

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

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received APR 19 1985

date entered MAY 16 1985

**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 Wildhack's Grocery Store/Post Office

and/or common Post Office/Foote's Rest

**2. Location**

street & number 510 Main Street n/a not for publication

city, town Frisco n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Summit code 117

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Helen Foote

street & number 510 Main Street

city, town Frisco n/a vicinity of state Colorado 80443

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Summit County Courthouse

street & number 208 E. Lincoln Street

city, town Breckenridge state Colorado

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Ongoing  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Colorado Historical Society, OAHP

city, town Denver state Colorado 80203

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Wildhack's General Store/Post Office consists of a one-story frame vernacular building with a 2½-story frame addition. The original late 19th century one-room frame structure is now encased in the present building, whose appearance dates to a 1920s renovation. The property is prominently located along Main Street in the heart of the commercial district of Frisco, a small mountain community in central Colorado.

The original one-room cabin, 14' by 14', was built by Louis Wildhack in 1882 for use as a mining office and (later) residence. The front of this original section has an entrance on the west end of the north wall with a four over four double hung window to the side. Wildhack married in 1905 at which time he added two rooms off the rear of the building. A 1½-story wing was added off the west wall, which retains the fish-scale shingles in the gable end. At some point, a false front was applied to the one-story cabin, most probably in 1914 when the use of the structure was expanded to that of a post office and general store as well as a residence.

A 2½ -story frame addition was constructed in the 1920s off the east end of the building, the front flush with the original section. The post office and general store were then moved into these larger quarters. Mail boxes were installed just to the east of the middle bay which served as a mail slot. The exterior is characterized by a large entrance element consisting of a double door with transom and double hung windows as "sidelights". Two double hung windows are equally spaced at the second level, with a single double hung window centered in the gable.

The north, south, east and part of the west exterior walls of the building were covered with metal sheets at the time of the 1920s addition. (The lumber and metal sheathing used in the construction of the '20s addition were obtained from Turn-of-the-Century/Admiral Mine, located on Ten-Mile Creek west of Frisco.) In the 1940s the metal sheets on ground level had rusted and were replaced with the same sheathing which had been placed in storage years earlier.

Little has been altered on the interior of the east addition. Original panes in the windows remain as does the original store display cases and the post office window and boxes. The flooring is the original soft pine. The first floor is now used as a family museum (not open to the public).

The interior of the original section which now functions as living quarters for the present owner (Mrs. Helen Foote) has experienced some change. A partition which once divided the space in the front room was removed in 1947. The walls of this area, now used as a living room, as well as the east wing (now a bedroom) were paneled under the ownership of the Footes.<sup>1</sup>

The metal roof of the west wing was replaced with metal in 1974 by the Footes. The metal roof on the east addition is original. Two chimneys exist, one that served the wood stove in the grocery/post office and the upstairs bedroom of the east addition and now serving the forced air furnace from the basement. The other served the fireplace (installed by the Footes) in the living room (the first section of the building built by Wildhack). Several areas in the house had stove flu openings where former heating stoves had stood.

<sup>1</sup>The tar paper once over the west addition was covered by the Footes who applied cedar vertical board siding.

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In the 1970s, a garage was built off the rear of the house (and is physically a part of the main building). The nominated area includes only the main structure and this later addition.

On the lot, but not within the nominated area, are four log cabins built for tourist rental by Guy Cannam, the property owner from 1935 to 1941. The cabins separate the main structure from two outbuildings constructed by Wildhack (date unknown): an ice house/chicken house and a two-story barn. Because of their isolation from the post office, the outbuildings are not included in the nomination.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	<u>XX</u> social/
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
___ 1800–1899	<u>XX</u> commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
<u>XX</u> 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	<u>XX</u> politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1920–1935      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Wildhack's General Store/Post Office has importance to the mountain community of Frisco in serving as the U.S. Post Office from 1914 to 1966 and, for many years, as the only general store in the town. As such, the building became the social center of Frisco, a meeting place for local residents and those from outlying mining and logging areas.

