

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-31**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO, DESIGNATING THE  
FARMINGTON EXTENSION RAILROAD TANK NO. 7 SITE TO THE  
COUNTY HISTORIC REGISTER**

**WHEREAS**, § 30-11-107 (bb), of the Colorado Revised Statutes empowers the Board of County Commissioners to provide for the preservation of cultural, historic, and architectural history within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon the evidence and testimony presented at a public hearing on Nov. 15, 2004, the Board of County Commissioners of La Plata County found it desirable to create a Historic Preservation Review Commission, to establish a procedure for Designation of Local Historic Districts and Landmarks; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners enacted Resolution 2004-33 to establish a procedure for the designation of appropriate historic sites and Historic Landmarks or Historic Districts, recognizing such designations to be an integral part of the preservation of cultural, historic and architectural history within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners appointed a three member Historic Preservation Review Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, on Feb. 9, 2010, the Board of County Commissioners enacted Resolution 2010- 09, increasing the membership of the Historic Preservation Review Commission from three to five and;

**WHEREAS**, on May 20, 2010, the Historic Preservation Review Commission reviewed the Farmington Extension Railroad Water Tank 7 Site nomination, project 2010-0053, and found this site to be of Historical significance to La Plata County and accordingly, the Historic Preservation Review Commission has presented to the Board of County Commissioners, its recommendation for inclusion of this site on the County Historic Register; and

**WHEREAS**, the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners held a duly noticed public hearing on the 20 of July, 2010, to consider whether the Board of County Commissioners should accept the recommendations of the Historic Preservation Review Commission; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW COMMISSION, EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY PRESENTED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED THIS 20th DAY OF JULY 2010, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the Farmington Extension Railroad Water Tank 7 Site, Project 2010-0053 is hereby approved for inclusion on the La Plata County Historic Register. Location is parcel no. 6169-072-00-026, La Plata County, CO, Section 6&7, Township 32N, Range 9W, further depicted and described in attached exhibits A & B.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-14**

2. The enactment of this Resolution upholds the Board of County Commissioners' support for Historic Preservation evidenced by Resolution 2004-33 and, therefore, this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED IN DURANGO, LA PLATA COUNTY,  
COLORADO, this 20th day of July 2010.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO

Wallace (Wally) White, Chair

Joelle Riddle, Vice Chair

Kellie Hotter, Commissioner

**Distribution:**

La Plata County Planning Dept. File 2010-0053  
La Plata County Clerk and Recorder, County Historic Register  
Dan Stoddard, 2217 CR 204, Durango CO 81301



La Plata County, CO



Parcel Number	616907200026	Deed Type	BD
Account Number	R014222	Land Actual Value	\$132,690
Name	STODDARD, DANIEL T	Improvement Actual Value	\$0
Name2		Land Assessed Value	\$38,480
Mailing Address	2217 CR 204	Improvement Assessed Value	\$0
City	Durango	Acres	13
State	CO	Land Sq.Ft.	
Zip Code	81301	Improvement Sq.Ft.	
Unit		Year Built	
Legal Description	SEC-TN-RG 6 & 7-32-9 W/2 NW/4 & SW/4: NW/4 NW/4	New Owner	
Reception #	987080	Previous APN	

*Disclaimer:* The information is provided as is without warranty of any kind, either express or implied, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. In no event shall La Plata County be liable for any damages whatsoever including direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, loss of business profits or special damages.

Map Scale  
 1 inch = 1186 feet



OAHP1403  
Rev. 9/98

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

# Architectural Inventory Form

## Official eligibility determination (OAHP use only)

- Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_
- Determined Eligible- NR
  - Determined Not Eligible- NR
  - Determined Eligible- SR
  - Determined Not Eligible- SR
  - Need Data
  - Contributes to eligible NR District
  - Noncontributing to eligible NR District

### I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: 5LP8886
2. Temporary resource number: Farmington RR Tank APN 616907200026
3. County: LA PLATA
4. City: Durango
5. Historic building name: Farmington Extension Railroad Water Tank
6. Current building name: Farmington Extension Railroad Water Tank 7.  
Building address: 1 Gray Snake Pass Road, Durango, Colorado 81301
8. Owner name and address: Daniel Stoddard, 2217 CR 204 ,Durango, CO 81301

### II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. N.M. Township 32 N Range 5 W 9 W  
NW ¼ of SE ¼ of NW ¼ of NW ¼ of section 7
10. UTM reference  
Zone 1 3 ; 2 4 4 4 7 1 mE 4 1 0 2 5 1 3 mN
11. USGS quad name: Bondad Hill, Colorado  
Year: 1968 Map scale: 7.5' X 15' Attach photo copy of appropriate map section.
12. Lot(s): NA Block: NA  
Addition: NA Year of Addition: NA
13. Boundary Description and Justification: Extent of the tank

### III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan (footprint, shape): Circular
15. Dimensions in feet: 26 feet in diameter
16. Number of stories: one, about 25 feet tall
17. Primary external wall material(s): wood
18. Roof configuration: conical
19. Primary external roof material: wood shingle
20. Special features: none

General architectural description: This wood railroad water tank is typical of the tanks constructed by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. It is similar to the one in the Chama, New Mexico, yard which has a 50,000 gallon capacity. It is round with a conical roof and constructed of wood staves. The tank sits on large (probably 12 x 12) timber beams, that are supported by cross braced beams (probably 6 x 8) and is about 25 feet tall. The tank was ringed with steel

restraining bands, but the bands have broken and are falling off the tank. The tank has a wood ladder that is partially dislodged from the tank. It has a conical roof with wood shingles.

21. Architectural style/building type: No style
22. Landscaping or special setting features: The tank is located at what would have been the edge of the railroad track. The leveled grade for the track is evident but no other features, ties, or materials remain.
23. Associated buildings, features, or objects: none

#### IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction: Estimate: \_\_\_\_\_ Actual: \_\_\_\_\_ 1905  
Source of information: Denver and Rio Grande System data; Atheam, Robert. G. *Rebel of the Rockies*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press. 1963.
26. Architect: unknown  
Source of information: NA
27. Builder/Contractor: Denver and Rio Grande Railroad  
Source of information: Denver and Rio Grande System Data; Atheam, Robert. G. *Rebel of the Rockies*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press. 1963.
28. Original owner: Denver and Rio Grande Railroad  
Source of information: Denver and Rio Grande System Data; Atheam, Robert. G. *Rebel of the Rockies*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press. 1963.
29. Construction history (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions):  
The Farmington Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad (D&RG) was constructed in 1905 as a standard gauge line and was converted to narrow gauge in 1923 to be compatible with the San Juan Extension of the D&RG. It is likely the tank was constructed in 1905. The line operated until August of 1968.
30. Original location  X  Moved      Date of move(s):

#### V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): Rail-related
32. Intermediate use(s): NA
33. Current use(s): Vacant/Not in use
34. Site type(s): Railroad water tank
35. Historical background:  
The Farmington branch of the D&RG was known as the "Red Apple Flyer" because of the produce it transported. Originally, the service on the line was limited to around one train a week from Durango and was mostly produce, freight and cattle. A third rail was added to the line in 1923. This is one of the few instances of standard to narrow gauge conversion. In the 1950s a natural gas and oil boom increased demand for service, primarily for drilling equipment and pipe loads, and extended the life of the line until August of 1968. By 1971,

the entire line from Chama to Durango to Farmington had been removed by the scrappers, but oddly this tank survived. The tank has sat vacant since 1968 and sits on private property.

36. Source of information: Denver and Rio Grande System Information; Atheam, Robert. G. *Rebel of the Rockies*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press. 1963.

#### VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation: Yes \_\_\_ No X Date of designation: NA

Designating authority:NA

38. Applicable National Register Criteria:

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

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

\_\_\_ Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (see Manual)

\_\_\_ Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria

39. Area(s) of significance: Transportation

40. Period of significance: 1905-1959

41. Level of significance: National \_\_\_ State X Local \_\_\_

42. Statement of significance: The water tank is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Transportation for its association with the operation of the Farmington Branch of the Denver and Rio Grand Railroad (D&RG). The D&RG was the dominant railroad company in southwestern Colorado and an important railroad company in Colorado. The water tank represents a critical function in the operation of the railroad, providing water for the steam engines, as discussed in the multiple property documentation form for railroads in Colorado ( Section F, pages 173-179 of *Railroads in Colorado 1858-1948*, prepared by Clayton B. Frasier and Jennifer H. Strand and published in 1998). The tank is the only remaining one on the route of the Farmington Branch. The tank is one of a very few remnants of the branch which was fully scrapped in 1970 and no longer has any rails or ties in place. The period of significance represents the time the tank provided water for the railroad route, ending in 1959 to meet the National Register fifty year requirement.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance: Although the resource is deteriorating, it still possesses sufficient physical integrity to convey its significance in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The relationship between the tank and the railroad is clear as the leveled railroad grade is clearly evident.

#### VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:

Eligible X Not Eligible \_\_\_ Need Data \_\_\_

45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes \_\_\_ No XX

Discuss:

If there is National Register district potential, is this building: Contributing \_\_\_ Noncontributing \_\_\_

46. If the building is in existing National Register district, is it: Contributing \_\_\_ Noncontributing \_\_\_

**VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION**

47. Photograph numbers: Farmington water tank 1-2

Negatives filed at: La Plata County Historical Society, Animas Museum, Durango

48. Report title: A Historic Resource Survey of 100 Sites in La Plata County, Colorado.

49. Date(s): 8/14/2008

50. Recorder(s): Jill Seyfarth

51. Organization: Cultural Resource Planning

52. Address: PO Box 295, Durango, Colorado 81302

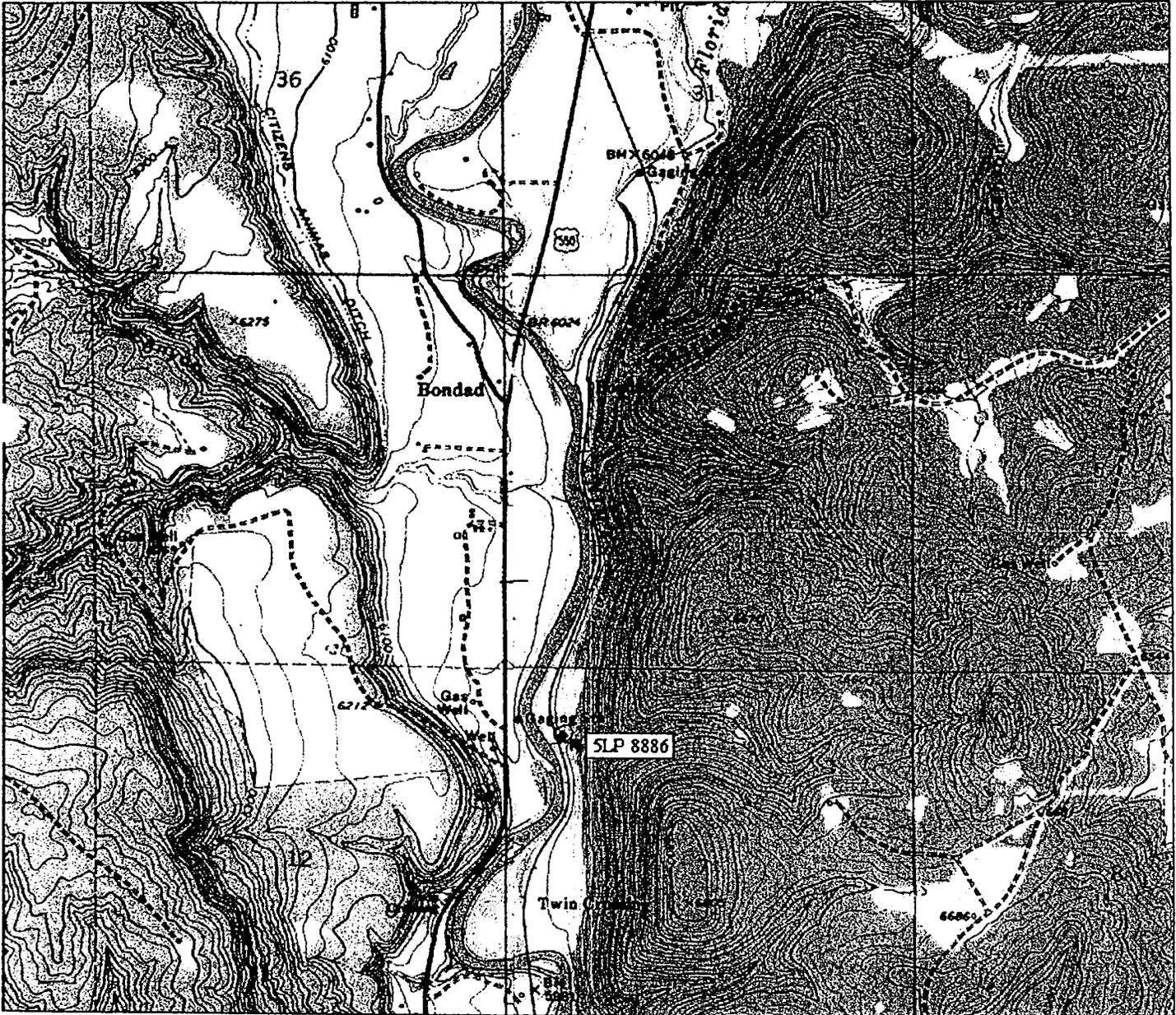
53. Phone number(s): 970-247-5893

**NOTE:** Please include a sketch map, a photocopy of the USGS quad map indicating resource location, and photographs.

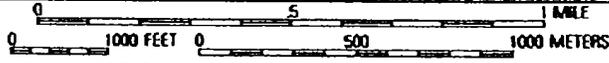
Colorado Historical Society - Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation  
1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203 (303) 866-3395

# USGS TOPO QUAD LOCATION SITE SLP8886

USGS 7.5' Bondad Hill CO 1968, 20 foot contours

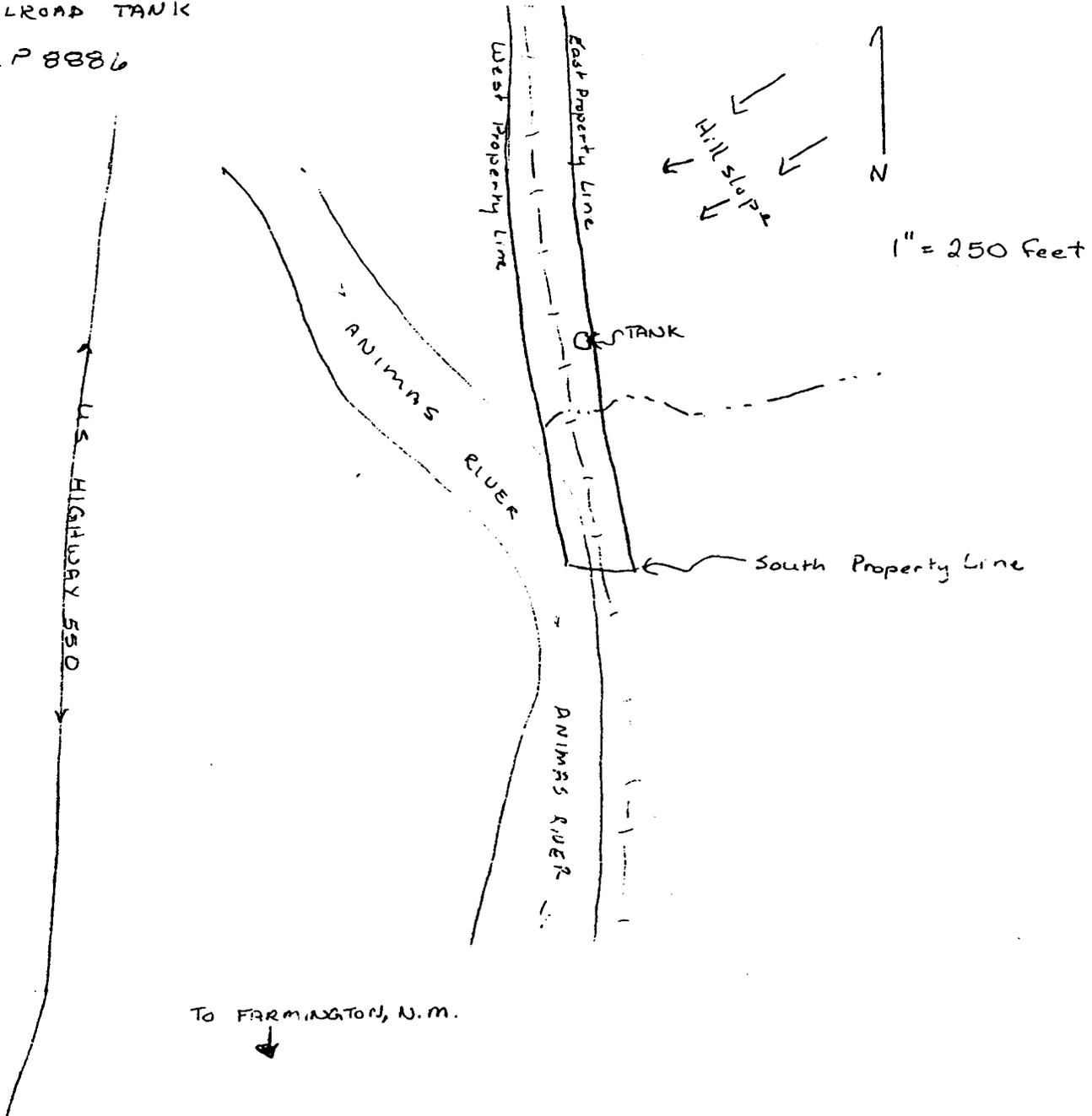


TN / MN  
11°



FARMINGTON EXTENSION  
RAILROAD TANK

5 LP 8886



Site boundary is the circumference of the tank

- ~ ~ ~ ~ Seasonal Drainage
- - - - Railroad Grade

JS 12-5-2008

La Plata County  
Historic Resources Survey

SHF # 2008-01-012