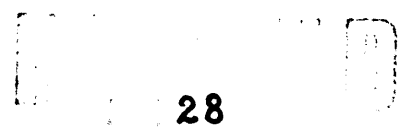


1877

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Hammar, Benjamin, House

other names/site number Doctor's House (Alexander, George E., M.D.) 5DA 645

## 2. Location

street & number 203 Cantril Street N/A not for publication

city or town Castle Rock N/A vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Douglas code 035 zip code 80104

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] December 21, 1992  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

[Signature]

**entered in the  
National Register**

Date of Action

2/3/93

Hammar House  
Name of Property

Douglas County, CO  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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  
HEALTH CARE/Medical Office  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/ITALIANATE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls CUT STONE and WOOD  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT SHINGLES  
other BRICK CHIMNEYS (4)  
WOOD PORCH

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1887

Significant Dates

1887

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hammar, Benjamin (builder)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

OAHP

Hammar House  
Name of Property

Douglas County, CO  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 3	5 1 2 4 0 0	4 3 5 7 8 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lionel E. and Mildred M. Oberlin and Donna Hole, Historian OAHP

organization N/A date September 1992

street & number 203 Cantril Street telephone 303/688-9053 hm  
303/688-6271 wk

city or town Castle Rock state CO zip code 80104

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**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.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Lionel E. and Mildred M. Oberlin

street & number 203 Cantril Street telephone 303/688-9053 hm  
303/688-6271 wk

city or town Castle Rock state CO zip code 80104

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

Benjamin Hammar House

Douglas Co CO

The Benjamin Hammar House is a one and one-half story stone dwelling in the Italianate style with a smaller one and one-half story wood frame wing on the north facade and intersecting gable roofs. The house is located at 203 Cantril Street in a residential neighborhood of Castle Rock in Douglas County, 27 miles south of Denver.

Constructed in c. 1887 of native Douglas County Rhyolite stone, the house follows a an irregular plan. The rectangular stone section has a high-pitched side gable roof with a small front gable on the center of the principal south facade. On the second story in the center of the front gable is a glazed and paneled wooden door which opens onto a wooden porch with a balustrade of square posts and railings. The porch, which has a frieze of flat, cut-out boards, covers the main entrance to the house, a recessed panel door with one light and a transom. A photograph and a drawing indicate that the porch was installed after 1889 and before 1900.

The windows of the symmetrically arranged three bay south facade are four over four double hung wood sash with heavy, dressed stone sills. The segmental arches above the windows are also dressed stone with a raised keystone. The reveal below the arch is incised with Eastlake style carving. Two interior chimneys of brick are located on the roof ridge at the east and west ends.

The wooden wing on the north side of the stone house is part of the original building as indicated by the continuous foundation. It is one and one-half stories, of horizontal plank construction covered with clapboard siding. Asphalt shingles cover the two-pitch gable roof. The windows of this wing are also four over four double hung wood sash with flat surrounds, pedimented lintels and plain sills. A third brick chimney is located at the north end of the ridge. Entrances on the east and west facades provide access to this wing. These are within inset porches and feature the original paired panel and glazed doors. A side light and single sash window with six lights flank the door.

The 2,564 square foot interior has a center hall in the stone section and retains much of its original woodwork of native white pine and early lighting fixtures. A decorative plaster rosette surrounds the ceiling fixture in the front east room and the original picture molding is still in place in the large west room. The north wing includes two rooms on the first floor and one above. The flooring throughout the house is pine. A small pantry with its original built-in cupboards and storage bins was joined to a small entry sometime during the 1930's and made into

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7, 8 Page 2

Benjamin Hammar House

*Douglas Co Co*

a larger kitchen with an enameled metal sink and cabinet component which was installed in such a way as to partially cover one of the windows. There is evidence that a stairway trap door in the main entrance hallway once opened onto a stairway to the basement. At present, the basement can only be reached by an outside stairway.

The house is located on two town lots with mature cottonwood trees. Part of the original parcel to the north, where once stood a barn for Dr. Alexander's horse and carriage, was sold in the early 1980's. The house stands today as architecturally unchanged except for the historic porch addition and is in very good condition.

