

HISTORY COLORADO

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

SECTION I

Name of Property

Historic Name Centennial House

Other Names 5JF.2777/Centennial Ranch/Centennial House Hotel

Address of Property

[] address not for publication

Street Address 31121 Golden Gate Canyon Road

City Golden County Jefferson Zip 80403

Present Owner of Property

(for multiple ownership, list the names and addresses of each owner on one or more continuation sheets)

Name Jefferson County

Address 100 Jefferson County Parkway Phone 303-271-5925

City Golden State Colorado Zip 80419

Owner Consent for Nomination

(attach signed consent from each owner of property - see attached form)

Preparer of Nomination

Name Jade Martin Date May 31, 2022

Organization Jefferson County Open Space, Heritage Stewardship Team

Address 700 Jefferson County Parkway # 100 Phone 720-497-7650

City Golden State Colorado Zip 80401

FOR OFFICIAL USE:

Site Number 5JF.2777

May 31, 2022 Nomination Received

Sept 16, 2022 Review Board Recommendation
 Approval Denial

Sept 28, 2022 HC Board State Register Listing
 Approved Denied

Listing Criteria A B C D E

 Patrick A. Erdman, DSHPO 10/21/2022
 Certification of Listing: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer HISTORY COLORADO Date

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

SECTION II

Local Historic Designation

Has the property received local historic designation?

no

yes --- individually designated designated as part of a historic district

Date designated TBD

Designated by Jefferson County (Name of municipality or county)

Use of Property

Historic Domestic/Single Dwelling, Hotel

Current Vacant

Original Owner Stephen Booton, U.S. federal government

Source of Information John Gregory Country Second Edition; Colorado Transcript Dec. 4, 1902; Jefferson County, Colorado Assessment Rolls and Tax Lists, 1866-1948; 1903 land patent

Year of Construction 1876

Source of Information John Gregory Country Second Edition; datestone on southwest side of the house

Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer Stephen Booton, Builder

Source of Information John Gregory Country Second Edition

Locational Status

Original location of resource(s)

Resource(s) moved to current location

Date of move _____

For Office Use Only

Property Type: building(s) district site structure object area

Architectural Style/Engineering Type: Italianate/Rustic

Period of Significance: 1872-1992

Level of Significance: Local State National

Multiple Property Submission: NA

Acreage 0.60

P.M. 6 Township 3S Range 71W Section 17 Quarter Sections SW NE NE/SE NE NE

UTM Reference: Zone 13N Easting 469700mE Northing 4405032mN NAD83

Site Elevation: 7691 feet

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

SECTION III

DESCRIPTION AND ALTERATIONS

(describe the current and original appearance of the property followed by a discussion of all alterations)

Addressed as 31121 Golden Gate Canyon Road, the Centennial House is a rectangular plan with a truncated hipped roof. While approaching it from the curving road, the stone house appears from behind a large tree. A flagstone path runs from the stone steps at the fence line to the poured concrete steps at the front door. The house is located in the Douglas Mountain Study Area with no immediate neighbors and is nestled among the trees, grasses, and sloping hills of the canyon. The land immediately surrounding the house is covered with grass and is mostly cleared of trees except for a large evergreen that towers over the primary façade and a couple of tall trees adjacent to the northwest side. Near the bridge, which is located to the southeast of the house and spans a small unnamed stream, are two Whitney Crab apple trees. Although the current trees are only about fifty years old according to core sampling, there is speculation that they may be descendants of a Whitney Crab planted by the original owners. Small portions of a terraced stone wall located near the northwest side of the house are still visible. This dry stacked wall may be contemporary to the house as it appears in the oldest known photograph of the property from ca. 1880 or 1890.

The Centennial House is located on the north side of Golden Gate Canyon Road, on a raised and leveled grade bounded by stone and concrete walls and wire fencing. The house is a two-story building with random rubble stone and mortar walls on a stone foundation capped by a standing-seam tin roof with two stucco-covered brick chimneys with metal caps. The walls include a mix of cut and rubble stone with mortar. The corners of the building have stone quoins, and windows are supported by concrete sills with painted wood lintels. Fenestrations include primarily vinyl replacement windows (added after 1990) except for one extant original window covered by wood shutters (added after 1949 but before 1960), including some with the Centennial Ranch cattle brand stamped into the wood, and two entrances covered by small projecting gable-roofed, wood-framed awnings (also added after 1949 but before 1960). The property also includes several historic outbuildings: a wood frame storage shed, a stone workshop, and a stone barn/chicken coop, as well as an outdoor barbecue and a concrete and stone bridge. Two wood-framed sheds were added in recent years.

Exterior

All four sides of the Centennial House are similar but with different fenestration patterns. The walls are all constructed of a mix of cut and rubble stone with incised mortar. All of the windows, which have concrete sills and wood lintels that are painted white, are rectangular double-hung four-over-four windows. Except for one, all the windows feature vertical wood plank shutters secured with horizontal nailed boards; the remaining window is secured with plywood.

The southwest primary façade of the Centennial House contains four windows and a door. This primary entrance faces Golden Gate Canyon Road although it is setback about fifty feet. On the lower level, a set of five concrete stairs lead to the front door. The year "1933" is inscribed into the concrete on the southwest-facing surface of the steps while a small, rectangular metal plaque is located on the step closest to the door. The plaque is engraved and reads "Geo. E. Koch, 1941, Elv. 7691.069." The single front door is made of wood and located to the left of center. In front of it is a security door made of glass and metal. Above the front door is a small projecting gable-roofed wood-framed awning added after 1949 but before 1960. Two windows flank the front door. On the second floor, directly above each window on the first floor, are two windows. Located near the roof in the center is a white datestone that reads "Centennial House 1876."

