

To: Town Council
From: Madison Harris
Date: May 31, 2024
Agenda Item: Landmark Designation for 155 Main Street



REQUEST:

Review the landmark designation nomination of 155 Main Street based on the criteria outlined in the Minturn Municipal Code Sec. 19-3-20, citing findings of fact, and making a decision of approval, approval with conditions, or denial of the nomination.

Application: #2024L – 002
Address: 155 Main Street
Zoning: Old Town Character Area – 100 Block A
Owner: MR Minturn LLC
Applicant(s): Town of Minturn

CASE SUMMARY:

Staff has submitted a nomination for Historic Landmark status of 155 Main Street. The application has been reviewed, deemed complete, and to meet the Minturn landmark designation criteria. As such, staff scheduled a public hearing for the Town Council to review on June 5, 2024. Adjacent properties and the owner of 155 Main Street were notified via certified mail, and a notice placed in the Vail Daily a minimum of 10 days before the public hearing.

DESIGNATION CRITERIA & EVALUATION; CHAPTER 19 MINTURN MUNICIPAL CODE:

To meet landmark designation criteria, in accordance with Chapter 19, Minturn Municipal Code, the application(s) must be complete, and the structure must meet the following criteria:

MMC Sec. 19-3-20. Eligibility Criteria.

- a. Properties or historic districts shall be at least seventy-five (75) years old and meet one (1) or more of the following criteria in order to be considered for designation:
 - 1) Association with events that have made a significant contribution to history
 - 2) Connection with persons significant in history
 - 3) Distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or artisan
 - 4) Geographic importance
 - 5) Possibility to yield important information related to prehistory or history

CRITERIA EVALUATION

Town staff found that the application for designation demonstrates that the structure meets the following criteria.

A. Connection with persons significant in history

The Nelson's were an institution for Minturn with Mr. Ben Nelson running the Nelson Dairy and Mr. Peter Nelson running the Nelson ranch starting in 1888. According to *Minturn, A*

Memoir Pete Nelson “homesteaded the ranch at the foot of Meadow Mountain where the Forest Service complex was built in the late 1980s.” “The Nelsons owned all the land that was later know as Maloit Park, which they later sold to the New Jersey Zinc Co., but in the ‘30s they used all this land and all of the Cross Creek area for pasture and winter feeding.” The Nelsons trucked lettuce to Denver weekly for several years, contributing to the unofficial title of lettuce capital of the country for Minturn.

- B. Distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan** (exemplifies specific elements of an architectural style or period; represents a style that is particular to the Town; and, represents a built environment of a group of people in an era of history)

155 Main Street reflects the Late Victorian style of architecture, specifically Folk Victorian and Minimal Traditional that was constructed in North America in the early to mid-20th century. (Craven) Traditional Minimal became extremely popular just before and post WWII. The preference of this architecture was to make relatively simple houses out of materials that were readily available and “[as] the railroads expanded, factory-made building parts could be sent to far corners of the continents” (Craven).



Photo Credit: Nomination Application

This familiar style can be seen in many places.

- C. Geographic Importance** (enhances the sense of identity of the Town or community; is an established and familiar natural setting or visual feature of the Town or community)

“This is an iconic structure with it's twin sitting next door (fitting as these were houses for brothers). They are one of the first buildings one sees as they drive into the heart of Minturn. They represent a time when Minturn used to be ranches and farmland as the people who built these houses ran cattle, sheep, a dairy farm, (“Minturn, A Memoir”, Burnett) and lettuce fields that contributed to Minturn being called the lettuce capital of the United States for a brief time. They have since been co-opted into commercial stores rather than residences and continue to contribute to the character of the Town.” (Nomination Application)

This structure represents a transitional period of Minturn’s history where Minturn recently incorporated as one of the oldest towns in Eagle County. 155 Main Street is a lot that is in the middle of the Town’s commercial core. This building is a familiar sight to any locals and visitors who have lived in or frequented Minturn.

PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS:

Town staff has met all posting and notification requirements delineated in Chapter 19, Sec 19-4-10 identifying legal notice procedures follow established guidelines as set forth in MMC. Sec. 16-21-610.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

As of May 31, 2024, no public comments have been received regarding this application.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION:

Approve Ordinance 12 – Series 2024 Amending the Town’s Historic Register to Add 155 Main Street on first reading.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Historic Landmark Nomination Application for 155 Main Street
- Ordinance 12 – Series 2024 Amending the Town’s Historic Register to Add 155 Main Street

REFERENCES:

Burnett, Bill. *Minturn, A Memoir*. Old Gypsum Printer/Wings Publishing, 2007.

Craven, Jackie. “House Styles from America’s Founding to Present.” *ThoughtCo*, 25 Sept. 2019, www.thoughtco.com/house-style-guide-american-home-4065233.

Dobroth, Kirsten. “A Quick Guide to Meadow Mountain.” *Vail*, Vail-Beaver Creek Magazine, 22 Feb. 2024, www.vailmag.com/best-of-vail/a-quick-guide-to-meadow-mountain.

Gagnon, Brooke. “Keller Williams Mountain Properties.” *Minturn*, www.searchvailhomes.com/community/id/1910681/area/Minturn/. Accessed 12 Apr. 2024.

History Colorado. “Field Guide Colorado’s Historic Architecture ...” *History Colorado*, Colorado Historical Society, July 2008, www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2017/1625Field.pdf.

Minturn, Town of. “Minturn Trails.” *Minturn CO*, www.minturn.org/explore-minturn/pages/minturn-trails. Accessed 12 Apr. 2024.

Minturn, Town of. “Timelines.” *Minturn CO*, www.minturn.org/historic-preservation/pages/timelines. Accessed 12 Apr. 2024.