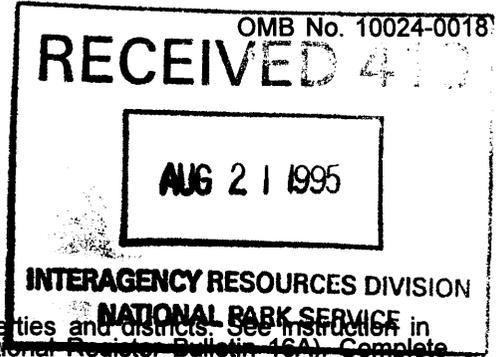


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NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Louviers Village Club

other names/site number 5DA1016

2. Location

street & number Louviers Boulevard and First Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Louviers [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Douglas code 035 zip code 80131

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [])

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer August 15, 1995 Date

Colorado State Historic Preservation Office/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 for additional comments [])

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [] .
- determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [] .
- determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- removed from the
National Register
- other, explain
See continuation sheet [] .

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date
Edson H. Beall 9.22.95

Louviere Village Club
Name of Property

Douglas County, CO
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: clubhouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE: music facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
GOVERNMENT: post office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: clubhouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility
EDUCATION: library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: shingle

roof ASBESTOS
other STUCCO

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Louviers Village Club
Name of Property

Douglas County, CO
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
- # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

INDUSTRY

Periods of Significance

1917 - 1945

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

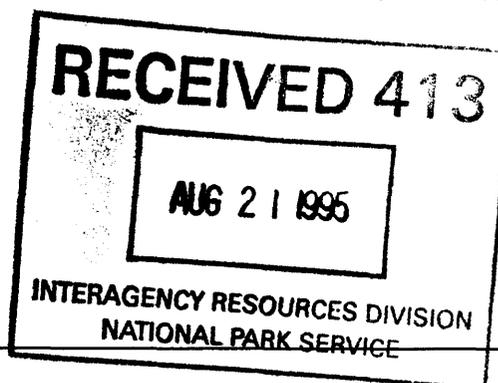
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other:

Name of repository:
Douglas Public Library District

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



Louviers Village Club
Louviers, CO

Description

The Louviers Village Club, built in 1917¹, is a community building located at the intersection of Louviers Boulevard and First Street. The Village Club was built by E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company in the company town of Louviers as a social and recreational facility for its employees. The building consists of a one and one-half story gabled-roof mass with hipped-roof extension; this forms the primary part or "main" building (approximately 4,260 square feet). A one-story wing (approximately 1,630 square feet), lies parallel to the main building and is attached to it by a covered walkway. The Village Club design reflects the Craftsman style², with dominant steeply-pitched (approximately 45 degrees) gables, multi-level eaves, large exterior chimney, and multiple gabled roof dormers. The building facade features plain wood shingles and stucco cladding.

The Village Club plan is U-shaped, with the walkway between the main building and wing forming the base of the U. In both the main building and the wing, a gable-roofed mass is set cross-wise to a hipped-roof extension.

The building's foundation consists of poured concrete walls and monolithic concrete piers. Walls are wood frame with horizontal wood cladding. The current roofing material consists of asbestos shingles, though photographs of the original building indicate that these may have replaced wood shingles. The prominent exterior chimney on the east elevation of the main building is composed of fired brick with stucco cladding. Stucco cladding also covers the upper one-half story of the gables on east and west elevations. Half-timbering is present on the east and west elevations of the gabled portion of the wing. An entry porch on the east elevation has a gabled-roof and square pillar supports. The original building had two inset porches at opposite ends of the main building on the north and south elevations; these areas were enclosed by the 1930's. The covered walkway between the main building and the wing is not shown in photographs of the original building, and the exact date of walkway construction is unknown. However, the walkway is believed to be an early addition due to the nature of the construction materials and the fact that the town's oldest residents do not recall the building without the walkway present.

