

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

Waterwheel 5E A 21

AND/OR COMMON

The Colorado Waterwheel Restoration Foundation, Ltd.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

At the Waterwheel Ranch

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Village of

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF McCoy

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Eagle

CODE

037

13/353360/4418180
T. 2 S R. 83 W S. 8

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Colorado Waterwheel Restoration Foundation, Ltd.

STREET & NUMBER

General Delivery,

CITY, TOWN

Eagle

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Eagle County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Eagle

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

January 15, 1976

— FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society, 200 14th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" 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

The Waterwheel, handmade of approximately four thousand separate wooden parts, stands forty feet high and measures approximately six feet across. Only the simplest of hand tools were used during the construction but the wheel has survived for over fifty years.

The wheel turned on a large sawed off log axle that was attached to a massive frame constructed of jackpine logs; some measured up to thirty feet in length. Radiating from the axle are supportive spokes almost eighteen feet in length. Approximately thirty five buckets lined the perimeter of the wheel. The water wheel could be raised and lowered with the depth of the river and in winter could be raised above the water level to avoid damage from ice and freezing.

As originally constructed, the water wheel was positioned so that it was turned by the flow of the river. Water was collected in the buckets attached to the outside perimeter. As the wheel revolved the buckets were lifted to a height of the thirty-two feet necessary to reach a level to irrigate the fields. The water emptied into a rectangular wooden trough which surrounded the water wheel. Once in the trough, water flowed by gravity through an opening and down a wooden flume then into the rancher's irrigation ditches.

Presently the trough and flume are missing, and top sections of the water wheel are beginning to collapse. Yet even so, the wheel stands today as a monument to the lengths men could and would go to secure life-giving water.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1922 for irrigation, the water wheel functioned for many years until electric pumps took over. This is the last survivor of many water wheels once in use on the Colorado River. No other irrigation related water wheel has yet been included in the Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites.

The water wheel was built by Rancher Earl Brooks, now deceased, Wyman Franklin Dixon and Jim Jones. None of the three had ever built a water wheel before, and no plans were used. The three men, to quote Mr. Dixon "just knew how to do things in those days. When it came time to hay we hayed. When it came time to built a water wheel, we built it. People just took such things for granted."

To understand the significance of the water wheel, it is necessary to look at the importance of water in the West. To insure survival of agriculture in Colorado's diverse and mountain influenced climate, the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation was written into the State's Constitution. This allowed local diversion of water for irrigation without regard to ownership of land along the waterways. The first users of the water had a permanent right to it so long as they needed it and continued to use it beneficially. Many inventive individuals built ditches, dams and water wheels to take advantage of the water.

Irrigation was employed in this area of Colorado primarily to produce enough hay to support cattle all year round. Harsh mountain winters made it necessary to store great amounts of hay to feed cattle in the winter months. Without irrigation, very few ranchers could grow the necessary hay in the semi-arid climate. Self supportiveness, and even prosperity was directly dependent on the water ranchers could secure. Ranchers in this area raised sufficient cattle to fill the needs of local markets.

Looked at in this fashion, the water wheel takes on added significance, not only in terms of its engineering achievement, but in relation to the role it played in sustaining an important way of life. It is not only a monument to the lengths men would go to secure water but a reminder of the importance of water to the West.

Scher, Zeke "Last of the Big Wheels" In Empire Magazine, Denver Post, October 1, 1972.

