



History Colorado

March 16, 2026

Charlotte Graveline
Historian
National Park Service
Park History Program
Historic Preservation Services

Re: Preliminary Property Evaluation for Residence #40 at Colorado National Monument.

Dear Charlotte,

Based on the preliminary review by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, we have determined that the above named property does not appear to meet the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places or the State Register of Historic Properties.

The information provided on the nomination form will be sent on to our Information Management department for encoding into our database and storage with our site files. The form will be available to any researchers who request to see it, and so we do appreciate the time taken to document the resource. If we can be of further assistance regarding eligibility or the nomination process, please do not hesitate to contact me at 720.262.1042 or contact me by e-mail at damion.pechota@state.co.us.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation and the National and State Register programs.

Sincerely,

Damion Pechota
Senior National and State Register Historian

Resource Number: 5ME.21285
Temporary Resource Number:

OAHP1403
Rev. 9/98

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

Official eligibility determination
(OAHP use only)

Date _____ Initials _____
____ Determined Eligible- NR
____ Determined Not Eligible- NR
____ Determined Eligible- SR
____ Determined Not Eligible- SR
____ Need Data
____ Contributes to eligible NR District
____ Noncontributing to eligible NR District

I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: 5ME.21285
2. Temporary resource number:
3. County: Mesa
4. City: Fruita
5. Historic building name: Residence #40
6. Current building name: B12/Law Enforcement Building
7. Building address: Colorado National Monument, Fruita, CO 81521
8. Owner name and address: US Government, Colorado National Monument, 1750 Rim Rock Drive, Fruita, CO 81521

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. 6th Township 11S Range 102W
SW ¼ of SE ¼ of NW ¼ of NE ¼ of section 13
10. UTM reference
Zone 12; 695594 E, 4330698 N
11. USGS quad name: Colorado National Monument
Year: 1975 Map scale: 7.5' Attach photo copy of appropriate map section.
12. Lot(s): N/A Block: N/A
Addition: N/A Year of Addition: N/A
13. Boundary Description and Justification: Building and Adjacent Landscape

III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan (footprint, shape): RECTANGULAR PLAN
15. Dimensions in feet: Length 70 x Width 30
16. Number of stories: ONE
17. Primary external wall material(s): SYNTHETICS
18. Roof configuration: SIDE GABLED ROOF
19. Primary external roof material: METAL ROOF

20. Special features: ATTACHED GARAGE, PORCH
21. General architectural description: Residence #40 is a west-facing, rectangular, one-story, wood-frame building with a side-gable, corrugated-metal roof and a concrete foundation. The walls are clad in textured horizontal composite siding. The roof extends over a one-car attached garage that projects about 6 feet (ft) from the north end of the facade (west elevation). The main entrance is a single door near the center of the facade, which also has two one-over-one windows, two tripartite picture windows, and a sliding window. The garage has a single metal overhead door in the facade and a one-over-one window on the north side elevation. The building's rear (east) elevation has a 6-ft-wide by 20-ft-long integral porch at the north end (behind the garage) with four square wood posts, a concrete slab floor, and entrances to the garage and the house. A full-height picture window south of the porch consists of two fixed rectangular windows at the center flanked by one-over-one windows above four square fixed windows. The rear elevation also has a tripartite picture window, and two sliding windows wrap around the southeast corner of the building. All the windows have replacement vinyl sash and wood surrounds. The exterior cladding materials are not original, and the building has moderate interior alterations.
22. Architectural style/building type: NO STYLE/RANCH TYPE
23. Landscaping or special setting features: The building is part of an NPS developed area on the west side of Rim Rock Drive in the northern part of Colorado National Monument approximately 5 miles from the Monument's west entrance and directly north of the Saddlehorn Utility Area Historic District. The surrounding desert landscape includes juniper and pinyon trees, native brush and vegetation, and natural sandstone geologic formations. Residence #40 is on the east side of the Saddlehorn Maintenance/Residence Road and is set at a slight angle to the road. It has a short asphalt driveway, a concrete walkway along the front of the house from the driveway to the main entrance, and a concrete walkway along the side of the garage from the driveway to a rectangular concrete terrace behind the rear porch. A rectangular concrete pad adjacent to the side walkway has square wood posts along the edges from a wood fence that originally enclosed a clothes-drying yard. A propane tank is north of the building.
24. Associated buildings, features, or objects: N/A

