United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

251

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.

RECEIVED 2280
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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

Historic name: **Antlers Café and Bar**

Other names/site number: **Antlers Saloon, Antlers Pool Hall (5RT.1254)**

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: **40 & 46 Moffat Avenue**

City or town: **Yampa** State: **CO** County: **Routt**

Not For Publication: **N/A** Vicinity: **N/A**

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**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_x_ **A** ___**B** _x_ **C** ___**D**

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Signature of certifying official/Title: Dep SHPO **Date** 4/2/14

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado

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:) _____

Joe Edson H. Beall 5.27.14

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	x
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s):	x
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	**buildings**
		sites
		structures
		objects
4	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/ TRADE/restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/ TRADE/restaurant

_____
_____
_____
_____

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7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
__Commercial Style_____
____False Front___
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property**:**
Walls: WOOD/Clapboard, Foundation: STONE, Roof: METAL/Tin

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The circa 1903/04 Antlers Café & Bar, a wood frame false front commercial building, is located in Yampa, Colorado at the intersection of Main Street and Moffat Avenue. The building faces north onto Moffat Avenue. Directly to the west is the entrance road that leads to Flat Tops Trail and Wilderness Area, which is also a Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway connecting Meeker with Yampa. The overall condition of the property is good, with historic additions and modifications completed between 1938 and 1940. The property was listed in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties on March 11, 1998.[1] The one-story building has an irregular floor plan with the 1904 main section measuring approximately 80' x 23'. The building has been in continuous use (except for 2005-2009) as a café and bar for travelers, tourists and as a center of

[1] This National Register of Historic Places nomination relies heavily on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties documentation, authored by Linda E. Hamlin (edited by S. Doggett) and dated November 28, 1997 (on file with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation).

the community of Yampa. The building has maintained its historic integrity with no changes or additions outside the historic period of significance and through regular maintenance.

Narrative Description

SETTING

The Antlers Café and Bar building is situated at the northeast corner of a long, narrow trapezoidal lot which is narrower on the south side than north. Three small outbuildings are located to the south. Tall meadow grass covers the open space on the lot. There are three large cottonwood trees. There are several larger sized Navajo willows growing in random locations on the property. They have propagated on their own. A white picket fence extends along Moffat Avenue, and there is wire and wood fencing along the east and west. The area to the east has a patio with outdoor seating for diners covered by a freestanding canopy tent for shade (not attached to the building). A metal gate is on the west, and a narrow drainage ditch, with a small wooden bridge, bisects the lot behind the outbuildings (outside of the nomination boundary). A large propane tank sits to the west of the addition. Directly east of the Antlers Café and Bar are the remains of the Antler Hotel. The Hotel burned about 1952 and the top portion of it removed. To the east of the property, you can see the Oak Tree Hotel built in 1994. Directly west is the road and entry to the Flat Tops Wilderness area. To the north and slightly west across Moffat Avenue facing onto Main Street is Montgomery Store, the only remaining general store still in operation in Yampa. The Antlers Café and Bar is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of the two main streets in Yampa, facing onto Moffat Avenue, a double width street built to accommodate stage coaches, rodeos and horse racing as well as sheep and cattle drives to the stock pens at the railroad stop just east of town.

ANTLERS CAFÉ AND BAR (constructed 1904) (Photo 1)

The one-story Antlers Café & Bar has a rectangular floor plan for the main portion of the building (23’ x 57’) with several rectangular additions: a small addition for the liquor store to the northeast (3’ x 6’), a small restroom addition to the west (16’ x 20’), a small entry addition to the east (6’ x 10’), a large living quarters addition to the south (26’ x 35’), and then a small entry to the south (8’ x 9’).

The foundation is of stacked stone. The main, front-gabled roof, which was originally wood shingled, is now covered with tin. Rolled roofing covers the shed roofs of the historic additions. Metal chimneys and venting for the kitchen pierce the roof on the east side toward the north and on the west toward the south. On the south end of the main part of the building is a roof-mounted evaporative cooler. On the southeast end of the building is a heating unit. The exterior walls of the main 1904 portion of the building are covered with original clapboard siding. The vertical wood siding found on the small addition on the south is a simple drop board siding 3” in width.

The addition to the south is clad in vertical 5” wood siding that is slightly rabbeted. Walls and trim are painted white, as they have been historically. All of the wood windows and doors are intact, without restoration or replacement. Most have the original glass panes. Only regular

maintenance or replacement of glass panes in kind has been done. There is no basement, but a crawl space exists under the main portion of the building.

North Façade

The original bracketed cornice surmounts the false front, which extends approximately 6' past the east wall of the Antlers Café and Bar and abuts the adjacent building. This east portion of the false front includes two window openings boarded up prior to 1938. Reportedly, there had been a long narrow café between the buildings that could only be entered from the street, but it was removed sometime prior to 1937, leaving a narrow, open space. To the right of the boarded windows is a narrow door with a single fixed light surmounted by a square, boarded up opening. This door opens into the small retail space (3' x 6') that once housed a liquor store.