Ubbelohde, Carl, Maxine Benson, Duane Smith. Colorado History. 3rd. ed Boulder: Ruett Pub. Co., 1972 pp.188-189
Wood, Nancy. Colorado Big Mountain Country. Garden City, N.Y. Doubleday & Co., C. 1969. p. 88.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Under one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	3,5,3,3,6,0	4,4,1,8,1,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Karen A. Burns

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Colorado

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

773 Ursula Street

TELEPHONE

364-1797

CITY OR TOWN

Aurora

STATE

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

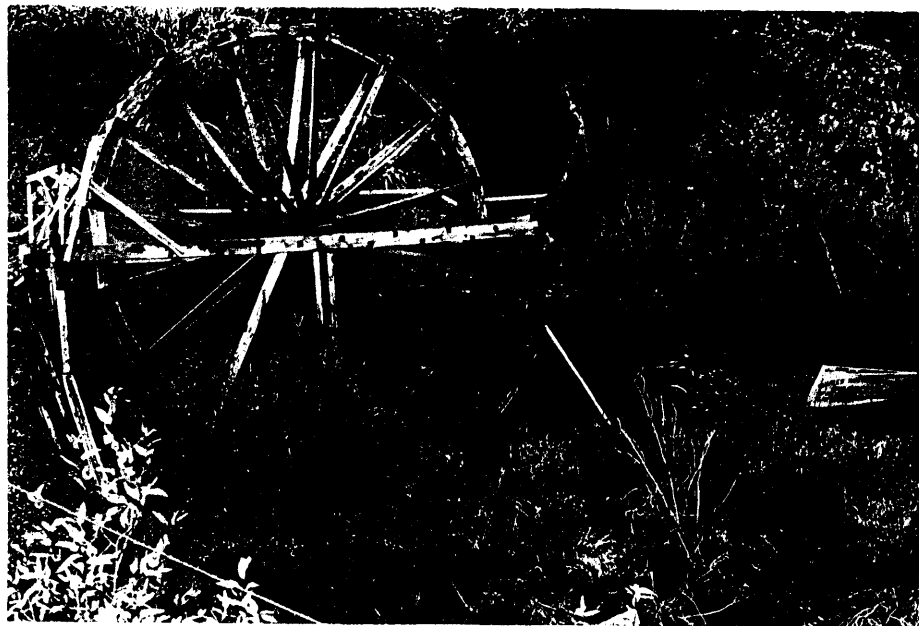
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

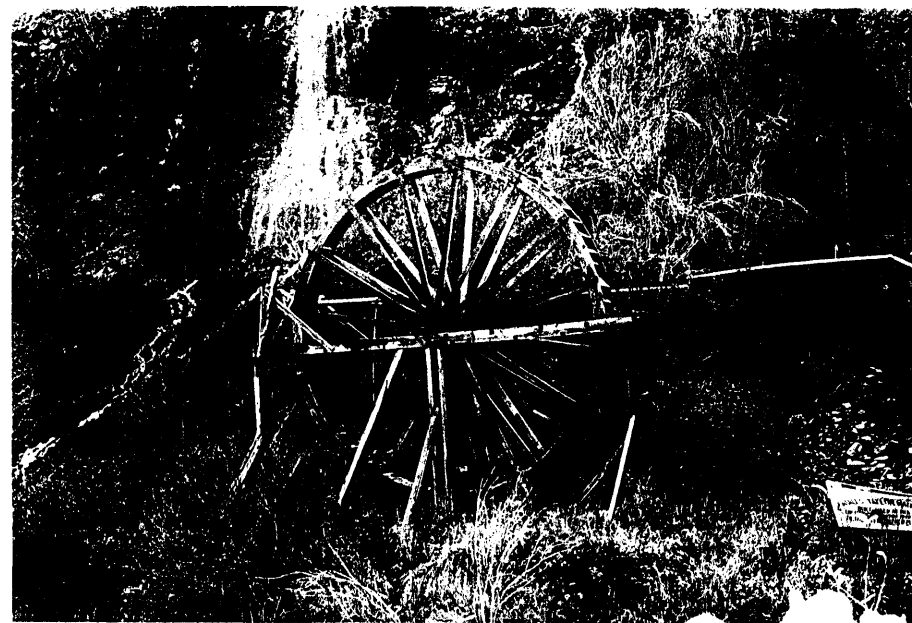
county Clear Creek		city Idaho Springs		survey area N/A		ID no. 5CC 229																					
USGS quad Idaho Springs (7.5)				legal description tnsp 3 S, range 73 W, sec. N/A																							
building name Idaho Springs Water Wheel				blk. lot(s) N/A																							
address South of I-70 at Idaho Springs				addition 13 455 840 E 4398850 N																							
owner City of Idaho Springs Idaho Springs, Co.				surveyed by Rebecca Herbst				date December 1983																			
film roll no. 83-34				negative nos. 1-7		loc. of neg. CDH		plan shape																			
PHOTO						street		date of construction																			
						1907 estimate		actual		source Historical marker		use															
						present		Non-functional (scenic		historic attraction)		Powered ore-processing mill															
						condition		excellent		good		fair		deteriorating													
						style N/A		no. of stories N/A		extent of alterations		x minor		moderate		major											
						materials Timber		square footage N/A		describe:		Timber components replaced as necessary, but essentially in original form.															
						architectural features				50-foot high water wheel of timber construction.				original site				x moved									
														date(s) of move				1946									
														field assessment				eligible				x not eligible					
														district potential				yes				x no					
								comments				contributing				non-contributing											
												associated buildings?				yes				what type?							
																if inventoried, list ID nos.											
																additional pages				yes				x no			

