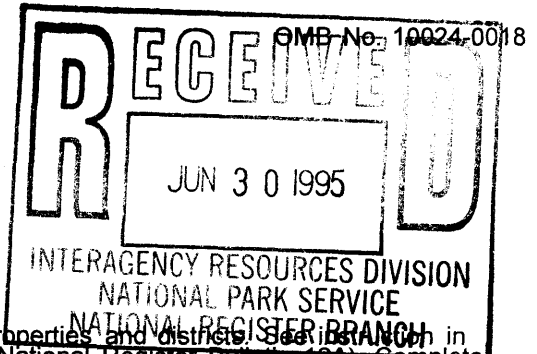


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination 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 de Beque House

other names/site number 5ME1705

2. Location

street & number 233 Denver Avenue

[N/A] not for publication

city or town DeBeque

[N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Mesa code 077 zip code 81630

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 [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

James Edmund Hartman
Signature of certifying official/Title

State Historic Preservation Officer *June 27, 1995*
Date

State or 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
See continuation sheet [].

Edson H. Ball
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date 7-28-95
Entered in the _____
National Register _____

de Beque House
Name of Property

Mesa County, Colorado
County/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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	2	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.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & Early 20th
Century American Movements

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood

roof asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

de Beque House
Mesa County, CO

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

Constructed in 1889, the de Beque house is a typical example of a Late 19th century, wood-frame, vernacular, single family dwelling. Located on the corner of Denver and 2nd Streets, a residential portion of the small agricultural town of DeBeque, the house is centered on a half-acre lot. The lot has several trees and shrubs around the house. A picket fence, visible in a historic photograph (circa 1920), crosses the front or eastern edge of the property. A driveway enters the lot from the east on Denver Street. It forks approximately 25 feet into the lot with one branch continuing along the lot's southern edge, to the garage and the right branch veering north to a concrete pad next to the house, just east of the enclosed porch on the south side.

Resting on a concrete foundation, the house is a simple, one-and-a-half story building with painted, wood lap siding, and a front-gabled roof and an irregular floor plan. The house plan runs east to west (approximately 58 feet), with the front (east) gable end (approximately 18 feet) facing toward Denver Street.

The east facade has a concrete front porch with wood posts supporting a hipped roof. The door is centered on the facade with rectangular, double-hung, three-over-one windows on either side. (Unless otherwise noted all windows in the house appear to be original to the construction, are wood frame, double-hung, and have a one, three, or six over-one pane configuration.) Two, two-over-two pane windows are centered above the porch roof. A historic photograph, circa 1911, shows the house as it looked before any additions or modifications. The original front porch wrapped around to the southeast corner of the house and the house extended only 28 feet west. A historic photograph circa 1920, shows southeast corner after the first addition. The front porch was screened.

On the south facade, the two eastern most double-hung, three-over-one windows on the first floor are original, visible in the 1911 photograph, and remain today. At least three additions were added to the rear of the house between 1918 and 1946, almost doubling its size (see sketch map). Two of the additions were completed under de Beque's instruction and during his residency. The first addition extended the house and roofline twelve feet west, added a new kitchen and dining room, extended and screened the porch, and added gable dormers to the roof.

The eastern most of three gable dormers on the south side is visible in the 1920 historic photograph. Although hidden by foliage in the 1920 photograph, what is now the middle dormer on the south facade, appears to be original to the addition and matches the eastern most dormer. Both dormers are located halfway up the roof, have two, six-over-one pane windows centered, the same framing, and the same trim. Note that the eastern dormer windows are shorter than the middle dormer. These shorter windows would have accommodated the wrap around porch roof, still visible in the 1920 photograph. These two dormers (and possibly a third smaller one on the north facade) were probably added at the same time. They greatly increased the light, ventilation, and use of the second floor. The space was needed to accommodate de Beque's growing family.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

de Beque House
Mesa County, CO

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION, cont.,

The next addition, circa 1922, continued the house and roofline west another ten feet. A third dormer was placed on this addition. This dormer is larger than the first two dormers; the dormer roof peak meets the main roof peak; and the windows are placed further down on the dormer face.

