

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
RECEIVED SEP 13 1976  
DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Winfield Mining Camp

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER On County Road 390, Clear Creek, NE 1/4 Sec 28, T12S, R81W 6th P.M.

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN 15 miles north of Buena Vista  
west

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3

STATE Colorado

CODE 08

COUNTY Chaffee

CODE 015

**2 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S.D.A., Forest Service Pike & San Isabel National Forests

STREET & NUMBER 910 Hwy 50 West

CITY, TOWN Pueblo

--- VICINITY OF

STATE Colorado 81008

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Chaffee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 130 W. 5th Street

CITY, TOWN Salida,

STATE Colorado

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Colorado Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE 1974

---FEDERAL  STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Colorado State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN Denver

STATE Colorado 80203

✓  
**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Winfield is one of 4 mining camps of the 1880's in the Clear Creek Canyon in Chaffee County, Colorado. The town or mining camp grew with the development of mining in the area.

Winfield's formal history began in 1881 when the 120 acre townsite was laid out. However, a cabin was built there in 1861 and some prospecting was done in the area in 1867. Winfield reached its heyday in 1890 with an estimated population of 1,500. At its prime, Winfield included three saloons, three stores, a post office, two hotels, a boarding house, mill, smelter, concentrator, church and a school which is now a museum containing school furnishings and displays, restored and operated by the Clear Creek Canyon Historical Society of Chaffee County. The silver market crash in 1893 halted the mining activity in Clear Creek Canyon. There was a resumption in the early 1900's with the last ore hauled out of the canyon by two-horse stage in 1918.

Four of the original structures remain. One of them is the school building now used as a museum with school furnishings. It is a single detached rectangular, 1 story, horizontal log building. It has one room with attached woodshed and boomtown roof shape. Wood flooring and square nails were used in the construction. It has a front open porch.

The Wallace cabin in Winfield is another example. It is a one and a half story single detached building of horizontal log construction. This cabin has a dorner window with gable overhang and a stoop with post supports, 1st story.

In addition to the four remaining structures there are five newer cabins constructed in the 1930's. Although they are newer, their structure is rustic and they do not detract from the original setting.

Except for the school house, the structures at Winfield are privately owned and occupied under Special Use Permit as Recreation Residences. The structure identified as the school house is owned by the government and operated under permit as a museum by the Clear Creek Historical Society of Chaffee County.

The recreation residence permits require that the cabins be maintained in their present state so as not to destroy their historical significance.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Mining
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Winfield is significant in that it is one of the few examples of an original mining camp with a few remaining well preserved buildings representative of the life of the area and times. Many mining camps such as this developed throughout the state in the early mining days. However, most were soon abandoned and deteriorated to where nothing but traces of ruins remain. A few grew to become modern towns and have lost their original character. Winfield, along with nearby Vicksburg provide a unique opportunity for a glimpse into the colorful past of Colorado's mining history and that of the Clear Creek drainage.

Mining history in the Clear Creek Canyon began as early as 1867 when Governor John Evans and William N. Byers, founder of the Rocky Mountain News, established and later abandoned the LaPlata Mining District along Clear Creek. By 1876 a few homesteaders had started farming and ranching in the lower end of the canyon. One of the most successful ranches was the Chris Kirsch Ranch now covered by the Clear Creek Reservoir. The first building encountered as you go up the canyon from its start just west of the Arkansas River is a one room log schoolhouse, constructed late in the mining era as a school for children from the entire canyon after the population of the towns had dwindled too much to support the Vicksburg and Winfield schools.

The first ranch as you go west up the canyon was homesteaded by Peter Giebfried. This homestead is still standing near the site where Ute Indians camped on the Giebfrieds land. A daughter of this family still remembers Chief Red Cloud of the Ogalala Sioux wanting her father to trade guns for ponies when he passed through the area. Indian artifacts are still found by collectors throughout the canyon.

