

The Ouray County Historical Society (OCHS) thanks the Ouray County Plaindealer for their assistance in printing and distributing our newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT:
The Ouray County Historical Society (OCHS) is dedicated to preserve, protect, procure, exhibit, and interpret whatever relates to the natural, social, and cultural history of Ouray County and the adjacent San Juan Mountain Region of Colorado.

Grant, capital campaign net over \$265,000 for urgently needed repairs

Work for phase one of rehabilitation begins in 2018

In 2014 the Ouray County Historical Society (OCHS) received a \$15,000 assessment grant from the State Historic Fund (SHF) to assess the condition of its 140 year-old museum building. In 2016 OCHS submitted a grant to the SHF based upon the results of this assessment grant. In February 2017 the SHF approved a \$200,000 grant to carry out the most urgent of the problems noted in the assessment grant. A capital campaign in the spring of 2017 netted the required cash match of \$66,500.

The Ouray Museum building was built in 1878 as a miners' hospital and was run by the Sisters of Mercy. During WWI the hospital went bankrupt due partially to the nurses leaving for the war effort. The building was sold in 1920 to Dr. Carl Bates who ran it as a full service hospital in conjunction with his hot springs spa, now the Wiesbaden Hot Springs Spa and Lodging. In 1940 Dr. Bates sold the hospital to the Idarado mining company who ran it until the hospital was closed in 1964. It was sold to the Catholic Diocese of Pueblo who leased it the newly formed OCHS in 1971. Finally, in 1976, the di-

ocese sold it to OCHS for \$15,000 with a fifteen-year interest-free loan.

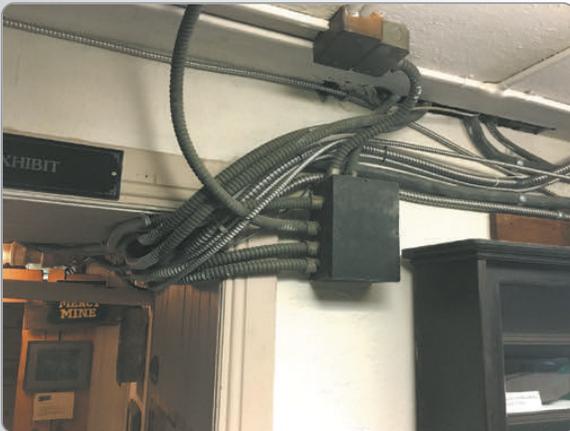
The work carried under this grant will include repairs to the foundation and masonry wall issues, ameliorate drainage issues, rehabilitate the old coal furnace sub-basement as a workroom and much needed storage space. In addition, electrical issues will be addressed. The heating system in the basement storage areas will be improved and two ADA bathrooms will be installed, one on the main floor and one in the basement. The accompanying photos show some of the museum's electrical problems and the current condition of the sub-basement.

In 2018, we will complete the drawings and specifications for the scope of work outlined in the 2017 SHF grant. These construction documents are a required deliverable for the grant and will describe the drainage work along the east elevation, the associated exterior masonry repairs, and the window and door restoration associated with the basement level of the east elevation. The construction documents will also detail the repairs to the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems in the basement level, as well as the scope

of the interior masonry repairs and installation of a new concrete sub-basement floor slab and sump pit. Finally, the drawing set will include the work to bring the existing restroom on the main level of the building up to meet ADA code requirements, and the installation of a second ADA compliant restroom in the basement level.

Construction will begin in the spring of 2018, and will focus on the exterior drainage and masonry restoration. It is anticipated that the interior masonry work and the installation of the slab will also be completed in 2018. Once that work is complete, the retrofit of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing work will proceed. This work will begin in 2018, and likely carry over into 2019. Work on the new restroom install and upgrades to the existing restroom will be scheduled for the Fall \ Winter shut down of the museum at the end of 2018 to reduce the impact to the museums operations.

The work described above is phase one of the museum building rehabilitation. We anticipate applying for future grants to address the remaining issues outlined in the 2016 SHF assessment grant.



► Electrical problems and the condition of the sub-basement of the Ouray County Museum, built in 1878 as a miners' hospital, are exhibited in these photos.

New History of the Hospital Book Coming...

The OCHS will publish a new history of the Miner's Hospital, with new writing, based on Doris Gregory's 1987 book.

