

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: 5HN68.123
2. Temporary resource number: 97
3. County: Hinsdale
4. City: Lake City
5. Historic building name: Murphy-Kirker House
6. Current building name:
7. Building address: 521 Silver Street, Lake City, CO 81235
8. Owner name and address: William Wesley May, Diane May Ellis, Kathleen May Tait and Mary May Brown, 3415 Elliott Street, Alexandria LA 71301

II. Geographic Information

County Property No.: R1110

9. P.M. 6th Township 44N Range 4W SE4 of SE4 of NW4 of SW4 of Section 27
10. UTM reference
Zone 13 296810 mE 4211720 mN
11. USGS quad name: Lake City Quad year: 1985 Map scale: X 7.5' ___ 15'
12. Block(s): 72 Lot(s): 6 Legal:
Addition: Year of Addition:
13. Boundary description and justification: Perimeter of parcel

III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan: Irregular
15. Dimensons: 656 square feet
16. Number of stories: 1-1/2, 1
17. External wall material(s): Wood horizontal siding
18. Roof configuration: Front gabled
19. Roof material: Metal
20. Special features: Porch, chimney, decorative shingles
21. General architectural description:
One- and 1-1/2 story front-gabled frame dwelling clad in clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards. Roofed in corrugated metal; brick chimney in roof ridge. Top of gable end is clad in fish scale shingles. Gabled entry porch has turned posts, decorative brackets, and fish scale shingles in the gable end. It shelters a glazed and paneled door with paired, round-arched panels, and screen door with a bracketed crown. Gable wall has paired 1-over-1 double hung windows with bracketed hoods with scrolled brackets. Other windows are also 1-over-1 double hung. Gabled addition on rear. Foundation is not visible.
22. Architectural style/Building type: Italianate
23. Landscaping or special setting:

24. Associated building, features or objects:

Shed, circa 1920

Shed-roofed frame building with corrugated metal roof and walls clad in horizontal boards. Board door.

IV. Architectural History

25. Date of construction Estimate: _____ Actual: 1890 Source of info: Hinsdale County tax rolls, 1882-1909

26. Architect: None Source of info:

27. Builder/contractor: Unknown Source of info:

28. Original owner: John L. and Ella C. Murphy Source of info: Hinsdale County tax rolls, 1882-1909

29. Construction history (major additions, alterations, demolitions):

Renovated in 1895, following a fire that gutted the dwelling (Lake City TIMES, Thurs., March 3, 1892, Thurs., December 14, 1893, page 3). Large addition built on northwest corner in 1982. (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): Single dwelling

34. Site type(s):

35. Historical background:

This single story frame house first shows up in 1890 tax rolls as a \$300 improvement on land owned by Ella C. Murphy. Mrs. Murphy and her husband, John L. Murphy, acquired the vacant land from Leon Lefevre the previous year for \$150. Mr. Murphy was a butcher who operated shops in Lake City beginning in 1882, associating himself at different times with such well known meat dealers as Albert Greenfield, F.M. Mendenhall, J.J. Pride, and W.S. Whinnery. In 1884 J.L. Murphy & Co. advertised "fresh and salt meats, vegetables, etc." at their store on Third Street.

A house fire in December, 1893, gutted both the James L. Ray house (525 Silver Street) and the adjoining Ella C. Murphy house, 521 Silver Street. Firemen worked to save the houses, which were separated by a narrow 6" gap. According to the Lake City TIMES, the Murphy house "soon caught fire and the building was almost entirely destroyed, but not until after all the furniture was removed. On account of the deep snow the hose companies were slow in getting to the fire, and when the boys arrived they were about played out from running and the hard pull through the snow."

The Murphy house, though gutted by the fire, remained standing and in March, 1894, its shell was sold to builder J.H. Rhoads who renovated the structure and sold it to Josiah S. Kirker for \$326 on January 2, 1895. A native of Ohio, J.S. Kirker (1859-1898) followed prospecting after coming to Lake City with his father and brothers in 1876. Unable to continue work after developing miners' consumption, he was elected Hinsdale County Clerk & Recorder. He died in May, 1898.

Kirker's widow remarried and in 1909 sold the house for \$410 to Katie Ewart. Mrs. Ewart was a native of Denmark who married mine cook Rowland W. Ewart in Lake City in 1901. Mr. Ewart died during the influenza epidemic in 1920 and Katie Ewart continued to live in the Silver Street home where, as a widow, she raised two sons and five daughters. The property was acquired by Clarence E. Wright after William Ewart moved his mother into the neighboring Thompson-Whinnery House, 513 Silver Street. The house's current owner is Mary Belle May of Alexandria, Louisiana.

A c.1920 coal shed with exposed 2x4 timber framing is located on the alley behind the Murphy-Kirker house

36. Sources of information:

Hinsdale County tax rolls, 1882-1909; Abstract of Title to Lot 6, Block 40, Town of Lake City, June 3, 1889, to June 10, 1909; Lake City MINING REGISTER, Fri., July 18, 1884, page 3; Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., August 8, 1885, page 3; Hinsdale PHONOGRAPH, Fri., December 21, 1888, page 1; Lake City TIMES, Thurs., March 3, 1892, Thurs., December 14, 1893, page 3, Thurs., March 22, 1894,

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: 1890 - 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 is well-preserved representative of the local interpretation of the Italianate style constructed in Lake City during this period, as reflected in its clapboard exterior, porch brackets, narrow windows, and triangular window heads.

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 5, frames 5A-7A, 25A-26A; Roll 8, frames 1, 2 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