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction: Estimate: _____ Actual: 1957
Source of information: NPS Completion Report
26. Architect: NPS Western Office of Design and Construction
Source of information: NPS Completion Report
27. Builder/Contractor: Harold L. Wright Construction
Source of information: NPS Completion Report
28. Original owner: US Government

Resource Number: 5ME.21285

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Source of information: NPS Completion Report

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

Replacement of original wood siding and windows and interior alterations in 1988; replacement of wood roof shingles and interior alterations in 2008; installation of new siding ca. 2020

30. Original location X Moved Date of move(s):

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): DOMESTIC/INSTITUTIONAL HOUSING

32. Intermediate use(s):

33. Current use(s): GOVERNMENT/GOVERNMENT OFFICE

34. Site type(s): Colorado National Monument

35. Historical background: The NPS constructed Residence #40 in 1957 to provide additional staff housing at Colorado National Monument as part of the 10-year NPS-wide improvement project known as Mission 66 (1956–1966), which addressed deferred maintenance and increased visitation at national parks across the country. The regional NPS office approved the Monument’s Mission 66 prospectus in February 1957. In June, a \$71,305.50 contract was awarded to Grand Junction contractor Harold L. Wright (1917–1957) to build three single-family residences, sewer systems, and an access road at the Saddlehorn area. NPS architects at the Western Office of Design and Construction prepared the residence drawings based on standard housing designs issued by the NPS Washington Office of Design and Construction. Construction of the houses began on June 10, 1957, but stopped from August 6 to August 27 due to Harold Wright’s death. His widow, Marjorie Wright, took over management of the project with Glen Brown as foreman, and the work was completed by November 15, 1957. The NPS used the building for staff housing until about 2008 and made minor alterations to the interior layout to convert it to staff offices.

36. Sources of information:

“Employees Residences (3), No. 37, 40 & 42 – Utility Area – Colorado National Monument” (NM COLO-3101-A), US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Western Office – Division of Design & Construction, 1957. On file, Technical Information Center, Denver Service Center, Denver, CO.

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, “Wright Wins Contract for Monument Houses,” June 8, 1957, 4.

NPS Completion Report, “Construction of 3 Residences,” R. Neil Grunigen, Project Supervisor, December 3, 1957. On file, Technical Information Center, Denver Service Center, Denver, CO.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation: Yes No X Date of designation:

Designating authority:

38. Applicable National Register Criteria:

Resource Number: 5ME.21285

Temporary Resource Number:

- ☐ A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- ☐ B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- ☐ C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- ☐ D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

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

☒ Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria

39. Area(s) of significance: N/A

40. Period of significance: N/A

41. Level of significance: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

42. Statement of significance: N/A

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance: N/A

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:

Eligible ☐ Not Eligible ☒ Need Data ☐

45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes ☐ No ☒

Discuss: Residence #40 is not eligible for listing in the National Register individually or as part of a potential historic district. It is one of five houses built in the Saddlehorn Mission 66 Residential Area under the Mission 66 development program at Colorado National Monument. The area and the individual houses are representative examples of common property types developed by the NPS under the Mission 66 program and do not meet the registration guidelines outlined in the National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources MPDF. The house was built according to standard NPS employee housing designs and does not possess any significant architectural features. It is no longer used as staff housing, and interior alterations related to its conversion to staff offices detract from its integrity.