Louviers Village Club
Louviers, CO

¹ Records on file at the Douglas County Assessor's Office state that the Village Club was built in 1910. However, at least two sources contradict this date. Photographs of the original building (see attached), obtained from the Hagley Museum and Library, are dated June 1917 and show the building under construction. A contemporary newspaper account (Record Journal of Douglas County), dated November 9, 1917, describes the festive opening night at the Club.

² McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Description (continued)

The Village Club windows are sash-type and multi-paned. Double hung, fixed and casement windows are present throughout the building, with a transom above some windows and doors. Two arched windows flank the exterior chimney on the east elevation of the main building.

The building interior contains a high percentage of original materials, including lath and plaster walls, tongue and groove wood paneling (bead board) and wainscoting, maple flooring, metal grillwork, paneled doors, button-type light switches, staircase, stage and storefront facade.

Over the course of its history, the Village Club has housed an assembly hall, theater, pool and billiards room, writing and ladies room, bowling alley, mercantile store, post office, barbershop, shooting range, snack concession and reading room. The building currently houses a two-room branch library upstairs in the main building. The historic two-lane bowling alley wholly occupies the wing, and is still used by the local league. Community events such as pancake breakfasts, club meetings and craft shows are held in the assembly hall, and the facility is rented for weddings, receptions and parties. The grounds of the Village Club include a lawn and large trees.

The Du Pont Company transferred ownership of the Village Club to the County in 1975³. The County in turn leases the building to a Village Club Board, which maintains the facility on a largely volunteer basis.

³ Deed of Record, May 30, 1975, Book 277, Page 667, Douglas County Clerk's Office.

United States Department of the Interior
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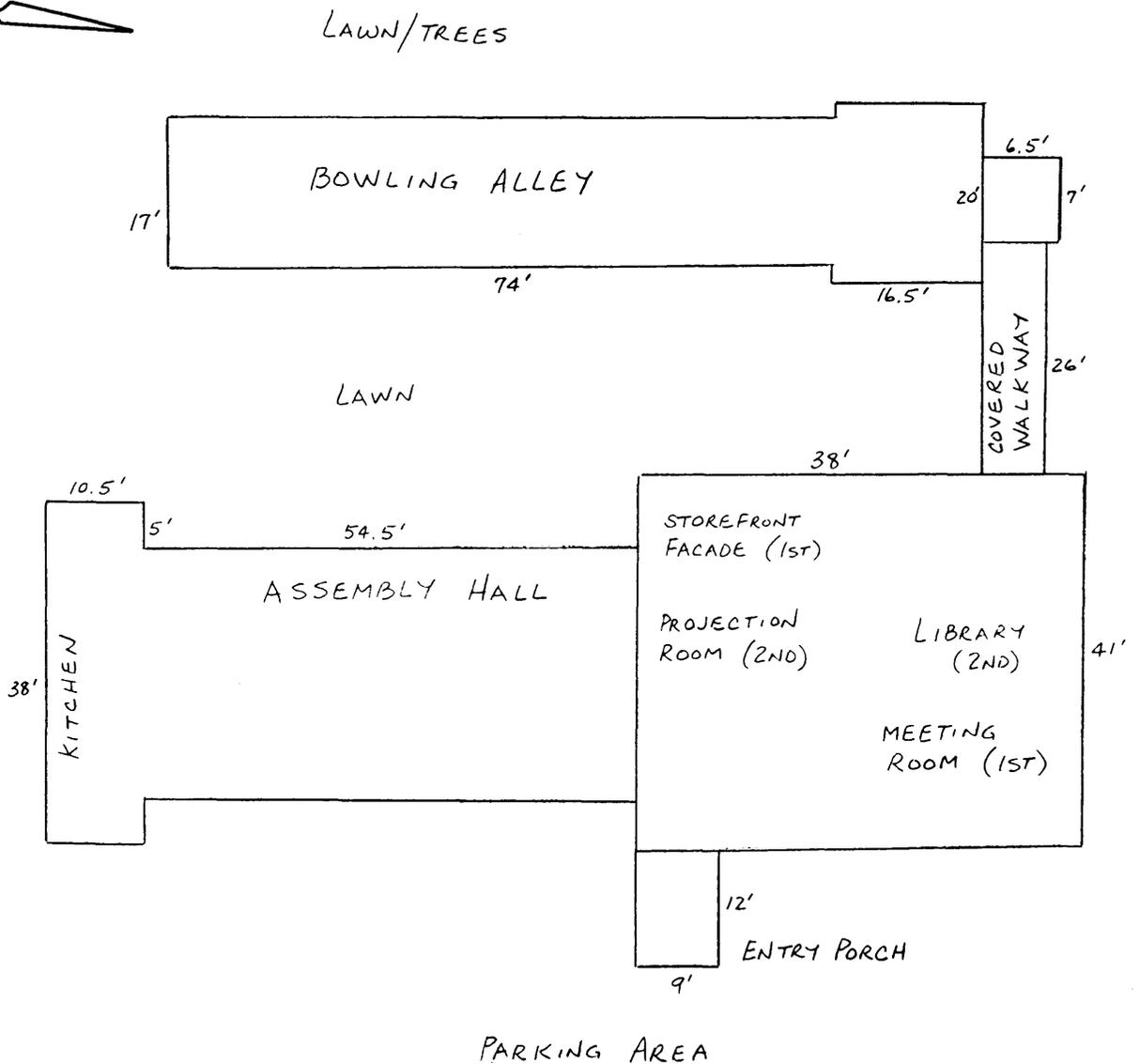
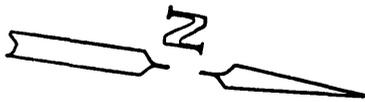
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Louviers Village Club
Louviers, CO