The Mountain Circle H Ranch is now on the site of the March Ranch. All of these early ranches supplied the mining camps with milk, eggs, and other produce, picked up and delivered by the daily stage. The March Ranch also provided the services of a sawmill.

Miners began re-prospecting the area in 1879. The winter of 1880 found the miners unprepared to work their claims in the harsh weather but an early spring in 1881 brought an influx of miners and five towns were started along Clear Creek: Beaver City, Vicksburg, Silverdale, Rockdale and Winfield. The towns were established in a progression up the canyon as new discoveries were made. A short time later the town of Silverdale, in spite of high hopes and big plans, was aborted.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brown, Robert L. Jeep Trails to Colorado Ghost Towns. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1969
- Eberhardt, Perry Guide to Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps. Chicago: Sage Books, 1959
- History of the Arkansas Valley, Colorado. Chicago: O.L. Baskin and Company Historical Publishers, 1881.
- Vinett, A. "Buena Vista and Tributary Mining Camps A Sketch of the Mines of Cottonwood and LaPlata Mining Districts in Chaffee County, Colorado" Times Book and Job Rooms, Buena Vista, Colorado, 1882

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 24 AC

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	37,48,0,0	4,31,61,5,0	B	1,3	37,57,5,0	4,31,61,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
c	1,3	37,57,5,0	4,31,57,5,0	D	1,3	37,48,0,0	4,31,57,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at corner number 1, which is a brass cap monument at the north edge of Clear Creek on the west side of the Clear Creek road where it crosses Clear Creek, the line runs N30°31'W, 685ft to Cor 2, then N.84°10'W 472ft to Cor 3, then N25°W308ft to Cor 4, then N68°30'E, 965ft, to Cor 5, then S23°30'E 850ft to Cor 6, then N86°E 758ft to Cor 7, then S22°30'E 176ft to Corner 8, then S71°30'W, 1160 ft to beginning. The cemetery lies NW, 1/8 mile from Corner 4.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE R. N. RIDINGS, FOREST SUPERVISOR DATE 1/2/76

ORGANIZATION U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Pike & San Isabel National Forests

STREET & NUMBER 910 Highway 50 West TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Pueblo STATE Colorado 81008

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE

[Signature]  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE [Signature] DATE Sept. 8, 1976

TITLE Director of Recreation BARRY R. PLANN

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Lucas DATE 3/10/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: William H. Brennan DATE 3.6.80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 10

7. WINFIELD MINING CAMP - ADAPTIVE USES (Continued). The management objectives from the Clear Creek Canyon Unit Management Plan, Pike and San Isabel National Forests, 10/21/74, include administration, maintenance, and protection procedures and measures to provide for the preservation, enhancement and interpretation of the historic values of the area and this site. Included in the management plan are provisions as shown below.

a. Special use permits for all existing cabins and residences will be continued. No special use permits will be issued for new buildings. Permit requirements for maintenance will include the following standards:

Guidelines for Maintenance of Buildings.

When issuing special use permits, the following guidelines for restoring and maintaining old buildings will be required. These guidelines are now in effect for existing special use cabins which have historical value.

The permittees will maintain the exterior of the residence to closely resemble an early-day mining cabin. The following specific criteria will be used:

- (1) Weathered boards or logs will be used. If new material must be used, it will be stained to match the existing material.
- (2) Repair of existing roofs will be with materials similar to those in use now. New roofs will be covered with dark dull material.
- (3) Trim, exposed foundations, chinking and chimneys will be of native materials or of manufactured material of dull earthy colors. Steps, sidewalks and porches must be of native rock or wooden construction. Fences will be constructed of weathered wood or stained wood. Gingerbread-type trim will not be permitted.
- (4) Interior finishing will be done at the discretion of the permittee.
- (5) If a cabin becomes uninhabitable and the owner chooses to abandon it, the cabin will become the property of the U.S. Government.
- (6) Toilets and sheds will be constructed with old lumber or dull stained new lumber. These should be constructed similar to early-day toilets.

