

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



605

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Crow-Hightower House
other names/site number 5KW.196

2. Location

street & number 909 Maine Street

N/A	not for publication
N/A	vicinity

city or town Eads
state Colorado code CO county Kiowa code 061 zip code 81036

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

AWT Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 6/18/13 Date
Signature of certifying official/Title
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register _____ determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register _____ removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

For Eason H. Beall 8.20.13
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Crow-Hightower House
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	1	structure
0	0	object
1	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Novelty

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other: _____

Crow-Hightower House
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The 1952 round Crow-Hightower House is located in the northern part of the Town of Eads in central Kiowa County, on Colorado's eastern plains. Located in a residential area on the east side of Maine Street, the house faces the large two-story Eads Elementary School to the west. A concrete sidewalk borders the edge of the front yard adjacent to the street and a concrete driveway enters from the street along the north side of the house. The yard is enclosed with a chainlink fence in front and a concrete block wall on the north, east, and south. A narrow, angled concrete sidewalk enters the yard from the public sidewalk to access the entrance. The level lot is landscaped with grass, and a small flower bed edged with scalloped concrete pavers is at the west end of the front yard. Two large, shaped evergreen shrubs stand below two large windows in front of the house, and there are large trees in the yard. Three associated outbuildings and one structure are located in the backyard.

Description

The Crow-Hightower House is a one-story, circular (40' in diameter), wire-cut blond brick house with red brick trim (Photograph 1). Three courses of red stretcher brick extend above the concrete foundation. The blond brick walls display stretcher bond masonry with decorative crenellation at the top, elaborated with projecting red bricks. The roof is flat, with a slight slope to the rear.

The main entrance to the house is found on the southwest (Photographs 2 and 3), where a projecting, semi-circular brick turret has a wood-shingled conical roof.¹ The turret features a flat arch entrance with a concrete sill and a lintel composed of a rowlock course of red brick. The west-facing entrance includes a door with a diamond-pane sash. North of the turret, a tall, rectangular blond brick chimney flanked by windows is ornamented with three courses of red brick at its base, red brick patterns on its shaft, and a course of red brick at the top (Photographs 1 and 2). The wide, flat-headed windows flanking the chimney are embellished with rowlock red brick lintels and sills and contain two-part replacement windows. A narrower, one-over-one-light double-hung sash window with red brick lintel and sill is on the northwest, and there is a similar window on the north (Photographs 1 and 6). A smaller one-over-one-light double hung sash window is found on the northeast, and a wide double-hung sash window is on the east; all have red brick lintels and sills (Photograph 5). The southeast section of the house features a slightly inset entrance with a flush door with a large rectangular light, red brick lintel, and concrete sill facing a low concrete stoop (Photograph 4). Flanking the entrance are a double-hung sash window and a two-part sliding window. Further west is a two-part window with a red brick lintel and sill.

Interior

The interior layout of the circular house features rooms radiating from a central, oval dining room; all the rooms have curved exterior walls (see Figure 1). The semi-circular turret leads through a round archway to a curving living room with a brick fireplace on the west wall. Between the central dining room and the living room is a half-wall displaying built-in cabinets on the dining room side; there are archways to the dining room at each end of the half-wall. South of the dining room through an archway is the kitchen, which accesses the utility and furnace rooms through an archway on its east wall. An archway on the east side of the dining room leads to a hallway accessing two bedrooms and a bathroom. The house has about 1,290 square feet of living space.

Alterations

The doors and windows of the house have been replaced. The windows flanking the chimney each contained a picture window and a four-part casement window, while the original front door was wood with three stepped, rectangular lights. The current owner believes the windows were replaced about 1999.²

¹ Remnants of red paint remain on some shingles.

² Lorrie Lynn Chase, Eads, Colorado, Interview by R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, 30 October 2012.

Crow-Hightower House
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

Associated Outbuildings

There are four associated noncontributing resources on the rear third of the parcel. All are assessed as noncontributing, as they were constructed after the period of significance for the house and do not contribute to its architectural significance. According to the son of the builder, the initial construction did not include outbuildings.³

Garage, Resource B, 1980s, building, Photograph 7. In the northeast corner of the parcel is a rectangular outbuilding with overhanging eaves and asphalt shingle roofing. The 26' x 16' building was erected as a garage and has a concrete apron extending to the alley edge. The garage door opening on the east wall has been filled with vertical wood paneling and contains a center one-over-one-light window. Walls, which are clad with vertically scored wood paneling (T1-11), are blank on the west and north; the south wall at the west end features a pedestrian door covered with metal. The building has a concrete foundation.

Large Shed, Resource C, post-1955, building, Photograph 7. On the alley due east of the house is a one-story gable roof, roughly square, stucco building (13' x 12'). The building has corrugated metal roofing, overhanging eaves, and exposed rafters. There is a center, paneled and glazed door on the front (west wall) opening onto a small concrete stoop. The remaining three walls have boarded up rectangular window openings; in 2009 a four-over-four-light window was present on the north wall.

Small Shed, Resource D, post-1955, building, Photograph 7. A small one-story rectangular shed (9' x 6') is located in the southeast corner of the parcel. The building faces west and features a shed roof with overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, and corrugated metal roofing. Walls are stucco and are blank except for the front, which contains an off-center plywood door with strap hinges.

Pavilion, Resource E, post-1955, structure, Photograph 7. An open, wrought iron pavilion (22' x 10') lies west of the larger shed. The slightly bow-arched roof is partially covered with corrugated fiberglass. The floor is composed of irregularly-shaped tinted concrete pavers.

Integrity

The Crow-Hightower House maintains a high degree of historic physical integrity. Still in its original location, the dwelling's setting in a residential area on north Maine Street opposite the Eads Elementary School is quite unchanged. The dwelling's design with its exuberant circular form, conical turret entrance, and crenellated cornice remains intact. The building's principal materials, its contrasting brick walls, are present and unobscured. The biggest change in materials is the replacement of original windows and the front door. The front window openings originally featured a picture window with a four-light casement window but now have a large picture window. The unusual design, decorative brickwork, and challenging interior layout display the workmanship of builder Warren Portrey. The house retains integrity of feeling as an innovative postwar dwelling, with its circular plan and decorative exterior reflecting the prosperity and creativity of the period. The house possesses integrity of association with the history of postwar home construction in Eads, standing in contrast to some of its older and more traditional neighbors on Maine Street.