The entrance to the café and bar is through a wood door which opens in and features a single large light. On either side of the entrance, there are large, fixed plate glass windows with white lettering reading "The Antlers Liquors" at left and "The Antlers Café & Bar" at right. Above these plate glass windows and door are additional windows, divided into three lights above the plate glass windows and divided into two lights as a square transom above the door. The partition dividing the retail space from the café can be seen through the eastern plate glass window, which it bisects. A simple wainscot runs along the bottom of the entire façade. Painted above the storefront on the wood clapboards is "Antlers Café and Bar," illuminated by three gooseneck gas station-style light fixtures. The café entrance is preceded by a shallow, low concrete sidewalk that delineates the establishment from the dirt street onto which the building faces. The date of the installation of this sidewalk is unknown (Photos 1 - 6).

West Side

On the west side, the main portion of the building has paired one-over-one double-hung windows as well as another sign, reading "Antlers Café and Bar Yampa." A gooseneck light is mounted to the south of the paired windows (Photo 8). A modern concrete 18' x 18' slab houses patio seating under a free-standing seasonal tent (Photo 9). The north restroom addition features five windows, three to the north and two to the south with a door on the north. All five windows are fixed and have three vertically oriented lights each (Photos 10, 11).

In the ell created between the north and south living quarters additions are two one-over-one double-hung windows. The south addition also features two windows, one small casement on the west that opens in and has three vertical panes and one small six-over-one double-hung window facing south.

South Side

On the south, a small shed-roofed, rough vertical plank addition features one small square window to the south and a modern six-panel door and four-light square window to the east. There is an additional modern slider window on the south wall of the front-gable addition. A window on the east of this facade has four vertical panes (Photo 12).

East Side

On the east, the main portion of the building has four one-over-one double-hung windows, two paired and two more (individually) further to the south (see Photo 15). There is a small shed-roofed entrance enclosure, constructed at an unknown date, with a panel door on the south side and a small square window on the east. The rear (south) addition features one window with two glass panes just north of the small addition (see Photo 13) and a historic sliding window with four vertical glass panes and a modern six-panel door just south of the shed-roofed entrance enclosure addition.

Interior

During a rehabilitation project in 1997 the original fiberboard walls were covered with drywall and painted. A drop ceiling made of fiber acoustic tiles was installed. The new acoustic tiles reflect the tin ceilings that were common in the era when the structure was first built.

The bar on the west wall came from a saloon in nearby Oak Creek in the early 1890s and is believed to date from the 1880s. A circa 1904 Brunswick Balke Callender Co. bar, now on the south wall, was moved from the south end of the west wall in 1938 in order to form a partition between the café and bar and an expanded kitchen area. The space between the top of the bar and the ceiling was filled with wood paneling. The kitchen was updated with modern appliances as a part of the 1997 rehabiliation. The Wurlitzer juke box by the back bar was purchased by the Benedicts in 1947.

On the walls, hang numerous stuffed heads of elk, deer and other creatures. The two deer heads were there in 1937. The other heads were added by the Benedicts and their friends over the years. There are two large gold framed oil paintings of nudes painted by H. Judd ADM Cooper, given to the saloon well before 1937 by a Doc Cole, who was a doctor for one of the mines. He brought them from Leadville when he moved to Yampa. The four wood fixed benches/booths, 13 oak standing-bar stools and the Chicago Brunswick table with eight matching spectacle-back chairs were preserved.

The original small bathroom on the west side was improved during the rehabilitation. A new handicapped accessible bathroom was constructed in what had been a storage space just beyond the small bathroom.

Alterations

The interior is in good condition, with updated mechanical systems, insulation, kitchen and restrooms, and some cosmetic changes. The Benedicks made few changes to the café and bar portion of the building, a long rectangular room with wood floors.

The circa-1904 gable roof extension at the rear of the building originally provided a single large room used for gambling. At an unknown date, the 8’ x 9’ shed roof addition at the rear was constructed, reportedly so that a person could sleep there in order to protect the gambling proceeds.

In 1938, Benedick created a small liquor store in the northeast corner of the saloon by means of a 3' x 5' extension to the east. It is now a small retail space accessed by a door just inside the front entrance. In 1939, Benedick moved the gambling activities to the 16' x 20' north addition on the west and further partitioned the rear extension into a living and sleeping area. In 1940, construction of the 12' x 16' south addition on the west side provided space for an additional bedroom and bathroom.