b. Recreation and interpretive plans for the site include construction of parking lots as shown on the summer home group site plan. Interpretive signing would include a display of history and statistics, as well as marking the site of missing but important buildings.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE (2)

c. A short distance from Winfield is the cemetery which will continue to be preserved. If the graves can be identified, they should be properly marked. The present standard of access road to the cemetery will be maintained to encourage the visitors to walk to the site.

d. The owners of the five newer cabins under special use permits will be encouraged to modify the exterior appearance of their cabins to the extent possible that would make them more compatible with the historic buildings and setting of Winfield.

e. All new utility lines will be placed underground to avoid visual disruption of the natural setting.

Included in the adaptive uses are normal maintenance activities and necessary measures not adversely affecting the sites for the control of public use and to protect the resources as well as public health and safety.

Normal road maintenance is necessary to protect the site and to provide for through traffic and ingress and egress until such time as the road might be relocated. Traffic control signing and barriers would be added as necessary. Recreation facilities would be necessary for the interpretation and public benefit of the resource. These might include paths, signs, protective fencing, and toilet facilities. Treatment or removal of trees might be necessary to the extent needed for control of insects or disease or to protect the buildings or visitors.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE (3)

COORDINATION.

The Clear Creek Canyon Historical Society of Chaffee County, an organization of cabin and private landowners of the area, has been deeply involved in developing the area management plans with the Forest Service.

Richard Tuttle, Chairman of the Chaffee County Commissioners, was contacted personally by the District Ranger for his views on the nomination of Winfield and Vicksburg. He concurred with the recommendation for nomination to the National Register.

A formal presentation was made to the Chaffee County Planning and Zoning Commission. They concurred with the Forest Service plans to nominate Vicksburg and Winfield to the National Register and to manage the rest of the Clear Creek area under standard National Forest multiple use policies.

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RECEIVED	FEB 28 1980
DATE ENTERED	10 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Item 8 (continued)

The Kirsch Ranch, mentioned earlier is one of the early ranches but does not relate directly to the significance of the Winfield Mining Camp. It is noted along with the other ranches to show the relationship of Winfield to the overall Clear Creek Area.

The history of the Clear Creek area has progressed from prehistoric use to mineral prospecting, then homesteading and ranching, followed by more prospecting and mining with the development of the mining camps.

Following the Silver Market collapse of 1893, the mining camps began to fade out. Currently with the exception of periodic renewed interest in search for minerals, the major use of the area has changed to outdoor recreation with fishing, camping, hiking and general sightseeing. The interest in ranching is declining also.

Clear Creek Reservoir is an example of a continuing interest in water development of Clear Creek. The reservoir now sets on what was once the Kirsch Ranch at the mouth of Clear Creek Canyon. It was constructed shortly after 1890 for irrigation purposes and was purchased in 1955 by the Pueblo Board of Water Works to serve the City of Pueblo.

Although little remains of the town itself, there is much to be learned from the few remaining cabins of the way of life in an early mining camp. From not only the cabins, much will remain to be learned at some later date when old foundations and dumps might be excavated and studied. The mining camps were a significant feature of the settlement and development of the West and Colorado in particular. Winfield is one of the few with even a few of the original buildings essentially unaltered except by time and weather.

