

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination
(OAHF use only)

OAHF1403
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.2469** Parcel number(s): **176803013**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **Routt**
- 4. City: **Steamboat Springs**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Foster House; Travis House**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Fisher House**
- 7. Building Address: **838 Merritt Street**
- 8. Owner Name: **Caroline W. and John Fisher**
- Owner Organization:
- Owner Address: **P.O. Box 880013**
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: **84 W**
NE ¼ of NW ¼ of NW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 8
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD27)
 Zone: **13** **344842 mE** **4483846 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Steamboat Springs, Colorado**
 Year: **1969** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **Lots 13 and 14, Block 3**
 Addition: **Yahmonite Addition** Year of addition: **1909**
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: **2466 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **1 1/2**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Wood/Log**
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof/Side Gabled Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Gabled Roof/ Front Gabled Roof**
20. Special features:
Porch
Roof Treatment/Dormers
Chimney
Garage/Attached Garage
21. General architectural description:
This Rustic style dwelling is supported by a low painted green concrete foundation, and its exterior walls are made of stained brown whole logs with lapped corners. The log ends are painted green, and there are stained brown square-cut wood shingles in the upper gable ends. The house is covered by a moderately-pitched gable roof, with green metal roofing material, and with boxed eaves. A shed-roofed dormer, with a set of paired 4-light windows, is located on the west-facing roof slope. A gabled dormer is located on the east-facing roof slope. A stone fireplace chimney is located on the east elevation, while a red brick chimney is located on the roof ridge. A stained brown wood-paneled door, with a fanlight, and covered by a green storm door, enters the east end of the south elevation from a 4-step uncovered wood porch. A painted green glass-in-wood-frame door enters an enclosed gabled porch at the north end of the east elevation where a wood deck wraps around the house's northeast corner. Another painted green, 10light, glass-in-wood-frame door enters another enclosed gabled porch at the north end of the west elevation. The home's windows predominantly feature painted green wood frames and surrounds. The west elevation wall (facing Douglas Street) is penetrated by four 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The south elevation wall (facing Merritt Street) is penetrated by a 1/1 double-hung sash window, a single-light fixed-pane picture window, and by an 8-light window in the upper gable end. The east elevation wall is penetrated by a single-light fixed-pane picture window, a 2-light window, and a non-original 3-light oriel window. A single stall garage is incorporated into the basement level at the front southwest corner of the dwelling. A painted green wood-paneled roll-away garage door on the south elevation, opens onto a gravel driveway which extends to Merritt Street.

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

23. Landscape or special setting features: **This property is located on a spacious lot at the northeast corner of Merritt and Douglas Streets. A planted grass lawn, with mature landscaping features, surrounds the house. A grove of aspen trees is located near the front southwest corner of the yard. A distinctive, modern, wood and rebar fence encloses much of the property.**

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

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: **1948** Actual:
 Source of information: **"Routt County Assessor/Treasurer Parcel Detail Information."**

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 list 1948 as this house's year of construction. Kevin McNamara, who lives across the street at 841 Merritt Street, and whose wife, Bridget, grew up there, related that the logs for 838, 841, and 914 Merritt Street all came from the sawmill at Phippsburg during the late 1930s and 1940s. This house at 838 Merritt Street appears little changed from its original construction.

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 dwelling**

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35. Historical background:

Routt County Assessor records indicate that this house was built in 1948. Efforts to uncover information about its early owners and residents, at the Tread of Pioneers Museum, and through historic online articles from the *Steamboat Pilot* newspaper, have been unsuccessful. Kevin McNamara, who lives across the street at 841 Merritt Street, related that Fred and Meredyth (Meridith?) Muth resided in this house for a number of years. "Fred Muth & Sons, Carpets," at 853 Pahwinta, is listed in Steamboat Springs telephone directories during the 1960s and 1970s; however, a listing for the Muth family at this address was not found in the directories. Mr. McNamara believes that Fred Muth has passed away, and that Meredyth Muth moved to Vernal, Utah some years ago.

Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph directories, and later Mountain Bell telephone directories, list a progression of individuals as residents of this house beginning in 1956. These include: Leo Foster (1956), Richard Travis (1961), Bill Elder (1965), George W. Barnett (1971), Pete Crider (1980), and Caroline Wallen (1990). Routt County Assessor records, meanwhile, indicate that this property was transferred from the Effinger family to the White family in May of 1984, and from the White family to Caroline Wallen in 1991. The property is currently owned and occupied by Caroline (Wallen) Fisher, and her husband Oliver Fisher. They have held joint title to the property since September of 2003, according to Routt County Assessor files.

36. Sources of information:

McNamara, Kevin. Oral interview with Carl McWilliams, May 2008.