³ Ron Portrey, Rainier, Oregon, Interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 28 November 2012.

Crow-Hightower House
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1952

Significant Dates

1952

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Portrey, Warren A.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is 1952, the year the house was completed.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

None

Crow-Hightower House

Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The 1952 Crow-Hightower House in Eads, Colorado, is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at a local level of significance for its representation of a circular plan Modern Movement/Novelty style dwelling. The style is reflected in the house's circular plan, conical entrance turret, roof crenellations, contrasting blond and red brick, and innovative interior layout. The house is a relatively rare example of the round form employed in a mid-twentieth century dwelling.⁴ Eads builder Warren A. Portrey designed and constructed the house for local businessman George D. Crow. No other circular-plan residences are documented in History Colorado's COMPASS database, although another round house was built in the vicinity of Eads by the same contractor and investor. One example of a round house is known to exist in Denver, and one stands in Lakewood, Colorado. The form is relatively rare nationally. A small number of such postwar houses have been documented in other states, with some architect-designed residences built in the 1950s and 1960s.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Crow-Hightower House is a rare example of a circular house, one of relatively few known to exist within Colorado and the nation. Notable features of the house include the semi-circular entrance turret, crenellated parapet, blond brick walls with red brick trim, and wide windows with red brick lintels and sills. In addition, the interior layout, with a central dining room surrounded by radiating rooms, all with curving exterior walls, is highly innovative (see Figure 1). Builder Warren A. Portrey designed and constructed the house at the request of George D. Crow, and the two men erected a second round house near Eads.

The Crow-Hightower House is an interesting example of the Modern Movement/Novelty style applied to a residence. The History Colorado *Field Guide to Colorado's Historic Architecture and Engineering* asserts "humor, amusement and whimsy define Novelty architecture."⁵ Most identified examples of the style in Colorado are commercial properties, such as the King's Chef Diner in Colorado Springs, which employs a castle design; the lighted tower at Lakeside Amusement Park; or former gas station in Lamar clad with petrified wood. The style also includes roadside mimetic examples such as the Coney Island Hot Dog stand (west of Bailey in Park County) and Little Man Ice Cream, housed in an oversized milk can, in northwest Denver. The style is intended to be eye-catching and to stand out from surrounding buildings. The Crow-Hightower House, built as an investment/rental property in the early post-World War II period, accomplishes these goals in a residential setting with its circular form, crenellated parapet, conical entrance, and contrasting brick.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Round Houses

Vernacular examples of round houses are found in many cultures. In the United States, interest in octagonal and round houses reached its peak in the 1850-70 period, stimulated by Orson S. Fowler's *The Octagon House, A Home for All* (1849). Virginia and Lee McAlester group round houses with octagonal ones and judge "this is a very rare style," noting that probably only a few thousand were built, of which only a small number followed circular plans. An example of a round house from this period is the three-story, Enoch Robinson House (1856), located within the Spring Hill National Register Historic District (NRIS number 89001222) in Somerville, Massachusetts.⁶

A few early twentieth century examples of round houses have been documented. In Washington, D.C., architect Edward Woltz designed a round house for builder John C. Louthan in the Brookland neighborhood. The one-and-a-half story 1901 dwelling features a conical roof and an undereave porch with columns. In 2012, two preservationists submitted a local

⁴ "Round" is defined as houses having a truly circular footprint and does not include those with walls composed of straight segments, such as octagonal, hexagonal, or dodecagonal plans. Geodesic domes, while having a circular footprint, are not discussed here, as their significance inheres more in the distinctive design of their superstructure rather than the round shape. Nonresidential building types are not considered in the discussion.

⁵ History Colorado, *Field Guide to Colorado's Historic Architecture and Engineering* (Denver: History Colorado, 2008).

⁶ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994), 235; Elizabeth Bolton, "The Round House in Somerville," <http://www.centersandsquares.com> (accessed 3 November 2012).

Crow-Hightower House

Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado

County and State

landmark nomination for the house, noting they could not ascertain why the architect employed a circular shape. It is reputed to be the only round house in the nation's capital.⁷

The ca. 1930 Joseph Landess House in Cottage Grove, Oregon, is a two-story circular, conical roof dwelling composed of 2x4's placed on end and held together with two steel bands. Once asked why he chose to build a circular house, Landess replied: "I figured I'd have a house no woman could corner me in."⁸ The *Portland Journal* noted the patronizing reactions of Landess's neighbors who "predicted the owner had no idea how such a house would look among homes of the usual types and that he would soon tire of the place. Some of them inquired jokingly if Landress [sic] got the inspiration for his freak residence from a nearby railroad round-house or from the silos of adjacent farms." Upon completion, however, neighbors judged the house "rather attractive," and the article observed:

The windows are so placed that light is admitted evenly from all directions and in the daytime every part of the ground floor of the house is adequately lighted. There are no nooks and corners to cast shadows. . . . The smooth, continuous wall of the [ground floor living] room, broken only by the windows, gives a pleasingly clean-cut appearance. And the circular floor, covered by a large round rug, makes possible an interesting arrangement of furniture that could not be managed in a room square or oblong in shape.⁹

Buckminster Fuller developed a metal, circular-plan "Wichita" round house during World War II in an effort produce cost-effective housing for the masses. The plan represented a modification of Fuller's proposed hexagonal Dymaxion house in 1929. While the prototype was never occupied and the Wichita never went into mass production, Fuller's efforts may have exposed the potential of a round house design to a broader audience. Returning veterans of World War II encountered a serious housing shortage and efforts to add needed housing units employed innovative materials and methods, including prefabrication and factory-built houses such as Lustron's steel units. It does not appear that circular plan houses were proposed in any organized way as an alternative option to conventional house designs during the immediate postwar period.¹⁰