The southeast side overlooks the outbuildings on the property. This wall contains a door and six windows. The door on the lower level is located to the right of center. Although not original to the house, it is a historic narrow

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

wood door constructed of two panels that swing open from the center. This wood door is paired with a glass and metal security door. Like the door on the primary façade, the entrance on this side is covered by a small projecting gable-roofed, wood-framed awning which was added after 1949 but before 1960. Two windows are on the lower level, one on the right and one on the left. The second level has four windows that are almost evenly spaced from side to side. The northeast side is the rear of the house and includes three windows with two evenly spaced windows on the lower level and one central window on the upper level. The lower windows are secured with horizontal nailed boards like the windows on other facades while the upper window is secured with plywood. The northwest side is in close proximity to the sloping hill from the north which leaves room for only a narrow path. The wall contains five windows. On the lower level, the only window is located near the northernmost point of the house. On the upper level, there are four relatively evenly spaced windows. The northern-most window is the only remaining historic wood window in the house.

Interior

The interior of the house includes several different wall materials including lath and plaster, stone, and wood paneling. Flooring materials also vary as wood floors, vinyl, and carpet can all be found throughout the house. The front room features a large stone fireplace with a stone firewood box that is located on the northwest wall. The shape, size, and type of stone used to build the fireplace and firewood box differs from the stone used on the exterior walls of the house suggesting that it was constructed at a later date, likely in the 1950s. According to Dave Schroeder, a friend of former owner Charles Thompson, the pink limestone for the fireplace came from a quarry near Castle Rock, Colorado. J.A. McNess constructed the fireplace with the help of Leo Vechazone who made the wood grate inside out of railroad switch rods to prevent collapse from too high of heat. The fireplace abuts the northeast wall which is constructed of stone that mimics the older stone on the exterior of the building. Two inset wood boxes on this wall match the size and shape of the exterior window openings, suggesting that this may have been an exterior wall at some point, but there is no other evidence to confirm. The southeast opening contains three shelves while the northwest opening is a glass-enclosed display case with lighting containing several taxidermied birds by former owner Theodore Koch. In the short hallway that connects the front room to the kitchen is the staircase that leads to the second level. The kitchen is at the rear of the building and was updated with newer cabinetry ca. 1950s. Upstairs, there are four rooms and one bathroom with ca. 1950s fixtures and 1990s finishes. Six of the four-panel interior doors are historic and feature historic hardware. These doors appear to date from the period of significance.

Site Features

Wood Frame Storage Shed (ca. 1900s) (contributing): A wood frame storage shed stands adjacent and almost flush to the northeast corner of the Centennial House. It is a rectangular, single-story building constructed of wood and capped with a corrugated tin roof. It sits on a brick foundation that is partially covered with tin. The only door, facing southeast, is made of vertical wood boards and one small opening on the northeast side serves as a window.

Stone Workshop (ca. 1900s) (contributing): The rectangular stone workshop is a gable front building with overhead crawlspace and features stone and mortar walls, overhanging eaves, and a standing-seam tin roof. The entrance faces southwest and contains a wood-framed door made of vertical stained boards with a large wood lintel located above. The roof above the primary façade extends further than over any of the other sides. A difference in stone shape and mortar color on the gable indicates that alterations were made to the roof line at some point. Part of the workshop abuts the bedrock and some words are etched into the rock, including "1968," "Thompson," "Cardeneas," "Barbara," and "Charles." These inscriptions relate to the Thompson family who purchased the property in 1949.

Stone Barn/Chicken Coop (ca. 1900s) (contributing): This one-story rectangular stone barn and chicken coop was partially built into the hillside. It is constructed of stacked stone and mortar and has a side gable standing-

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

seam tin roof. The primary façade that faces southwest contains a centered single wood frame door made of vertical boards. To the east of the entrance is a small square window opening that contains no glass but is covered with a metal screen. On the southeast wall there is a two-lite window covered in a metal screen. Directly below the window is a small square opening that appears to have been used as an entrance for the fowl into the coop.

Concrete and Stone Bridge (ca. 1940s) (contributing): Located southeast of the house stands a concrete and stone bridge. It spans a small unnamed stream with two concrete posts clad in stone on either end of the bridge connected by galvanized pipe railings. The sides of the concrete bridge are adorned with a single line of upright stones that are attached to the decking with concrete.

Outdoor Barbecue (ca. 1950s) (contributing): An outdoor barbecue constructed of cut stone is located northeast of the house. It is a rectangular object that contains a brick surround firebox. The exterior is clad in rusticated stone cut in various sizes in rectangular shapes. Ledges overhang the walls of the base and flank either side of the firebox. A metal grate sits flush with the ledges.

Contemporary Features (ca. late 1990s/early 2000s) (noncontributing): Two contemporary sheds also sit on the property, southeast of the house. The contemporary shed that sits closest to the house is an open-sided shed constructed of log and plywood with a shed-style corrugated metal roof; it was constructed in the early 2000s. The other shed was built ca. late 1990s and is the southeastern-most of the group of outbuildings. Its primary façade faces northwest and is a rectangular plan with a front gabled metal roof. The shed is constructed of wood frame and plywood with a barn-door style entrance.

Alterations

Although several historic features of the Centennial House remain intact, some alterations have been made. Specific dates of changes are unknown, but most, if not all, occurred after Charles and Barbara Thompson purchased the property in 1949. All but one of the house's windows have been replaced with vinyl double-hung four-over-four windows. However, the window massing, details, and fenestration patterns are consistent with the windows that were found there historically. The remaining historic wood double-hung four-over-four window is located on the northwest side of the house on the second floor. Pairs of wood shutters were added to each window, some featuring the Centennial Ranch cattle brand branded into the wood (see Photo 9). Two projecting gable-roofed, wood-framed awnings capped with standing-seam tin have also been added above each entryway. Historic photos indicate that the early roof material was wood shingles but today is standing-seam tin. Both chimneys are constructed of brick but have been covered in stucco.