register status (for individual structures) N/A	national register(date)	determined eligible(date)	Denver landmark(date)
district status (for structures located in registered districts) N/A			
national register(district name)		date	
Denver landmark(district name)		date	
preservation status N/A			
easement(s):			
TDR:			
ITC:			
original owner	source		
Charles Taylor	Historical marker/Rocky Mountain News, January 6, 1946, p. 29.		
architect	source		
builder/contractor	source		
Unknown			
construction history (descriptions, names, dates, etc. relating to major additions or alterations to original structure)			
N/A			
			continued ___yes ___no
historical background (discuss important persons and events associated with this structure)			
<p>The Idaho Springs Water Wheel was built to power Charles Taylor's five-stamp concentrating mill located on Ute Creek, south of Idaho Springs. Taylor's mill operated sporadically during the period 1907-1940, processing ores from the mines in the Ute Creek vicinity. It is not clear as to who actually constructed the water wheel although Taylor, a former blacksmith and milling machinist, apparently possessed the skills for such a task. Following Taylor's death in 1946, the structure was donated to the City of Idaho Springs by Alfred M. Taylor and subsequently moved to its present location just south of Interstate 70 at Bridal Veil Falls.</p> <p>Since the structure has been relocated, it has lost its integrity of location and association with its original function and is therefore of minimal historical significance. In addition, it is not considered significant for its structural</p>			
			continued ___yes ^x ___no
theme	or engineering characteristics.		
Mining/Milling			
significance (check appropriate categories and briefly justify)			
architectural significance:			
___ represents the work of a master		Not considered National Register eligible.	
___ possesses high artistic values			
___ represents a type, period, or method			
___ method of construction			
historical significance:			
___ associated with significant persons			
___ associated with sig. events or patterns			
___ contributes to an historic district			
___ geographically significant			
			continued ___yes ___no
references (be specific)			
Historical marker.			
Tom Johnson, City Manager, Idaho Springs. Interview, October 26, 1983.			
Rocky Mountain News, January 6, 1946, p. 29.			
Will White, Historian. Interview, October 28, 1983.			
			continued ___yes ___no

