



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

February 22, 2012

Rico, Colorado – Water System Improvements

**Categorical Exclusion for
Special Appropriation Act Grant**

For categories of projects that are so minor in scope that they may be determined by EPA not to need a full environmental review. EPA makes the determination if a project will qualify for a Categorical Exclusion based on information provided by the grantee.

Project Description:

The Town of Rico, Colorado proposes to replace some of the Town's existing drinking water distribution system. The proposed Project will consist of replacement of approximately 10,300 linear feet of existing 4 and 6 inch pipelines with 6 and 8 inch pipelines and associated valves, hydrants and bends. The majority of the pipelines are located in the north half of Rico (north of Mantz Avenue) as shown on the map in Attachment 1. The water system is over 30 years old and was bedded in mine waste shortening the life of the pipes. Numerous leaks have occurred in the last five years and the repairs indicate the distribution pipelines are in poor condition. [Information used to prepare categorical exclusion: Harris Engineering memorandum dated November 2, 2011 sent via e-mail from Mike England.]

Purpose and Need:

The project will replace deteriorating water lines reducing leaks and increasing reliability of the water distribution system.

Cross-Cutters:

Cross-Cutters still apply to all Special Appropriations Act Projects (SAAP) even if they are granted a categorical exclusion from the NEPA. The entire list of Cross-Cutters can be found in the SAAP Guidance memorandums. For additional information on potential Cross-Cutters see EPA's "Environmental Review Guide for Special Appropriations Grant," Appendix C (<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/nepa/environmental-review-guide-grants-pg.pdf>).

Typical Cross-Cutters that might apply to a Special Appropriations Act Project			
Historic, Archaeological or Cultural Resources	✕	Sole Source Aquifer—mainly Missoula in Region 8	
Air Conformity -- Is the Project in a Nonattainment Area?		Near a Wild and Scenic River?	
Any wetlands or waters of the U. S. crossings?		Within a Floodplain?	
Environmental Justice		On Prime Farmland?	
Threatened and Endangered Species		Special Wildlife Habitat, Wildlife corridor	

The proposed water project will replace water lines in the vicinity of numerous historic structures. However, because the construction will take place in existing street and alley right-of-ways and the roadways were previously excavated to install the original waterline, EPA determined that the project is unlikely to adversely affect any historic properties. EPA's determination of effects to historic structures is included in the attachments to this document. The Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with EPA's finding in January 25, 2012 letter (copy attached).

No other Cross-Cutters issues are anticipated for this project since the construction will be in existing roadways. The following Cross-Cutters have been considered and determined not to be of concern in this project:

- Threatened and Endangered Species: The proposed project will not involve any federally listed threatened or endangered species or their habitats.
- Within a Floodplain: No floodplains or flood hazards were identified that are associated with the proposed project.
- Prime Farmland: The project will have no effect on prime or important farmland.
- Wetlands: No previously inventoried wetlands or plants or soils characteristic of wetlands were found within the project area.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CRITERIA (40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii))

1. NO known or expected potentially significant environmental impacts on public health or the environment either individually or cumulatively over time.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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2. Is the project for minor upgrade or minor expansion of system capacity? This includes, but is not limited to: minor extensions of sanitary sewers or force mains or drinking water extensions to primarily serve existing development; stormwater detention pond and retention pond cleaning and dredging or minor storage increase or culvert upgrades to serve existing development.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Is the project for rehabilitation of existing facilities? This includes, but is not limited to: functional replacement of existing systems and components, infiltration and inflow corrections in the existing wastewater collection system or equipment rehabilitation at the existing wastewater plant, pumping, or storage facilities; drinking water system equipment replacement or modifications at an existing water plant, or pumping and storage facilities; stormwater culvert and outlet rehabilitation and repair.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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4. Is the project for new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities? This includes, but is not limited to: new wastewater facilities and equipment for sludge handling, screening, flow equalization, disinfection, or laboratory facilities; new drinking water facilities such as alum sludge handling, filtration, flow equalization, chemical storage, chlorination, or laboratory facilities; facilities at existing stormwater control locations, such as sedimentation basins, infiltration trenches, detention pond to retention pond retrofits, or oil and grit separators.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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If the answer to 1 is yes and at least one of answers to 2 through 4 are yes; then proceed to the next section: Excluding Factors.
 Conversely, if the answer to 1 is no, or if all answers to 2 through 4 are no then the project does not qualify for a categorical exclusion.

Excluding Factors (40 CFR 6.204(b))

(1) Project will have disproportionate impacts on any community: EJ, minority, etc.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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(1) Project will involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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(2) Project will result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loadings of pollutant to the receiving water	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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(3) Project will provide capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population. <i>In the future, the project could provide additional capacity, if a higher-quality source of water is found. The increased water capacity would be used by the cheese plant located in this very small town of less than 600 people. Little to no additional population growth is anticipated as a result of this project.</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(4) Project will be in conflict with state or other regional growth plan or strategy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(5) Project will directly or indirectly relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Categorical Exclusion Finding:

Upon review of the application materials and NEPA regulations pertaining to the granting of a categorical exclusion determination, the EPA Region 8 finds that the Town of Rico Water Drinking Water Distribution System Improvements Special Appropriation Act Project Grant has met the criteria to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Prepared by:


Dana Allen, Environmental Engineer
8EPR-N
(303)312-6870



HISTORY *Colorado*

January 25, 2012

Suzanne Bohan
Director
NEPA Compliance and Review Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80203

Rec'd
JAN 31 2012

Re: Town of Rico Replacement of Drinking Water Lines. (CHS #61125)

Dear Ms. Bohan:

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 9, 2012 and received by our office on January 11, 2012 regarding the review of the above-mentioned project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106).

After review of the provided information, we do not object that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) encompasses the buildings adjacent to the waterline replacement project. After review of the surveyed information, we concur that there is the potential to have buildings eligible for the National Register of Historic Places within the APE. We concur that the scope of the project does not have the potential to adversely affect historic properties located within the APE. Therefore, we concur with the recommended finding of *no adverse effect* [36 CFR 800.5(b)] under Section 106 for the proposed undertaking.

If unidentified archaeological resources are discovered during construction, work must be interrupted until the resources have been evaluated in terms of the National Register criteria, 36 CFR 60.4, in consultation with this office.

We request being involved in the consultation process with the local government, which as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3 is required to be notified of the undertaking, and with other consulting parties. Additional information provided by the local government or consulting parties might cause our office to re-evaluate our eligibility and potential effect findings.

Please note that our compliance letter does not end the 30-day review period provided to other consulting parties. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Amy Pallante, our Section 106 Compliance Manager, at (303) 866-4678.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Nichols
State Historic Preservation Officer



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REGION 8

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Phone 800-227-8917
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Jan. 09, 2012

Ref: 8EPR-N

Edward C. Nichols
State Historic Preservation Officer
History Colorado
1200 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Section 106 Consultation

Dear Mr. Nichols:

The Town of Rico, Colorado, is planning to replace some drinking water lines as shown on the enclosed map (Attachment 3) and project description (Attachment 1). Water valves and some fire hydrants will also be replaced as part of the project. There are numerous historic structures in the vicinity of the proposed water line replacement project. However, because the construction will take place in existing street and alley right-of-ways and the roadways were previously excavated to install the original waterline, we have determined that the project is unlikely to adversely affect any historic properties. We do not anticipate any adverse changes in the use of historic properties including visual and siting effects. No buildings will be vacated as a result of this project. This project replaces an alluvium pipeline water supply project which the Colorado Historical Society addressed previously in a February 1, 2010 letter (CHS #55844).