The interior of the house has also undergone alterations ca. 1950s. On the main level, a fireplace has been added or refaced with large stones and mortar that are inconsistent with the stone type and building technique found in the stonework throughout the rest of the house. The kitchen now features wood cabinetry with decorative scalloped wood molding and the walls and ceilings are covered in wood paneling. On the second floor, the hallways are also clad in wood paneling which covers the lath and plaster walls. Much of the plaster ceiling has been covered by square 12" x 12" pressed fiberboard ceiling tiles, and the floor is covered in carpet. A bathroom was added ca. 1950s, possibly replacing an original bedroom, and it now contains a toilet, sink, and tub with shower with vinyl floors.

On the surrounding property, alterations have also been made. Located southwest of the Centennial House and across Golden Gate Canyon Road, historic photos show that three or four outbuildings once stood on the property including a bunkhouse and barn. Although aerial photos show the buildings were present in 1971, by the end of the twentieth century none of the buildings were still extant.

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

INTEGRITY

(discuss the property's historic integrity)

Location: Because it stands on the original site where it was constructed, the Centennial House retains its integrity of location.

Setting: The Centennial House retains a high degree of integrity in the aspect of setting. Besides the addition of a few small outbuildings and the loss of others, the land surrounding the house has remained undeveloped. Golden Gate Canyon Road has been paved and re-aligned, but it still has a connection to the house much like it has over the past 150 years. Compared to historic photos, the character of the setting has changed minimally since its construction.

Design: The Centennial House's style, form, plan, and fenestration remain intact with no major modifications to the building occurring since its construction. A few minor changes after 1949 were made including the addition of two awnings over each entryway and wood shutters covering each window. The roof material has also been changed as historically wood shingles covered the roof but today is capped with standing-seam tin. These changes do not obstruct the view of the historic design, though, so the Centennial House retains a high degree of integrity with regards to design.

Materials: Historic stone and mortar are present and clearly visible on the Centennial House's exterior. This character defining feature remains in very good condition with minimal alterations. Other historic materials include concrete sills and wood lintels that surround each window. Although only one historic wood window remains, the other historic materials provide good integrity of materials.

Workmanship: The workmanship of the Centennial House is evident as the stones were laid by hand by the builder. Hand cut stone quoins were used on each corner of the house and remain today. Much of the mortar is incised on the exterior walls. The Centennial House retains a high degree of integrity in the area of workmanship.

Feeling: Because the Centennial House's integrity is strong in the aspects of location, setting, design, and workmanship, the house continues to convey its historic feel. The connection to the gently curving roadway evokes images of the arrival of freight wagons during the canyon's early days. Additionally, without development to the surrounding land, the sense of quiet and seclusion remain and continue to bridge the house's past to the present. A feeling of the canyon in earlier decades can be sensed when observing the Centennial House and so it retains a high degree of integrity in the aspect of feeling.

Association: The Centennial House retains a high degree of integrity in regards to association because it is still connected to the nearby road that once transported thousands of travelers in Golden Gate Canyon during Colorado's early mining days. The Centennial House is also a geographic landmark and is closely associated with the community's past and present.

Overall, the Centennial House retains a high degree of integrity regarding location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling, and association.

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

SECTION IV

Significance of Property

Nomination Criteria

- A** - property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history
- B** - property is connected with persons significant in history
- C** - property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan
- D** - property is of geographic importance
- E** - property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history

Areas of Significance

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology –
prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology –
historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/
Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/
Settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geography/
Community Identity | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/
Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community
Planning and
Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social History |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, areas of significance, and justification for the period of significance.)

The Centennial House is significant at the state level under Criterion A: Transportation for its use as a waystation in Golden Gate Canyon between Golden and the historic mining bonanza that occurred in Central City and Black Hawk in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The period of significance is 1876, the year that construction was completed, through 1890 when the mining rush slowed significantly and the purpose of the Centennial House had shifted from waystation to ranch. The site of one of the state's earliest gold strikes and the richest mining region in Colorado during the 1860s and 70s, Black Hawk and Central City were accessed by thousands of people via Golden Gate Canyon. For over a decade, the Centennial House was a frequently visited stopping point and an integral part of the Golden Gate Canyon journey as it provided a respite for travelers along the canyon's Gregory Toll Road who used the popular waystation for a meal, accommodation, or rest for their animals. The Centennial House is one of just a few remaining buildings in Jefferson County that played a significant role in transportation in the early settlement of the area. Although other still extant buildings with similar histories include the South Platte Hotel in the North Fork Historic District and the Clifton House in Conifer, neither are in as good of condition, retain such integrity, or, being constructed of wood rather than stone, are as permanent as the Centennial House. Additionally, the Centennial House is one of the only known properties related to transportation in the area made of stone construction built at such an early date which sets it apart from other buildings with similar backgrounds.

The Centennial House is also significant at the local level under Criterion C: Architecture. The period of significance is 1872 to 1876, the years of construction. As a building made of stone and rubble with mortar, the Centennial House features a method of construction that utilized readily-available local materials in or near Golden Gate Canyon. With hand laid stone, hand-cut stone quoins, and incised mortar, the house is a well-preserved example of local workmanship. Although the Centennial House is a simple design, its rectangular plan, truncated hipped roof, enclosed overhanging eaves, stone quoins, and narrow four-over-four double-hung windows mimic some characteristics common to Italianate houses of the mid to late nineteenth century.

Additionally, as a property of geographic importance in Golden Gate Canyon, the Centennial House is significant at the local level under Criterion D. The period of significance is 1876 to 1992. This period begins with the year that construction was completed and ends with the year that falls in accordance with the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties' thirty year rule. Clearly visible and standing near the Gregory Toll Road in Golden Gate Canyon for nearly 150 years, the Centennial House has been a local landmark since its completion in 1876. It is one of the only historic stone houses in the canyon and according to current residents, nearly everyone in the community knows the location of the Centennial House. They also understand that when locals discuss the "stone house," they are referencing the Centennial House. Aside from its geographic prominence, the Centennial House is central to the identity of the Golden Gate Canyon community. During the period of significance, the house was an important social gathering site that hosted hunting parties, the Columbine Club, the Campfire Girls, and the Jefferson County Mounted Posse. The Centennial House serves as a landmark as both a physical geographic marker and the cultural core of Golden Gate Canyon.

DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY / ADDITIONAL HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION (if appropriate)

Historic Context

Since it was built in 1876, the Centennial House has been a vital part of the Golden Gate Canyon community. Throughout the years, the stone building has served as a gathering place for both travelers and members of the community alike. A local landmark, the Centennial House is integral to the history of Golden Gate Canyon.

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

On May 6, 1859, John Gregory struck gold between current day Central City and Black Hawk. This discovery sparked the mining boom in the area which quickly became the richest mining region in Colorado.¹ Gregory, an enigmatic man who hailed from Georgia, was said to be the first to go “where no man had gone before with a miner’s pick.”² To get to the area, which became known as Gregory Diggings, Gregory forged a path through today’s Golden Gate Canyon. Around 1860, to meet the needs of the increasing traffic from Golden to Central City and Black Hawk, the Gregory Toll Road was constructed near where the house now stands. This road, slightly different than Gregory’s original path, offered an easier way to get to Gregory Diggings.

Over the next few years following Gregory’s discovery, traffic to Central City and Black Hawk intensified. Stagecoaches began operating daily services from Denver and freight wagons hauled much needed lumber milled from Golden Gate Canyon’s plentiful supply of trees. Because so many new travelers journeyed through the canyon, roadhouses were built along the toll roads to offer accommodation and meals. Among these roadhouses was a humble log cabin built near the Gregory Toll Road.

According to current Golden Gate Canyon residents Charles and Mary Ramstetter, the log cabin was constructed at the site not long after Gregory discovered gold in 1859. It is said to have been located near the Centennial House with a partially still extant foundation. The roadhouse was supposedly used as a stage stop, operated by members of the Stephen Booton family. Stephen Booton, born in 1829 in West Virginia (it was Virginia at the time of Stephen’s birth), moved his family to Colorado from Illinois in 1863 and settled on the Gregory Toll Road “and never left it.”³ Booton filed a legal notice with the county that same year establishing his right to occupy 150 acres of land in Guy Township.⁴ In 1864, Stephen appeared on the Jefferson County tax and assessment list for his seventh-class hotel and retail liquor dealer which was located on the Gregory Toll Road.⁵ By the time of the 1870 U.S. Federal Census, he was working as an innkeeper. Stephen was married to America Booton, also called Almira on various occasions, who helped him run the inn. Together they had four children: Rose, Daniel, Mary Alma, and Perley⁶. With the influx of travelers along the Gregory Toll Road, it seems the Bootons kept busy by providing meals and offering a place to rest for both travelers and livestock at their property.

Within a few years of the Booton family establishing their inn in Golden Gate Canyon, the demand for better transportation to and from the mining communities motivated the railroads to establish their presence in the area. The railroads obtained land under the Pacific Railway Act of 1862 and started laying tracks in nearby Clear Creek Canyon. In 1872, the Colorado Central Railroad began service between Golden and Black Hawk.⁷

¹ “Central City-Black Hawk Historic District,” *Colorado Encyclopedia*, <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/central-city%E2%80%93black-hawk-historic-district>.

² Charles and Mary Ramstetter, *John Gregory Country: Place Names and History of Ralston Buttes Quadrangle Jefferson County, Colorado* (Golden, CO: C Lazy Three Press, 2013), 343.

³ “Death Called Citizens Stephen Booton,” *The Colorado Transcript* 37, no. 7 (4 December 1902): 4.

⁴ Stephen Booton Legal Notice, 4 August 1863, Book D pp. 125-6, Property Deeds, Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder, Golden, Colorado.

⁵ Hotels, inns, and taverns were classified according to the annual rent or estimated rent, from a first-class establishment with a yearly rental of \$10,000 to an eighth-class hotel with a yearly rental of less than \$100, and charged license fees of from \$200 to \$5 accordingly. <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1986/winter/civil-war-tax-records.html>

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 1880 U.S. Census, Ancestry.com, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/13844766:6742?tid=&pid=&queryId=ce662893ce28127a188aebc861f77f22&_phsrc=Eyi763&_phstart=succ essSource.

⁷ Clayton B. Fraser and Jennifer H. Strand, “Railroads in Colorado 1858-1948,” *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form* (Loveland, Colorado: Fraserdesign, 1998), Section E p. 13; Alan Granruth, *Mining Gold to Mining*

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

Although the tax assessment records indicate that he did not own the property and was instead a squatter, Booton continued to run his roadhouse.

Even though the railroad greatly decreased the need for the stagecoach through Golden Gate Canyon, freight wagons were still in high demand. The Gregory Toll Road still experienced heavy traffic and the Bootons continued to run their business. It must have become apparent to Stephen and America at that time that a more permanent building was needed for their roadside inn. In 1872, the foundation for the Centennial House was laid. It seems that Booton constructed the stone house over the next four years, possibly with the help of Nelson Seaver, a family friend and teamster⁸. Construction on the house was finally completed in 1876 and was named the Centennial House in honor of the United States' centennial year. This accomplishment was proudly proclaimed by the datestone above the front door that still today reads "Centennial House 1876."

