columbine and other wildflowers grow in abundance. Birds abound, as well as chipmunks, squirrels, porcupines, marmots, deer, elk, bear and fox. Native grasses with aspen, spruce and pine trees cover the majority of the property. Three large pine trees are located near the northeast corner of the property. Former Columbine resident and Beanery restaurant owner Mrs. Martinez planted the seedlings during the 1930s, one for each of her three children.

Columbine's population hovered around 60 residents from 1900 to 1930 according to census data. From then into the 1950s the population averaged around 20 hardy souls. As the population dwindled, some buildings in the townsite were removed, including a barn and the Beanery restaurant. Others collapsed under winter snows and disintegrated over the years. Of those that remained, some were expanded or doors and windows were added. Nonetheless, the basic nature of Columbine and its resources retain their historic character: buildings remain simple and utilitarian and continue to serve basic functions. The natural landscape and pioneer ambience continue to define its character. Columbine reflects the seven aspects of integrity: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Resources in the District

The following sections describe the buildings and structures and structures within the district. The number by the resource name is keyed to the Columbine Site Plan. Interviews with previous owners and the current owners' documents were used to determine dates of construction, although exact dates are not available for some of the resources. The photograph numbers refer to photographs included with this nomination.

General Store (Columbine Mercantile) (1)

1898. James R. Caron, builder. Photographs 6, 7, 8, 9. Contributing.

The Columbine Mercantile building was the location of the general store, post office, and stop for stages and freighters from 1898 until 1967, and the Conoco gas station from 1915 until 1967. The property was purchased by the Fisher family in 1967. They ran the businesses for a year, then closed down and converted the building into a simple museum, renaming it the Columbine General Store. It is used today as the registration office for the cabins. The building is one story constructed of square notched logs with the corners covered in vertical siding boards. It rests on a new engineered stone-faced concrete foundation that includes a basement. The original cellar entrance is on the east elevation. An uncovered stone stoop is at the rear of the building. The gabled roof is covered in newer sheet metal roofing panels over older wood shingles. A false front made of milled vertical boards is on the north elevation. A new painted wood sign is positioned near the top of the false front. When the foundation was upgraded, the front porch could not be saved. It was reconstructed in accordance with its appearance in photographs dating from the 1930s. The porch has four vertical rough-hewn posts that hold up the slanting roof and two sets of horizontal cross-members between the vertical posts. The front door, probably not the

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original door, has a single large window light. The back door has four lights. Two large, three-over-three fixed wood-framed windows are located at the front of the building. One double-hung two-over-two window is located at the southeast corner of the building and a second double-hung two-over-two window is located on the southwest side of the building. The interior of the building has board flooring, a high ceiling, and exposed walls. The building is in good condition and, although altered, retains its physical integrity.

*Oil House (2)**Ca. 1915. James R. Caron, builder. Photograph 39. Contributing.*

The Oil House was used to store kerosene sold in the general store nearby. It is now vacant. The small log rectangular structure has a flat metal roof. It does not have a foundation. The floorboards rest on the ground. A milled log, wood-framed door faces north. Another wood-framed entry without a door faces east. There are no windows. The building's condition is deteriorating.

*Skiers Cabin (3)**Ca. 1895 Photographs 11, 12. Contributing.*

This building originally housed Ritter's Mercantile, Columbine's first store and post office. When James Caron purchased the business, he moved it to the Columbine Mercantile building in 1898. The cabin was then used as a residence and today is a rental cabin. The cabin is a one-story front-gabled rectangular log building with daubing. The north corners are notched. The concrete foundation and metal roof were installed in 1994. The entrance is on the north elevation. It has a new timber door and a recessed wood-framed window. The east elevation has three glazed wood-framed windows. A large new (date unknown) wood-framed window is on the south elevation. The south elevation displays the gabled metal roof extending out from the building supported by two large timber posts. Vertical boards face the south corners. While altered, the building retains its integrity.

*Skiers Cabin Woodshed (4)**1940s. Ross Crossley, builder. Contributing.*

One of two woodsheds built by Crossley, the one-story rectangular log building has a flat metal roof with exposed log notching. A wood unframed door is on the right side of the west elevation. A small, unframed opening is on the north elevation. There is no foundation. The woodshed is in good condition and retains its physical integrity.

*Merchants Cabin (5)**1950s. Robert Lundquist, builder. Photographs 13, 14. Contributing.*

One of six small cabins built by Lundquist, it was originally used as a shower house. The one-story rectangular wood-framed building displays a milled log exterior and a front-gabled metal roof. The concrete foundation and metal roof were both installed in 1994. A wood porch was added to the east elevation in the 1980s. Three wood steps lead to the porch which has a front gabled roof supported by timber posts. A wood-framed wood door with glazed window in the upper half is off center on the east elevation. A wood-framed window is located at the right of the door. Two wood-framed sliding windows are on the south elevation. The north elevation has a wood-framed sliding window located on the left. The rear addition was constructed in the 1980s. It conforms to the original log building, but is distinctive from it. The north elevation has a wood-framed wood door with a single glazed window in the upper half. A small one-over-one double-hung wood-framed window is to the right. The west

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elevation has a metal vent in the gable end and a wood-framed sliding window on the right. A wood-framed sliding window is on the south elevation of the addition. While altered, Merchants Cabin is in good condition and retains its physical integrity.

Merchants Cabin Woodshed (6)

1950s. Robert Lundquist, builder. Photograph 14. Contributing.

One of two woodsheds built by Crossley, the one-story rectangular log building has a flat metal roof with exposed log rafters on the north and south ends. A milled timber door is on the north elevation. The west elevation has an unframed window opening. There is no foundation. The woodshed is in good condition and retains its physical integrity.

Porcupine Cabin (7)

Ca. 1896. James R. Caron, builder. Photographs 16, 17. Contributing.

Originally a miner's cabin, it became a rental cabin as times changed. The building is a one-story rectangular building with round log walls, notched corners and chinking. It has a front-gabled metal roof that was replaced in 1994. The north elevation entrance has a wood plank porch over milled logs with a log rail. The timber door is located to the right of center and a painted wood-framed two-over-two window is to the left of the door. Two wood-framed windows with two-over-two sidelights are on the east elevation. The original stone foundation was replaced in 1994 with a concrete foundation. A deteriorating covered wood walkway between Porcupine Cabin and Gold Camp Cabin was in existence in 1936 but several years later it was removed. Porcupine Cabin is in good condition and, although alterations have occurred, it retains its physical integrity.

Porcupine Cabin Privy (8)

1940s. Ross Crossley, builder. Photograph 19. Contributing.

The only privy built by Crossley, it is no longer in use. The small painted lapboard sided square building has a gabled metal roof and wood framed east facing door. There is no foundation. The privy is in good condition and retains its physical integrity.

Baker Cabin (9)

1950s. Robert Lundquist, builder. Photograph 20. Contributing.

One of six small cabins built by Lundquist the one-story rectangular log building has a front-gabled metal roof. It rests on the original stone foundation. This is the only cabin within the district with walls of vertical logs. A new wood-framed wood paneled door is on the east elevation just right of center. A painted wood-framed sliding window is to the left. A two-over-two painted wood-framed window is centered on the south elevation. A small two-over-two window is on the north elevation at the rear. A small wood sign is to the right of the front door reading "Baker." Baker is in good condition and retains its physical integrity.

Gold Camp Cabin (10)

Ca. 1896. James R. Caron, builder. Photographs 22, 23. Contributing.

