COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination (OAHP use only)

OAHP1403
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.468** Parcel number(s): **100303126**
2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
3. County: **Routt**
4. City: **Steamboat Springs**
5. Historic Building Name: **Gordon House; Hubbard House**
6. Current Building Name: **Stroncek House**
7. Building Address: **850 Aspen Street**
8. Owner Name: **Henry Stroncek**

   Owner Organization:

   Owner Address: **P. O. Box 771515**

   Steamboat Springs, Co 80477-1515

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

Architectural Inventory Form

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **6th** Township: **6N** Range: **84W**
   NW ¼ of **NW** ¼ of **SW** ¼ of **SE** ¼ of Section **8**
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)
    Zone: **13** **344665 mE** **4483719 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Steamboat Springs, Colorado**
    Year: **1969** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **Westerly Part of Lot 26. Block 3**
    Addition: **North Highlands Addition** Year of addition: **1905**
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): **Irregular Plan**
15. Dimensions in feet: **Length: 70 feet x Width: 29 feet**
16. Number of stories: **1 1/2**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Wood/Log**
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof/Front Gabled Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Metal Roof**
20. Special features: **Porch**
    Chimney
    Car Port
    Garage/Attached Garage
    Window/Glass Block

21. General architectural description:
    This Rustic style building consists of a gable-roofed residence, with a car port on its east (side) elevation, and an attached garage at the north end of the east elevation. The residence portion of the building measures approximately 70' N-S (deep) by 29' E-W (across), and included in these dimensions is an open 8' by 19' cutaway front porch which forms the east end of the façade on the south elevation. The house is supported by a low concrete foundation faced with river rock. The exterior walls are made of stained brown vertical and horizontal whole log segments, with distinctive vertical log vergeboards in the upper gable end on the façade (south elevation). The car port on the east elevation features square-cut wood shingle-clad walls. The house's front gabled roof is moderately-pitched, and is covered with green metal roofing material. Log rafter ends are exposed beneath widely-overhanging eaves, while two large distinctive stone chimneys are respectively located on the roof ridge and on the east-facing roof slope. A large single-light fixed-pane picture window overlooks the front porch near the east end of the façade. The façade wall is also penetrated by a hip-roofed oriel window, while a 25-light glass block window on the east elevation is also probably not original. The east elevation is also penetrated by two single-light fixed-pane windows with flanking casement windows. A stained light brown wood-paneled front door, with four ribbon-style upper sash lights, and covered by a wood storm door, enters the house from the 8' by 19' cutaway front porch. This porch features a tongue-in-groove wood floor, river rock pedestals, and distinctive log piers, and it is approached by four concrete steps with flanking river rock and concrete knee

walls. A glass-in-wood-frame door enters the house's north (rear) elevation from a wood deck. A small shed-roofed extension at the north end of the east elevation joins the house to the attached garage. (This small extension is likely an addition as it appears this garage was originally detached.) A rear entry door, covered by a white metal storm door, enters into the shed-roofed extension near the north end of the east elevation. The attached garage measures approximately 18' N-S by 28' E-W, and is supported by a concrete foundation. Its exterior walls are clad with stained brown half-log siding, and it is covered by a shed roof with green metal roofing material and boxed eaves. A white metal-paneled roll-away garage door on the south elevation opens onto an asphalt driveway which extends to Aspen Street.

22. Architectural style: **Late 19th And Early 20th Century American Movements/Rustic**
    Building type:

23. Landscape or special setting features: **This property is located at the northeast of the corner of Aspen and 9th Streets, with Soda Creek behind the property to the north and northeast. Well-maintained planted grass front and back yards feature mature landscaping elements. An asphalt driveway extends from Aspen Street to a carport on the house's southeast elevation.**

24. Associated buildings, features or objects:
    Secondary Building
    A secondary building is located north of the residence. This rectangular-shaped building is supported by a low concrete foundation covered with stained brown board-and-batten skirting. Its exterior walls are made of stained brown vertical wood planks, separated at intervals by segments of short horizontal wood planks. The building is covered by a low-pitched front gable roof, with silver metal roofing material, and with heavy 2x wood rafters exposed beneath widely-overhanging eaves. A decorative ridge pole and purlins, with knee braces, appear in the upper gable end on the east elevation. A painted red glass-in-wood-frame atrium door enters the east elevation from an uncovered wood porch.