Irene Mattivi is compiling a list of known hospital

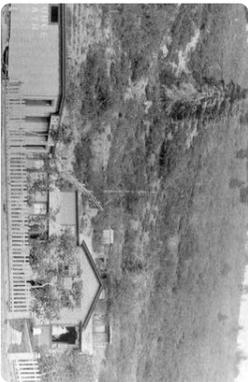
births spanning the years 1889 (birth of William Lee Knous) to 1957 (last birth in the hospital, Gabriel Martinez). The new book will include further research into the doctors who served the community, with new

insights of life in Ouray from the time of the mining boom through the WWI and WWII war years up to the hospital building's transition into the Ouray County Museum.

Chief Ouray's Long Forgotten Mountain Home in Ouray

By Steven G. Baker, *Uncompahgre Valley The Project, Centuries Research, Inc.*

Until 1998 the Ouray community, closely guarded a nearly forgotten secret about its most prominent former citizen, namely Chief Ouray, leader of the local Uncompahgre Ute band. In 1873 the Utes elected the San Juan Mountains to the U.S. government so that they could be mined for their precious minerals. Almost immediately after the camp was founded in 1876 this name was changed from Uncompahgre to Ouray. Why was this done? I suspect it was because Chief Ouray-like so many white folks today-had an existing seasonal home here. He also had two successive homes in what is now Montrose near the Ute Indian Museum. Although he died in 1891, he and his wife, Chipeta, had lived in the Uncompahgre Valley since about the 1850s. In what was to become the mining camp of Ouray, he had long before its founding built a small adobe home at the base of the

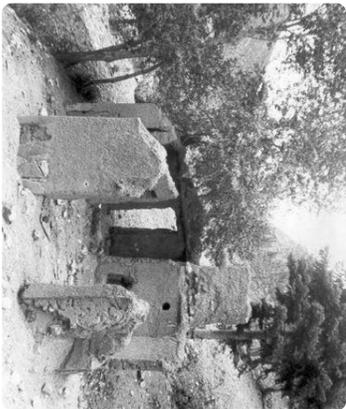


Copyright 2004 by Steven G. Baker, Montrose

▲ Artist's conjectural front and plan views of Chief Ouray's Mountain Cabin in Ouray near the end of its life in ca. 1880s or 1890s.

▲ Chief Ouray's adobe hunting cabin on the hillside behind the Dunbarton Plunge (aka Buchanan's Baths), now known as the Westshaden Hot Springs, ca. 1880s.

Courtesy Gregory Collection, Ouray

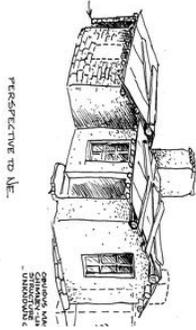


▲ Ca. 1890s backwater photo of Ouray's Mountain Cabin in Ouray. Courtesy of History Colorado.

▲ The famous and once locally controversial ca. 1889-1891 Mellon photo captioned as "ruins of Ouray's house" in Ouray. This was the first clue that Ouray had a forgotten home in the community.

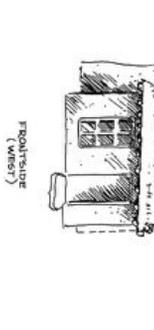
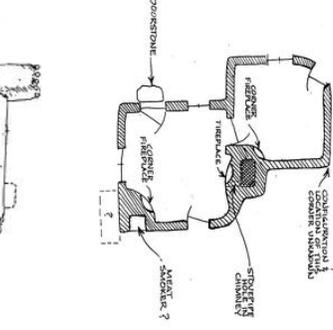
Courtesy Gregory Collection, Ouray

Amphitheatre directly behind the Westshaden Hot Springs, formerly known as Buchanan's Bath House (figure 3). This location not only offered him access to one of the best hot springs in Colorado, it also made it possible for him to pasture his large horse herd in the shelter of the Amphitheatre from roving Comanches. It also put him close to some great mountain sheep and elk hunting. No wonder Chipeta would later refer to the little cabin as their "old hunting place." The little mountain bowl where Ouray now sits was something of an oasis for Ouray and his people.



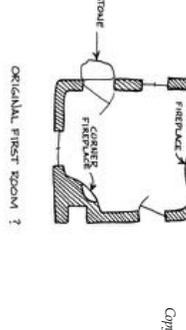
Copyright 2004 by Steven G. Baker, Montrose

When the Utes gave up their mountains, a new southern border for the Ute reservation was established just south of Ridgeway and all Utes were supposed to stay to the north of it. They became exceedingly unwelcome in Ouray. Ouray thus lost his mountain hunting place due to the issues involved in forcing the Uncompahgre Utes from Colorado in 1882. In retrospect most white folks have come to believe that the events leading up to the removal were not their finest hour. Local Ouray natives who knew about Ouray's house told away and future generations rapidly forgot about it. It was lost to history by way of a process known as cultural amnesia or "cultural erasure." This is a common process among peoples who would rather forget than remember their best illustrious behaviors. By the 1980s my informants (namely Frank Massard and Louie Jones) and I referred to the location behind the Westshaden as the "old Indian burial ground" or the "old Indian place." There was by then no sign of the former cabin and many locals did not believe it ever even existed. Considerable debate over the subject was registered in the *Pamphlet* as I sought the



▲ Artist's reconstruction of the original one room puddled adobe Chief Ouray cabin as it would have looked in ca. 1875 or much earlier.

Copyright 2004 by Steven G. Baker, Montrose.



former location on behalf of the Uncompahgre Valley Ute Project. The only real evidence was two historic photos, Figure 2 and 3 then that were captioned as Ouray Stone Intensive stalling finally led us to the actual location and by excavating in 2010 we were able to locate some remnant adobe from the house (figure 4, 5) and a bit of undisturbed associated living surface. Today, an interpretive sign sits at the base of the hillside marking the location behind the Westshaden. The cabin and most of the site were destroyed long ago and overbuilt by a later structure owned by the Westshaden. There is today nothing left of the cabin to see. Chief Ouray's moccasins-worn old door step store from the cabin is, however, on display at the Ouray County Historical Society Museum. It was a great pleasure for me to return this last portion of its cultural patrimony to the community of Ouray.

Steven G. Baker M.A. is a professional historian, ethnologist and anthropologist living in Montrose. He is president of Centuries Research, Inc. and has directed the public-service Uncompahgre Valley The Project for many years. He has completed many projects in and around Ouray and the San Juan's. He is the primary author of *Juan Revere's Colorado, 1765... which was a finalist for the 2017 Colorado Book Awards* and led to him being awarded the 2017 Heritage Award in History by the Museum of Western Colorado. That volume provides the earliest descriptions of Colorado's western slope including Ouray County and the Ute and Paiute Indians. Baker has been a active and known around the Ouray community for nearly 50 years and was responsible for the extensive historical archeology excavations of the Varnit Site in Ouray's old red light district in Block 8 from ca. 1970 into the 1980s as well as many Ute related sites in the region.



Please consider being a member of the OCHSI! Help preserve the history of Ouray County

Your membership is vital so that the Society can maintain not only our historic Museum building but our new Research Center and Archive. All membership levels include free admission to the Museum. A 10% discount on items for sale in the gift shop is also included. Members receive the OCHSI. Excerpts of History series, and receive newsletters and special announcements.

Form with fields for Name, Organization, Mailing Address, City/State/Zip Code, Phone Number, Email, Amount Paid, and Date. Includes checkboxes for membership levels and payment methods.

OURAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Lists names of board members and committee members.



A Glimpse into the Past: February, the Month of Love

Comments from Dave Day Legendary Editor of the *Solid Muldoon*

The neatest valentines of the season we have seen so far, are two hand-painted cards executed by Miss Ida Rawles for her friends, Mr. and Mrs. Caleb Reed. They respectively represent a full-blown clover bunch and calla lilly.

Solid Muldoon
February 15, 1884

To-morrow, Feb. 14, is St. Valentine's Day sacred to the memory of that departed individual. The day is also alluded to by Shakespeare as the one on which birds begin to couple, hence on this day arose the custom of sending letters containing words of affection and love. It is an exceeding great day to work a "mash" or get your revenge on some one you ain't stuck on,

Solid Muldoon
February 13, 1891

The valentines exhibited in the windows this year are about the worst in poetry and make up we have ever seen.

Solid Muldoon
February 6,
1891

We were the recipients of two valentines last Monday; one a bald-headed bloot looking at the ballet dancer, and the other caricatures on the MULDOON'S picnic. Thanks, awfully.

Solid Muldoon
February 18, 1887

Valentine Party

Mrs. Julian Hulaniski was hostess, for a circle of lady friends at cards on Wednesday. In honor of Valentines day the decorations were in hearts and the parlor and other rooms were festooned with streamers of hearts which presented a beautiful scene.