A number of architect-designed round houses were built in the 1950s and 1960s. For example, architect Cecil Alexander designed a 1957 circular dwelling for his family in Atlanta, Georgia. The National Register-listed home (NRIS number 10000116) features brick walls, floor-to-ceiling plate glass windows, and rooms arranged around a central court flooded with light from a folded-plate roof. The architect explained that the circular plan "is so arranged that the family at least once or twice a day has to get together, just by necessity." Steven Moffson, the architectural historian who prepared the nomination, judged "the house is among the first modern houses in Atlanta" and makes "no references to past architectural styles."¹¹ In the late 1950s, architect Gilbert Spindel developed a circular house design with a small second story and an attached garage. He reportedly sold twenty-five sets of plans, and known designs are located in Magnolia, Arkansas (1959-60), Jacksonville, Florida (1959), Pahoee, Florida (1963), and Lake Charles, Louisiana (1964).¹²

Interest in circular houses surfaces from time to time. A 1969 U.S. Forest Service publication on low-cost wood homes included a circular design of 1,134 square feet estimated to cost less than half as much as a conventional house with the same floor space. The report observed: "Round homes are an efficient means of providing housing space. In this design, interior walls are spaced radially from a central atrium hall. The design permits good arrangements of rooms and furniture."¹³ A current WordPress blog is devoted to documenting and celebrating circular-plan dwellings.¹⁴

⁷ "Round House Nominated for a DC Landmark Status in Brookland," Prince of Petworth website, <http://www.princeofpetworth.com> (accessed 22 November 2012).

⁸ Stephen Dow Beckham, Landess (Joseph) House, Cottage Grove, Lane County, Oregon, prepared for the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, 30 August 1976.

⁹ The house still stands but was moved in 1986. *Portland Journal*, 23 March 1930, quoted in <http://roundhouses.wordpress.com> (accessed 22 November 2012).

¹⁰ Dymaxion House, [http://users/design.ucla.edu](http://users.design.ucla.edu) (accessed 2 December 2012).

¹¹ Steven Moffson, Cecil and Hermione Alexander House, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 10 February 2010.

¹² It is not known how many houses were actually constructed from the plans. Spindel may have called his design the "Geodesica." Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, blog, <http://blog.prcno.org> (accessed 30 January 2013); "A Groovy Front Porch Makeover—on a Budget—for Sarah's 1964 Round House" and reader comments <http://retrorenovation.com> (accessed 30 January 2013).

¹³ L.O. Anderson and Harold F. Zornig, *Designs for Low-Cost Homes* (N.p.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, November 1969), 21.

Crow-Hightower House
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

Rarity of the Round House Form

Round houses are relatively rare resource types within Colorado and the nation. A file search of History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation online database, COMPASS, found no other previously surveyed residences with circular plans. While post-World War II dwellings have not been surveyed in as large a number as pre-war resources, surveys focusing on mid-century residential areas in Littleton, Boulder, Pueblo, Fort Collins, and Section 106 projects have not identified any examples of round houses. The 2010 Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Residential Subdivisions of Metropolitan Denver, 1940-1965" examined subdivision platting and home construction within the five-county Denver metropolitan area. No references to circular-plan dwellings were contained in hundreds of newspaper accounts describing subdivisions and home models, and none were noted in the windshield surveys of selected subdivisions.¹⁵

Inquiries to History Colorado staff and other survey professionals uncovered just two unsurveyed round houses in the state: a water tank in Lakewood converted to a dwelling in 1973 and the Leventhal House (1964) in Denver's Hilltop neighborhood.¹⁶ A 2008-09 reconnaissance survey of Kiowa County towns identified another round house near Eads, built in 1951 by the same developer and builder. Because of their outside-the-box form, circular houses are eye-catching and therefore likely to be remembered.

Research undertaken for this nomination reveals the circular-plan is relatively rare nationally. Inquires were posted on listserves of the Society of Architectural Historians and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO). Respondents were only aware of a handful of examples.¹⁷ Architectural historian Michael Houser with the Washington SHPO opines that circular houses "certainly" are rare and he could provide only one example of a circular-plan house in that state: the 1969 Bell House in Kennewick.¹⁸ Former Georgia Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) Richard Cloues reports, "As part of my research into mid-20th-century houses, I have looked at dozens of 'popular' house plan books from the 1940s through the 1960s, and I have yet to come across even one example of a round house So they would seem to fall into that catch-all category of rare, idiosyncratic American houses."¹⁹ Twentieth century circular houses appear to have been erected as the result of isolated initiatives reflecting the interests of individual architects, builders, or owners, rather than as part of a broader circular house movement.

Construction of the House

Contractor Warren A. Portrey designed and erected the house for George Crow in 1952. The previous year he built a round house with a conical roof for Crow just west of Eads on State Highway 96.²⁰ His son, Charles Crow, recalled that George built four or five other houses in the area in the early 1950s as rentals. The erection of the houses was part of a minor boom in housing construction posted by Eads in the early post-war era. In February 1952, the *Kiowa County Press*

¹⁴ See <http://roundhouses.wordpress.com>.

¹⁵ Thomas H. Simmons, R. Laurie Simmons, and Dawn Bunyak, "Historic Residential Subdivisions of Metropolitan Denver, 1940-1965," Multiple Property Documentation Form, prepared for the Colorado Department of Transportation, (Denver: Front Range Research Associates, Inc., and Littleton: Bunyak Research Associates, 22 October 2010).

¹⁶ Former Colorado Deputy SHPO Mark Wolfe, whose duties took him throughout the state, listed the round houses in Eads and Lakewood and stated "those are the only ones I can recall in Colorado." He had heard of only one circular-plan design in Texas in Dalhart. Mark Wolfe, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas, email to Thomas H. Simmons, 17 January 2013; Heather Peterson, History Colorado, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Email to Thomas H. Simmons, 1 November 2012; Patrick Eidman, History Colorado, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Email to Thomas H. Simmons, 23 November 2012; Lyle Miller, History Colorado, State Historical Fund, Email to Thomas H. Simmons, 1 November 2012.

¹⁷ Only three examples were provided through the NCSHPO listserv: the 1956 Poitevin House in Idaho Falls, Idaho, designed by Art Troutner (actually segmental rather than circular); a 1959-60 Gilbert Spindel design in Arkansas ; and the Bell House in Kennewick, Washington.