Another early building constructed by Caron, it was originally used as a miner's cabin, and is now a rental cabin. The one-story rectangular log building has notched corners and a front-gabled metal roof with stovepipe. Three steps lead to the milled timber wood porch supported with log blocks. The porch has a log railing. A wood-framed timber door is on the east elevation. A single-paned wood-framed

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fixed window is to the right of the door. Two wood-framed fixed windows are on the south elevation and a wood-framed timber door is on the west elevation. The north elevation has a painted wood-framed double window on the right. The structure previously had an enclosed porch added in the 1970s. In 1994 the porch was removed to reveal the original facade. A deteriorating covered wood walkway between Porcupine Cabin and Gold Camp Cabin was in existence in 1936 but it was removed several years later. Gold Camp Cabin is in good condition and, although alterations have occurred, it retains its physical integrity.

*Gold Camp Cabin Woodshed (11)*1940. *Ross Crossley, builder. Contributing.*

One of two woodsheds built by Crossley, the small rectangular milled log building displays notched corners and a flat wood roof. A timber door is on the south elevation to the right. An opening to the left of the door is covered with milled lumber. There is no foundation, but the structure does have a wood floor. Gold Camp Cabin Woodshed is in good condition.

*Moose Cabin (12)*1950s. *Robert Lundquist, builder. Photographs 21, 24. Contributing.*

One of six small cabins built by Lundquist, the one-story rectangular wood-framed building displays milled log siding and a front-gabled metal roof. It rests on the original stone foundation. Four steps lead up to the porch entrance, which has a log rail on the left. The right side of the porch has an attached framed log woodshed with metal shed roof. The left side of the porch has a log railing. The entrance to the woodshed is a wood-framed doorway on the south elevation. Two single-paned small fixed windows are on the east elevation of the woodshed. The cabin entrance is a wood-framed new wood paneled door on the east elevation next to the woodshed. A painted wood-framed two-over-two fixed window is left of the door. A small wood-framed hinged window is on the north elevation at the left and a painted wood-framed fixed window is centered on the south elevation. Two small painted wood-framed fixed windows are on the west elevation. Moose is in good conditions and retains its physical integrity.

*Moose Cabin Woodshed (13)*1950s. *Robert Lundquist, builder. Photograph 21. Contributing.*

This is a small rectangular one-story log building with notched corners and a flat new metal roof. A new painted timber hinged door covers the north elevation opening. There is no foundation. The woodshed is in good condition and retains its physical integrity.

*Honeymoon Cabin (14)*1939. *Leonard Juel, builder. Photographs 25, 26. Contributing.*

This is the only building in Columbine constructed by Leonard Juel. It is a one-story rectangular log building with notched corners and a front gabled metal roof. It rests on the original stone foundation. A porch is located across the east elevation of the building and has a log railing. A wood-framed door is off center on the east elevation, which has a glazed fixed one-over-one window in the upper half. A wood-framed one-over-one window is located on the east elevation to the left of the door. A small wood-framed fixed glazed window is on the east of the north elevation and a hinged glazed window is centered on the south elevation. Honeymoon is in good condition and retains its physical integrity.

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Routt County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 6*Honeymoon Cabin Woodshed (15)**Late 1950s. Robert Lundquist, builder. Noncontributing.*

This small building of milled timber and plank corners has a shed-type metal roof. There is no foundation but the front of the building sits on concrete and stone pilings. A doorway on the east elevation is located at the far right. Although the woodshed is in good condition, it was built outside of the period of significance and does not contribute to the district.

*Summit Creek Barn (16)**1912. U.S.D.A. Forest Service, builder. Photographs 5, 15. Noncontributing.*

Originally built as an agricultural barn for the nearby U.S. Forest Service Summit Creek Guard Station (listed on the National Register) the barn was moved to Columbine in the 1970s. It is now used as a workshop. This one-and-a-half story log building displays notched corners, a metal front-gabled roof, and is supported on concrete footers, added since 1994. Vertical milled logs are in the gabled ends. A painted wood door is located in the west gabled end, which has two glazed windows in the upper half. A wood milled timber door is on the south elevation. A small two-over-two wood-framed window is to the right of it. The north elevation has a wood-framed center opening with a small two-over-two wood-framed window to its left. The east elevation has a timber door on the right and a two-over-two fixed glazed window on the left. Although its condition is good, the Summit Creek Barn no longer retains its historic context and thus does not contribute to the district.

*Beaver Cabin (17)**1950s. Robert Lundquist, builder. Photographs 27, 28. Contributing.*

Another one of the six similar cabins built by Lundquist, this one-story rectangular wood-frame building displays milled log siding with a front-gabled metal roof. It rests on the original stone foundation. A porch with a log railing is on the east with entrance provided by steps on the south end of the porch. At the north end of the porch is a framed woodshed abutting the building. The woodshed has an opening on the south elevation and a window opening on the north elevation. Entrance to the cabin is through a wood-framed wood paneled door on the right of the east elevation, immediately to the left of the woodshed. A double wood-framed fixed window is to the left of the door. A fixed single paned painted wood framed window with sidelights is on the south façade. Two painted wood-framed one-over-one windows are on the west elevation and a small single paned wood-framed window is on the north elevation at the left. Although alterations have been made, Beaver is in good condition and retains its physical integrity.

*Caron House (18)**Ca. 1896. James R. Caron, builder. Photographs 35, 38. Contributing.*

Built by James Caron as his residence, this building has traditionally served as the owners' residence. The one-story rectangular building of milled logs with daubing, sits on a new concrete foundation. The building has a front-gabled metal roof with two stovepipes. The east-facing front gable extends over the porch and is supported by timber posts. Vertical milled logs are in both gabled ends. Steps with a log railing lead to the front porch, which is elevated and supported by log and timber posts. A log railing surrounds the porch, which was replaced in the 1980s. The entrance is a centered painted wood-framed, wood paneled door. A one-over-one double-hung window is on either side of the door. A one-over-one double hung painted wood-framed window is on the south elevation at the right. A painted wood-framed fixed window with sidelights is on the south elevation at the left. The north elevation has a one-

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over-one painted wood-framed window and a smaller, similar window. A 15-foot addition was added in 2002 at the rear of the building. It conforms to the materials in the original building, but clearly reads as a later alteration as the notched corners of the original log building are visible. A wood-framed wood paneled door is centered on the west elevation flanked with one-over-one double-hung wood-framed windows. The roof is new. Although altered, the Caron House is in good condition.

Sauna (19)

1912. U.S.D.A. Forest Service, builder. Photograph 34. Noncontributing.

The Sauna was originally used as a shower/spring house at the nearby U.S. Forest Service Summit Creek Guard Station (listed on the National Register). The Sauna was moved to Columbine in the 1970s. The original building has notched corners and a gabled roof with board and batten in the gabled end. A board and batten addition was added on the east. It has a shed-type metal roof and metal stovepipe. A wood-framed wood door is on the north elevation. Although its condition is good, the Sauna no longer retains its historic context and thus does not contribute to the district.

Loggers Cabin (20)

1950s. Robert Lundquist, builder. Photographs 29, 30. Contributing.

One of the six cabins built by Lundquist, this one-story rectangular wood-framed building with milled log siding has a front-gabled metal roof. It rests on the original stone foundation. Six steps lead to the elevated porch on the east elevation. The gable extends over the porch, and is supported by log posts. The porch has a log railing and the opening under the porch on the south is covered with milled logs. A wood-framed wood paneled door provides entrance on the east and a wood-framed window is to the right of the door. A small wood-framed fixed window is on the north elevation at the left and a similar window is on the south elevation. Two wood-framed three-over-three fixed windows are on the west elevation. There is no foundation. The front of the building is supported on wood blocks, while the rear of the building is situated into the hillside. Loggers is in good condition and retains its physical integrity.

Sisters Cabin (21)

1950s. Robert Lundquist, builder. Photographs 31, 32. Contributing.

