

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination
(OAH P use only)

OAH P1403
Rev. 9/98

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

I. IDENTIFICATION

- 1. Resource number: **5RT.2665** Parcel number(s): **115209019**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **Routt**
- 4. City: **Steamboat Springs**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Wren House; Whitecotton House**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Lobeck House**
- 7. Building Address: **112 Spruce Street**
- 8. Owner Name: **Erik Lobeck**
- Owner Organization:
- Owner Address: **P O Box 882527**
Steamboat Springs, Co 80488-2527



44. National Register eligibility field assessment:	Not Eligible
Local landmark eligibility field assessment:	Not Eligible

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II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **6th** Township: **6N** Range: **84W**
SW ¼ of NE ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 8
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)
 Zone: **13** **345205 mE** **4483632 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Steamboat Springs, Colorado**
 Year: **1969** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **Lots 19 & 20, Block 9**
 Addition: **Crawford Addition** Year of addition: **1901**
13. Boundary description and justification:
This legally defined parcel encompasses, but does not exceed, the land historically associated with this property.
 Metes and bounds?: Describe:

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

14. Building plan (footprint, shape): **L-Shaped Plan**
15. Dimensions in feet: **Length: 40 feet x Width: 20 feet**
16. Number of stories: **1**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Wood/Vertical Siding**
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof/Front Gabled Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Metal Roof**
20. Special features: **Porch**
Fence
21. General architectural description:
The residence at 112 Spruce Street consists of an main single-story front gabled section, which measures 26' N-S (deep) by 20' E-W (across), and a 14' N-S by 10' E-W gabled extension to the east end of the north (rear) elevation. The house is supported by a low unpainted concrete foundation, and its exterior walls are clad with stained brown vertical wood siding with 1" by 4" corner boards. The house's front gable roof is covered with metal roofing material, while stained dark brown 2x rafter ends are exposed beneath the eaves. The home's windows are primarily 1/1 double-hung sash with painted forest green wood frames and painted bright green wood surrounds. The house features a symmetrical façade which faces toward Spruce Street on the south elevation. A blue solid wood, or metal, door, with one square upper sash light, enters the center of the façade from an open front porch which measures 5' by 6'. This porch is approached by three wooden steps, and features a wood plank floor, two stained dark brown 4" by 4" wood post supports, and a gable roof. The front porch is flanked on either side by a 1/1 double-hung sash window. A blue solid wood, or metal, door, with an upper sash light, enters the gabled extension near the east end of the north elevation from a 2-step, uncovered wood porch/deck.
22. Architectural style: **No Style**
 Building type:

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23. Landscape or special setting features: **This property is located on the north side of Spruce Street in the block west of Larimer Street. A planted grass yard surrounds the house. A tall fir tree is located in the front yard, which is partially enclosed by a painted white picket fence paralleling Spruce Street.**

24. Associated buildings, features or objects: **Not Applicable**

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: **1941** Actual:
 Source of information: **Routt County Assessor/Treasurer, Parcel Detail Information; Routt County Residential Property Appraisal Record**

26. Architect: **Unknown**

Source of information: **N/A**

27. Builder: **Unknown**

Source of information: **N/A**

28. Original owner: **Unknown**

Source of information: **N/A**

29. Construction history:

Routt County Assessor records indicate that this 26' by 20' front gabled house was built in 1941, and that the 14' by 10' gabled addition at the east end of the north (rear) elevation was constructed in 1962. The home's stained brown vertical wood siding is probably not historic; however, the date it was installed is unknown. Routt County Assessor records reveal that until recently, a small building, which measured 22' N-S by 14' E-W, existed near the rear of the property. This no longer extant secondary building may have been a secondary residence with the address 113 Spruce Street.

30. Original location: Moved: Date of move(s):

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Domestic/Single Dwelling**

32. Intermediate use(s): **Domestic/Single Dwelling**

33. Current use(s): **Domestic/Single Dwelling**

34. Site type(s): **Single family residence**

35. Historical background:

Steamboat Springs pioneer citizen Ward Wren is listed as this house's resident in the (earliest available) 1956 Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph directory. Mr. Wren passed away just two years later at the advanced age of 89. Members of the Wren family were also associated with the property at 203 Spruce Street (5RT.2484), and the length of time prior to 1956 that Mr. Wren may have been associated with this property has not been researched. Amasa W. "Ward" Wren was born in Decatur, Illinois on August 13, 1868. He and his wife Beulah, were early Routt County pioneers having arrived in the region from Kansas in the winter of 1894. Ward initially found work as a cattle feeder in Elgeria Park, while Beulah worked as a ranch cook and looked after sons Theron and Ralph, born respectively in 1887 and 1892. The Wrens moved to Steamboat Springs in the spring of 1895,

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where Beulah established a millinery store, and where Ward hauled freight, and would later gain employment with the Routt County Road Department. By the 1910s, he had become the county road overseer, a position he would hold until his retirement in 1954.