On the north façade, the original 1904 fenestration was modified in 1938 after Mike and Emily Benedick purchased the property. The two-over-two configuration changed to three-over-one fixed panes. Alterations on the main façade otherwise appear to have been minimal over the years. The front door entry was moved flush to the front façade from a setback seen circa 1930s (see Photo H1). This was likely done when Benedick created the liquor store on the northeast side of the entryway in 1938. The circa-1930 blade sign announcing "Saloon" was lost at an unknown date, replaced by the painted "Antlers Café & Bar". It is possible that the painted sign was added following the fire that destroyed the upper part of the Antlers Hotel in 1952. The painted window signs reading "The Antlers Café & Bar" and "The Antlers Liquors" remain as they were when the Benedicks sold the property in 1997; these reflect the history of the 1938 liquor store created by the Benedicks.

The current owners (Messrs. Hamlin and deNeufville) purchased the property from the Benedicks in 1997. At that time, they made upgrades to the plumbing and electrical systems, adding mechanical units to the rear of the building, and adding some improvements to the kitchen and bathroom areas. The signage otherwise remains the same with the exception of the removal of a Schlitz Beer blade liquor sign over the front door seen in the 1997 photo-documentation for the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties nomination form. The patio and seasonal tent covering were added in 2010 when a new manager and chef leased the space to revitalize the restaurant business.

Outbuildings

The Benedicks constructed the three wood outbuildings. They feature shed roofs covered with rolled roofing and unpainted exterior walls with a mix of horizontal and vertical siding. All are in fair condition.

Storage Shed (contributing building, 1941)

This small storage shed, furthest to the south, was built in 1941 to house a cow.

Ice Shed (contributing building, 1938) (Photos 18, 19)

Built in 1938 to store ice, the largest shed is located approximately 15' from the southwest corner of the building. It has recently been used as a garage and for storage of tools and maintenance equipment. The building's main façade features exposed rafter tails, a wood-shuttered opening, and a car or wagon-sized opening, both hung with metal strap hinges. The west side features a plank door, also hung with strap hinges.

Coal Storage Shed (contributing building, early 1940s) (Photo 20)

The coal storage shed is located approximately 20' off the southeast corner of the main building. It replaced an earlier coal shed. It contains a small attached portion that was a chicken coop (no longer in use.) It is currently used for general storage. The building's main façade features exposed rafter tails, a large unarticulated opening, and a plank Dutch door.

INTEGRITY

The Benedicks lived on the premises and operated the business until poor health forced them to close in 1996. The current owners have retained these historic modifications associated with the Benedicks' long-term ownership and operation of the property as representative of the building's history.

The Bendicks changed very little at the property from when they purchased it in 1937. Except for the addition of the small liquor store area inside the front northeast portion of the interior, the extension of that side of the building and the resulting reconfiguration of the main windows on the front façade in 1938, there have been no major modifications. The three small outbuildings were added early in the Benedicks' ownership and they have been simply maintained and in use.

The current owners have maintained the building, including painting and repair of the clapboard siding, repair of the wood windows, and replacement of some glass panes, where needed. They have modernized the plumbing and heating systems, but with as little impact as possible. Some minor interior changes, such as the addition of acoustic tiles to the ceiling, were motivated for business reasons, but do not overly detract from the building's integrity.

_____

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.
- [x] 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.)

- [ ] 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.)
Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance
1904-1964

1904–1941

Significant Dates
1904
1938
1941

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

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph:

Antlers Café and Bar is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce for the period 1904-1964 as the main stopping place along the historic road that is now known as the Flat Tops Scenic Byway as well as a long-time community establishment for food and drink. The building is further locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the period 1904, when it was constructed, to 1941, the date of the last significant modification, the addition of a small storage shed to the south. Antlers Café and Bar is an excellent intact example of a one-story false front commercial, vernacular wood frame building with a decorative cornice and large storefront windows.

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets)

Criterion A: Commerce
From 1904 through the present, the Antlers Café and Bar has played an integral part in the commercial history associated with the patterns of small-town life in rural northwestern

Colorado. The property remains woven into the stories told by people whose families have lived and worked in the area for generations. It continues today to be a local community spot as well as a tourist destination, especially for those traveling the Flat Tops Scenic Byway.

Historically, the Antlers Café and Bar, along with the adjacent Antlers Hotel (no longer extant), served as the main stagecoach stop between Wolcott and Steamboat Springs between 1904 and 1908. Subsequently, it served tourists arriving by train and then automobile to hunt, fish, hike and recreate in the area. The property's evolution from saloon to pool hall, bar with gambling, and, finally, to café and bar mirrored the times and met the changing needs of the community. It continued to function as a free-standing building and business even following the fire that destroyed the Antlers Hotel in 1952.

In *The City and the Saloon*, Dr. Thomas J. Noel broadly describes a saloon as a "multifunctional institution", often serving the community as a location for church service, schools, libraries, hospitals theaters and museums.[2] Antlers, especially during the sixty years the Benedicks owned and operated the property, served many of these same purposes, acting as an integral part of the history, economics and social life of the town of Yampa.