Yet another of the six Lundquist cabins, this one-story rectangular wood-framed building is constructed of milled log siding with front gabled metal roof. It rests on the original stone foundation. A porch is on the east elevation and the gabled roof extends over a portion of the porch on the right and is supported by a timber. The porch has been enclosed on the left with vertical timbers. A set of eight steps leads to the porch from the east and a set of four steps to the porch is on the south, which has a log railing. The remainder of the building is milled logs. A wood-framed sliding window is on the south elevation. A small wood-framed hinged window is on the left side of the north elevation. There is a stone foundation. The front of the building is supported on wood blocks while the rear of the building sits on the earth into the hillside. Sisters is in good condition and retains its physical integrity.

Snowbound Cabin (2)

1900s. Photograph 10. Contributing

This building was originally a miner's residence but is no longer being used. The one-story rectangular log building has a front gabled metal roof and exposed log corners. A recessed painted wood-framed wood paneled door has glazing in the upper third and is on the east elevation. To the left of the door is a recessed painted wood framed fixed window. Sheets of lumber have been nailed to the south elevation to prevent exposure. There is no foundation and the building is deteriorating.

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Routt County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 8*Snowbound Cabin Woodshed (23)**1900s Photograph 10. Contributing*

Built at the same time as the adjacent cabin, the woodshed is no longer in use. One-story rectangular notched log building with flat metal roof. A door opening is on the west elevation and a window opening on the south elevation. The building is deteriorating.

*Bear Cabin (24)**Ca. 1896. James R. Caron, builder. Photographs 36, 37, 38. Noncontributing.*

Originally built as a miner's cabin, today the building is a rental cabin. The one-story rectangular log building has a new metal roof and concrete foundation. The south elevation entrance has a small gabled roof extending out over the porch. Three steps lead to the porch, which has a log railing. The door is painted wood paneled with glazing in the upper half. A double, sliding, painted wood-framed window is to the left of the door. The left side of the south elevation is an addition, is slightly recessed and has a painted wood-framed double window. The west elevation has two sliding windows. The east elevation has two wood-framed sliding windows. The north elevation has one wood-framed sliding window toward the east end. A "lean-to" was removed from the south elevation of the building and the area was used to construct a bathroom with a gabled roof, changing the roofline of the cabin's facade. All the windows are new. Although in good condition, alterations have occurred on the Bear Cabin that have compromised its integrity. It no longer contributes to the district.

*Bear Cabin Privy (25)**1970s. Wayne Adamo, builder. Photograph 38. Noncontributing.*

This functioning privy is a one-story square painted timber building with metal shed roof. The hinged timber door is on the south elevation. A small fixed single-paned window is in the upper portion of the door. Although the privy is in good condition and its character connects to the town of Columbine, it was constructed outside of the period of significance and therefore is noncontributing.

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Routt County, Colorado

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Resource Summary

	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings (Number)		
Baker Cabin (9)	1	
Beaver Cabin (17)	1	
Bear Cabin (24)		1
Bear Cabin Privy (25)		1
Caron House (18)	1	
General Store (1)	1	
Gold Camp Cabin (10)	1	
Gold Camp Cabin Woodshed (11)	1	
Honeymoon Cabin (14)	1	
Honeymoon Cabin Woodshed (15)	1	
Loggers Cabin (20)	1	
Merchants Cabin (5)	1	
Merchants Cabin Woodshed (5)	1	
Moose Cabin (12)	1	
Moose Cabin Woodshed (13)	1	
Porcupine Cabin (7)	1	
Porcupine Cabin Privy (8)	1	
Sauna (19)		1
Sisters Cabin (21)	1	
Skiers Cabin (3)	1	
Skiers Cabin Woodshed (4)	1	
Snowbound (2)	1	
Snowbound Woodshed (23)	1	
Summit Creek Barn (16)		1
Subtotal	20	4

Structures

Oil House (2)	1	
Subtotal		

Total Resources	21	4
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Columbine
Name of Property

Routt 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)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1895-1957

Significant Dates

1895

1896

1936

1939

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

Caron, James R.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Caron, James R.

Juel, Leonard

Crossley, Ross

Lundquist, Robert

U.S.D.A. Forest Service

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

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Routt County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 10**SIGNIFICANCE**

Columbine is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, in the area of *exploration/settlement*, for its association with the settlement of northern Routt County, Colorado. Several accounts note that Columbine was settled in 1881 to provide housing and provisions for the nearby miners at Hahns Peak. Joseph Hahn and George Wray discovered Gold in Hahns Peak in 1862. Hahn, Wray, and a companion, William Doyle, returned in 1866 and established a placer mining camp. By 1872 the town of Hahns Peak was booming. Several years later, prompted by reports of new finds, miners from Hahns Peak shifted from placer mining to hard-rock mining along the west flank of Hahns Peak. Another community soon took shape in the open meadows nearby during the 1880s. The settlement was named Columbine in 1895, after Colorado's state flower that grew in abundance in the area. In 1896, with the purchase of the property by newly arrived Canadian James R. Caron and his wife Martha, the townsite of Columbine was officially platted. By then the settlement had more than 20 cabins and houses and a post office. A school opened in 1897. Close by, the Tom Thumb mine, said to be the greatest producer of silver in 1899 in Routt County, and the Royal Flush mine, the largest and most productive mine in the Hahns Peak district, were in production. By 1908 six different mining companies had offices in Columbine

Columbine's population reached a peak of 68 in 1900 and rose again to 59 in 1930 according census data. At its height the town consisted of general store and post office, saloon, several hotels and boarding houses, a blacksmith shop, assay office, mining company offices, a gas station, houses and cabins. Restaurants were also a documented part of Columbine's economy from 1906 through 1943, with most of them having women proprietors. More than fifteen different stagecoach companies and freighters provided transportation north to Wyoming or south to Steamboat Springs from 1903 through 1943. General Store ledgers between 1908 and 1925 also reveal the names of numerous cattle and sheep companies that conducted business with the store. Columbine was a settlement where local miners, ranchers, freighters and lumbermen could purchase supplies in the General Store, attend to their mail needs, have their horses shod, enjoy a drink at the saloon and have a warm meal. Travelers stayed at the hotels or boarding houses. Columbine's period of significance under this Criterion dates from 1895, the estimated date of construction of the oldest structure in the district, Skiers Cabin/Ritter's Mercantile, and continues until 1936 when James R. Caron sold the townsite to Lawrence and Gertrude Juel.

Columbine is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, in the area of *entertainment/recreation*, as a both a major way stop and a destination for visitors beginning in the late nineteenth century. In its early days, Columbine's visitors were the miners, loggers, freight drivers, cattlemen and sheepmen who came through for provisions, mail, a cabin to stay in, a hot meal and camaraderie. A Conoco gas pump was added next to the Columbine Mercantile in 1915 and operated continuously until 1967. As mining in the Columbine area diminished, recreational activities became a popular pastime in the nation around the 1930s. The remote wilderness areas of northwest Colorado were a popular destination, especially for hunting and fishing. Columbine's isolated location and lack of advertising did not make it as fashionable a retreat as many other places in the state, however, with wilderness at its doorstep, it was an attraction to fisherman, hunters, trappers and outdoor enthusiasts. Columbine was soon supporting another industry—tourism. The period of significance under this criterion begins in 1936, when the Juel family purchased the property and continues until 1957 with the Lundquists actively renting the cabins, running the businesses, and operating the post office. In 1939

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Lawrence Juel built his Honeymoon Cabin specifically for tourists. Subsequent owner Robert Crossley rented seven cabins and built a number of small ancillary structures. The most ambitious was Robert Lundquist who built six small rustic tourist cabins during his ownership in the 1950s. For many years from the 1930s until it closed, the Columbine Mercantile was also a popular stopping place for visitors to the Focus Ranch, a well-known dude ranch close to the Wyoming boarder.