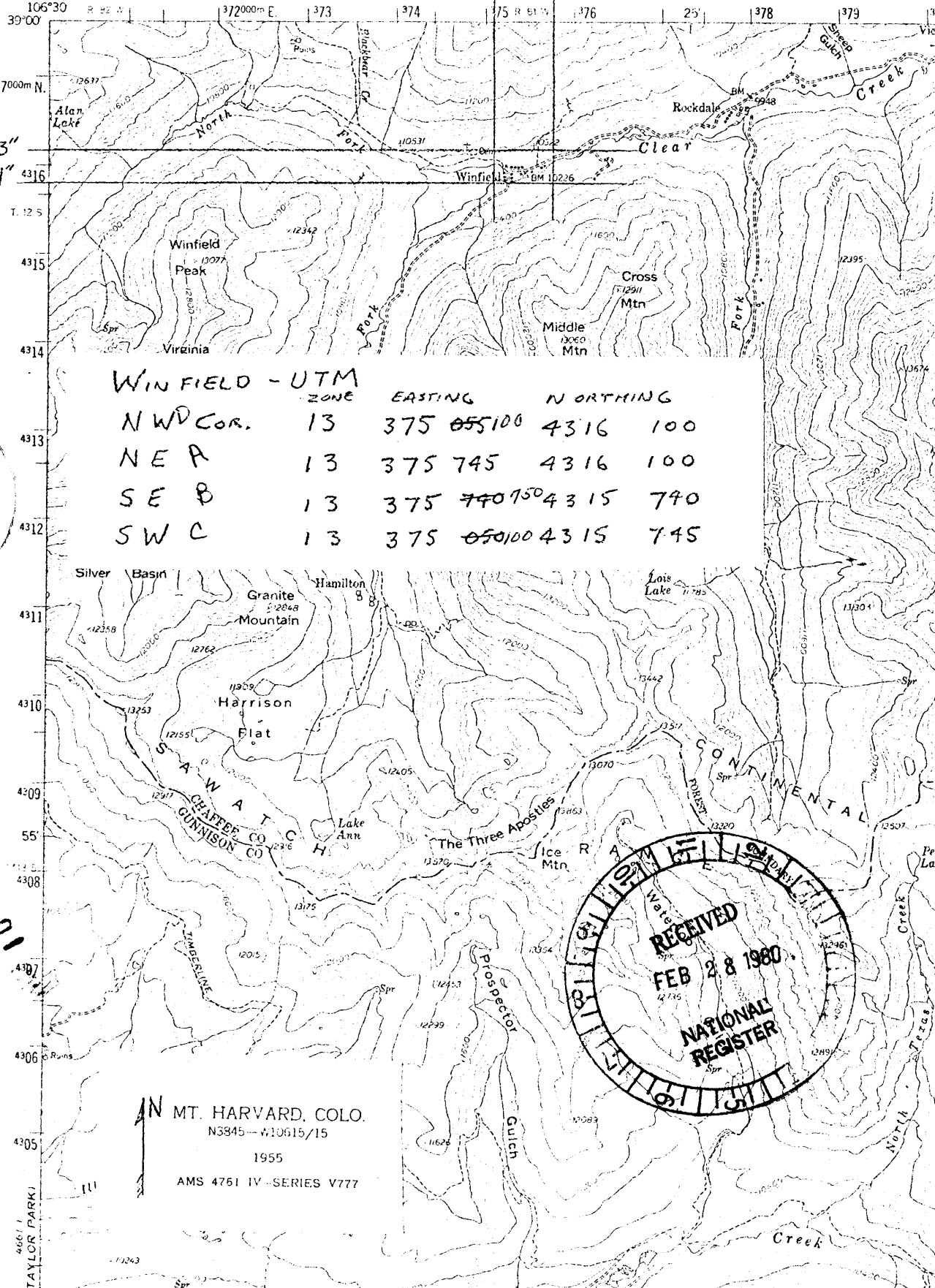


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UNITED STATES  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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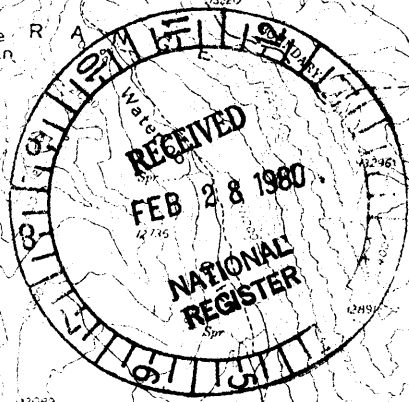