¹⁸ Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, Washington, email to Thomas H. Simmons, 17 January 2013; Eckle Bell, Jr., House, Kennewick, Washington, Historic Property Inventory Report, 24 March 2003.

¹⁹ Richard Cloues, Email to Tom and Laurie Simmons, 31 October 2012.

²⁰ The 1951 house is more altered than the latter house on Maine Street.

Crow-Hightower House

Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado

County and State

noted: "Building continues in Eads, and at the present time several new houses are under construction, including some elaborate structures. Modern conveniences encourage modern improvements, so it is wise to build in Eads."²¹

According to Ron Portrey, his father was a proficient draftsman and developed the floorplan for the round house on his own. Portrey laid out the house at the worksite using a chain attached to a steel rod at the center of the circle. The height of the chain on the rod was raised as the walls rose to keep them perfectly vertical. His son stated Portrey believed this technique made it a "lot easier to get a good solid building that was self-supporting." The floor of the house was a monolithic concrete slab. The walls consisted of cinderblocks (pumice blocks), and Ron Portrey helped carry the mortar on a hod as a fourth grader. The built-up flat roof had a slight slope to the rear to permit drainage. Figure 2 documents the appearance of the house in 1955, a few years after its construction. Ron Portrey recalled that his father was "always interested in new things" and wanted to build more round houses. However, he "couldn't get people interested in them" because they were "not conventional" and "not the same style everybody else was building."²²

Builder Warren A. Portrey

Warren A. Portrey designed and erected the Crow-Hightower House. Born in Stafford, Missouri, in 1911, Portrey grew up on a farm south of Eads, Colorado, and attended Eads High School. He worked as a blacksmith and an automobile mechanic and learned welding. In December 1936, he and Audrey Barksdale were married. During World War II, Portrey worked for General Electric, DuPont, Remington Arms, and Hathaway Instruments in such diverse locations as New Jersey, Denver and Alamosa, Colorado, and Alamogordo, New Mexico. Ron Portrey remembers that the family moved frequently, never staying more than a year in the same house. The family moved to the Spokane, Washington, area in the late 1940s, where Portrey worked for the Stand-All Saw Works and conducted a building and remodeling business into the 1950s and 1960s. He supervised construction of the 60-acre Valley Green development, consisting of multi-family buildings, a shopping center, small lake, and nine-hole golf course. In the 1970s, Portrey moved to the Birkenfeld, Oregon, vicinity, where he erected two other round buildings, a house and workshop on 12.5 acres. The ca. 1976 50' diameter house and 40' diameter workshop had conical roofs, with the house featuring an entrance turret with a conical roof. Portrey used the workshop to produce oak products for Pay 'n' Pak home improvement stores. Portrey resided there until selling the property and retiring to the Longview, Washington, area in about 1990. The buildings are still extant.²³

Portrey returned to Eads to work on important construction projects. He completed the two round houses in 1951 and 1952, and briefly resided in the earlier house. Portrey served as general contractor for the 1952 Methodist Church on East 11th Street. In 1973, he designed and built the Best Western Country Manor Motel (now the Travelor's Lodge) on U.S. 287 for Clyde Crow. The latter is a J-shaped, two story concrete block building with PermaStone cladding on the façade that cost more than \$300,000 to construct.²⁴

Developer George D. Crow

George D. Crow acquired six lots on this block (including the site of this house) from T.H. Stoker in July 1943 for less than \$100.²⁵ He waited until after World War II to develop the parcel. George D. Crow (born in April 1914) was the son of Jennie Belle Luther Crow (1892-1980) and George Isaac Crow. In 1911 his parents married at Sheridan Lake and established a homestead west of Eads. The couple had thirteen children, of which George was the second son. He married Shirley Howell and they became parents of Charles, Linda, and Dianna. George D. Crow became an Eads businessman involved in a variety of enterprises and organizations around town. His career started during high school, when he began working part-time for James LaVelle at the *Kiowa County Press*. After graduating, he worked for Ed York, picking up cargo at the railroad terminal and transporting it to places around Eads. In 1930 he purchased the business from York. He later formed a construction business with Joseph Schmitt that installed natural gas lines in Eads and other parts of eastern Colorado. He and Schmitt organized the Eastern Colorado Utility Company and obtained natural gas franchises for a number of towns in the eastern part of the state. He sold his interests in that company in the early 1980s.

²¹ Charles Crow, Eads, Colorado, Interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 2 November 2012; *Kiowa County Press*, 8 February 1952, 1.

²² Ron Portrey, Rainier, Oregon, Interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 28 November 2012

²³ The house and workshop are in eastern Clatsop County, about 24 miles southeast of Astoria, Oregon. Ron Portrey, Interview; *Clatskanie Chief*, 10 August 2000; *Daily News* (Longview, Washington), 9 July 2000, A8.

²⁴ Clyde Crow married Berniece Barksdale, the sister of Audrey (Barksdale) Portrey. Ron Portrey Interview; Roleta D. Teal and Betty Lee Jacobs, *Kiowa County* (Eads: Kiowa County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), 195-96.

²⁵ Kiowa County Assessor, Town Books (showing ownership transfers by subdivision, block, and lot), 1943 through 2005, citing Kiowa County records, book 144, page 389, 31 July 1943.

Crow-Hightower House

Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado

County and State

He also operated the Boulevard Filling Station at one time and owned Eads Building Supplies, Inc., and the cement plant. Mr. Crow had various real estate holdings in Eads and served as a County Commissioner and a Town Trustee. He built several homes around Eads, including the Methodist parsonage. He contributed generously to local causes, including funds to help local students in college and to help decorate downtown Eads at Christmas. Longtime resident Lois McCracken characterized Crow's contributions as "the making of Eads."²⁶

Residents and Later Owners of the House

Crow built the house on Maine Street as a speculative investment. He and his wife never lived in it. The house may have been rented during the early years after its completion. The Crows owned the property until December 1958, when they sold it to Arthur C. (Art) and Iva L. Hightower, and local residents typically refer to the dwelling as the Hightower House.²⁷ The house became the Hightower's home during their retirement years. According to longtime Eads resident, Clarence Weber, in 1911 Arthur Hightower came with his father, Alonzo Claude Hightower, and brothers, Chauncey and Earnest, to Eads by immigrant car from Beaumont, Kansas.²⁸ Arthur was born in Beaumont on 12 November 1886. The family homesteaded seven miles northeast of Eads, with Alonzo, Arthur, and Chauncey continuing to farm their claims until retirement. Iva L. Campbell was born in Perry, Missouri, and attended William Woods Women's College in Fulton, Missouri, majoring in music. She received recognition for her whistling solos. Her father established a farm in the vicinity of Eads, where she moved in 1913 after graduating from college at the age of 18. She met Art Hightower on the day she arrived; by then he was an established rancher. The couple married in Lamar in 1914. Art became a member of the school board, serving for 16 years, and during the 1930s received an appointment as an administrator of local Works Progress Administration (WPA) programs. In 1959, his arthritis forced the Hightowers to move to Eads, although they retained the ranch. Iva participated in many clubs and organizations in Eads.²⁹

Mr. Hightower died in August 1965, and, in October, his widow added their daughter, Willa Marie Hudnall, to the deed as a co-owner. Ms. Hudnall became sole owner in October 1980.³⁰ Iva Hightower died in February 1988. The Hightower's daughter sold the house in March 1981 to George P. and Ada E. Arth, who owned the property until 1991. The house passed through several owners after that date: Kevin and Jeanne Crowl (1991); Robin W. Morlan (1992); Michelle D. Moyers (1997); James and Debra Trosper (1998); Debra Trosper (2000); and Debra Trosper and Gilbert and Veda Chittock (2000, her parents). The present owner, Lorrie Lynn Chase, began renting the house in 2004 and purchased it in 2005. According to Ms. Chase, the house had many renters prior to her tenure. She operates the Head Quarters hair salon in Eads.³¹

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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²⁶ *Kiowa County Press*. 11 July 1991, 1; Lois McCracken, Eads, Colorado, Interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 2 November 2012.

²⁷ Kiowa County Assessor, Town Books (showing ownership transfers by subdivision, block, and lot), 1943 through 2005, citing Kiowa County records, book 237, page 264, 30 December 1958.

²⁸ An immigrant car is a railroad car used for transporting a family and its possessions to a new area.

²⁹ *Kiowa County Press*, 14 July 1922, 2; Teal and Jacobs, *Kiowa County*, 291-92; Ruthanna Jacobs, comp., *Kiowa County Colorado Centennial History, 1989* (Dallas: Curtis Media Corp., 1989), 134.

³⁰ Kiowa County Assessor, Town Books (showing ownership transfers by subdivision, block, and lot), 1943 through 2005, citing Kiowa County records, book 266, page 147, 22 October 1965 and book 341, page 482, 3 October 1980.

³¹ Kiowa County Assessor, Town Books (showing ownership transfers by subdivision, block, and lot), 1943 through 2005; Lorrie Lynn Chase, Eads, Colorado, interview by Laurie and Tom Simmons, 30 October 2012.

Crow-Hightower House
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

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Portrey, Ron, Rainier, Oregon. Interview by Thomas H. Simmons. 28 November 2012.

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Round Houses. <http://roundhouses.wordpress.com>. Access 13 October 2012.

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Teal, Roleta D. and Betty Lee Jacobs. *Kiowa County*. Eads: Kiowa County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

U.S. Census Bureau. Census of Population. Kiowa County, Colorado. Manuscript returns. 1920 and 1930.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____
History Colorado

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 5KW.196

Crow-Hightower House
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>13</u>	<u>693557</u>	<u>4261556</u>	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

(NAD 27)

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated area consists of Lots 9 and 10 and the south 7' of Lot 8, Block 4, Eads Original Town, as shown on the included to-scale sketch map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated area includes all of the property historically associated with the Crow-Hightower House.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas H. Simmons and R. Laurie Simmons, Historians (for the owner)
organization Front Range Research Associates, Inc. date 1 February 2013 (revised)
street & number 3635 West 46th Avenue telephone 303-477-7597
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80211
e-mail frraden@msn.com website www.frhistory.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Crow-Hightower House
City or Vicinity: Eads
County: Kiowa **State:** Colorado
Photographer: Thomas H. Simmons