Very quickly the Centennial House became a well-known and popular waystation where visitors were made to feel comfortable in the Booton family's home. According to a passage in *John Gregory Country*, the Bootons often treated their guests to fresh milk from a small herd of milk cows. They also utilized the house's common areas for guests to relax: women retreated to the upstairs living room while men used the main living room downstairs for their cigars and libations.⁹

Over the next decade, the Bootons continued to offer hot meals and accommodation. With the herd of milk cows, farming and ranching at the Booton property started to play a bigger role but they still received guests. Although freighters were the regular visitors, out of the ordinary guests also stopped at the Centennial House on occasion. In 1888, a popular Denver bicycling club called the Denver Ramblers planned a two-day round-trip excursion from Denver to Central City and Black Hawk. The first night, which was spent in Idaho Springs, was followed by a morning bike ride up to Central City and Black Hawk where the group toured the mines. Afterwards, they rode down the very steep Dory Hill until they reached the Centennial House. There they stopped for dinner before embarking on the last leg of their journey back to Denver.¹⁰

The luster of Central City and Black Hawk began to fade in the 1880s due to the rising prominence of Denver and silver strikes in other parts of the state. Because of this slow decline, fewer people travelled through Golden Gate Canyon.¹¹ With the decrease in toll road traffic, roadhouses in the canyon were no longer needed in the capacity that they once were. Many of the once-popular rest stops began to transition from roadhouses to ranches, taking advantage of the vast acres of agricultural land. The Centennial House was among those that converted. Although it was no longer used as an inn for weary travelers, the Centennial House served a new primary purpose. Booton and his son, Daniel, who were listed as farmer and farm laborer, respectively, on the 1900 U.S. Federal Census, farmed and ran cattle on the property. The partnership ended abruptly, however, when Stephen died suddenly at the Centennial House in 1902. America Booton died the following year.

In the years following Stephen Booton's death, the ownership of the land where the Centennial House stands was resolved. In 1903, Union Pacific Railroad acquired the land under the Pacific Railway Act of 1862 and the following year, Daniel Booton purchased the property and continued to operate the land as a ranch. At the time of the 1910 U.S. Federal Census, Daniel was recorded as working as a farmer of a general farm and his sisters, Rose and Mary Alma, still lived at the home. By 1920, only Daniel and Mary remained at the Centennial House

Wallets: Central City, Colorado 1859-1999 (Central City, Colorado: Gilpin County Historical Society, 1999), 20.

⁸ "Miss Viola Seaver dies; service Wed.," *The Golden Transcript* 108, no. 128 (17 June 1975): 2.

⁹ Ramstetter, *John Gregory Country*, 301.

¹⁰ "Among the Ramblers," *Rocky Mountain News*, 9 April 1888, 1.

¹¹ "Central City-Black Hawk Historic District," Colorado Encyclopedia, <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/central-city%E2%80%93black-hawk-historic-district>.

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

farm. Continuing the family's legacy of hospitality, Daniel loaned the Centennial House to thirteen members of the Camp Fire Girls for a week for their annual camping trip in 1925.¹² Daniel Booton owned the Centennial House for three more years, selling it before his death in 1931.

In 1928, Bessie Tripp Koch, born in 1873 in Colorado, purchased the Centennial House. Bessie was married to Theodore Koch, the son of Ernest Koch, Sr., an early settler in Golden Gate Canyon for whom Koch Gulch is named. Born in 1877 in Golden Gate Canyon, Theodore was a jack of all trades. He worked as a rancher, taxidermist, and Coors Brewing Company delivery driver. In fact, he drove the first Coors Brewing Company motorized delivery truck in 1910. Theodore and Bessie had two children, George (born in 1904 in Colorado) and Rose.

Theodore and Bessie used the property at the Centennial House, also called the Centennial Ranch, in a variety of ways. First and foremost, the Kochs used the land to raise their dairy cows. In addition to running the ranch, Theodore spent time mounting colorful birds, bull elk, and other wildlife using his talent of taxidermy. His birds were put in a display case in the main floor living room which are still visible today. During hunting season, the Kochs offered their house to residents of Golden Gate Canyon as a gathering place for the group of hunters to organize their plan of action. They also stored their hunting supplies like potbelly stoves and tents in the sheds on the property. After a successful hunt, the party would break camp, return to the Centennial House with the animals, and begin to process them for meat.¹³ Every year the Kochs opened their home and property to the local hunting party so the community could work together to hunt for food.

Theodore worked as a dairy farmer at the Centennial Ranch until his death in 1937. In 1939, the property transferred from Bessie to her son George Koch and his wife, Jeanette, who continued the family's tradition of dairy farming on the property. Ca. 1941, the couple's herd consisted of twenty-five dairy cows whose milk was sold to Coors in Golden.¹⁴ They also continued the tradition of offering the Centennial Ranch as a community meeting spot. Jeanette, a founding member of the Golden Gate Canyon's home demonstration club, called the Columbine Club, opened the Centennial Ranch to the organization for meetings. Founded in 1936 by nine women including Jeanette and her mother-in-law, Bessie, the Columbine Club was a home economics club affiliated with the Colorado State University Extension Services. The club allowed the women of Golden Gate Canyon to discuss different topics and learn new things such as canning meat, planting a garden, and making and upholstering furniture. They also organized community events, supported the sick, and petitioned county commissioners for road and school repairs.¹⁵ The Columbine Club was an invaluable organization to the women in the community that had special ties to the Centennial Ranch. According to *John Gregory Country*, the club met at the houses of different members, in schoolhouses, and the Centennial Ranch. There the meetings were held in the Centennial House itself or the bunkhouse that burned down around 1997.