Columbine is eligible for the National Register under Criterion B, in the area of *exploration/settlement*, for its association with James R. Caron. Emigrating from Canada with his wife Martha in 1896 for health reasons, Caron was an influential and noted figure in the town for the next 40 years until his death. Soon after his arrival, Caron platted the town of Columbine, constructed a building to house the post office, purchased the existing Ritter's Mercantile and in 1918 moved its contents into his new building, the Columbine Mercantile. Caron also constructed the Porcupine, Gold Camp, and noncontributing Bear Cabins as well as his own residence, the Caron House in 1896. With the establishment of the Conoco Gas Station in 1915, Caron built the Oil House for kerosene storage next to the Columbine Mercantile. According to Jan Leslie in the *Historic of Routt County and its Post Office 1875-1971* Caron invested in the nearby Royal Flush Mine, the largest and richest mine in the district. In 1906 he and outside investors incorporated the Hahns Peak Mining and Milling Company, capitalized at one million dollars. Seven years later he opened the Royal Flush Mill, the only concentrating mill in the county. Seeing another opportunity, in 1916 Caron began construction of a general store at Glen Eden, seven miles south of Columbine, when the Clark post office was moved there. He served as Columbine's postmaster for 31 years, as well as justice of the peace and coroner. Caron left Columbine for Arizona in 1934 after his wife Martha passed away. In 1936 he returned to Columbine, presumably to transfer ownership of the property to the Juels. He died in Columbine in April of that year. The period of significance under this criterion extends from 1896 when Caron arrived in Columbine until 1936 when he passed away.

Columbine is also eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The district contains representative examples of Pioneer Log construction associated with the isolated mining camps of the Colorado mountains from the early 1880s up through the mid-twentieth century. Locally available logs and stone were used in the construction of the various buildings, many of which remain. The earliest buildings were one room peeled log cabins with notched corners and front-gabled roofs set on simple stone foundations. The size of the old growth logs in the walls and purlins would be difficult to duplicate today. Nearly all the cabins face east. Some have deep overhanging eaves, and a few have porches, better to gaze upon the magnificent Hahns Peak and enjoy the morning sun. Four cabins built in 1896 and the General Store from 1898 are still in use. The period of significance under this criterion extends from 1895, when Skiers Cabin was built, until 1898, with the construction of the Columbine Mercantile.

A later phase of building began with the change of ownership in 1936 when the Juel family bought the property. They welcomed recreational visitors and built the Honeymoon Cabin in 1939. The Juels and later owners Crossleys and Lundquists added simple cabins and small supporting structures to Columbine's resources to accommodate a growing tourist clientele. The frame log buildings constructed with half-log siding from the early 1950s blended with the Pioneer Log buildings that already existed on the property. This phase brought simple Rustic style architecture to the town, including unpeeled half-log fascia and window trim, stone foundations and peeled timber railings. While not of the scale of better known rustic buildings of the past, these modest cabins blended well with the natural landscape.

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The period of significance under this criterion is from 1939 when Honeymoon Cabin was built through the 1957 when Lunquist built his six cabins.

Later owners beyond the period of significance continued to make changes. The Fishers moved two historic buildings from the Summit Creek Guard Station to the property in the 1970s. The Dierks/Fanchers have been repairing and restoring the historic cabins and General Store since they became owners in the 1990s.

Historic Background

Routt County is located in the northwest corner of Colorado on the west side of the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains, known as the Western Slope. Although its location was secluded, it impacted history significantly through trapping, mining, ranching, logging, and tourism. Early Routt County was originally part of the Utah Territory. When Colorado became a state in 1876, the Routt area was part of Grand County. Routt County was carved out of Grand County in 1877 and it extended west to the Utah border. Its namesake was the state's first governor, John L. Routt. It was 1912 before the county was divided and Moffat County was created out of the west half of the district. The new Routt County extended from the east side of Rabbit Ears Pass to past Hayden on the west, the Wyoming border on the north and the Colorado (formerly Grand) River on the south.

Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho American Indian tribes were known to frequent the northern sections of Colorado where they found plenty of fish and game. Fur trapping and exploration were commonplace along the northern border of the territory. Encampment, Wyoming, about 40 miles north of Hahns Peak, was a popular meeting place of the trappers, and easy access for those from Brown's Hole to the west. Fort Laramie in eastern Wyoming served as a headquarters for some of the country's largest fur companies. Beaver were trapped along every stream and river until the demand for their fur was extinguished and they were depleted. A desired waterway of northern Routt County was the Little Snake River along the Colorado-Wyoming border.

Prospectors came to Colorado to find their fortune and some made discoveries in 1858 along the banks of Cherry Creek on the east side of the Rocky Mountains at what is now Denver. This opened the territory to adventurers, who moved further and further into the Colorado Rockies discovering veins rich in minerals. Towns and cities were established as supply centers, business hubs, and to house the miners and families who came to seek a new life. Railroads were built to transport the wealth to smelters for processing, and roads were constructed to carry the settlers, miners and business people.

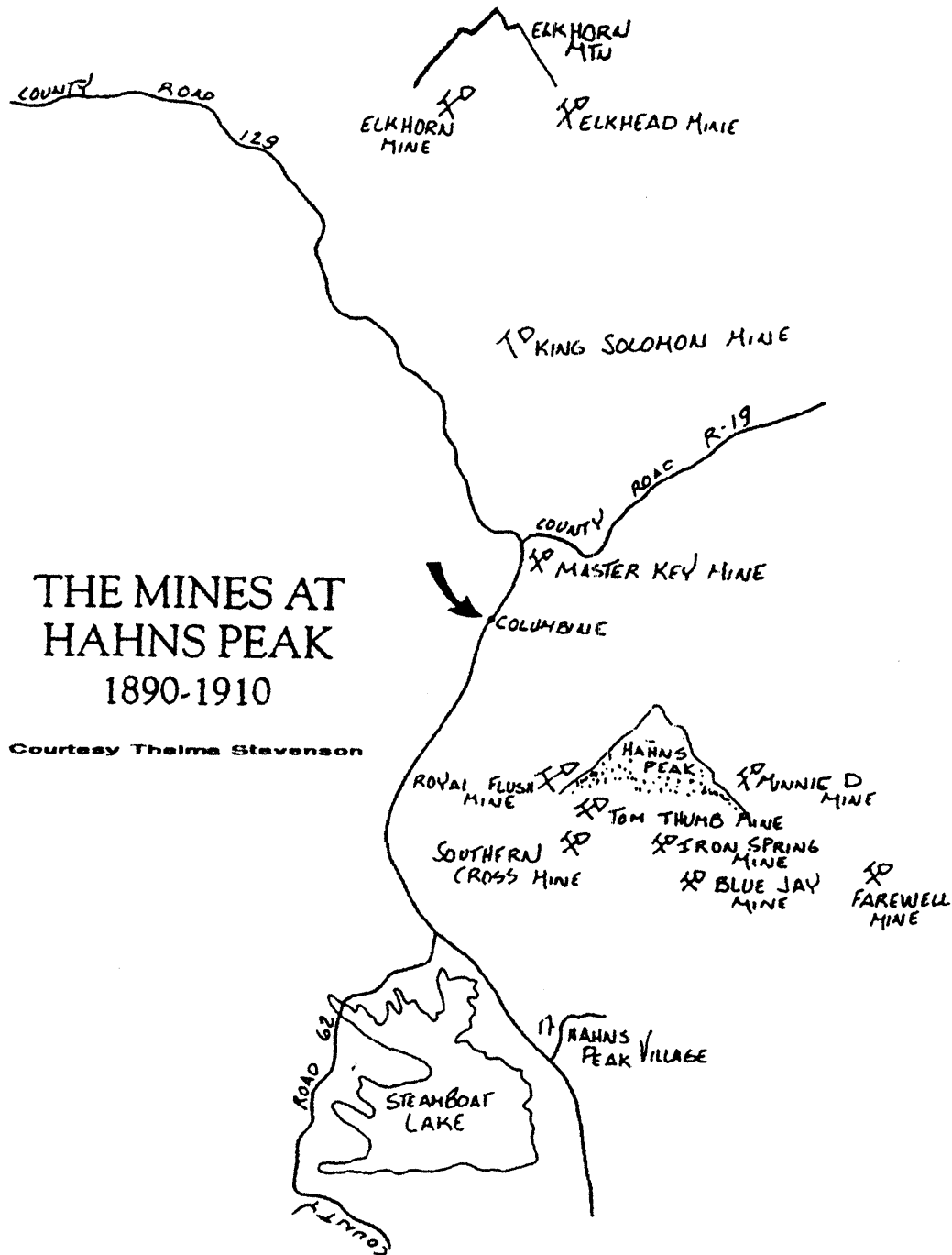
In the early 1860s, Captain George Way found his way to the northern Colorado Territory and made the first discovery of gold at Hahns Peak, approximately 160 miles northwest of Denver. Way left the area but returned with friends Joseph Hahn and William Doyle in 1866. Doyle named the mountain peak after Hahn. Their findings of gold were enough to encourage them to stay through the winter. Fifty-one men reported mining placers around Hahns Peak in the summer of 1866 and were the impetus for establishing the Hahns Peak mining district. They built cabins and the mining camp of Hahns Peak Village developed. When other miners left for the winter, Hahn, Way and Doyle decided to stay. Way left in October, this time to stock up on provisions for the oncoming winter. He never returned, and