As the Wren family settled in Steamboat Springs in the late 1890s, another son, Laurence (Lawrence?) "Tuffy" was born in 1897, followed by a daughter, Florence, in 1899 or 1900. Nicknamed "Tuffy" Laurence Wren, as a young man, enjoyed an acclaimed career as a western bronc rider and true western rodeo cowboy. He was married to Emma Paulson in 1917, and fathered two sons - Hubert, who died in infancy, and Gordon, who would grow up to become a famous Olympic skier. Emma (Poulson) Wren died in 1924, and in 1925, Tuffy married his second wife, Marie Greenwald of Fort Morgan. The remained married until Tuffy's death in January 1988 at the age of 91. In the intervening years, Beulah Wren had passed away in 1952, at the age of 90, and Ward Wren had died in 1958 at the age of 89. Maria (Greenwald) Wren died in 1992.

Steamboat Springs native Gordon L. "Gordy" Wren (born in 1919 and died in 1999), was a skiing legend. A member of the 1948 United States Olympic team at St. Moritz, Switzerland, he is the only American to have ever qualified for the Olympics in the four skiing events of downhill, slalom, cross country, and ski jumping. He took second place at combined jumping, and won a fifth place medal in a special jumping event at St. Moritz, and was also the first American ski jumper to break the 300 feet mark. Previously, Gordon had served with the famed Tenth Mountain Division during World War II. In his later years, Gordon served as a coach and mentor to several other local skiing greats, including Wallace "Buddy" Werner, Marvin Crawford, Skeeter Werner Walker, and Jim "Moose" Barrows. Gordon Wren was selected as a member of the U.S. Ski Association's Hall of Fame in 1956, and was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 1972.

Beginning in the late 1950s or early 1960s, 112 Spruce Street became the home of Robert B. and Donna K. Whitecotton. Mr. and Mrs. Whitecotton owned and lived here until May of 1996 when they sold the property to Kathleen McGowan. Ms. McGowan, in turn, deeded the property to its current owner, Erik Lobeck, in October of 2002.

36. Sources of information:

Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Routt County Colorado, Precinct No. 1, Steamboat Springs.

"Gordon Wren." Typewritten manuscript located at the Tread of Pioneers Museum.

"Lawrence Wren 1897-1988." (obituary) *Steamboat Pilot*, January 28, 1988. Located in clipping file at Tread of Pioneers Museum.

Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph/ Mountain Bell Telephone Directories for Steamboat Springs, 1956 – 2007. On file at the Denver Public Library, Western History Department.

"Routt County Assessor/Treasurer Parcel Detail Information."

"Routt County Assessor, Residential Property Appraisal Record."

"Routt County Burial Index." <http://yampavalley.info/history>

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"Ski Legend Gordy Wren Dies." *Steamboat Pilot and Today*, November 22, 1999, p. 2. Located in clipping file at Tread of Pioneers Museum.

"Steamboat Springs, CO. About 1910," (map) On file at the Tread of Pioneers Museum.

"Souvenir Program Eighth Annual Awards Banquet Colorado Sports Hall of Fame 1972." Located in clipping file at Tread of Pioneers Museum.

Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Routt County Colorado, Precinct No. 1, Steamboat Springs.

Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Routt County Colorado, Precinct No. 1, Steamboat Springs.

"Ward Wren is Routt County Pioneer Who Hauled Freight And Built Roads." *Steamboat Pilot*, October 11, 1956. Located in clipping file at Tread of Pioneers Museum.

"Ward Wren Died April 17; Served County 45 Years As Road Overseer." (obituary) *Steamboat Pilot*, April 24, 1958. Located in clipping file at Tread of Pioneers Museum.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation: Yes No Date of designation:

Designating authority:

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 distinguished entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (see Manual).

Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria.

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Steamboat Springs Standards for Designation:

- Not Applicable A. Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of Routt County, the State of Colorado, or the United States.
- Not Applicable B. Its location as a site of a significant historic event.
- Not Applicable C. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of Routt County.
- Not Applicable D. Its exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, or historic heritage of Routt County.
- Not Applicable E. Its portrayal of the environment of a group of people in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style.
- Not Applicable F. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.
- Not Applicable G. Its identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of Routt County.
- Not Applicable H. Its embodiment of elements of architectural design, detail, materials, and/or craftsmanship that represent a significant architectural innovation.
- Not Applicable I. Its relationship to other distinctive areas that are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on an historic, cultural, or architectural motif.
- Not Applicable J. Its unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, a community, or Routt County.

39. Area(s) of significance: **Not Applicable**

40. Period of significance: **Not Applicable**

41. Level of significance: National: State: Local:

42. Statement of significance:

This property is historically significant for its associations with Steamboat Springs' residential development dating from the time of its construction, circa 1941. The house is also architecturally significant for its representative wood frame front-gabled plan. The property's historical and architectural significance is not to the extent that it would qualify for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places or in the State Register of Historic Properties. Due to a loss of integrity, the property should also be considered ineligible for local designation in the Routt County Register of Historic Places.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This property displays a somewhat diminished standard of physical integrity, relative to the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Park Service and the Colorado Historical Society - setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The original house's physical integrity has been diminished by the application of vertical wood siding, and by the construction of a modest rear addition. Reportedly built in 1962, the modest addition is quite compatible with the home's original construction, however.

