

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

SECTION I

Name of Property

Historic Name Staley-Rouse House

Other Names 5ST1074

Address of Property

[N/A] address not for publication

Street Address 518 East Main Street

City Frisco County Summit Zip 80443

Present Owner of Property

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

Name Town of Frisco

Address P.O. Box 4100 Phone 970-668-5276

City Frisco State Colorado Zip 80443

Owner Consent for Nomination

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

Preparer of Nomination

Name Thomas H. Simmons and R. Laurie Simmons, Historians Date: 23 February 2007 (revised)

Organization Front Range Research Associates, Inc.

Address 3635 W. 46th Avenue Phone 303-477-7597

City Denver State Colorado Zip 80211

FOR OFFICIAL USE:

_____ Nomination Received

_____ Review Board Recommendation
 Approval Denial

Site Number _____

Senate # _____ House # _____

_____ CHS Board State Register Listing
 Approved Denied

Listing Criteria A B C D E

Certification of Listing: President, Colorado Historical Society

Date _____

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SECTION II

Local Historic Designation

Has the property received local historic designation?

[] no

[X] yes --- [] individually designated [X] designated as part of a historic district

Date designated 2001

Designated by Town of Frisco (Name of municipality or county)

Use of Property

Historic Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Commerce/Specialty Store (Art Gallery)

Original Owner Alvarena Staley

Source of Information Breckenridge Bulletin, 9 January 1909

Year of Construction 1909

Source of Information Breckenridge Bulletin, 9 January 1909

Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer Unknown

Source of Information _____

Locational Status

[X] Original location of structure(s)

[] Structure(s) moved to current location

Date of move _____

SECTION III

Description and Alterations

(describe the current and original appearance of the property and any alterations on one or more continuation sheets)

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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 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 type="checkbox"/> Social History |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |

Significance Statement

(explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

SECTION V

Locational Information

Lot(s) 3 and 4 Block 11 Addition Frisco Original Town

USGS Topographic Quad Map Frisco, Colorado (1983)

Verbal Boundary Description of Nominated Property

(describe the boundaries of the nominated property on a continuation sheet)

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SECTION VI

Photograph Log for Black and White Photographs

(prepare a photograph log on one or more continuation sheets)

SECTION VII

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO ACCOMPANY NOMINATION

Owner Consent Form

Black and White Photographs

Color Prints or Digital Images

Sketch Map(s)

Photocopy of USGS Map Section

Optional Materials

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. The Colorado Historical Society may reproduce, publish, display, perform, prepare derivative works or otherwise use the nomination materials for Society and/or State Register purposes.

For Office Use Only

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

Architectural Style/Engineering Type: OTHER: Vertical Log

Period of Significance: 1909

Level of Significance: Local State National

Multiple Property Submission: N/A

Acreage Less than 1

P.M. 6th Township 5S Range 78W Section 35 Quarter Sections NW NW SE NW

UTM Reference: Zone 13 Easting 405954 Northing 4381061 NAD27

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DESCRIPTION and ALTERATIONS

The 1909 Staley-Rouse House is a one-and-a-half-story log building with an unusual vertical log first story and horizontal log upper walls with rare keyed notching. The house is located on Main Street, the principal commercial thoroughfare of the small mountain town of Frisco. A former mining community, Frisco was founded in the 1870s in Summit County in the north-central part of the state. The roughly T-shaped house has a cross-gabled roof, projecting enclosed porches on the front and rear, and a tall cobblestone chimney on the east. Its roof structure is ridgepole and purlin, and the roof is clad with rolled asphalt. The house faces north on a 50' X 140' parcel of land consisting of two town lots. A log and frame garage is located near the southwest corner of the level site, which has evergreen trees east and west of the house, a brick patio adjacent to the rear porch, a fenced yard on the west, and a gravel parking area accessed from the rear alley. There is a broad concrete sidewalk along the street in front of the house. Other buildings in the vicinity are principally of more recent construction, including commercial buildings to the north and east, and an area with newer residential construction behind the house. Visible to the west, across the open yard of a dwelling set back from the street, is the National Register-listed Wildhack's Grocery Store and Post Office (Foote's Rest).