Crow-Hightower House

Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado

County and State

Digital Images: CO_Crow-HightowerHouse_0001 through _0007

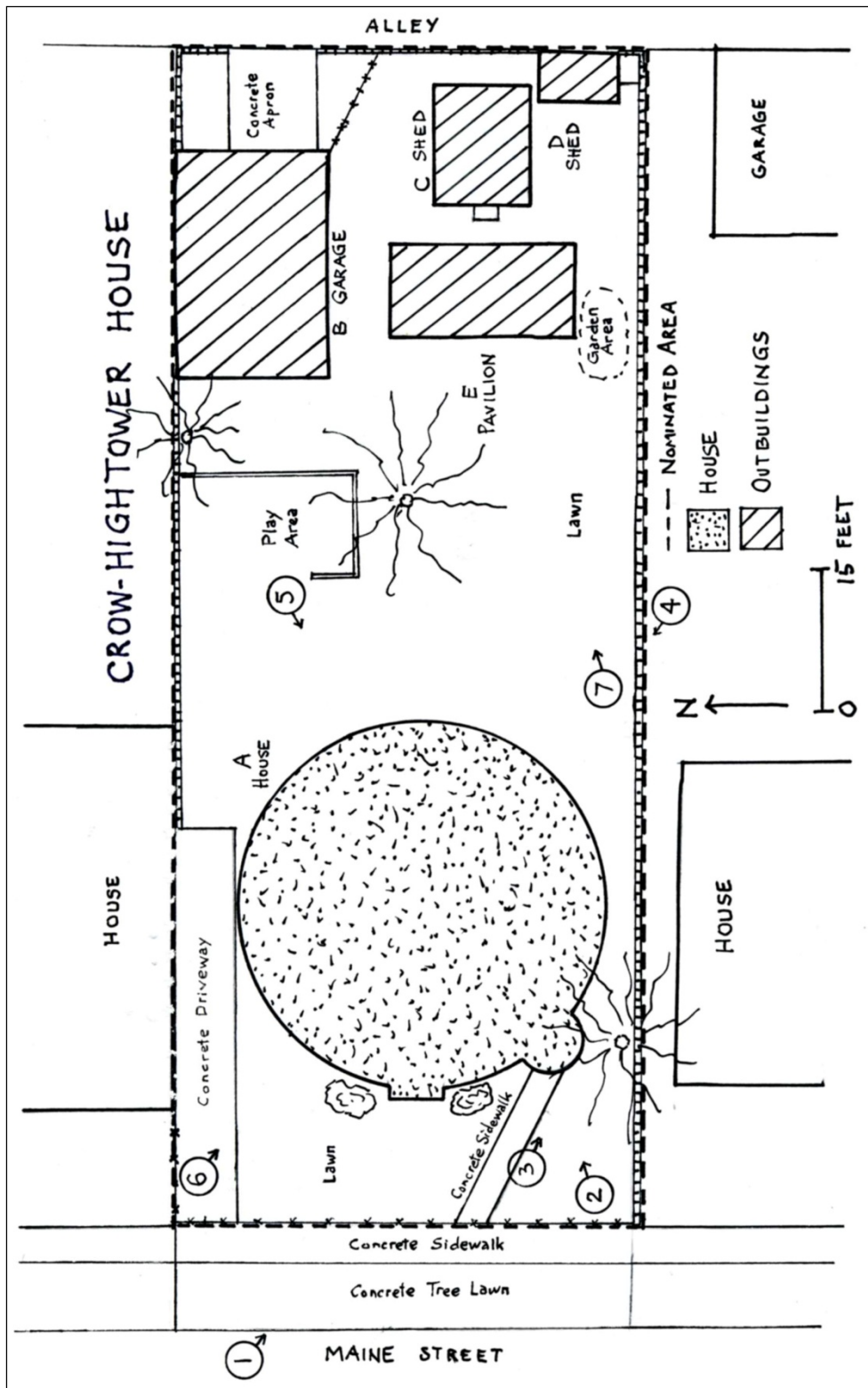
Description of Photograph(s), number, camera direction, and date photographed:

- 1 of 7 CO_Kiowa_Crow-HightowerHouse_0001, the house and its setting on Maine Street showing the front and part of the north side, view southeast, February 2009.
- 2 of 7, CO_Kiowa_Crow-HightowerHouse_0002, the front and part of the south side, view east-northeast, October 2012.
- 3 of 7, CO_Kiowa_Crow-HightowerHouse_0003, entrance detail, view east-southeast, October 2012.
- 4 of 7, CO_Kiowa_Crow-HightowerHouse_0004, south side and rear, view northwest, October 2012.
- 5 of 7, CO_Kiowa_Crow-HightowerHouse_0005, rear and north side, view southwest, October 2012.
- 6 of 7, CO_Kiowa_Crow-HightowerHouse_0006, north and part of the front, view southeast, October 2012.
- 7 of 7, CO_Kiowa_Crow-HightowerHouse_0007, outbuildings at the rear of the parcel, from left to right, the garage (B), pavilion (E), large shed (C), and small shed (D), view northeast, October 2012.

