

Researching the History of Your House or Building



Purpose of your research

- What is your goal for your research?
 - Local, State or National Register nomination
 - Brochure or walking tour
 - Interest
 - Restore/rehabilitate your building
 - Other?
- What information do you want/need to know?



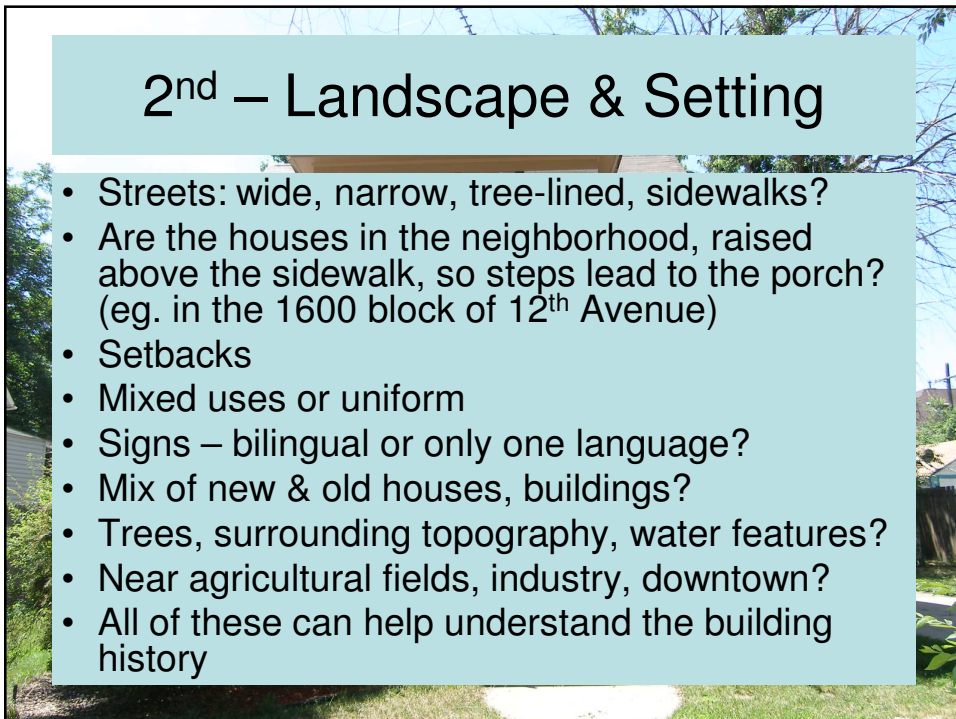
1st – Check available information

- Greeley Historic Preservation Office
350.9222
- Hazel E. Johnson Research Center
350.9220
- Colorado Historical Society 303.866.3395



2nd – Landscape & Setting

- Streets: wide, narrow, tree-lined, sidewalks?
- Are the houses in the neighborhood, raised above the sidewalk, so steps lead to the porch? (eg. in the 1600 block of 12th Avenue)
- Setbacks
- Mixed uses or uniform
- Signs – bilingual or only one language?
- Mix of new & old houses, buildings?
- Trees, surrounding topography, water features?
- Near agricultural fields, industry, downtown?
- All of these can help understand the building history





3rd – The Building

- Get permission from owner!
 - Exterior & interior (if possible)
 - A very good source of information
- Note number of stories, building materials, interesting details, alterations
- How is it similar and/or different from surrounding buildings (if there are other buildings nearby)?