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although seen in Denver and other parts of the state in following years, no record or explanation remains for his failure to return or to inform his friends. By April, a time for legendary spring storms in the Rocky Mountains, Hahn and Doyle were out of provisions and decided to return to larger settlement. Hahn died at Muddy Pass on the eastern descent of what is now Rabbit Ears Pass. Doyle reached a supply town but never returned to the Hahns Peak region. The area stayed dormant during 1867 until Brockmeyer "Bibleback" Brown and Bill Slater arrived from the Little Snake River, discovered the abandoned camp, and began mining in Willow Creek, at the foot of Hahns Peak.

After the Union Pacific Railroad began service to Rawlins in the Wyoming Territory in the 1860s, the isolated gold area of northern Routt County became more accessible and people arrived to pursue mining opportunities. The Hahns Peak mining district grew to about 1,000 people in its heyday, but the mountain never yielded the treasures for which the prospectors hoped. Talk of a railroad being built from Laramie, Wyoming, to Hahns Peak never resulted in action. Lack of appropriate transportation to ship the ore from the remote area left miners discouraged. Mining continued sporadically until the early 1870s when it picked up and 150 men were reported mining in 1874. The Hahns Peak mining district, the first to be organized on the western slope of Colorado, was formed that year extending five miles in all directions from Hahns Peak, which included Columbine. Roads were built to haul freight from Laramie to the Hahns Peak camp, a ditch was constructed for mining the gold, a post office established, and a town developed. The majority of the Hahns Peak operations were placer mines.

Columbine's early existence, like many mining camp and town beginnings, is a bit ambiguous. Reports that the town was a "camp" in the 1880s cannot be verified. It was not until the late 1890s that written documentation noted Columbine mining activity. The first written information is 1895, when, according to Jan Leslie, in *Anthracite, Barbee & Tosh: The History of Routt County and Its Post Offices 1875-1971*, the *Craig Courier* reported in its July 13, 1895, edition that "a new camp had been named Columbine." Although a 1935 letter from James R. Caron to the Colorado Historical Society confirms that Fred G. Bernoudy, Tom Stukey and Jack O'Donnell are credited with naming the town after the Colorado state flower in 1895, little is known of the three men and it is James R. Caron who is recognized with its founding. A *Steamboat Pilot* article dated July 13, 1992, states, "...the general store and saloon date from 1898 and the dozen cabins some of which were registered at the courthouse in 1886...." Fire destroyed most of the early Routt County Courthouse records in 1972, leaving questions about original plats, registered cabins and other early information unanswered. A December 31, 1899, article out of the *Denver Times* newspaper predicted "the great Columbine basin is destined, with a little more development, to be one of the greatest ore producers in the state." While much of Hahns Peak mining to the south of Columbine was placer mining, the Columbine region was focused on hard rock mining. There is a possibility several mines were already established and a mercantile in operation in Columbine by 1896.

Because of health reasons, James Caron and his wife Martha left Canada and arrived in Columbine in 1896. He laid out an 11-acre townsite to provide housing for miners and their families who worked the mines on the west and north sides of Hahns Peak. An unrecorded plat map dated 1896 by Mitton & Grove shows the proposed site. Jan Leslie quotes Calhoun's *Colorado Gold Fields* saying there were more than "...twenty dwellings in 1897." Caron purchased the Ritter Mercantile around the same time. John Ritter had established his Ritter Mercantile several years earlier in what is known today as the Skiers Cabin, c1895. Caron moved the business into the post office building he constructed in 1898.

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While officially named the Columbine Mercantile, it was more commonly known as the general store. The post office was also located there. Postmasters listed in directories include Fred Bernoudy and the subsequent owners of Columbine, James Caron, Gertrude Juel, Ross Crossley, and Robert Lundquist during the years 1896 to 1967. Bernoudy was the first postmaster from 1896 to 1905 and Caron followed in 1905 to 1936. Through the years Caron also served as justice of peace and notary public. The general store also operated a Conoco Service Station from 1915 to 1967. By 1916 Caron had "franchised" and opened another store at Glen Eden, which became Clark, Colorado, approximately 7 miles south of Columbine.

Caron built the Caron House shortly after arriving in 1896 to serve as the family residence. Other buildings existing today built in the early Columbine years were Skiers, Porcupine, Gold Camp, and Snowbound Cabins, and the Oil House. A covered walkway built between Porcupine Cabin and Gold Camp Cabin was later removed.

Mining around Columbine flourished. Caron invested in the Royal Flush Mine between 1900 and 1903. The Royal Flush Mine became the largest and richest in the Hahns Peak District. It was incorporated in 1906 as the Hahns Peak Mining and Milling Company, of which Caron was a partner. In 1913 Caron opened the Royal Flush Mill, the only concentrating mill in the county. Freight wagons from the nearby Tom Thumb Mine carried the silver ore concentrate nearly 200 miles to the smelter in Denver. According to James Ayers, in SWCA, Inc.'s 1996 archaeology report, ten mining companies were listed in the Colorado Business Directories with offices in Columbine from 1905 to 1939, including the Hahns Peak Gold Mining and Milling Company in which Caron owned controlling shares. Columbine's population fluctuated through the mining years. At one point around 1910, a Colorado business directory optimistically showed that the town had a population of 100, although census records report only 45 residents.

Other businesses existed in addition to the mining company offices. Restaurants were always a part of the economy in Columbine. Martha Caron is listed as the proprietor of a restaurant from 1906 to 1911. Colorado business directories include several other women as owners from 1913 through 1927. Mrs. D. M. Martinez took over in 1927 and operated her "Beanery" restaurant until 1943, when it closed permanently. It was located near the Columbine Mercantile. Today the building is gone. A school was established in one of the Columbine homes in 1897 and served the children of the town during the summer months. In 1901, a log cabin was built for the schoolhouse and currently is referred to as The Last Resort. The schoolhouse was used until 1933. Most teachers were brought in to teach. By 1916, though, one of Columbine's own, Edna Trullinger, whose brother was born in Columbine around 1902, taught five students at the schoolhouse.

