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Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination
(for OAHP use only)

- 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: 5HN68.141
2. Temporary resource number: 122
3. County: Hinsdale
4. City: Lake City
5. Historic building name: Van Gieson Lixivation Works Mill Site ~ Elkhorn Liquor Store
6. Current building name: Elkhorn Liquor Store
7. Building address: 126 South Gunnison Avenue, Lake City, CO 81235
8. Owner name and address: Olen and Claire Jessee, P.O. Box 133, Lake City 81235

II. Geographic Information

County Property No.: R1220

9. P.M. 6th NM Township 44N Range 4W SW4 of SE4 of NW4 of Section 34
10. UTM reference
Zone 13 53 296660 mE 892 4210880 mN
11. USGS quad name: Lake City Quad year: 1985 Map scale: X 7.5' 15'
12. Block(s): 5 Lot(s): 30 Legal: Part of lot 30 in block 5, F&R Addition, part lot 1, block 18 Wades & part of abandoned Silver Street
Addition: Foote & Richardson Addition Year of Addition: 1881
13. Boundary description and justification: Perimeter of parcel

III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan: Rectangular
15. Dimensions: 750 square feet
16. Number of stories: 1
17. External wall material(s): Log
18. Roof configuration: Side gabled
19. Roof material: Metal
20. Special features: Porch
21. General architectural description:
One-story, side-gabled log building. Metal roof. Shed-roofed entry porch on northeast corner supported by logs; shelters entrance with storm door and paneled door. "Elkhorn Liquors" sign mounted on porch roof. Façade has large metal-frame windows. Concrete block foundation.
22. Architectural style/Building type: Rustic
23. Landscaping or special setting:

24. Associated building, features or objects:

IV. Architectural History

25. Date of construction Estimate: _____ Actual: 1988 Source of info: Assessor's Appraisal Card
26. Architect: None Source of info:
27. Builder/contractor: Unknown Source of info:
28. Original owner: Claire and Pete Jessee Source of info:
29. Construction history (major additions, alterations, demolitions):
30. Original location: Moved Date of move(s) _____

V. Historical Associations

31. Original use(s): Specialty store
32. Intermediate use(s):
33. Current use(s): Specialty Store
34. Site type(s):
35. Historical background:

A side-gabled log structure, the Elkhorn Liquors building was completed in June, 1988, by Claire and Pete Jessee, owners of the neighboring Sportsman Texaco Station. Remnants of a stone foundation projecting from the dirt bank immediately behind the building provide scant evidence of prior structures which stood at this site. The existing log building sits at the base of a small mesa which has been periodically re-contoured in both the 19th and 20th Centuries.

The most immediate structure prior to Elkhorn Liquors, situated at a slightly higher elevation on the bank than the present building, was a gabled, squared-log rental cabin which was part of John and Emma Liska's tourist court. The rental was known as the Blackstone Hotel based on its prior use at the mining camp of Sherman on the upper Lake Fork. As with other rentals at Liska's Cabins, John Liska dismantled the log building known as the Blackstone Hotel and reassembled the materials in a different configuration for a tourist cabin. The Blackstone remained a rental at this location through the 1950s, after which the property was broken up and the lot and cabin sold to individual owners. It was relocated to its present location, 310B Silver, in the early 1970s.

Prior to its role as an adjunct to Liska's Cabins, 126 Gunnison -- together with adjoining lots and mesa -- was the site of a pioneer ore processing operation known as the VanGieson Lixivation Works. It was built late in 1876 by Wisconsin capitalist W.H. VanGieson (1835-1881), a business associate of the Croke Brothers who owned other mines and milling interests in the Summit Mining District. VanGieson was a well known inventor whose inventions included a brass upholstery nail and brass cartridge shell.

The geographical site selected for the Lake City mill in Foote & Richardson Addition utilized the modified slope of the mesa to construct a gravity-feed mill in which ore was leached in large vats filled with a mixture of Henson Creek water, hyposulphite of soda, sulphur and lime. After soaking and roasting, near-pure silver ore was reduced to a powder-like substance which, once reheated, was poured into crucibles. The VanGieson complex covered four acres and included the 40x170' mill building divided into compartments starting on top of the mesa and extending to the foot of the slope. L.A. Norris of Potsdam, New York, was general contractor on the millworks, which included cut stone and brick foundations, and a 60' brick smokestack. Equipment used in the mill -- Hendrie ball pulverizers, Dodge crushers, Barclay sampling machines, furnaces, etc. -- were manufactured in Central City and Black Hawk, Colorado.

The VanGieson Works concentrated 400 tons of ore valued at \$35,000 in 1877, and a mere \$6,000 in silver bricks in 1878. The property was subsequently transferred to Mrs. Catherine Stewart and by 1880 much of the mill's equipment was transferred to a new ore processing mill on Engineer Pass built by the Palmetto Consolidated Mining Co. The old VanGieson Works was briefly refitted as an ore sampling works in 1889 and was a derelict building owned by W.F. "Billy" Green when it burned to the ground in July, 1900. It was reported in 1902 that Billy Green and Charles Meyer were tearing down the brick chimney at the old VanGieson site.

