UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 **Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic District**

AND/OR COMMON

Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **Interstate 70**

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN **Georgetown** __ VICINITY OF   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Colorado		Clear Creek	

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X_DISTRICT	—PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	—AGRICULTURE	—MUSEUM
—BUILDING(S)	—PRIVATE	—UNOCCUPIED	—COMMERCIAL	—PARK
—STRUCTURE	X_BOTH	—WORK IN PROGRESS	—EDUCATIONAL	—PRIVATE RESIDENCE
—SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	—ENTERTAINMENT	—RELIGIOUS
—OBJECT	—IN PROCESS	—YES: RESTRICTED	—GOVERNMENT	—SCIENTIFIC
	—BEING CONSIDERED	X_YES: UNRESTRICTED	—INDUSTRIAL	—TRANSPORTATION
		—NO	—MILITARY	X_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **Mayor Edward Plass**

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, 6th Street

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Georgetown __ VICINITY OF	Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Registry of Deeds, Clear Creek County Courthouse**

STREET & NUMBER

Argentine Street

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Georgetown	Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE **Colorado State Inventory**

DATE

in progress   —FEDERAL X_STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS **1880 Gaylord Street**

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Denver	Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic Mining District possesses remarkable integrity and the historic structures in the two towns are reminescent of a bygone era. Georgetown, in particular, is unique among Colorado's mining towns. Because the wealth of the mining district was centered here, Georgetown took on a wealthy aura and the buildings show this wealth. It was here that miners brought their families and tried to reproduce the classic architecture and culture that they left in the east. The Victorian atmosphere they created still remains. Maple and oak trees which these early pioneers planted, line Georgetown streets after more than a century has passed (Photo #19).

Silver Plume, on the other hand, was the work center. Here the majority of mines were located. Homes in Silver Plume are far less impressive as those of the Georgetown. Though the ore was removed from Silver Plume, so was the wealth. This working relationship between the two towns has been cause for much resentment--both past and present.

GEORGETOWN INVENTORY

There are a great number of historic structures which remain in Georgetown. A number of these properties are being inventoried by the Georgetown Society, Inc., under the auspicies of the Colorado Historical Society. Some of the now outstanding structures include:

1. The William A. Hammil House and Offices (Photos #1 and #2) is a two and one-half story clapboard structure on a stone foundation. There is a steep gabled, wood shingle roof which is dotted intermittenly with dormers and brick chimneys. The house has front concrete windows and is divided by simple wood tracery into twin arches. The house is in Early Gothic Revival style. Improvements to the house include construction of the center and back wings, the glass solarium, and the addition of matching sets of oriel and bay windows on the north and south facades.

To the rear of the house are the office buildings. The South Building is fashioned of stone blocks in Flemish bond. The building, two-stories high, has a hipped roof with deck and iron railings. The entrance is on the extreme end of the building. Above the windows and door are both flat and semi-elepical arches.

Adjacent to the north is the garage. Fashioned of stone, the garage likewise has a hipped roof with dormers. There is a cupola square in plan. One and one-half stories high, the garage also has work space on its south side.

2. The Maxwell House (Photo #3) Fourth Street is probably the most famous of Georgetown houses. Built by a local grocer, the original house was much simpler. Additions were made to the original house. The resulting house is a prime example of high Victorian architecture. It is two and one-half stories high with mansard roof and a third story cupola. Fashioned of clapboard the house has boxed windows two over tow double hung sash. There are

(Continued)

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	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X1800-1899	__COMMERCE	X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1859-c.1893   BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Georgetown Loop area, consisting of Georgetown, Silver Plume, and the Alpine valley between the two communities, is perhaps the most scenic and historic of all the Colorado mining districts, and certainly the one that best preserves the flavor of a bygone era. The area grew and flourished first as a gold and silver producing region and later as recreational center for the people of Denver.

Gold was discovered along Clear Creek in 1859 by George and David Griffith, two Kentucky farmers who had joined the gold rush to Denver the previous year. By the spring of 1860, thousands of other prospectors had moved into the valley in search of the precious metal, but they met with little success. The population had begun to decline when a rich lode of silver was discovered near Georgetown in 1864. Within a few months the valley was again alive with prospectors, and Georgetown was once more a thriving community. Satellite villages such as Silver Plume were soon established near the mining operations, but Georgetown continued to grow and at one point in its history was second only to Denver in population.

In 1877 the Colorado Central Railroad reached Georgetown from Denver and seven years later the service was extended to Silver Plume over a very scenic aerial route. The railroad was built to haul silver ore, but it soon became a tourist attraction for weekend excursions in the Central Rockies. The railroad continued to serve the area in this capacity long after mining operations were abandoned in the valley.

Georgetown and Silver Plume are still active communities today. Through the efforts of the local people in cooperation with the Colorado Historical Society the Georgetown Loop area has retained much of its charm of former years. Many of the buildings have been preserved and others are being restored to their original appearance. Plans are also being made to reconstruct the famous Georgetown Loop Railroad that once served the valley.