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: Actual: **1927**
    Source of information: **Henry Stroncek (property owner); Routt County Assessor files**
26. Architect: **Unknown**
    Source of information: **N/A**
27. Builder: **Arthur E. Gumprecht (probably)**
    Source of information: **Bettger, Susan, and Meyer, Susan. "It Was The Largest Theater in Northwest Colorado, The Chief Theater." Three Wire Winter, Winter 1987, pp. 37-41.**
28. Original owner: **Harry "Chief" Gordon**
    Source of information: **Henry Stroncek (property owner)**

29. Construction history:

Routt County Assessor records list 1927 as this house's year of construction. Oral tradition passed down to Henry Stroncek (who has owned and lived here since 1978) holds that the house was originally owned by Harry "Chief" Gordon. A well-known local businessman, Gordon contracted with Arthur E. "Art" Gumprecht to erect the Chief Theater at 811/813 Lincoln Avenue (5RT.260) in 1926. It is probable, therefore, that Gumprecht (a prominent and prolific local builder) also constructed Gordon's residence here at 850 Aspen Street the following year. A car port near the front end of the east (side) elevation is either part of the home's original construction or is an early addition. The garage, which is now attached to the house by a small shed-roofed extension at the north end of the east elevation, appears to have been built many years later than the dwelling itself. The secondary building at the rear of the property probably dates to the 1960s or 1970s.

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:

Henry Stroncek, this house's current owner, related that this it was built in the late 1920s, and that it was originally owned and occupied by Harry Gordon. A Miami Indian, Gordon had spent much of his early life in Oklahoma before coming to Steamboat Springs. It was in the Sooner State were he reportedly made a fortune in oil, lead, zinc, and silver mining. In 1926, Harry "Chief" Gordon acquired several lots in the 800 block of Lincoln Avenue. Purchased from Mark Schafermeyer, the lots contained three buildings, housing a jewelry store, millinery, and restaurant. Gordon arranged for these buildings to be demolished, to make way for the Chief Theater. Gordon hired Art Gumprecht, a well-known local builder, to oversee the theater's construction. When it opened in early 1927, the Chief Theater was Steamboat Springs' second motion picture house, but it was the first to feature "talkies." In earlier years, the Alden Theater had offered silent movies. Reportedly, the first "talkie" shown at the Chief was "Idle Rich." Harry Gordon owned the Chief Theater until 1936, when it was sold to John Grieve. Ownership changed over the years, but the theater retained the "Chief" moniker until the mid-1960s. In 1986-1987, the building, at 811/813 Lincoln Avenue (5RT.260), was renamed Chief Plaza, in honor of its original owner.

Oral tradition passed down to current owner Henry Stroncek holds that Gordon arranged for the construction of this residence circa 1927, just after the Chief Theater had been completed by Art Gumprecht. It seems probable, therefore, that Gumprecht also constructed this residence. Gordon owned and lived here for an undetermined number of years; however, in the 1950s and 1960s, it was owned and occupied by Robert Henry Hubbard and his wife, Betty Eleanor (Alfred) Hubbard. Hubbard was involved in banking. The couple raised two daughters in Steamboat Springs, Peggy, born April 21, 1940, and Nancy. Following graduation from Steamboat Springs High School, Peggy earned a bachelor's degree in botany from Colorado State University in 1961, and also studied toward a master's degree in math at the University of Colorado. In 1957, she was chosen as Steamboat's Winter Carnival Queen. Peggy married Bruce McLeod in 1961 in Steamboat Springs. Peggy moved to Bozeman in the

early 1970s with her family, where she passed away on October 16, 2006, at Bozeman, at the age of 66. Nancy Hubbard married John Todd, and the couple moved to Anchorage, Alaska.

