NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Cliff Theater

other names/site number Cliff Cultural Community Center / 5YM.290

2. Location

street & number 420 Main Street | N/A not for publication

city or town Wray | N/A vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Yuma code 125 zip code 80758

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** X **local**

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 1/30/13

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) ___

for Edson H. Beall — 8.6.13

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Cliff Theater
Name of Property

Yuma, Colorado
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [x] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	Structures
0	0	Objects
1	0	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Theater

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Streamlined Moderne, Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: CONCRETE BLOCK
STUCCO
roof: METAL
other: PERMASTONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Cliff Theater is a rectangular, two-story motion picture theater erected in 1949-50 in Wray, Colorado. The building consists of a two-story main façade facing west toward Main Street with a single-story theater auditorium to the east (rear). The theater is constructed of concrete block, clad in colored stucco with a shed style metal roof. The building is 140' long by 40' wide and occupies the entire city lot. It exhibits streamline Modern design elements from the 1950s. Significant features of the theater include a Permastone façade, original neon lit canopied marquee, large lobby with box office and concession area, an unusual under floor ventilation system, and fireproof projection room. The theater is located along the east side of Main Street and is within the main commercial area of downtown Wray in northeastern Colorado. (Photo #2 and #3).

Narrative Description

The theater was designed and constructed to accommodate two businesses, the theater, and an attached restaurant to the north. It is unknown whether the restaurant ever operated. Two months after opening the theater the attached building to the north was sold to Clifford M. and Mary M. Carson and is not a part of this nomination. The theater shares party walls with businesses on both sides. The business to the south is the Wray Lumber Company. Directly behind the theater is an alley and then across the alley is additional property and structures belonging to the Wray Lumber Company. The foundation and floors of the theater are constructed of poured concrete and the exterior walls are of concrete block. The façade wall has colored stucco applied in colors of sand and light terra cotta. The exterior rear wall of the building is not painted. The original shed-style roof was built-up of tar paper and hot tar. This original roof still exists and is underneath the current steel roof.

The theater main façade is divided into three vertical bays. The first-story center section is recessed and features a set of glass and wood painted doors flanked by glass and metal poster-sized showcases. The poster-sized showcases are then flanked by large picture windows. The first-story main façade is clad in the original Roman brick Permastone and stucco (Photo #7). The second-story middle section is inset and features a pair of double casement, four-pane windows. The second-story features one double casement, four-pane windows each. All windows include concrete lintels and sills. The entire second-story is clad in colored stucco and topped by a band of brick.

The rear of the theater is unpainted concrete block with two metal fire doors (Photo #8). Between the two doors there is a large wood and metal screened covered opening that is a part of the cooling system of the building.

At the theater entrance and projecting over the sidewalk is the original large neon lit canopy and marquee. The marquee located above the front doors features current movie information in large black letters. Above the marquee hangs the theater sign advertising the name of the theater, the "Cliff", in large painted letters and trimmed with chaser lights. The floor of the entrance area is denoted by geometrically shaped concrete in the colors of blue, yellow and red.

Interior

The first-floor interior of the theater contains the original a vinyl tile in a classic black and white checkerboard pattern in the lobby area, with a concession stand on the left and box office on the right. Behind the concession area there is a walled storeroom. The semi-circular box office (Photo #4) is constructed of concrete block and textured stucco. Further to the right of the box office is a restroom. Through the lobby is the carpeted foyer (Photo #5). The ceiling of the foyer features an art deco styled light fixture. The facing wall

of the foyer features a lighted wood and Plexiglass poster showcase. On either side of the foyer is a doorway that leads to the auditorium and further are sets of carpeted stairs leading to the second story. Directly under each stairway is a storage room. The seating is divided into three sections by a pair of carpeted aisles. The theater auditorium (Photo #6) presently features seating for 265 patrons, although, historically there was seating for 500, not including cry-room seating. Most of the side walls are covered with acoustical curtains. There are six original Art Deco style light fixtures hung in the upper half of the walls. Hung from the ceiling is a set of stage and theater lights, which were installed in January 2011. At the center rear of the auditorium is a wooden stage, 44" high, flanked by two small sets of stairs leading to the stage. At the back of the stage a set of heavy velvet curtains hangs in front of an 18' x 30' silver movie screen. At floor level, on either side of the stage is a curtained doorway leading to exits through metal fire doors. Over these doorways are the heating and cooling ventilation exhaust grates. This ventilation system also boasts an unusual under-floor ductwork that runs from the ventilation unit to the front of the theater. The first floor and auditorium ceiling is acoustical tile.

The second floor of the theater consists of six rooms, three on either side of a central hallway. The rooms to the front of the theater facing Main Street and located from north to south are an office, a men's restroom and a women's restroom. Along the opposite side of the hallway and located from north to south are a smoke room, a cry room, and a projection room. Picture glass separates the smoke room and cry room from the auditorium. All rooms of the second floor feature walls constructed of concrete block, stucco, and wood framing. Floors are constructed of poured concrete and covered with linoleum flooring. Originally the smoke room was open to the hallway, later this was enclosed by wood framing, paneling and a louvered wood door. The cry room was enclosed on all sides with an open doorway. The cry room features nine of the original auditorium seats arranged upon a tiered plywood platform.

The projection room was built with painted fire-proof acoustical coating on all the walls and the ceiling and features a metal door. Along the wall facing the auditorium there are five wood framed portholes utilized by the various projection equipment. The ceiling of the projection room is penetrated by ductwork ventilation for the film projector. Prior to 1952 filmmakers used nitrate film, a highly flammable material, for nearly all motion pictures. While filmmakers knew of the dangers, it was not until the late 1940s that film manufacturers introduced cellulose triacetate, acetate, known as "safety film" and not until 1952 that the Kodak Company began a four-year conversion program to manufacture only acetate. Acetate film does not burn under intense heat, instead it melts.[1] At the time of the Cliff Theater construction (1949-1950), the industry standard was to build a fire-proof projection room due to the nitrate film fire dangers.