It is unclear when the original wrap around porch was removed and replaced by the current front porch, although family members recall that this was done before Wallace de Beque's death, no verifying documentation has been located to confirm the date of this change.

The west facade is the back of the house. With the 1922 addition the house had a simple gable end. On the ground floor there is a half light door placed slightly off center to the south and a one-over-one window between the door and the southwest corner. A low (approximately 7 foot), one story, log shed addition was added to the west end of the house at an unknown time. It is possible that this addition incorporated materials from the original log house. The log house used to sit on the southeast corner of the property and was razed in the early 1930s. The log addition includes a small (approx. six feet wide) porch that covers the back entry. The log portion extends approximately six feet north of the main body of the house.

The second story of the west end has a five panel wood door centered under the peak. The door provides access to the roof of the log addition. As the trim around the door matches the trim around the window and door on the ground level, it appears that there may have been a balcony of some type before the log portion was added. No confirmation of this has been found.

Continuing around the house to the north side, from the west, is the above mentioned log addition. Four windows, two on each level, are evenly spaced on the 1922 and 1918 additions. A one-story, hipped roof (approx. 20 feet wide, east to west) portion of the house projects north about six feet from the house. This is part of the original house and has two one-over-one light windows, one on the east end and one on the north side, toward the east. A red brick chimney rises from the ground on the eastern end of the north side of the original portion of the house.

There are two buildings, a garage and a museum, on the site that were built after the death of de Beque and are considered non-contributing. Approximately twenty feet north of the house is a small (10'x12') concrete block building with a simple gable roof that runs parallel to the house. There is a door centered on the east end. Constructed in 1985 this building houses de Beque family records and serves as a seasonal museum for the property. The wood frame, one car garage (approx. 12'x18'), constructed in 1945, sits in the southwest corner of the property, approximately 36 feet south of the log portion of the house. It also has a simple gable roof covered with rolled asphalt roofing. Its peak end faces east. Two side hinged doors open to the car bay. There is a four panel wooden door on the western edge of the north side. It is covered with the same lap siding as the house and is painted to match the house.

de Beque House
Name of Property

Mesa County, Colorado
County/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 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 Bibliographic 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)

Exploration and Settlement

Periods of Significance

1890-1930

Significant Dates

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

de Beque, Wallace A. E.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unkown

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

Mesa County Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

de Beque House
Mesa County, CO

Section number 8 Page 3

SIGNIFICANCE

This simple, wood-frame residence is significant under criterion B for its association with Dr. Wallace A. E. de Beque, a founder of the town of DeBeque, Colorado. The town continues to bear his name, although the accepted spelling for the town is now DeBeque. The town was platted in 1888. De Beque was an active participant in the several aspects of the town's early development. Although de Beque owned a good bit of land in and around town at various times, this house, served as his primary residence and the doctor's office, and is the last remaining and most appropriate property to represent de Beque and his contributions to the town.

The original portion of the house was built by de Beque in 1889. Over the next forty years, de Beque ordered and oversaw the construction of several additions and changes to the house, nearly doubling the original size. It is believed that three changes have occurred to the house since de Beque's death. These changes are: the log addition, the removal of the wrap around porch, and construction of the present front and south porches, where the wrap around porch stood. However, the body of the house continues to reflect Dr. de Beque's life there and it still looks much as it did at the time of de Beque's death in 1930. If de Beque were to see the house today, he would recognize it as his home.

Wallace Alvarie Eugene de Beque

Wallace A. E. de Beque was born in 1841 in Woodstock, New Brunswick, across the Canadian border from Houlton, Maine. In 1861 he enlisted in the Second Maine Cavalry and served in campaigns in Louisiana, during the Civil War. He was injured during his duty there, receiving a bullet in the knee. The ball was never removed and in later life caused him pain. After the war de Beque attended the University of Pennsylvania and studied medicine there and received his degree. During this period, he married his first wife, who died, possibly in childbirth within a few years. They had one daughter.