EPA will be funding a portion of the waterline replacement project through a Special Appropriation Act Grant. For our consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we have noted the historic structures adjacent to the waterline replacement project. There are three buildings on the National Historic Register and about 20 other structures or groups of structures that appear to be eligible for listing on the Register.

Structures on the National Register:

Dey Building (#1 on map)

3 N. Glasgow National Register 4/15/1999, 5DL.479

The second floor of this two-part Commercial Block was designed to house offices. Since its construction in 1892, the first floor retail space has been utilized almost continuously as a saloon. Of the approximately half dozen masonry commercial buildings constructed in Rico during the last decade of the 19th century, the Dey Building is the only example of the Romanesque Revival style.

Dolores County Courthouse (Rico Town Hall) (#2 on map)

Commercial & Mantz Sts. National Register 12/31/1974, 5DL.423

This two-story light red brick building, with a raised basement, was constructed in 1892. Red sandstone was used at the basement level and for window detailing.

William Kauffman House (#3 on map)

Silver St., off Mantz Ave. National Register 10/29/1982, 5DL.227

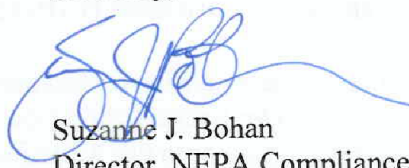
Built circa 1891, this two-story brick house is the town's only masonry residence. The Kauffman family lived in the house until 1915.

Structures that May be Eligible for National Register:

The proposed waterline replacement project will take place in the streets and alleys adjacent to additional structures that appear to be eligible for listing on the National Historic Register (numbers 4-22 on map). Due to the limited resources of the Town and no anticipated adverse effects to historic properties, we did not ask Rico to conduct a field survey of these structures. Instead, we are relying on information previously prepared by Rico identifying historic structures: in the (1) "Town of Rico, Historic Walking Tour" (Attachment 2) and (2) Town Ordinance # 2007-8 designating historic landmarks (Attachment 3). We have numbered the structures identified by the Town as historically significant and that are adjacent to the proposed waterline project. The approximate locations of the structures are noted on the enclosed map. Historic structures that are not adjacent to one of the replacement water lines have not been numbered.

If you have any questions about this project please call Dana Allen of my staff at 303-312-6870 or e-mail at Allen.Dana@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Suzanne J. Bohan
Director, NEPA Compliance and Review Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

Enclosures

HARRIS WATER ENGINEERING, INC.
954 EAST SECOND AVENUE, #202
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
970-259-5322
970-247-0587 fax
steve@durangowater.com

November 2, 2011

Memorandum

To: Mike England, Manager – Town of Rico, Colorado

From: Steve Harris, Consulting Water Engineer

Subject: Town of Rico EPA/STAG Funding #XP-97850001-1

The Town of Rico (Rico) is requesting a three year extension to the funding provided from EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) award #XP-97850001-1 and is also requesting a technical correction to change the purpose of the grant from a wastewater infrastructure project to a water infrastructure project. A PER was prepared for the wastewater project which showed the cost to be in excess of \$12 million which is not a feasible project.

Rico has previously prepared a PER and EA on a water infrastructure project that included a new well and a two mile pipeline to convey the water into the town. Congress did not act on the technical correction for these facilities. Subsequently, Rico applied for and received Federal ARRA funds and State of Colorado funds (Water Supply Reserve Account) to construct the well and pipeline.

Rico is now requesting a three year extension and a technical correction to allow the EPA STAG funds to be used for a much needed water distribution system improvement project (Project). The Project is described in the Work Plan below.

Rico requests the approval of a technical correction to allow water distribution system improvements and a three year extension from December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2014.

Work Plan

The majority of Rico's existing water distribution system is over 30 years old, which was bedded in mine waste and is in extreme need of replacement in order to operate efficiently and responsibly to serve current water users. Numerous leaks have occurred in the last five years and the repairs indicate the distribution pipelines are in poor condition.

The proposed Project will consist of replacement of approximately 10,300 linear feet of existing 4 and 6 inch pipelines with 6 and 8 inch pipelines and associated valves, hydrants and bends, etc.; a full list is shown on Table 1. The majority of the pipelines are located in the north half of Rico (north of Mantz Avenue) as shown on the attached map. All of the Project facilities are located within the Rico town boundaries.

New pipelines will be installed adjacent to the existing pipelines with service connections to homes also replaced; the existing pipelines will be abandoned. All valves and many of the hydrants will be replaced. Due to mine tailings being used for backfill in many of the roadways in Rico, the material excavated from the trench to install the new pipelines will have to be removed and disposed of in an appropriate manner. New, off site neutral material, will have to be hauled to refill the trenches.

Rico is located in southwest Colorado along Colorado State Highway 145, approximately 30 miles south of the Town of Telluride. The existing Rico water treatment plant is located at 37 degrees, 41 minutes, 30 seconds latitude by 108 degrees, 2 minutes longitude.

Rico is requesting that the technical correction allow the \$964,300 allocated to the wastewater project be available to the Project. Rico will provide matching funds of \$788,973. The estimated Project cost is shown in Table 1.

**TABLE 1
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Approx. Quantity</u>	<u>Cost per Unit</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
8 inch Diameter C-900 Pipe	If	2800	\$130	\$364,000
6 inch Diameter C-900 Pipe	If	7500	\$125	\$937,500
Valves	#	40	\$1,000	\$40,000
Hydrants	#	10	\$3,000	\$30,000
Service Connections	#	80	\$500	\$40,000
Contingency	%	13%		\$180,672
Subtotal				\$1,592,172
Engineering, Admin, Environ.	%	10%		\$159,000
Total Estimated Project Construction Cost				\$1,751,172

Matching Funds

Rico will pursue multiple sources for the matching funds including:

- Rico reserve funds
- Water Supply Reserve Account (CWCB program)
- Department of Local Affairs
- Others

Project Schedule

The Project is expected to be completed on the following approximate schedule.

Preliminary Engineering Report – January through June, 2012

Letter from EPA that Exempt from EA – April through July, 2012

Prepare Bid Documents and Select Contractor – July, 2012 through March 2013

Construction – April, 2013 through October, 2014

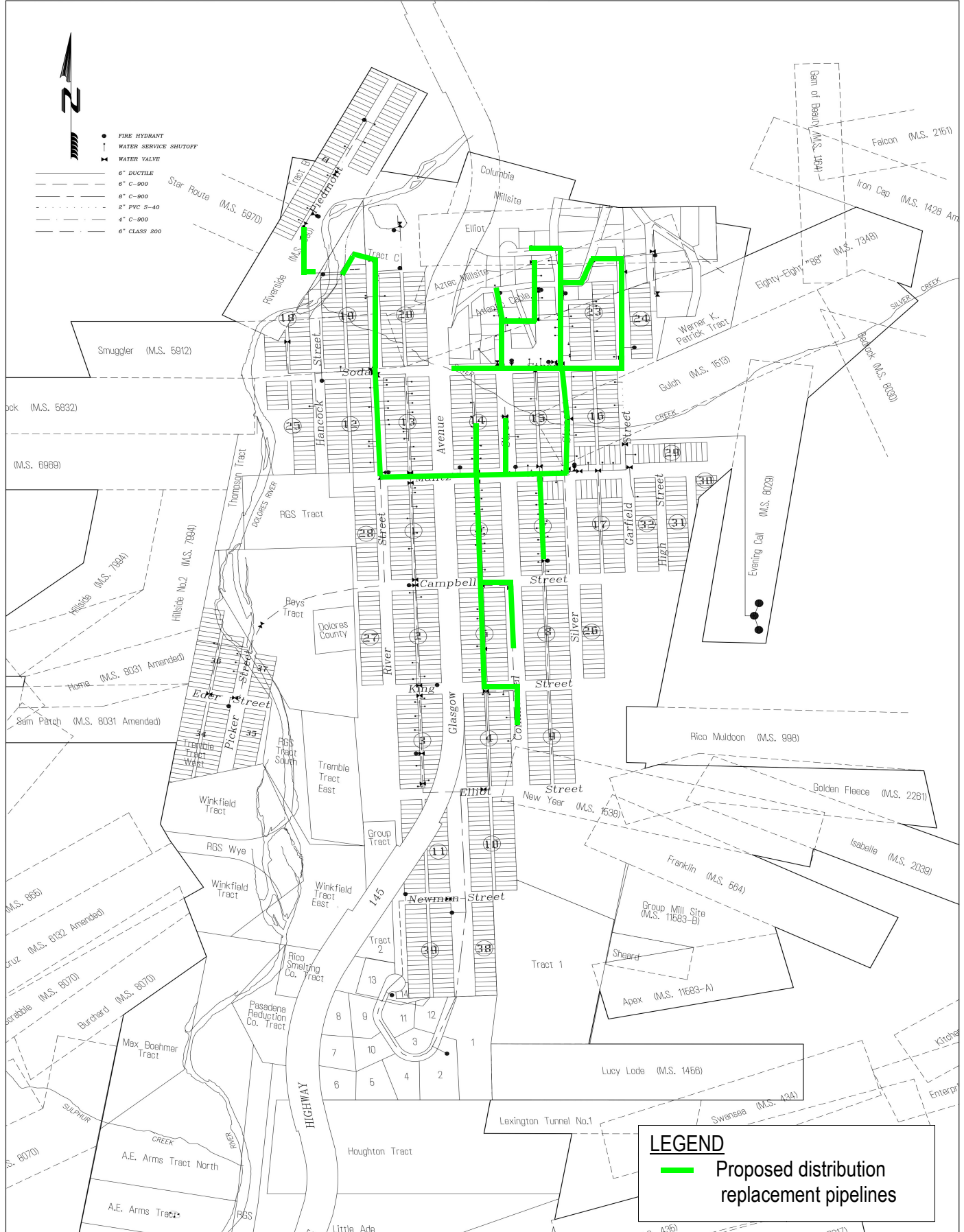
Closing Documentation to EPA – November and December, 2014

The components of the Project are listed in Table 1; however, the amounts for each component are approximate and may change during final designs and construction. Also, the excavation may show associated items that need replacement and/or improvement not specifically listed in Table 1.


With the completion of the Project, Rico will reduce water usage substantially. The existing distribution system commonly has small to large leaks, nearly every year, which cause very high water usage per home. Reducing leaks will extend the capacity life the water treatment and delivery facilities. The service to residents will be improved through less water disruption to repair the leaks.



- FIRE HYDRANT
- WATER SERVICE SHUTOFF
- WATER VALVE
- 6" DUCTILE
- 6" C-900
- 8" C-900
- 2" PVC S-40
- 4" C-900
- 6" CLASS 200



LEGEND

 Proposed distribution replacement pipelines

TOWN OF RICO
EXISTING WATER SYSTEM

Project Mgr:	DB	Rev:	00000000	Date:	04/05/01
Technician:	SAH				
Technician:					
Checked by:	DB				
Start date:	04/05/01				

FOLEY ASSOCIATES, INC.
970-728-6153 970-728-6050 fax
P.O. BOX 13855
125 W. PACIFIC, SUITE B-1
TELLURIDE, COLORADO 81435

Drawing path: \RICOTOWN\EXISTING-WATER.DWG

Sheet 1 of 1

Project #: RICOTOWN

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Attachment 2 to Rico, CO SAAP Categorical Exclusion

Special Thanks Goes Out to the Following:

History:

*Dara Kinsey
Carole Rychtarik
Kjm Zeller*

Walking Tour Information:

*Rio Grande Southern Books, Vol. V & VI
Dell A. McCoy, Russ Collman, William Graves*

*Mary Lou Milstead
Mike Curran
Dave Fabian
Jim Baron
Marlene Hazen
David Rote
Laura Towne
Keith Lindauer
Dale Weisbrod*

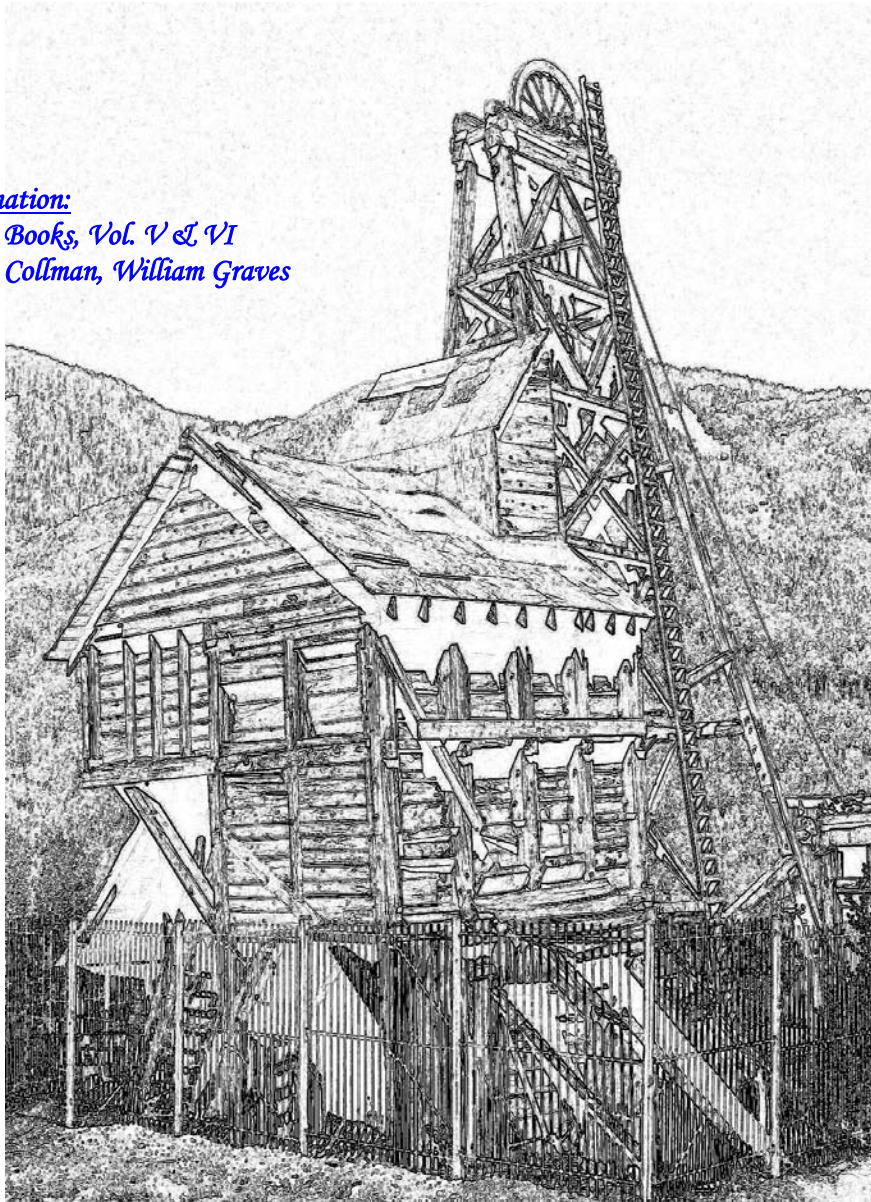
Design &

Publication:

*E.J. Heil, P.C.
Eric James Heil
Rebecca Stephens*

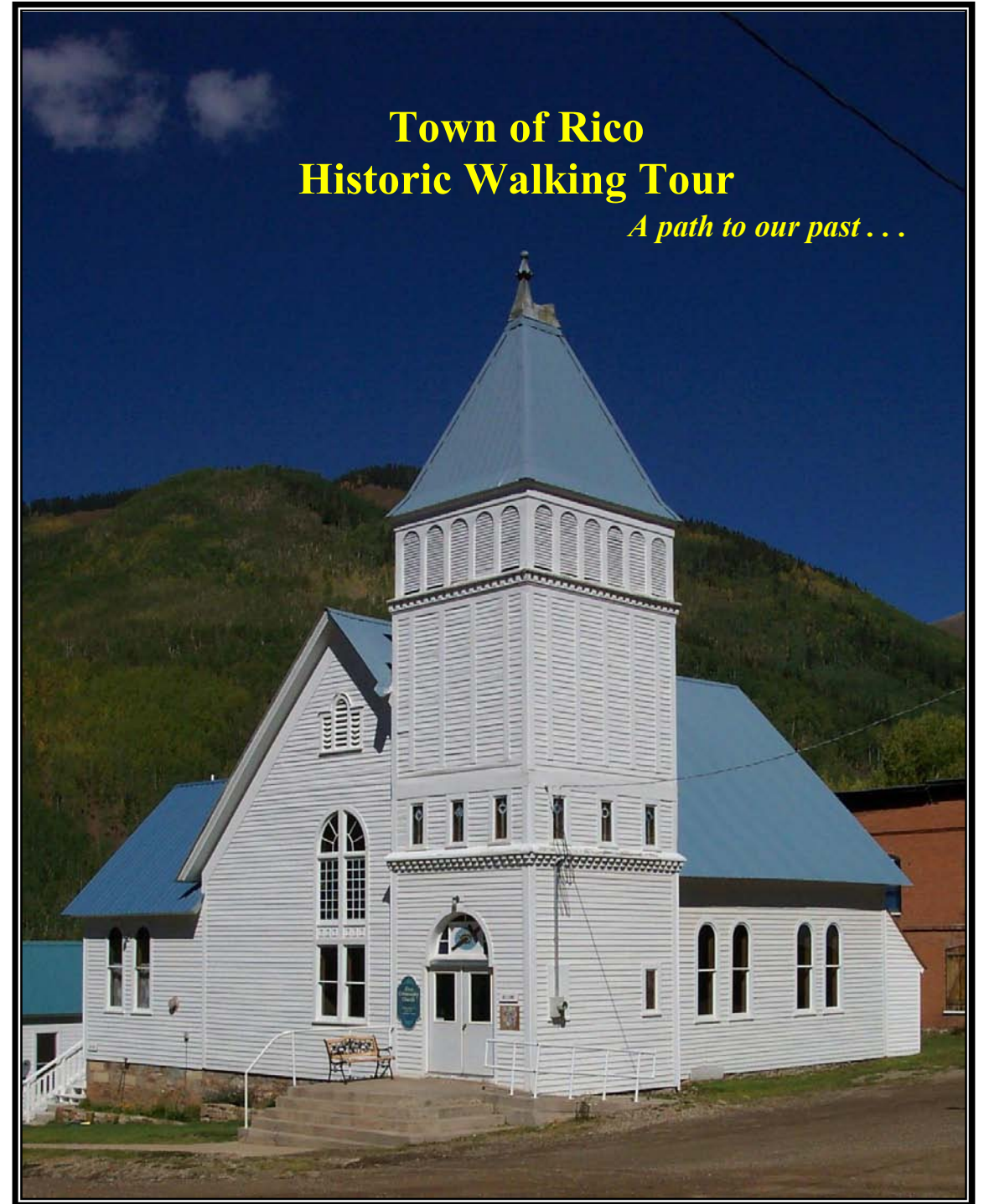
Sponsored by:

*The Rico
Historical
Society
&
The Town of
Rico*



Town of Rico Historic Walking Tour

A path to our past . . .



RICO HISTORY

1832-1878

Besides the Native Americans, some of the earliest inhabitants of Rico were the fur trappers. They worked in this valley from 1832 to 1833, finding it rich in beaver and other fur bearing animals.

It wasn't long until the quest for fur turned to gold. In 1866 a Texan named Colonel Nash discovered the coveted metal in Rico. Nash had brought with him eighteen prospectors. Their exploration fizzled out until two men, Sheldon Shafer and Joseph Fearheiler, who had been on their way to Montana, were the lucky ones who uncovered Nash's abundant vein and his beginning in Rico.

The Ute Indians had other ideas about having white men in this valley and drove away the initial miners. It wasn't until 1878 when the Utes signed the Brunot Agreement, thus surrendering their land and claims in the San Juan Mountains, when the mining rush began in earnest.

1878-1887

In 1876 the Pioneer Mining District was established, resulting in a mining upsurge. However, it wasn't until the spring of 1879, upon the discovery of rich oxidized silver ore by Colonel J.C. Haggerty on Blackhawk and Telescope Mountains, when things in Rico began to flourish. The now famous Enterprise Mine was started in 1881 by David Swickheimer, though the profitable ore wasn't discovered until October 6, 1887. Another prosperous mine was the Black Hawk Mine, located on the north side of Dolores Mountain,

one mile east of Rico, which was discovered by John Glasgow, R.D. Darling and E.A. Robinson in 1887. The Black Hawk Mine would later become one of the more consistent shippers of ore on the Rio Grande Southern railroad.

At first, Rico went through a plethora of names - ranging from Carbon City, Carbonateville, Lead City and Dolores City - until the establishment of a post office required the residents to settle on a name. William Weston suggested the name Rico somewhere between 1878 and 1881. It stuck, and Rico became incorporated and surveyed. Soon after, cabins, saloons, a general mercantile, and the Pioneer Hotel and Restaurant sprung up on the newly platted streets. In 1881 the population of Rico was 894 people, of which 54 were women. The newly formed lots sold for \$200.00.

1891

The first rail car to reach Rico on the Rio Grand Southern Railroad arrived on September 30th, 1891, carrying building supplies for the remaining construction of the railroad. The official opening day for the RGS line through Rico was on October 15th, 1891. The first three passenger cars arrived that day bringing dignitaries from as far as Denver to the gala event. In celebration, the Rio Grand Southern Railroad held the Silver Ball Excursion at the Enterprise Hotel with music provided by the Telluride Cornet Band. In observance of this event, a commemorative silver spike was presented to Otto Mears by David Swickheimer from silver taken from the Enterprise Mine on Newman Hill. This spike resides today in the vault of the Colorado State Historical Society

in Denver. The final track between Rico and Dolores was completed on December 19, 1891, thus connecting Durango to Ridgeway. This monumental occasion happened in a field where the Red Rock spur was later built, near milepost 84.5. The first train from Durango to Rico arrived on December 26th, 1891, and the first round-trip passenger train (conducted by Charles Wigglesworth) headed from Durango to Ridgeway passed through on January 2, 1892.