Front (North Wall)

The front (Photograph 1) of the house features a projecting one-story hipped roof porch with two wide plate glass windows on the front, one plate glass window on the east, and a paneled door flanked by sidelights on the west. The porch walls below the windows are composed of cobblestones of varying colors. The porch roof is clad with asphalt roll roofing. The original vertical log walls of the house are visible on the inside of the porch.

The walls of the second story of the house above the porch are composed of horizontal hewn logs. Two roof purlins (trimmed flush with the walls) are visible. The gable face features a central tall, narrow, one-over-one-light window with a plain, painted, wood surround. The corner notching of the second story logs is a variation on the half notch, displaying a "key" or "hook" to strengthen the joint (Photograph 2).

West Wall

The west wall continues the pattern of vertical hewn logs on the first story and horizontal logs on the upper story. The north portion of the west wall (Photograph 3) has a tall one-over-one-light window with a plain wood surround on the first story, with short horizontal hewn logs above and below the window. A window displaying the same design features is located on the first story of the cross gable. There is also a tall one-over-one-light window with a plain wood surround directly above on the second story of the cross gable.

Rear (South Wall)

The rear (south wall) of the house features a full-width, shed roof, one-story enclosed porch with a tall metal chimney pipe near the northwest corner of the roof and walls clad with

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decoratively cut wood shingles (Photograph 4). The west wall of the porch has paired four-light windows. The south wall has a center paneled door and there are three four-light windows to the west and a single four-light window to the east; the east wall of the porch features a single four-light window. The second story of the house above the porch consists of hewn horizontal logs with keyed notches and a center square four-light window with a plain wood surround. Adjacent to the porch is a brick patio and, at the southeast corner, a handpump on a concrete pad.

East Wall

The east wall of the house is similar to the west wall and continues the pattern of vertical logs on the first story and horizontal logs on the second story (Photograph 5). There is a full-height cobblestone chimney with a wide sloping shoulder on the east wall of the projecting front gable. A trapezoidal window with a plain wood surround is located above the shoulder of the chimney and has short horizontal hewn logs above. The log sills are visible at the foundation and joined at the corners with half notches (Photograph 6). The sills reportedly rest on deteriorated stone footings.

Interior

The first story of the interior is laid out in a linear manner, with the front porch opening onto a large living room, followed to the south by the kitchen and the back porch. There is a center entrance into the house.¹ The large living room features a cobblestone fireplace on the east wall, vertical hewn log walls, a tin ceiling with alternating plain and ornamented panels, and a metal cornice with egg and dart motif along the top of the wall (Photograph 7). The living room opens onto the remodeled kitchen to the south, which is oriented east-west in the cross-gable section of the house. The back porch has a bathroom in its eastern section.

Access to the second story is provided at the northwest corner of the kitchen by a single flight of wood plank stairs with a sharp turn at the bottom. The second story includes a large bedroom in the front projecting gabled roof section. The bedroom has horizontal hewn log walls with burlap chinking, a metal ceiling with plain and ornamented panels, and a metal cornice with floral motif. The smaller south bedroom in the cross-gable section also has hewn log walls, a metal ceiling with plain panels, and a metal cornice with floral motif. East of this bedroom is a bathroom.

Garage

The garage near the southwest corner of the property was present in the mid-1950s and "looked old then," according to a former Frisco resident. The materials and building techniques employed also suggest that the building is historic. The 11'X34' rectangular gabled roof building features rolled asphalt roofing and overhanging eaves and appears to reflect two periods of construction (Photograph 8). The slightly lower southern section has hewn horizontal log walls with half notch corner joints and a concrete block foundation. The east

¹ There are no windows on the first story of the front wall and never were historically.

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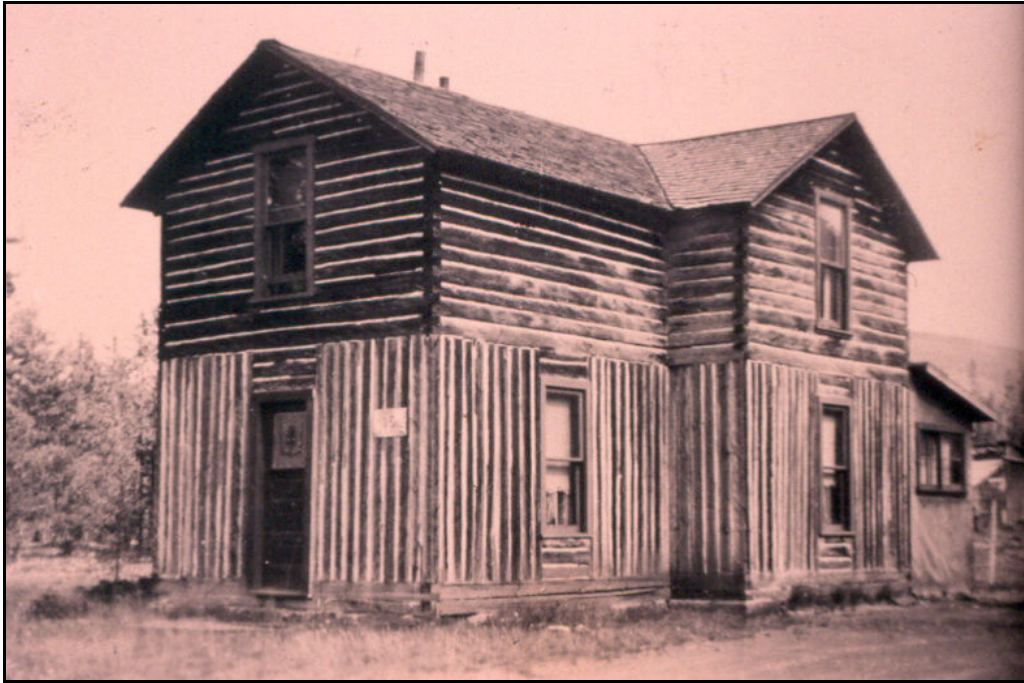


Figure 1. This undated (probably early twentieth century) photograph shows the Staley-Rouse House before the front porch was added and before the rear porch received decorative wood shingles (view southeast). SOURCE: Frisco Schoolhouse Museum, photographic collection, Frisco, Colorado.

wall has a six-light window with a security grill and a pedestrian door opening filled with horizontal boards. The south wall has a wide garage door opening filled with horizontal boards, while the west wall has a rectangular window opening filled with horizontal boards. The northern section of the garage has vertical board walls with a horizontal sill board just above the concrete block foundation. The north wall has double vertical board garage doors with strap hinges; there are no windows or doors on the east or west walls.²

Alterations

The cobblestone front porch and chimney were added between 1980 and 1989 during the tenure of Larry Wright. The window on the east wall adjacent to the chimney (probably originally a tall one-over-one-light window) was modified to its present configuration when the chimney was installed. The house also received electricity and plumbing during Wright's ownership (1972-91). A historic photograph of the house shows the rear porch, but with different wall cladding. The house originally had a wood shingle roof.³

² Bob Foote, Stockton, California, telephone interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 21 February 2007. Foote, born in 1948, grew up at Foote's Rest to the west at 510 E. Main Street.

³ The front porch is not present on a 4 April 1980 photograph of the house attached to the Summit County Assessor appraisal card, but is shown in a drawing included in a March 1989 walking tour.

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SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The 1909 Staley-Rouse House in Frisco is significant under Criterion C for its architecture as a rare example of the combination of vertical and horizontal structural hewn log construction in a domestic design. The juxtaposition of the vertical logs of the first story with the horizontal logs of the upper story is exceptionally uncommon. The use of difficult keyed half-notching on the joints of the horizontal logs may reflect Nordic (possibly Finnish) influences in the house's design and construction. It is rare in Colorado and displays a high level of skill and workmanship. Despite alterations in the 1980s, the house is one of the best preserved buildings in Frisco in its original location and is an example of the town's early architecture. Constructed for freighter William H. and Alvarena Staley in 1909, the house was owned by the Staley and Rouse families until 1933. The period of significance is 1909, the year the house was completed.

Vertical Log Construction and Keyed Half Notching

Historic accounts do not reveal why the Staley-Rouse House was built with a combination of vertical and horizontal log construction. This is the only example of a vertical log building in Frisco, so it does not reflect a common construction type for the area. A search of the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's online database indicates 2,284 recorded examples of log buildings in Colorado (including 77 in Summit County), but does not identify the type of log construction employed. Among professionals conducting surveys of historic architecture in the state, the consensus is that vertical log construction (where whole logs form the structure of walls, rather than applied as vertical log slabs) is extremely rare in the state of Colorado.

