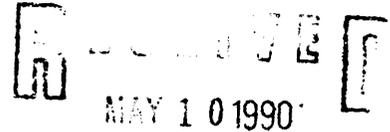


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
NPS/CHS Word Processor Format
(Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Boat Tow
other names/site number: 5PT.560

2. Location

street & number: 700 S.Aspen St. Willoughby Park (NA)not for publication
city, town: Aspen (NA) vicinity
state: Colorado code: CO county: Pitkin code: 097 zip code: 81611

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
() private	() building(s)	_____	_____ buildings
(X) public-local	() district	_____	_____ sites
() public-State	() site	_____	_____ structures
() public-Federal	() structure	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
	(X) object	_____	_____ Total
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>

Name of related multiple property listing: _____
Historic Resources of Aspen MRA

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.
() See continuation sheet.

Barbara Sudler 5-2-90
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) _____

entered in the
National Register:

Sharon Byer 8/27/80

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture /
Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture /
Monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

foundations wood

walls N/A

roof N/A

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The original "Boat Tow" on Aspen Mountain was constructed in 1937, consisting of two wooden toboggans or "boats", each one twelve feet long by three feet wide, containing four seats across the width. These were constructed of pine, including the runners, to which steel banding was attached and which is still in place. One of the boat tow toboggans, a designated local landmark, is currently on permanent display in the center of Willoughby Park, located immediately adjacent to Tower #1 of Lift 1, the first chair lift in Aspen. The display platform is approximately two feet high, constructed of two rows of wood railroad ties, filled in with soil and planted with grass. This display is the focal point of Willoughby Park. The toboggan "boat," is located directly in the center of the platform, and is displayed at an approximately 30% angle, elevated at the front end by a round metal pipe forming an inverted "U". The "boat" shows signs of deterioration, particularly in the seats, which have cracks and portions missing, but its basic design is readily apparent.

The Boat Tow utilized old mining equipment. The "boats" were connected by 1/2" steel cable to rotating terminals converted from hoist rigs from the dormant Little Annie Mine on Aspen Mountain. The steel cable was guided up the mountain by wood towers to prevent tangling. The motor was a converted Model A Ford engine; the total length of the boat tow was 600' up the face of Aspen Mountain (1). None of the original cable, towers or mechanical equipment is still located on the original site. It is unknown whether any of the original equipment exists with the exception of the second "boat", owned by Aspenite Steve Knowlton.

() See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: () nationally () statewide (X) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria (X) A () B (X) C () D
 Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) () A () B () C () D () E () F () G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Entertainment / Recreation

Period of Significance

1937

1937-40

Significant Dates

1937

1937

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Boat Tow, constructed in 1937, located in Aspen, Colorado, meets Criterion A in its association with the beginning development of Aspen as an international ski resort from 1936-1940, and under Criterion C for its contribution to the technological advancement of the construction of recreational ski transportation.

Following the discovery of Aspen's unique topography and excellent winter conditions ideal for skiing, by developers Billy Fiske (Olympic bob sled champion) and capitalist Ted Ryan in 1936, the "Boat Tow" ski lift was constructed in 1937. The Aspen Lions Club, an earlier promoter of the Aspen area, had raised the \$600.00 necessary to purchase a length of half-inch steel cable for the lift, and it was constructed by members of the Aspen Ski Club. The motor, a converted Model A Ford engine, was donated by Laurence Elisha, owner of the Hotel Jerome. The rotating terminals were converted hoist rigs from the Little Annie Mine. Two toboggans, or "boats", (modeled after a similar tow Ted Ryan had seen in Kitzbuhel, Austria in 1935) were attached to the cable; up to four people could sit inside a boat and be pulled to "the top" (600') in less than three minutes while the other, empty "boat" slid down the other side. Wooden "towers" guided the cable to the top of the tow. The fee was 10 cents a ride, 50 cents for a half day. The official opening day was January 27, 1938. One hundred people rode Colorado's biggest ski lift that day. (3)

(X) See Continuation Sheet

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Boat Tow - Aspen, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 2

Boat Tow

World War II significantly changed the course of Aspen's development, in numerous ways. The interruption of time and momentum in developmental progress, hampered the advancement of the technology of ski industry mechanics, engineering, physical technique and clothing. Individuals associated with the ski industry were also affected by the war. Billy Fiske enlisted in the Royal Air Force in September, 1939, and became the first American to die in the Battle of Britain, in August, 1940. Ted Ryan left Aspen in 1941, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, to join the office of Strategic Services in Europe, and offered Minot Dole, then laying the foundations of the first United States Mountain Troops Division, the use of Ashcroft as a training site. (Ashcroft, a "ghost" silver mining town, was located a few miles upstream from the Highland Bavarian Lodge on Castle Creek, approximately 18 miles from Aspen. Its location and ideal winter conditions for nordic skiing provided an excellent training facility and camping site for the 87th Mountain Infantry.) When the "87th" moved into the permanent camp at the U.S. Army's alpine training facility, the 10th Mountain Division's "Camp Hale" at Pando near Leadville, (some 60 miles to the east of Aspen), word spread that there was a superlative downhill run, Roch Run, in Aspen. This intrigued racing skiers among the troops of the 10th Mountain Division, and a good number of them spent their weekend passes skiing Aspen as a result. Among them was a Corporal named Friedl Pfieffer, formerly director of the ski school at Sun Valley, Idaho. Pfieffer's goal was to bring big-time resort skiing to Aspen. He had been wounded in action and left the 10th Mountain Division some months before the end of the war, coming to Aspen, and forming the Aspen Skiing Corporation, along with Chicago capitalist Walter Paepcke in 1946. Pfieffer then became the Director of the Aspen Ski School.

In 1946, Pfieffer began to build what was then the world's longest chairlift to the top of Aspen Mountain (elevation 11,200 feet), up Roch Run. Built in two sections (Lift 1 and 2), the first section known as Lift 1 opened on December 14, 1946, officially dedicated January 11, 1947.

Willoughby Park, named after Frank Willoughby, one of the earliest pioneers of Aspen's development as a ski resort, was dedicated by the City of Aspen in 1971, to serve as the park setting for the four remaining lift towers and associated building of Lift 1 after it was dismantled, and to display one of the two original toboggan "boats" of the 1937 Boat Tow. The other "boat" is in storage,

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Boat Tow, Aspen, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 3

Boat Tow

owned by Aspenite Steve Knowlton, a former member of the 10th Mountain Division, US Olympic Ski Team and 1950 FIS Ski Team, and 1947 founder of Aspen Sports.(6)

The Boat Tow meets the registration requirements as described in the amended Aspen Historic Resources Multiple Property Listing, under Associated Property Types: Ski Lifts, under Section III. Significance. It is significant for its direct association with ski development in Aspen, as well as throughout the state of Colorado. It also has engineering significance as a rare example of an early type of ski lift and because it utilized the mining hoist equipment from the Little Annie Mine. The period of significance has been arbitrarily ended to comply with the 50 year criteria.

Footnotes

- 1) T.J. Flynn, The Aspen Times, 1936.
- 2) Aspen Ski Company, Marketing Department, telephone interview, 1989.
- 3) Morton Lund and Jack Bensen, Ski Magazine, "The Way It Was - Skiing Comes to Aspen", November 1978.
- 4) Dutch Hodges, excerpts from his manuscript, 1986.
- 5) Caroline Bancroft, Famous Aspen - Its Complete Story as Guide and Souvenir, 1951.
- 6) Ruth Whyte, telephone interview. (Aspenite Whyte is founding secretary of the Aspen Ski Club.) 1989.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Aspen Ski Company, Marketing Department, telephone interview, 1989.

Bancroft, Caroline. Famous Aspen - Its Complete Story as Guide and Souvenir, 1951.

(X) See Continuation Sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- () State Historic Preservation Office
- () Other State agency
- () Federal agency
- (X) Local government
- () University
- (X) Other

Specify Repository:

Aspen Historical Society Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 1|3 3|4|3|6|2|5| 4|3|3|8|9|1|0|
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

() See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the southeast corner of Dean and Aspen Street, proceed southwest along Aspen Street 150 feet, then proceed southeast 43 feet to the northwest corner of the raised boat tow display platform, the point of beginning of the display platform described as follows:

(X) See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include only the raised display platform located near the center of Willoughby Park, and the "boat tow" toboggan which is centered on the platform.

() See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Roxanne Eflin, Historic Preservation

Organization: City of Aspen

Date: August 31, 1989

Street & Number: 130 South Galena

Telephone: 303 920-5090

City or Town: Aspen

State: CO Zip Code: 81611

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2

Boat Tow

Flynn, T. J. The Aspen Times, 1936.

Hodges, Dutch. Excerpts from his manuscript, 1986.

Lund, Morton, and Jack Benson. Ski Magazine, "The Way It Was - Skiing Comes to Aspen", November 1978.