36. Sources of information:

Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., December 23, 1876, Sat., May 3, 1879, page 4, , page 2, Fri., July 1, 1983, page 8; Lake City SENTINEL, July 20, 1889, page 3; Lake City TIMES, July 19, 1900, page 3, July 3, 1902, page 3; Del Norte SAN JUAN PROSPECTOR, Sat., September 9, 1876, page 1; History of Walworth County, Wisconsin, Western Historical Co., 1882, pages 647-48; telephone conversation with Donna Loury, Chandler, Arizona, March 14, 2003.

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:

40. Period of significance:

41. Level of significance: National State Local

42. Statement of significance:

This recently constructed building does not contribute to the Lake City Historic District.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity to significance:

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 20, frame 27A Negatives filed at: Lake City Town Hall

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

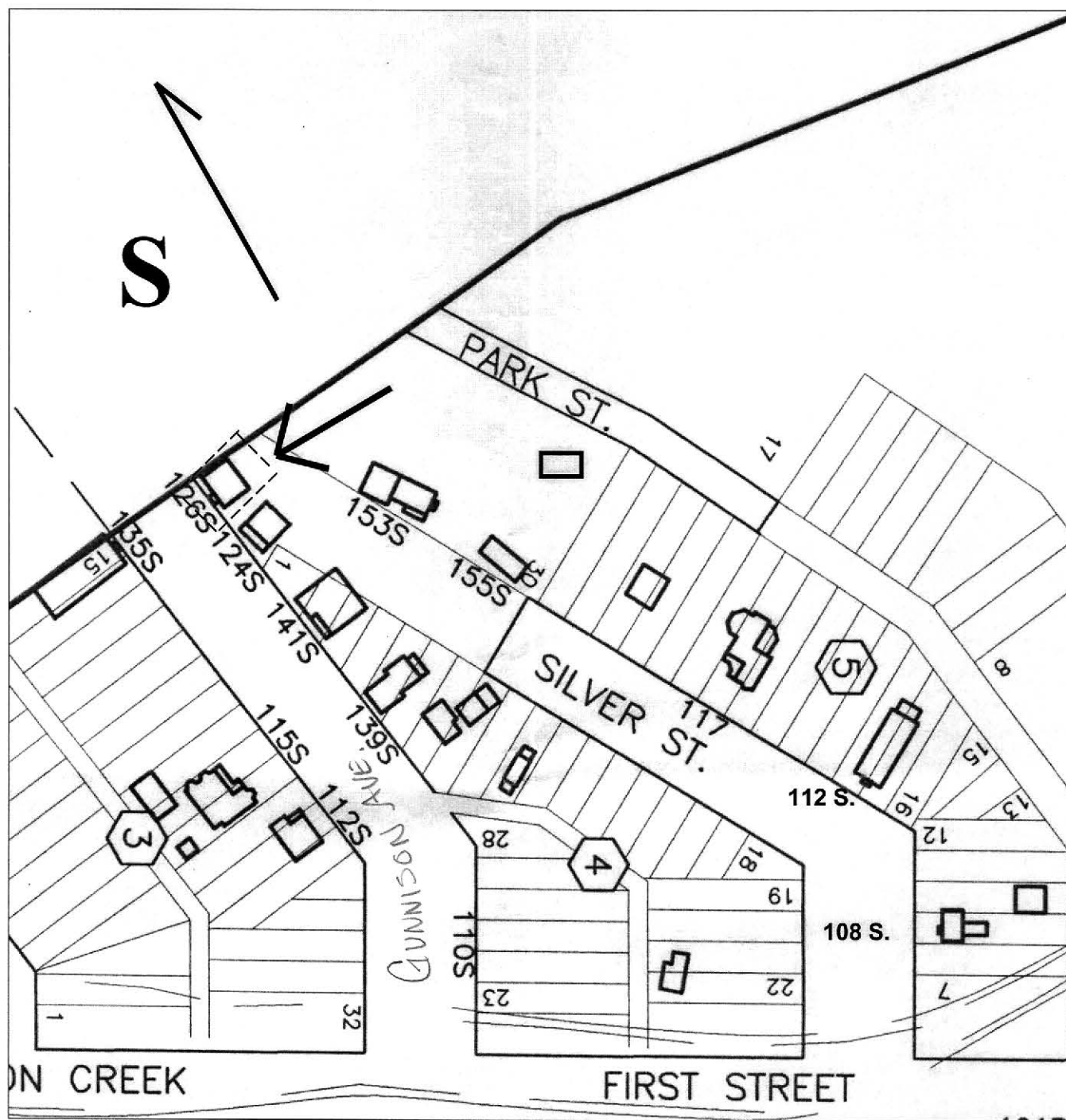
49. Date(s): September 2002 - June 2003

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



5HN68.141

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