Like Jeanette, George was involved in the community. Having spent most of his life in the Golden area, George was a well-known dairyman and stockman. In February 1943, George was appointed the undersheriff of Jefferson County by Sheriff Howard Vincent and was acting sheriff by December of that year. By 1945, George was elected thirty-fourth sheriff of Jefferson County. During his tenure, George created the Jefferson County Mounted Posse (today called the Jefferson County Mounted Patrol) to help in search and rescue operations. The Posse met at the Centennial House on at least one occasion as commemorated in a photograph from ca. 1945.

¹² "Camp Fire Girls," *The Jefferson County Republican* 6, no. 29 (11 June 1925): 8.

¹³ Golden Gate Grangers, interview by Erica Duvic and Jade Martin, 18 January 2022, Golden, Colorado, notes in the possession of Jefferson County Open Space Collection.

¹⁴ Columbine Home Demonstration Club Scrapbook, 1941, 2011.029.001, Golden History Museum & Park, Online Collections, Golden, Colorado.

¹⁵ Ramstetter, *John Gregory Country*, 343.

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

In 1946, George's second cousin, Raymond Koch purchased the property along with Thomas Farrell. Raymond, born in 1917 in Colorado, was living in Edgewater, Colorado, in 1940 and owned Raymond Koch Used Cars and Metals on West Colfax Ave. Thomas, born in 1901 in Colorado, was a manager and owner of a restaurant on West Colfax Ave. in 1940 as well. Raymond and Thomas purchased the Centennial Ranch but it is unclear if or how they used it. Two years later, in 1948, they sold it to James and Edith Bearly. At the time of the 1940 U.S. Federal Census, the Bearlys were living in Los Angeles, California, where James worked as a building engineer. Like the previous owners, it is unclear how or if the Bearlys used the Centennial Ranch. They owned it for just one year.

The Bearlys sold the Centennial Ranch property to Charles and Barbara Thompson in 1949. Charles was born in 1909 in Nebraska and worked as a dentist. His wife, Barbara, was born ca. 1915 in Nebraska and together they had two children, Charles, Jr. and Barbara. Charles opened his dental practice in Golden in 1938 and was later stationed as a first lieutenant in the Dental Corps of the United States Army at Fitzsimons General Hospital during World War II.¹⁶

Accustomed to life in Golden, the Thompsons never lived at the Centennial House full time. Instead, they mainly used it as a hunting cabin and retreat for Charles. On occasion the Thompson family spent time at the Centennial House for big events. According to current residents, beginning in the 1960s or 1970s the Thompsons hosted a yearly celebration in July to recognize a Peruvian holiday introduced to them by a family friend. The event was attended by residents and included picnicking on the Thompson property and a big party¹⁷.

The Thompsons owned the Centennial House for nearly six decades. Ed Thompson, Charles' grandson through daughter Barbara, lived at the house full time for a while but was the only member of the Thompson family to ever use the Centennial House as more than a hunting cabin. In 2008, the Thompson family decided to sell the house and surrounding land. Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) purchased part of the property in 2008 and in 2015 purchased the house, thus owning the property in its entirety.

Since JCOS's purchase in 2015, the Centennial House has been maintained by the organization but has not been in use residentially or commercially. It has been opened to small groups for tours on occasion but has mostly been unoccupied.

The Centennial House is an integral part of Golden Gate Canyon's history. Whether serving as a stop for travelers hoping to find their fortune in Central City and Black Hawk, a meeting place for the women of the community learning new skills for the home, a starting and ending point for a hunting party working together to gather food, or a venue to celebrate a Peruvian holiday with neighbors, the local landmark has been a part of the lives of the Golden Gate Canyon community for nearly a century and a half. The rich history of the community is cemented in the thick stone walls of the Centennial House.

¹⁶ "Dentist Joins Army; to be Stations at Fitzsimons Hospital," *The Colorado Transcript* no. 34 (20 June 1940): 1.

¹⁷ Golden Gate Grangers, interview, 18 January 2022, Golden, Colorado.

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

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Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

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COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

SECTION V

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description of Nominated Property

(describe the boundaries of the nominated property)

