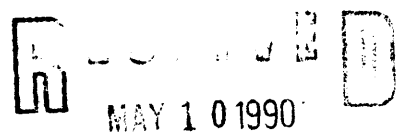


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
NPS/CHS Word Processor Format
(Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name: The Bell Mercantile

other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 101-111 Moffat (na) not for publication

city, town: Oak Creek (na) vicinity

state: Colorado code: CO county: Routt code: 107 zip code: 80467

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
(X) private	(X) building(s)		
() public-local	() district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
() public-State	() site		<u>0</u> sites
() public-Federal	() structure		<u>0</u> structures
	() object		<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
Name of related multiple property listing: <u>N/A</u>		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>	

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.
() See continuation sheet.

Barbara Sudler
Signature of certifying official

5-2-90
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, 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.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the
National Register

(x) entered in the National Register.
() See continuation sheet

Adams Lynn 6/7/90

() determined eligible for the National Register. () See continuation sheet

() determined not eligible for the National Register.

() removed from the National Register.

() other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

Commerce: General Store
Health Care:
Medical Business/Office

Current Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

Commerce: General Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century
American Movements
Other: Vernacular

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundations Concrete
walls Wood

roof Asphalt
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Bell Mercantile Building is a detached building located on a corner lot on Main Street in the downtown section of Oak Creek, Colorado. The building has been used as a company store, bank and doctor's office. Constructed in 1910 by the Bell Brothers on their original ranch property, the building is two stories, of frame construction and virtually unaltered from its original appearance. The building has the original shiplap siding on the exterior and is decorated with many original advertising signs on one side. The building sits on a concrete beam foundation with all wood construction. It has a rectangular plan and a front roof projection over the store front windows. It has a flat roof which slants toward the rear of the building. There are two original brick chimneys which are still in working order. The recessed front entrance doors of the general store are original with the recessed portion now enclosed with an insulated glass door. The wood framing and muntins of the multipaned store front windows are all intact. To the right of the large storefront is a smaller one with a separate entrance which was originally a doctor's office. There is also an entrance to the second floor above the doctor's office.

The interior walls, originally rough board (some as wide as two feet), still exist under the present sheetrock sheathing. The original safe is still in the banking area as is the embossed tin panel wall covering. The original doctor's office consists of three individual rooms with walls covered with sheetrock. The second floor apartment was originally a small hotel/boarding rooms and has been modernized.

() See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: () nationally () statewide (X) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria (X) A () B (X) C () D
 Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) () A () B () C () D () E () F () G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Commerce	1910-1940	1910
Architecture	1910	1910

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Samuel and Edward Bell

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Bell Mercantile building meets criterion A for its significance to the history of commerce in Oak Creek and because is served as the "company store" to the vast number of coal miners in the area and it housed the bank. The building also meets criterion C as an excellent unaltered example of Western vernacular architecture dating from the early 20th century.

The Bell Mercantile building was constructed in 1910 by the Bell brothers, Samuel and Edward on their property which was the Bell Ranch. The town which grew up at this location was called Bell Town until its incorporation in 1907 when the name was changed to Oak Creek for the stream which runs through it. The mercantile was the "company store" because the coal mines in the vicinity would send the paychecks of its employees directly to the store. After each bill was settled, the balance was give to the employee. The Bell Mercantile served as a general store, selling dry goods, food, appliances such as wood burning stoves and even animal grains. It also housed the bank and was one of only three businesses when the town was in its beginning years. The other businesses were a livery stable and a sports arena.

Bell Mercantile was later owned by the Stetson family and in the 1950s the Davis family acquired it and were the last family to run it in the tradition set by the Bell family. The Bell Mercantile has been the mainstay business for Oak Creek and today it is still a supplier of general merchandise and remains an important part of the community.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

Bell Mercantile

The Bell Mercantile has architectural significance because it is an unaltered example of the vernacular commercial buildings which were once prevalent in Colorado's mountain communities. The design of these early 20th century commercial buildings was straightforward and utilitarian with little ornamentation after 1900. The building is an excellent representation of that period, style and method of construction. Because of its corner location, the building is highly visible and a prominent landmark displaying unaltered store fronts and original wood siding with corner boards. The building has maintained all the elements of integrity: design, materials, setting, feeling and association.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Before Oak Creek; Over the Hills in the Eighties
A Diamond Jubilee Special Booklet, Oak Creek, Colorado, 1907-

() See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- () State Historic Preservation Office
- () Other State agency
- () Federal agency
- (X) Local government
- () University
- () Other

Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property: Under one (.13 acres)

UTM References

A 1 3 3|3|3|7|0|0 4|4 5|9|9|8|0|
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

() See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 15-16, Block 6, Original Oak Creek, Colorado

() See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes those lots historically and currently associated with Bell Mercantile Building.

() See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: J.G. ManChac, owner
 Organization: N/A Date: Dec. 8, 1989
 Street & Number: Star Route Telephone: 303) 736-8564
 City or Town: Oak Creek State: CO Zip Code: 80467

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photo Page 1

Bell Mercantile

The Bell Mercantile Building

The following information is the same for all the photographs:

1. Bell Mercantile Building
2. Oak Creek, Colorado
3. Photographer: J.D. Manchac
4. Date: 8/1989

Photo #	Description
1	View - South
2	View - Southeast
3	View - Southwest
4	View - Southeast, West facade detail
5	Interior detail, original safe

SKETCH MAP OF THE BELL MERCANTILE BUILDING

NO SCALE

CITY PARK