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WINFIELD - UTM

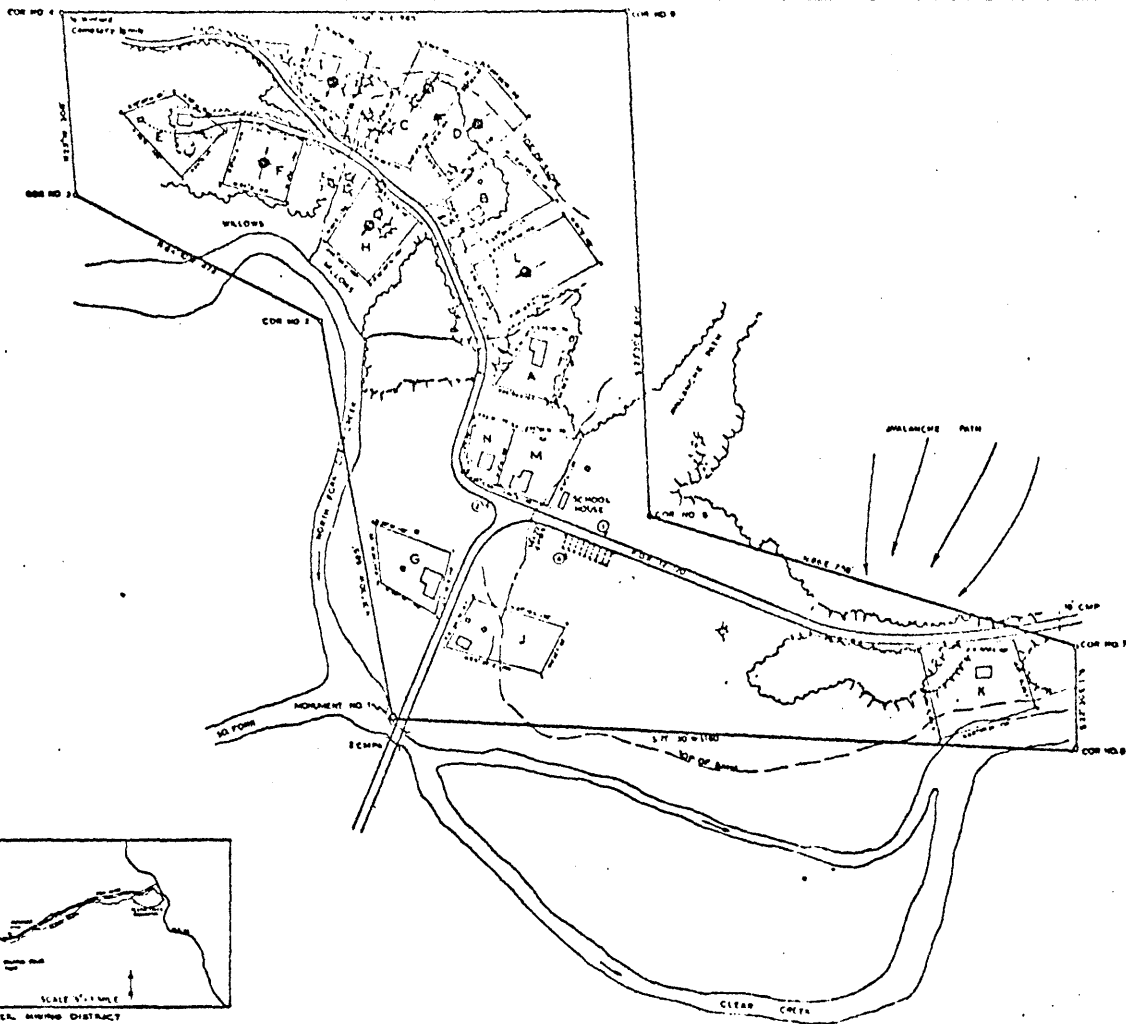
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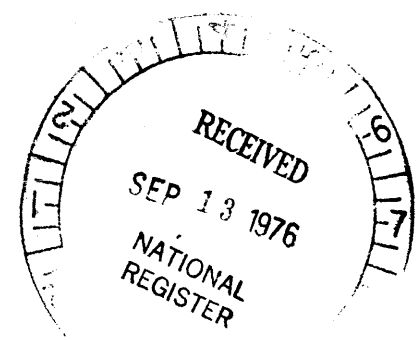
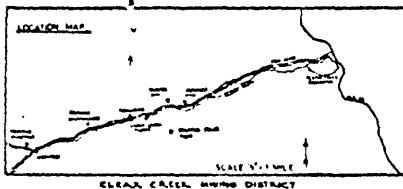