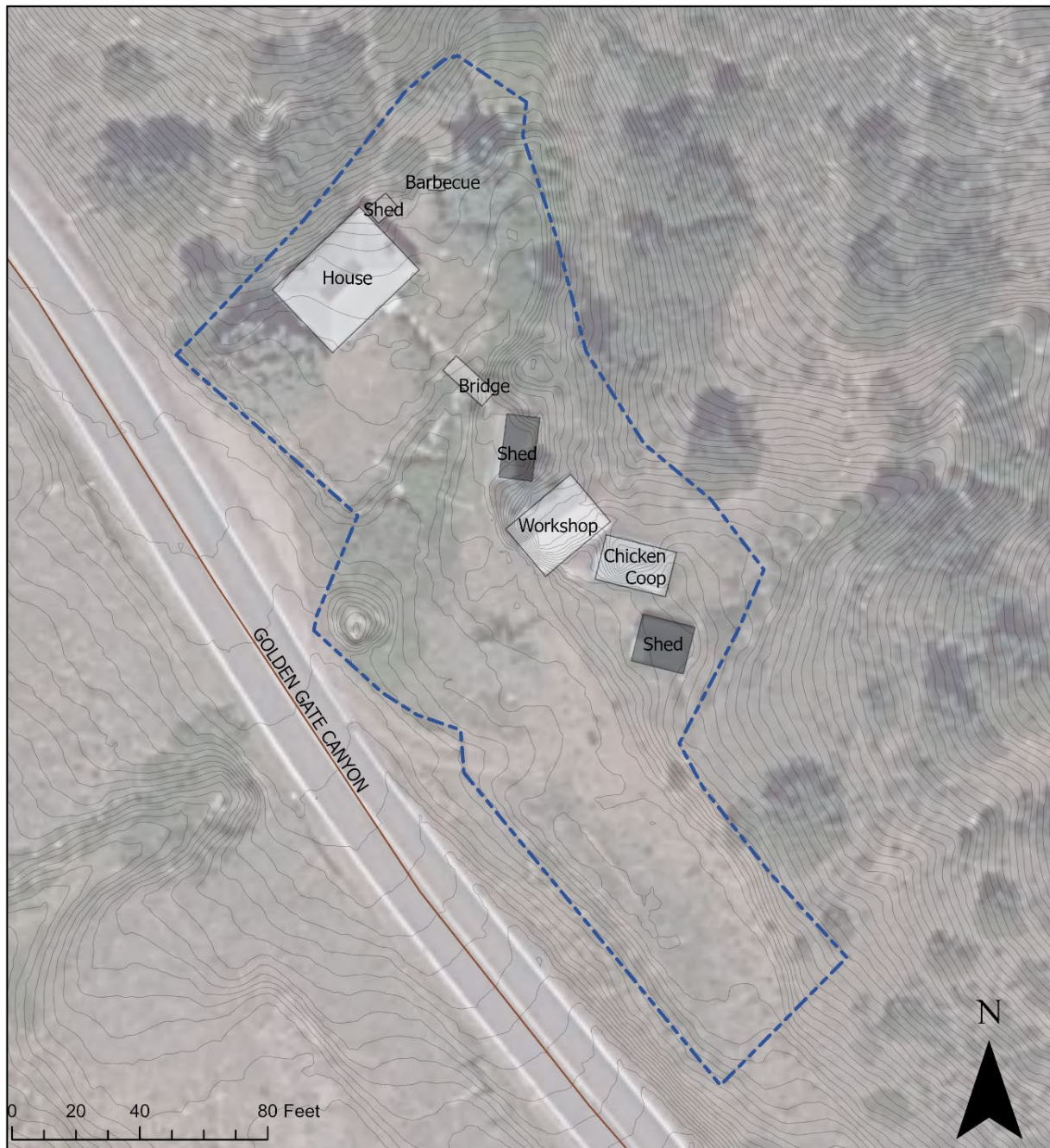
The property boundary is defined by the wire and concrete fence that surrounds the existing buildings on the property. Because Booton did not take ownership of the property until 1903, there is no record of the extent of the property during its period of significance. See map.

Official Map (show location of property on map)

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County



Legend

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| — Road | Features |
| - - - Property Boundary | ■ Historic |
| | ■ Non-Historic |

Centennial House

31121 Golden Gate Canyon Rd.
Golden, CO 80403

Data Sources: Jeffco Open Space, Jeffco ITS, USGS, NHD, CDOT, and DRCOG

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COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

SECTION VI

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photographs numbers 1-_____, except as noted:

Name of Property: Centennial House
Location: Golden, Jefferson County
Photographer: Noted below
Date of Photographs: Noted below

Photo No.	Description of View and Direction of Camera
1	Southeast side, camera facing northwest. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
2	Southeast and northeast side closeup, camera facing west. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
3	Northeast side, camera facing southwest. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
4	Northeast and northwest sides, camera facing southwest. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
5	Northwest side, camera facing south. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
6	Southwest side (primary façade), camera facing northeast. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
7	Datestone on southwest side, camera facing northeast. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
8	Detail of the stone and incised mortar on southwest side, camera facing northeast. Photo by Jade Martin. November 23, 2021.
9	Detail of Centennial Ranch brand stamped into wood shutter, camera facing northeast. Photo by Jade Martin. November 23, 2021.
10	Detail of stone quoins, camera facing north. Photo by Jade Martin. May 9, 2022.
11	Wood frame storage shed southeast side (primary façade), camera facing northwest. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
12	Wood frame storage shed southeast and northeast side, camera facing west. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
13	Outdoor barbecue south side (primary façade), camera facing north. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
14	Outdoor barbecue east side, camera facing northwest. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
15	Outdoor barbecue west side, camera facing northeast. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
16	Concrete and stone bridge northeast side, camera facing south. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
17	Concrete and stone bridge closeup, camera facing southeast. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
18	Concrete and stone bridge southwest side, camera facing east. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
19	Outbuildings including workshop, barn, and contemporary shed, camera facing north. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
20	Stone workshop southwest side (primary façade), camera facing northeast. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
21	Stone workshop northwest and southwest sides, camera facing east. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
22	Stone workshop southeast side, camera facing northwest. Photo by Jade Martin. May 9, 2022.
23	Stone barn/chicken coop southwest side (primary façade), camera facing north. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
24	Stone barn/chicken coop northwest side, camera facing east. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
25	Stone barn/chicken coop southeast side, camera facing west. Photo by Jade Martin. May 9, 2022.

