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# 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: 5HN68.144
2. Temporary resource number: 126
3. County: Hinsdale
4. City: Lake City
5. Historic building name: *The Gravin Cabin*
6. Current building name:
7. Building address: 153 South Gunnison Avenue, Lake City, CO 81235
8. Owner name and address: James Herzog, P.O. Box 1616, Julian CA 92036

## II. Geographic Information

- County Property No.: R1223
9. P.M. *6th NM* Township 44N Range 4W SE4 of SW4 of NW4 of NW4 of Section 34
  10. UTM reference  
Zone 13 *629* 296590 mE 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: Tract in lot 30, block 5, F&R Addition, Part of lot 1, block 18, Wades and part of vacated Silver Street
- Addition: Foote & Richardson Addition Year of Addition: 1881
13. Boundary description and justification: Perimeter of parcel

## III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan: Irregular
15. Dimensions: 640 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 dwelling of squared logs; hog trough corners. Metal roof. Façade has off-center entrance with gabled cover, solid wood door and screen door with round-arched openings. Windows are small 4-lites and 4/4 sliders. Shed-roofed porch on west elevation has log supports and square wooden posts. It shelters an entrance with a paneled door and screen door. Gable ends covered in vertical half log. Octagonal window in east gable end and west gable end. Shed-roofed section on rear is covered in horizontal wood siding. Newer gabled section on rear in 1984. Foundation is not visible.
22. Architectural style/Building type: Rustic Pioneer Log (modified)
23. Landscaping or special setting:

24. Associated building, features or objects:

#### IV. Architectural History

25. Date of construction Estimate: 1876 Actual: \_\_\_\_\_ Source of info: Telephone conversation with Donna Loury, Chandler, Arizona, March 14, 2003.
26. Architect: None Source of info:
27. Builder/contractor: Unknown Source of info:
28. Original owner: John R. Liska Source of info:
29. Construction history (major additions, alterations, demolitions):  
Addition built on south in 1984. Source: Tax Assessor records.
30. Original location:  Moved  Date of move(s) 1929

#### V. Historical Associations

31. Original use(s): Cabin
32. Intermediate use(s): Tourist cabin
33. Current use(s): Single dwelling
34. Site type(s):
35. Historical background:

Lake City native Emma L. (Mayer) Humphrey Liska (1882-1973) and her second husband, John R. Liska (1876-1943), personify a second generation of Lake City residents who successfully pioneered the Lake City region's transition from mining to tourist-based economy. Starting in the late 1920s and continuing through 1959, the couple developed Lake City's earliest tourist court, "Liska's Cabins," consisting of approximately 13 separate log and frame houses which they rented on a daily, weekly and monthly basis to Colorado and out-of-state tourists.

The rental structures included prior-existing late 19th Century dwellings such as the Gray House (114 South Gunnison) and Foster House (155B South Gunnison), together with a series of pioneer-era, squared-log cabins, such as the Gavin Cabin (153 South Gunnison), which originated at the mining camp of Sherman on the upper Lake Fork and were dismantled and re-erected by John Liska beginning in the mid-1920s. The rentals, now all individually owned, surround the Liska residence (Gilmour-Humphrey-Liska House, 139 South Gunnison), in the Foote & Richardson Addition to the Town of Lake City immediately south of Henson Creek.

In addition to Foote & Richardson Addition properties included within the boundaries of the Lake City Historic District, several former Liska's Cabins rentals extend southward outside the historic district into adjacent Wade's Addition, these including the House-Watson House, 148 Gunnison Avenue, and Ferris-Poker Alice Building, 188 South Gunnison.

The Gavin Cabin is located on a slightly elevated mesa overlooking the Liska residence within the Foote & Richardson Addition. The mesa location, including the site of two adjacent structures -- Gibson House, 155B South Gunnison, and LaBelle Cabin, 155A South Gunnison -- was occupied from the late 1870s to 1890s by the VanGiesen Lixivation Works. The site was substantially cleared and/or burned by the 1920s when it was developed as a portion of Liska's Cabins. John R. Liska was owed a debt at caretaker at the Black Wonder Mill at Sherman. Unable to pay Liska for his services, the Sherman mine company offered him structural improvements at the old mining camp.

One of the structures obtained by Liska was the Gavin Cabin, former home of John C. Gavin (died 1924, age about 80), the honorary "Mayor of Sherman" and last resident of the old mining camp. According to John Liska's step-granddaughter, Donna Loury, the cabin was dismantled and its timbers numbered. Liska then transported the building materials back to Lake City using a Model T pickup and reassembled the cabin. Donna Loury and Debbie Stephens, the latter a Lake City resident who formerly lived in the Gavin Cabin, agree that the cabin's configuration probably changed after being re-erected in Lake City. Both the Gavin Cabin and neighboring LaBelle Cabin are both derived from Sherman logs.

