



## **Structure Nomination Form**

### **City of Fruita Register of Historic Sites, Structures & Districts**

#### **Structure Identification**

1. Address of Structure:  
157 North Plum Street
2. Historic Structure Name (if any):  
Current Structure Name (if any):
3. Historic Use: Residence  
Current Use: Residence
4. Legal Description of the property on which the structure is located: (can be provided on a separate sheet)  
ALL LOT 4 & N2 OF LOT 5 BLK 6 TOWN OF FRUITA SEC 17 1N 2W U M  
(All Lot 4 and the North Half of Lot 5 in Block 6, Section 17, 1 North and 2 West of Ute Meridian)  
County of Mesa, State of Colorado.

#### **Historical Data Summary**

5. Year of Construction: 1896  
Source of Information: Mesa County Assessor's Parcel Report
6. Architect or Builder:  
Source of Information:
7. Original Owner:  
Source of Information:

#### **Statement of Significance**

8. Description of Property - On one or more additional pages, please provide the following information (include photographs):

- a. Describe the current condition and appearance of the structure.
- b. Describe and date significant changes made to the structure.
- c. Identify the significant architectural, cultural, geographic/environmental feature(s) of the structure that make it worthy of preservation.
- d. List all informational sources used in this nomination application.

Application Information

9. Current Property Owner(s):  
(All owners must be listed, use a separate sheet if necessary)

Name: Michelle L. Cools  
Phone: 1-951-741-6113  
Mailing Address: 157 N. Plum St., Fruita, CO 81521

10. Owner Consent to Designation:

I/We, the undersigned owner(s) of the property described in this application for listing on the City of Fruita Register of Historic Site, Structures & Districts, do hereby give consent to the designation of this site/structure.

Signature: Michelle Cools

Printed Name: Michelle Cools

Date: 12/14/21

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Statement of Significance

The single-story house at 157 North Plum Street is in sound structural condition and retains the original footprint, roofline, window and door shape and placement, and elevation of the structure in their entirety. Only the original chimney has been removed. Vinyl siding was added to the house around the year 2000, and custom-fitted, double-glazed vinyl windows were added in 2013, but these changes do not detract from the appearance of the building, and have not altered the aforementioned original footprint, roofline, window and door placement, or elevation of the structure. Around that time, the roof framing was reinforced with new lumber that sisters the original frame.

The house was built of double-layered red brick in 1896, making it among the oldest surviving houses in Fruita as well as among the oldest buildings of any type made from brick. This brick construction includes the interior walls, which do not appear to have been altered. (The Mesa County Assessor's Parcel Report incorrectly states that it is a wooden-framed house.) The original wooden flooring remains intact and in good shape. The foundation is secure and dry.

The house features a truncated pyramid-hipped (AKA square-hipped) roof, with no dormers. The gabled front porch is intact and has not been walled-in. It has the high windows popular at the time. The interior ceilings remain at their original ten-foot height and have never been dropped. Because houses of this style are often associated with the ethnic Germans from Russia who emigrated from the Volga regions to the plains and western states in the late nineteenth century, mostly as agricultural workers, and in sugar beet fields in particular in Colorado, they are general known as "German-Russian" houses in Colorado. This is not, strictly-speaking, correct since they bear no actual resemblance to dwellings from their native lands, but the mainly Mennonite Germans from Russia who could afford it did often favor this inexpensive house plan.

A "lean-to" addition at the rear of the house was built in 1907 to accommodate the running-water bathroom and kitchen facilities then made possible by the Fruita Aqueduct, a twenty-three-mile wooden pipeline bringing spring water from three reservoirs Fruita had constructed atop Piñon Mesa. This addition remains intact and retains its original functions.

A wooden garage in good condition also sits on the property. It was also built in 1907, according to the Mesa County Assessor's Report. It was built as or was modified early in its existence to be an automobile garage, and its still-extant original garage doors are of a size that would allow the entry only of the smaller automobiles built before the 1930s.

### Sources:

1. Mesa County Assessor's Parcel Report at [https://emap.mesacounty.us/assessor\\_lookup/Assessor\\_Parcel\\_Report.aspx?Account=R012148](https://emap.mesacounty.us/assessor_lookup/Assessor_Parcel_Report.aspx?Account=R012148).

2. *Images of America: Fruita* by Denise and Steve Hight, Arcadia Publishing, 2011.

3. "Strangers in a Strange Land: The History of Volga Germans in Colorado", Alexandria Joyner, History Colorado (Colorado Historical Society), March 11, 2021, <https://www.historycolorado.org/story/2021/03/11/strangers-strange-land-history-volga-germans-colorado>.

4. Personal observations and conversations during restoration work undertaken in 2012 and 2013 by Cullen Purser (telephone 970-361-0076), and with previous owners Steve & Denise Hight (telephone 970-858-6375).