In the early 1970s, Henry and Elaine Stroncek moved their family to Steamboat Springs from Minneapolis, Minnesota. The family lived first at 259 6th Street before buying this property at 850 Aspen Street from the Hubbards, in April 1978. A World War II veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, Stroncek had worked for many years in the lath and plastering business, in Minnesota. Following the War, he married Elaine Hall of Minneapolis in 1946. The Stronceks had two children, a daughter, Lynn, and a son, Lee. After moving to Steamboat Springs, Henry Stroncek was employed for 15 years as a lift operator with the Steamboat Ski Area. When in his fifties, after seeing how much fun folks riding the lifts were having, Stroncek took up the sport of downhill skiing himself. Elaine Stroncek operated Fat Chance Antiques in Steamboat Springs in the 1970s and 1980s. Sadly, she passed away on May 27, 2002.

In 1972, daughter Lynn Stroncek married Larry Worrell, and the couple raised three children, Robert, Angela and Zane. Lee Stroncek studied wildlife and fisheries biology at the University of Montana and the University of Alaska, and completed two years of intensive art instruction at Colorado State University. Since 1980, he has been a full-time artist, living in Bozeman Montana, with his wife Janet and son Nathan. He most frequently paints outdoor-related subjects. Nationally recognized for his work, his art has appeared in several publications, including Field & Stream, Sports Afield, Fly Fisherman, Trout, Wildlife Art News, Sporting Classics, Southwest Art, Yankee, and Gray's Sporting Journal. The National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming, and the L.L. Bean Co. of Freeport, Maine, hold some of his paintings. He was regional winner in the 1987 "Arts for the Parks" competition, sponsored by the National Park Academy of the Arts and has shown in several "Birds in Art" exhibitions at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum.

In 1983, Harry "Chief" Gordon's house was recognized by the Steamboat Chamber of Commerce. The commemorative plaque, proudly displayed by Henry Stroncek, reads "Best House – For the Outstanding Home," and is a testament to the loving care Henry and Elaine Stroncek, and the previous owners, have taken of this beautiful dwelling.

36. Sources of information:

Bettger, Susan, and Meyer, Susan. "It Was The Largest Theater in Northwest Colorado, The Chief Theater." *Three Wire Winter*, Winter 1987, pp. 37-41.

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."

Stroncek, Henry. Oral interview with Carl McWilliams, September 2008.

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.

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.
☑	C. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of Routt County.
☑	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.
☑	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 house is historically significant for its associations with Steamboat Springs' residential development beginning from the time of its construction in the late 1920s. In particular, it is significant for its association with original owner Harry "Chief" Gordon, who made notable contributions to broad patterns of Steamboat Springs' history. The house is also architecturally significant for its locally prominent expression of the Rustic style of architecture. Rustic style elements include the home's stained brown whole log and vertical wood plank walls, distinctive log vergeboards in the façade's upper gable end, two large stone chimneys, and the river rock-faced foundation. Although this property's combined level of significance and integrity is likely not to the extent that it would qualify for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or in the State Register of Historic Properties, it should be considered eligible for local landmark designation in the Routt County Register of Historic Places.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This property displays a reasonably high standard of physical integrity, relative to the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Park Service and the Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation - setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. A car port near the front end of the east (side) elevation is either part of the home's original construction or is an early addition. The garage, which is now attached to the house by a small shed-roofed extension at the north end of the east elevation, appears to have been built many years later than the dwelling itself. Overall, a sense of time and place of the original late-1920s Rustic style dwelling remains very much in evidence, however.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Not Eligible**

Local landmark eligibility field assessment: **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 #1, Images 35-43** CDs filed at: **City of Steamboat Springs**

48. Report title: **Old Town Steamboat Springs Residential Survey Phase VII** **137 10th Street**

49. Date(s): **10/28/2008** **Steamboat Springs, CO 80477**

50. Recorder(s): **Carl McWilliams**
Timothy Wilder

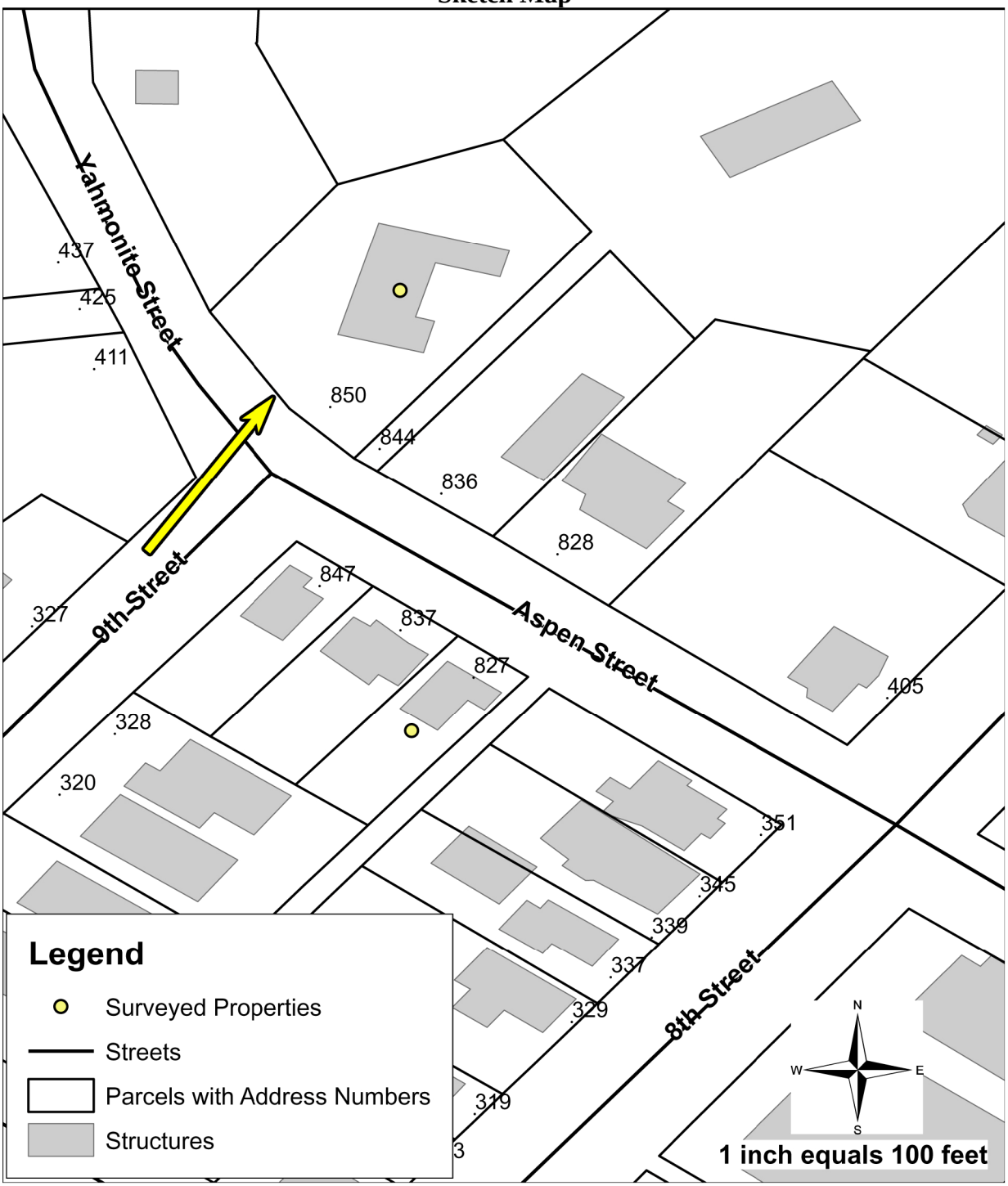
51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**