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

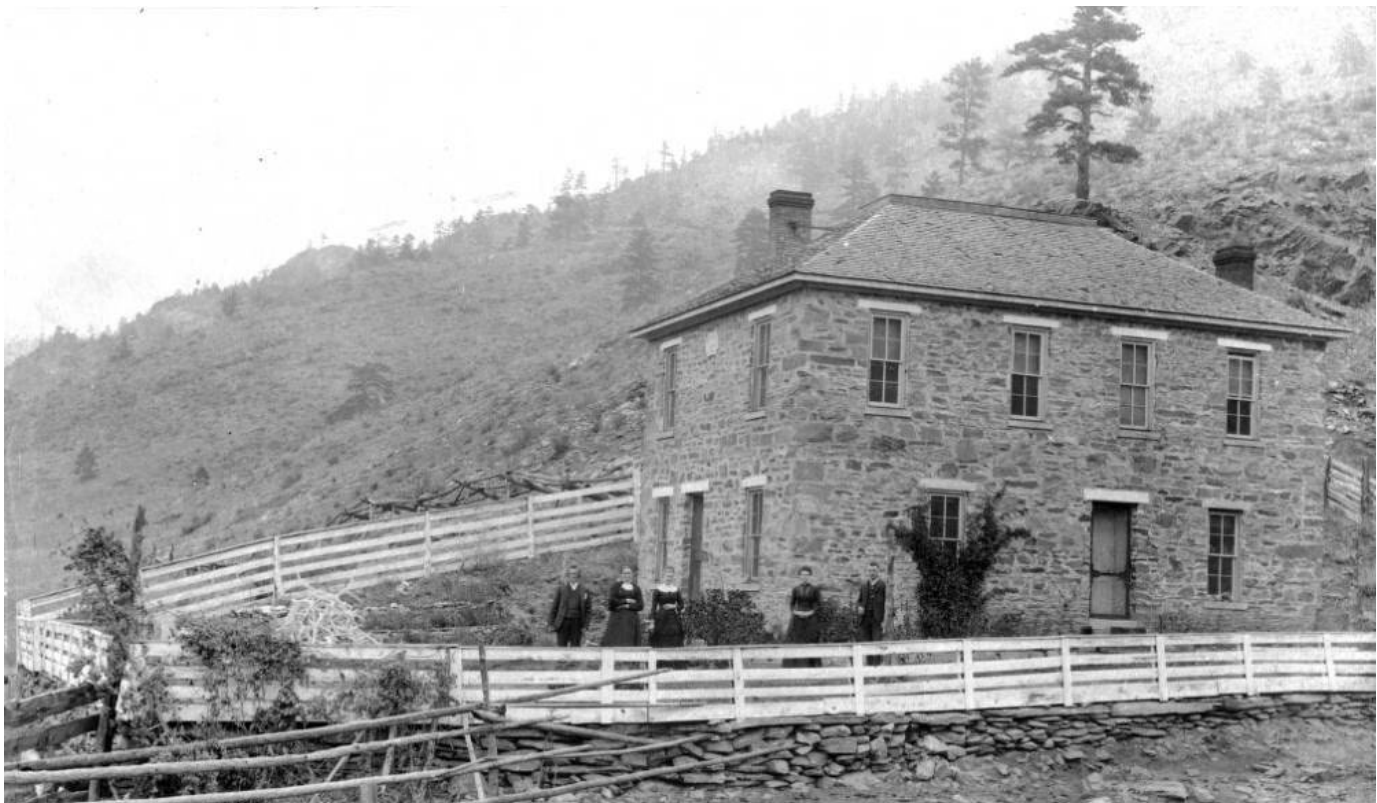
Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

- 26 Contemporary shed northwest side (primary façade), camera facing southeast. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
- 27 Contemporary open-sided shed northwest side (primary façade), camera facing southeast. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
- 28 Overall view of Centennial House property with Golden Gate Canyon Road, camera facing northwest. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
- 29 Interior view of front room, camera facing northeast. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
- 30 Interior view of front room, camera facing west. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
- 31 Interior view of front room, camera facing north. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
- 32 Detail of mounted bird collection, camera facing northeast. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
- 33 Interior view of kitchen, camera facing northwest. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
- 34 Interior view of kitchen, camera facing southeast. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
- 35 Interior view of kitchen, camera facing southwest. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.
- 36 Interior view of door to secondary entrance, camera facing southeast. Photo by Anne Friant. June 28, 2022.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS & FIGURES

(Insert available digital images of historic photographs and figures illustrating the property over time. Include captions with source information.)



H1: The Centennial House with the Booton family (Stephen, America, Rose, Alma, and Perley) ca. 1880-90 from Denver Public Library DPL X-22252 - DO NOT PUBLISH WITHOUT PERMISSION

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County



H2: The Centennial House ca. 1900 from Golden History Museum 2017.038.013 - DO NOT PUBLISH WITHOUT PERMISSION



COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

H3: The Centennial House ca. 1941 from Golden History Museum 2011.029.001 - DO NOT PUBLISH WITHOUT PERMISSION



H4: The Centennial House with lumber wagons undated from JCOS Collection

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County



H5: The Centennial House with outbuildings undated from JCOS Collection

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County



H6: The Centennial House with original horse trough ca. 2015 from JCOS Collection

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

SECTION VII

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO ACCOMPANY NOMINATION

Sketch Map(s)

Digital Images (separate files)

PDF of Current photos (see check-off list)

Owner Consent Form (Section VIII)

Use of Nomination Materials

Upon submission to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, all nomination forms and supporting materials become public records pursuant to CRS Title 24, and may be accessed, copied, and used for personal or commercial purposes in accordance with state law unless otherwise specifically exempted. History Colorado may reproduce, publish, display, perform, prepare derivative works or otherwise use the nomination materials for History Colorado and/or State Register purposes.

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Centennial House
Name of Property

Jefferson
County

SECTION VIII

**COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
OWNER CONSENT FORM**

Proof of Ownership must accompany the form. Each partial owner must sign a separate form. Reproduce form as needed.

Property Name Centennial House

I, _____
(type or print name)

title

certify or affirm that I am the sole owner_; partial owner_; or the legally designated representative
of the owners_of the land_and property_located at

31121 Golden Gate Canyon Road

street number and name (or other geographic location)

Golden Jefferson
city county

and that I hereby give my written consent and approval for this property's nomination to and inclusion
in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

signature

date