4th – Weld County Assessor Records

- Year Built
- Property Information Cards: provide information about size, materials, photos
 - Information about alterations
- Current Owner
- Legal description

5th – City Directories

- City Directories
 - Address listing
 - Alphabetical listing
- Includes who lived there, number in the house, occupation, spouse, sometimes children & their ages
- Also includes business listings & advertisements

6th – Weld County Master Index

- Weld County Master Index (Sample):
 - NOFFSINGER Ralph. . . C of C board. . 11/06/1957. . . . TribuneClippings
 - NOFFSINGER Ralph. . . . Appendix-3,8,16. . 1stCongregationalCh100Yrs
 - NOFFSINGER Ralph L. . . . Obit-10/1/1979. . . . 112. . . . MSB#29
 - NOFFSINGER Ralph L. . . . obit. . . .10/01/1979. . . . TribuneClippings
- Look up references at CP Library or HEJ Research Center at the Greeley History Museum.

7th – Resources

- Oral History
- Architectural Drawings
- Construction Techniques
- Household technology – interior & exterior; light fixtures, building materials, flooring, kitchen appliances if any, bathrooms, hardware, etc.
- Floor plan
- Historic Photographs, photos on Assessor Property Information Cards, surveys
- Plat maps
- Deeds/Abstracts of Title
- Tax Records

7th – Resources

- Local History Books
- Museum Scrapbooks
- newspaper/Tribune Clippings/obituaries
- Sanborn Maps
- Historic photographs & maps
- Architectural style guides
- The Building Itself
- Building Permit Records

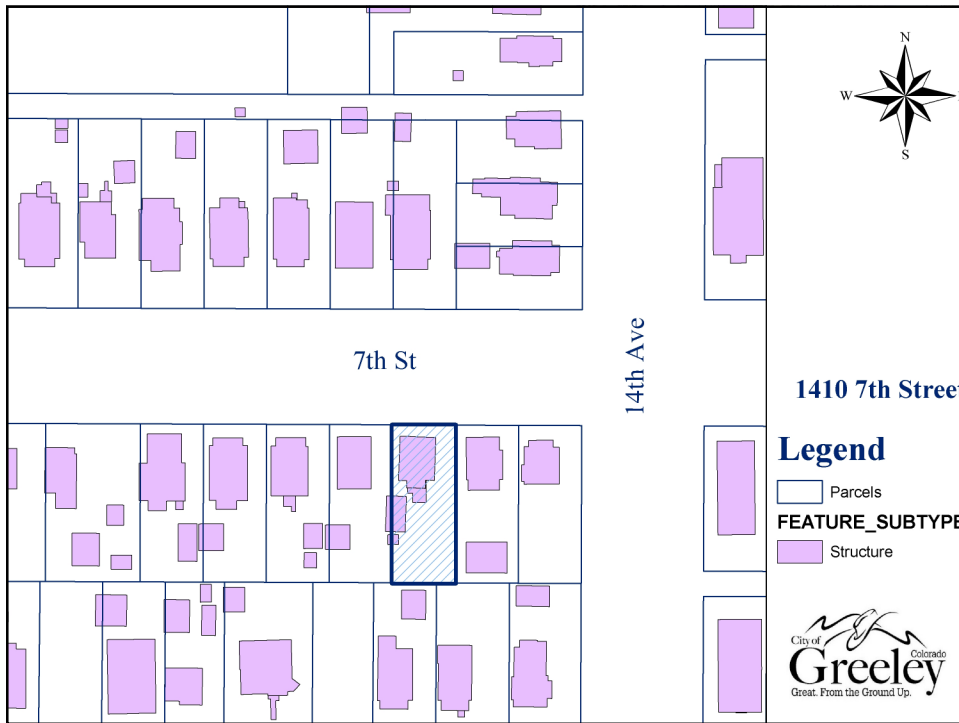
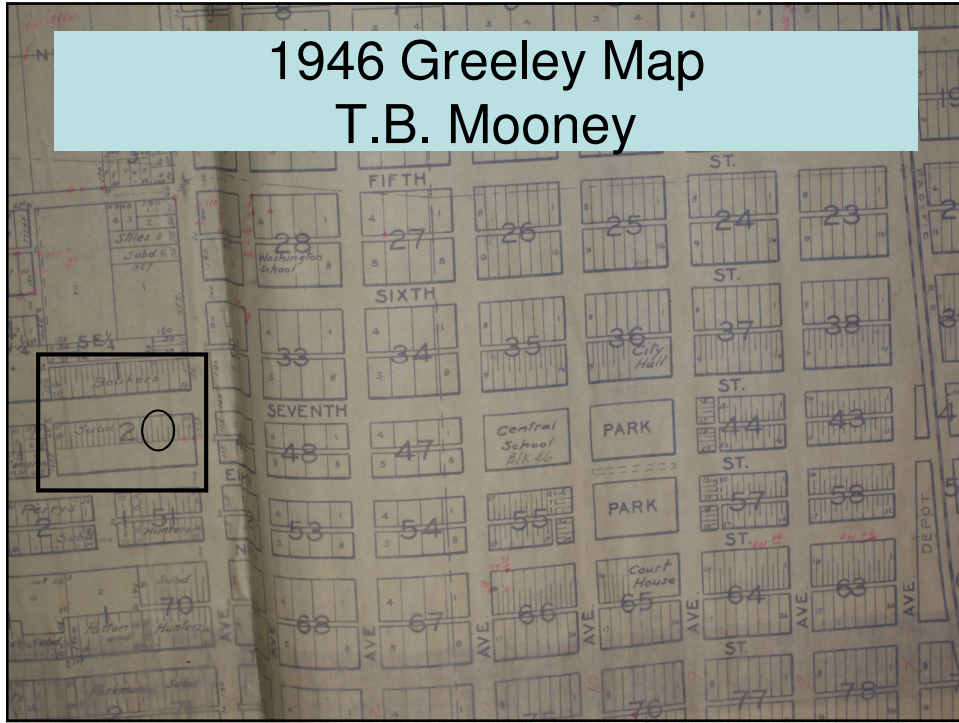
Sample Property

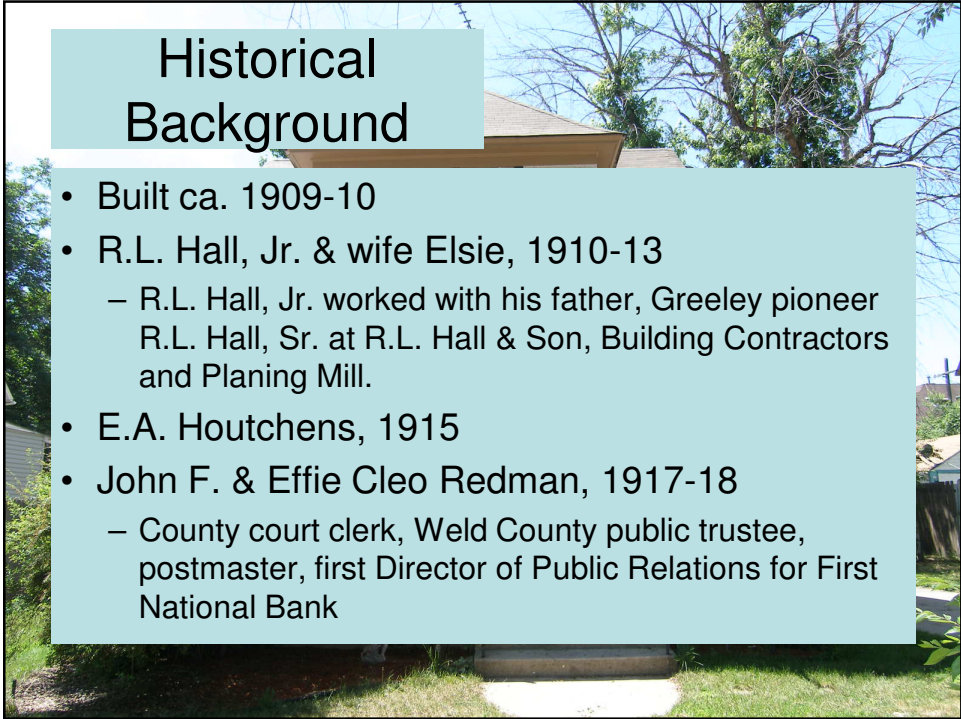
- Greeley Historic Register designated Hall House, 1410 7th Street
- Building Permit records, Weld County Assessor Records, City directories, Museum Scrapbooks, Weld County Master Index...
- Purpose was to determine significance and integrity of the house to determine eligibility of the house for the local register.

Request for Certificate of Designation: 1410 7th Street, Hall House



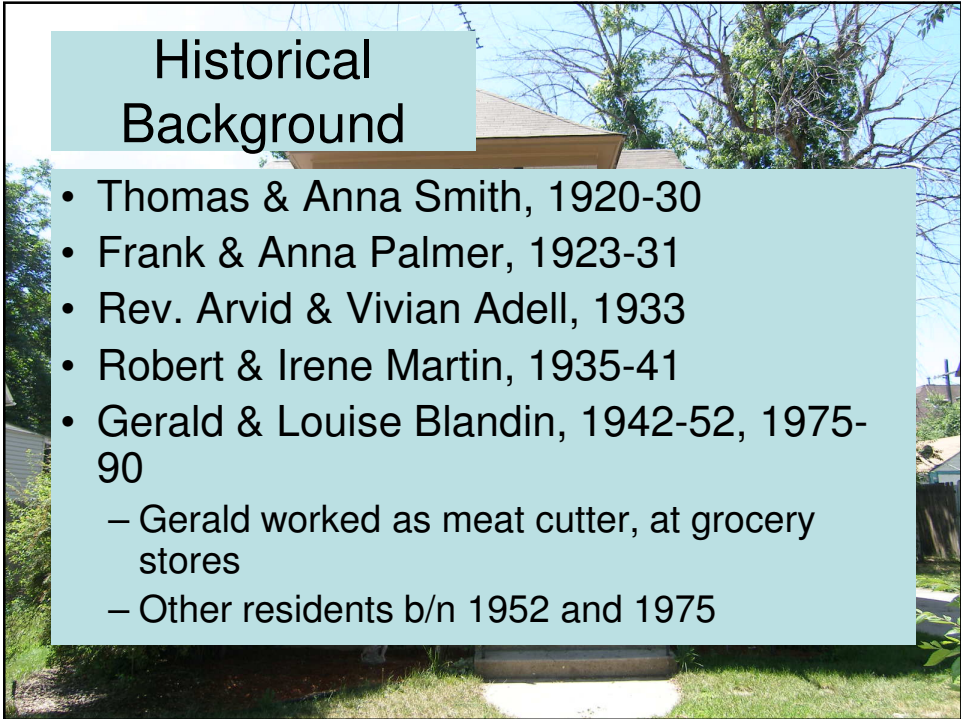
1946 Greeley Map T.B. Mooney



A photograph of a house with a light-colored roof and a concrete walkway leading to the front door. The house is surrounded by green grass and trees. A light blue semi-transparent box is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing the title and a list of historical residents.

Historical Background

- Built ca. 1909-10
- R.L. Hall, Jr. & wife Elsie, 1910-13
 - R.L. Hall, Jr. worked with his father, Greeley pioneer R.L. Hall, Sr. at R.L. Hall & Son, Building Contractors and Planing Mill.
- E.A. Houtchens, 1915
- John F. & Effie Cleo Redman, 1917-18
 - County court clerk, Weld County public trustee, postmaster, first Director of Public Relations for First National Bank

A photograph of a house with a light-colored roof and a concrete walkway leading to the front door. The house is surrounded by green grass and trees. A light blue semi-transparent box is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing the title and a list of historical residents.

Historical Background

- Thomas & Anna Smith, 1920-30
- Frank & Anna Palmer, 1923-31
- Rev. Arvid & Vivian Adell, 1933
- Robert & Irene Martin, 1935-41
- Gerald & Louise Blandin, 1942-52, 1975-90
 - Gerald worked as meat cutter, at grocery stores
 - Other residents b/n 1952 and 1975

Architectural Description

- 1.5 story bungalow
- Hipped roof dormers
- Wide, overhanging boxed eaves
- Narrow lap siding & wood shingle siding
- Front porch with Tuscan columns
- One-over-one double hung sash windows



West Elevation



South Elevation



East Elevation



Detached garage



Geographical Location

- Bouker's Subdivision, part of original boundaries of Union Colony, but not platted until 1889
- Majority of subdivision built b/n 1900-10, during a building boom following the depression of the 1890s
- Located near Greeley Historic Register properties: Wasson House & Woodbury House, several blocks from historic downtown



Periods of Significance

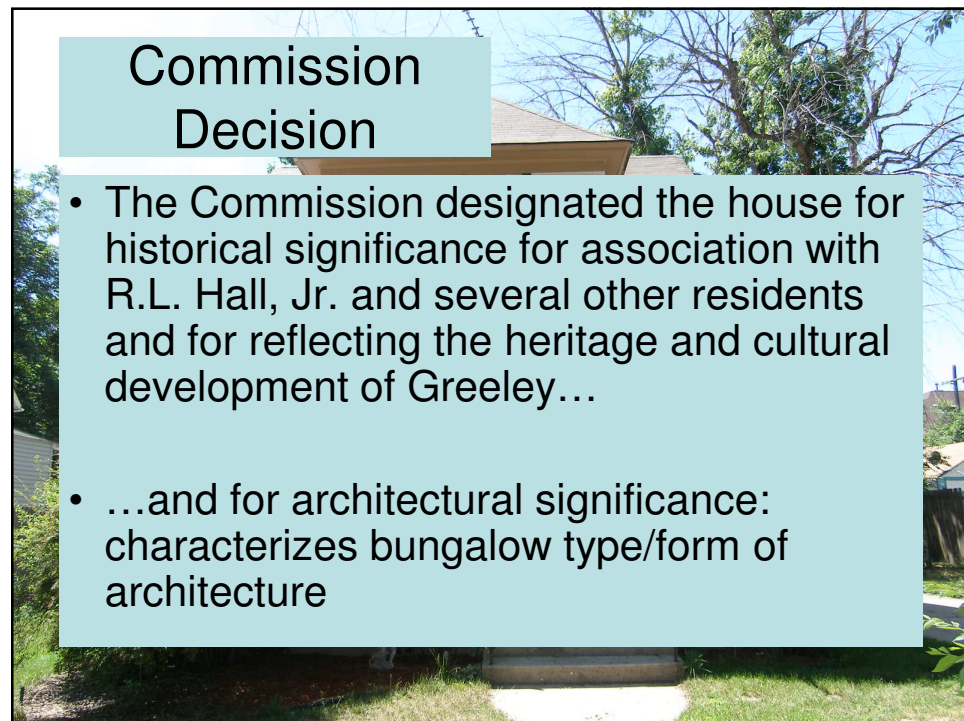
- Historical Significance – 1910-13, etc.
- Architectural Significance – 1909-10 (year built)





Integrity

- Exhibits integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association
- Primary alteration: repair of front and rear porches, but no documentation of what exactly they looked like originally
 - Alteration to front porch not substantial



Commission Decision

- The Commission designated the house for historical significance for association with R.L. Hall, Jr. and several other residents and for reflecting the heritage and cultural development of Greeley...
- ...and for architectural significance: characterizes bungalow type/form of architecture

Resources

- Researching a Historic Property National Register bulletin:
 - <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb39/>
- Colorado Historical Society:
 - <http://coloradohistory-oahp.org/publications/pubs/1522web.pdf>
- DPL Western History Building History Research Online Tutorial
 - <http://photoswest.org/exhib/buildings/intro.htm>
- *Nearby History Series*