Alterations

There have been no known modifications to the exterior of the building, with the exception of a metal roof installed in 1995. Modifications to the interior of the building have primarily been to upgrade the projection system, new lighting, acoustical ceiling and conversion of the smoke room. The original acoustical curtain in the auditorium had a stepped effect. This acoustical curtain was removed and replaced in 1971 while the theater was under the ownership of Sam Amendola. In addition, acoustical ceiling and new accent lighting was installed at this time (Figure 3). The current owner made the following changes: smoke room converted to storage room in 1999, replacement of the projector in 2000, the auditorium seats and all carpeting were replaced in 2006. When operations were assumed by the non-profit, Cliff Cultural Community Center (CCCC), the storage area behind the box office was framed in and finished as a restroom. This remodeling work occurred sometime between 2009 and 2010. In addition, updating of the building electrical and the theater sound and lighting systems have been ongoing with the most recent upgrades done in 2011.

[1] "Nitrate Film Base," "Cellulose Acetate Film," from Wikipedia.com last accessed 6 February 2013.

Integrity

The Cliff Theater has a high level of integrity relating to design, materials, workmanship, feeling, setting, association, and location particularly in regard to the exterior which maintains the original façade, marquee, sign, poster and storefront windows, doors and geometric colored concrete at the entrance. As well, the interior retains a good level of integrity in regard to design, feeling, setting, association and location with the original Art Deco light fixtures, box office, and vinyl checkerboard-patterned floor.

Cliff Theater
Name of Property

Yuma, Colorado
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [ ] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1950-1963

Significant Dates

1950

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Powell, J.Kenneth

Hughes, J.A.

Carson, Cliff

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance of the Cliff Theater begins in 1950, the date it opened, and extends to 1963, keeping with National Register guidelines. The Cliff Theater has been in continuous operation through the present.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Cliff Theater is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of *entertainment/recreation*. Ever since the grand opening in 1950 to the present date the theater has served as Wray's primary public entertainment venue showing movies and offering a public venue for other community events. Additionally, it has provided surrounding farmers, ranchers and other communities a movie theater venue for many years.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Cliff Theater is significant for its association with the history of motion picture exhibition in Wray, having been erected as a stand-alone motion picture theater and having influenced the cultural and recreational life of the citizens of Wray and surrounding areas. The Cliff Theater has played an important role in the social, recreational, and cultural history of the Wray since 1950. Although J.K. Powell and J.A. Hughes owned theaters in other towns in the area, the Cliff is one of only two theaters that they built together. As stated by Powell, deciding to build the new Cliff Theater in Wray was "...the culmination of a dream of many years of having a really fine theater at Wray."[2]

The Cliff Theater has been a prominent landmark in downtown Wray for over sixty years. Prior to the construction of the Cliff, the citizens of Wray patronized the old Wray Theater; a small theater located within the confines of the Blanchard Hotel. Both theaters were operated by J. K. Powell and J. A. Hughes. Considering their goal to bring the most modern and technologically advanced motion picture venue in the Wray area, Powell and Hughes developed and built the Cliff Theater. The *Wray Gazette* mentioned its construction progress and the meaning behind the name:

> When the big neon sign goes up in front of the new theatre nearing completion at Wray it will bear the name "The Cliff." The big sign has been ordered and will probably arrive sometime during the coming week. . . . The name "The Cliff" was selected to identify the cliffs that surround the town and make it a distinctive city.[3]

Besides presenting motion pictures, another tradition has been the community sponsored annual free movie for the school children of Wray. Powell began this tradition at the old Wray Theater and carried it to the Cliff where it continues to be a much anticipated event. The Cliff Theater was also used for the Wray High School graduation commencement of the class of 1951. Although this was a one-time event it was noteworthy in that the memory remains strong with the community.

It is not uncommon to have an entire family or groups of small children, unaccompanied, attend a movie together. On movie night at the Cliff Theater, the usual atmosphere is one of a social event where the volunteers working the show are family, friends or neighbors of the audience members. Other businesses along Main Street have benefitted from having a movie theater within the vicinity; patrons might dine at the restaurant and then take in a movie at the Cliff Theater.

There were seven communities with motion picture theaters within a sixty-mile radius of Wray, with only four of those continuing to operate. The Rialto Theater in Haxtun, Colorado (unknown construction date) is currently closed. The Peerless Theater in Holyoke, Colorado (unknown construction date), which a fire completely destroyed within the last twenty years, was rebuilt as a movie theater and recreation center and is currently open and about 40 miles from Wray. The Yuma Theater in Yuma, Colorado, constructed in the 1950s, is currently in operation and about 30 miles from Wray. The Moon Theater in Stratton, Colorado, built

[2] *Wray Gazette,* May 18, 1950.
[3] "The Cliff to be Name of New Theater at Wray," *Wray Gazette*, 30 March 1950.

1921, is currently closed and for sale, which is the same status as the 1928 Midway Theater in Burlington, Colorado. The 1949 Cheyenne Theater in St. Francis, Kansas, and the Zorn Theater in Benkleman, Nebraska, unknown construction date, are both currently open, in operation, and both approximately 40 miles from Wray.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Wray settlement

Originally established as part of the cattle ranching industry, the settlement known as Wray was developed in 1882 as a stop along the Burlington and Missouri Railroad. The town plat was then created in 1886. As the railroad brought civilization in the form of homesteaders and business development, incorporation of the town was discussed. After another twenty years, the settlers incorporated of the City of Wray June 6, 1906. Wray remains largely an agricultural center, but boasts a vibrant and varied community with a current population in the City and surrounding area of about 2,300 residents.

Historic Context

Although motion pictures became a popular entertainment venue during the 1910s when they began gradually surpassing vaudeville performances as the preferred form of entertainment, the post World War II era (1946-1948) posted the all-time high weekly movie attendance with an average of 90 million people across America watching the silver screen. With the advent of the television in the 1940s, the theater industry found a small decrease in attendance after 1948. However, the industry was optimistic in recapturing its popularity as noted in the 1952 annual Theatre Catalog, that the recent years "represent the period of greatest progress in theatre design, qualitatively speaking. As business continues to improve, this progress will be the most vital factor in solidly consolidating the motion picture theatre's position as the dominant medium of entertainment."[4]

The grand opening of the Cliff Theater was on May 23, 1950 and featured the film, "The Reformer and the Redhead" (Figure 2), starring June Allyson and Dick Powell. According to The *Wray Gazette*, Ms. Allyson and Mr. Powell sent a telegram to Powell and Hughes "...congratulating them on opening the new Cliff theater at Wray...". [5] Opening night patrons were also treated to a tour of the theater along with musical entertainment provided by the Jack Sheldon orchestra. At eight o'clock the preshow presentation began with local dignitaries acknowledging the fine new addition to Wray's Main Street. Also attending the grand opening were regional motion picture industry representatives and theater owners from: Denver, Colorado; Wauneta, Nebraska; Burlington, Colorado; Yuma, Colorado; and Fort Morgan, Colorado.