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3,288

UTM REFERENCES

E 13 439630 4395580
F 13 439680 4398100

A |1,3| |4,4,1,2,4,0| |4,3,9,8,0,7,0|
   ZONE   EASTING   NORTHING

B |1,3| |4,4,1,0,1,0| |4,3,9,3,2,0,0| ✓
   ZONE   EASTING   NORTHING

C |1,3| |4,3,6,0,0,0| |4,3,9,3,2,0,0|

D |1,3| |4,3,6,0,0,0| |4,3,9,5,5,4,0|

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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
Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service	5/75

STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
1100 L Street NW.	202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Washington	D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

(NATIONAL HISTORIC   THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS (NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS) NATIONAL ___   STATE ___   LOCAL ___   LANDMARKS).

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Landmark
Designated: 11/13/66
date

Boundary Certified:
DATE   5-13-76

Chief, Hist. &   date
Arch. Surveys

DATE

Boundary Confirmed:

Director, OAHP   date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

---

ornate cornices on the windows and the porth has an oval pediment with deck.

3. Luedde House (Photo #4) Third and Rose is a house of modest proportions but extremely good Victorian style. A brick structure two-stories high it is topped with deck and wooden rails. There are harp on the north aced south side of the house. There is a small porch with square wooden columns which support a small deck. Windows are double hung two over two and have semi-eleptical stone.

4. Spencer House (Photo #5) Fourth and Argentina is a two-story house the second level is mansard. Fashioned of brick, painted green, the house is ornate with triangular pediments on the windows dormers of the second level with oval treatment on the first floor. There is a deck on the porch which has wooden rails. The porch has an oval roof.

5. Bowman-White (Photo #6) Ninth and Rose recently acquired by the George-town Society and presently under restoration is a two-story clapboard building with wood shingles. There is a bay on the south side of the house and window treatments, when compaired with other Georgetown structures, are modest. There is a porch with a deck. Entrances lead into a small foyer.

6. Public School (Photo #7) Taos Street is a massive two-story structure built in 1874. The school designed with central pavilion with wings. The building is no longer used and plans are in progress for acquisition and restoration.

7. The Hotel de Paris (Photo #8) Sixth Street, was built in 1875 by an eccentric Frenchman named Louis Depuy (actually Adolphus F. Gebard), is one of the most interesting historic buildings in Colorado. It is maintained in its original condition. It still retains some suggestions of its former glory. From 1875 to 1900 this hotel was known throughout the west for French culture, French wine, and food delicacies and a sort of eratic high-handed European hospitality. People traveled many miles to enjoy its luxuries. The square, two-story building, stuccoed to resemble stone, the effigy of Justice with her scales swinging in the breeze, metal lion and stag which stood on its walls, the Fountain Cafe, the dozen massive living rooms richly furnished in walnut, the hundreds of books, engravings, and prints of classical subjects which lined the walls, made it known through-out the West.

(Continued)

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET   ITEM NUMBER   7   PAGE   3

8. The Clear Creek County Courthouse (Photo #9) Argentine Street is composed
of two buildings. Fire destroyed the second story and it was replaced with
wood. The courthouse is a simple two-story brick structure. This building
holds all county offices.

9. The Old Jail (Photo #10) sits behind the courthouse. A small one-story
building built in a square of rubber stone, the old jail still has bars on
its windows, though it is no longer used. This is one of the oldest buildings
of the community.

10. Grace Episcopal Church (Photo #11) was erected in 1869. It is the oldest
Episcopal Church in Colorado. A simple wooden structure, the Church has no
spire but is topped with a cross. It has a steep gabled roof made of wooden
shingles. Entrance is made by double doors which lead into a small foyer.
The windows are not stained.

Silver Plume has been bisected by Interstate 70 into north and south sections.
The south side, called Brooklyn, is composed of residences of relatively
recent construction. On the north side of the highway are a number of
institutional buildings as well as the business district. The town when
compared with larger mining communities is rather compact. However, because
in many cases these old buildings are unaltered, their value is heightened.
Silver Plume with its stepped gabled and flat top roofs is unique for its
western simplicity.

11. The Old Silver Plume School House or Pioneer Building (Photo #12) is
by far the most impressive structure in Silver Plume and was for many years
the largest school in Clear Creek County. Designed by William Quayle, the
school is a two-story building in the Romanesque style. The school is
presently the only brick building in Silver Plume which dates before the
turn of the century. The building was discontinued in 1959 as a school
and for two years was unoccupied. The local Historical and Cultural Society
has acquired the building and uses it as a museum.

12. The Windsor Hotel (Photo #13) built during the late 19th century was
the major hotel of Silver Plume. Owned by Dave Collins, Silver Plume's
oldest citizen, the building has been altered from its original. It is a
two and one-half story clapboard building with hipped roof. There are

(Continued)

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET   ITEM NUMBER   7   PAGE   4

gabled dormers. A porch with deck runs across the front. A wall in the front parlor has been removed and a large picture window placed here.

13. Silver Plume Church (Photo #14) the oldest church in Silver Plume it is a small wooden building which has been covered with a asphalt siding material. It has a steep gabled roof and was erected uring the 1880's. Without spire or steeple, the church is topped with a small cross.