On the east side of the main road (RCR 129) stood a blacksmith shop, a powder house, and a two-story assayer's office, which doubled as a doctor's office and residence. A saloon operated from 1910 to 1915, also located on the east side of the road. Eventually the buildings on that side of the road were demolished or removed, and today nothing remains.

Freight roads were built between the mining camps and the nearest towns. The first in the Hahns Peak region was the 1877 Laramie Trail from Hahns Peak to Laramie, Wyoming. The road allowed Hahns Peak residents to reach the railroad in southern Wyoming. Columbine eventually located along this trail.

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Stagecoaches became prominent in Columbine around the turn of the century. An 1898 copy of the *Steamboat Pilot* advertises “daily” stages to Columbine. The town was a major stopping point and virtually connected the railroad in Rawlins, Wyoming, to the communities of Routt County. Stages left Steamboat Springs, traveled to Columbine and on to Slater, Colorado, and Rawlins, Wyoming. Often the stages could not get through the deep winter snow and the drivers, carrying 40 to 60 pounds of mail on webbed snowshoes or wood skis, trudged through the snow. They shoveled by hand to break the trail for their horses, often going 24 hours without sleep. According to both Dick Lindquist, whose father Robert owned Columbine in the 1950s and 1960s, and an article in the 1975 *Steamboat Pilot* quoting Gertrude Juel, 1930s Columbine owner, stage wagons with wood wheels were common sights into the 1950s. The road, which roughly followed the present Forest Service road (Colorado Forest Road 20) north from Hahns Peak through Columbine, appears as Laramie Trail on 1870s General Land Office survey plats of the area. The road formed a vital link with the outside world for the miners, but was short-lived as the primary road. During the 1880s, John Ellis, a local cattleman, built a second, shorter route. He hauled supplies between the Hahns Peak gold fields and the logging camps along the Colorado-Wyoming border. The Laramie Trail made a comeback as mining picked up in the Columbine area. Sections of the unrecorded Old Laramie Trail known to exist in the area today coincide with RCR 129, the major route north through the county from Steamboat Springs.

Columbine also attracted ranchers who depended on the town’s general store for supplies, mail and camaraderie. “The Columbine area indeed became part of the nineteenth century cattle and sheep frontier as cowboys used areas such as Trilby Flats, a large meadow a quarter mile south of Columbine, for seasonal roundups as herds were moved from summer to winter range. The cattlemen took advantage of the supplies, especially the liquor, to be had at Columbine,” reports a 1998 Western Cultural Resource Management study. In the early years the cattle industry was the mainstay of the western frontier and Colorado. Wyoming sheep ranchers, though, were constantly on the lookout for better grazing lands just across the border along the mountain slopes of northern Colorado and Routt County. Sheepmen quietly began to move sheep from the railroad tracks along the Colorado-Wyoming border into the lush pasture lands of the mountain areas of northern Colorado.

In an effort to control sheep and cattle grazing, along with timber cutting by logging companies, the Park Range Forest Reserve, eventually renamed the Routt National Forest, was formed in 1905. The early years of Routt National Forest history in the Columbine area are marked with controversy stemming from the controls the Forest Service tried to place on use of the lands, especially for grazing. Consequently, the first forest rangers were unwelcome in the area. Eventually tensions between the sheep ranchers and cattlemen eased. With the establishment of the forest, Forest Service rangers and workers became frequent lodgers and visitors to Columbine. In 1909, 26,000 head of sheep summer ranged in the Whiskey Park area just north of Columbine. Over 40,000 head were trailed to the railroad both in Rawlins and Steamboat Springs. Sheep were allowed to graze in high meadows not being utilized by cattle and it was the forest rangers’ task to count the sheep.

Timber was a major commodity in northern Colorado and southern Wyoming. Camps soon sprung up along the border to accommodate men who cut trees and hewed logs for railroad building in southern Wyoming. The so-called “tie camps” supplied ties for railroad construction. As telephone service arrived in the region during the early 1900s, the “tie hacks” prepared logs for new poles. Loggers provided a supply of timbers for use shoring up the mines and for building shelter in the Hahns Peak

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mining district. Logs were also sent to mills to supply the construction industry. With the increase of logging along the Encampment River north of Columbine at the Colorado-Wyoming border and timber cutting in areas north of Columbine, the Columbine Mercantile flourished.

Forest Service workers boarding at Columbine also conducted timber survey work in 1909 using skis and web snowshoes. Ranger stations were needed to help control the movement of livestock in and out of the forest as well as for fire protection. Construction began on a fire ranger station on top of Hahns Peak in 1908. The Summit Creek Guard Station was constructed a few miles northwest of Columbine in 1912. The Guard Station included the Summit Creek Barn, moved to Columbine in the 1970s. Telephone lines were strung to connect the outlying rangers with headquarters in Steamboat Springs, and one line paralleled RCR 129. Consequently, the rural, remote area of Columbine received phone service as early as 1908.

Early ledgers from the General Store convey many details of life in Columbine. Everything was sold from lace and buttons to food staples and equipment for miners, loggers, homesteaders and ranchers. Sheep and cattle were trailed through Columbine from early years to today. The ledgers name numerous ranching companies that conducted business in the town. Former residents recall their families' reliance on these northwest Colorado companies and individuals for their livelihood well into the 1960s. Everything was sold on a credit basis and the Columbine Mercantile owners would have to wait until September each year after the cattle and sheep companies sold their stock before they would receive payment from the companies.

After James Caron's wife died in 1934, he moved to Arizona. He returned in 1936, presumably to sell the townsite to Leonard and Gertrude Juel. Their daughter Janice was a young child when they arrived. Many folks could not endure the harsh winters of northern Colorado and Routt County, but with the depths of the Great Depression, the Juels had no choice. The height of the Depression did not stop them from buying the property, but it did keep them in Columbine during the extensive winter months. Others also remained, including Mrs. Martinez. The schoolhouse closed around that time, when paying teachers to teach and live in Columbine was not feasible. Janice Juel was "staged," as she refers to her transportation means, to the Turner sawmill, seven miles north in Red Park, on a weekly basis where she "boarded" with the Turner family and attended school at their home.

As cars became a convenience and vacations and outings popular, tourists "discovered" the remote area of northern Routt County. It was during the 1930s that tourism and recreational activities gained popularity in Colorado—especially fishing and hunting. Another new tourism industry, dude ranching, was also on the rise. Ranchers, finding their livelihood taking a plunge, diversified. Bringing tourists to stay at a "real" ranch in the West was one way to keep their ranches alive. Tourists participating in cattle operations added to the ranching experience excitement and the ranchers' pocketbooks, as well as helped the work get done. The Focus Ranch, run by the Temple family, located 30 miles northwest of Columbine along the Colorado-Wyoming border, was a prime example and possibly one of the more successful dude ranches during that time period in the West. Pat Temple Sandefur remembers as a teenager driving to Steamboat Springs to pick up "dudes" at the railroad station and transport them 60 miles north to the ranch. The Temples advertised extensively, which paid off as visitors came from all over the world to participate in a week or two of ranching activities. Pat's trips passed Columbine and, being the halfway mark of the trip, stops were always made at the Columbine Mercantile. The Focus Ranch continued its dude ranch operations until the 1970s and operates today as a working ranch.