1892-1900

In 1892 Rico was in its heyday. Its population had soared to 5,000 people. The community was supported by 23 saloons, 3 blocks of red-light district, 2 churches, 2 newspapers, a theater, boarding houses, 14 first class hotels, including the Hotel Enterprise which was destroyed by fire in 1903, and the Rico State Bank. At this time Rico was a county seat and retained this honor until 1946. Its booming economy attracted miners from around the State. Many of the buildings from this era still stand today, including the Dey Building which houses the Enterprise Bar and Grill.

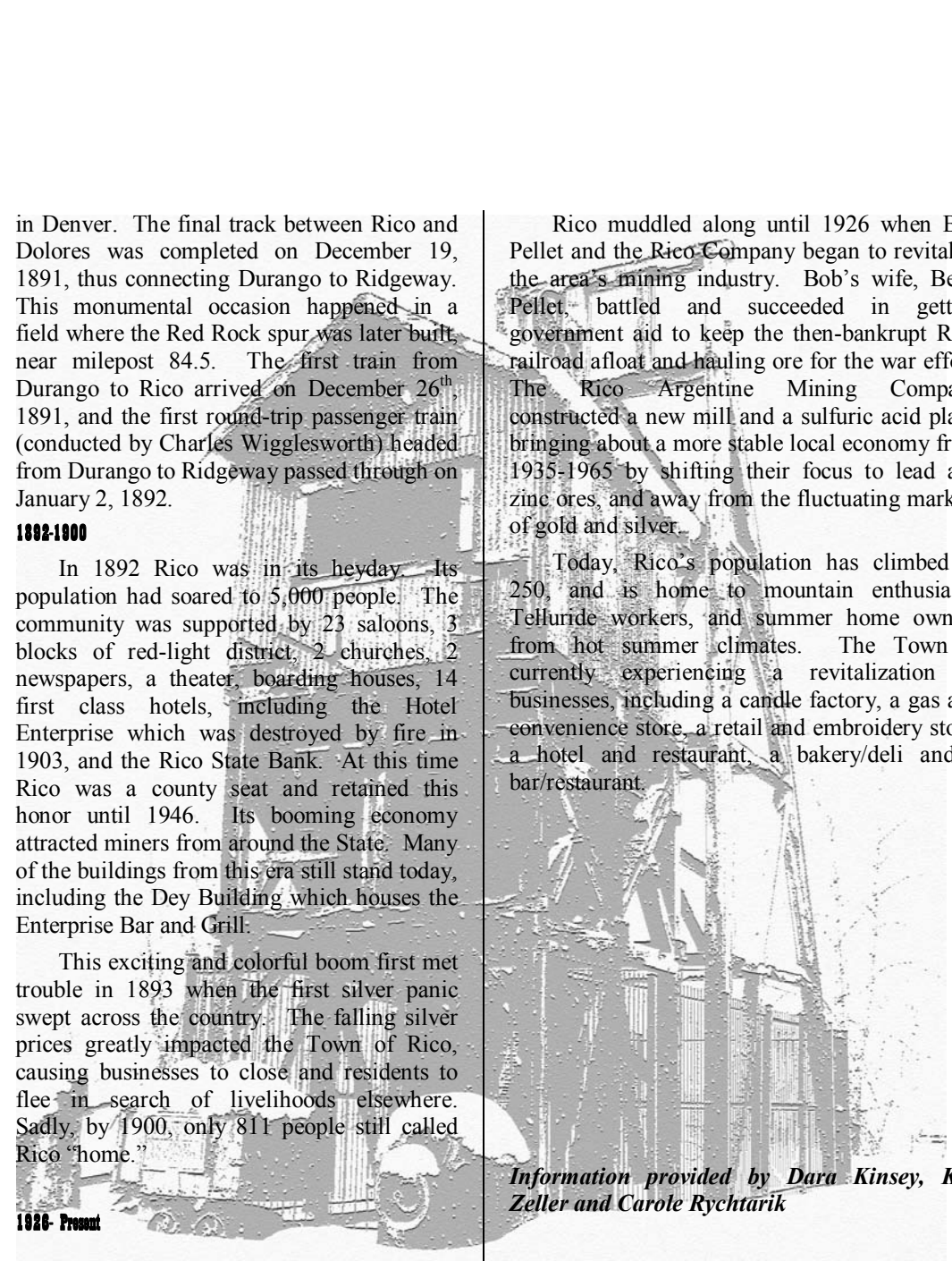
This exciting and colorful boom first met trouble in 1893 when the first silver panic swept across the country. The falling silver prices greatly impacted the Town of Rico, causing businesses to close and residents to flee in search of livelihoods elsewhere. Sadly, by 1900, only 811 people still called Rico "home."

1926- Present

Rico muddled along until 1926 when Bob Pellet and the Rico Company began to revitalize the area's mining industry. Bob's wife, Betty Pellet, battled and succeeded in getting government aid to keep the then-bankrupt RGS railroad afloat and hauling ore for the war effort. The Rico Argentine Mining Company constructed a new mill and a sulfuric acid plant, bringing about a more stable local economy from 1935-1965 by shifting their focus to lead and zinc ores, and away from the fluctuating markets of gold and silver.

Today, Rico's population has climbed to 250, and is home to mountain enthusiasts, Telluride workers, and summer home owners from hot summer climates. The Town is currently experiencing a revitalization of businesses, including a candle factory, a gas and convenience store, a retail and embroidery store, a hotel and restaurant, a bakery/deli and a bar/restaurant.

Information provided by Dara Kinsey, Kim Zeller and Carole Rychtarik



Pink numbers refer to locations of proposed drinking water replacement project map. Properties with out pink numbers are not located near the proposed water line replacements. Brochure annotated by EPA in Dec. 2011.

Rico Historic Walking Tour

#2

1. On the northeast corner of Mantz Avenue and Commercial Street you will find the **Rico Town Hall, 2 N. Commercial Street.**



The first Dolores County Courthouse was an attractive structure of hand-hewn logs, its appearance added to by chinking of snow, white lime and sand. 23 x 48 feet in size, with one room 23 x 23 feet on the second floor, accessible only by an outside stairway, the building was hardly large enough to store the records of the county, acquired when Dolores County separated from Ouray County. The structure was dismantled and the logs were used as skids and for scaffolding to start construction on the new sandstone and brick courthouse that took two years to build.

The courthouse served as a county courthouse for 53 years, until the larger

population of Dove Creek was successful in having the county seat moved there in 1946. Dolores County conveyed the courthouse to the Town of Rico on April 2, 1956, and it is now used for the Town Offices, public hearings, town and community meetings and the Rico branch of the Dolores County Library. The Courthouse was constructed in 1892, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

1. Looking west and north up Commercial Street you will see the **Chester A. Arthur House, 11 N. Commercial Street.**



It is said that the associates of Chester A. Arthur, who was to become the 21st President of the United States, had this house built for his personal use while on visits to his mining ventures around Rico. It was later the house of Bob and Betty Pellet, who arrived in Rico in 1919. Bob was a mining engineer who kept the mines open in Rico. Betty became a State legislator from our area, and was instrumental in keeping the Rio Grand Southern Railroad running, carrying ore and passengers, until it shut down in 1951. Inside, during a renovation, a penciled note was found outlining the robbery of a bank in Telluride. The Pellets added the front cobble fireplace and the dormer windows while they owned the house. In later

#4

#5

2. On the Northwest corner of Mantz Avenue and Silver Street is the **Rico Community Presbyterian Church, 118 E. Mantz.**



Built as the “People’s Church” during Rico’s most prosperous decade, this church, built in 1890, was the first church building in Rico. In February, 1891, Rico’s new church was dedicated. Reverend S.O. Dickenson was ordained as first pastor. The church has seen several protestant denominations, and is now under ownership of the Presbyterian Church in Ouray. The church has horizontal wood siding with a three story square tower. The tower stairway leads to a choir loft above the congregation.