Rolfe Foxwell, writing in 1975, outlined the basic advantages of vertical log versus horizontal log construction. A vertical log cabin uses shorter logs, which are easier to obtain and transport and can be handled by a single person (with a single log weighing 80 to 120 pounds). No notching is needed to join corners. Vertical logs "present a natural rain run-off," do not settle, and simplify door and window openings.⁴ C.A. Weslager discussed vertical log construction (*poteaux en terre*) in *The Log Cabin in America*:

Numerous examples of this mode of vertical log construction have been recorded in France, especially in Normandy, where horizontal notched log housing was uncommon. Vertical post construction is a very old architectural form which was a dominant method of construction in the late Neolithic period in many parts of Europe. It was largely vestigial in France in the eighteenth century, but was rejuvenated in forest-rich North America by French settlers thrown on the mercy of the land. It was found in French colonial settlements extending from Acadia westward to the Great lakes and southward to the lower Mississippi, and in Canada it gave way to horizontal timber construction or stone.⁵

⁴ Rolfe Foxwell as told to Lawrence Johnson, *A Guide to the Vertical Log Cabin* (N.p.: New Haven, Vermont: 1975), 4.

⁵ Curiously, Weslager does not consider such buildings as "true log cabins, because the logs were placed close

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Bruce D. Bomberger of the National Park Service observed that “in the Mississippi Valley, Colonial French fur traders and settlers had introduced vertical log construction in the 17th century.”⁶ Some examples of vertical log building in French Colonial areas along the Mississippi River in Illinois and Missouri involved placement of the upright logs in a trench in the ground without use of a horizontal log sill, as well as relatively wide spacing (filled with chinking) between each log.

The unusual first story of the Staley-Rouse House is topped with an upper story of horizontal logs tightly joined at the corners with uncommon keyed half notches. In her extensive study of log construction in Idaho, Jennifer Attebery found that such keyed notching was associated with Finnish settlers in that state. Thérèse and Jean-Marie Bresson show an example of such notching in their book on Scandinavian wood buildings. Attebery considers it one of the most difficult log joints to execute.

This notch adds an interlocking key to a square or a half-dovetail notch. In cross-section, the crown of a keyed notch has a flat or a slanted top. The bottom of the crown, instead of being flat (as in square or half-dovetail notching) or slanted (as in full-dovetail notching), has a rectangular section cut out on the exterior half of the crown to produce a tooth-like key on the interior. This key firmly locks the logs together.⁷

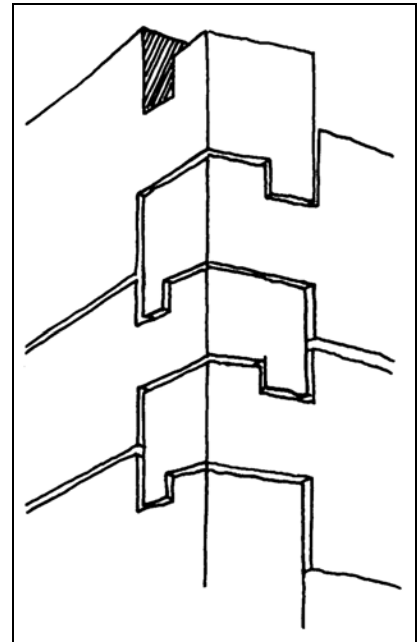


Figure 2. This drawing illustrates the keyed notch technique.
SOURCE: Bresson and Bresson, *Maisons de Bois*, 162.

Terry G. Jordan in *American Log Buildings* characterized the simple half notch as a relatively crude and easy method of construction which produced a fairly weak joint. The inclusion of the key strengthened the connection considerably. It seems fair to conclude that the Staley-Rouse House may have been influenced by Nordic construction techniques. However, vertical log construction is not associated with the Nordic building lexicon and its use remains unexplained. A 2005 survey form for the building noted that the combination of vertical and horizontal logs “is Frisco’s sole example of this type house.” Jennifer Attebery examined digital images of the house and remarked: “Regarding the vertical-log first story, I am entirely puzzled. In my travels in

together in an upright position instead of being notched and laid in horizontal tiers parallel with the ground.” C.A. Weslager, *The Log Cabin in America: From Pioneer Days to the Present* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1969), 81.