Mike and Emily Benedick purchased the property and business from Mike's brother-in-law in 1937, operating it until 1996. By 1940, they completed additions to the original building to provide living quarters for their growing family. Emily cooked and Mike became a local legend as the tough, but fair and somewhat eccentric, bartender. He was known for his strict rules of decorum, stories of which are still told at the bar today. It is remembered how that it was his unique ability to keep order in the bar that everyone felt comfortable visiting with friends, dining with their families, conducting informal business meetings, or striking political deals.

When the Benedicks, because of declining health, chose to sell the business in 1996, locals recounted how much a part of the community the Benedicks and the Antlers had been. "Yampa is very conservative, with an emphasis on religion and family values," said local historian Paul Bonnifield to the *Steamboat Pilot* in an October 3, 1996 article about the bar's sale. "For Mike to survive in this town, he made it very clear that he ran his bar. Granted they gambled, granted they bootlegged, and everyone accepted it, it was more about the community's values than the legal law. You could fight outside, but you had to conduct yourself with dignity inside."[3]

Criterion C – Architecture

The circa-1904 Antlers Café & Bar is a good example of early twentieth century vernacular wood-frame, false front commercial building. Its decorative cornice reflects the then popular addition of such architectural detailing to simple vernacular buildings (see Photos 1 - 3). The false front façade gave the building the illusion of being more substantial. Often a better quality material was used on the front façade than the sides. In the case of Antlers the main façade contains the most substantial window openings, while smaller, utilitarian windows are found on the sides and rear.

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[2] Thomas J. Noel, The City and the Saloon, University of Nebraska Press: Lincoln, Nebraska, 1982, p.12.

[3] Melissa Roddy, "The Antlers Café & Bar: A Piece of South Routt History" *Steamboat Pilot*, October 3, 1996, p.16C

In spite of historic modifications to is fenestration in 1938, the north façade appears much as it did when it was constructed, and the building has remained virtually unchanged for the past 90+ years. The historic additions on the west and south reflect the evolution of the property as both the work place and home of its owners.

The property compares favorably with other false front commercial buildings remaining in Yampa. Of those that remain extant, the Antlers Café and Bar, Bell & Canant Mercantile (Crossan's M & A Market), and Montgomery's Grocery Store are the most intact examples of the type. Recently, efforts are underway to preserve the Bell & Canant Mercantile (Crossan's) via a Colorado State Historical Fund grant (5RT.3120, National Register-listed Dec. 26, 2012, NRIS 12001081).

Developmental history/additional historic context information

In 1861, Louis Berthoud and Jim Bridger were hired to survey a wagon road from Denver to Salt Lake City. In an article for the *Rocky Mountain News*, Berthoud wrote: "Indeed nature here seemed still so new, so fresh in creation, that we in imagination appeared to be the first human tenants; and from each poplar grove the wood nymphs, the dryads of antiquity, still remained and peeped at us shyly, indeed the name for this park suggested by Governor Gilpin is very appropriate – Egeria." The nymph Egeria was a mythical companion and advisor of Numa, the legendary second king of Rome.[4] This mythical nymph, a minor goddess of Roman religion, was often associated with water and mountains, an idealist vision of the area that fit well into Gilpin's vision of Colorado's future as articulated and published in his writings, *The Central Gold Region: The Grain, Pastoral and Gold Regions of North America.*[5] Even the names of places yet to be settled were chosen to convey a successful and positive future to support the theme of Manifest Destiny that Gilpin and his fellow promoters believed in.

Egeria Park included the valley from the area that is now Toponas, Colorado north to what is now Phippsburg. The area around Toponas became Upper Egeria. The land surrounding Yampa and Phippsburg became Lower Egeria. The town now known as Yampa first used the name of Egeria. The Egeria Post Office was established in 1883.

Euro-Americans did not permanently settle Egeria Park until after the U.S. government relocated the Yamparicas (Yamparka) and Parianuc bands of the Ute tribe (also referred to as the White River Utes, now among the Northern Utes) to the Unitah Reservation (now Uintah-Ouray Reservation) in Utah in 1881.[6] The result of the White River War, or Ute War, fought between the White River Utes and the United States Army in 1879, resulted in the forced removal of the

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[4] Jan Leslie, *Anthracite, Barbee and Tosh: The History of Routt County and Its Post Offices* (Hayden, CO: Walnut Street Publishers, 2005) 46.

[5] Carl Abbott, Stephen J. Leonard, and David McComb, *Colorado: A History of the Centennial State* (University Press of Colorado, 1982) 80.

[6] *Southern Ute Tribe: History of the Southern Ute*, from the Southern Ute Tribe website: www.southernute-nsn.gov/history (accessed September 1, 2013); Virginia McConnell Simmons, *The Ute Indians of Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico* (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2001) 16, 196.

