

Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination
(for OAHP use only)

- 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: 5HN68.129
2. Temporary resource number: 106
3. County: Hinsdale
4. City: Lake City
5. Historic building name: Williams House
6. Current building name:
7. Building address: 628 Silver Street, Lake City, CO 81235
8. Owner name and address: Don Gaydon, 5724 70th Place, Lubbock TX 79424

II. Geographic Information

County Property No.: R997

9. P.M. 6th Township 44N Range 4W SW4 of NW4 of NE4 of SW4 of Section 27
10. UTM reference
Zone 13 296920 mE 4211860 mN
11. USGS quad name: Lake City Quad year: 1985 Map scale: X 7.5' ___ 15'
12. Block(s): 26 Lot(s): 29-30 Legal:
Addition: Year of Addition:
13. Boundary description and justification: Perimeter of parcel

III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan: Rectangular
15. Dimensions: 638 square feet
16. Number of stories: 1
17. External wall material(s): Wood horizontal siding
18. Roof configuration: Front gabled
19. Roof material: Wood shingle
20. Special features: Chimney, fence
21. General architectural description:
One-story, front-gabled frame dwelling. Roofed in wood shingles with corbeled brick chimney in roof ridge. Walls clad in clapboards and trimmed with friezeboard and with cornerboards with capitals. Façade has centered entrance with transom and paneled door with dentil band above. Windows are 2-over-2 double hungs in façade, multi-lites on south elevation and rear addition, small window in east gable end. Façade door and windows have label molding. Rear, hipped addition contains kitchen and bathroom; is clad in hardboard, has paneled door. Foundation covered in horizontal board.
22. Architectural style/Building type: Carpenter Gothic
23. Landscaping or special setting:
Fence along front edge of yard.

IV. Architectural History

25. Date of construction Estimate: _____ Actual: 1888 Source of info: Hinsdale County Tax Rolls, 1881-1936
26. Architect: Unknown Source of info:
27. Builder/contractor: Unknown Source of info:
28. Original owner: Willis and Emily Williams Source of info: Hinsdale County Tax Rolls, 1881-1936
29. Construction history (major additions, alterations, demolitions):
Kitchen and bathroom addition built on rear in 1986. (source: Tax Assessor Appraisal Card).
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): Seasonal dwelling
34. Site type(s):
35. Historical background:

Natural topography of the Lake City townsite resulted in development of the higher, drier ground at the earliest date, with buildings gradually built northward into the lower, wetter part of town with the development of better drainage after 1900. An exception is the single story frame residence built by Willis and Emily Williams in 1888 in what was then a rural area of pasture and marsh to the immediate north of Lake City Public School. Of African-American descent, the Williams were former slaves who owned a small herd of dairy cattle and raised potatoes (four tons of potatoes were harvested from the Williams' lots in fall, 1891) based from their house and adjoining lots in Block 26 on the northern end of Silver Street.

Willis and Emily Williams arrived in Lake City in 1876 from West Las Animas, Colorado, to assist William and Mary O'Connor at the American House Hotel on Gunnison Avenue. The Williams were listed as laborer and laundress, both age 40 and unable to read or write, in 1880 Federal Census for Hinsdale County. In addition to their work as hotel servants, Willis and Emily Williams were business entrepreneurs, starting a herd of dairy cows and delivering milk on a wagon pulled by the docile horse Jim. Emily Williams also took in laundry and assisted with house cleaning, Catherine Abbott Chase recalling that the former slave couple assisted with household chores at the home of her parents (Abbott House, 313 Bluff Street). Emily "once came to serve at a dinner party with a red bandanna and coonskin cap on top of it," Mrs. Chase stated in a 1956 interview. Catherine Abbott Chase also stated that her mother would have been "distressed" if she had known Emily Williams also took in and delivered laundry for the south Bluff Street brothels in Hell's Acre.

It was presumably the savings from their hotel, laundry and dairy work that enabled Willis Williams to purchase three Block 26 lots from M. Kayser & Co. in 1888 and construct the front-gabled house at 618 Silver Street. Visitors to the home such as Ewart sisters Helen and Lizzie recalled that a central feature of the front parlor was a gilt framed portrait of President Abraham Lincoln. Emily Williams served as an impromptu medical nurse, using her home to care for critically ill individuals such as May Scott and Hugh Cameron who died at the Williams house respectively in 1902 and 1908. Willis Williams died at the home in October, 1901, the Lake City TIMES noting "By his happy, cheerful nature he became well liked by all our people, and his absence from the streets will be noted."

A memorable "jump the broomstick" wedding took ceremony took place at the residence in 1906 when Emily Williams married Richard Price. She continued to live in the home until her death in 1919 and Richard Price owned the Block 26 house and lots until shortly before his death in 1932. The property passed to the Ben F. Hunt Estate, with the notable log-sided privy at the rear of the property probably dating from Hunt ownership in the late 1930s. The house was renovated by its current owner, Don Gaydon, in 1988, with an ornamental picket fence added to the front of the property in 1989

36. Sources of information:

Hinsdale County Tax Rolls, 1881-1936; "Tiny Hinsdale of the Silvery San Juan" by Carolyn and Clarence Wright, Big Mountain Press, 1964, pages 180-181; Federal Census of Hinsdale County, Colorado, 1880 and 1900; transcript of interview with Catherine Abbott Chase, July 25, 1957; Interview

with Lizzie Vickers and Helen Ewart, October 4, 1981; Lake City TIMES, October 15, 1891, page 1, October 10, 1901, page 2, January 9, 1902, page 3, August 16, 1906, page 3, September 24, 1908, page 3, October 12, 1911, page 3; Lake City SILVER WORLD, February 6, 1919, page 3, October 13, 1932, page 2.