Whyte , Ruth. Telephone interviews. (Aspenite Whyte is founding secretary of the Aspen Ski Club), 1989.

United States Department of the Interior
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 2

Boat Tow

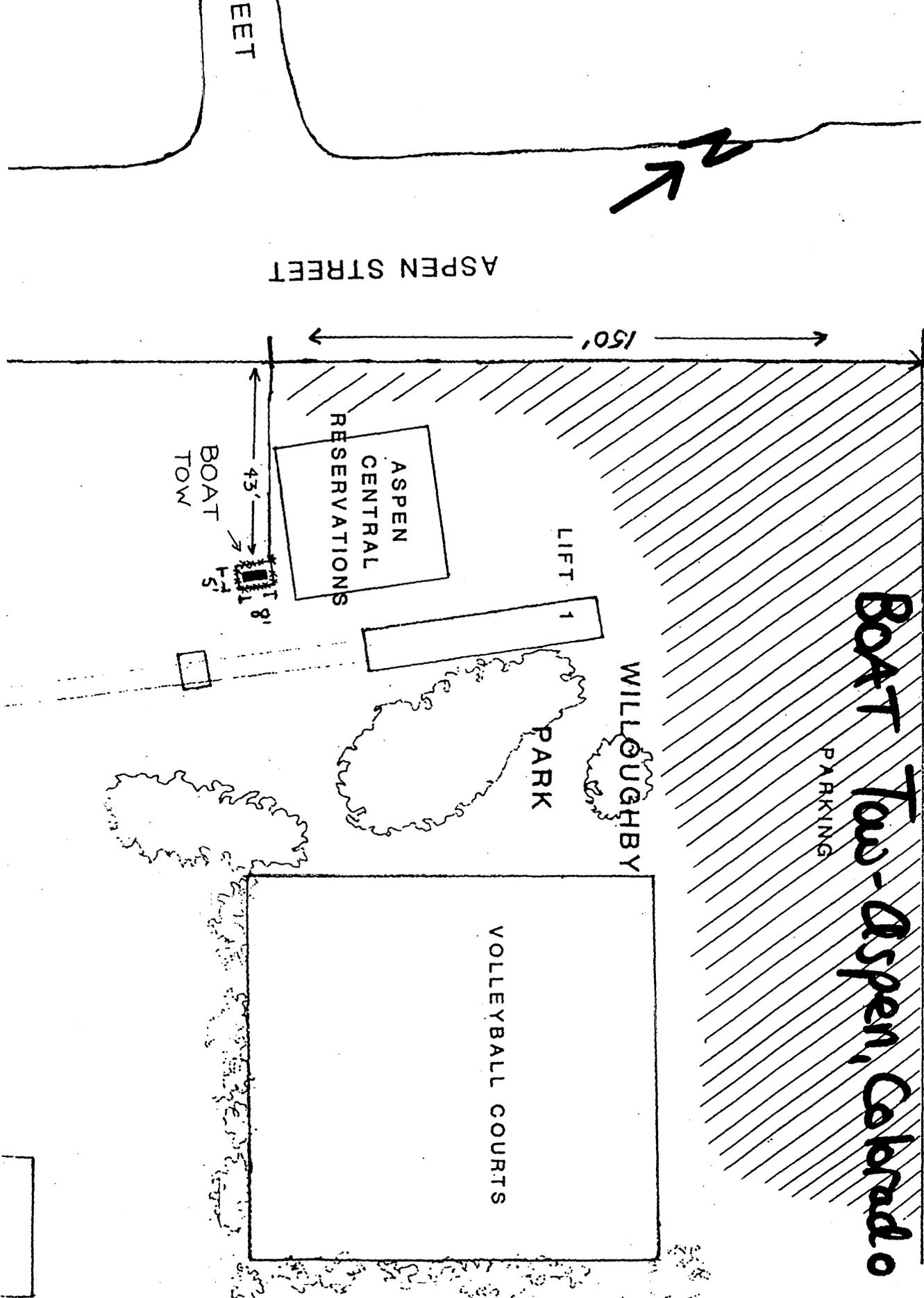
Proceed southeast along the northern-most edge of the raised platform five feet, then proceed southwest along the eastern-most edge of the display platform eight feet, then proceed northwest along the southern-most edge of the display platform five feet, then proceed northeast along the western-most edge of the display platform eight feet to the point of beginning. The toboggan "boat" is located in the center of the described raised platform display.