The game was hearts and live tables were occupied, Mrs. Dr. Sperber was awarded first prize, Miss Lizzie Giberson second and Mrs. Hollstem the consolation souvenir, all being Valentine tokens. The hostess served enjoyable refreshments and as on former occasions, the guests passed a very enjoyable afternoon.

Ouray Herald
February 16, 1906

Camp Bird Mills

There's a fine selection of gorgeous Valentines on show in Orendorf's store, and with pay day so close upon the 14, they should all be disposed of in very quick time and keep cupid busy bringing smiles and blushes to the cheeks of "the girl back home."

Ouray Herald
February 4,
1910

Stork Brings Three Girls

His majesty, the Stork, was pretty good to Ouray this week and made plain his determination to increase the population of Ouray at a rapid rate. Three girls were brought to as many Ouray homes this week to add to the happiness of each household. On February 14th the sweetest of Valentines, a baby girl, was given into the keeping of Mr. and Mrs. John Kelleher. On the evening of Feb. 15th, a lovely little daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. I. P. Rader. On February 15th, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Martini were presented with a sweet little girl.

Ouray Herald
February 17,
1911



PROJECTS presented

FROM P1

disappear?" Jacobson also noted that trailer parking by guests, especially during events such as the F-J Summit, will crowd parking in this historic hotel area. He added that the hotel should pay a larger share of street repairs for over-usage.

"I think they've hopelessly underestimated the water demand," he said. "Of course, that has an effect on the Ice Park." He said 148 units with a town of an existing 600 units is a 20 percent increase. "We're probably going to need a 20 percent increase in fire (water) storage."

Greg Nelson, who lives on 4th Avenue, said traffic will be an issue.

"We see cars coming from all the hotels," he said. "The dust we get is substantial...we expect we'll see a lot more traffic on Fourth Avenue."

Nelson said he didn't see any compelling reasons in the presentation for variances from setbacks other than the ability to have a larger facility.

Ann Morgenthaler, planning commissioner, said she hopes to hear more of how requests for variances will enhance the health, safety and welfare of the public. She also asked for more of an impact study during the different phases of building.

Tom Tyler, planning commissioner, said he would like to look at hotel occupancy rates and asked if Ouray needs the additional rooms.

"Are there times, besides Fourth of July, when someone comes to town and they can't find a room?" he asked.

Tamara Gulde, commissioner, said she is concerned about water usage, the height of the project and traffic travel ways.

"I'm also concerned about the impact on the 3rd Avenue and Oak Street bridge," she said. "It's not maintained well by the city and

it's old." She said Oak Street is deteriorating and this will only bring more traffic.

The commission set a site visit for March 13 prior to the next planning commission meeting.

Citizens State Bank renovation

Citizens State Bank presented its Sketch PUD, a major renovation proposal for its building located at 6th Avenue and Main Street in Ouray.

Proposed alterations include rooftop access for event space, an elevator shaft above roof line, public restrooms with 6th Avenue access, two employee housing units and historic renovation to the exterior.

A height variance is being sought for the elevator shaft above roof level from 42.5 feet to 51' 11". Egress stairs along the back will serve the bank and the neighboring building.

The building does not currently contribute to the Historic Landmark District, but Chris Hawkins, community development coordinator, suggested the proposed renovations may bring the building closer to conforming. First floor windows and second floor window arches, which have been filled in with brick, will be restored to original features.

"They are also requesting an allowance for on-street parking as a PUD variation for those...dwelling units in exchange for this historic rehabilitation," Hawkins said.

Doug McFarlane, architect for the bank, said every effort has been made to capture the history of the building in the project.

"We've gone through a pretty exhaustive list," he said, "of what were the original features, finding historic photos and trying to match up in terms of restoring the building." He said the building originally housed the Union Saloon in the front, and the saloon had high window sills.

"In talking to the state, they said you can

leave the old windows or you can put back the sill height like it was when the building was first built," he said, noting a number of those decisions went into this proposal.

Morgenthaler asked about a possible long-term agreement to ensure the employee housing units remain as that purpose.

"Is there some type of understanding that you'd be willing to enter into to ensure that it's not just short-term rental condos, for exam-

ple," she asked.

Doug Price, chairman and CEO of Citizens State Bank, said he doesn't want to limit options into the future.