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VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

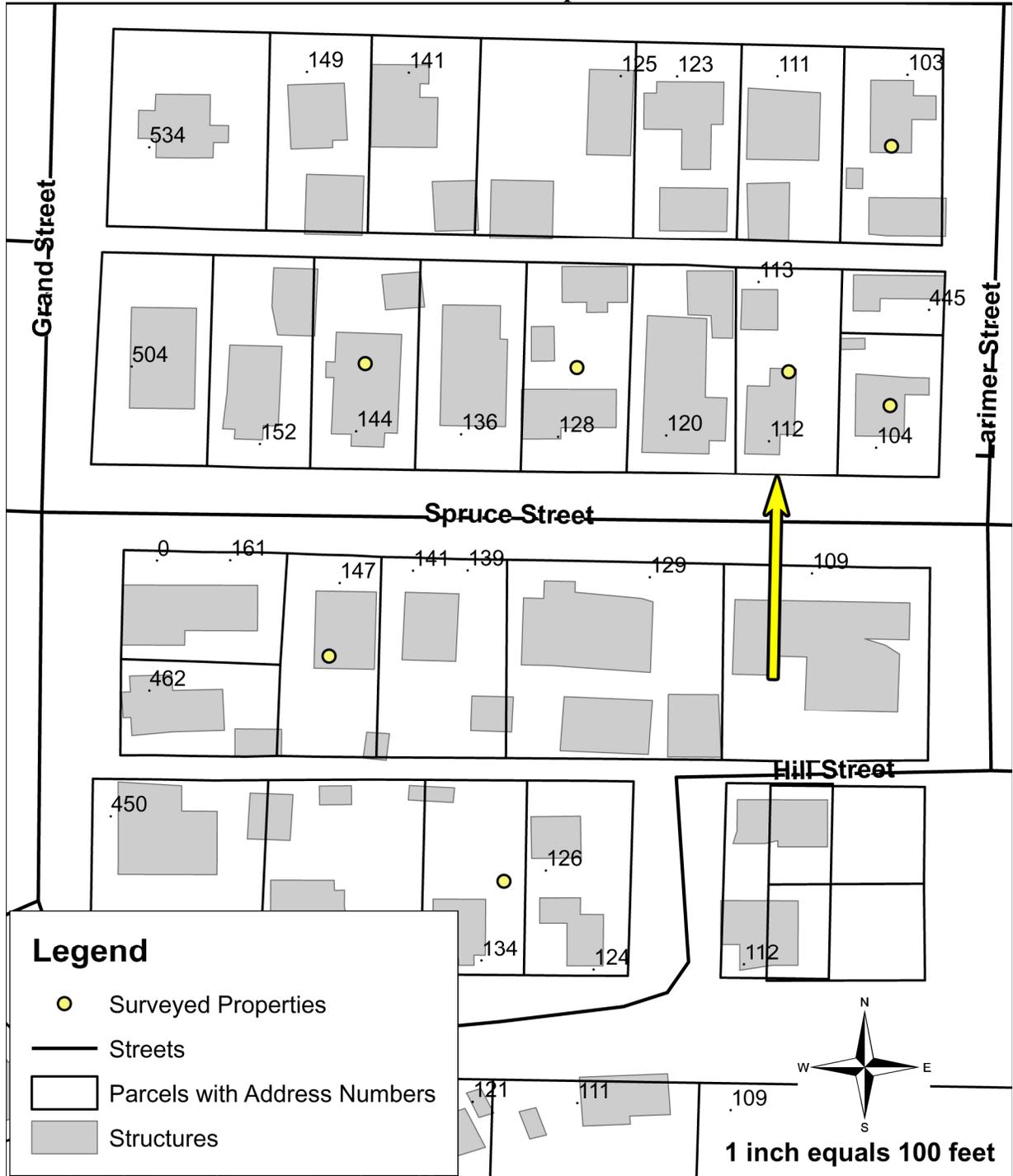
44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Not Eligible**
 Local landmark eligibility field assessment: **Not Eligible**
45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes No
- Discuss: **Historic buildings within the survey area do not collectively possess sufficient historical or architectural significance, and/or display sufficient physical integrity, to comprise a State or National Register historic district.**
- If there is National Register district potential, is this building: Contributing Noncontributing N/A:
46. If the building is in existing National Register district, is it: Contributing Noncontributing N/A:

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 47. Photograph number(s): | CD #2; Images 299-302 | CDs filed at: | City of Steamboat Springs |
| 48. Report title: | Old Town Steamboat Springs Residential Survey Phase VII | | 137 10th Street |
| 49. Date(s): | 08/08/2008 | | Steamboat Springs, CO |
| | | | 80477 |
| 50. Recorder(s): | Carl McWilliams
Timothy Wilder | | |
| 51. Organization: | Cultural Resource Historians | | |
| 52. Address: | 1607 Dogwood Court
Fort Collins, CO 80525 | | |
| 53. Phone number(s): | (970) 493-5270 | | |

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Sketch Map



Architectural Inventory Form

Location Map

