

Rooney Ranch , Barn  
Rooney Road and West Alameda Parkway  
Morrison Vicinity  
Jefferson County  
Colorado

HABS No. CO-65-B

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COLO,  
30-MORR.V,  
1-B-*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225

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1-B-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ROONEY RANCH, BARN

HABS No. CO-65-B

Location: Junction of Rooney Road and West Alameda Parkway,  
Morrison vicinity, Jefferson County, Colorado

UTM Coordinates, Morrison, Colorado Quad:  
A. 13/483860 4393200  
B. 13/483840 4392250  
C. 13/483040 4392250  
D. 13/483040 4393200

Date of Construction: 1890.

Present Owner: Alexander Rooney  
Otis Alex Rooney  
Eileen Louis Rooney  
George R. and Kathryn Rooney  
Lynda P. Simmons  
James P. Simmons  
James Addison and Virginia Dawn Vesey  
Security Realty  
Jefferson County Open Space Department

Present Use: Barn, storage.

Significance: Rooney Ranch, one of the oldest ranches in Jefferson County, Colorado, is significant for its local historical associations and for the high quality of masonry construction exhibited in its principal structures.

The significance of the ranch to the historical and architectural development of Jefferson County was recognized in 1975 when the site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Rooney Ranch was designated a Jefferson County Landmark the following year.

Historian: Kenneth M. Gambrill  
Kathryn M Kuranda  
Colorado Department of Highways  
August, 1983

The Rooney Barn was constructed in two distinct stages. The northeast section of the building was erected in 1890 by Otis and Alexander Rooney on the site of the ranch's original log barn. The two-story frame structure incorporated timbers from its predecessor in the rear (northeast) elevation. The structure, which terminates in a shallow truss roof, is utilitarian in design. The interior of the building is divided into first floor horse stalls and upper story loft/storage area.

Uncoursed sandstone veneer was applied to the first story northeast, southeast and northwest elevations in 1936. The second story of the structure is clad in asbestos shingle.

The northwestern section of the barn was added in 1936 by Alex Rooney and is stylistically similar to the Granary and Garage No. 1, which were built during the same period. The 1936 addition is a three bay, one-and-one-half-story building constructed in uncoursed sandstone. The addition terminated in a gambrel roof sheathed in asphalt sheet roofing and is punctuated at the ridge line by two symmetrically placed ventilators. The eave line of the building is accented by simple board cornice.

The principal entrance to the structure is housed in the central bay of the northwest elevation. This arched entrance includes hinged horizontal board double doors extending to the vertical mid-point of the entrance bay. These doors are enframed by simple board surrounds. The rectangular bays flanking the principal entrance have been sealed with plywood sheets. An arched rock mosaic sign reading "Rooney Ranch 1860", is found above the entrance.

The wall plane of the principal facade is continuous with an uncoursed rubble sandstone wall extending to the northwest and southeast of the building. The Rooney Barn is currently used for storage.