White River and Uncompahgre Utes from Colorado. This opened millions of acres of land to settlement.[7]

The Yamparicas made winter camp in the Yampa region prior to Euro-American settlement. However, several Euro-Americans spent time during the summers and fall in the area between 1879 and 1881. According to Don Whipple, an early settler of the area, "in the winter of 1879 there were several of us who wintered in Egeria up until Christmas and then moved to Rock Creek for the balance of the winter."[8]

The residents of Egeria adopted the name Yampa after the town of Craig stopped using it. Not only was there an abundance of Yampa plants (*Perideridia gairdneri subsp borealis*) in the area, but the name recognized the previous inhabitants.[9] The name of the town became official when the post office was established in 1894.[10]

The first claims were filed in Yampa in 1881 by Peter Simon, Sam Fix and Henry Crawford. The economy of Yampa in the 1880s and 1890s was dependent on the large cattle ranches. The first school was established in 1885. The first store, Hernagess, was established in 1886, as was the first inn which was the site of the Montgomery Ranch. A sawmill was operating that same year on the Yampa River which borders the town to the east[11].

By 1902, there were 400 people in the town of Yampa, (as of 2010, the population was 429[12]) providing services to the homesteaders and ranchers, railroad workers, timber crews, and coal miners. There were three sawmills and a brickyard operating. By the time Yampa incorporated in 1906 there were 12 sawmills. The Monte Cristo (later, The Grand) and the Antlers Hotel were built in 1902 or 1903 on Moffat Avenue. The Antlers added a building next door for a saloon in 1904. The Hotel operated under a variety of proprietors during its history.

The first proprietors of the saloon found in the Abstract of Title, Tax Assessor records, and newspapers, were W.H. Burnside and J.D. Hergott.[13] Advertisements in the *Yampa Leader* on June 1, 1907 and again in 1925 list Burnside and Hergott as the proprietors of the Antlers Bar. In between those two dates, there were a number of property ownership changes, losses for non-

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[7] Dee Brown, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West* (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1971), 387-89. See also "Essential Understanding 2: American Indian Leaders," www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/LtGovGarcia/CBON/1251601562530 (accessed Dec. 2, 2013).

[8] Whipple, Don Wilmer (Billy), Letter to the *Steamboat Pilot*, "More Early History of Egeria Park," Steamboat Pilot (Sep 1941).

[9] The plant name is derived from the Ute Indian tribe Yamparicas (also referred to as the White River Utes), who traditionally inhabited the Colorado Yampa River Valley. The Ute ate the root of this plant, which they considered a delicacy.

[10] Leslie, p. 71.

[11] Ibid

[12] United States Department of Commerce Census (2010), *Yampa town, Colorado*, http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml (accessed November 28, 2013).

[13] The Zimmerman Abstract Title Company, Abstract of Title, Abstract No. 4640, Steamboat Springs, (undated), p. 4.

payment of taxes, and bank failures. Through it all the Antlers advertised "a complete line of the finest", including wines, liquors, cigars, candies and soft drinks.

Moffat Avenue was on the main stage line from Wolcott to Steamboat Springs and the stage stopped at the Antlers Hotel and Saloon. The street was designed with extra width to accommodate daily business, rodeos, horse races, 4th of July celebrations, and cattle and sheep drives to the stock pens located just east of Yampa on the railroad line. Moffat Avenue and Main Street intersected in front of the Antlers Saloon, making it the center of all that happened in the town of Yampa.

In anticipation of the railroad reaching the Yampa Valley, (the permanent survey was completed as far as the town of Yampa in the spring of 1903) the town of Yampa was touted by a growing number of hunters, fishermen and tourists interested in the Trappers Lake area. A visit in 1919 inspired Arthur Hawthorne Carhart, a U.S. Forest Service landscape architect, to call for preservation of wilderness. Carhart in turn became known as the "Father of the Wilderness Concept."[14] Formally designated in December 1975, Flat Tops Wilderness now includes over 235,000 acres under U.S. Forest Service management.

In the interim, entrepreneurs flocked to the area.[15] An advertisement for the Antlers Hotel in the *Steamboat Pilot* on March 30, 1910 stated: "Yampa is the nearest outfitting point to the Trapper's [sic] and Lost Lake country. The finest fishing and hunting in the West is in the country surrounding Yampa." During the course of 1903, approximately forty buildings were erected in town. This building boom included general stores, grocery stores, saloons, livery stables, blacksmith shops, a drug store, a church, real estate firms, insurance agencies, a bank and a newspaper.[16]

The Antlers operated as a saloon until Prohibition, when it was reconceived as a pool hall which reportedly ran bootleg liquor. Following the end to Prohibition in 1933, the Antlers reverted to a saloon, complete with backroom gambling[17]. A young coal miner, Mike Benedick, from the neighboring town of Oak Creek often ran games in his brother-in-law J. A. Morris' saloon, The Antlers. Morris had taken over the Antlers in 1928 and Benedkick came to work for him in the mid 1930s. In 1933 and 1935, Mike managed the Antlers, and in 1937, Mike and his wife Emily bought the business, although the local rumor was that he reputedly won it from Morris gambling.[18] Thus began the Benedicks' sixty-year continuous ownership and operation of the Antlers Bar and Café.

