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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

- DRAFT -

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Waterwheel *5E A 21*

AND/OR COMMON

The Colorado Waterwheel Restoration Foundation, Ltd.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

At the Waterwheel Ranch

*13/353360/4418180
T. 2 S R. 83 W S. 8*

CITY, TOWN

Village of

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Eagle

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Colorado Waterwheel Restoration Foundation, Ltd.

STREET & NUMBER

General Delivery,

CITY, TOWN

Eagle

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Eagle County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Eagle

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

January 15, 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society, 200 14th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Waterwheel, handmade of approximately four thousand separate wooden parts, stands forty feet high and measures approximately six feet across. Only the simplest of hand tools were used during the construction but the wheel has survived for over fifty years.

The wheel turned on a large sawed off log axle that was attached to a massive frame constructed of jackpine logs; some measured up to thirty feet in length. Radiating from the axle are supportive spokes almost eighteen feet in length. Approximately thirty five buckets lined the perimeter of the wheel. The water wheel could be raised and lowered with the depth of the river and in winter could be raised above the water level to avoid damage from ice and freezing.

As originally constructed, the water wheel was positioned so that it was turned by the flow of the river. Water was collected in the buckets attached to the outside perimeter. As the wheel revolved the buckets were lifted to a height of the thirty-two feet necessary to reach a level to irrigate the fields. The water emptied into a rectangular wooden trough which surrounded the water wheel. Once in the trough, water flowed by gravity through an opening and down a wooden flume then into the rancher's irrigation ditches.

Presently the trough and flume are missing, and top sections of the water wheel are beginning to collapse. Yet even so, the wheel stands today as a monument to the lengths men could and would go to secure life-giving water.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1922 for irrigation, the water wheel functioned for many years until electric pumps took over. This is the last survivor of many water wheels once in use on the Colorado River. No other irrigation related water wheel has yet been included in the Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites.

The water wheel was built by Rancher Earl Brooks, now deceased, Wyman Franklin Dixon and Jim Jones. None of the three had ever built a water wheel before, and no plans were used. The three men, to quote Mr. Dixon "just knew how to do things in those days. When it came time to hay we hayed. When it came time to built a water wheel, we built it. People just took such things for granted."

To understand the significance of the water wheel, it is necessary to look at the importance of water in the West. To insure survival of agriculture in Colorado's diverse and mountain influenced climate, the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation was written into the State's Constitution. This allowed local diversion of water for irrigation without regard to ownership of land along the waterways. The first users of the water had a permanent right to it so long as they needed it and continued to use it beneficially. Many inventive individuals built ditches, dams and water wheels to take advantage of the water.

Irrigation was employed in this area of Colorado primarily to produce enough hay to support cattle all year round. Harsh mountain winters made it necessary to store great amounts of hay to feed cattle in the winter months. Without irrigation, very few ranchers could grow the necessary hay in the semi-arid climate. Self supportiveness, and even prosperity was directly dependent on the water ranchers could secure. Ranchers in this area raised sufficient cattle to fill the needs of local markets.

Looked at in this fashion, the water wheel takes on added significance, not only in terms of its engineering achievement, but in relation to the role it played in sustaining an important way of life. It is not only a monument to the lengths men would go to secure water but a reminder of the importance of water to the West.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McLay Quad

Scher, Zeke "Last of the Big Wheels" In Empire Magazine, Denver Post, October 1, 1972.

Ubbelohde, Carl, Maxine Benson, Duane Smith. Colorado History. 3rd. ed Boulder: Ruett Pub. Co., 1972 pp.188-189

Wood, Nancy. Colorado Big Mountain Country. Garden City, N.Y. Doubleday & Co., C. 1969. p.88.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Under one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	3,5,3,6,0	4,4,1,8,1,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Karen A. Burns