52. Address: **1607 Dogwood Court**

53. Phone number(s): **(970) 493-5270**

Architectural Inventory Form

Sketch Map



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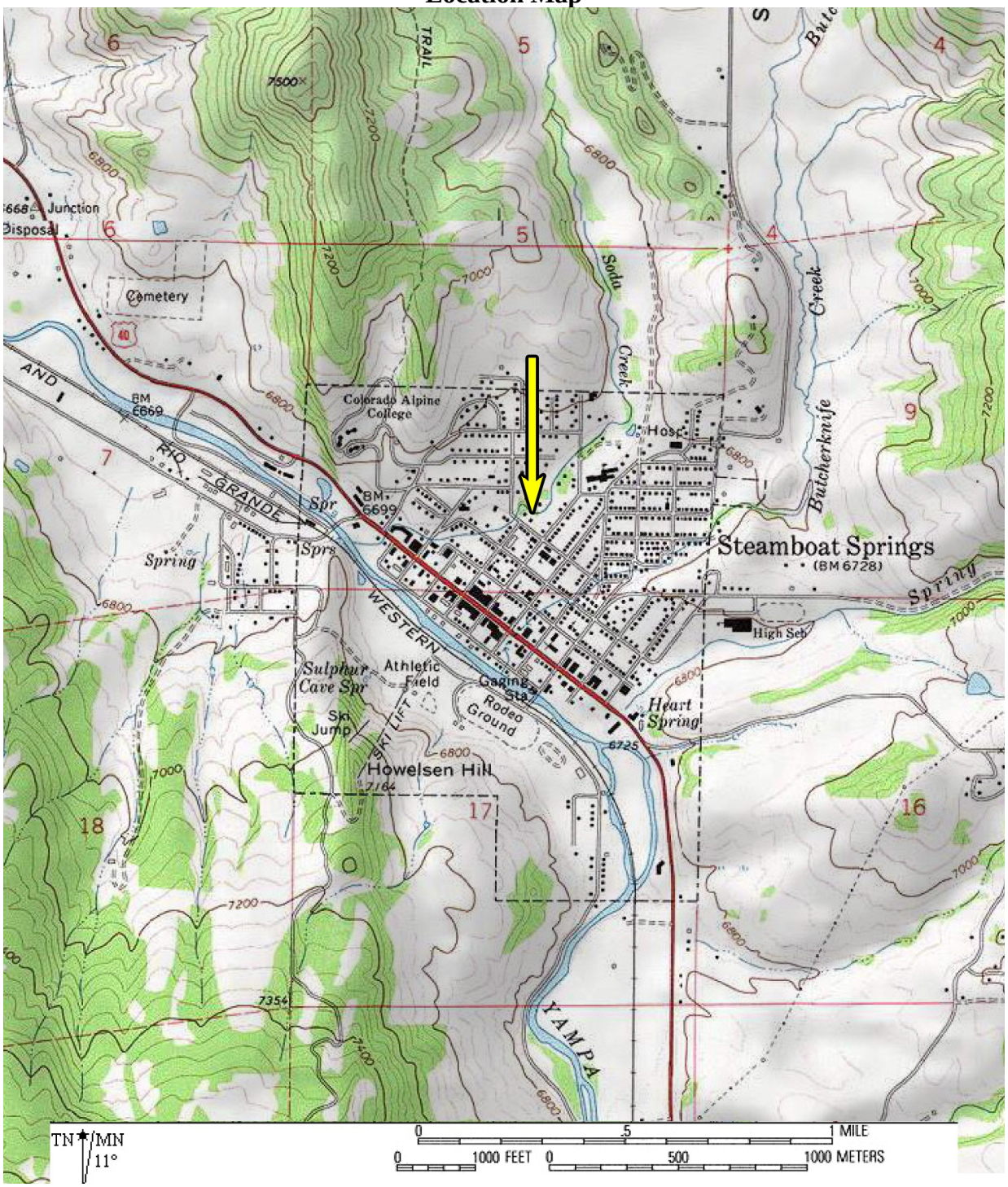
Location Map