

Architectural Inventory Form

- Date _____ Initials _____
- Determined Eligible - National Register
 - Determined Not Eligible - National Register
 - Determined Eligible - State Register
 - Determined Not Eligible - State Register
 - Need Data
 - Contributes to eligible National Register District
 - Noncontributing to eligible NR District

I. Identification

1. Resource number: 5HN68.39
2. Temporary resource number: 185
3. County: Hinsdale
4. City: Lake City
5. Historic building name: Hilgenhaus-Whinnery House
6. Current building name:
7. Building address: 531 Gunnison Avenue, Lake City, CO 81235
8. Owner name and address: Scott Creel, P.O. Box 3976 , Telluride CO 81435

II. Geographic Information

County Property No.: R1141

9. P.M. 6th Township 44N Range 4W SW4 of SW4 of NE4 of SW4 of Section 34
10. UTM reference
Zone 13 296920 mE 4211700 mN
11. USGS quad name: Lake City Quad year: 1985 Map scale: X 7.5' ___ 15'
12. Block(s): 39 Lot(s): 1-4 Legal:
Addition: Year of Addition:
13. Boundary description and justification: Perimeter of parcel

III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan: Irregular
15. Dimensions: 1454 square feet
16. Number of stories: 1
17. External wall material(s): Brick
18. Roof configuration: Half hipped
19. Roof material: Wood shingle
20. Special features: Porch, chimney, fence, garage
21. General architectural description:
One-story, half-hipped dwelling of painted brick. Roofed in wood shingles; brick chimney on south roof slope. North elevation has shingled gable end and brick fireplace chimney. East elevation has gambrel dormer with paired 1-over-1 windows surmounted by decorative hood. West elevation has wood-shingled, gabled dormer. Windows are 1-over-1 with functional shutters; sills and lintels with decorative molding are of stone or clay.
East elevation (façade) has partial-width, half-hipped porch supported by classical columns. It shelters a centered entrance with 4-over-4 door and a transom. Gabled addition on rear, clad in clapboards with wood shingles in the gable end. From it extends a flat-roofed picnic shelter. Foundation covered in wide concrete band.
22. Architectural style/Building type: Late Victorian
23. Landscaping or special setting:
Prominent corner lot enclosed in chain link fence. Mature blue spruce along north and south street edge; also directly in front of house partially obscuring façade.

24. Associated building, features or objects:

Carriage house, circa 1880

One-story, front-gabled frame building. Roofed in wood shingles; walls clad in clapboards and trimmed in cornerboards and friezeboard. Entrance in north elevation has crown molding and swing-out doors. Paneled door on south elevation.

Shed, circa 1920

Long low shed-roofed frame building clad in vertical board. North elevation attached to garage.

Privy, circa 1920

Small, one-story gabled frame building. Roofed in wood shingles and clad in clapboards with cornerboard trim. Small triangular cut-out in gable ends.

IV. Architectural History

25. Date of construction Estimate: _____ Actual: 1881 Source of info: Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., December 11, 1880, page 3, Sat., January 8, 1881, page 3, Sat., March 19, 1881, page 3.
26. Architect: Unknown Source of info:
27. Builder/contractor: Unknown Source of info:
28. Original owner: Charles Ferdinand Hilgenhaus Source of info: Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., January 8, 1881, page 3, Sat., March 19, 1881, page 3
29. Construction history (major additions, alterations, demolitions):
Porch replaced circa 1921. In 1950: fireplace chimney built on north elevation; bricks painted white; roof covered in wood shingles; carport built on to rear of the house.
30. Original location: Moved Date of move(s) _____

V. Historical Associations

31. Original use(s): Single dwelling
32. Intermediate use(s):
33. Current use(s): Single dwelling
34. Site type(s):
35. Historical background:

Charles Ferdinand Hilgenhaus (1853-1910) was a native of Hassen Darnstadt, Germany, who migrated west to Colorado after spending his boyhood in New York State. He is mentioned in Lake City newspapers starting in 1879 in connection with his partnership in a German saloon known as the San Juan Beer Hall which was located near the northeast corner of Gunnison Avenue and Third Street. Under the headline "A Tumble!," Lake City MINING REGISTER announced a reduction in prices at Hilgenhaus & Co.'s San Juan Beer & Billiard Hall -- "the coolest place in town" -- in July, 1881. Prices at Hilgenhaus & Co.'s hall ranged from two drinks of whisky for 25-cents to Lake City beer at 10-cents, and liquors "kept on ice in a cool, refreshing condition."