LOUVIERS VILLAGE CLUB
LOUVIERS, COLORADO

SKETCH MAP OF BUILDING PLAN



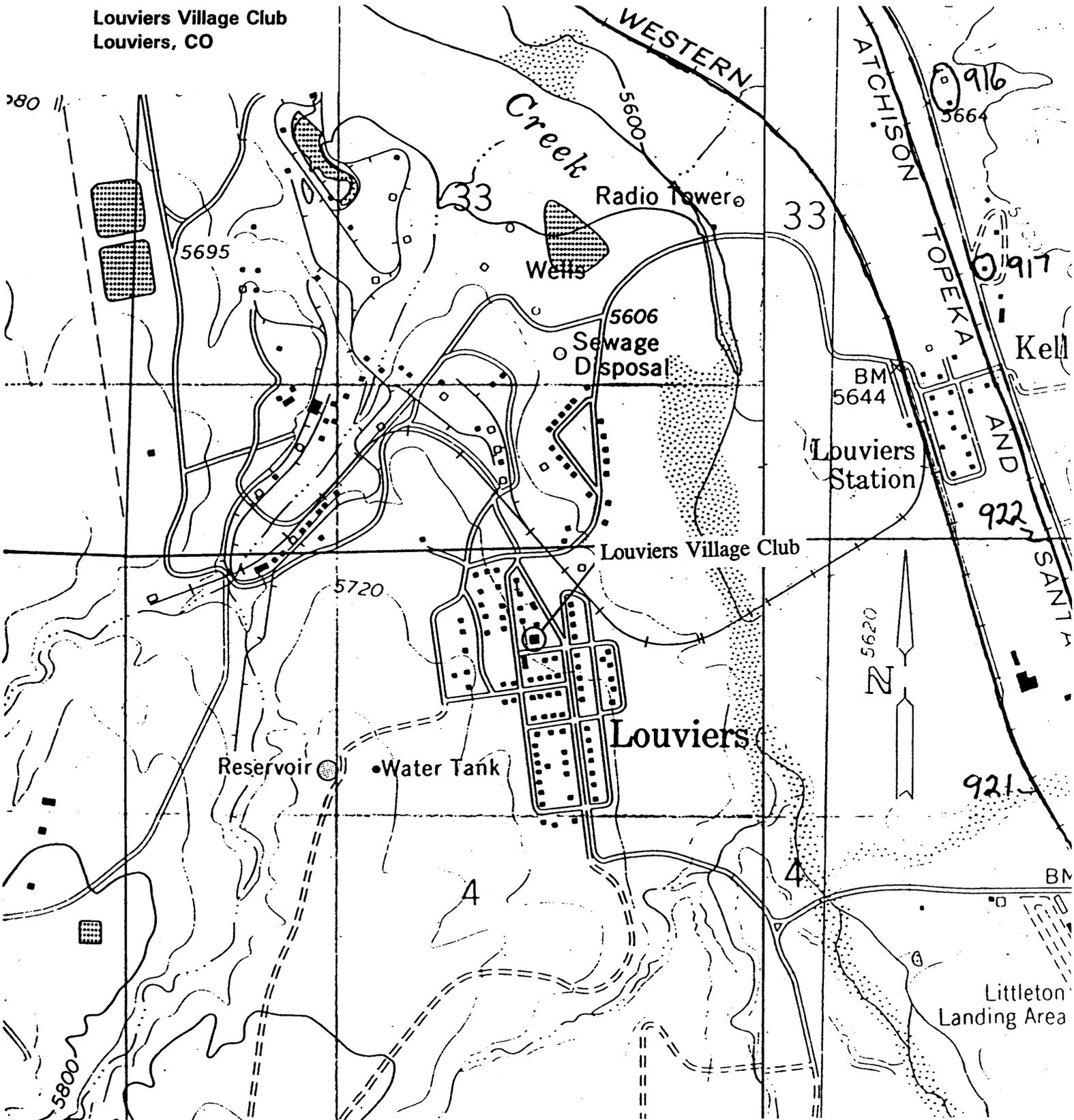
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Louviers Village Club
Louviers, CO