⁶ Bruce D. Bomberger, “The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings,” Preservation Brief number 26, National Park Service, Washington, DC, September 1991.

⁷ The 1900 manuscript Census for Frisco listed a number of Swedish immigrants but no Finns. Today’s Finland was part of Sweden for centuries before coming under Russian control in 1809; it became an independent country in 1917. Jennifer Eastman Attebery, *Building with Logs: Western Log Construction in Context* (Moscow, Idaho: University of Idaho Press, 1998), 20; Thérèse and Jean-Marie Bresson, *Maisons de Bois: Architectures Scandinaves* (Paris: Dunod, 1978), 162; U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population, Summit County, Colorado, 1900.

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Sweden and Norway (not been to Finland unfortunately), I've never seen vertical timber construction." Rodd Wheaton, former architectural historian for the National Park Service and a specialist in log construction techniques, called the combination of horizontal and vertical logs "quite amazing." He recalled only one other building (a one-story house in Rocky Mountain National Park near the Holzwarth Ranch) in the state displaying this characteristic. Wheaton felt that the upper story notching was "quite beautiful workmanship."⁸

Original Owners and Construction

William H. and Alvarena "Rena" Staley built this one-and-a-half-story log house on Frisco's Main Street in 1908-09. William H. Staley was born in Tennessee in 1862, while Rena Staley was born in Texas in 1872. The couple married in about 1888 and spent time in Texas and New Mexico before moving to Frisco in about 1893. The family included four children: Ben (1889); Addie (1892); Elva (1895); and Oscar (1906). William Staley worked as a teamster. In 1899, he was the successful Republican nominee for a one-year term as town trustee in Frisco, and he was re-elected to two-year terms in 1900 and 1902. In addition to freighting and transporting passengers, Staley also located the Hill Top Placer in the Union Mining District (1904) and performed mining construction (1907). He operated a horse-drawn sleigh in winter. In January 1901, the *Summit County Journal* reported that "Mr. Staley hitched up a four-horse team Sunday, and took all that could get in the sleigh to Dillon. It was a jolly crowd."⁹

Staley sold the family's previous residence in Frisco to W.S. Giberson in March 1908 in anticipation of the construction of a new dwelling that year.¹⁰ Unfortunately, William Staley did not live to see the new house finished. He died on 16 October 1908 in a wagon accident between Breckenridge and Frisco. Local newspapers reported that Staley had taken passengers from Frisco to Breckenridge and then became intoxicated before leaving for Frisco early the following morning. The *Summit County Journal* recounted the circumstances of Staley's death:

He started down the Blue river road driving his team at a furious gait. In making

⁸ The 1923 Leiffer House near Estes Park has vertical logs for sections of its walls. Susan Q. Zietkiewicz documented some instances of vertical log construction in the Tahosa Valley near Estes Park; however, most corners featured box corner or "hog trough" construction. Terry G. Jordan, *American Log Buildings: An Old World Heritage* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1985), 20 and 58; 518 E. Main Street, 5ST1074, preliminary property evaluation form, prepared by Jocelyn Mills, Town of Frisco, 29 November 2005; Jennifer Attebery, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho, e-mail to Thomas H. Simmons, 14 February 2007; Rodd Wheaton, Englewood, Colorado, e-mail to R. Laurie Simmons, 14 December 2006; Susan Q. Zietkiewicz, "Nature's Playground: An Environmental History of Estes Park," Master's Thesis, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, 2001, 110, 134, and 135; D. Ferrel Atkins, preparer, Leiffer House, 5LR480, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 14 August 1977.

⁹ Mrs. Staley's first name is difficult to decipher in the manuscript returns. While Ancestry.com reported it as "Roarna" in 1900 and "Olverina" in 1910, "Alvarena" appears on a 1933 legal document transferring the property. U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population, manuscript returns, Summit County, Colorado, 1900; *Breckenridge Bulletin*, 24 March 1900, 4, 26 May 1900, 3, 5 April 1902, 4, 23 May 1904, 1, 9 November 1907, 1.