In addition to his Gunnison Avenue beer hall, Hilgenhaus also operated a German beer garden a short distance up Henson Creek which featured a band pavilion, dancing platform, arched bridges, and shady bowers with swings. Located on a floodplain, the beer garden lasted only few years before being washed away. C.F. Hilgenhaus' civic associations included a post as officer with the Pitkin Guards state militia and several acting roles on stage with the Hinsdale Club; he sang the duet "Poet and Pleasant" at a Presbyterian Church benefit in 1882 and, perhaps best known, played several solos on the zither during an October, 1881, telephone concert featuring musicians and vocalists from Lake City, Capitol City, Rose's Cabin, Mineral Point, Animas Forks, Silverton, and Ouray.

Mirroring downward economic trends, C.F. Hilgenhaus closed the San Juan Beer Hall in May, 1886, and shipped the bar fixtures to Telluride, Colorado. In later years he served as Telluride Postmaster, conducted a clothing store with John A. Adams, and represented San Miguel County in the state

legislature 1896-97. He died in Telluride in 1910.

C.F. Hilgenhaus and Henry Kohler, another prominent Lake City businessman with a German heritage, were bachelors when they contracted with Samuel Tarkington to construct two brick residences for their "brides from far across the seas." Work on the Hilgenhaus house at 531 Gunnison and Kohler house, 500 Silver, began in December, 1880. Lake City newspapers followed progress on both dwellings, the Lake City SILVER WORLD remarking that the hipped roof on the Hilgenhaus house was "a reminder of the houses at Fred's old home near "Bingen, sweet Bingen on the Rhine." Carpentry work on both the Hilgenhaus and Kohler houses was in charge of local contractor A.J. Fjelle who timed his schedule to start work on the interior of the homes after finishing carpentry on the Hough Block. Fjelle's carpentry work included extant decorative lintels over the two-over-two downstairs windows, and a decorative lintel in a sunburst pattern over paired one-over-one windows in the gambrel-shaped front dormer.

Newspapers referenced the fact both houses were intended for the reception of brides Hilgenhaus and Kohler intended to bring to Lake City from Germany. Henry Kohler married Sophia Nightingale in March, 1881, in Germany and presented his new house to his wife after their return to Lake City. C.F. Hilgenhaus continued as a bachelor after moving into his house in summer, 1881; he married Louise Mohrhardt in Hoboken, New Jersey, in June, 1882. The couple immediately returned to Lake City; their only child, Antoinette, was born at 531 Gunnison in 1883. Following Hilgenhaus' departure for Telluride, the house was rented to Lake City barber Charles Forberg in 1886, followed by Angus Snedaker, a mine manager, in 1890. George J. Richards was a renter in the Hilgenhaus house in 1896, and Lake City TIMES editor C.V. Kinney lived there in 1914.

The property was acquired by Rev. Charles Fueller who was minister at First Presbyterian Church and later passed to his daughter, Finella (Fueller) Whinnery, wife of local businessman Webster S. Whinnery. The Whinnerys had successively made their home at 605 Silver and 513 Silver prior to moving to the Hilgenhaus house in April, 1922. Renovation work had been ongoing at the house since December, 1921, the result being a residence which "has been completely renovated and has many elegant features." It was probably during the 1921/22 remodel that the front porch was altered. The original flat-roofed porch with two square columns and decorative brackets was much smaller, covering only a small stoop directly in front of the main entrance door. Whinnery's remodeled porch from 1921/22 sports an angled roof supported by four round wood columns and shelters both the entrance door and two windows located on either side of the door. The architectural theme of round wood support columns is carried into the interior of the house with two columns forming a divider between the formal parlor and dining room of the house.