At some point, the saloon and the adjacent Antlers Hotel were said to have been connected by another building; a door can be seen on the east wall of the Antlers which is now partially walled over. A narrow passage at one time existed between the saloon and the hotel, apparently

[14]"Arthur Carhart,",www.wilderness.net/NWPS/carhart (accessed November 28, 2013).
[15] Chas. A. Morning, "Early Experiences at Yampa and Hahn's Peak," *Steamboat Pilot*, Golden Anniversary Edition, (27 July 1934): 11.
[16] *Steamboat Pilot*, Special Spring Edition (2 Mar 1904).
[17] Roddy, 16C.
[18]Ibid.

removed by Morris before the property transfer, left a portion of the false front with only an empty space behind it (see Photos 2, 16).

By 1908, the so-called Moffat Route from Denver to Craig brought the Denver, Northwestern, and Pacific (DNW&P) railroad to Yampa, eventually replacing the stagecoach and bringing tourists and sportsmen to the Flat Tops. In response to the growing recreational trade, Yampa's third hotel, the Royal, was built in 1910.

In the 1920s, the railroad made it possible to transport the large lettuce and spinach crops produced in the fields around Yampa to other parts of the country. By 1928, the soil was exhausted and the produce industry went into a steep decline. There was long hard freeze and subsequent drop in prices in 1939 such that farmers turned to hay as an alternative crop. Yet from 1940 to 1950, the population of Yampa only lost five residents out of the 426 that called Yampa home in 1940. Cattle, sheep, hay, tourism, and recreational sport continue as the major drivers of the local economy today.

In 1996, after sixty years of operations, two grown children, 12 grandchildren, 20 great-grand children and one great-great grandchild, the Benedicks decided to sell the business and retire. The community worried that they would lose a vital piece of local history. Fortunately in 1997, two old college friends recognized the importance of preserving the Antlers and purchased, restored, and revived the business as a gathering place for the community. They continue the tradition of good food and drink along with stories and memory making. After closing briefly in 2005, the owners sought the right manager and chef to bring the Antlers continuity. Current manager Tom Wester took over in 2010, adding a new menu, outdoor patio and events including talks by Colorado historian Dr. Thomas J. Noel, a "Mike Benedick story night," and fundraisers for local events and community causes, continuing the spirit of the locale as central to the community. [19] Mike Benedick passed away at the age of 94 on March 5, 2003 in Steamboat Springs.[20] His wife Emily (née Kiddie) preceded him in death on February 25, 2003.

[19] Mike Lawrence, "Longtime chef Tom Wester reopening Yampa Restaurant, bar," *Steamboat Today* (18 Apr 2010).
[20] "Mike Benedick [obituary]," *Craig Daily Press* (26 Mar 2003).

HISTORIC PHOTOS:

Antlers Hotel

H1 – Yampa, Colorado in 1903. View northeast. Shows rear of Antlers Hotel prior to construction of Antlers Café and Bar. (courtesy of Denver Public Library, Western History & Genealogy Department, call number x-14201).

Antlers Café and Bar

H2 – Yampa, Colorado ca.1904. View northeast. Shows Antlers Café and Bar directly to west of Antlers Hotel. (courtesy of Denver Public Library, Western History & Genealogy Department, call number x-14195).

H3 – Antlers Hotel (destroyed by fire) with Saloon (Café and Bar) adjoining. Looking east along Moffat Ave. "Yampa Colorado About 1930." Courtesy of owners' collection.

H4 – Antlers Hotel with Café adjoining. Looking south. Note on front indicates "First Touring Car in Yampa 1907." Courtesy of owners' collection.

H5 - The Grand Hotel, formerly located to the west. Unknown date (circa 1920s). Photo taken facing southeast. Courtesy of owners' collection.

9. Major Bibliographical References (also see continuation sheet)

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

"Antlers Café & Bar: A Piece of South Routt History". *Steamboat Pilot* (3 Oct 1996): 16c.

Hamlin, Linda E., with S. Doggett, ed. Antlers Café & Bar, Colorado State Register of Historic Properties Nomination Form, 1998. On file with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado.

Leslie, Jan. *Anthracite, Barbee and Tosh: The History of Routt County and Its Post Offices*. Walnut Street Publishers, Hayden, Colorado. 2005.

Morning, Chas. A. "Early Experiences at Yampa and Hahn's Peak" *Steamboat Pilot-Golden Anniversary Edition*, July 27, 1934.

Paddock, Eric. *Belonging to the West*. Baltimore, Maryland: The John Hopkins University Press, 1996.

Simmons, Virginia McConnell. *The Ute Indian*. University of Colorado Press, Boulder, Colorado.

Steamboat Pilot, Special Spring Edition, March 2, 1904, Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection

Stanko, Jim. *Historical Guide to Routt County*. Steamboat Springs: Routt County Board of County Commissioners, 1979.