MT. HARVARD, COLO.  
 N3345 - W10615/15  
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 AMS 4761 IV - SERIES V777

40611  
 TAYLOR PARK

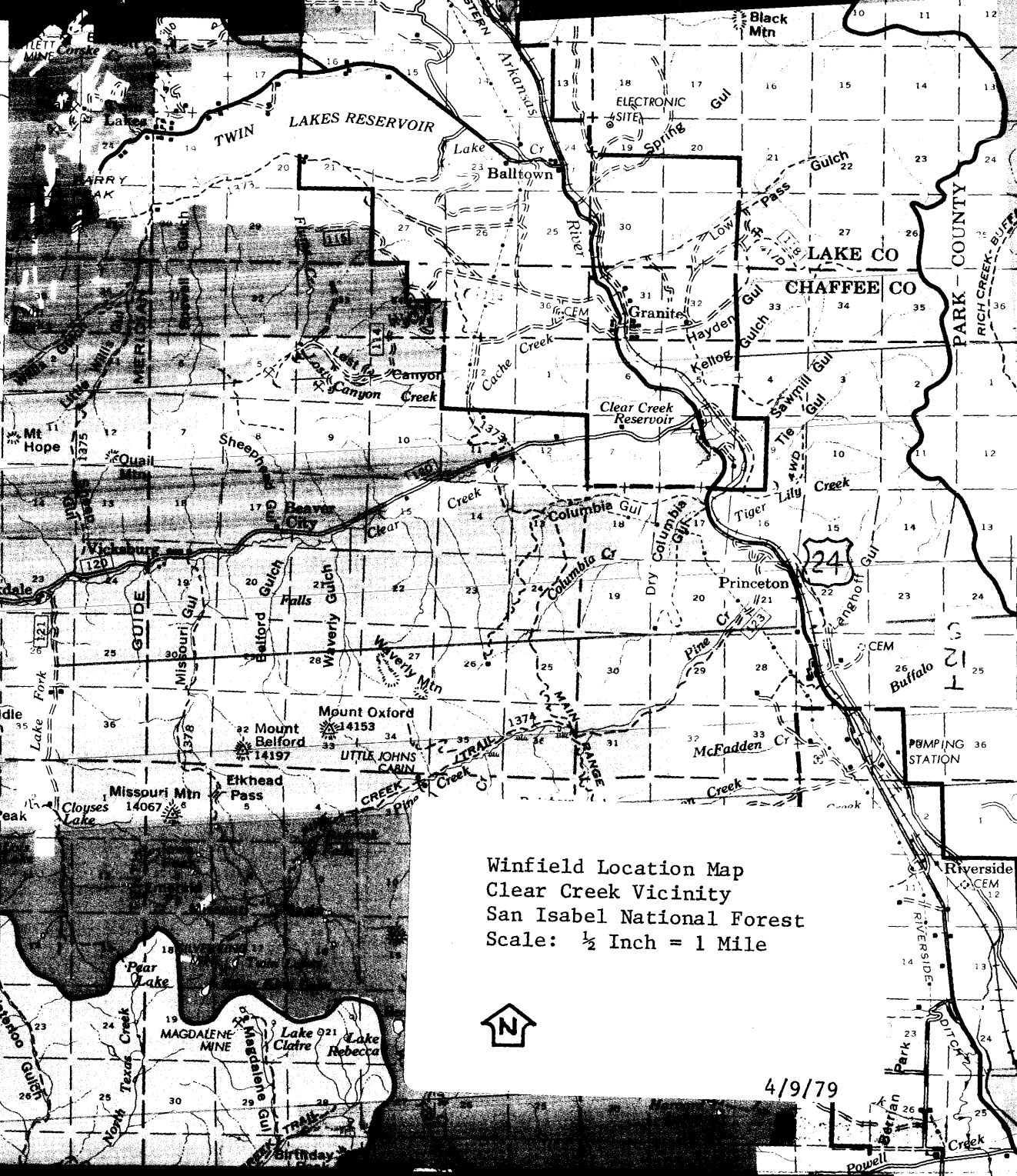
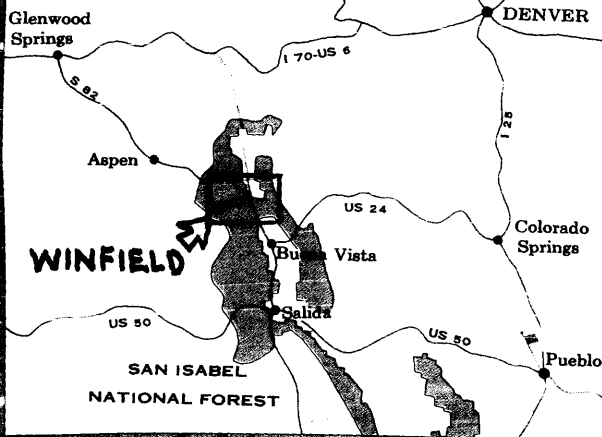