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

**Louviers Village Club
Louviers, CO**

Statement of Significance

The Louviers Village Club is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the explosive industry's contribution to the development of the West, social history as illustrated by the company town movement, and for the information it provides regarding entertainment and recreation in the early Twentieth Century.

Industry

During the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries, E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company pioneered the development and manufacture of explosives in the United States. Business was brisk for the Du Pont Powder Company by the early Twentieth Century, when dynamite products were in great demand for use in mining and in railroad, tunnel and road construction. Du Pont, the nation's leading supplier of explosives at the time, was unable to fill all of the orders for its products. In order to expand its production capabilities, Du Pont sought new sites for the establishment of explosives plants. The company was particularly desirous of locating a plant in the Rocky Mountain region due to the fact that there were then no sources for explosives closer than the West Coast or the Mississippi River. In 1906, Du Pont procured a site on Plum Creek adjacent to the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad line. First called "Toluca" after a station on the line, the name was quickly changed to "Louviers" after the ancestral home in France of the Du Pont family.

Dynamite production at Louviers began in 1908, with over a half million pounds produced the first year. By 1951, "Louviers Works", as the plant was called, produced over two million pounds of dynamite per month and employed 230 workers. In 1971, after the production of an estimated one billion pounds of dynamite, the company shifted emphasis to production of PETN and a new emulsion explosive product⁴. Operations at the plant ceased in the early 1980's. The plant facilities were extensively modified over time in keeping with technological advances, and are still maintained by Du Pont on a caretaking basis. Du Pont retains ownership of the majority of land immediately surrounding the town of Louviers.

Social History

Du Pont built a company town at Louviers in order to provide housing and other amenities to employees of its explosives plant. Company towns played a major role in the industrial

⁴ Fearnow, P.W. 75th Anniversary, Louviers Works, 1908 - 1983. E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, n.d.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

**Louviers Village Club
Louviers, CO**

Statement of Significance (continued)

development of the West in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century and early Twentieth Century⁵. Built out of a need to operate in remote locations, the self-contained company town was supported by a single industry. Though most company towns were associated with the mining or lumber industries, Louviers was one of a handful of towns built to support the manufacture of explosives.