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: 1888 -1904

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 was built by Willis and Emily Williams, among Lake City's few African-American residents. It is a well-preserved representative of the local interpretation of the Carpenter Gothic style constructed in Lake City during this period, as reflected in its clapboard exterior, brackets, dentils, narrow windows, and window label molding.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity to significance:

The architectural integrity of this dwelling is intact, as evidenced by minimal alterations to its character-defining features.

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 6, frames 3-4; 7, frames 11-12 Negatives filed at: Lake City Town Hall

48. Report title: 2003 Architectural Survey of Lake City, Colorado

49. Date(s): September 2002 - June 2003

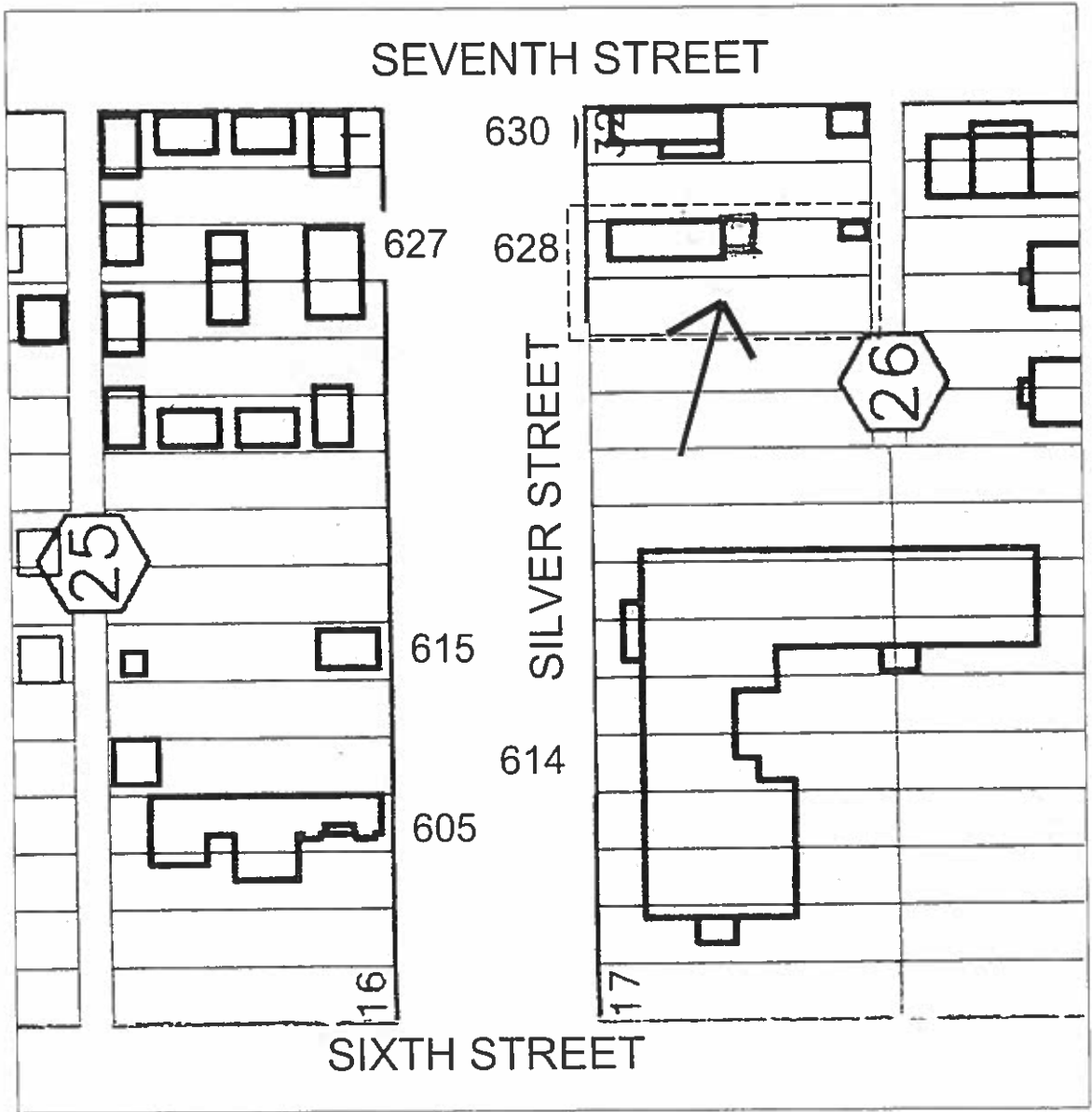
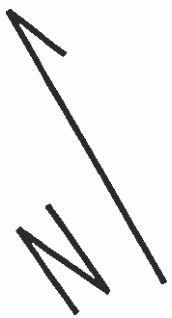
50. Recorders Cathleen M. Norman and Grant E. Houston

51. Organization: Town of Lake City

52. Address: 230 Bluff Street, Lake City CO 81235

53. Phone no. (970) 944-2333

Colorado Historical Society - Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1300 Broadway, Denver CO 80203 (303) 866-3395



NOT TO SCALE