If there is National Register district potential, is this building: Contributing ☐ Noncontributing ☐

46. If the building is in existing National Register district, is it: Contributing ☐ Noncontributing ☐

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph numbers: 5ME21285_1.jpg, 5ME21285_2.jpg

Negatives filed at: Digital images filed at Colorado National Monument

48. Report title: N/A

49. Date(s): June 4, 2024

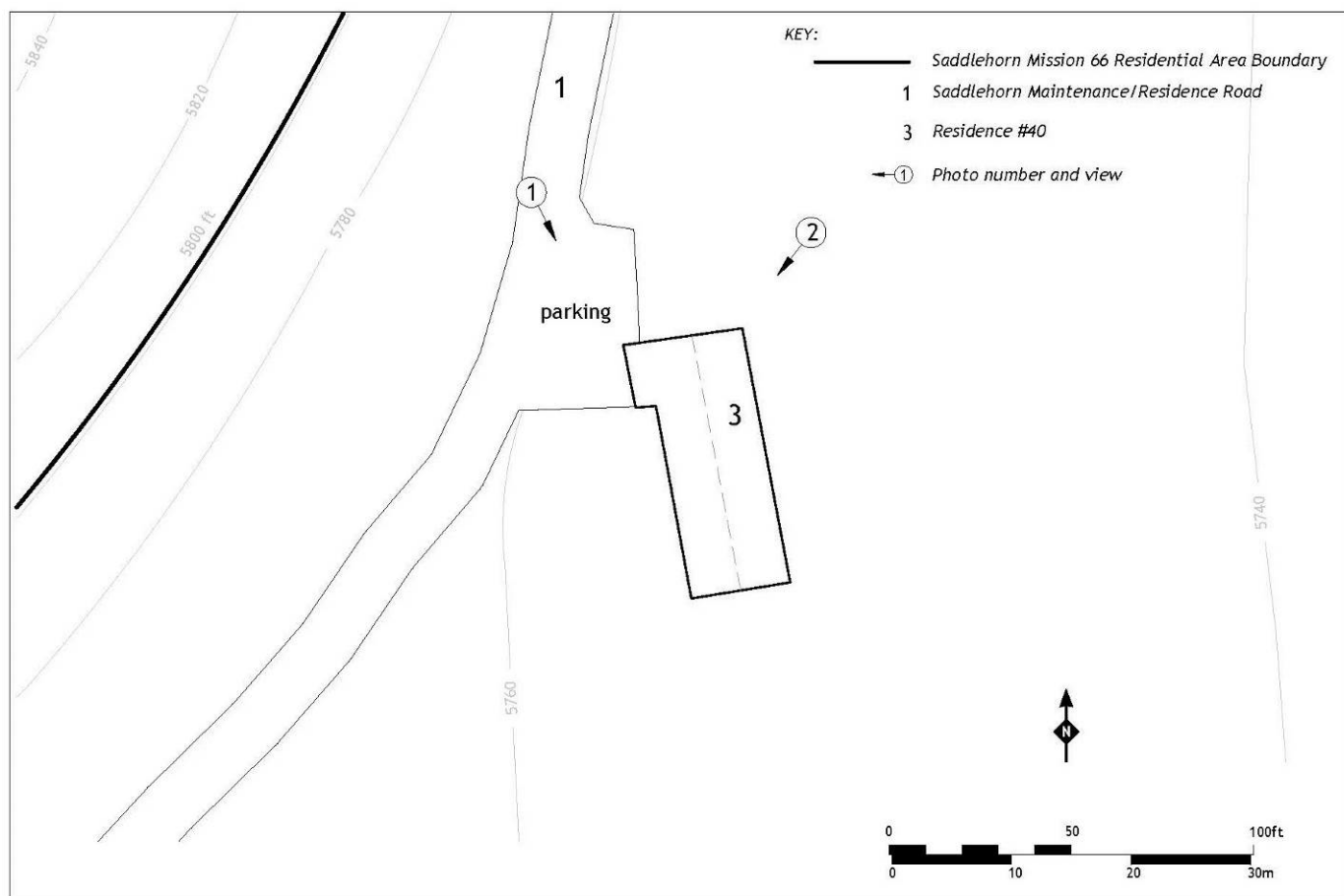
Resource Number: 5ME.21285
Temporary Resource Number:

50. Recorder(s): Laura Kline and Jill Miller
51. Organization: The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
52. Address: 26 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI, 02860
53. Phone number(s): (401) 728-8780