BOAT TOW
ASPEN, COLORADO
NOT TO SCALE

NOMINATED
PROPERTY *****

POINT OF
BEGINNING
DEAN

Boat Tow - Aspen, Colorado



ASPEN STREET

150'

ASPEN
CENTRAL
RESERVATIONS

LIFT
1

WILLOUGHBY
PARK

VOLLEYBALL COURTS

BOAT
TOW

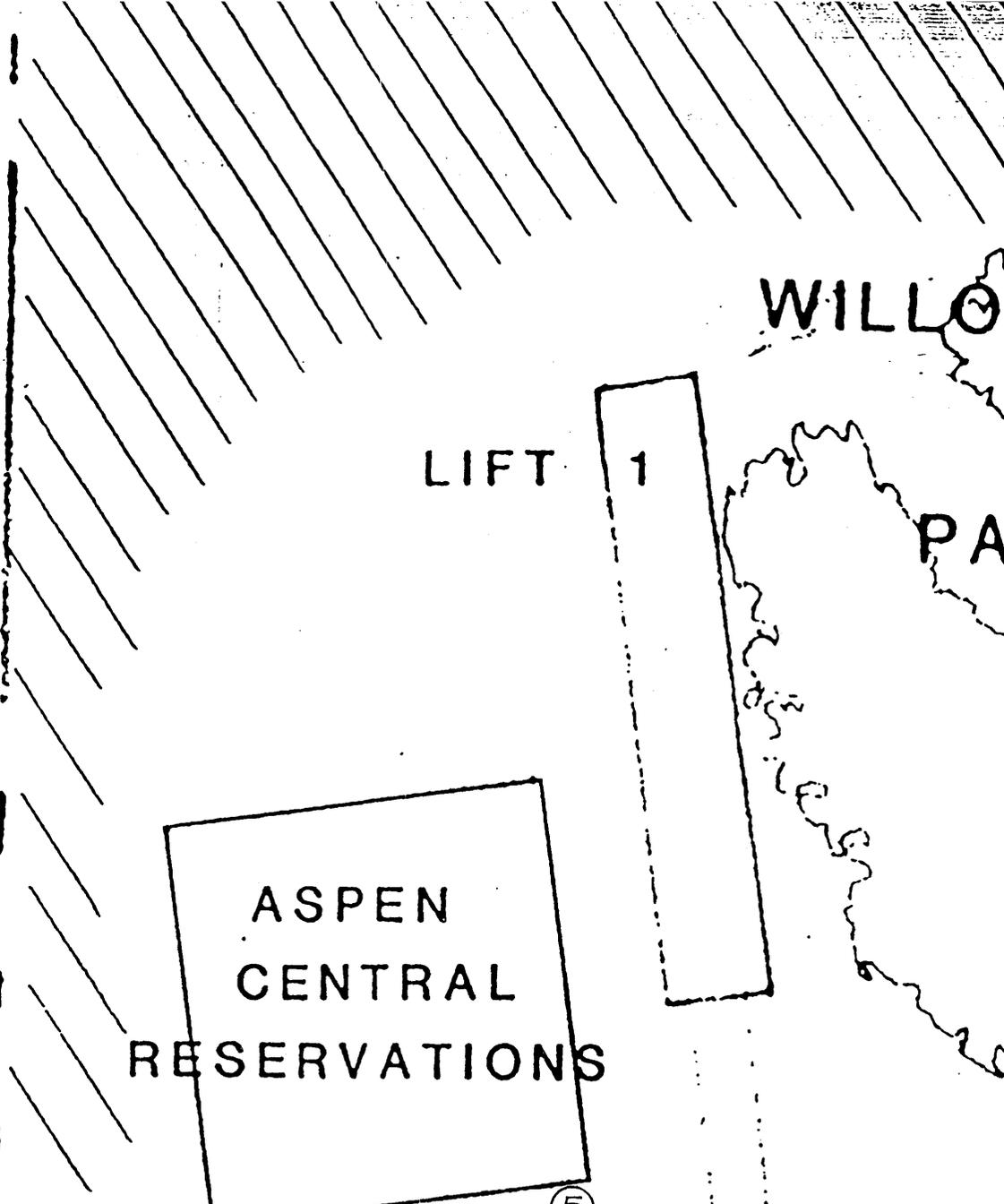
EET





ASPEN STREET

150'



WILLO

PA

LIFT

1

ASPEN
CENTRAL
RESERVATIONS

5

4

3

2

1

PHOTO MAP

BOAT TOW
ASPEN, CO.

PHOTO #S ← ○

NOT TO SCALE