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."

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. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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 circa 1948. The house is also architecturally significant for its Rustic style of architecture, including is stained brown log walls with lapped corners, and its stone fireplace chimney. This is one of several Rustic style homes built in Steamboat Springs in the late 1930s and 1940s. 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 may 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 an overall 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. There have been no additions or notable adverse exterior alterations to the historic late 1940s dwelling. A sense of time and place of a 1940s Rustic style residence remains very much in evidence.

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VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

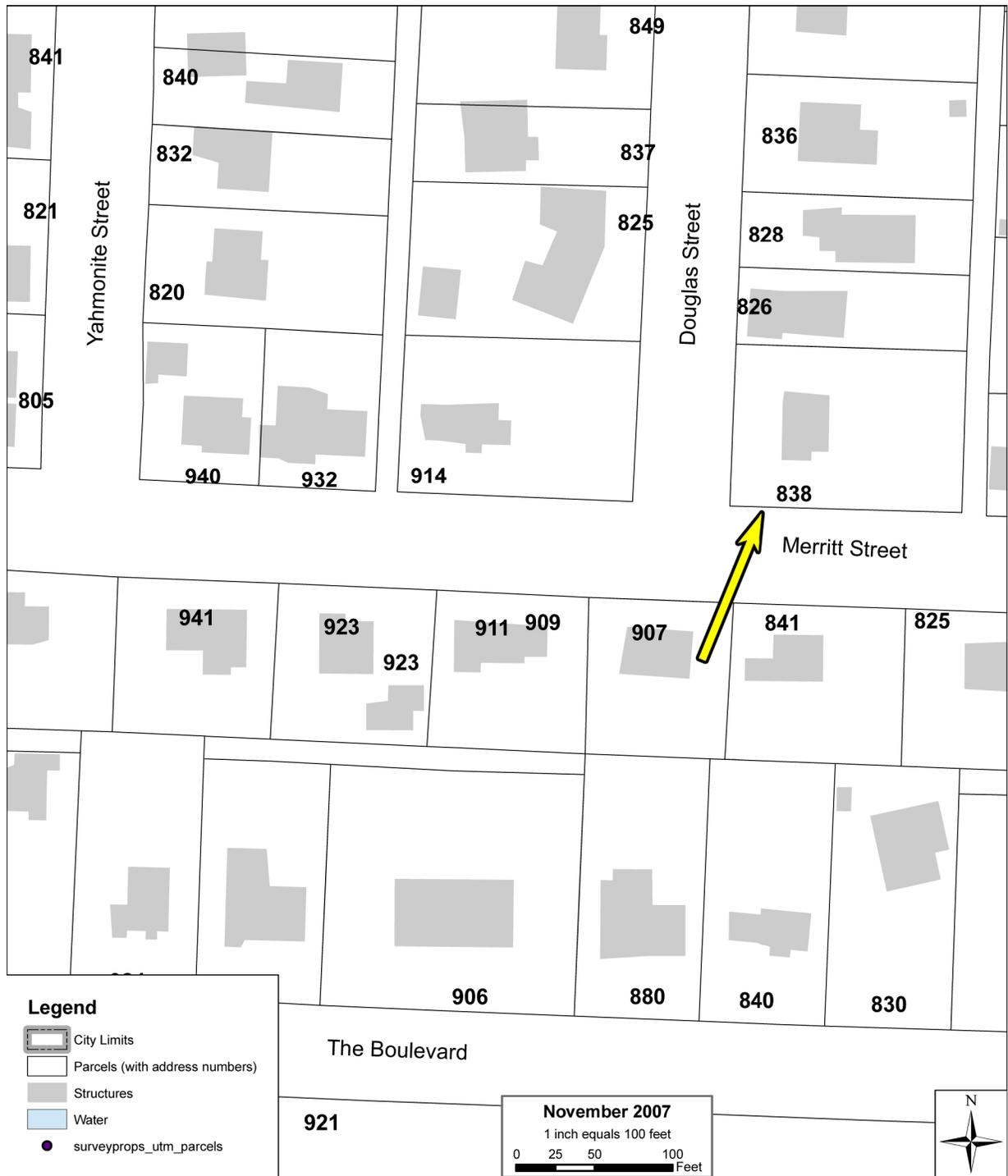
44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Not Eligible**
 Local landmark eligibility field assessment: **Eligible**
45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes No
- Discuss: **Historic buildings within the survey area do not collectively possess sufficient historical or architectural 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 101-103** CDs filed at: **City of Steamboat Springs**
48. Report title: **Old Town Steamboat Springs Residential Survey** **137 10th Street**
49. Date(s): **10/20/07** **Steamboat Springs, CO**
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