**Statement of Significance**

The Hammar House, one of Castle Rock's earliest stone houses, is architecturally significant under Criterion C for its distinctive use of the colorful local Rhyolite stone, which was quarried and cut in the Castle Rock district. In addition to the randomly coursed stone, the building is embellished with dressed segmental arches and keystones, reflecting the skill of the stonemason. The house, which was constructed in 1887, is one of the few remaining old stone homes in the region.

Historical background and significance

Quarrying of Rhyolite stone was a major industry for the Castle Rock area with three large mines in operation during the 1880s and 1890s. This industry along with lumbering and dairying attracted the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad to the Douglas County area lying conveniently between Denver and Colorado Springs, which would become the major urban areas along the Rocky Mountain Front Range.

The three major quarries were the Madge, the O'Brien, and the Santa Fe. With transportation established, this durable, light weight and beautiful stone was hauled to many Colorado locations and to surrounding states. Rhyolite was used in the construction of some of the area's finest buildings. The 1880 Union Depot at 17th and Wynkoop in Denver, which was destroyed by fire in 1894, and the first Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs are two examples. A number of stone buildings using this material are still standing in Castle Rock, including the Cantril School and the Denver and Rio Grande Depot. Both buildings are listed on the National Register.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

Benjamin Hammar House

*Laugher Co Co*

The house was built by Benjamin Hammar, on land purchased by his wife in 1884. Hammar played a leading role in the development of the Rhyolite industry and the town of Castle Rock. He was one of the owners of the Castle Rock Stone Company, organized in 1881, and later owner of the Santa Fe quarry. The quarrying industry was difficult work and labor intensive. It attracted workers to the area, providing employment even to the present day.

Mr. Hammar was a stonemason by trade and built many Rio Grande Railroad depots as well as the house at 203 Cantril Street. Hammar effectively employed contrast in the building by using a combination of roughly dressed wall surfaces stones, rusticated foundations and smoothly dressed sills and lintels. He also expressed an awareness of the styles of the day in the Victorian and Italianate elements such as the segmental arches over the windows, the steeply pitched center gable and the Eastlake carving below the arches.

The Hammars occupied the house for only two years, but during that time it was a prominent place for social gatherings according to newspaper accounts of the period. No evidence can be found that Mr. Hammar constructed other residences although this distinctive pink and grey colored stone is readily recognized in many Castle Rock and Denver buildings dating from the late nineteenth century.

George E. Alexander, M.D., one of the early physicians to practice in the Rocky Mountain West purchased the house in 1902. Alexander had moved from Connecticut to Colorado in 1887, where he first began practicing in Fort Collins. A short time thereafter he moved to Castle Rock. Dr. Alexander practiced from this location until his death in 1947, calling on his patients first in a horse drawn buggy which he maintained in a barn on the property and later by automobile, still using the same barn. At the time of his death, Dr. Alexander was one of the oldest practicing physicians in the United States, having spent 60 years treating patients in Colorado. He was also one of Castle Rock's leading citizens. The house is still referred to as "The Doctor's House." His office was located in the house in the front east room. The large foyer accommodated waiting patients. Following his death his family retained the property until 1989 when it was sold to the present owners Lionel and Mildred Oberlin.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9.10 Page 4

Benjamin Hammar House

*Douglas Co Co*

**Bibliography**

Castle Rock, CO. Douglas County Assessor's Office.

The Colorado Graphic. Volume 4, Nr. 33. April 13, 1989.

Lowenberg, Robert. Castle Rock: A Grass Roots History. Englewood, CO: Quality Press, 1980.

Marr, Josephine Lowell. Douglas County, A Historical Journal. Gunnison, CO: B & B Printers, 1983.

**Verbal boundary description**

Lots 13 and 14, Block 13, Craig and Gould's Addition to the Town of Castle Rock, County of Douglas, State of Colorado. Also known as 203 Cantril Street.