¹⁰ This property with improvements was located in Block C, Lots 5 through 7. *Summit County Journal*, 21 March 1908, 8.

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the sharp turn near the approach to the iron bridge, two miles north of town, he tumbled headlong out of the spring wagon, striking his head on a rock and crushing his skull. Apparently death was instantaneous.¹¹

William Staley was buried in the Frisco Cemetery and his funeral “was largely attended.” Rena Staley continued construction on the new house following her husband’s death. The *Breckenridge Bulletin* reported in late November 1908 that “the new Staley residence is rapidly nearing completion and will soon be ready for occupancy.” On 9 January 1909, the newspaper announced that “Mrs. William Staley and family have moved into their pleasant new house on Main street.”¹²



Figure 3. The Staley family is shown in this 1904 photograph taken in their earlier Frisco residence (left to right): Elva, Ben, William H., Addie M., and Alvarena (“Rena”). The younger son, Oscar, was born in 1906 and is not pictured. SOURCE: Frisco Schoolhouse Museum, photographic collection, Frisco, Colorado.

On 22 June 1909 Mrs. Staley married David Rouse, the brother of Isaac “Ike” Rouse. The 1910 Census showed the couple living on Main Street in Frisco with her three youngest children, who were listed with their stepfather’s surname. The eldest son, Ben, retained his birth name and lived at a different location in Frisco. David Rouse was then fifty-two years old, a native of Missouri, and a teamster. He had been in the Blue River area at least as early as 1901. The oldest daughter, Addie, then seventeen years old, worked as a waitress in a hotel,

¹¹ *Summit County Journal* (Breckenridge), 17 October 1908, 1. See also, *Breckenridge Bulletin*, 17 October 1908, 1.

¹² *Breckenridge Bulletin*, 21 March 1908, 21 November 1908 and 9 January 1909; *Summit County Journal*, 24 October 1908, 5.

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while the other two children attended school. The 1911 *Colorado Business Directory* listed Dave Rouse as a freighter in Frisco.¹³

During the 1910s, mining in the Frisco area diminished, the town lost railroad service, and meetings of the town's Board of Trustees were not held for three years beginning in 1913. In 1914, David Rouse was engaged in mining and in 1915 Rena Staley Rouse operated the boarding house at the Swan Mine. In 1916, she was among a group of local women who determined to reinstitute local government in Frisco. The women staged a town election and were chosen as members of the Board of Trustees. The 1920 Census indicated that Mrs. Rouse lived in Frisco with her youngest son, Oscar. David Rouse did not appear in the Frisco enumeration, but Rena reported her marital status as married.¹⁴

The family may have fallen on hard times, as Frisco's mining-based economy declined further after 1918. The *Summit County Journal* reported in October 1920 that the county poor fund paid \$4.05 for a hospital account of Mrs. Dave Rouse. During the 1920s, Rena Rouse moved from Frisco. The 1930 manuscript Census showed her living with Oscar in Jerome Precinct, Yavapai County, Arizona. Both she and her son, who was working as a fireman for a railroad, listed their surname as Staley. Rena Staley stated her marital status as widowed. Her older son, Ben Staley, also lived in Arizona in that year. In December 1933, Rena, still residing in Arizona, quit-claimed her interest in the house in Frisco to James Giberson of Summit County for \$15.¹⁵

Later Owners

James T. Giberson was the son of Summit County pioneers Wilbert S. and Elizabeth A. Giberson. Wilbert Giberson came to the county in 1896, and James was born in about 1905. In 1930, James Giberson was working as a laborer in road construction; he and his wife were living with his parents. It is unknown if James Giberson ever lived full time in the house. In October 1939, he sold the property to Halbert and Rose Stocking for \$500. In the late 1940s, Halbert Stocking acquired mining claims (the Kitty Innes and the Kitty Innes No. 2) at tax sales from Summit County. According to Bob Foote, who grew up at 510 E. Main Street to the west, the Stockings never permanently resided in this house (which did not have electricity or running water) but came up for weekends during the summer. The Stockings sold the property to Larry E. Wright in July 1972.¹⁶

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population, manuscript returns, Summit County, Colorado, 1910; *Colorado Business Directory*, 1911 (Denver: Gazetteer Publishing Company, 1911); *Breckenridge Bulletin*, 8 June 1901, 4; *Summit County Journal*, 3 July 1909, 5.