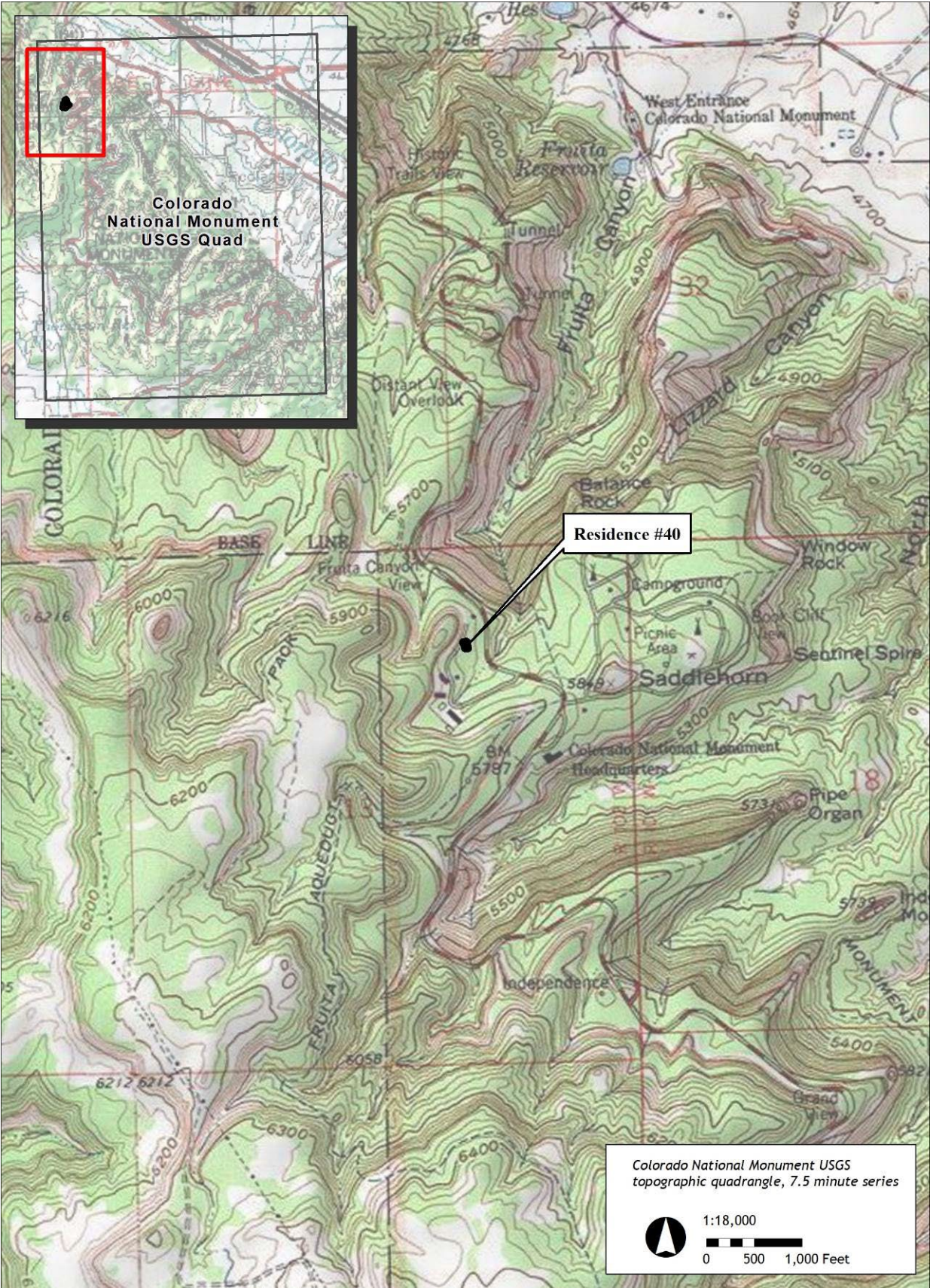
NOTE: Please include a sketch map, a photocopy of the USGS quad map indicating resource location, and photographs.

History Colorado - Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203 (303) 866-3395

SKETCH MAP



USGS MAP



Resource Number: 5ME.21285

Temporary Resource Number:

PHOTOGRAPHS



5ME21285_1. North and west elevations, view southeast.



5ME21285_2. East and north elevations, view southwest.