LOT #	ACRES	OCCUPANT	REMARKS
A	25		
B	74		
C	16	UNCL. CL. 1/10 D	
D	32	UNCL. CL. 1/10 D	
E	32	UNCL. CL. 1/10 D	
F	27	UNCL. CL. 1/10 D	
G	24	UNCL. CL. 1/10 D	
H	24	UNCL. CL. 1/10 D	
I	24	UNCL. CL. 1/10 D	
J	24	UNCL. CL. 1/10 D	
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Q	24	UNCL. CL. 1/10 D	
R	24	UNCL. CL. 1/10 D	
S	24	UNCL. CL. 1/10 D	



<b>LEGEND</b> LOTS G & J ARE TO BE ELIMINATED GIVING OCCUPANTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD IN THE MAIN AREA MONUMENT NO 1 IS A BRASS CAP CORNER NO 1 OF EACH LOT IS A RE-BAR	<b>LOCATION MAP</b> SCALE 1/4 MILE	<b>BASIC DATA</b> LISTED TRACT AREA, 210 ACRES REVENUE DISTRICT COUNTY PARCEL NO. PROPERTY BOUNDARY ADJACENT INTEREST	<b>REVISED</b> DATE BY	<b>PREPARED</b> DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY	<b>EXPIRES</b> DATE BY	<b>ORIENTATION</b> 	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FOREST GEORGETOWN, TEXAS DISTRICT WINFIELD SUMMER HOME GROUP	4 of 4
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VICINITY MAP



Winfield Location Map  
 Clear Creek Vicinity  
 San Isabel National Forest  
 Scale: 1/2 Inch = 1 Mile

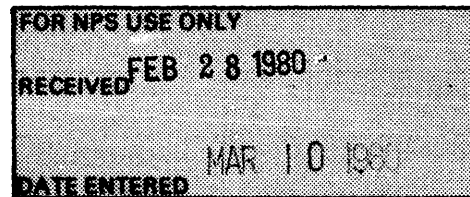


4/9/79

Form No. 10-301  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Winfield Mining Camp

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

Fifteen miles northwest of Buena Vista to County Road 390; then  
11 miles west to Winfield Mining Campsite.

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Chaffee

STATE

Colorado

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

Winfield and Clear Creek area portion of U.S. Forest  
Service, San Isabel NF Recreation Map.

SOURCE

SCALE

1/2 in = 1 mile

DATE

1972 Reprint 1978

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

GPO 892-452

INT:2427-74