Suffering from asthma and "lung trouble," by 1875 de Beque had moved to Denver, then the Colorado Territory, and appears to have continued his medical training at the University of Denver Medical School, graduating in 1882. In Denver de Beque met Marie Theresa Bonholzer, a widow, and they married in December. Next de Beque moved to Fairplay, Colorado where he served as county coroner and tried his hand at mining. Like most, he was not a success.

However, in 1883, de Beque decided to cross the continental divide and moved to Grand Junction, Colorado. De Beque, who served on the State Board of Medical Examiners from 1883 to 1885, was one of the few doctors around Grand Junction during the 1880s. However, his medical practice was not prosperous, primarily because real currency was a rarity for the small but growing agricultural area, he was often paid in goods or services. Thinking it might help his health as well as his economic condition, de Beque decided to try his hand at ranching. With two friends, Henry Rhode and William Carpenter, de Beque explored the Colorado (then Grand) River in the spring of 1884. He would file claim to 340 acres

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

de Beque House
Mesa County, CO

Section number 8 Page 4

SIGNIFICANCE, cont.,

of land approximately thirty miles northeast of Grand Junction, on the north bank of the Colorado River for a ranch that he called Ravensbeque. Wallace's brother, Robert de Beque settled the ranch with him.

During this same time period Rhode, de Beque, Edwin Price, and Darwin P. Kingsley chartered the Grand River Toll Road Company. The venture was to provide a link between Grand Junction and Glenwood Springs, as the river was too rough to provide regular dependable transportation. The toll road was completed in early December 1885, opened the Grand Valley to further settlement, and facilitated the arrival of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad [D&RG] line to Glenwood Springs.

De Beque's diary records a meeting on January 25, 1888 when the settlers who had moved into the area around DeBeque's ranch decided to organize a town, and voted to name it after the respected doctor. The townsite was laid out just east of de Beque's ranch that spring and de Beque's wife, Marie was appointed the first postmistress. De Beque moved his family to town immediately (his brother Robert continued to live at and actively run the ranch). First Wallace de Beque constructed a small log building (razed circa 1936) to serve as his office and opened a drug and sundry store there.

The following year he designed the floor plan for and oversaw the construction of the simple, four room, wood-frame house at 233 Denver Avenue. The house appears to have been the first in town with running water. De Beque was under contract with the D&RG to provide the rail workers with medical services. He received part of his pay in water piped to the house from the water tank at the depot.

De Beque's second wife died in 1890, leaving him to rear their son, W. A. E. de Beque, Jr. According to the Colorado State Business Directories for the next five years de Beque continued his wife's duties as postmaster as well as trying his hand at the newspaper business. De Beque is listed as editor of the DeBeque Era from 1893 to 1895. These ventures were in addition to the family ranch, his medical practice, and the store. Irrigating the ranch was an expensive process, and made it difficult to turn a profit.

In 1899 de Beque accepted a job from one of his toll road partners. D. P. Kingsley, who had become president of the New York Life Insurance company, offered de Beque a position as medical inspector (a kind of claims adjuster). Although de Beque spent much of the next decade in Mexico for New York Life, he remained in close contact with his family, home, and town. During this time his brother Robert moved into the house, and his nephew took over management of the store. Wallace de Beque made frequent visits and continued to participate in various community activities over the next 11 years. His diary entries from 1899 to 1911 include references to dealings with the livestock on the ranch, visits to the ranch, instructions regarding repair work on the house, and attending community social and political events such as the silver wedding anniversary of friends, stockholders' meetings of the DeBeque Literary Society (the doctor was a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

de Beque House
Mesa County, CO

Section number 8 Page 5

SIGNIFICANCE, cont.,

founding member of the society, and meetings were held at his home until he donated the society's meeting hall in town. The hall later burned and the society disbanded soon after), and an anti-saloon meeting, as well as comments about the weather conditions.