Southern Ute Tribe: History of the Southern Ute, from the Southern Ute Tribe website: www.southernute-nsn.gov/history (latest access September 1, 2013)

Wiatrowski, Claude, *Historic Colorado: Day Trips and Weekend Getaways to Historic Towns, Cities Sites and Wonders*. Voyageur Press, McGregor. MN., 2009.

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:

__x__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____5RT.1254_____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __less than one_____

Use either the **UTM** system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: Longitude:

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

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

[ ] NAD 1927 or [x] NAD 1983

1. Zone: **13** Easting: **3 37 470mE** Northing: **44 45 980mN**

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

Lot 1 of the Antlers subdivision, which is described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 15 in Township 2 North of Range 85 West of the 6th P.M., thence running South along the West line of said tract 350 feet; thence running East at right angles with first line 29 feet; thence North parallel with first line 350 feet to the North Line of said Section 15; thence West along said Section line 29 feet to the place of beginning; said tract being located in the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 15 in Township 2 North of Range 85 West of the 6th P.M., Routt County, Colorado.

A larger irregular lot legally split in 2008. Lot 1 is the sole subject of this nomination, whereas Lot 2 (parcel number 284900001) includes a drainage ditch, but no buildings.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the legal description of the property that is historically and currently associated with the Antlers Café & Bar. This boundary includes the three outbuildings on the property, but excludes the drainage ditch at the rear.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: **Barbara Gibson – Historic Preservation Consultant** (for property owners)
organization: _____
street & number: **1510 Wazee Street #1**
city or town: **Denver** state: **Colorado** zip code: **80202**
e-mail **bgibson19@gmail.com**
telephone: **303-229-4996**
date: **December 1, 2013**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