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Colorado

STREET & NUMBER

773 Ursula Street

CITY OR TOWN

Aurora

DATE

TELEPHONE

364-1797

STATE

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

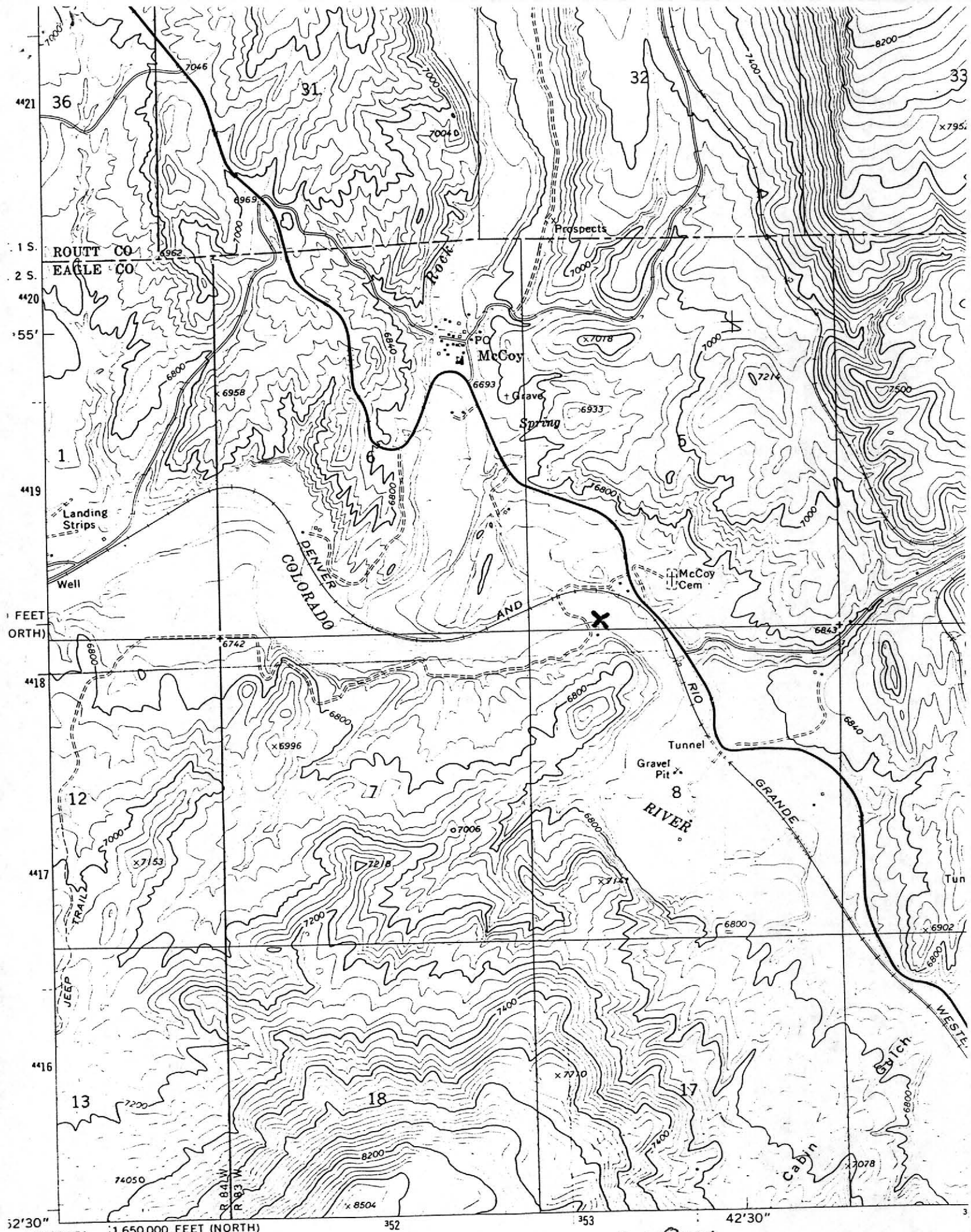
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



32'30" 106°45' 1:650,000 FEET (NORTH) 352 353 42'30" 3

McCoy Quad

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE COLORADO

Date Entered APR 11 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Miramont (Francolon's Castle)	Manitou Springs El Paso County
★ Waterwheel	Village of McCoy Eagle County

Also Notified

Hon. Floyd K. Haskell
Hon. Gary W. Hart
Hon. Frank E. Evans
Hon. James P. (Jim) Johnson

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION