

Architectural Inventory Form

- 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: 5HN68.18
2. Temporary resource number: 83
3. County: Hinsdale
4. City: Lake City
5. Historic building name: McLeod-Stewart House
6. Current building name:
7. Building address: 408 Silver Street, Lake City, CO 81235
8. Owner name and address: John and Cindy Scott, P.O. Box 171 , Alexandria LA 71309

II. Geographic Information

County Property No.: R

9. P.M. 6th Township 44N Range 4W NE4 of NE4 of SW4 of SW4 of Section 27
10. UTM reference
Zone 13 296780 mE 4211530 mN
11. USGS quad name: Lake City Quad year: 1985 Map scale: X 7.5' ___ 15'
12. Block(s): 42 Lot(s): 17-24 Legal:
Addition: Year of Addition:
13. Boundary description and justification: Perimeter of parcel

III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan: Irregular
15. Dimensions: 1600 square feet
16. Number of stories: 1-1/2
17. External wall material(s): Wood horizontal siding
18. Roof configuration: Gabled
19. Roof material: Wood shingle
20. Special features: Porch, balcony, dormers, chimney, fence
21. General architectural description:

1-1/2 story frame log dwelling. Wood shingled roof; brick chimney in roof ridge. Walls clad in clapboards and shiplap siding and trimmed with cornerboards and friezeboard. South elevation has two large, gabled dormers; one contains an entrance accessing a balcony porch. Balcony has square posts, balustrade of diagonal crossed sticks on first floor and plain wood baluster on balcony. First floor has paired multi-lite doors accessing porch, and a hipped bay window at the rear.

Facade has 4-over-4 double hung windows. Centered entrance with oval-lite door has gabled entry porch with square posts and crossed baluster. Circa 1950 addition on north elevation has stone fireplace chimney in north elevation; multi-lite windows; west-facing and east-facing, gabled dormers. Gabled patio/porch on east elevation supported by square posts has raised concrete floor. Stone/concrete foundation.

22. Architectural style/Building type: No style
23. Landscaping or special setting:
The house occupies large corner lot enclosed in a new split rail fence. It has a circa 1950 beige-brick barbecue at northeast corner.

24. Associated building, features or objects:

Shed, circa 1940

One-story gabled frame building roofed in wood shingles. Walls clad in board and batten.

Stable/shed, circa 1920

Gabled frame building roofed in metal and clad in vertical boards and in board and batten. Shed-roofed section on west contains windows and entrance with storm door. Shed-roofed section on northwest corner has vertical-board doors.

IV. Architectural History

25. Date of construction Estimate: _____ Actual: 1877 Source of info: Hinsdale County tax rolls, 1876 -1915

26. Architect: Unknown Source of info:

27. Builder/contractor: Unknown Source of info:

28. Original owner: Abraham Alexander Mesler Source of info:

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

Covered in clapboards and addition built circa 1900. (1899 - 1900 photograph, 1902 Sanborn map) Two-story frame addition built on north by E.J. Masten in 1948, included stone fireplace. Two-story balcony porch built on south elevation in 2001.

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

I. 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:

The house at 408 Silver Street illustrates an interesting evolution from vacant land held for speculative purposes to sturdy pioneer log residence transformed in turn to clapboard-covered town home and restaurant and, ultimately, renovated seasonal home and addition occupied by well-to-do out-of-state landowners.

In return for \$5, Lake City Town Co. issued a deed to the lot on which this house was built to George S. Parsons in March, 1876. Parsons was a founding trustee and secretary of the Saguache & San Juan Toll Road Co. and amassed a large portfolio of Lake City lots on an apparently speculative basis. Parsons also served as an original member of the Lake City Town Company when it was formed in 1875. Lot 23, Block 42, passed from Parsons to another pioneer of the Lake Fork Valley, Abraham Alexander Mesler, who was assessed \$200 for the lot and \$500 for improvements in 1877.

Mesler, a mining and farming entrepreneur, constructed the front-gabled two-story squared-log residence which forms the basis of the McLeod-Stewart house. A. A. Mesler (1829-1914) was a miner who was already reaching middle age when he moved with his wife, Sophelia B. Mesler, and family to Lake City in the mid-1870s. The family previously lived in Del Norte, Colorado, where the couple's eldest son, Orlando A. Mesler, managed the Central Hotel in 1874. O.A. Mesler was appointed Hinsdale County Deputy Clerk when the county was formed in June, 1874. A.A. Mesler mined around Lake City but by 1879 had transferred his focus to Capitol City on Henson Creek where in 1879 he is listed as a trustee of the newly incorporated town. By 1887 the versatile Mesler was operating a farm called Sunnyside on the lower Lake Fork near Gateview, cultivating strawberries which he sold in Lake City at 50-cents per quart. He died in Ashford, Washington, in 1914.