W.S. and Finella Whinnery relocated their primary residence to Gunnison by the late 1930s and in April, 1940, sold the Hilgenhaus house to H.B. "Jimmy" Grant, owner of the Occidental Hotel on Silver Street. Successive owners following Grant were I.J. "Frenchy" Huval, a Texas businessman involved in oil well drilling, in 1949, and Kansas businessman Lewis Mull after 1973. Huval built a brick fireplace chimney on the north elevation in 1950. Exterior brick walls were painted white with blue trim during Huval's ownership, together with small shed-roof addition and car port which are attached to the rear of the house; Mull installed a shake shingle roof. The house is currently owned by Scott Creel of Telluride, Colorado.

36. Sources of information:

Historical Register, Crystal Lake Masonic Lodge, No. 34, page 84; Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., May 10, 1879, page 3; Sat., December 11, 1880, page 3, Sat., January 8, 1881, page 3, Sat., March 19, 1881, page 3, Sat., October 29, 1881, page 3, Sat., May 29, 1886, page 3, Sat., August 28, 1886, page 2, Thurs., December 1, 1921, page 3; Lake City MINING REGISTER, Fri., July 22, 1881, page 3, Fri., December 1, 1882, page 3, Fri., December 21, 1883, page 3; Hinsdale PHONOGRAPH, Sat., December 20, 1890, page 4; Lake City TIMES, Thurs., July 23, 1914, page 3; Daily JOURNAL, Telluride, Colorado, November 1, 1910, page 1; Gunnison NEWS-CHAMPION, Thurs., May 2, 1940, page 8, Thurs., August 4, 1949, page 2, Thurs., September 1, 1949, page 2, Thurs., June 8, 1950, page 2, Thurs., July 19, 1973, page 6.

VI. Significance

37. Local landmark: Yes No Date of design.: _____ Design. authority: _____
Within Lake City Historic District (local historic district)
38. Applicable National Register Criteria:
- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory
- Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G
- Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria
39. Area(s) of significance: Social history, architecture
40. Period of significance: 1881 - 1904, 1949 - 1952
41. Level of significance: National State Local
42. Statement of significance:
- This house is associated with settlement and development of Lake City during the late 1800s mining era. It is a well-preserved representative of the dwellings constructed in Lake City during this period, as reflected in its brick materials, half-hipped roof, entry porch, prominent central dormer, and 2-over-2 double hung windows. The carriage house/garage, shed, and privy, barn located at the rear of the lot near the alley are also associated with settlement and development of Lake City. They are representative of the outbuildings constructed in Lake City in the late 1800s and early 1900s as reflected in their alley location, frame construction, and wood siding.
- The house is also associated with tourism and recreation, having become a summer dwelling in in the late 1940s. The brick fireplace chimney added on the north elevation and carport and picnic shelter constructed on the rear are consistent with alterations made by home owners to accommodate the mining-era dwellings for summer use.
43. Assessment of historic physical integrity to significance:
Although somewhat altered, this dwelling retains its architectural integrity.