¹⁴ Mary Ellen Gilliland, *Frisco: A Colorful Colorado Community* (Silverthorne, Colorado: Frisco Historical Society, 1984), 72; *Summit County Journal*, 5 June 1915, 1; *Summit County Journal and Breckenridge Bulletin*, 7 August 1914, 5; U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population, Frisco, Summit County, Colorado, 1920.

¹⁵ Gilliland, *Frisco*, 72; *Summit County Journal* (Breckenridge, Colorado), 16 October 1920, 5; U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population, Jerome Precinct, Yavapai County, Arizona, 1930; Summit County Clerk and Recorder, general records, Alvarena Rouse to James Giberson, quit claim deed to lots 3 and 4, block 11, Frisco Town, book 120, page 202, 12 December 1933.

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population, Dillon vicinity, Summit County, Colorado, 1930; Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department, Frisco, Colorado, clipping file, Denver, Colorado; Summit County Clerk and Recorder, general records, James Giberson to Rose and Halbert Stocking, quit claim deed to

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Figure 4. The Staley-Rouse House is shown (beneath the white arrow) in this late 1940s postcard view to the southeast of Frisco's Main Street. Foote's Rest mercantile and gasoline station (earlier Wildhack's Grocery and Post Office) is the larger building to the right. SOURCE: Sanborn postcard in the files of the Frisco Schoolhouse Museum, Frisco, Colorado.

Wright was a Denver attorney with a business degree from the University of Cincinnati and a law degree from the University of Denver. In 1979, he quit law to engage in the restaurant business in Denver, where he opened the Manhattan Cafe, an establishment described by the *Denver Post* as “among the first upscale restaurants that changed LoDo from the dank seedy place it was in the 1970s and ‘80s into a trendy neighborhood.” He also owned Ivory's Piano Bar and Herb's Hideout and was a partner in the Blue Coyote. Wright provided the house in Frisco with electricity and plumbing and added the front porch and the tall stone chimney and fireplace on the east. The stonework was performed by French Canadian mason Gaston Marquis Champagne in the early 1980s. Wright and his wife, Janet, used the property as a summer home. Larry Wright died in 2003 at the age of 62.¹⁷

Larry Wright sold the house in 1991, and the house changed hands twice more in the 1990s before it was purchased by the Town of Frisco in 1998. Frisco leases the property to private groups and businesses. In November 2006 the WildSide Studio, an art gallery owned by Kris Lee, moved into the building.¹⁸

lots 3 and 4, block 11, Frisco Town, book 120, page 304, 30 October 1939; Bob Foote, Stockton, California, telephone interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 21 February 2007.

¹⁷ Frisco Historical Society, *Historic Frisco: A Self-Guided Walking Tour of Historic Properties* (Frisco, Colorado: Frisco Historical Society, March 1989), property number 15; Dave Spencer, Summit County Historical Society, Frisco, Colorado, e-mail to Thomas H. Simmons, 30 January 2007; *Denver Post*, 21 January 2003, 8C.

¹⁸ *Summit Daily News*, 21 December 2006.

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Property Name Staley-Rouse House

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area consists of Lots 3 and 4, Block 11, Frisco Original Town. This is the entire parcel that was historically associated with the property and includes the house and an associated garage.

Property Name Staley-Rouse House

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-8, except as noted:

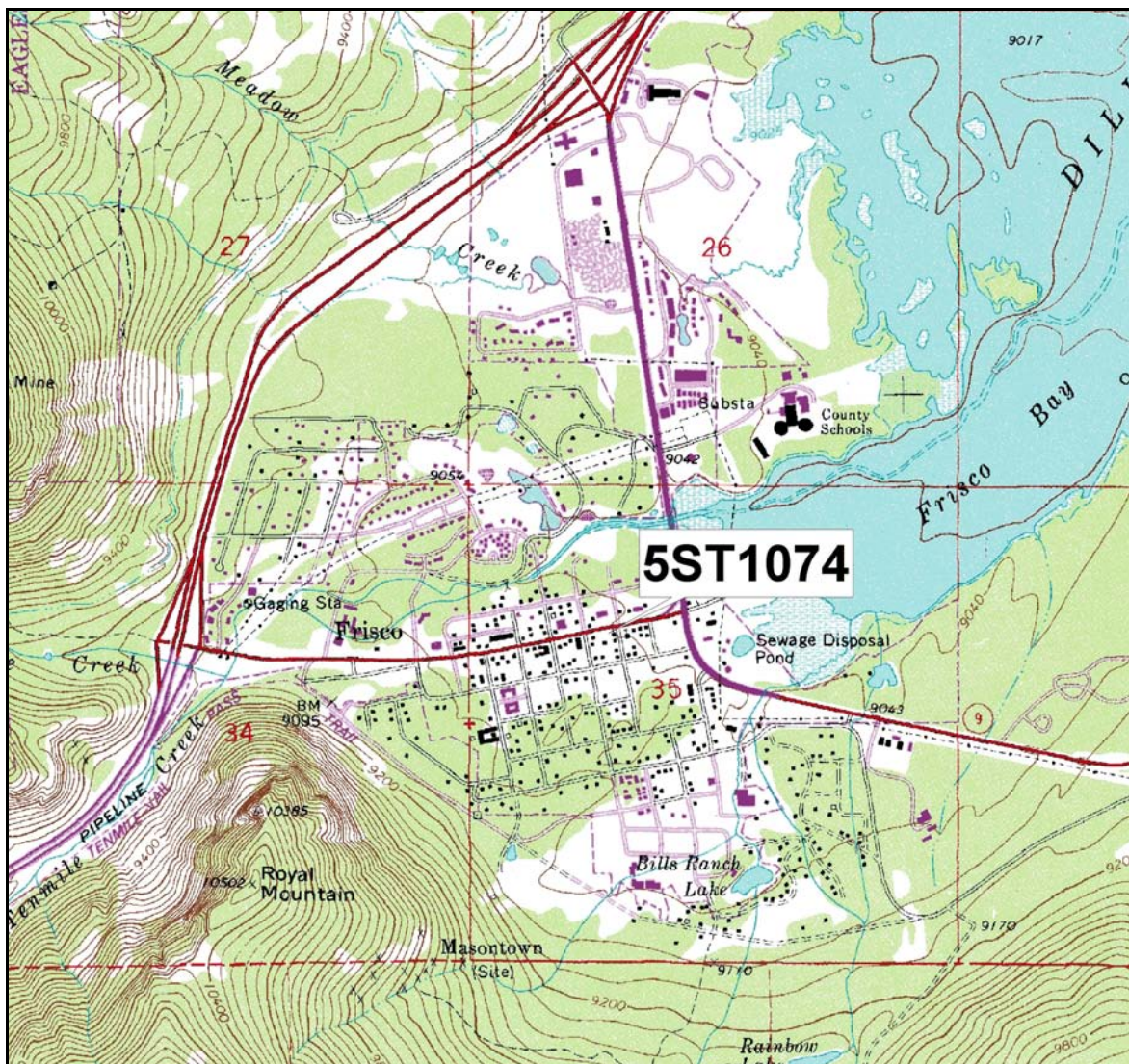
Name of Property: Staley-Rouse House
Location: 518 E. Main St., Frisco, CO
Photographer: Thomas H. Simmons
Date of Photographs: November 2006
Negatives: Town of Frisco

Photo Number	Photographic Information	Camera Direction
1	Front (north) and west wall	SE
2	Keyed half-notching at the northwest corner of the upper story	SE
3	West wall	E
4	Rear (south wall)	N
5	East wall	WSW
6	East wall, sill detail north of chimney	W
7	First story, southwest corner of living room showing structural vertical logs and metal ceiling detail	SW
8	Garage with top of house in background; neighboring building to east is shown at right	NE

Property Name Staley-Rouse House

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Frisco, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series



The label with the resource's state identification number points to the location of the Staley-Rouse House. SOURCE: Extract of U.S. Geological Survey, "Frisco, Colo.," 7.5 minute quadrangle map (Denver: U.S. Geological Survey, 1983).

Property Name Staley-Rouse House

SKETCH MAP