Frisco (originally named Frisco City) began as a mining town founded on the gold and silver industry. In its mining heyday, it boasted thirty-one saloons, four hotels, two railroads, a fifty-oven coke operation, and numerous logging operations. The town's history consists of a series of booms and busts, with the community always surviving its worst depression. Frisco recovered from the 1893 Silver Crash with a new mining boom occurring during the first decade of the 20th century. However, after the First World War, the local mining industry collapsed, with local residents who remained finding other avenues of employment such as logging and hunting.

A participant in the mining industry in the late 19th century was engineer Louis A. Wildhack. Wildhack was a clerk for a mining office in Dillon, with another office in Frisco. As his duties in Frisco increased, he moved there. Around 1882 he built a one-story frame structure with a wooden porch along Main Street. (The earliest photograph of the structure is undated but shows the building as one-story with a false front as well as a front porch.) The building was his office and residence, and, later a general store and post office.

In 1914 Wildhack became Frisco's postmaster, carrying out his responsibilities in his frame building on Main Street. In the 1920s, he secured lumber from the buildings at the Admiral Mine up Ten-Mile Canyon which he used to construct the 2½-story addition off the east end of his original structure. The new section accommodated a general store and post office.

Wildhacks Grocery Store had one of only two telephones in Frisco in the early part of the century and became the central location for messages and information. It also had one of only two gas pumps in town. In a community without electricity, radios, newspapers, or rail lines,<sup>1</sup> the post office became the place to discuss news, meet friends and socialize. Benches encouraged people to linger and locals would wait hours in the store for the mail to arrive and be sorted. Miners came from as far away as Wheeler Junction (now Copper Mountain) and ranchers from Dickey and Bill's Ranch. Equally important for older citizens was the fact that the post office was within walking distance of their homes in Frisco, an important factor in winter months (about eight months of the year) when the town was frequently isolated for weeks or even months. Adding to its significance as the social center was the fact that no formal church existed in Frisco until the 1940s, with the post office/general store serving as the only meeting place, with the exception of the weekly/bi-weekly dances at the town hall.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Gilliland, Mary Ellen. "Frisco, A Colorful Colorado Community." 1984.

Personal interviews: Helen Foote, Frisco; William Wildhack, Arlington, Virginia; and Kenneth Caldwell, Frisco.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property about .10

Quadrangle name Frisco Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	3	4	0	5	9	7	0	4	3	8	1	0	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 8, 9, & 10, Block 11 constituting the land on which the Wildhack Grocery/ Post Office sits.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Marie Clawson Edited: Gloria Mills

organization  date September 28, 1984

street & number P.O. Box 445 telephone (303) 468-5678

city or town Dillon state Colorado 80435

## 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 Babsa Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-15-85

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

5-16-85

J. Alton Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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In the 1930s, tourist cabins were constructed on the property by owner Guy Cannam, adding a new use and indicating another increasingly important industry for the town. (The cabins are not included in the nominated area, however.) In 1946, the property was purchased by Robert S. Foote, Laura Helen Foote, and Hannah Mae Foote, who operated it as a general store and motel under the name of "Foote's Rest". On May 15, 1947, the post office was returned to the original location from its brief removal to the private home of Mary Ruth, who served as postmistress from November 16, 1942 to May 15, 1947. Robert Foote became postmaster and served until August 6, 1965. From this date until June 1966, Susan L. Thompson served as postmaster in this building until the post office was moved to a larger building on the corner of Fourth and Granite streets.

Helen Foote continues to live in the structure which functions as a private residence and private museum. The building remains unchanged both on the interior and exterior except for minor changes. (See Item #7.) The original post office boxes and grocery store display cases remain in their original locations.

<sup>1</sup>Although Frisco was the first town in Summit County to receive electricity and street lights in 1901, these amenities were removed in the early 1920s when the rail lines and mines closed operation.