Mesler sold his stout log residence on Silver Street to James W. Moore in 1881 and the property in turn was acquired by William Rowan in 1891. Rowan headed the Iowa and Capitol City Mining Co. and was for time a manager of the American House hotel in Lake City. The Rowans also owned the adjoining two-story frame house at 418 Silver Street and, after leaving Lake City in 1894, used both properties as rentals. Lake City overview photographs from 1899-1900 confirm that the squared-log was covered by clapboard siding by the turn of the century. The 1902 Sanborn Insurance Map fails to denote the house

as log and indicates a one-story addition on the rear.

Mary Ann "Mayme" (White) McLeod, wife of Hinsdale County Assessor Hugh C. McLeod, acquired the Mesler cabin in 1910 and owned the property until 1945. Mrs. McLeod was born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1876 and moved to Lake City at age two with her parents. She married Hugh McLeod in 1894 and in following years raised three children and became well known as a restaurant and boarding house cook. She narrowly averted death in 1929 when the boarding house at the Empire Chief Mine on Henson Creek was destroyed by a snowslide. Mrs. McLeod conducted a restaurant in the Lake City business district but during slow economic times closed the restaurant and offered meals at her Silver Street home. This continued after the death of Mr. McLeod in 1916 and her remarriage to Theodore Watson in 1920. Mayme McLeod Watson's granddaughter, Jane McLeod Smith, recalled Mayme's devout restaurant following. According to Mrs. Smith, drunks would stop by the house at all hours of the night, demanding Mayme get up and fix them a meal of fish or steak.

One of the frequent meal boarders at Mayme Watson's house was newspaper editor William C. Blair, a staunch Republican. Mrs. Watson headed the Hinsdale Democratic Party and she and Blair often had heated arguments based on their political philosophies. Editor Blair, according to Jane McLeod Smith, pounded the dining room table with his fists and often left the house enraged in mid-meal. Mayme Watson continued to live in the home and serve meals until 1943 when she retired to Pueblo, Colorado. She died in 1951.

The McLeod house was sold to Oklahoma visitors Harold E. and Mary O. (Wylie) Stewart in 1945. Mr. Stewart was a successful Oklahoma City businessman who sold and leased construction equipment. The Stewarts first visited Lake City in summer, 1945. After their first night in town, Mr. Stewart went for a walk and on returning informed his wife he had purchased a dilapidated old house on Silver Street. The McLeod house became Mrs. Stewart's passion in succeeding years as she worked to renovate the home. A two-story frame addition with metal casement windows and river rock fireplace was constructed by E.J. Masten in 1948. The enlarged Stewart house and surrounding yard became a Lake City showplace, the white house painted in trademark bright red trim with wooden shingles painted green. Following Mrs. Stewart's death in 1989, the property was inherited by her granddaughter, Margi Weir, and in turn sold to the current owners, Jock and Cynthia Scott, in the late 1990s. The Scotts contracted for the two-story porch to the south of the house which was added in 2001.

Fire played an important role in the development of the immediate neighborhood surrounding the McLeod-Stewart House, including the 1946 fire which burned three houses on the opposite side of the street, 407, 411 and 417 Silver Street. Fire in November, 1949, burned two single-story frame houses on the corner to the immediate south of the McLeod-Stewart House. According to the Lake City news correspondent, both the Stewart and neighboring Brooks house, across the alley, caught fire during the blaze but were saved by the efforts of the volunteer fire fighters forming a bucket brigade. "If the wind had not died down, it is thought the whole of the north end of town would have been burned," the correspondent wrote. It was the local fire fighting technique to empty the contents of adjoining houses onto the street, the conception being that the neighboring houses would, indeed, burn to the ground.

This was the practice at the Stewart house for both the 1946 and 1949 fires, Mrs. Stewart returning to find that the contents of her house had been emptied and returned into the house on two separate occasions. It was after 1949 that she informed the fire fighters she would prefer having everything burn rather than going through the indignity of having all her personal belongings piled onto the street. As a safeguard against future fires in the neighborhood, the Stewarts gradually acquired vacant lots to both the north and south of their house.

36. Sources of information:

Hinsdale County tax rolls, 1876 -1915; San Juan PROSPECTOR (Del Norte), Sat., February 21, 1874, page 1, Sat., June 13, 1874, page 2; Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., May 29, 1880, page 3, Sat., July 30, 1887, page 3, Thurs., March 17, 1927, page 3; Lake City TIMES, August 25, 1910, page 5; Gunnison NEWS-CHAMPION, Thurs., August 23, 1945, page 6, Thurs., July 29, 1948, page 11, Thurs., November 10, 1949, page 1, Fri., July 28, 1989, page 3; History of Colorado by Frank Hall, Chicago, 1895, page 157; Sanborn Insurance Map, Town of Lake City, October, 1902; CEMETERIES OF HINSDALE COUNTY, COLORADO, 1874-1996, Anundsen Publishing Co., Decorah, Iowa, 1996, pages 106, 161; interview with Jane McLeod Smith by Grant Houston, misc. dated 1991-1998.

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, entertainment and recreation, architecture

40. Period of significance: 1877 - 1904, 1942 - 1953

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 a somewhat altered representative of the vernacular dwellings constructed in Lake City during this period, as reflected in its simple design, clapboard siding, gabled roof, 2-over-2 double hung windows, and lack of architectural details that indicate a particular style. It was originally built of log and covered in clapboards around 1900.