14. The Old Jail (Photo #15) built in 1875 was typically functional. Built against a mountain, the jail is a simple one-story building with a gabled roof. Built of stone, the jail has no windows. A sign above the door relates the story of Jack McDonald, owner of the 7:30 mine who was the chief occupant of the jail.

15. The Silver Plume Hose Co. (Photo #16) was built in 1886. This wooden building housed the fire department. The building has a false front and steep gable.

16. The Georgetown Loop Railroad (Photo #17) was the railroad constructed to bring the ore from Silver Plume up to Georgetown. This historic railroad is being reconstructed to run as a tourist attraction during the summer months by the Colorado Historical Society.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET   ITEM NUMBER   8   PAGE   2

HISTORY

Georgetown, next to Leadville, was the most important silver camp in Colorado.
Prior to the Leadville strike of 1878, it was the most important mining pro-
ducing town. The county of Clear Creek, of which Georgetown is the seat,
produced more than 90 million dollars in gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc,
up to 1939.

Georgetown's first great boom was the result of the discovery of gold there
by George and David Griffith in 1859. These 2 Kentucky farmers who joined the
gold rush to Denver in 1858, spent the winter in that frontier town. When
they heard of Gregory's discovery in 1859, near present Central City, the 2
Griffiths hastened to the diggings in that vicinity and found that all the
good claims had been staked out. They then drifted into the vicinity of
present Georgetown which had not yet been penetrated. George Griffith staked
a claim and found a lode of gold which proved promising. Here he staked a
claim and returned to Gregory diggings to tell his brother David about his
discovery. The 2 men and 3 others returned immediately and worked all summer,
taking about $500 in gold from the rock crevice which had been discovered.
By agreement, the 5 miners called their camp "George's Town" which they
reluctantly left during the winter months.

In the spring of 1860 the brothers were back again with another brother and
his wife and with their father. George's Town attracted others until the
valley was alive with miners, who in June, 1860, called a meeting and drew
up the laws of the Griffith mining district. Prospectors scattered over
the hillside and searched for gold. However, they found but very little.
Other mines came into the Griffith district and met with similar disappoint-
ment.

In 1864 a miner found a rich lode of silver which assayed 1,000 ounces of
silver to the ton. Soon after news of this discovery reached the outside
world, in less than a month there were 2,000 men searching for this metal.
By the fall of 1864, Georgetown was a thriving community. By 1866, there
were 2 camps half a mile apart separated by a beaver dam. The original
camp, Georgetown, and the other held a public meeting. At this meeting
both camps agreed to combine under the name of Georgetown. As a result of
a special election in 1868, the county seat was moved from Idaho Springs
to Georgetown.

Georgetown was the center of the silver craze of 1867. By the end of the
year it was a booming community. With the collapse of the price of silver
in the 1890's, Georgetown began its second decline. It was kept alive by
a few prospectors, some gold miners, and many tourists. In 1940, the town
had a population of 303; in 1950, 329.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET   ITEM NUMBER   8   PAGE   3

Georgetown is much unlike the other mining towns in Colorado. It was a
city to which the miners brought their families and where they tried to re-
produce as closely as possible the culture and architecture to which they
were accustomed in the New England and Midwest sections. Here the Victorian
atmosphere still prevails. There are trees along the streets which were
planted years ago by the citizens who took great pride in their homes.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET   ITEM NUMBER   9   PAGE   1

Greesley, Gene M., "Hotel de Paris and Its Creator," The Colorado Magazine
      Vol. XXXII (January 1955).

Griswald, Don and Jean, Colorado's Century of Cities (Denver, 1958).

Wadsworth, Cynthia, Georgetown, A Walking Tour, Published by the Georgetown
      Historical Society, 1973.

Wolle, Muriel S. Stampede to Timberline: The Ghost Towns and Mining Camps
      of Colorado (Boulder, 1949).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

From the point of intersection of the 11,200 foot contour line and the bed of Brown Gulch, as indicated on the accompanying USGS Georgetown Quadrangle 7.5' series map dated 1957, proceed due south to the point of intersection with the boundary line of the Arapaho National Forest; thence proceed due east along this boundary a distance of two miles to a point of intersection with the west section line of section 20, T.4 S,R74W; thence proceed in a straight line northeast, eliminating the Georgetown Reservoir, to the southwest corner of section 16 of said township and range, thence, again following the Forest Boundary, proceed due north a distance of approximately 2-1/2 miles to the intersection of the east line of section 5 of same township and range and the 8560' contour; thence proceed due west to a point of intersection with the Arapaho National Forest Boundary on Columbia Mountain; thence proceed due south along this boundary to a point of intersection with the northeast corner of section 18 of said township and range; thence west along the north section line of section 18 to an intersection with the 11,200' contour; thence south and generally west along this contour to the point of origin.

The boundary encompasses both towns of Georgetown and Silver Plume as well as the railroad grade connecting the two communities. The boundary at the western section is set to encompass the bulk of the mining excavations that established the Silver Plume area as the focus of mining activity. At the north, the boundary was set to provide an adequate vista along the valley to a point where that vista terminates as the valley bends eastward. The boundary was set to provide a sufficient historic and natural setting lateral to the course of the valley.