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The Juels lived in the Caron House and ran the general store. Gertrude Juel became the postmistress and also tended the rental of the cabins. She rented the cabins for \$1.00 a night if guests brought their own bedding or \$2.00 a night if she did the laundry, which she took 30 miles to Steamboat Springs. Columbine's main clientele for short-term rentals were fishermen and hunters, but the Juels also provided board and stables for the stage drivers and their horses. Long-term rentals were provided for loggers, Forest Service workers, trappers and shepherders, who were not allowed by the Forest Service to construct buildings on Federal lands. Leonard built his Honeymoon Cabin in 1939 to accommodate guests. With finances a concern, no advertising was done to promote the cabins, so rentals occurred by word of mouth. The first entry of Columbine's rental cabins appears in a 1941 Colorado business directory, where it is listed as "tourist cabins" with Gertrude Juel as proprietor. Colorado business directories in 1943 show the population of Columbine as 20. There were still daily stages running and Gertrude remained listed as the proprietor of "tourist cabins," Mrs. Martinez still operated the restaurant and the Three Forks Telephone Company had an office in town. The Jules sold the town site while retaining a small parcel, .38 acres in the far northeast corner along RCR129, which included the original schoolhouse. Gertrude continued to live during the summers in The Last Resort and a small "pop shop" was built in the 1970s for her to sell maps, antiques and mountain "treasures." Today daughter Janice Juel Kay carries on her mother's tradition during the summer months.

Ross Crossley bought what remained of the town from the Juels in 1946 and continued to rent out the cabins and run the store, service station and post office. He offered seven cabins for rent and "a lot of local color." While tourism increased after World War II, after 10 years Crossley moved on and Robert Lundquist bought Columbine.

Lundquist actually had ties to the Little Snake River area as his grandparents and great-grandparents homesteaded just south of the Focus Ranch and his grandfather was one of the first to seek gold at Hahns Peak in 1874. In the 1950s wagons with wood wheels and hunters' pack trains were still commonplace in Columbine. The Lundquists relied on hunters and fishermen for cabin rentals. Sheepmen were more prevalent than cattlemen during that time and the stage was still running from Steamboat Springs to Columbine and Columbine to Slater. Lundquist's son Dick remembers a sign in the store saying "Oldest continuous Conoco service in Colorado since 1915." During the 1950s, Dick would arrive on weekends from Denver to help his dad build more cabins. It was during this period that Lundquist constructed Moose, Beaver, Baker, Merchants, Sisters, and Loggers cabins. One-bedroom cabins rented for \$1.50 and three bedroom cabins were \$7.50. Lundquist also operated a weather station and called reports into Steamboat Springs for \$1.00 a day. Dick reports his dad saved peach cans to carry whiskey to the tie camps. He also kept slot machines in the General Store and it was not unusual for the family to hide all the "goods" in the Oil House when they knew the "revenuer" was on his way to town. The population, according to a Colorado business directory, was 25 in the 1950s.

Robert Lundquist was Columbine's last postmaster. The post office closed in 1967. The Leonard Fisher family purchased the town and closed the Columbine Mercantile. All the buildings and structures on the east side of Routt County Road 129 either fell to deterioration and snow load or were destroyed in the 1970s and 1980s. The Fishers moved the Summit Creek Barn and Sauna into Columbine from the Summit Creek Guard Station in the 1970s. They sold the property in the 1980s to the Hughes Family from Arkansas, who built a large barn at the rear of the property, outside the boundaries of this nomination. In 1993 Liz Hughes sold the property to her sister, Jan Dierks, and husband Lyman Fancher, the current owners.

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Columbine
Name of Property

Routt County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.15 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- | | | | |
|----|------|---------|-----------------|
| 1. | 13 | 334346 | 4524307 (NAD27) |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2. | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 3. | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4. | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

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

[] See continuation sheet

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 Marty Alexandroff / Revised by Arianthé C. Stettner (Prepared for the property owner)
organization Historic Routt County! date 2/19/2007
street & number PO Box 775717 telephone 970-875-1305
city or town Steamboat Springs state CO zip code 80477

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 Jan Dierks and Lyman Fancher
street & number P.O. Box 929 telephone _____
city or town Clark state CO zip code 80428

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 average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Columbine townsite is indicated by the heavy dashed line on the March 1, 2004, scaled map labeled Columbine Site Plan. The parcel includes 5.15 acres with its complex of 25 buildings and structures and the three trees Mrs. Martinez planted to honor her children. Columbine is bounded on the east by the RCR 129. Abutting the boundary on the northeast is a .38-acre private parcel previously owned by former Columbine owners, the Juel family. Daughter Janice Juel Kay is the current landholder. Dierks and Fancher own the remainder of the property on the north and surrounding Kay's property. The boundary on the south and west is the Columbine Estates Subdivision.

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel includes most of the resources historically associated with the town of Columbine. The boundary of the nominated parcel follows those of the original Columbine townsite with two exceptions. The .38 acre in the northeast corner owned by Janice Kay Juel is not included as well as a portion of the parcel in the northwest corner that contains the two recently constructed buildings, the Lodge and the Kitchen. While there were several buildings associated with Columbine on the east side of RCR 129, they were not part of the townsite and were demolished or removed in the 1970s.

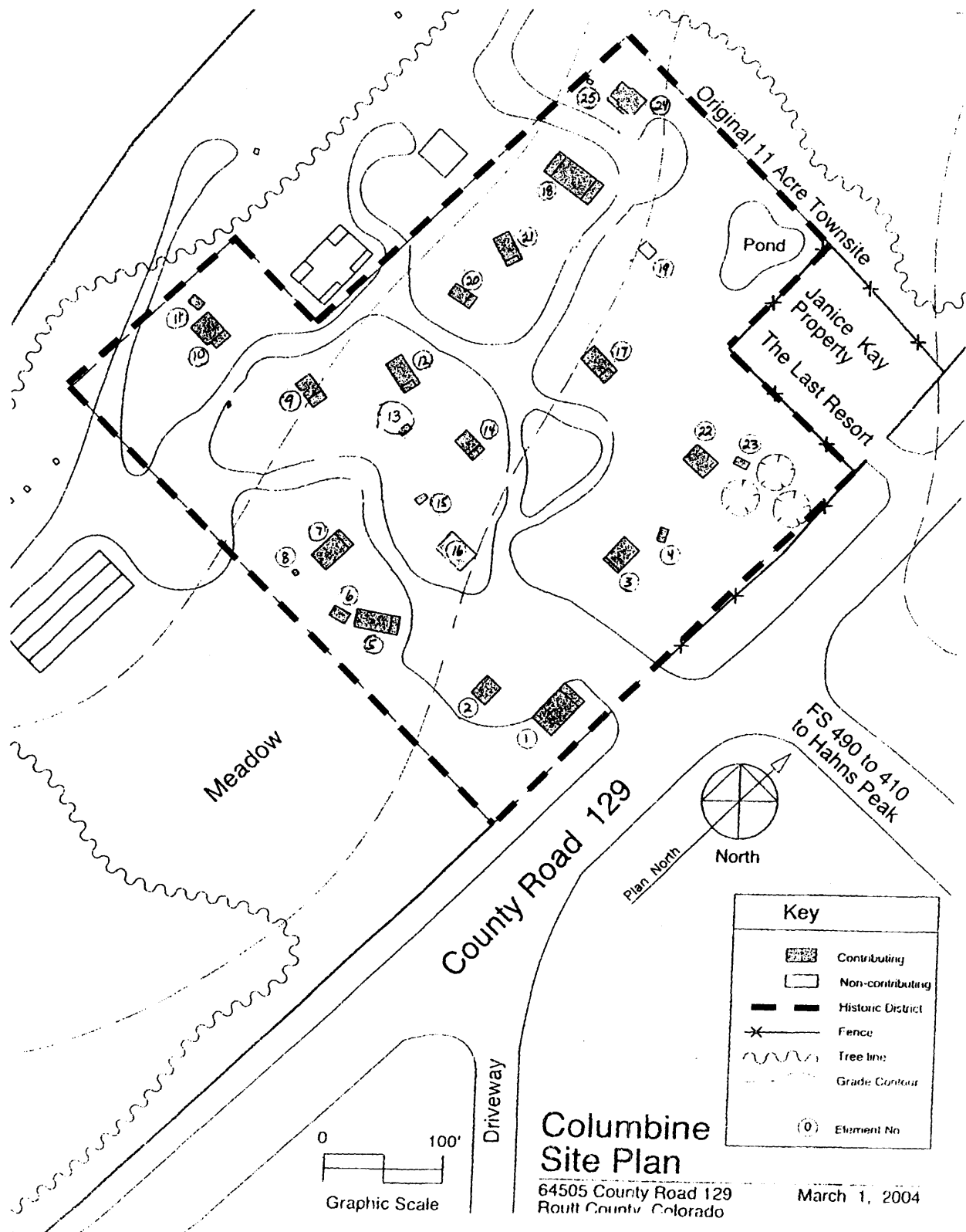
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COLUMBINE SITE PLAN March 1, 2004