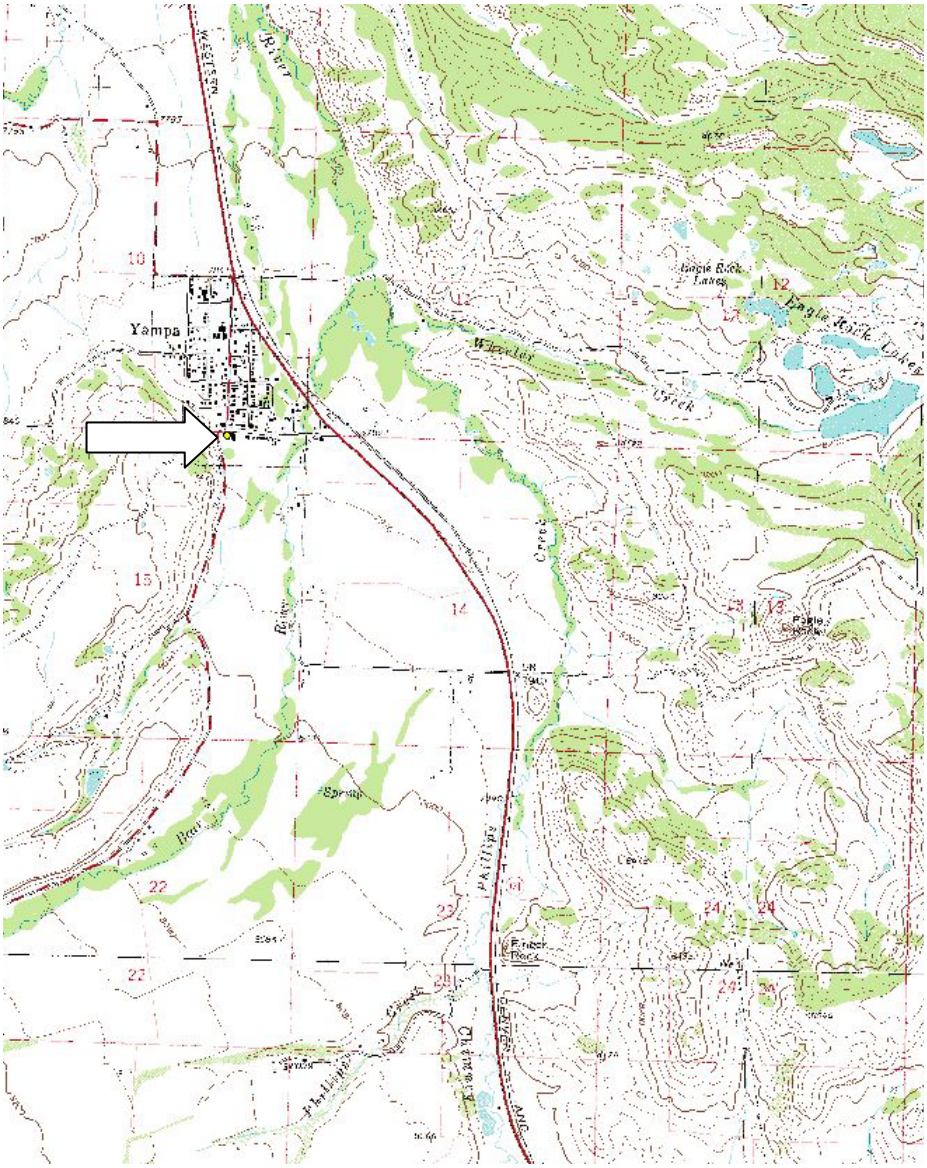
Photo Log

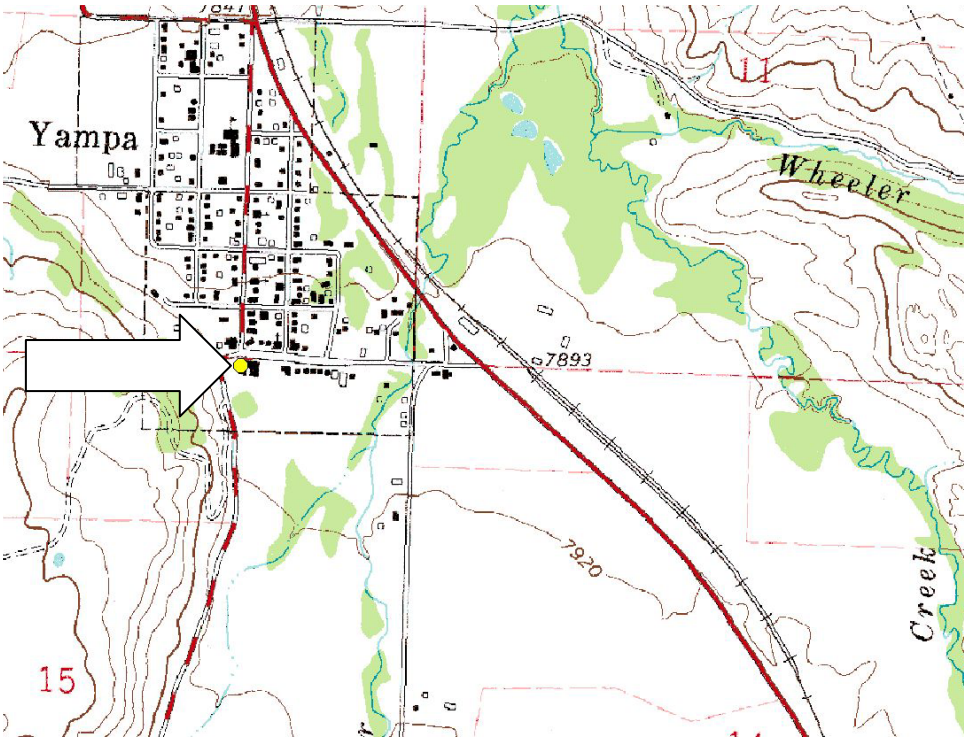
Name of Property: **Antlers Café and Bar**
City or Vicinity: **Yampa**
County**: Routt** State: **Colorado**
Photographer**: Barbara Gibson**
Date Photographed: **August 20, 2013**

Photo. # Photo Description
0001 – North façade, camera facing south
0002 – North façade, camera facing west/southwest
0003 – North façade, camera facing south
0004 – North façade, camera facing south
0005 – North façade (window detail over front door), camera facing south
0006 – North façade (shows false front), camera facing southeast
0007 – Rear of north façade (false front cornice), south facing, camera facing north/northwest
0008 – West side, camera facing east
0009 – West side, camera facing east
0010 – West side, camera facing east
0011 – West side, camera facing east
0012 – South side, camera facing north
0013 – East side, camera facing north/north west
0014 – East side, camera facing west
0015 – East side, camera facing north (slightly west)
0016 – East side, camera facing north (slightly west)
0017 – Close up of back-side of false front, south facing, camera facing north
0018 – Storage shed – Main façade, camera facing south
0019 – Storage shed – West side, camera facing east
0020 – Coal storage shed – East side, camera facing west
0021 – Moffat Avenue, Antlers to left, north facing, camera facing west
0022 – Antlers facing Main Street, Front facing, camera facing south, north facing
0023 – Interior, view of café and bar area, camera facing northwest.
0024 – Interior, detail of bar, camera facing north towards Moffat Avenue.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington

USGS Yampa Quadrangle
7.5 Minute Series
PM 6th Township 2N Range 85W Section 15 NE1/4 NW1/4 NE1/4
Elevation 7890’




Yampa
Wheeler
Creek
7893
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15
11

Google earth

feet 1000

meters 300

ANTLERS
CAFE & BAR
THE ANTLERS
LIQUORS
Closed
THE ANTLERS
CAFE & BAR

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1902
HOTEL
Miller Lite
The ANTLERS LIQUORS
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The ANTLERS LIQUORS!
Budweiser
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MasterCard
VISA

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SORRY...
Closed
The ANTLERS

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