In the spring of 1911, at the age of 70, de Beque retired from New York Life, and returned to DeBeque with his third wife, Marie Louise de Lavillette. Born in Mexico, her family came from France with Maxmillian and Carlotta in the 1860s. His son Armand was born in 1812 and three years later a third son, Roland. Plans were begun on the first addition of the house to accommodate his growing family.

Despite his retirement, de Beque was very active in the community for the next twenty years. He continued to see a few patients at his home. He headed a committee to promote the sale of Liberty Bonds during World War I. (DeBeque was the first community in Mesa county to raise its \$15,000. The town sold more bonds than any other community of its size in the nation.)

The DeBeque school burned down in 1922. The community voted in a bond issue to pay for the new building. Plans to replace the school included the addition of a gymnasium, lunch room, and other modern facilities. Many citizens opposed these extra expenses. A bitter campaign ensued, with the doctor playing an active role in supporting the improvements. In the end the modernization plans were adopted. It was at this time that de Beque was overseeing the last addition on his house.

A well read man, de Beque spoke French and Spanish fluently (it was his language skills that led to his placement in Mexico City for New York Life). He kept diaries from the early 1880s throughout his life. Participated in community social and political affairs as well as dealing in a variety of business ventures. Community and family folklore depicts de Beque as a colorful character of the western frontier with accounts of his participation in anti-sheep raids. Although his health was often poor, De Beque lived to be 79 years old, died at his home, in September 1930. He left a legacy of pioneer spirit, settlement, and development.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

de Beque House
Mesa County, CO

Section number 9 Page 6

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Colorado Historical Society. Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Inventory Record, site # 5ME1705. July 1981.

de Beque, Armand D., oral interview by Juanita Moston on January 25, 1995, at his home in DeBeque, Colorado.

de Beque, Armand D., oral interview by Kristen Ashbeck on February 5, 1995, at his home in DeBeque, Colorado.

de Beque, Wallace A. E., personal diaries, 1890 to 1911.

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. Colorado West Sunday Magazine, "DeBeque Once was Lusty Western Town." June 29, 1975.

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. "de Beque on DeBeque." May 1, 1983.

Mesa County Assessors Office. Property Appraisal Record. Parcel # 2445-281-21-004.

Pearce, Sarah J. A Guide to Colorado Architecture. Denver, June 1983.

de Beque House
Name of Property

Mesa County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 12 739810 4356930
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] 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 Juanita Moston, Historian / Kristen Ashbeck, Planner

organization Mesa County Historical Society date February 1995

street & number 641 Starlight Dr. / 250 N. 5th Street telephone (970) 434-0953 / 244-1437

city or town Grand Junction state CO zip code 81504 / 81501

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 Armand D. and Ruby M. de Beque