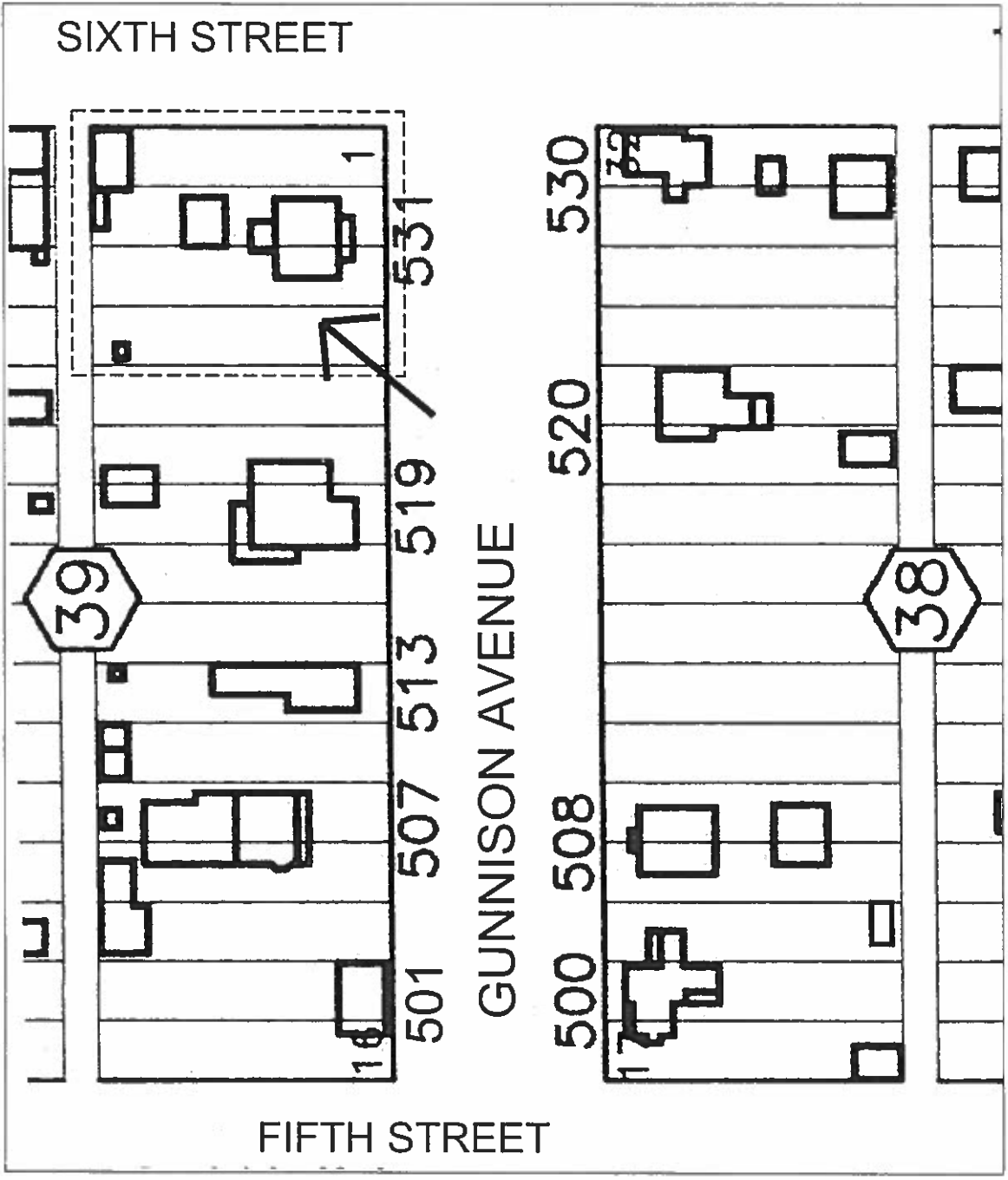
VII. National Register Eligibility Assessment

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: Eligible Not Eligible Need Data
45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes No
Discuss _____
- If there is National Register district potential, is this building Contributing Noncontributing
46. If the building is in an existing National Register district is it? Contributing Noncontributing
(Lake City National Historic District)

VIII. Recording Information

47. Photograph numbers: Roll 18, frames 19-22; roll 19, frame 9; roll 31, frame 4 Negatives filed at: Lake City Town Hall
48. Report title: 2003 Architectural Survey of Lake City, Colorado
49. Date(s): September 2002 - June 2003
50. Recordors Cathleen M. Norman and Grant E. Houston
51. Organization: Town of Lake City
52. Address: 230 Bluff Street, Lake City CO 81235 53. Phone no. (970) 944-2333

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1300 Broadway, Denver CO 80203 (303) 866-3395



5HN68.39

531 Gunnison Avenue