Columbine Site Plan

64505 County Road 129
Routt County, Colorado

March 1, 2004

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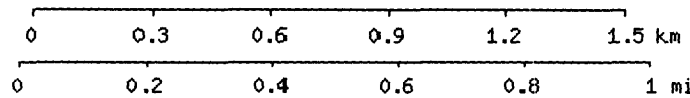
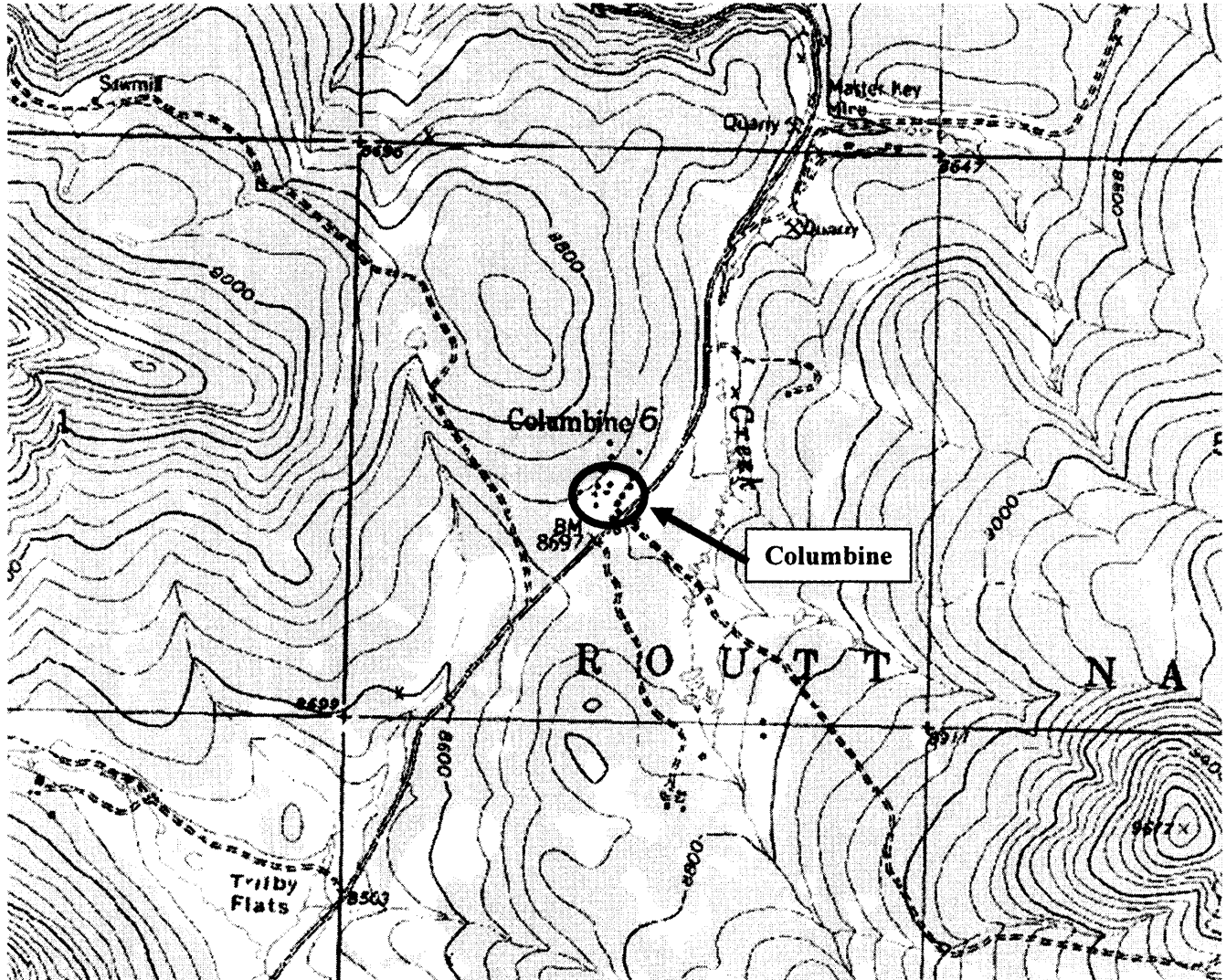
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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Hahns Peak Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series, 1962

UTM: Zone 13 / 334346E / 4524207N (NAD27)
PLSS: 6th PM, T10N, R85W, Sec. 6 E½ NE¼ SW¼
Elevation: 8,700 feet Site Number: 5RT438

topozone
Copyright 1999-2000 Maps & la carte, Inc.



Columbine, USGS Hahns Peak (CO) Quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum

M=11.17
G=-1.286

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Photographer: Laura Sefton Date: January 2004

Negatives: Possession of property owners

Photo #	Name of Resource (Number)	View	Camera Direction (Plan)
1	Columbine townsite	Overview with Iron Mountain	W
2	Columbine townsite	Overview of townsite	W
3	Summit Creek Barn (16)	From Forest Service Road	W
4	Columbine townsite	From Forest Service Road	W
5	Summit Creek Barn (16)	East elevation	W
6	General Store (1)	East & north elevations	SW
7	General Store (1)	Interior	
8	General Store (1)	Interior	
9	General Store (1)	North and west elevations	SE
10	Snowbound (2) & Woodshed (23)	East facade & south elevation	N
11	Skiers Cabin (3)	South & east elevations	N
12	Skiers Cabin (3)	Interior	
13	Merchants Cabin (5)	East & north elevations	SW
14	Merchants Cabin (5) & Woodshed (5)	North elevations	SE
15	Summit Creek Barn (16)	South elevation	NE
16	Porcupine Cabin (7)	North facade	S
17	Porcupine Cabin (7)	North & west elevations	SE
18	Hahns Peak with Summit Creek Barn (16), Porcupine Cabin (7) and Merchant Cabin (5)	West elevations	E
19	Hahns Peak with Porcupine Cabin (7) & privy (8)	West & south elevations	NE
20	Baker Cabin (9)	East elevation	W
21	Moose Cabin (12) & Woodshed (13)	S. & E. sides/ S. side of woodshed	N
22	Gold Camp Cabin (10)	East and south elevations	W
23	Gold Camp Cabin (10)	Interior	
24	Moose Cabin (12)	East & south elevations	W
25	Honeymoon Cabin (14)	East & south elevations	W
26	Honeymoon Cabin (14)	Interior	
27	Beaver Cabin (17)		NW
28	Beaver Cabin (17)	Interior	
29	Loggers Cabin (20)	East & north elevations	SW
30	Loggers Cabin (20)	Interior	
31	Sisters Cabin (21)	East & south elevations	NW
32	Sisters Cabin (21)	Interior	
33	Caron House (18)	East & south elevations	NW
34	Sauna (19)		NE
35	Caron House (18)	East facade	SE
36	Bear Cabin (24)	East facade	NW
37	Bear Cabin (24)	Interior	
38	Bear Cabin (24) & privy (25), Caron House in background (18)	North & west elevations	SE

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Photograph Locations, Numbers and Views