In establishing a town to house its explosives plant employees, Du Pont assumed a role that went beyond a typical employer/employee relationship. The company became landlord, medical services provider, arbitrator of disputes, educator, and social director. The company owned all the housing, charging nominal rent. School teachers and the town doctor were company employees. In Louviers, the mercantile store was privately owned, but occupied company premises. Social control was sometimes enforced by laying off employees for a period of time as "punishment". One Louviers resident recalls that her father was laid off for two weeks because her brother had been caught breaking windows⁶.

Progressive-minded companies like Du Pont expressed an interest in the "social welfare" of employees; indeed, to do so served the company's interest, since labor was in short supply in the teens. In order to attract and keep employees, companies endeavored to establish a sense of community in company towns. In Louviers, the Village Club served as a focal point for the town. Community activities took place at the company-provided Club, and Club dues were deducted from each employee's paycheck.

Entertainment/Recreation

Upon its opening in October 1917⁷, the Village Club housed on the main floor an assembly hall and a pool and billiards room. A writing room and comfortable ladies room occupied the upper story, and a bowling alley was available directly adjacent. The assembly hall was to be used for monthly dances, as well as for planned "moving picture exhibits"⁸, popular activities before the advent of television. Du Pont sponsored the bowling league and soon showed weekly first run movies. The Ladies Red Cross Society held its meetings in the Village Club, and people gathered

⁵ Allen, James B. The Company Town in the American West. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1966.

⁶ Marlene Thomas, Louviers, personal communication.

⁷ "Louviers Club to have Opening", Record Journal of Douglas County, October 12, 1917.

⁸ Record Journal of Douglas County, November 9, 1917.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7

**Louviers Village Club
Louviers, CO**

Statement of Significance (continued)

there to exchange gossip. In 1917, the Village Club was the largest building of its kind in Douglas County⁹.

In 1918, the assembly hall was used as a hospital to care for victims of the influenza epidemic¹⁰. Beginning in the 1930's, the Village Club housed a mercantile store in what had previously been the billiards room. The town post office moved into an upstairs room. Also housed in the Village Club over the years were a shooting range in the basement, a reading room, a barbershop, and a snack concession.

Two of the Village Club's most distinctive features are the two-lane bowling alley and the projection room. **Bowling Alley:** The bowling alley, wholly occupying the wing of the building, is thought to be the oldest continuously-used bowling alley in the state¹¹. This facility remains virtually unchanged--the two lanes, ball return structure, side benches, chalk stand, and tongue-and-groove paneling on the floor and walls are all original materials. The pins are still hand set, though a lift has been installed on the pin cage to assist the pin setter. **Projection Room:** The projection room is located on the upper one-half story of the main building. It contains an asbestos projection booth, necessary because of the flammability of early film materials. The projection booth had windows which could be opened or closed with sliding panels, as well as fire-proof switches. The opening between the projection room and the assembly hall was covered over within the last twenty years when a new ceiling and light fixtures were installed in the assembly hall. Other recent additions are bathrooms on the main floor. Overall, the Village Club building has altered very little since 1917. Not only the exterior, but the interior as well contains a great majority of original materials virtually intact, as well as the original floor plan.

Despite the fact that the Louviers explosives plant operated for more than 75 years, represented at one time the only major industry in Douglas County, and was one of the County's largest taxpayers, Louviers has never been widely known. The Village Club is centrally located in the town, an isolated community of approximately one hundred houses. The town is screened by large trees, and does not lie on a direct route to any other area. Retaining much of its original character, Louviers is one of the best preserved former company towns in the West. A great

⁹ Marr, Josephine Lowell. Douglas County: A Historical Journey. Gunnison, CO: B & B Printers, 1983.

¹⁰ Oral history interview of Jack P. Colvin, Louviers, March 15, 1990. Interviewed by H.L. Noble. Text on file at the Louviers Branch, Douglas Public Library District.

