




NOT FOR FIELD USE
 ELIGIBLE
 DET. NOT ELIGIBLE
 NOMINATED
 CERTIFIED REHAB
 DATE _____

Historic Building Inventory Record
2945-133-04-007

project name		county Mesa	city Grand Junction	state ID no.
current building name Kelly residence		owner Eva & Floyd Kelly 1255 Grand Avenue Grand Junction, CO 81501		
address 1255 Grand Avenue Grand Junction, CO 81501		township 1S range 1W section 13 NW 1/4 SW 1/4		
historic name Gibbs/Diemer residence		USGS quad name Grand Junction 1962 yr. X 7.5' 15'		
district name		block 4	lot(s) 13-14	addition Keith yr. of addition 1881
film roll by C Howard no. 1	negative nos. 36	location of negatives Museum W CO		date of construction 1916 estimate _____ actual source Deed; Homestead Claim; Polk City Directory, Grand Junction
				use residence present residence historic
				condition _____ excellent _____ X _____ good _____ fair _____ deteriorating
				extent of alterations _____ minor _____ X _____ moderate _____ major describe: Remodeling front porch Addition room east side
				_____ X original _____ moved date(s) of move:
style Modified Victorian	stories 2	National Register Eligibility Individual: _____ yes _____ X no		
materials concrete foundation, wood frame asphalt shingles	square footage 5200 + 900 basement	Contributing to district: _____ yes _____ no		
architectural description Two story modified victorian in greek revival inspired gable-front house typical of narrow gable-front dwelling built from 1880-1930.		local landmark designation _____ name _____ date		
		associated buildings? _____ yes type		
		if inventoried, list ID nos.		
additional pages _____ yes _____ X no				

	architect 	original owner Florida & William E Graham
	source 	source Homestead claim; deed 1916 City Directory GJ
	builder/contractor 	
	source 	theme(s)

construction history (description, names, dates, etc. relating to major additions or alterations to original structure)

The back porch was removed about 1936-37.
 The front porch was removed in 1941.
 The front door pediment was added in 1941 (after removal of the porch).
 An office addition was added to the east side in 1948-9.
 The front picture window was added in 1948-49.

continued ___ yes no

historical background (discuss important persons and events associated with this structure)

This house is located in the controversial Keith addition to Grand Junction. In 1881 George Crawford filed a claim on section 14, T1S, R1W, and William Keith filed his claim, 80 acres of which overlapped Crawford's claim. The ensuing legal battle continued until 1890. These two lots were part of a large parcel once owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado which planned to build a college in Grand Junction. In 1913, Florida Graham purchased the property, and in 1915 Florida and William E. Graham filed a homestead entry on the property. In 1916 an entry in the City Directory lists them as resident at 1255 Grand Avenue. In 1917 the house and property were purchased by Mrs. Mamie Moeser Gibbs with money received from the railroad after the death of her husband Charles F. Gibbs, engineer, in a train wreck. Mrs. Gibbs was the daughter of Philip Moeser, cigar manufacturer and early resident of Grand Junction (1892). Four generations of this family lived in the house until it was sold to the current owner in 1974.

continued ___ yes no

significance (check appropriate categories and briefly justify below)

architectural significance: <input type="checkbox"/> represents the work of a master <input type="checkbox"/> possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> represents a type, period or method of construction	historical significance: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> associated with significant persons <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> associated with significant events or patterns <input type="checkbox"/> contributes to an historic district
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statement of significance This house was the home of four generations of one of Grand Junctions pioneer families who immigrated to the United States in the 1860s. The history of the residents is a representative history of the growth of the city. Philip Moeser was a cigar manufacturer, member of the Elks, raised five children, one son joined the Alaska gold rush along with other Grand Junction citizens, and one daughter worked at the Fair Store; daughter Mrs. Charles F. (Mamie) Gibbs was a charter member of the Presbyterian Church, was a president of and active member of the Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and worked as an insurance secretary. Charles F. Gibbs was a long time railroad worker who died on the job. Eleanor Gibbs Diemer was active in local affairs and was president of many local clubs and organizations including the Federated Women's Club, the Republican Club, the Mesa County Parent Teachers Association, the Republican Central Committee (vice chairman) and was the first woman appointed to the City and Regional Planning Commission. She also worked on the Grand Junction Planning Commission from its beginnings in 1963 and helped plan the downtown renovation to a shopping mall. Her children were also raised in this house.

continued ___ yes no

references (be specific) Mesa County Clerk & Recorder's Office, indexes, deeds, plats
 Mesa County Assessor's Office, lot & block books, appraisal and ownership cards
 "The Grand Junction Town Company and the Land Dispute With William Keith", Journal of the Western Slope, Vol 1, No 3, Summer 1986, by Janet Mease.
Grand Junction News, Dec 29, 1883, p1
Grand Junction Daily Sentinel Apr 26, 1909, p5; June 22, 1917, p1; Feb 24, 1926, p1; Jan 21, 1966, p3; Mar 30, 1982.
 Polk's Grand Junction City Directory, 1904-1975. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1896-1926.
 Photographs in possession of Diann Admire, Grand Junction (daughter of Eleanor Gibbs Diemer, grand daughter of Mamie Moeser Gibbs). Interviews with neighbors, family members of previous owners.

continued ___ yes no

prepared by Floyd Kelly & Carolyn Howard	affiliation Museum of Western Colorado	date 01 March 1995
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