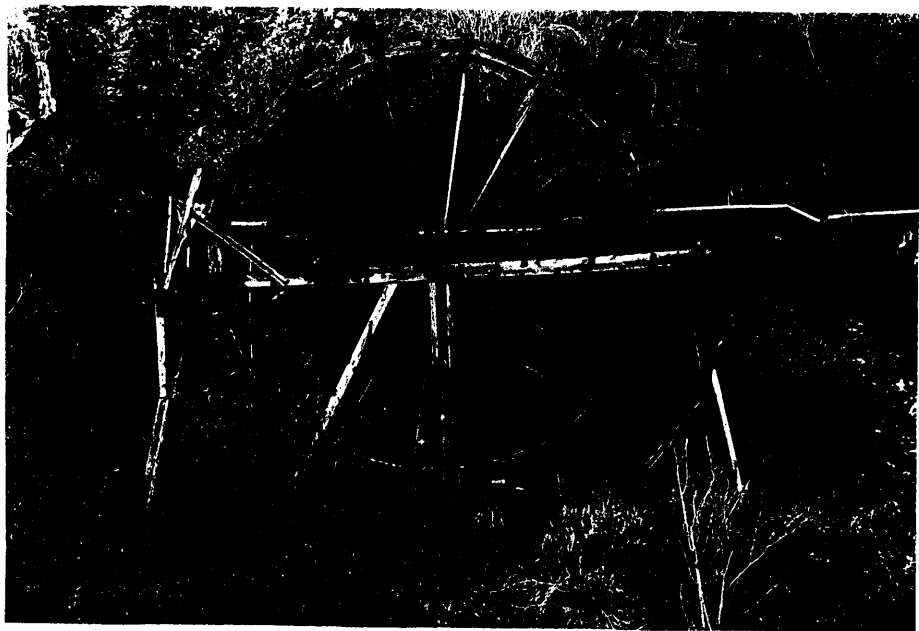
Idaho Springs Water Wheel



Roll 83-34, Frame 2



Roll 83-34, Frame 6



Roll 83-34, Frame 7

IDAHO SPRINGS QUADRANGLE

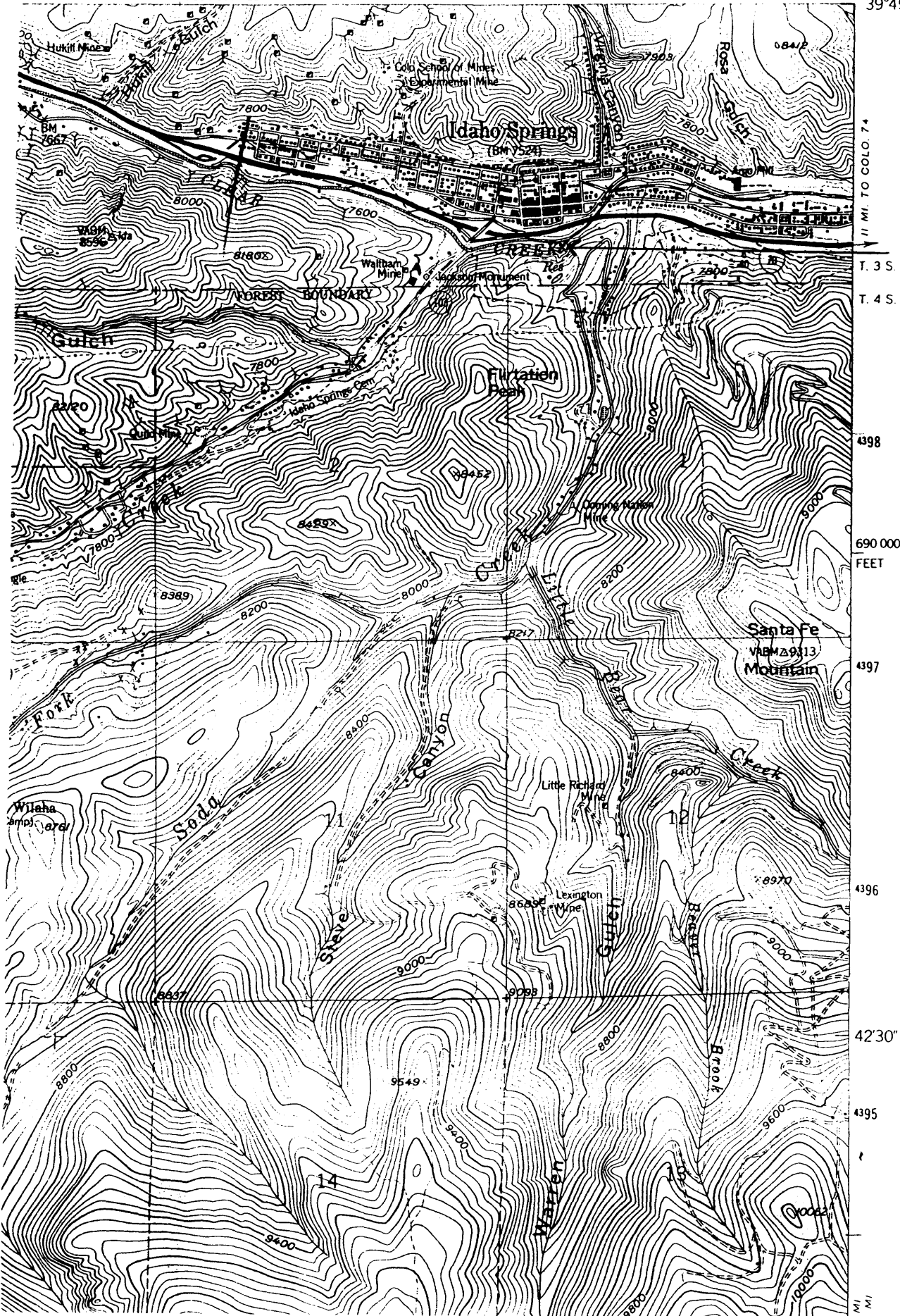
COLORADO-CLEAR CREEK CO.