It is also associated with the twentieth-century tourism period, reflected in the addition built on the north, prominent stone fireplace, picnic shelter attached to the rear, and stone barbecue in the backyard. It typifies the evolution of some mining-era dwellings converted to summer residences, reflected by an addition and stone fireplace chimney.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity to significance:

Although somewhat altered by recent construction of a porch on the south elevation, this dwelling retains its architectural integrity.

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 6, frames 32-36; Roll 7, frames 1-4; Roll 30, frame 17 Negatives filed at: Lake City Town Hall

48. Report title: 2003 Architectural Survey of Lake City, Colorado

49. Date(s): September 2002 - June 2003

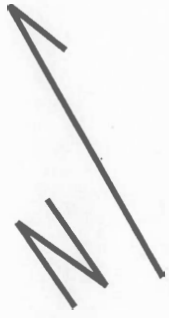
50. Recordors Cathleen M. Norman and Grant E. Houston

51. Organization: Town of Lake City

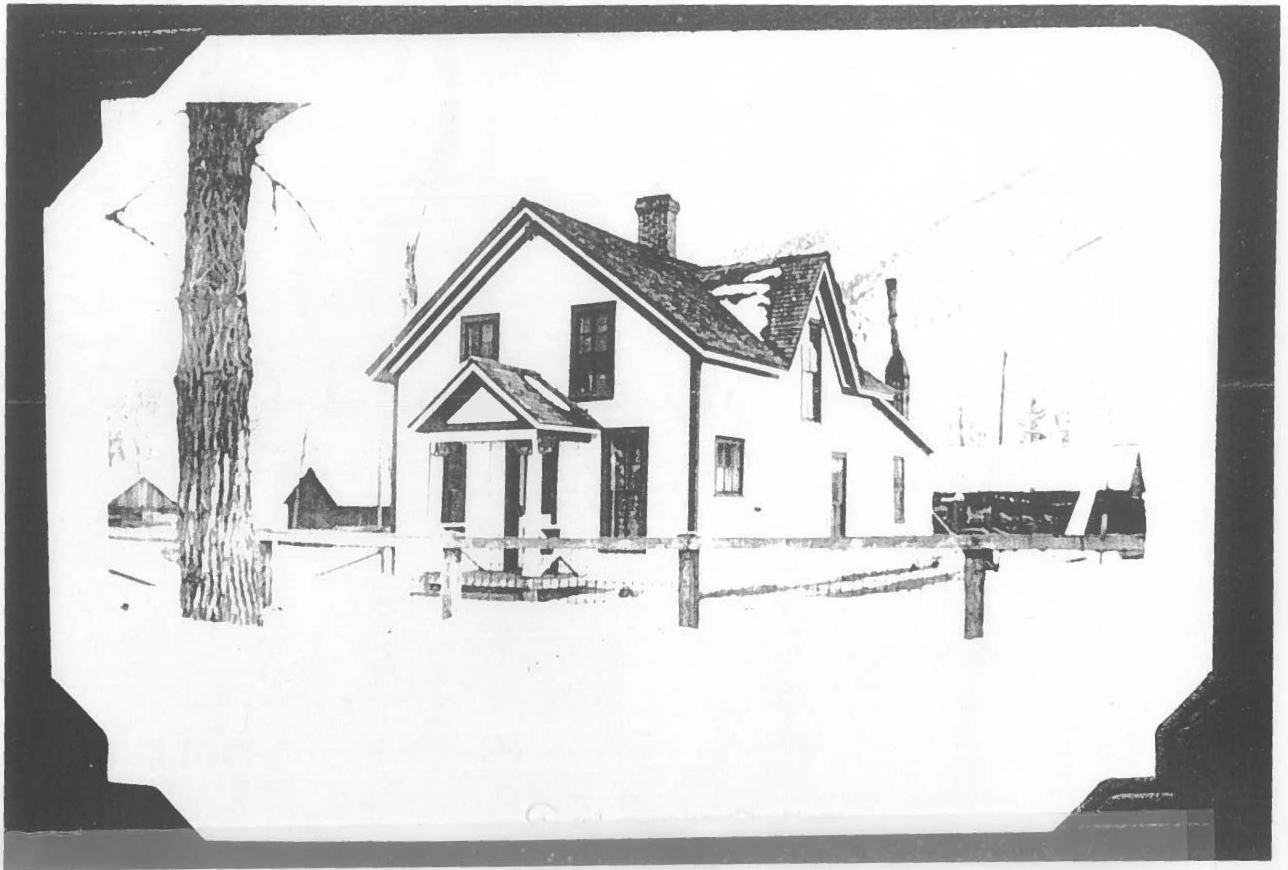
52. Address: 230 Bluff Street, Lake City CO 81235

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



STYLE NO. 46-SP



STYLE NO. 46-6P



(407) 886-3100

STYLE NO. 46-6P

