Free 16-200 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM (Type all antries - complete applicable sections) TAKE COMONY ASHCROFT, COLORADO ASHCROFT, COLORADO STRET AND ANDREAL COLORADO STRET AND ANDREAL STRET AND A						1 400	1538	8			
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7. DESCRIPTION (Check One) Excellent 🗌 Good 🗌 Fair X Deteriorated 🗌 Ruins Unexposed CONDITION (Check One) (Check One) 🖄 Unaltered Altered Coriginal Site Moved DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE The nine buildings remaining in Ashcroft are in a very deteriorated condition, having remained here since 1879 with very little maintenance. Ş RECEIVED FEB 10 1975 👂 NATIONAL REGISTER

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NSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE	,		
PERIOD (Check One or More as As	ppropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	A 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known)		
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Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
🔲 Historic	🔲 Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	🗋 Landscape	Sculpture	
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Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

In the summer of 1879, a few prospectors struggled over Taylor Pass into Castle Creek looking at ground near Hogan's Peak. Others followed prospecting all along Slate Mountain, Hogan's Peak and Copper Ridge. Due to conflicts with the Ute Indians in 1879, the men returned over the Range in search of safety.

The first settlement was made on the present townsite by a few men in June, 1880. By the end of 1880, a considerable number of people had settled here. Inspite of the local Indian presence, the men dug in where the two forks of Castle Creek met, and called their location "Castle Forks". In 1880, the townsite was laid out on this spot on a placer claim known as "Chloride."

In 1881, a post office was acquired, and called Chloride. On January 3, 1882, the town's name was changed to Ashcroft, (after Thomas E. Ashcroft, one of the original party of prospectors).

In 1881, the town had a population of 500. The town boom really started in 1882, and daily mail and stage service to Aspen, Independence and Leadville was instituted.

By 1883, the town population had grown to 2,000 people. The peak population was 2,500.

The rich silver strikes in Aspen drew many of the local populace away from Ashcroft. Local transportation problems, together with a shortage of funds for the development of the mines, had a telling effect on the stability of the Ashcroft growth and prosperity.

The arrival of the railroads in Aspen had a telling effect on Ashcroft, as it was no longer necessary to transport ore by mule over Taylor and Pearl Passes through Ashcroft.

By 1890, the town had declined rapidly and most the business firms had closed.

The post office was closed November 30, 1912. (continued Statement of Significance on page 2)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

MAJOR	BIBLIOGR	APHICAL	RE	FERENCES				·•				
STAMPEDE TO TIMBERLINE, Muriel Sibell Wolle												
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As the	designate	d State Li	iaiso	on Officer for the	e Na-							
tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law						I hereby certify that this property is included in the						
89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion						National Register.						
in the National Register and certify that it has been						SI GAL						
evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended					Mulert a Concelling							
	-			omination is:	mendeu		Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation					
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Form 10-300a	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	STATE							
(July 1969)	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Colorado							
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY							
	INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	Pitkin							
		FOR NPS USE ONLY							
	(Continuation Sheet)	ENTRY NUMBER DATE							
(Number all entrie	(Number ell entries) Statement of Significance Page 2								
	From the 1930's, Ashcroft has been recognized as a true Colorado ghost town.								
Only a few of the prospectors remaining in Ashcroft to en- joy "The Paradise of the Elk Mountains" until their deaths in the 1950's.									
Its	the 1950's. Its primary significance is that it is one of the few re- maining "True Colorado ghost towns". RECEIVED FEB 10 1975 NATIONAL REGISTER								