2. Across the street, looking up Mantz on the north side is the **Albert Stampfel House, 204 E. Mantz Avenue.**

This house was built around 1888. With its cross-gabled frame, ornate features above the second story windows and stone foundation, it was the home of Albert Stampfel, old-time resident and miner in

Dunton. He owned a freight hauling company and began his business hauling general merchandise with teams of horses and wagons, later upgrading his equipment with an International dump-truck. Albert was a great storyteller; some of his tales about pioneer days in Rico were very entertaining.



2. Next door to the Stampfel house is the **Engel House, 208 E. Mantz Avenue.**

This two-story frame house with front bay window and covered front-gable entry was the home of Charles and Freda Engel in the late 1920s. Charles was born and raised in Rico, and spent his childhood with his sister Anna in the big house up on the hill. He worked for his father who came to Rico in 1897 and established the Engel Mercantile in 1909. Charles was well known for his vast knowledge of the pioneers and history of the area, particularly of Rico’s Pioneer Mining District. He documented much of Rico’s past history in photographs and writings. Charles developed the Engel Mining Claim on Expectation Mountain, west of Rico, and also became the Rico correspondent for the area newspapers.

2. Heading east on Mantz Avenue, next door to the Engel house is the **Averyt House, 212 E. Mantz Avenue.**

This charming Victorian with the covered porch with ornate trim and posts was built around 1890.

2. Returning to the corner of Mantz Avenue and Silver Street facing north, on the west side of the road is the **William Kaufman House, 9 N. Silver Street.**



Built around 1888 as an apartment building, this two story brick building was the town's only masonry residence during Rico's "boom" years. It is on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

3. Looking north from the corner of Silver Street and Soda Street, on the west side of Silver Street is a row of houses from before the turn of the 20th Century.

3. **Baron House, 104 N. Silver Street:**

This home was built in 1878. A photograph from 1882 shows the houses on this block with neat wooden fences and plantings of shrubs and trees. This is the original front-facing "L" shape with shed roof side. "Grandpop" Rob Snyder, a long-time miner in Rico lived here for many years before moving down the valley.

3. The second house in the row is the **Anderson House, 106 N. Silver Street:**

A charming Victorian side-gable frame "L" shape with ornate trim above the windows and eave, with a covered porch was documented in an 1882 photograph. G.E. Wilkins, the photographer, had come from Wisconsin to Rico shortly after the mining boom had begun.

3. The next house north is the **Belaska House, 110 N. Silver Street:**

This front-gable frame building was also documented in the 1882 photograph. The recessed outside porch is a newer feature, but this is part of the historic block on Silver Street.

3. Next, the **David Butler House, 112 N. Silver Street:**

This log cabin was once owned by Charles M. Engel. Victor Lee (David Butler's great grandfather) lived in this cabin when he first came to Colorado. It was called the "big House" by the family. This log cabin may be one of the earliest structures built in Rico. Records indicate that the cabin was deeded to two people by the names of Spurlock and Butler on August 10, 1881. This type of construction was typical of miners' cabins, and many such cabins can be seen in the early photos of Rico.

3. The last house of historic note on the east side is the **Rychtarik House, 118 N. Silver Street:** The cross-gable structure with rear shed-roof addition and original chimney was built around 1878. The addition on the south side with the stone fireplace is a more recent addition.

3. Across the street on the west side is the **Curran House, 115 N. Silver Street:**

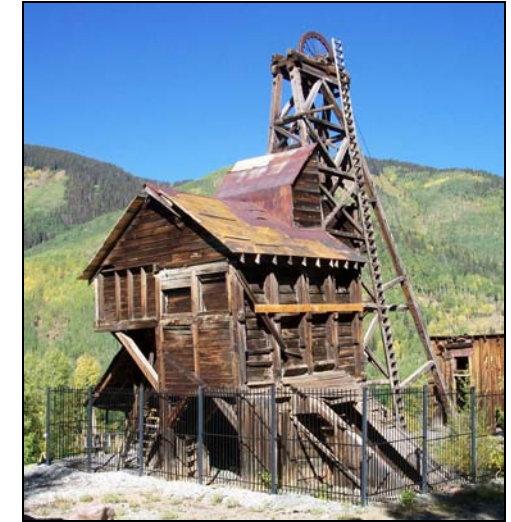
This original front-gable frame house with side-gable addition with peak was built before 1898. At one time it was the office, operating room and home to Dr. Koplowitz who had his waiting room and office in the front of the house. An antique door still separates the front area from the family's living quarters.

4. Garfield Street is one street east and parallel to Silver Street. On Garfield on the east side of the street is the **Catholic Church, 122 N. Garfield Street:**

The Catholic Church was initially Rico's first historic schoolhouse. In 1882, donations, a loan and a two-mill property tax provided the money required to construct the new schoolhouse (\$1,239.00) and hire a teacher. Mrs. Robert Darling, the wife of Robert Darling, a Rico pioneer, was hired as the new school teacher. The *Dolores News* described the new school building as "... that neat and cozy little schoolhouse, with its bright paint – its steeple and surroundings." The little building was filled to capacity, and the 1882-83 school term ran for five months. This school operated until 1893, when the larger, two-story brick building was built on North Commercial Street. Many Rico old-timers attended that school.

4. Looking southeast on the hill above the church is the **VanWinkle Headframe and Hoist Structure.** These two adjacent structures were constructed in 1940-41 and operated until 1949 by the Rico Argentine Mining Company as part of the VanWinkle mine complex, mining copper, lead and zinc.

They were important elements in the mining industry's contribution to the war effort of World War II.



5. Returning down Soda Street toward highway 145 you will pass an old mining house on the left and then a red clapboard house on the right that was the home of David Swickhimer of Enterprise Mine fame.

5. Crossing Highway 145 from Soda Street you will find the **Atlantic Cable Head-frame:**

Constructed by the Dolores Silver and Refining Company in 1898-1905, the head-frame and hoist were later modified in the early 1940s with electric lighting and corrugated metal roofing and siding. The structure serviced the Atlantic Cable Mine, considered to be one of the earliest (1878) and richest mines in the Rico Mining District. The early focus of this mine was on silver, but by 1907 this had changed to zinc. During World War II both lead and zinc were mined. Silver Creek ran beneath the bridge

that connected the hoist house (no longer standing) with the shaft house. The hoist house contained an air compressor that provided the miners with fresh air. A steam boiler powered the hoist with a cable which raised and lowered the ore bucket in the shaft below the head-frame.

6. On the southeast corner of Soda Street and Hancock Street is the **Old Assay Office, c. 1895-1900**. A special spur of the RGS rail led to the stone building that has been identified as the sampling works. It was also said to be a freight house for Rico miners. For the assay work the office contained a small smelter for determining the metal composition of ores.