¹¹ Beiter, Jeri, "Remember when Louviers was 'Taluca'??", Douglas County News Press, November 16, 1972.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 8

**Louviers Village Club
Louviers, CO**

Statement of Significance (continued)

majority of the community's houses were built in the teens, and reflect the typical company town hierarchy, wherein the houses on the highest hill constitute "management row", becoming progressively simpler as one descends to the worker housing on the "flats" near Plum Creek. Many former Du Pont employees and their offspring still live in Louviers. Though the community's

houses were sold to private owners in 1961 and the explosives plant no longer operates, the Village Club is still the heart of the community's social life.

Level of significance

The Louviers Village Club is considered to be of state historical significance. The building is the centerpiece of one of the best preserved company towns in the West, supplier of the explosives that contributed so significantly to mining, railroads and the construction industry. The clubhouse building has been altered very little since its construction in 1917, and continues to function as a community gathering place. Located on its original site, the building retains its original character and materials both inside and outside, and is believed to be the best example in the state of a former company town recreational hall. The Louviers Village Club bowling alley may be the oldest continuously-used bowling facility in Colorado.

Within Colorado, perhaps the two most historically intact former company towns are Louviers and Cokedale. Cokedale, a coal camp near Trinidad, was built in 1906 and 1907 by the American Smelting and Refining Company. Cokedale, like Louviers, consists of approximately one hundred houses. Most of Cokedale's houses and some of the public and commercial buildings have remained essentially intact, and Cokedale has been designated a National Historic District. Although Cokedale has a mercantile, mine office, boarding house, school and other public buildings, there is no clubhouse or historic community center.

A recreation hall in Uravan, a former company town in western Colorado, contributes to a State Historic District. However, the recreation hall was formerly a Civilian Conservation Corps building moved to its present location in the 1940's.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 9

**Louviers Village Club
Louviers, CO**

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Prints & Photographs Department, Manuscripts & Archives Department, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware.

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"Louviers, Modern, Industrial Growing Village", December 16, 1921.

"Louviers Club to have Opening", October 12, 1917.

_____, November 9, 1917.

Schirer, David L. "Louviers Reconnaissance Level Survey: Final Report", Intermountain Archaeological Consultants, 1989. Manuscript on file, Colorado Historical Society.

Thomas, Marlene. Interview by Barbara Whiton.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 10

**Louviers Village Club
Louviers, CO**

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 5, Block 5, Louviers Subdivision
NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 4, Township 7 South, Range 68 West

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Village Club.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 12

**Louviers Village Club
Louviers, CO**

Key to Photographs (continued)

- 8 - Main building on right, bowling alley wing on left, looking north, south elevation.
- 9 - Main building on right, bowling alley wing on left, looking northeast, west and south elevations.
- 10 - Bowling alley in foreground, main building behind, looking east, west and north elevations.
- 11 - Covered walkway connecting the main building (left) and wing (right), looking south, north elevation.
- 12 - Staircase and "storefront" (for concession stand) facade, ground floor, main building.
- 13 - Storefront facade (for concession stand), ground floor, main building.
- 14 - Assembly hall, ground floor, main building.
- 15 - Meeting room, ground floor, main building. Former location of the billiards room, later the mercantile store. Room with doorway shown on left was used for cold storage when the building housed a mercantile store; later the room was used as a barbershop.
- 16 - Library room, upper floor, main building. Former location of the post office. Note grill work above the desk and arched window in left center.
- 17 - Library room, upper floor, main building. Note the casement windows. Shelving in the center of photo and to the left (out of photo) are believed to be original furnishings.
- 18 - Projection booth, upper floor, main building.
- 19 - Inside the projection booth, upper floor, main building. Note the sliding panels and the fire-proof switches at the right.
- 20 - Hallway, ground floor, main building. Tongue and groove paneling, button-type light switch, door and door hinge are shown.
- 21 - Two-lane bowling alley. Note the tongue and groove paneling on walls and ceiling, ball retrieval system on the left and benches on the right.
- 22 - Bowling alley. Pin cage and ball retrieval system are shown.
- 23 - Bowling alley. Chalk stand.

