

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: One story with front gable and battered foundation. Stone steps with wrought iron railings lead to screened porch with dropped gable. Siding on half-wall. Four six by six half columns across porch. Screen door. Paneled front door has large single light. Windows are double hung wood sash, one-over-one. Projecting bay on the west elevation under eave. False bevel siding and trim is white. Gray composition shingle roof with brick chimney on west slope.

Landscaped with lawn, junipers by facade, beds of annuals in parking area.

Original garage at rear, ca. 1925, with shiplap siding, front gable, and original garage door.

PHOTOGRAPHS (include photographs showing each side of building and any associated buildings)

Film roll no.: 6
Negative no.: 17

Photographer: Carolyn Howard
Location of negatives: City Of Grand Junction

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions): An open porch was modified to a finished enclosed porch on rear, no date indicated.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (discuss important persons and events associated with this building): Leahy, Phillip C.: Born: Ca. 1913 Living Married: Vera L. Career while in house (1943-1946): During World War II, he was the Colorado Area Engineer for the Manhattan Engineer District. Upon arriving in Grand Junction in 1943, Lt. Leahy, later a captain was ordered to meet with Blair Burwell of U.S. Vanadium to begin a top-secret uranium procurement program. While running the Colorado Area Engineer Office, of MED, he located the site for a MED refinery on the Gunnison River, later the local AEC Compound. Under his command the Colorado Area Office acquired 2,698,000 tons of uranium for the Manhattan Project which was 14% of the total. On January 1, 1947, the newly created U. S. Atomic Energy Commission took over the work and facilities of MED, including the Gunnison River site. Leahy, then retired from the army, returned to become the first manager of the Grand Junction Office, also known as the Colorado Raw Materials Office.

INFORMATION SOURCES (be specific): Appraisal Card, Ownership Card, Lot and Block Book, Grand Junction City Directories, 1981 Historic Survey of Grand Junction. Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Directories: 1943, p. 25; January 1945; July 1945; January 1946; March 1948.

SIGNIFICANCE (check appropriate categories)

Architectural significance:
 represents the work of a master
 possess high artistic value
 represents a type, period, or method of construction

Historical significance:
 associated with significant person(s)
 associated with significant event
 associated with a pattern of events
 contributes to an historic district

National Register eligibility:
Individual yes no
Criteria: A B C D
Area(s) of significance: Military

Contributes to a potential district:
 yes no
District name:

Period of significance: 1925;1943-1945

THEME(S):

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (briefly justify the significance checked above): Phillip C. Leahy is significant for his role in procuring a significant amount of uranium for the Manhattan Engineering District's Manhattan Project (the ultra secret program which developed nuclear fission and the atomic bomb). He also located the site for a MED refinery on the Gunnison River which later became the local Atomic Energy Commission compound. In 1947, he returned as the first manager of the AEC Grand Junction Operations Office. The complex was the national center for uranium exploration, mining and milling, which became and is still a major factor in the regional economy.

INVENTORY COMPLETED BY: Museum Group Staff

DATE: 2/14/96

AFFILIATION: Museum of Western Colorado

PHONE: (970) 241-9117

ADDRESS: PO Box 20000-5020, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5020

PROJECT NAME: Grand Junction Historic Resources Survey, Phase 2



1410 Main St.
Grand Junction, Mesa Co, CO
2945-133-10-021
5ME7552

10/05/1995
Roll 6 Frame 17
View S Dir N/NE
5ME7552



1410 Main St.
Grand Junction, Mesa Co, CO
2945-133-10-021
SME7552