street & number 233 Denver Avenue telephone (970) 283-5435

city or town DeBeque state Colorado zip code 81630

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

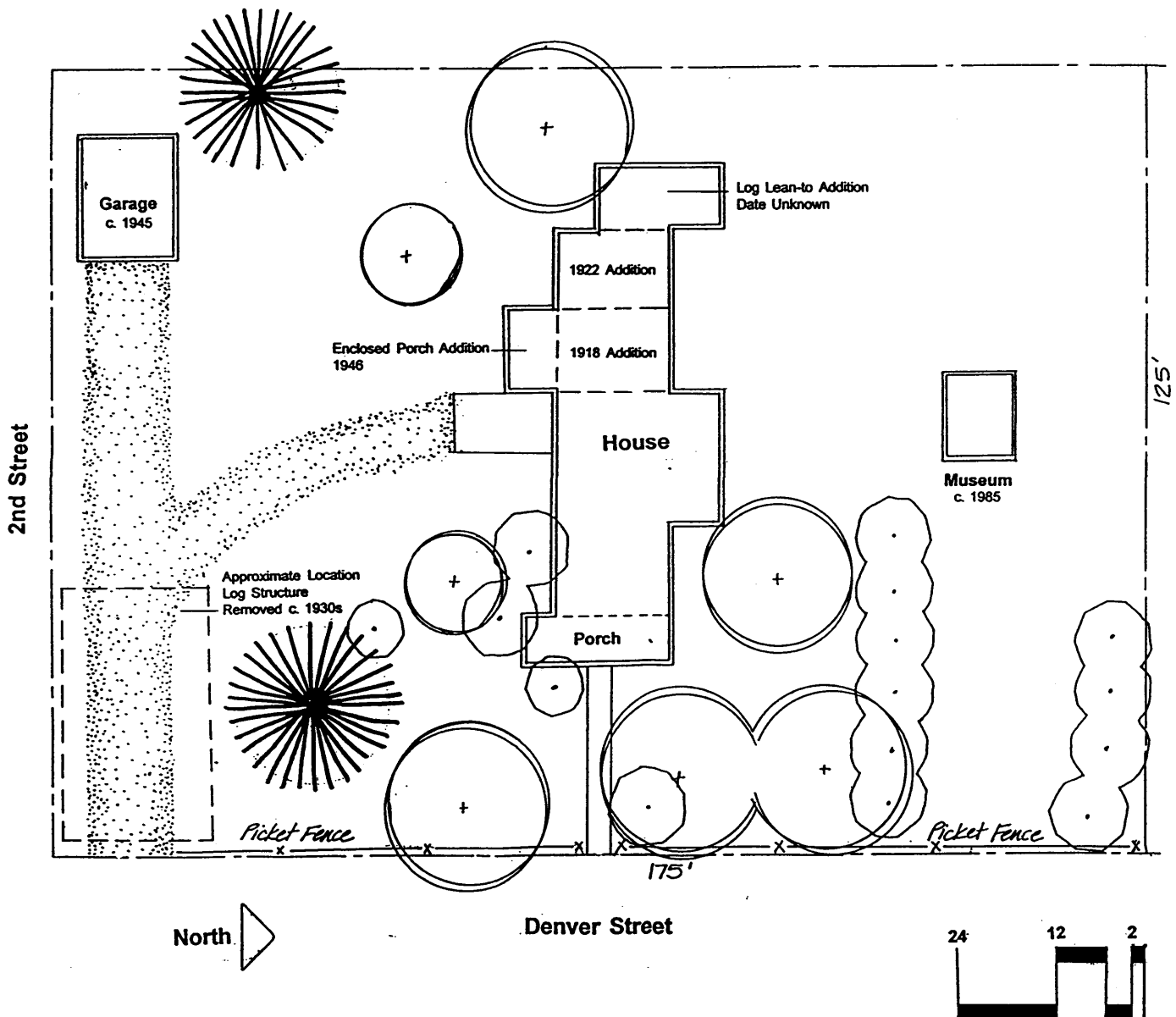
Section number 10 Page 7

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 18 to 24 inclusive, Block 6, Town of DeBeque

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary described above includes the original lots development by Wallace A. E. de Beque for his personal, single family residence.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

de Beque House
Mesa County, CO

Section number _____ Page 8

PHOTO LOG

The following information is the same for photographs 1-8:

- de Beque House
- Mesa County, Colorado
- Kristen Asbheck
- February 5, 1995
- Mesa County Historical Society

Photo # Information

- 1 - View to west of east (front) facade
- 2 - View to south of north (side) facade
- 3 - View to north of south (side) facade
- 4 - Detail, dormer, view to north of south (side) facade
- 5 - View to east of west (back) facade
- 6 - Detail, perimeter picket fence, view to east
- 7 - Garage, view to west
- 8 - de Beque museum, view to west

Photo # 9

- de Beque House
- Mesa County, Colorado
- Photographer: Unknown
- circa 1911
- de Beque museum
- View to northwest of southeast corner

Photo # 10

- de Beque House
- Mesa County, Colorado
- Photographer: Unknown
- Circa 1920
- de Beque museum
- View to the northwest of southeast corner



Photo by Seitt