Both Powell and Hughes had been in the entertainment business most of their lives. Hughes began his career in 1919 as a salesman for the Hallmark Pictures Corporation. Subsequently, he worked for Supreme Photoplays, Universal Films, Pathe/RKO, and Metro-Goldwin-Mayer. In 1932 he purchased an interest in the theater in Burlington, Colorado. While making rounds selling films, Hughes met and formed a lasting friendship with Powell.

Powell entered the theater business while still attending high school in Palisade, Nebraska. Starting out as the operator of the Palisade Theater, he later purchased it. Between 1925 and 1932, Powell sold this theater and moved to California for a time. He then returned to Palisade and repurchased the theater.

[4] Hyart Theater National Register nomination (NRIS.08001304) on file with the National Register, Washington, D.C.
[5] *Wray Gazette, May 25, 1950.*

In 1933 Hughes and Powell partnered by purchasing equipment and leasing the Wray Theater. In addition, as partners they continued to jointly run the Palisade Theater and they purchased the old Gem Theater in Yuma, Colorado, which they then rebuilt in 1938 as the new Yuma Theater. Further, for several years they operated the Midway Theater in Burlington, Colorado together until they sold it sometime in the 1940s.

On May 18th, 1950, The *Wray Gazette* printed a special Cliff Theater Section featuring an entire front page devoted to the grand opening of the Cliff Theater and included special advertising pages within the edition (Figure 4). Both the monies from the sale of tickets to the grand opening and from the sale of the special advertising were donated to the Community Hospital building fund.

Local residents state that around the time that the Cliff Theater opened, the Wray was visited by three dignitaries from the entertainment industry. Those individuals were actors Debra Paget and John Derick, and the director Mervyn LeRoy who made a special presentation at the Wray High School. It is unknown whether these individuals attended the Grand Opening ceremonies.

Powell and Hughes owned and operation the Cliff until 1958 when Hughes sold his portion to Dr. F. E. Rider of Wauneta, Nebraska. Then in 1969, Powell and Rider sold the Cliff to Donald L. Campbell, and Samuel, and Mina Amendola who ran the theater together for four years. Sam Amendola had worked at the Cliff Theater since before 1954. Campbell sold his share to the Amendolas in 1973, then Mina sold her portion to Sam in 1974. Sam Amendola alone continued to operate the Cliff for another ten years.

Sam Amendola is still fondly remembered by local residents for the way he ran the theater. For instance, on hot summer evenings the Cliff was known to be a cool comfort if for only a few hours. Sam would prop open both front doors while running the giant evaporative cooler, the combination of the two would create a natural cool breeze throughout the auditorium and out onto the sidewalk. In 1984 after over thirty years at the Cliff, Sam Amendola sold the Cliff to Bruce and Connie Palmrose who are the current owners of the Cliff Theater. Prophetically, when the Palmroses bought the theater Sam told them, "If you just show what you want to see, you'll starve to death."[6] The Palmroses ran the Cliff themselves until 2007 when they formulated the non-profit Cliff Cultural Community Center (CCCC) which operates the theater under a lease agreement.

As former manager Billie Sylvester stated, "Everyone from Wray has a story to tell about being at the Cliff." Patron Cindy Fiedler remembers how Sam Amendola ran the theater, "He was always there with that flashlight, get your feet of [sic] the seats, and you NEVER got caught talking…". And patron Lou Ann Warren recalls fondly the Saturday afternoon movie matinees that were only 50 cents and the 5 cent Jolly Rancher sticks. In addition, Bruce and Connie Palmrose have many stories they recollect. One in particular was when they were operating the theater. According to Bruce,

> The Friday of Labor Day weekend one year we were showing the Kevin Costner version of "Robin Hood", shortly before the movie was scheduled to end the projectionist came downstairs with bad news. Denver Shipping and Inspection Bureau hadn't shipped us the final reel of the movie. We refunded money to a few people, but most just said they knew what the ending would be anyway. Some attended the following night at no charge.[7]

It is no small feat that the Cliff Theater has operated continually through sixty-two years where other small town theaters have either suffered long periods of disuse or even more tragically they have closed permanently. The benefit to the Cliff Theater in having this unbroken history is the bank of memories and sentiment associated with the theater. Nowhere has this emotional attachment been more significant than

[6] Palmrose interview.
[7] Palmrose interview.

recently when the CCCC Board of Directors requested help from the community in the form of funds to help replace the current projection system. In response, the community has contributed nearly $40,000.

A description of the Wray community, hence the audience for the Cliff Theater, would encompass more than just the city alone. It also includes populations from as far away as sixty miles including, Haigler and Benkleman, Nebraska; Idalia, Yuma, Holyoke, Wauneta and Burlington, Colorado; St. Francis, Kansas and all rural areas in between. Some of these towns are fortunate to have their own movie theater, but most are not.

Although the Cliff Theater has managed to remain open for over sixty years, the path has not been easy. Challenges such as changes in patrons' taste in movies and advances in technology have been obstacles all movie theaters have had to face. It was no different at the Cliff Theater.

In the early years though, from opening day into the 1960s, attendance was high with a full theater a common occurrence. At that time the theater was open most every day with double features and matinees shown on the weekends. However, the turning point came during the mid-1960s with the growing popularity and affordability of television. Then again there was another drop in audience size in the late 1970s through the 1980s with the growth of cable and satellite subscription television service. And yet another drop in attendance can be attributed during the 1980s to the development of VHS and DVD media. Over that period of time, the Cliff Theater stopped showing movies on weekdays and showed films only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Today, there are additional distractions that are luring theater audiences away from movie theaters such as streaming media over the internet and home theater systems. The current theater schedule remains at Friday, Saturday and Sundays with a fluctuating audience depending on the movie.

Despite the change in popularity of movie theaters and advances in technology when it comes to rural towns such as Wray there remains a segment of the population that prefer to spend their entertainment dollars at the movie theater. There are other entertainment venues within Wray including restaurants, bars, and a recreational facility. However, none of these have the ability to appeal to such a broad audience as the Cliff Theater.

To the history of Wray, its citizens and the surrounding area, the Cliff Theater is important as it holds a heartfelt place within their lives whether for the historical context over generations, the social environment imbued, or the simple pleasure that having their very own local movie theater can provide.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bowman, Jack. Personal interview with Cathy Walp. 20 March 2012.

Callahan Opal, Maureen. Written correspondence. 14 August 2012.

Carson, Dr. Garry. Personal interview with Cathy Walp. 8 June 2011.

Fiedler, Cindy. Cliff Theater. Facebook. Last accessed 2 August 2012. http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cliff-Theater/155229292458.

Groves, Mary Jane; Adamson, Phyllis. Personal interview with Cathy Walp. 3 March 2012.

Hyart Theater, Big Horn County, Wyoming, National Register Nomination (NRIS.08001304) on file with the National Register, Washington, D.C.

Monk, M.D. Yuma County. USGenWeb Project. Last accessed 25 August 2012. http://www.cogenweb.com/yuma/photos/pioneer/wray/Powell.htm.

Palmrose, Bruce and Connie. Email interview with Cathy Walp. 13 August 2012.

Sylvester, Billie. Personal interview with Cathy Walp. 1 May 2011.

Warren, Lou Ann. Cliff Theater. Facebook. Last accessed 7 August 2012, http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cliff-Theater/155229292458.

Weed, Preston. Personal Interview by Cathy Walp. 18 August 2012.

Wikipedia, online encyclopedia. "Nitrate Film Base," "Cellulose Acetate Film," from www.wikipedia.com , last accessed 6 February 2013.

The Wray Gazette
"The New Cliff Theater Is Finest in This Region," November 22, 1945
"The New Cliff Theater Is Finest in This Region." May 18, 1950
"Large Audience Cheers New Cliff at Opening Show," May 25, 1950

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
__X__Other
Name of repository: **Wray Library**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if ssigned): 5YM.290

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

The UTMS were derived by OAHP from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U. S. Bureau of Land Management.

UTM References (NAD 27)
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	13	736 939	4439 831	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The north ten feet six inches of Lot 10, all of Lot 11 and Lot 12, Block 13, except the north eighteen feet two inches of Lot 12, Block 13, Original Town of Wray, Yuma County, Colorado.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is that which is historically associated with the Cliff Theater.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Walp (for property owner)
organization TSP Modelworks, Ltd. date June 6, 2012
street & number P.O. Box 43 telephone 303-921-2351
city or town Wray state CO zip code 80758
e-mail tspmodels@earthlink.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Cliff Theater
City or Vicinity: Wray
County: Yuma State: Colorado
Photographer: Cathy Walp
Date Photographed: May 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo #1 (CO_Yuma County_Cliff Theater_0001.tiff)
West (main) façade (right), camera facing northeast

Photo # 2 (CO_Yuma County_Cliff Theater_0002.tiff)
West (main) façade (right) in context along Main Street, camera facing northeast

Photo #3 (CO_Yuma County_Cliff Theater_0003.tiff)
West (main) façade (left) and North Elevation in context along Main Street, camera facing southeast

Photo #4 (CO_Yuma County_Cliff Theater_0004.tiff)
Interior lobby and box office (right), camera facing south

Photo #5(CO_Yuma County_Cliff Theater_0005.tiff)
Interior foyer and stairs to second floor, camera facing north

Photo #6 (CO_Yuma County_Cliff Theater_0006.tiff)
Interior auditorium (left), camera facing east

Photo #7 (CO_Yuma County_Cliff Theater_0007.tiff)
Exterior detail of permastone façade

Photo #8 (CO_Yuma County_Cliff Theater_0008.tif)
East-facing side (rear), camera facing southwest

Log of Historic Images

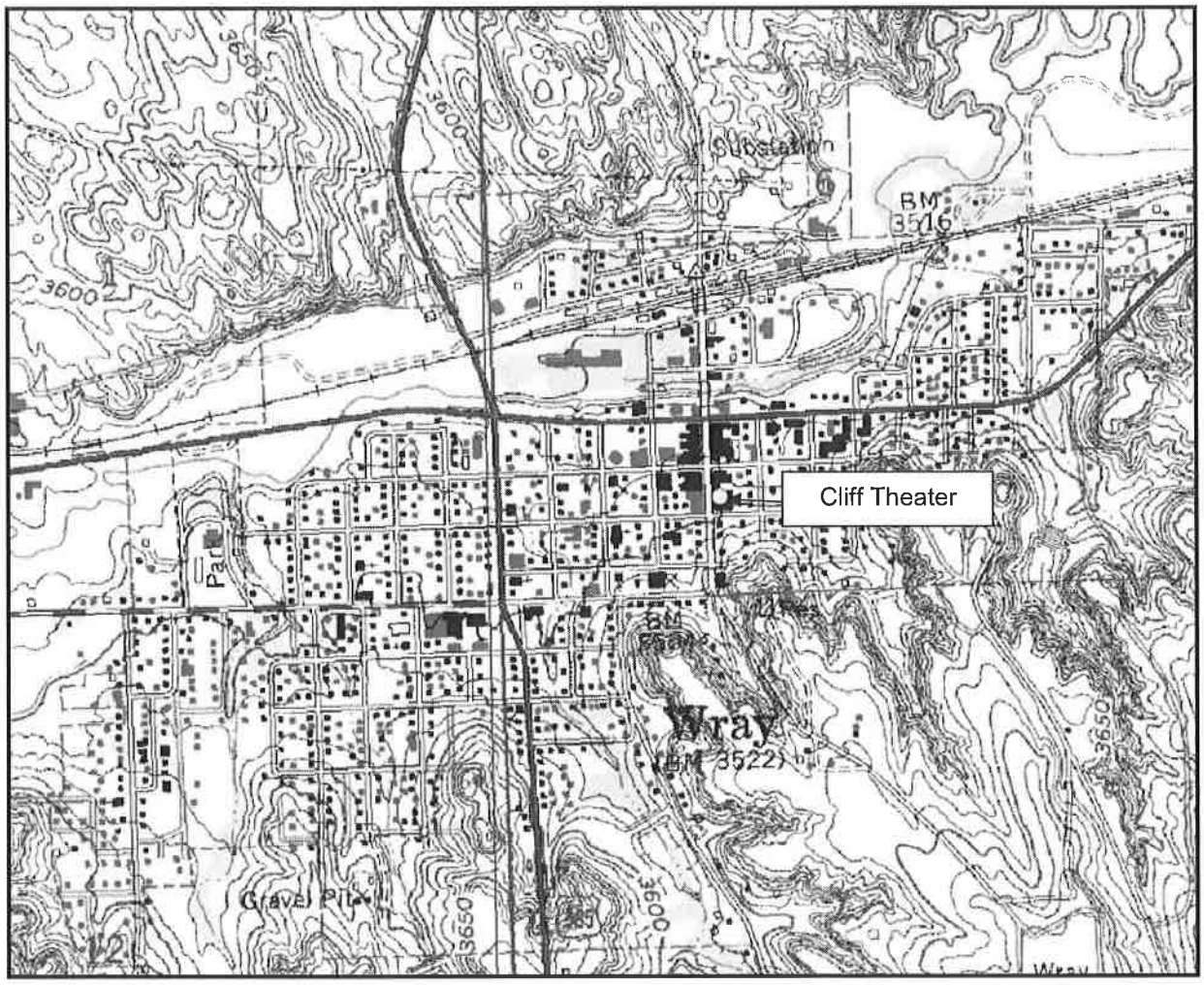
Figure 1. MGM Pictures movie poster, "The Reformer and the Redhead".
Figure 2. *The Wray Gazette,* December 9, 1971. Cliff Theater advertisement

Cliff Theater
Name of Property

Yuma, Colorado
County and State

USGS Section – close-up view
Wray Quadrangle
7.5 Minute Series

Elevation: 3550'

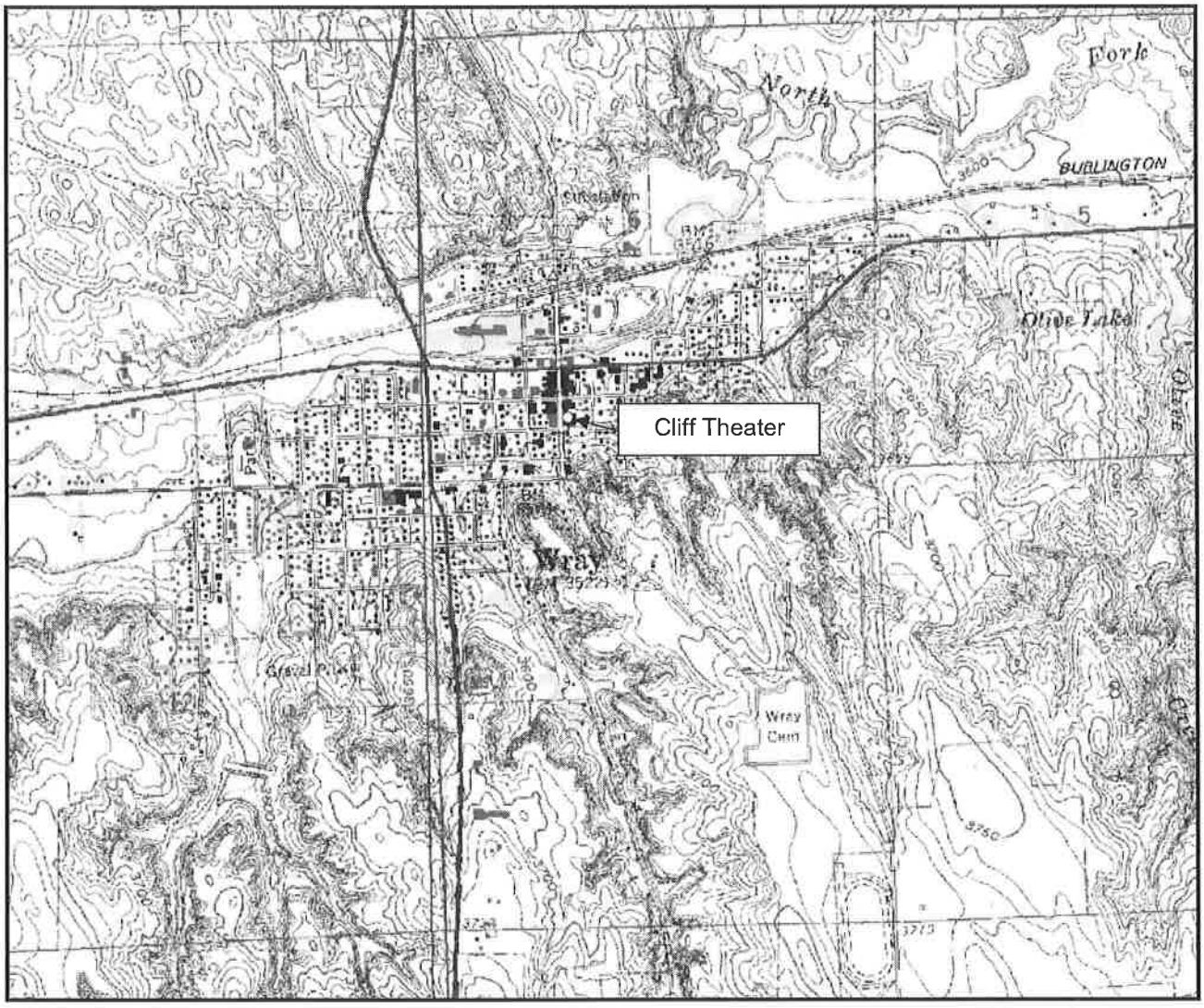


Cliff Theater
Name of Property

Yuma, Colorado
County and State

USGS Section – area perspective
Wray Quadrangle
7.5 Minute Series

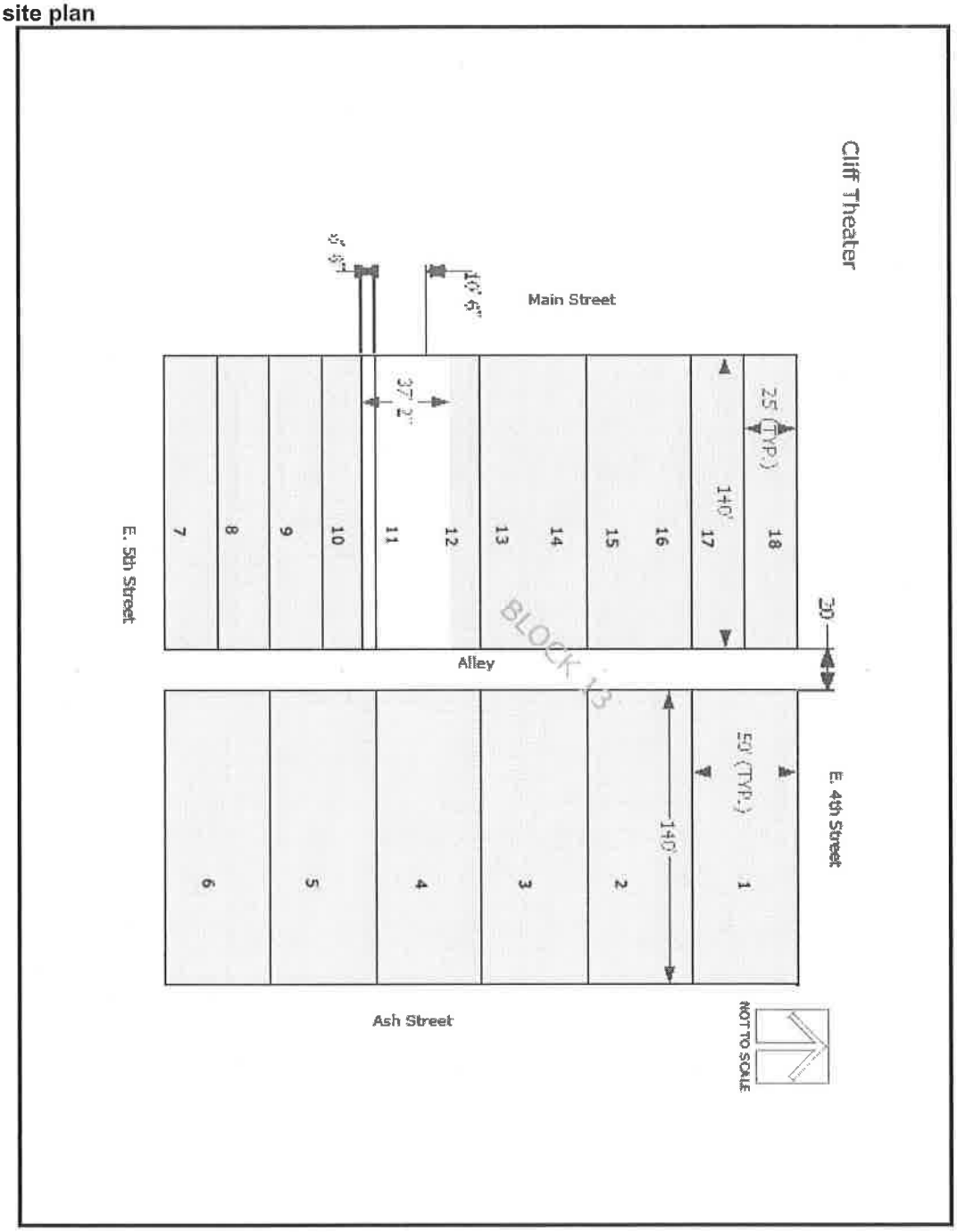
Elevation: 3550'



Cliff Theater
Name of Property

Yuma, Colorado
County and State

Sketch Map, site plan

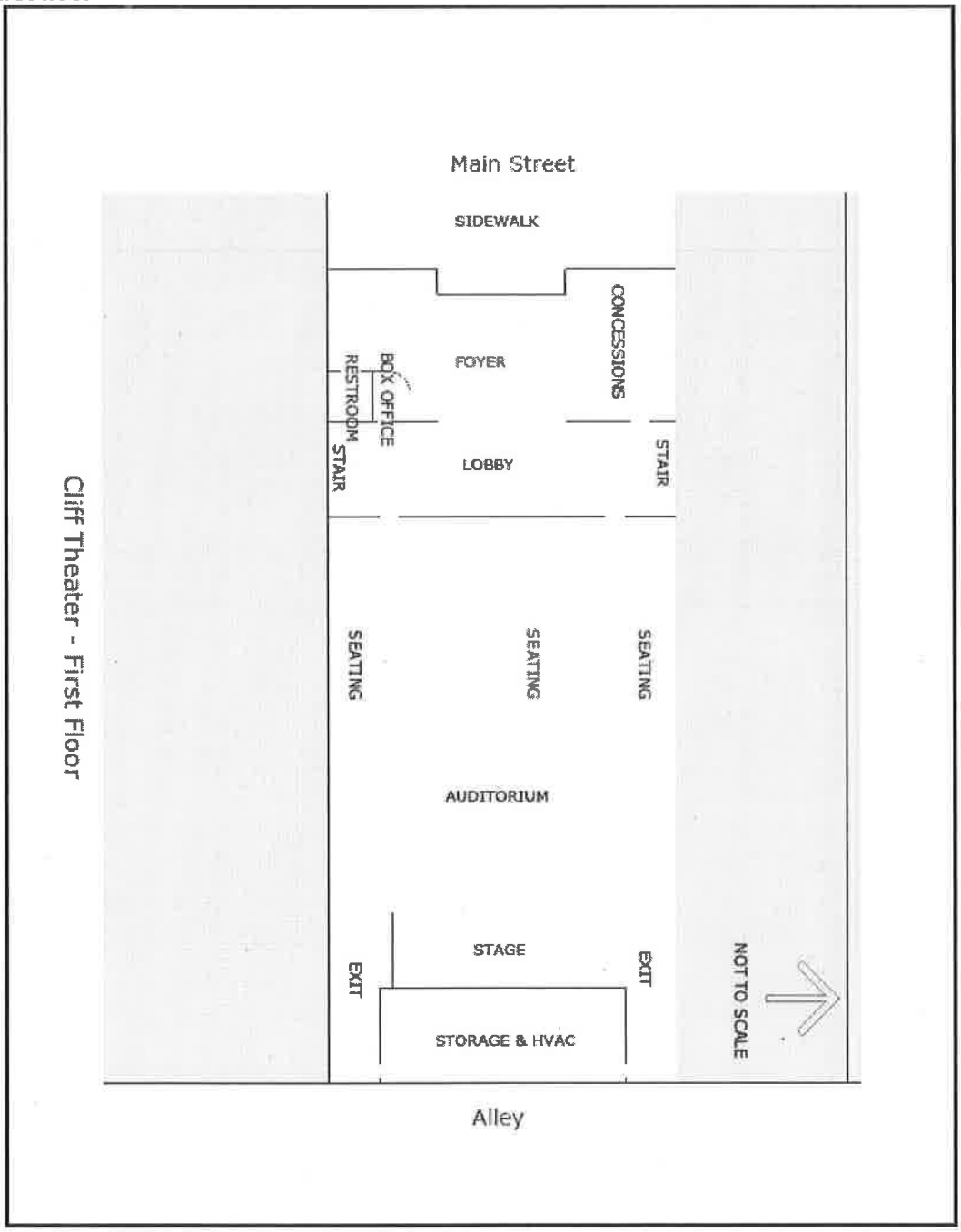


Drawn by preparer, 2012

Cliff Theater
Name of Property

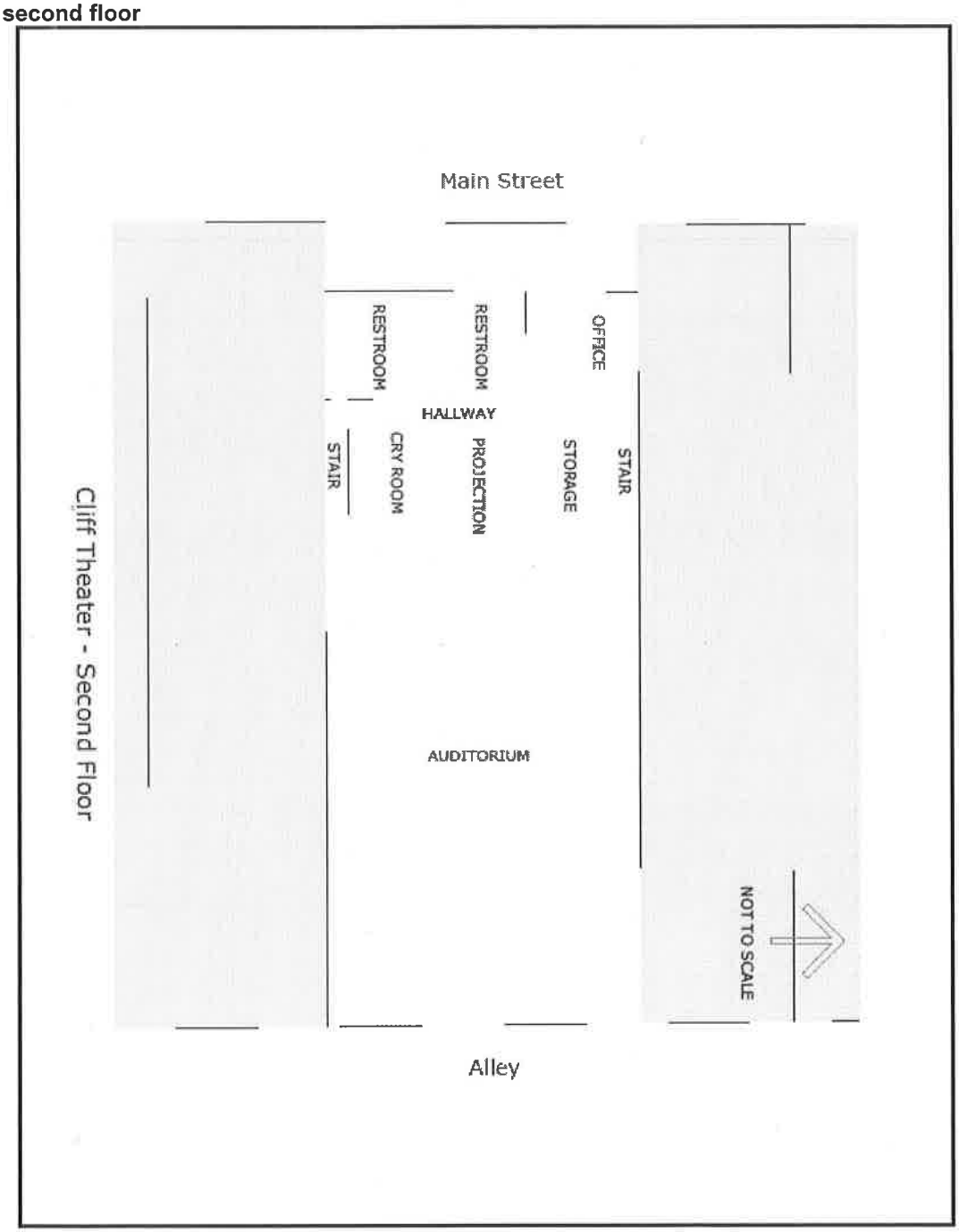
Yuma, Colorado
County and State

Sketch Map, first floor



Drawn by preparer, 2012

Sketch Map, second floor



Drawn by preparer 2012

HISTORIC IMAGES

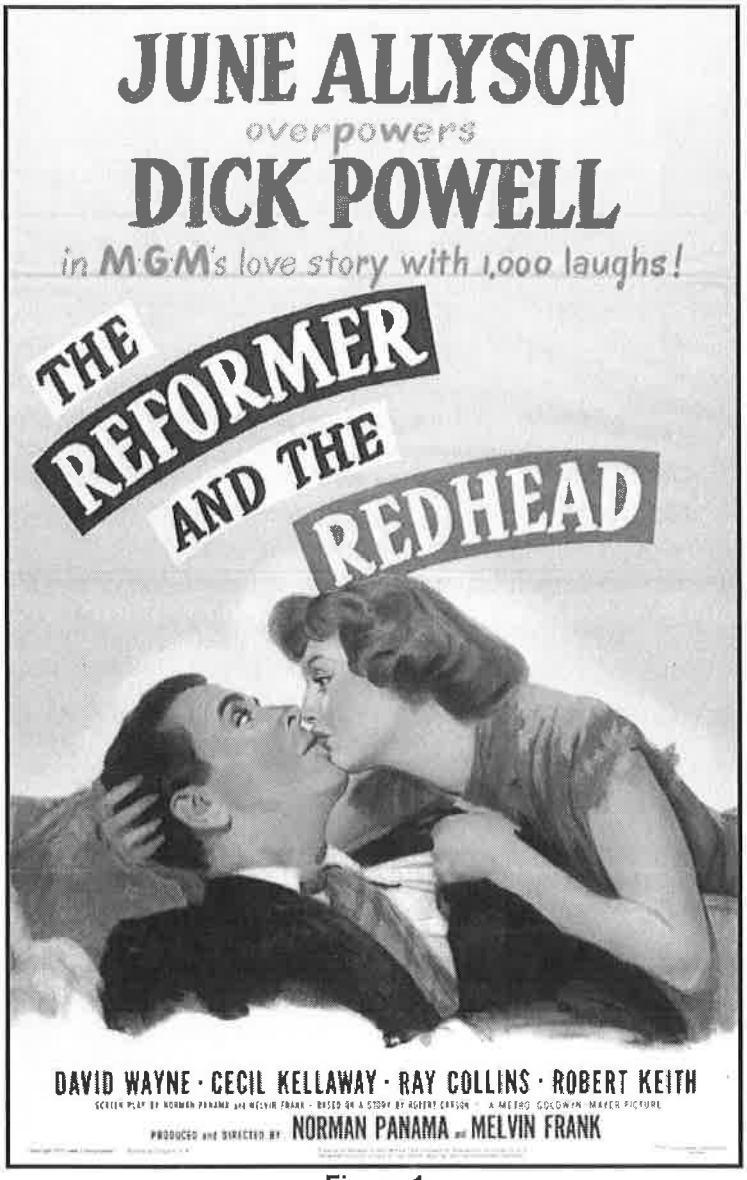


Figure 1

Cliff Theatre

WRAY, COLORADO

NEW TIME!!

All Shows During Week Days—7:30 p. m.
Saturday Matinee 2 p. m.—Evening 7:30 p. m. and 10 p. m.
Sunday—4 p. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Beginning this Saturday we will have two shows on Saturday night, 7:30 p. m. and approximately 10 p. m.

Thurs., Fri., Sat., Dec. 9-10-11

For Laughs, Fun and Humor, Please Don't Miss This!!

Sun., Mon., Dec. 12-13

World War II was over but not for Murphy!

Free Kiddie Show — Saturday, Dec. 11

2 p. m. Sponsored by the Wray Chamber of Commerce.
"Torzan's Jungle Rebellion."

Figure 2.

USGS
science for a changing world

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The National Map
US Topo

WRAY QUADRANGLE
COLORADO
7.5-MINUTE SERIES

5YM.290
CO-YUMA
COUNTY-
CLIFF
THEATER
UTM (NAD27)
ZONE 13;
736 939 mE
4439 831 mN

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84). Projection and
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 13T
10 000-foot ticks: Colorado Coordinate System of 1983
(north zone)

Imagery.....NAIP, June 2009
Roads.....©2006-2010 Tele Atlas
Names.....GNIS, 2008
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2009
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 2007

UTM GRID AND 2010 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
MN 7° 31′ 134 MILS
GN 1° 49′ 32 MILS

U.S. National Grid
100,000-m Square ID
GE
Grid Zone Designation
13T

SCALE 1:24 000

1 0.5 0 KILOMETERS 1 2
1000 500 0 METERS 1000 2000
1 0.5 0 1
MILES
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000
FEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988

This map was produced to conform with version 0.5.10 of the
draft USGS Standards for 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Maps.
A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.5.11

COLORADO

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Eckley NE	Wray NW	Wray NE
Robb	Wray	Laird
Vernon	Beecher Island NW	Willow Creek Ranch

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Interstate Route
US Route
Ramp
State Route
Local Road
4WD
Interstate Route
US Route
State Route

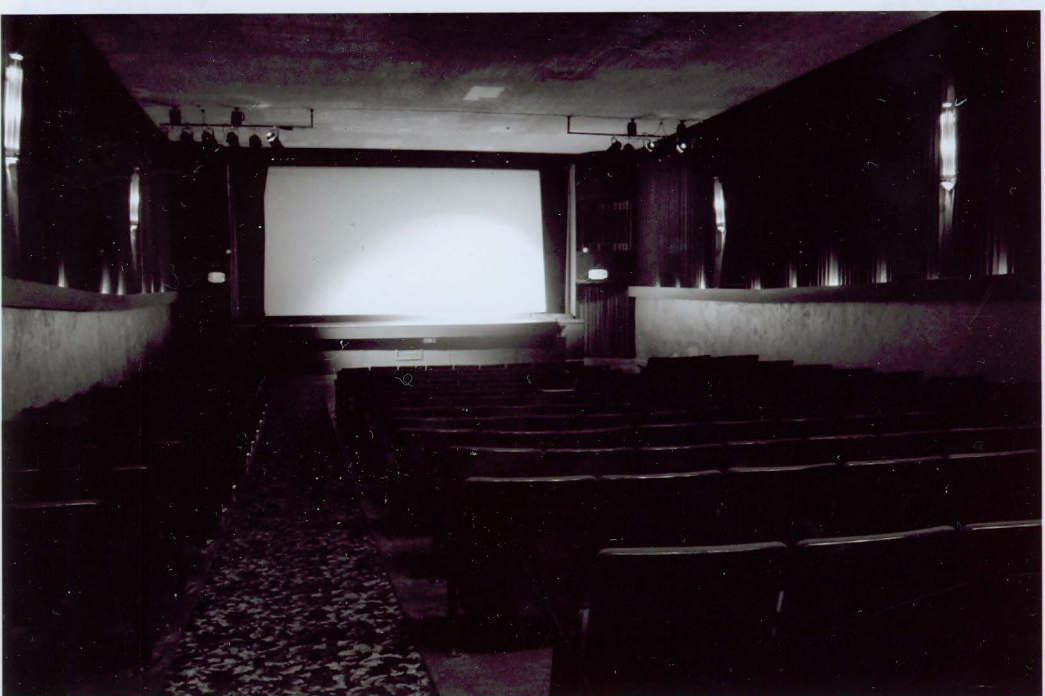
WRAY, CO
2010

LIFE
THE PIRATES 5 YEAR ENGAGEMENT

CLIFF
WRAY
LUMBER
SENTRY

I.O.O.F.
Pub &
Grille

THE NOTEBOOK
DEAR JOHN
ZAC EFRON
TAYLOR SCHILLING
THE LUCKY ONE
IN APRIL 20, 2012
PUSH



THANK YOU VIAERO
NOW SHOWING
Happy Holidays
Merry Christmas To All!
NOW SHOWING
CHRISTMAS