

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination (OAH use only)

- 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.252** Parcel number(s): **145014010**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **Routt**
- 4. City: **Steamboat Springs**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Schubring - Cruse VFW Post 4264 Building**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Schubring - Cruse VFW Post 4264 Building**
- 7. Building Address: **924 Lincoln Avenue**
- 8. Owner Name: **V.F.W. Post #4264**
- Owner Organization:
- Owner Address: **P.O. Box 774612**
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477



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

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II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **6th** Township: **6N** Range: **84W**
SW ¼ of SE ¼ of SE ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 8
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)
 Zone: **13** **344437 mE** **4483241 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Steamboat Springs, Colorado**
 Year: **1969** Map scale: **7.5**
12. Lot(s): **Part of Lot 10 Block 14**
 Addition: **Original Addition of Steamboat Springs** Year of addition: **1884**
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): **Rectangular Plan**
15. Dimensions in feet: **Length: 80 feet x Width: 29 feet**
16. Number of stories: **1**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Brick**
18. Roof configuration: **Flat Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Asphalt Roof/Composition Roof**
20. Special features: **Not Applicable**
21. General architectural description:
This single-story building is built of red brick masonry and concrete block construction, with a red brick veneer on the façade (southwest) elevation. It measures 29' NW-SE (across) by 80' NE-SW (deep). The asymmetrical façade fronts directly onto the wide concrete sidewalk paralleling Lincoln Avenue on the southwest elevation. A stained natural brown wood-paneled door, with a small upper sash light, enters the southeast end of the façade from a 3-step concrete stoop located within a recessed entryway. A band of four single-light casement windows, with white metal frames and painted white wood surrounds, penetrate the façade wall to the northwest of the entry. A small, narrow, horizontally-oriented fixed-pane window, with a brown brick rowlock sill, penetrates the northeast end of the façade wall. A neon "OPEN" sign hangs within this small window. A narrow belt course made of a single course of brown brick stretchers visually separates the upper and lower portions of the façade. Two signs are affixed to the upper façade wall:

V F W
POST 4264

and
SCHUBRING - CRUISE

A low flat-roofed addition to the northwest end of the northeast (rear) elevation measures approximately 12' by 20'. The addition features a poured concrete foundation, painted white,, stuccoed, concrete block walls, and a single entry door on the northeast elevation.

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22. Architectural style: **Modern Movements**
 Building type:
23. Landscape or special setting features: **This building is located on the northeast side of the 900 block of Lincoln Avenue, in downtown Steamboat Springs. It is located between the Steamboat Smokehouse building to the southeast at 912 Lincoln Avenue, and the Lorenz building to the northwest at 928 Lincoln Avenue to the northwest. A paved parking area extends behind the building to the alley**
24. Associated buildings, features or objects: **Not Applicable**

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: **1899** Actual:
 Source of information: **"J.W. Hugus & Company Souvenir History 1908." Located in clipping file at Tread of Pioneers Museum.**
26. Architect: **Unknown**
 Source of information: **N/A**
27. Builder: **Unknown**
 Source of information: **N/A**
28. Original owner: **J.W. Hugus and Company/ Bank of Steamboat Springs**
 Source of information: **"J.W. Hugus & Company Souvenir History 1908." Located in clipping file at Tread of Pioneers Museum.**
29. Construction history:
This property was initially developed in the late 1890s, with the construction of the J.W. Hugus Company store. When completed, the Hugus store comprised all of this property as well as the property adjacent to the southeast, where the Steamboat Smokehouse is now located. This northwestern portion (now the V.F.W. Hall) became the Bank of Steamboat Springs early on. The J.W. Hugus store went out of business in the late 1920s or early 1930s, and the building was then divided and converted to other uses This portion of the building, where the Bank of Steamboat Springs had been located, was converted for use as a Veterans of Foreign Wars meeting hall after World War II.
30. Original location: Moved: Date of move(s): **N/A**

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Commerce and Trade/Financial Institution**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Social/Meeting Hall**
33. Current use(s): **Social/Meeting Hall**
34. Site type(s): **Veterans of Foreign Wars Meeting Hall.**

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35. Historical background:

This property was originally developed in the late 1890s as part of Steamboat Springs' J.W. Hugus & Company store. John William Hugus, the company's founder, had been born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 24, 1836. In 1868, Hugus was the post trader at Fort Steele, Wyoming, and from there, he launched the highly-successful J.W. Hugus & Company. In 1880, Hugus formed a partnership with John C. Davis, who was then a clerk at the Fort Steele store. They opened their first store, at Rawlins, Wyoming, under the name J.W. Hugus and Company, followed by an Indian trading post at Meeker, Colorado. Hugus and Davis subsequently launched other stores at Dixon, Wyoming, and at Hayden, DeBeque, and Steamboat Springs in Colorado. Later, there would be stores at Wolcott, Parshall, and elsewhere. A full-service mercantile, J.W. Hugus reportedly "sold everything from needles to threshing machines, groceries, dry goods, stock supplies - in fact everything needed for existence by the early day ranchers and homesteaders." By 1907, J.W. Hugus & Company was reportedly grossing nearly one million dollars in annual sales. In the interim, J.W. Hugus had retired to California where he passed away on October 11, 1901.

The part of the J.W. Hugus building which now comprises the V.F. W. building, became the Bank of Steamboat Springs circa 1899. Apparently controlled by J.W. Hugus and Company, this was Steamboat Springs' second financial institution, following the Milner Bank and Trust Company which had been established in 1886.

The J.W. Hugus Company closed its doors in Steamboat Springs in the late 1920s or early 1930s, and the company's building was then divided and converted to other retail uses. This, the northwest end of the former Hugus building, became the Schubring-Cruse Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4264, following the end of World War II. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (V.F.W.) had been created by veterans of the Spanish-American War, at Columbus, Ohio in 1899. The organization received a Congressional charter in 1936, and its membership grew exponentially after World War II. The organization's mission focuses on the rehabilitation of disabled veterans, the protection of national security through military strength, and promoting patriotism and community service. In 2000, the V.F.W. boasted nearly two million members nationwide. Today, the Schubring-Cruse Post is one of nearly 150 V.F.W posts located throughout Colorado.

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36. Sources of information:

Alexandroff, Marty. "Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Architectural Inventory Form." February 1996, on file with the City of Steamboat Springs, and the Colorado Historical Society Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

"J.W. Hugus & Co., One of First Chain Store Groups in Nation." *Steamboat Pilot*, July 30, 1959, p. 7B. Located in clipping file at Tread of Pioneers Museum.

"J.W. Hugus & Company Souvenir History 1908." Located in clipping file at Tread of Pioneers Museum.

Klein, Naomi. "Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Inventory Record." May 1981, on file with the City of Steamboat Springs, and the Colorado Historical Society Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

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, Commercial Property Appraisal Record.

Sanborn Insurance maps for Steamboat Springs, July 1911, June 1920.

"Steamboat Springs, Co. About 1910." Plat map, on file at the Tread of Pioneers Museum.

"Veterans of Foreign Wars." www.infoplease.com

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:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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 building is historically significant for its use as the Schubring-Cruse V.F.W. Post 4264 meeting hall from the late 1940s to the present time. As an organization, the V.F.W. has made significant contributions to broad patterns of sociopolitical history - on a local, state-wide and national levels. The building is also architecturally notable, to a limited extent, as part of a group of buildings which exemplify the progression of building styles in Steamboat Springs from those of the early 1900s to those of the post World War II period of the mid-1900s. This building's significance in this regard 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 Places. It may, however, be considered eligible for individual listing in the Routt County Historic Register.

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43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This building was converted to use as a V.F.W. meeting hall after the end of World War II. Having now served in this capacity for some sixty years, the building may be considered historically significant for its association with the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. Based on this use, dating from the late 1940s, the building displays an above-average level 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. The current façade may have been altered subsequent to the late 1940s; however, a sense of time and place of a V.F.W. meeting hall from the post World War II period remains in evidence.

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 in the core area of downtown Steamboat Springs may collectively possess the historical and/or architectural significance, and display sufficient physical integrity, to comprise a 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 #7; Images 129, 134, CD #8;** CDs filed at: **City of Steamboat Springs**
Image 140
48. Report title: **Historic Building Inventory of Downtown** **137 10th Street**
Steamboat Springs
49. Date(s): **08/08/07** **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



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Location Map