7. Head south on River Street to the corner of Mantz Avenue and River Street; to the west is the **Pro Patria Mill site**. During 1902, the Pro Patria ore processing mill was constructed and an aerial tramway was built up the middle of Mantz Avenue to reach the Pro Patria mining tunnel. The Pro Patria became a landmark in the Pioneer Mining District, and this large mill shipped hundreds of carloads of ore concentrate to the Durango Smelter over the years. All remains of the mill are gone now, but the mill extended down to the base of Depot Hill from the intersection of Mantz and River Streets. This mill operated on an off-and-on basis until 1948, when it was shut down.

7. Looking north on River Street you will find many turn-of-the-century homes. On the west side of River Street, looking north is the **Bennett House, 11 N. River Street** (1882) and the **Kornbluh House, 15 N. River Street** (1900). On the east side of River Street, looking north is the **Heuertz House, 14 N. River Street**. This was constructed by the

combining of three shepherd huts around 1898. The next old home is the **Fabian House, 20 N. River Street**, constructed in 1888. Still going north, you find the **Clark House, 24 N. River Street** (1888). The final historic house is the **Lesem House, 32 N. River Street**, built around 1898.

As the stories are told, a relatively small red-light district was centered around River Street. Although bordellos were illegal, the so-called 'female boarding houses' were not harassed by local authorities.

8. Proceeding down Depot Hill from the corner of River Street and Mantz Avenue, you will see the RGS water tower, north of the town maintenance barn.

8. **Rio Grande Southern Watertower, RGS Tract North:**

The circular water tower which held 50,000 gallons of water, supported by heavy timber, was built when the RGS arrived in Rico. It is one of only three water towers and a handful of structures that remain from the Rio Grande Southern Railroad which operated from 1890-1951. South of the water tower was an attractive wooden depot; the station agent and his family lived upstairs on the second floor.

The freight yard at Rico consisted of five tracks, with one just east of the depot (the house track) and the other four just west of it. A total of 144 freight cars could be held on these tracks. A wooden engine house (later replaced by a larger brick building) was located west of the depot. After RGS ceased operations in 1951, the rail was removed, and in September, 1955, the abandoned depot and engine house were nothing but ruins.

9. Crossing the Dolores River on the one-lane bridge you will find yourself in West Rico. Most of the homes on Picker Street date to the early 1900s, but looking south from the corner of Picker and Eder Streets there are the **Hicks House, 4 Picker Street** (1898) on the east side of the road, and the **Matzick House, 9 Picker Street** (1898) on the west side.

Going west on Eder Street you will see on the south side of the road the **Thornhill House, 11 W. Eder**. This two-story building originally was the nurses' quarters for the two-story Miners' Union Hospital which was located directly across the street. The hospital was destroyed by fire early in the 20th Century. The hospital, nurses' quarters and the railroad yards can be seen in a 1902 photo of West Rico. In the early days the only access to West Rico was a metal footbridge across the Dolores River, approximately in the same location as the bridge today.

10. Returning up Depot Hill to the corner of Glasgow Avenue (Highway 145) and Mantz Avenue, looking north on the west side of the street you will see the **Dey Building, 3 N. Glasgow Avenue**.

Since its construction in 1892, the first floor retail space has been utilized almost continuously as a saloon. The second floors of this commercial block were designed to house offices. Of Romanesque Revival architectural design, the ornate front façade is of worked sandstone. The four windows on the second floor have sandstone arches with an ornate cornice, a raised feature incorporating two arched windows. In 1915, the Metropole (promoted as "The Popular Resort"), the saloon located in the Dey

Building at the time, advertised Joel B. Frazier Whiskey. Betty Pellet is said to have given speeches to the off-shift miners at the bars in the Dey Building when she was running for office.



10. North of the Dey Building is the **Motherlode Liquor Store, 7 N. Glasgow Avenue**:

This historic gambling and pool hall was once a butcher shop. The one story wooden false-front structure also had housed a saloon before prohibition (1933). At one time it was also the card room for the Enterprise next door.

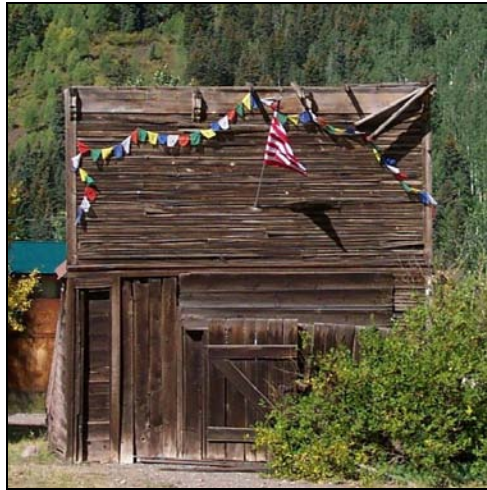
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10. Passing the green maintenance buildings you will find the **Heil Building, 21 N. Glasgow Avenue.** Build in the 1880s, this building was a drugstore in 1886. Later, in 1893, it was used as a bicycle shop, the alternative mode of transportation to the horse and mule. It stands north of the vacant lots once occupied by the premier Hotel Enterprise.



11. Looking south from the corner of Mantz Avenue and Glasgow Avenue (Highway 145) on the west side of the highway is the **Real Estate Office, 1 S. Glasgow Avenue.**

Rico's first brick commercial building was reportedly erected on the southwest corner of Mantz and Glasgow Avenues in 1889. Later a Shell gas station and garage; in the early 1950s the Rico Hardware store occupied this old brick building. In 1944-45 it was the Rico Market.



11. The next building south is the **Muldoon Building, 3 S. Glasgow Avenue.** This Original 1880 Building was a drugstore in 1886, housed the Rico Post Office around 1890 and then became a restaurant named Mack's Place. In 1928 the building was occupied by the National Café. In 1944 it was a restaurant and bar run by Mary and Tim McClure. In the early 1950s this building was a market with a public telephone in front and a Conoco gasoline pump at the curb.

11. Proceeding south past the Rico Theatre and Café is the **Burley Building, 9 S. Glasgow Avenue.** Built during the height of the silver mining boom in Rico (1893), this classic Romanesque Revival style reflects the prosperity of the era. This was the third location for Burley's once-lucrative department store. Starting in 1861, J.W. Burley & Co. were leaders in dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes and gents' furnishings. In 1893, clothing was sold in the south store and the Rico Drug Company was located in the north side of the building. The 1930s found the office of the St. Louis Smelting and Refining Co. located in the north section of the Burley Building.

11. The next historic building is the **Historic Firehouse, 13 S. Glasgow.** This historic building was build around 1890-95. In 1917 it was the Rico Fire Department's wooden building for Hose Team #1, and originally had a bell that was suspended above the sidewalk on a two-storied wooden beamed tower. Around 1926 a fire siren replaced to old bell and the building was sheathed with corrugated metal. The large door/entryway allowed fire equipment and vehicles to park inside.



11. **Masonic Lodge, 31 S. Glasgow Avenue:**

The last historic building on the west side of Glasgow, north of Campbell, was built around in 1895. In 1899, E. Carey & Company Furniture Dealers occupied the commercial storefront structure of brick. The old furniture store became home to the Rico Masonic Lodge, and the second floor has been used as a lodge hall with public rooms

on the first floor used for dances, plays and movies.



11. Returning to the corner of Glasgow and Mantz Avenues, on the east side of Glasgow Avenue is the **Rico State Bank Building, 8 S. Glasgow,** built during the mining boom days of 1893. David Swickhimer, owner and operator of the Enterprise Mine, was president of the bank starting in 1890. David Swickhimer's Rico State Bank failed as a result of the severe "Panic of 1907." Ignoring the advice of business associates, Swickhimer used his personal money to pay back the bank's depositors, a loss that financially ruined him. He was called Colorado's "most honest man" as a result of using all his private funds to ensure that all money deposited was returned to the depositors. The original bank safe is still in the building

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which housed a liquor store and is now a real estate office.