"If you have a 20 or 50-year agreement," he said, "you can really put yourself in a situation where a subsequent owner or succeeding generation of my family would have a challenge with the valuation of the property."

The rooftop space and protruding elevator shaft were debated by the commission as to whether or not it would be a long-term public benefit.

Price said his main priority in providing access to the roof by elevator was a personal decision related to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"I have a disabled sister, so for me ADA issues are really important," he said. "I'm a

disability advocate, and it was important to me that all three floors have access."

"But accessing all of the existing floors, even with an elevator, you could do without a height variation," commission chair Jeff Skoloda said.

"You could," said Hawkins, noting that the protrusion of the shaft above roof level is designed to access what he deemed "public space" on the roof.

"But it's not really a public space," said Skoloda, "but a public space for hire."

Price was open to the suggestion of codifying a certain number of days the rooftop would be open to the public, such as for non-profit organizations and other groups.

"We want the upstairs to be a public amenity," he said.

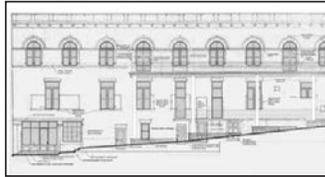
Skoloda said there are a lot of people in town who would like to use their rooftops in this way, and access is the biggest issue.

"Is it going to be, you give us two public bathrooms and we give you an extra 10 feet?" he asked. "This is not going to be the only time we're going to see this," Skoloda said the criteria to consider is whether the variance contributes to the health and welfare of the public.

"It's a tough one," said J. Gary Dunn, planning commissioner. "I can't make up my mind. It increases the height limit, which we don't like, but we get public restrooms, you get a restored building."

"I want to do what's best in the long-term for the town," Price said. "We'll accept whatever decision you make. We're not going to go 'Wayland Phillips' and paint the building pink if we don't get it." Price said, referencing the former owner of the Beaumont who painted the hotel pink ostensibly to spite the city.

The commission approved a motion to recommend the city council approve the PUD in whole, with more information to be provided on the agreement between the city and the bank regarding public restrooms and possible reconfiguring of the elevator shaft to minimize the height protrusion.



Artist renderings were presented for the proposed addition for the Citizens State Bank building. Shown are the alterations to the south side of the bank building.

Courtesy image

LICENSE expired

FROM P1

Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA)

Related to Sherwood stepping down from the practice of medicine, the Ridgway doctor's license is in questionable status with a state licensing agency. The Department of Regulatory Agencies, which governs licensing for everything from pharmacies and medical practices to boxing and barbershops, lists Sherwood's physician license as "Expired." It was originally issued June 13, 1996 and lapsed April 30, 2017.

Lee Rasizer, DORA public information officer for the Division of Professions and Occupations, confirmed Sherwood's license expired April 30, 2017. Although there is a 60-day grace period after the license expires to continue the practice and get renewed with DORA, that wasn't an action taken by Sherwood Family Medicine.

"If a physician's license expires, that

physician is required to submit a reinstatement application with the appropriate fee," said Rasizer. "The application for reinstatement is then processed in accordance with the Medical Practice Act for the (Colorado Medical Board) to determine eligibility."

The Medical Practice Act, adopted by individual states, aims to protect the public from unqualified doctors and fraudulent medical procedures.

Rasizer said physician licenses are scheduled by DORA to renew on a biennial basis every April 30. He said it is the license holder's responsibility to renew the license in a timely manner, but DORA does send out an automated email noticing upcoming expiration.

"Should the licensee fail to renew the license, the licensee is notified of the expiration via email informing them that their license is now expired," said Rasizer.

Rasizer couldn't confirm if the expiration of Sherwood's license was related to any pub-

lic complaints, as that information is protected by state statute, but there isn't a public discipline item on file for the Ridgway medical facility.

Problems with prescriptions

As a result of the lapsed license, the Plaidealer has fielded comments from the public detailing difficulty in getting medications prescribed by Sherwood filled at locations such as Walgreen's and City Market in Montrose. Sherwood was apparently seeing patients and issuing prescriptions well past his license expiration date of April 2017, according to reports from numerous patients.

According to DORA's website, Donna Sherwood's pharmacy license is still active and won't expire until

October of this year. It was active when the pharmacy closed in January.

Rasizer, on the topic of invalid licenses and prescribed medications, said a pharmacy may fill a prescription that was prescribed prior to physician license expiration, until the prescription's expiration date. However, any prescription written by a physician following license expiration would be invalid.