Crow-Hightower House
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

Sketch Map

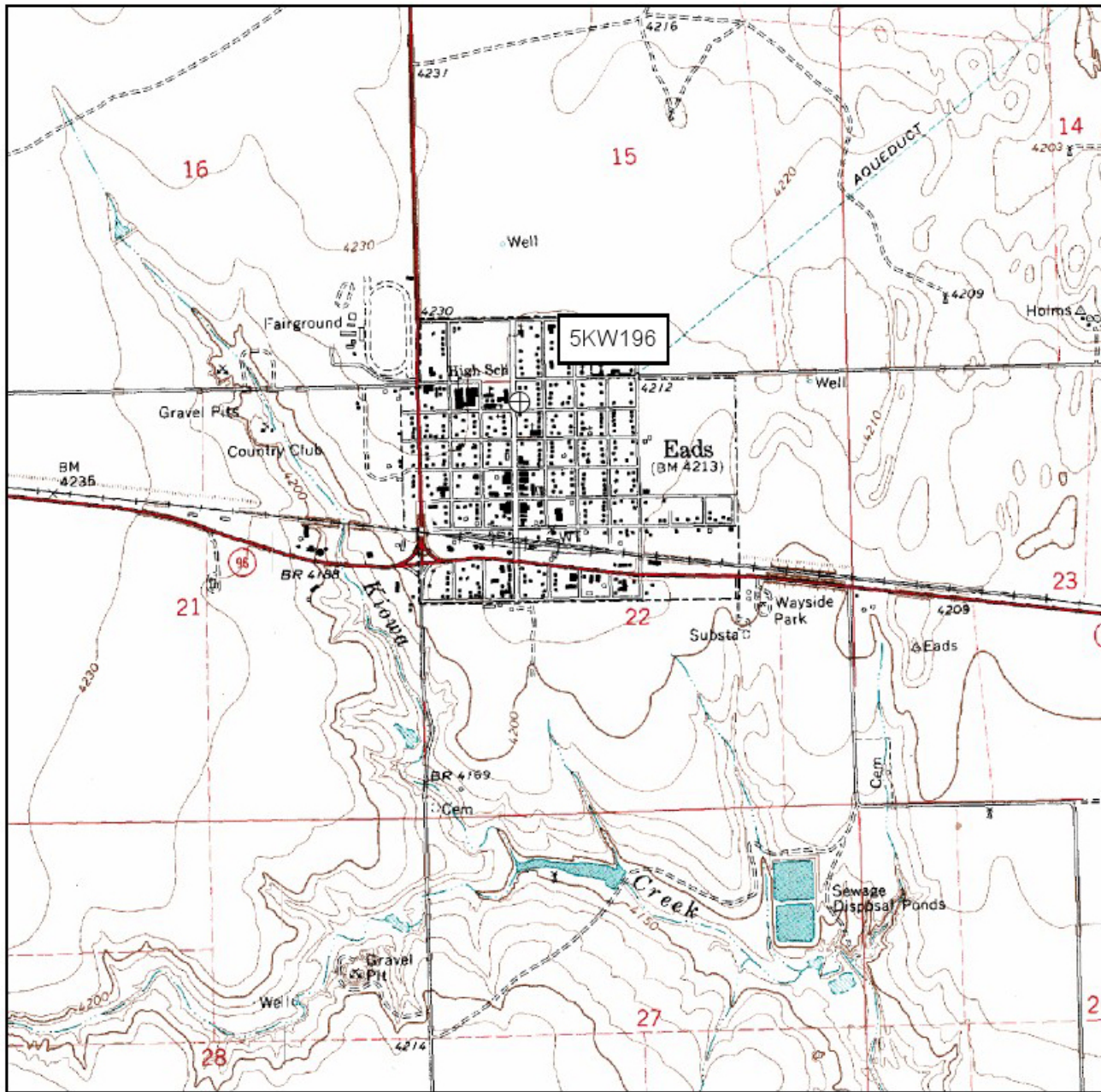


Numbers in circles with arrows indicate photograph locations and camera directions.

Crow-Hightower House
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

USGS Map



The crosshair indicates the location of the nominated resource. SOURCE: Extract of U.S. Geological Survey, Eads, Colo., 7.5 minute quadrangle map (Denver: U.S. Geological Survey, 1968).

Crow-Hightower House

Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado

County and State

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH/FIGURE LOG

1 of 2, This rough sketch illustrates the general interior arrangement of the Crow-Hightower House. Four archways open off the central dining room into the living room, kitchen, and hall. Two bedrooms flank the bathroom. North is to the left. Courtesy of Front Range Research Associates, Inc., September 2012.

2 of 2, The Kiowa County Assessor photographed the house in 1955 for appraisal purposes. The house then featured: front windows with a picture window and a four-part casement window; a wood slab door with three stepped, rectangular lights; and decorative wood shingling on the conical roof of the entrance. A clothesline is present in the southeast portion of the parcel; the sheds and pavilion are not present. Courtesy of Kiowa County Assessor, Eads, Colorado.

