

## COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

**Architectural Inventory Form**

Page 1

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

This survey form represents a **DRAFT** only. All information, particularly determinations of eligibility for the National Register, the State Register, or as a local landmark, can and will change. If you would like to make additions or corrections to the information contained in this document, please contact Historitecture.

[www.historitecture.com/contactus.html](http://www.historitecture.com/contactus.html)

**I. IDENTIFICATION**

1. Resource number: **5BL.11052** Parcel number: **158136110009**
2. Temporary resource number: **Not Applicable**
3. County: **Boulder**
4. City: **Wondervu**
5. Historic building name: **Maurice and Rhedis Toupard Cabin; Tom Rapue Cabin; Earl Shaffer Cabin; James and Bess White Cabin**
6. Current building name: **Pillar of Fire Cabin**
7. Building address: **145 Wonder Trail**
8. Owner name: **Pillar of Fire**
- Owner organization:
- Owner address: **1302 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203-2247**

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:  Individually eligible  Not eligible  Need data  Previously listed
- State Register eligibility field assessment:  Individually eligible  Not eligible  Need data  Previously listed
- Local landmark eligibility field assessment:  Individually eligible  Not eligible  Need data  Previously listed

Wondervu Historical and Architectural Survey

**HISTORITECTURE**

## II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **6th** Township: **1S** Range: **72W**  
 SW 1/4 NW 1/4 NW 1/4 NE 1/4 of section **36** Grid aligned on **northwest** corner of section.
10. UTM Reference Zone: **13**  
 Easting: **466032** Northing: **4419605**
11. USGS quad name: **Tungsten** Scale: **7.5**  
 Year: **1972**
12. Lot(s): **Lots 14 and 15; Block 5**  
 Addition: **Wondervu Project** Year of addition: **1936**
13. Boundary description and justification: **The boundary, as described above, contains but does not exceed the land historically associated with this property.**
- Metes and bounds exist

## III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

14. Building Plan (footprint, shape): **Rectangular Plan**  
 Other building plan descriptions:
15. Dimensions in feet: **648 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **1**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Wood/Horizontal Siding**  
 Other wall materials:
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof/Side Gabled Roof**  
 Other roof configuration:
19. Primary external roof material: **Asphalt Roof**  
 Other roof materials:
20. Special features: **None Applicable**
21. General architectural description:  
**This cabin is oriented to the north. The nature of the foundation could not be determined because the exterior wall cladding conceals it entirely. Covering the exterior walls is unpainted, rough-planed wood siding, with an unfinished bottom edge. Windows are generally 4-light casement, with red-painted wood frames and surrounds. The west elevation hosts a single-light window north of center. At the center of the same elevation are paired, 6-light casement windows. A window opening in the east elevation has been boarded shut. Spanning most of the rear (south) elevation is a band of single-light windows, with red-painted wood frames. A doorway opens near the east end of the rear elevation. Gray asphalt shingles cover the steeply pitched, side-gabled main roof. The more shallowly pitched, shed roofs of the additions across the façade and rear elevation have gray sheets of asphalt.**
22. Architectural style: **Late 19th And Early 20th Century American Movements/Rustic**

Other architectural style:

Building type:

23. Landscape or special setting features:

This property is located on an east-west-oriented ridge top, at an elevation of over 8,600 feet above mean sea level. Setbacks from Wonder Trail vary greatly, with this cabin set back deeply from the road. The terrain slopes downward from south to north. Covering it are mature pines. An unpaved driveway runs along the west side of the cabin.

24. Associated building, features or objects:

**Privy**

A privy is located at the southeast corner of the property. Oriented to the north, the building lacks a formal foundation. The walls consist of unpainted sheets of plywood. A narrow plywood door, opening on metal strap hinges, dominates the front (north) façade. The door hosts a crescent-moon-shaped cutout. Gray sheets of asphalt cover the shed roof.

#### IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction: 1931  Actual  Estimate

Source of Information: Boulder County Assessor Records.

Deed 90306324. Boulder County Clerk and Recorder.

26. Architect: Unknown

Source of Information:

27. Builder: Unknown

Source of Information:

28. Original Owner: Maurice and Rhedis Toupard

Source of Information: Deed 90306324. Boulder County Clerk and Recorder.

29. Construction history:

According to Boulder County assessor records, this cabin was constructed in 1931. An analysis of the style, materials, and other historical records corroborates a 1931 date of construction. Apparently the building originally consisted of just the side-gabled core. The shed-roofed additions to the north and south elevation were early additions. The existing exterior wall cladding dates to after 1990.

30. Location: Original Location Date of move(s): Not Applicable

#### V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): Domestic/Cabin

32. Intermediate uses(s): Domestic/Cabin

33. Current uses(s): Domestic/Cabin

34. Site type(s): Cabin

35. Historical background:

The original owners of this cabin, constructed in 1931, were Maurice and Rhedis Toupard, who acquired the property from Wondervu developers Otto Friedrichs and Charles E. Hollingsworth. Maurice Toupard was born on September 13, 1893, in Triumph, Louisiana. His wife, Rhedis May Toupard, was born on October 19, 1897 (some sources say 1898), in Tennessee. They were married prior to 1917 and had a daughter, Julia. In 1917 Maurice was a mail clerk for the Beaumont Enterprise Publishing Company, in Beaumont, Texas, and by 1920 he was a driver for a bakery in the same city. Around 1930 the family settled in Denver. By the time they sold this Wondervu cabin in 1941, Maurice and Rhedis Toupard lived in Tacoma, Washington. Maurice died on October 1, 1944, in San Diego, California. Rhedis also died in San Diego, in January 1979.

Acquiring this property from the Toupards in 1941 was Thomas H. "Tom" Rapue. He was born on October 14, 1894, (some sources say October 16, 1895), in Denver. By 1910 his family had settled in north Fort Collins, where his father, Anton Repue, was a laborer in the area's sugar beet fields and factories. Tom Rapue returned to Denver by 1917, working as a laborer for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. He later moved to Los Angeles, where he died on August 27, 1969.

Earl W. Shaffer acquired this cabin from Tom Rapue in 1947. In 1951 he sold the property to James L. and Bess E. (or F.) White. James Lee White was born in February 1891 in Texas. His wife, Bess "Bessie" White was born around 1898 in Missouri. They married circa 1924 and appear to have had no children. In 1930 the couple resided in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where James was a government services agent. He died in 1955, leaving Bess as the sole owner.

Helena Jensen entered into a contract to purchase this property from Bess White in 1960. Jensen obtained clear title by 1969 when she sold the cabin and lots to Grace E. Hardee, who changed her name to Grace E. Conner around 1984. Conner transferred this property to Pillar of Fire, the current owner, in 1987. Pillar of Fire is a Christian denomination based in Zarephath, New Jersey, but founded in Denver in 1901 by Bishop Alma White. The organization maintains Alma Temple, in Denver, as well as Belleview College, in Westminster.

36. Sources of information:

Boulder County Assessor Records.

Deeds 861605, 00649909, 90906812, 90906811, 90662437, 90500949, 90482755, 90467668, 90451352, 90390512, and 90306324 . Boulder County Clerk and Recorder.

U.S. Census of 1910. North Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado. Roll T624\_121; Page: 11A; Enumeration District: 224; Image: 622.

U.S. Census of 1920. Beaumont Ward 3, Jefferson County, Texas. Roll 31109\_4389739; Page: 23A; Enumeration District: 115; Image: 907.

U.S. Census of 1930. Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Roll 1392; Page: 13A; Enumeration District: 6; Image: 31.0.

Social Security Death Index Record for Rhedis Toupard.

World War I Draft Registration Card for Maurice Toupard.

California Death Index Record for Maurice Toupard.

California Death Index Record for Rhedis May Toupard.

World War I Draft Registration Card for Thomas Rapue.

California Death Index Record for Thomas H. Rapue.

## VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation:  Yes  No

Designation authority:

Date of designation:

38. Applicable National Register criteria:

A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns 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 that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

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

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

- Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria.

Applicable Colorado State Register criteria:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history.
- B. Connected with persons significant in history.
- C. Has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan.
- D. Is of geographic importance.
- E. Contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history.
- Does not meet any of the above Colorado State Register criteria.

Applicable Boulder County landmark criteria:

1. the character, interest, or value of the proposed landmark as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county;
2. the proposed landmark as a location of a significant local, county, state, or national event;
3. the identification of the proposed landmark with a person or persons significantly contributing to the local, county, state, or national history;
4. the proposed landmark as an embodiment of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or the use of indigenous materials;
5. the proposed landmark as identification of the work of an architect, landscape architect, or master builder whose work has influenced development in the county, state, or nation;
6. the proposed landmark's archaeological significance;
7. the proposed landmark as an example of either architectural or structural innovation; and
8. the relationship of the proposed landmark to other distinctive structures, districts, or sites which would also be determined to be of historic significance.
- Does not meet any of the above Boulder County landmark criteria.

39. Areas of significance: **Architecture**  
**Social History**

40. Period(s) of Significance: **Architecture, 1931; Social History, 1931-1960**

41. Level of Significance:  National  State  Local  Not Applicable

42. Statement of Significance:

**This property is historically significant for its association with the development of Wondervu, a collection of mountaintop summer cabins largely marketed to and owned by working- and middle-class families. Owners included a clerk and driver; a railroad laborer; and a government agent. The cabin is also architecturally significant as an example of the Rustic style. Character-defining features include the rough-planned siding and divided-light windows. However, because of its lack of notable historical or architectural significance, this property should not be considered individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties, or as a Boulder County Landmark.**

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

Constructed in 1931, this cabin exhibits a moderately high level of physical integrity relative to the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Park Service and the Colorado Historical Society: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The most notable alteration, the construction of additions, occurred within the period of significance. Most character-defining features remain intact. This building retains sufficient physical integrity to convey its historical and architectural significance.

## VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:  Individually eligible  Not eligible  Need data  Previously listed  
 State Register eligibility field assessment:  Individually eligible  Not eligible  Need data  Previously listed  
 Local landmark eligibility field assessment:  Individually eligible  Not eligible  Need data  Previously listed

45. Is there National Register district potential:  Yes  No

Discuss: **This inventory was conducted as an intensive-level selective survey and therefore lacks the continuity of resource data necessary to recommend the creation of an historic district.**

If there is National Register district potential, is this building contributing:  Yes  No  N/A

46. If the building is in existing National Register district, is it contributing:  Yes  No  N/A

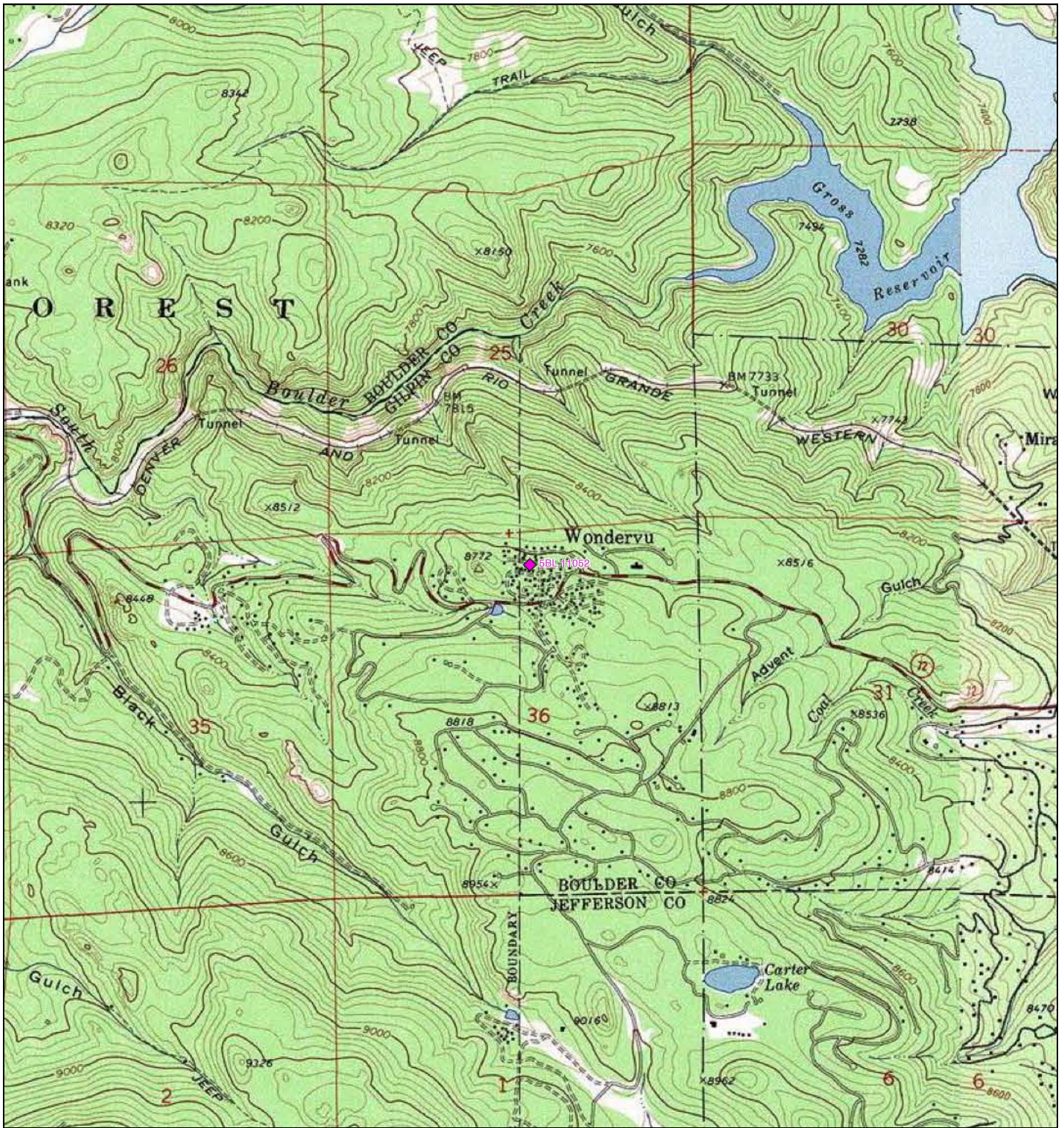
## VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Digital photograph file name(s): **wondertr0145 - 1.tif to wondertr0145 - 4.tif**  
 Digital photographs filed at: **Boulder County Parks and Open Space  
 5201 St. Vrain Road  
 Longmont, CO 80502**
48. Report title: **Wondervu Historical and Architectural Survey, 2009-10**
49. Date(s): **09/18/2009**
50. Recorder(s): **Adam Thomas**
51. Organization: **Historitecture, LLC**
52. Address: **PO Box 419  
 Estes Park, CO 80517-0419**
53. Phone number(s): **(970) 586-1165**

**SKETCH MAP**



LOCATION MAP



Source: U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' Tungsten - 1972