11. Next to the Rico State Bank, traveling south is the **Rico Mercantile, 14 S. Glasgow Avenue**. Built in 1890, this single story commercial front building of stone, wood and fixed windows was occupied by Charles Engel Sr.'s Engel Mercantile from 1909 until approximately 1960, which he ran with the help of his son, Charles M. Engel. The vacant lot next door housed the Engel's warehouse for many years until it was destroyed in a fire.



#14

11. The next historic building is the **Rhode Inn, 20 S. Glasgow Avenue**. Originally, the building was listed as a grocery and meat market in 1899. It was built in 1893. The old frame building had an entrance off the front sidewalk that led to the second floor where the bay window extended out over the sidewalk. In 1925 this multi-sided bay window housed a dentist's chair – the five windows providing sunlight for the dental work. The southern portion of the building was a later addition.

11. The next building south is the **U. S. Post Office, 28 Glasgow Avenue**. The historic building housing the present post office was built around 1895. In the building in 1915, Obendorfer and Son carried canned goods and other staple items for the residents of the Rico area. This shop advertised Flexible Flyer Sleds and coaster wagons from \$1.75 to \$8.00 in the local Rico paper. The current façade has been altered from the large stationary glass windows, but the original brick facing, with six ornamental granite blocks, is still to be seen.



12. **Johnson House, 134 S. Glasgow Avenue**. From the corner of Glasgow and King, on the east side looking north, is this basic front-gable, horizontal wood clapboard historic house which was built around 1898.

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12. **Rico Hotel, 124 S. Glasgow Avenue**. North of the Johnson House is the wood and stucco two story historic hotel built in 1925 to house miners. It was a 40 room boarding house, originally named the Ricato Hotel, perhaps an Italian name. It is now a charming hotel and restaurant, a long way from the rough and ready miners' boarding house.



#18

12. **Morris House, 108 S. Glasgow Avenue**. Near the southeast corner of Glasgow and Campbell, this front-gable house with a front-gable enclosed entrance was built around 1913.

12. **Yellowman House, 137 S. Glasgow Avenue**. Standing on the corner of Glasgow Avenue and King Street, looking north on the west side of the street, you will find an historic home built in 1892. The dual-pitched hipped roof and four shed dormers make an unusual design.

12. Continuing north, on the west side is the **Hopkins House, 129 S. Glasgow Avenue**, an

historic house with a bay window built around 1898.

13. Standing on the corner of Commercial and Campbell, and looking north on the west side of the road is the **Hinton House, 37 S. Commercial Street**. This two story front-gable house with a gambrel roof was built around 1881.

13. Looking almost to the corner of Commercial and Mantz, on the west side of the road is the **Adams House, 5 S. Commercial Street**. This house was built before 1898, and was salvaged and moved to its present location after one of the many floods of Silver Creek, possibly the devastating flood of 1911. It has been beautifully restored to its present condition by Laurie Adams, present owner.

13. Residences on Commercial Street, east side. Looking north from the intersection of Campbell and Commercial streets, on the east side you will see the **Leavell House, 32 S. Commercial Street**, built in 1898. The **Blair House, 28 S. Commercial Street** next door was also built around 1898. It is a front-gable frame structure with a covered porch, horizontal channel wood siding on the second floor, and vertical wood paneling on the front porch. Traveling north on the east side of Commercial you find the **Folsom House, 16 S. Commercial Street**. Built around 1898, it has a front-gable frame with a front-gable covered porch. Its original form has been modified with additions.

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Attachment 3 to Rico, CO SAAP Categorical Exclusion

Pink numbers refer to water line replacement map

Town of Rico, Colorado

Dolores County

ORDINANCE NO. 2007- 8

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RICO, COLORADO AMENDING RICO LAND USE CODE SECTION 442.6 TO DESIGNATE THE "ENGEL HOUSE" AT 208 E. MANTZ AVENUE IN RICO, COLORADO AS AN HISTORIC LANDMARK

WHEREAS, the Rico Historic Preservation Committee has the powers and duties to advise and assist owners of historic properties on physical and financial aspects of preservation, renovation, rehabilitation, and reuse, including nomination to the National Register of Historic places; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Committee has the powers and duties to review structures and buildings nominated for designation as Historic Landmarks and recommend that the Board of Trustees designate by ordinance those structures and buildings qualifying for such designation; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Committee has found the Engel House of 208 E. Mantz Ave., in Rico, Colorado, as a building worthy of such designation as an Historic Landmark for recommendation to the Board of Trustees to designate by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Rico Land Use Code Sections 442.1 through 442.5, after proper public noticing and consideration of all public comments, the Board of Trustees finds that the designation of the Engel House as a Designated Landmark Structure under Section 442.6 will promote the goals and policies of the Rico Regional Master Plan and will promote the general welfare of the Rico community.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Rico, Colorado the following;

SECTION 1:

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Rico, Colorado hereby designates the "Engel House", located at 208 E. Mantz Avenue, as an Historic Landmark in accordance with Rico Land Use Code Sections 442.1 through 442.5.

SECTION 2:

Rico Land Use Code Section 442.6 (Rico Ordinance No. 309) is hereby amended to designate the Engel House as an Historic Landmark. The newly adopted Section 442.6 will read as follows upon adoption of this Ordinance:

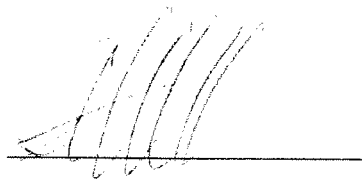
1. Atlantic Cable Headframe Structure- 107 N. Glasgow Ave.
2. Van Winkle Headframe Structure- 100 Van Winkle Ave.
3. Rio Grande Southern Water Tank- R.G.S. Tract North
- #2 4. Rico Town Hall/ Former Dolores County Courthouse building- 2 Commercial Street
- #15 5. Rico Post Office Building- 22 S. Glasgow Avenue
6. Rico Fire Station Building- 13 S. Glasgow Avenue
- #5 7. Rico Community Church- 116 E. Mantz Avenue
- #8 8. Rico Catholic Church- 122 N. Garfield Street
- #1 9. The Dey Building- 3 N. Glasgow Avenue
- #12 10. Rico State Bank Building- 8 S. Glasgow Avenue
11. Rico Masonic Hall Building- 31 S. Glasgow Avenue
12. The Burley Building- 9 S. Glasgow Avenue
- #14 13. The Rohde Inn- 20 S. Glasgow Avenue
- #13 14. Rico Mercantile- 14 S. Glasgow Avenue
15. The Engel House- 208 E. Mantz Avenue

SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCED, READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON THE 19th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2007.

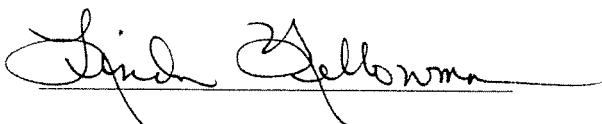
ORDINANCE INTRODUCED, READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON THE 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2007.



Joe Croke

Mayor, Town of Rico

ATTEST:



Linda Yellowman, Town Clerk

Attachment 3 to Rico, CO SAAP Categorical Exclusion

Pink numbers denote structures that have been identified as historic structures by the Town of Rico. Buildings #1 through #3 are on the National Register.