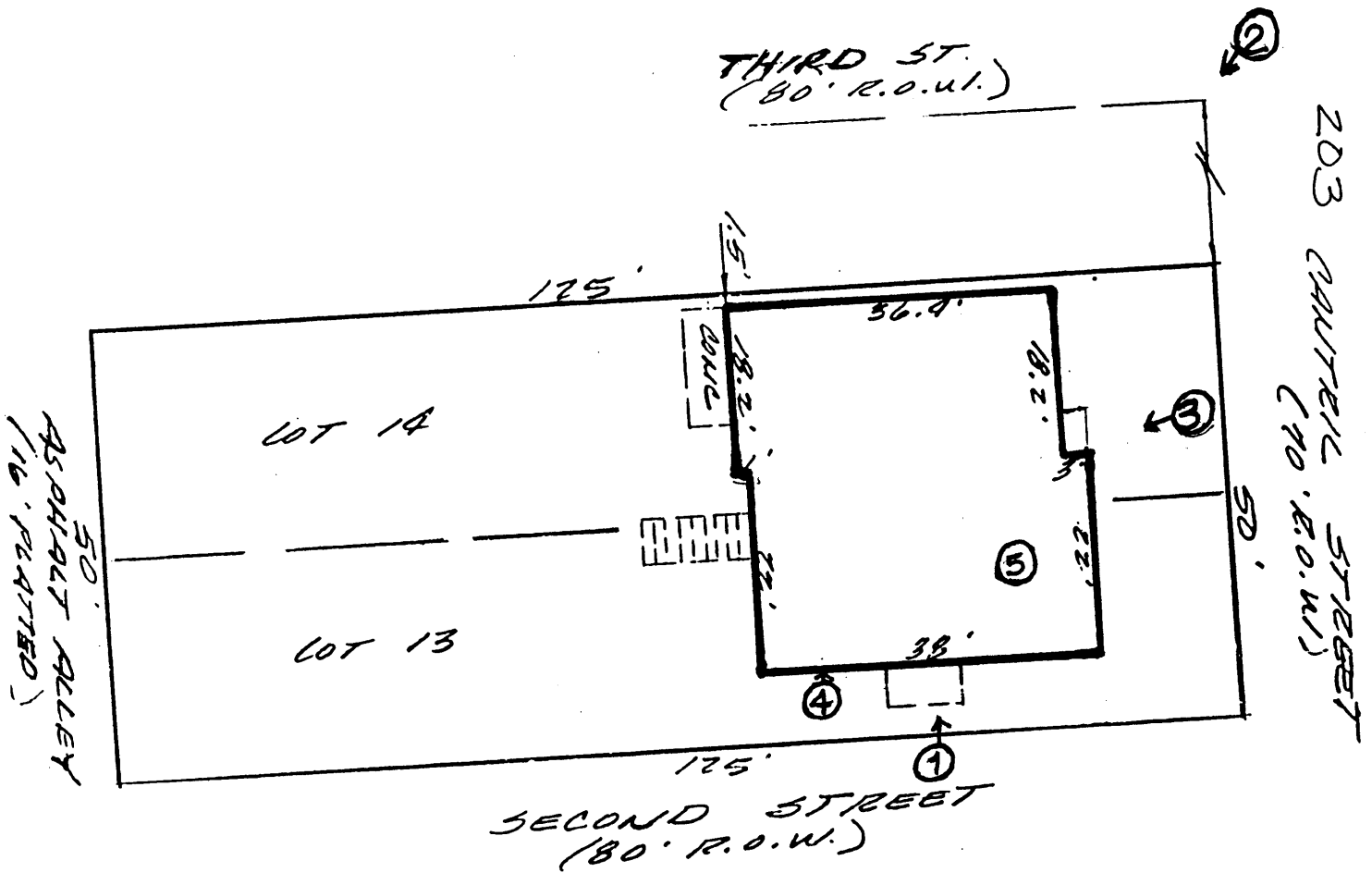
**Boundary justification**

The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the Hammar house.



Benjamin Hammar House  
203 Cantril Street  
Castle Rock

Douglas County, CO



SCALE 1" = 20'