

# 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: 5HN68.11
2. Temporary resource number: 40
3. County: Hinsdale
4. City: Lake City
5. Historic building name: Kelley-Chambers House
6. Current building name: Roper House
7. Building address: 625 Bluff Street, Lake City, CO 81235
8. Owner name and address: D. F. Roper, 6009 Woodford Place, NE, Albuquerque NM 87110

## II. Geographic Information

County Property No.: R1213

9. P.M. 6th Township 44N Range 4W SE4 of NE4 of NW4 of SW4 of Section 27
10. UTM reference  
Zone 13 296790 mE 4211910 mN
11. USGS quad name: Lake City Quad year: 1985 Map scale: X 7.5' \_\_\_ 15'
12. Block(s): 0 Lot(s): 7 Legal:  
Addition: West Lake Addition Year of Addition: 1883
13. Boundary description and justification: Perimeter of parcel

## III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan: Irregular
15. Dimensions: 530 square feet
16. Number of stories: 1
17. External wall material(s): Wood horizontal siding
18. Roof configuration: Gabled
19. Roof material: Metal
20. Special features: Porch, chimney
21. General architectural description:

One-story, gabled-L frame dwelling. Metal roof; walls clad in clapboards and trimmed in cornerboards. Half-hipped bay window in gable façade composed of three 2-over-2 double hungs; has wide functional shutters. Long porch in ell has elaborate brackets and square posts mounted on short, square pedestals with capitals. Porch shelters three entrances, each with paneled and glazed door, screen door, and functional shutters. Other windows are 4-over-4 double hungs each with a wide functional shutter. Concrete foundation. Shed-roofed section on rear is clad in unpainted boards and has a south-facing entrance with paneled door and screen door.

22. Architectural style/Building type: Italianate
23. Landscaping or special setting:  
Property consists of long lot with large cottonwoods. Rear of property abuts mountain side.

24. Associated building, features or objects:

Wood shed/coal shed, circa 1910

Long, one-story frame, shed-roofed building in deteriorating condition; clad in boards and partially open on east side. Roofed in rolled asphalt.

Chicken coop, circa 1980

One-story shed-roofed frame building clad in boards. Roof is rolled asphalt. Door of wide, vertical boards; opening in east wall is covered in chicken wire.

Carriage house, circa 1900

One-story frame building with tall hipped roof. Roofed in rolled asphalt. Clad in board and batten. Windows are square 4-lites, each with a single, wide shutter. Opening is paired swing-out doors clad in horizontal board and batten. Gabled dormer in east roof slope.

Privy, circa 1910

Small, gabled frame building. Metal roof; walls clad in boards.

**IV. Architectural History**

25. Date of construction Estimate: \_\_\_\_\_ Actual: 1877 Source of info: SILVER WORLD, January 5, 1878

26. Architect: None Source of info:

27. Builder/contractor: Unknown Source of info:

28. Original owner: John P. Kelley Source of info: SILVER WORLD

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

Additions built on rear in early 1900s.

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

**V. Historical Associations**

31. Original use(s): Single dwelling

32. Intermediate use(s):

33. Current use(s): Seasonal dwelling

34. Site type(s):

35. Historical background:

John P. Kelley constructed this single-story frame residence, front-facing gable with southern ell addition, for \$1,100 in 1877. The house is situated on a large plot (Lot 7, West Lake Addition), snug against the base of Neoga Mountain. The dwelling's location at the base of a mountain has proven a challenge through the decades as rocks roll down the steel slope and plunge through the house. An 1882 newspaper account states that the house, then occupied by J.B. Taliaferro and family, narrowly averted destruction when a boulder bounced down the mountainside, ricocheted into the rear kitchen door and passed through a pantry and partitions, in the process destroying the cook range and pantry contents before crashing through the floor into the cellar. Had Mrs. Taliaferro and her small boy "been there at the time of the catastrophe, they would have fared badly, as the kitchen is a small one and no occupant of it could have escaped injury," the newspaper wrote.

John Kelley, the home's builder, was the owner of an early saloon and theatrical hall, Kelley's Hall, on Silver Street in downtown Lake City. After leaving Lake City he relocated to Leadville, Colorado, where he was active in business and politics. Kelley retained ownership of the West Lake house, renting it to numerous local families, among them the Taliaferros and Mendenhalls. Like many other Lake City properties, it passed to Miners & Merchants Bank due to default and was owned by the bank until 1927 when it was sold to Frank Chambers, whose family still owns the house. Chambers was a master mechanic on the Gunnison Tunnel, a large irrigation-diversion project on the Gunnison River, in 1908-09 and was later electrician at the Empire Chief Mill, a National Register property on upper Henson Creek.

36. Sources of information:

SILVER WORLD, January 5, 1878; Hinsdale County Tax Rolls, 1881-1927; Lake City MINING REGISTER, January 6, 1882; HISTORY OF LEADVILLE & LAKE COUNTY, Colorado, page 214; HISTORY OF THE ARKANSAS VALLEY,

## 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, architecture

40. Period of significance: 1877 - 1904

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 well-preserved representative of the modest version of the Italianate style constructed in Lake City during this period, as reflected in its clapboard exterior, narrow windows, and bracketed porch. The property contains a collection of intact outbuildings, including a hipped-roof carriage house, privy, woodshed-coal shed, and chicken house. In later decades, the house was used as a seasonal dwelling, as evidenced by the functional window shutters and door shutters.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity to significance:

The architectural integrity of this dwelling is intact, as evidenced by minimal alterations to its character-defining features.

## 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 4, frames 8A-12A; Roll 9, frame 21; Roll 27, frame 37 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. Recorders 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



5HN68.11

625 Bluff Street





