

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

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I. IDENTIFICATION

- 1. Resource number: **5ST130.2**
- 2. Temporary number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **Summit**
- 4. City: **Breckenridge**
- 5. Historic building name: **Carter Museum**
- 6. Current building name: **Carter Museum**
- 7. Building address: **N. 111 Ridge Street**
- 8. Owner name: **Town of Breckenridge**
 Owner address: **P.O. Box 168**
Breckenridge, CO 80424

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- 9. P.M. **6th** Township **6S** Range **77W**
NW¼ of SW¼ of NE¼ of SW¼ of section 31
- 10. UTM reference
 Zone **13**
 Easting: **410160**
 Northing: **4370710**
- 11. USGS quad name: **Breckenridge, Colorado**
 Year: **1970 (Photorevised 1987) 7.5'**
- 12. Lot(s): **18, 19** Block: **n/a**
 Addition: **Abbetts Addition** Year of Addition **pre-1900**
- 13. Boundary Description and Justification: **This legally defined parcel encompasses but does not exceed the land historically associated with this property.**

22. Architectural style / building type:

**Other Style / Pioneer
 Log Front Gabled Cabin**

Official Eligibility Determination

(OAHP use only)

Date _____ Initials _____

- Determined Eligible - National Register
- Determined Not Eligible - National Register
- Determined Eligible - State Register
- Determined Not Eligible - State Register
- Needs Data
- Contributes to eligible National Register District
- Noncontributing to eligible National Register District

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

- 14. Building plan (footprint, shape):
Rectangular Plan
- 15. Dimensions in feet: **1394 square feet**
- 16. Number of stories: **1½**
- 17. Primary external wall material
Wood / Log
Wood / Vertical Siding
- 18. Roof configuration (enter one):
Gabled Roof / Front Gabled Roof
- 19. Primary external roof material (enter one):
Metal / Tin
- 20. Special features (enter all that apply):
Porch

21. General Architectural Description

Built in the 1870s, the Carter Museum is located on a large open lot west of Ridge Street, just east of downtown Breckenridge. Oriented toward Ridge Street to the east, the museum is a 1½-story log structure. In its current configuration, the building is comprised of three sections: the original front gabled log cabin, which measures 21' N-S by 41' E-W; a shed-roofed log extension to the east end of the south elevation, which measures 13' N-S by 21' E-W; and a shed-roofed board-and-batten addition to the west end of the south elevation, which measures 13' N-S by 20' E-W. The building's overall dimensions are 34' N-S by 41' E-W. The main gabled portion of the building is supported by an uncoursed stone foundation, while the foundation under the shed-roofed portions is poured concrete. The museum's walls are made of hand-hewn squared whole logs, with square-notched corners and concrete chinking. Unpainted board-and-batten appears in the upper gable ends on the east and west elevations. Two wooden signs are fastened to the facade wall, with the following text:

**CARTER MUSEUM
1870-1898**

**FIRST MUSEUM IN COLORADO. SPECIMENS
LATER FORMED NUCLEUS OF DENVER
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**

The building's roofs are covered with corrugated tin, over 1x wood decking and 2x wood rafters (full-dimension lumber).
(Please see continuation sheet.)

29. Construction History (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions:

The original portion of this log structure was built circa 1875 for use as a museum by Professor Edwin Carter. The cabin's distinctive front porch, with turned columns and shamrock brackets dates to the 1910s. In more recent years, the original cabin has been enlarged to the south.

23. Landscape or setting special features:

The Carter Museum is situated on a large open lot with native grasses and small shrubs, and several large pine and fir trees. A grove of aspens flank the sidewalk as it enters the property from Ridge Street.

24. Associated buildings, features, or objects

Please see continuation sheet

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction:

Estimate **ca. 1875**

Actual

Source of information:

Summit County Journal, February 10, 1900.

26. Architect:

n/a

Source of information:

n/a

27. Builder/ Contractor:

Edwin Carter

Source of information:

Summit County Journal, February 10, 1900.

28. Original owner:

Edwin Carter

Source of information:

Summit County Journal, February 10, 1900.

30. Original location: **yes**

Moved **no**

Date of move(s) **n/a**

Resource Number: **5ST130.2**

Temporary Resource Number: **N/A**

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V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Recreation and Culture / Museum**

32. Intermediate use(s): **Recreation and Culture / Museum**

33. Current use(s): **Recreation and Culture / Museum**

34. Site type(s): **Museum**

35. Historical Background

(Please see continuation sheet.)

36. Sources of Information

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, dated August 1883, August 1886, October 1890, January 1896, November 1902, and August 1914.

Summit County Assessor. Residential Property Appraisal Records

Summit County Journal, February 10, 1900.

Summit County Journal, February 17, 1900.

Summit County Journal, January 26, 1901.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation:

Yes

No **XX**

Date of Designation: **n/a**

38. Applicable National Register Criteria

XX A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

XX B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

XX C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory;

Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (see Manual).

Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria.

39. Area(s) of Significance:

Architecture; Education; Science; Community Planning and Development

40. Period of Significance: **ca. 1875-1951**

41. Level of Significance:

National:

State: **XX**

Local:

42. Statement of Significance

The Carter Museum is individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C. Under Criterion A, the property is historically significant because the naturalist museum collection established here, beginning in the 1870s, provided a nucleus for what became today's Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The property is also significant under Criterion A for its association with Breckenridge's cultural development during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Under Criterion B, the property is significant for its association with Professor Edwin Carter, who made a significant contribution to broad patterns of Colorado's history. In 1992, Carter was named to the prestigious "Colorado 100", a list of people and families who have made significant contributions to the State of Colorado. This cabin is arguably the property that best represents Carter's significant contributions. Finally, relative to National Register Criterion C, the Carter Museum is architecturally significant for its pioneer log construction and its display of fine craftsmanship.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

The Carter Museum's physical integrity has been minimally diminished by two additions to the south (side) elevations. Both additions, however, appear to be many years old, and are generally compatible with the building's original construction.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:

Eligible: **XX**

Not Eligible:

Need Data:

45. Is there National Register district potential?

Yes: **XX**

No:

Discuss: **This property is located within the boundaries of the Breckenridge Historic District which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 9, 1980.**

If there is National Register district potential, is this building:

Contributing: **n/a**

Noncontributing: **n/a**

46. If the building is in an existing National Register district, is it:

Contributing: **XX**

Noncontributing:

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph numbers:

Roll: **BREC-11**

Frame(s): **8-14**

Negatives filed at: **Town of Breckenridge
150 Ski Hill Road
Breckenridge, Colorado 80424**

48. Report title: **Breckenridge Historic District Historical Building Survey**

49. Date: **October 9, 2000**

50. Recordors: **Carl McWilliams** **Rebecca Waugh**

51. Organizations: **Cultural Resource Historians** **Town of Breckenridge**

52. Addresses: **1607 Dogwood Court** **150 Ski Hill Road**
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525 **Breckenridge, Colorado 80424**

53. Phone numbers: **970/493-5270** **303/629-6966 ext. 142**

21. General Architectural Description (continued)

Windows on the building's east elevation (facade) include three 1/1 double-hung sash windows, with painted green wood frames and painted white wood surrounds, including one window in the upper gable end. On the north elevation there is one single 1/1 double-hung sash window, one set of paired 4/4 double-hung sash windows, and one set of paired 1x1 horizontal sliding windows, all with painted green wood frames, painted cream color wood surrounds, and non-historic exterior storm windows. Windows on the west elevation include two 4/4 double-hung sash windows flanking the rear entry door, as well as a single-light window near the south end of the elevation. On the south elevation there are two 1/1 double-hung sash windows, and one set of paired 1x1 horizontal sliding windows, all with painted green wood frames and painted cream color wood surrounds. A painted green wood-paneled door, with a wood screen door, opens onto a 20' by 5' brick porch on the east elevation. The porch is covered by a hipped roof, held up by painted cream color turned columns with decorative shamrock brackets. A painted green wood-paneled door, with one upper sash light, a transom light, and a painted green wood screen door, opens onto an 8' by 4' 4-step wood plank porch on the west elevation. A painted green wood-paneled door, with a painted green wood screen door, enters the shed-roofed extension near the west end of the south elevation.

A **Barn / Garage** (photos: Roll Brec-11, Frames 15-17), is located northwest of the museum building. This is an L-shaped wood-frame structure supported by a wood timbers on grade foundation. The exterior walls are unpainted vertical wood planks and horizontal wood planks, over 2x wood framing (full-dimension lumber). The roof is a low-pitched front gable, with a shed-roofed extension to the northeast end, and a smaller shed-roofed extension to the northwest end of the northeast elevation. One 4-light fixed-pane window, with a painted white wood frame is located at the northeast end of the facade (southeast elevation). A set of paired window openings, with all panes and muntins missing, is located on the southwest elevation. Paired vertical wood plank doors, side hinged with large metal strap hinges, are located on the facade. This structure has not been notably altered subsequent to its original construction. It is in deteriorated condition.

35. Historical Background (continued)