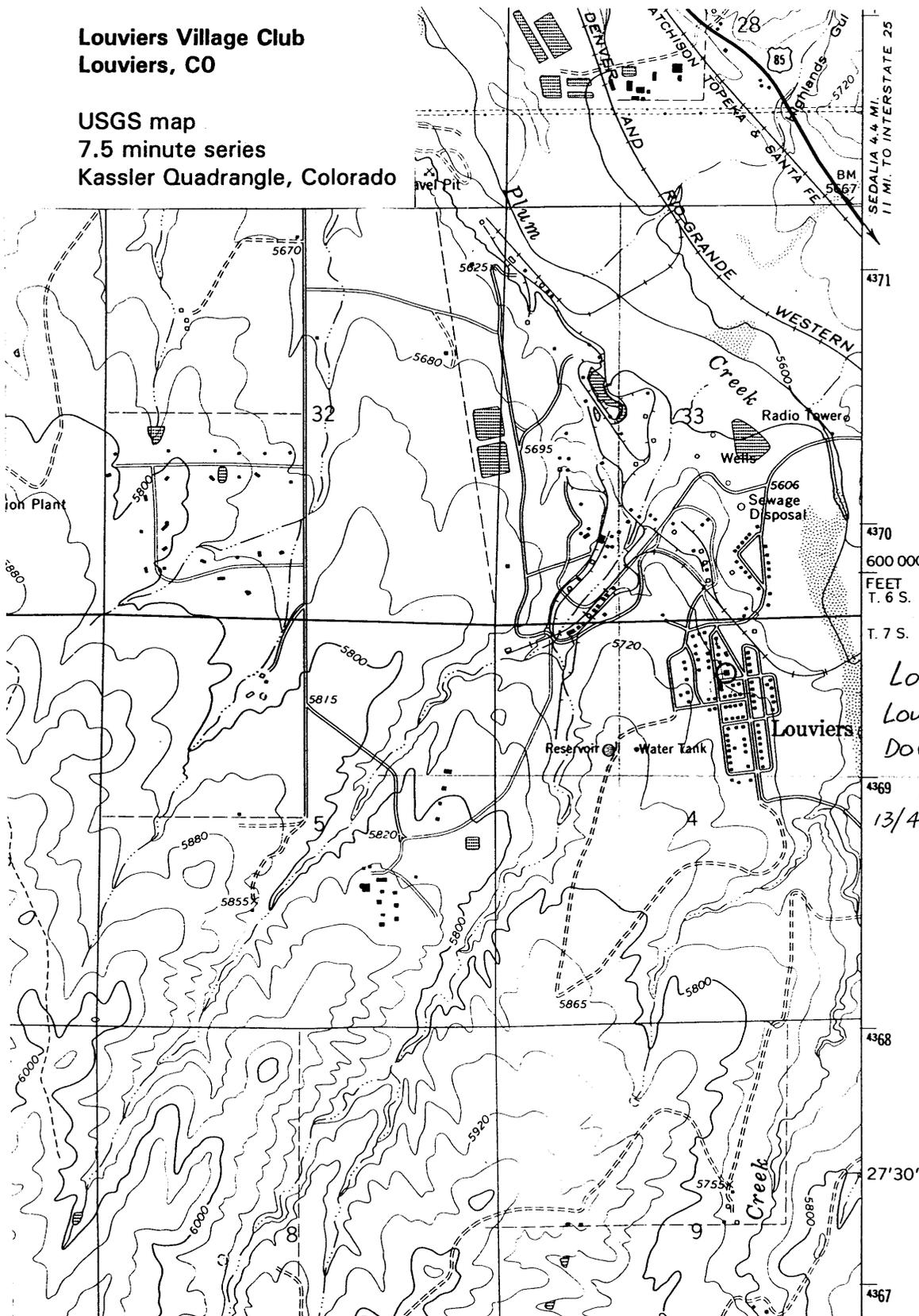
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 13

Louviere Village Club
Louviere, CO

USGS map
7.5 minute series
Kassler Quadrangle, Colorado



LOUVIERE VILLAGE CLUB
LOUVIERE, COLORADO
DOUGLAS COUNTY

UTM REFERENCE:
13/499440/4369400