Crow-Hightower House
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

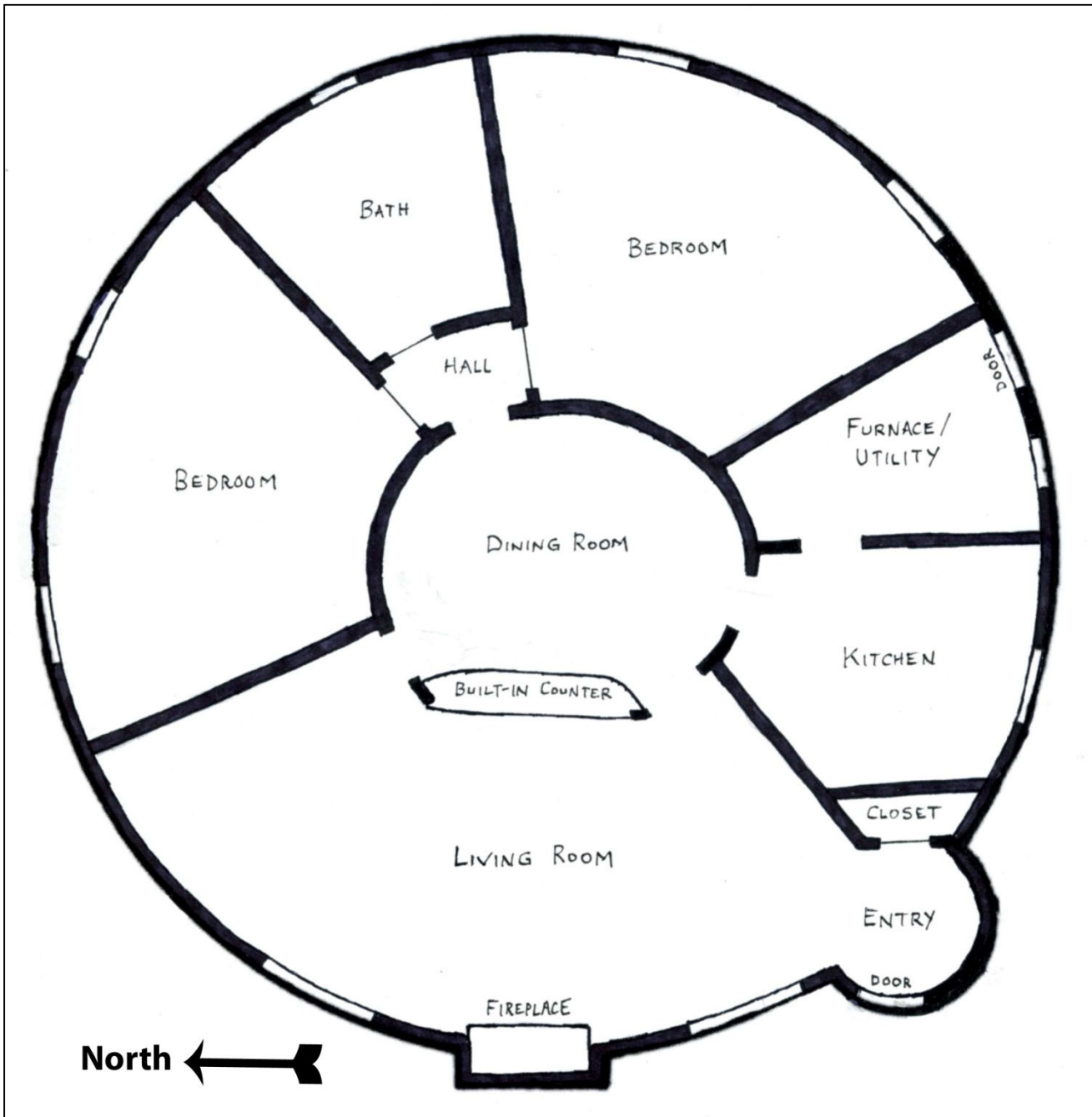


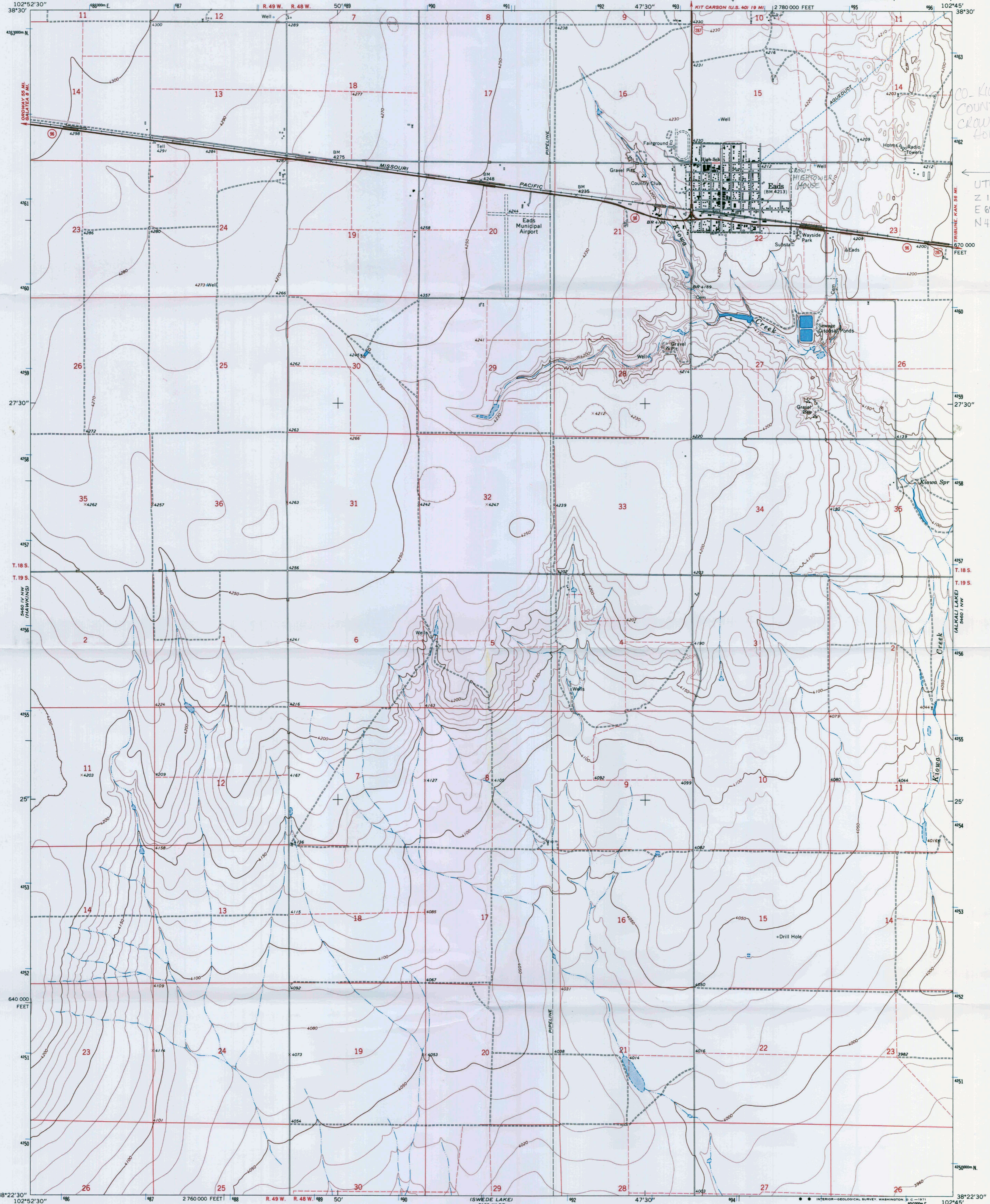
Figure 1. This rough sketch illustrates the general interior arrangement of the Crow-Hightower House. Four archways open off the central dining room into the living room, kitchen, and hall. Two bedrooms flank the bathroom. The house is 40' in diameter, and the scale is approximately 1"=6.25'. Courtesy of Front Range Research Associates, Inc., September 2012.

Crow-Hightower House
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

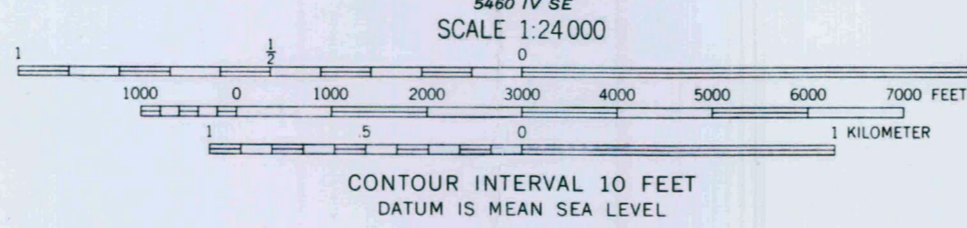
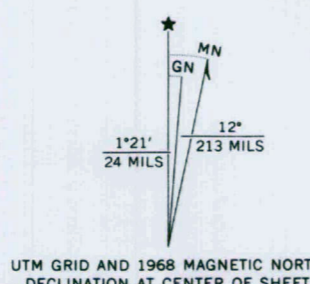


Figure 2. This Kiowa County Assessor appraisal card photograph shows the house in 1955. The house then featured: front windows with a picture window and a four-part casement window; a wood slab door with three stepped, rectangular lights; and decorative wood shingling on the conical roof of the entrance. A clothesline is present in the southeast portion of the parcel; the sheds and pavilion are not present. Courtesy of Kiowa County Assessor, Eads, Colorado.

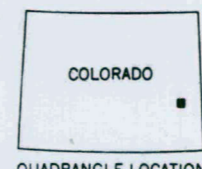


CO-KIOWA-CROW-HIGHTOWER HOUSE
UTM
Z 13
E 693557
N 4261556

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum, 10,000-foot grid based on Colorado coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



Crow-Hightower House
EADS, KIOWA COUNTY, CO



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, all weather, improved surface.
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface.
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather.
U.S. Route
State Route

EADS, COLO.
N3822.5-W10245.7/5

1968

AMS 5460 IV NE-SERIES V877

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST