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 GEORGETOWN 15' QUADRANGLE

4963 IV SW
(BLACK HAWK)

32°30' 454 1 990 000 FEET 455 456 457 105°30' 39°45'



T. 3 S IDAHO SPRINGS
T. 4 S WATER WHEEL

11 MI. TO COLO. 74

4398

690 000
FEET

4397

4396

42°30'

4395

MI
1 MI

5JA573

MAPPED

Kings Canyon Quad
29/03/0005Form 0230-2
(June 1968)UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Archeological Paleontological Historical

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

1. Site number

CO-010-H-047

2. Type of site

Object

3. State

Colorado

County

Jackson

District

Craig

4. Map reference

1/37 Surface Management Quad NW-SE

5. Location

15 miles northeast of Walden, Colorado
1.1 miles south and west of Highway, Colorado 127 at Kings Canyon
exit

NW SW SE NW

13/396410

/4529 20
535Section ~~SE NW~~
26 23 NW 1/4

Township

7 11N

Range

11 79W

Meridian

106

6. Land ownership status

Private/ BLM adjacent (.1 mile)

7. Other site designations

Pinkhampton Waterwheel

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

Settlement, 1900

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

Waterwheel, wooden, located in grove of trees on left side of road near townsite of Pinkhampton, Colorado. Very well hidden from view. Apparently this has been moved, for there is ~~not~~ stream nearby. Built about 1895 to power mill for grinding flour. Land is hay and wheat land in area. National significance- none. State significance- none. Local significance- high. Locals claim this is the only wheel like it in North Park. It is about to be moved to Walden for display. The local significance is moderate actually for the wheel has been moved and its only interest is in its design and condition. The waterwheel should be preserved and probably should be put in a building where it will be spared from the weather. Right now it is very vulnerable to vandalism.

10. Area of occupation

about 20 sq. feet

11. Present condition

Excellent. The wheel is nearly perfect. It has not been touched and is not falling apart.

12. Photo numbers

9 of roll 5

13. Informants and references

Wade Johnson, BLM, Craig, Colorado
Mrs. and Mrs. John Gresham, Walden, Colorado

14. Recorded by

Frederic J. Athearn

Date

8/22/75

(continued on reverse)