Both buildings were reconstructed in near-identical form with squared-log walls, gabled porches, and log slabs used as a veneer in the gable ends. John Liska died in 1943, with Emma Liska continuing in the rental business through 1959. The cabins were sold to R.E. Gibson in 1960, with the cabins sold to individual owners thereafter. The upper mesa area was used as an RV trailer park in the early 1970s; owners of the Gavin Cabin include Martin C. Schwarzwald (1916-1987) who acquired it in 1968 and constructed a back addition, and the current owner, Jim Herzog.

36. Sources of information:

Lake City SILVER WORLD, Fri., July 1, 1983, page 8, Fri., July 3, 1987, page 3; telephone conversation with Donna (Humphrey) Lory, 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: Entertainment and recreation, architecture

40. Period of significance: 1929 - 1953

41. Level of significance: National  State  Local

42. Statement of significance:

This cabin is associated with the growth and development of recreation and tourism in Lake City from 1915 through the 1960s, following the local decline of hard rock mining. The cabin also reflects the pattern of re-using buildings and materials during the tourism period: it was moved from the abandoned mining camp of Sherman to become one of the tourist cabins for the Liska's Cabins "tourist camp." The squared log materials reflect the cabin's original construction in the 1870s.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity to significance:

Although slightly altered, 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 21, frames 21A-23A Negatives filed at: Lake City Town Hall

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

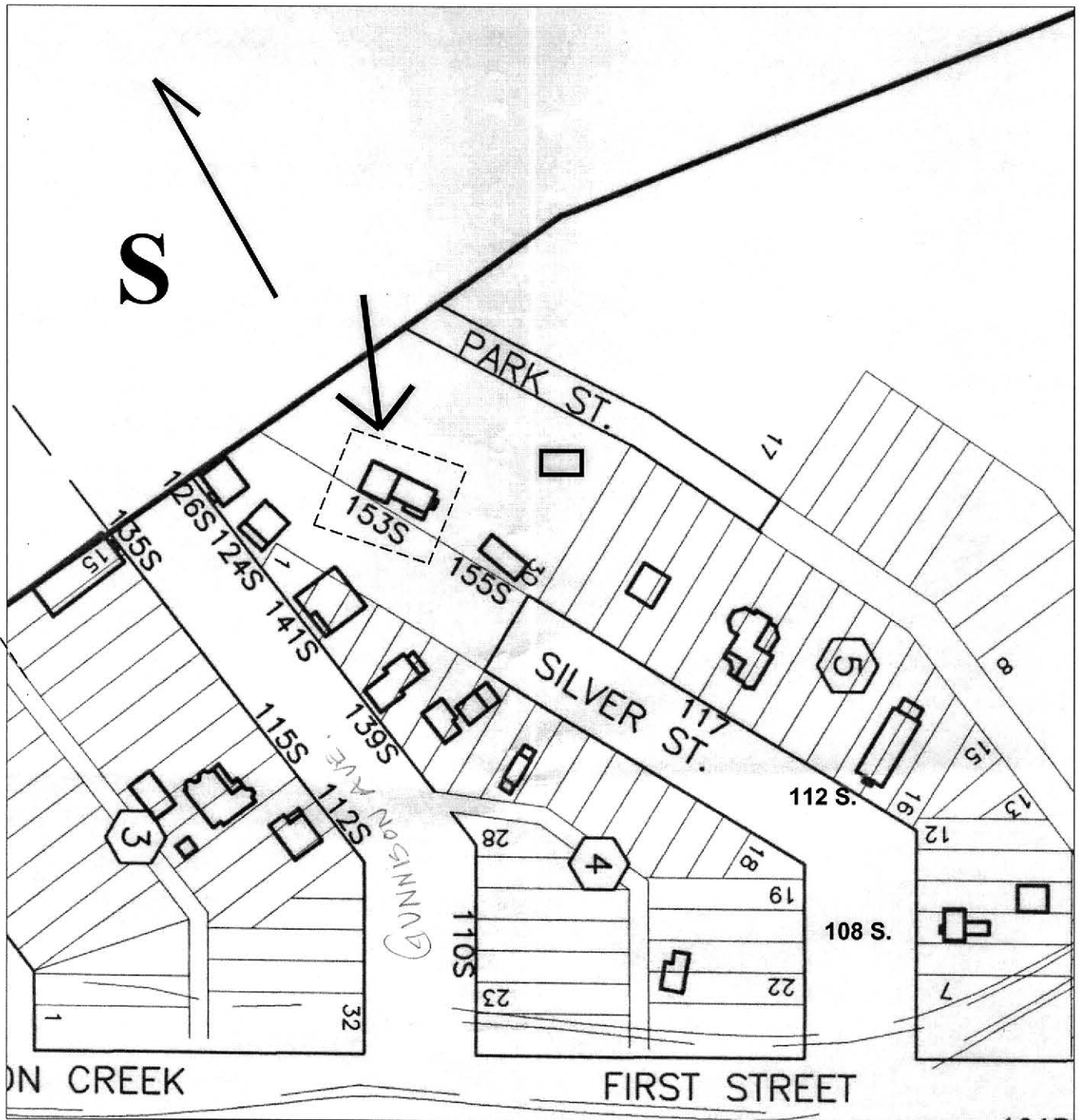
49. Date(s): September 2002 - June 2003

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



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