

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JAN 22 1987

date entered MAR 6 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Dixon-Markle House (Historic Resources of Aspen - MRA)

and/or common Dixon-Markle House

2. Location

street & number 135 East Cooper Avenue n/a not for publication

city, town Aspen n/a vicinity of

state CO code 08 county Pitkin code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>n/a</u> district	<u>n/a</u> public	<u>x</u> occupied	<u>n/a</u> agriculture	<u>n/a</u> museum
<u>x</u> building(s)	<u>x</u> private	<u>n/a</u> unoccupied	<u>n/a</u> commercial	<u>n/a</u> park
<u>n/a</u> structure	<u>n/a</u> both	<u>n/a</u> work in progress	<u>n/a</u> educational	<u>x</u> private residence
<u>n/a</u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u>n/a</u> entertainment	<u>n/a</u> religious
<u>n/a</u> object	<u>n/a</u> in process	<u>n/a</u> yes: restricted	<u>n/a</u> government	<u>n/a</u> scientific
<u>x</u> multiple resource	<u>n/a</u> being considered	<u>n/a</u> yes: unrestricted	<u>n/a</u> industrial	<u>n/a</u> transportation
		<u>x</u> no	<u>n/a</u> military	<u>n/a</u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Sarah R. Werner

street & number 510 Cemetery Lane

city, town Aspen n/a vicinity of state CO 81611

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pitkin County Court House

street & number 506 East Main Street

city, town Aspen state CO

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Colorado Inventory of
title Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? n/a yes x no

date Ongoing n/a federal x state n/a county n/a local

depository for survey records Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

city, town Denver state Colorado

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	n/a deteriorated	n/a unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
n/a good	n/a ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	n/a moved date _____
n/a fair	n/a unexposed		n/a

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The 1888 Dixon-Markle House is a vernacular interpretation of the Queen Anne style constructed of wood frame and clapboard. Prominently sited on a corner, this two story house has the traditional Queen Anne irregular plan and a hipped roof with a dominant front gable, the most common Queen Anne roof type. The most unusual feature is the two story rectangular bay set at an angle on the northeast front corner. It has a flat roof, iron cresting and a set-back gable. There is a shed roof front porch across the width of the north facade. Its wood decorative elements include turned posts with brackets supporting the roof, a railing with turned balusters and a spindle frieze. The front gable is faced with "dog-ear" cut shingles, a shape commonly used in Aspen. There is a wide band of square-cut shingles between the first and second stories. The windows throughout are one-over-one wood sash. The windows in the rectangular bay are wider than those in the rest of the house.

On the east side, there is a one story, rectangular bay with a pent roof and cresting around the top. On the south rear, there is a small porch with a steeply pitched shed roof supported by turned posts.

There is a wrought iron fence around the grassed yard and several large blue spruce trees near the house, but there are no street trees. At the back of the lot on the alley is a gable roof, one story dwelling with a shed roof addition on the east side added ca. 1953. There is a small porch under the north side of the roof with turned posts and baluster railing. The windows are casements.

During the quiet years following the 1893 Silver Crash, many Aspen houses fell into ruin for lack of maintenance. The Dixon-Markle House was no exception and was unpainted and run-down in the 1950s. Since then it has been renovated and maintained. In 1964, there were two-and-one-half baths installed, the kitchen up-dated and new plumbing and electrical. John McLaren of DBA Ski Land Builders was the contractor. Later that year, the frame barn was remodeled for a three room guest house.* The front and rear porches were restored and had new foundations installed in 1982. In 1985, the roof was resingled with wood shingles. ¹ The house is currently painted a bright blue with white trim.

The Dixon-Markle House is a locally designated landmark.

Footnotes

1. Aspen Building Department Records

* The frame barn is considered non-contributing because the shed roof addition is clearly visable from the street and appears as a contempory building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
n/a prehistoric	n/a archeology-prehistoric	n/a community planning	n/a landscape architecture	n/a religion
n/a 1400-1499	n/a archeology-historic	n/a conservation	n/a law	n/a science
n/a 1500-1599	n/a agriculture	n/a economics	n/a literature	n/a sculpture
n/a 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	n/a education	n/a military	n/a social/
n/a 1700-1799	n/a art	n/a engineering	n/a music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	n/a commerce	n/a exploration/settlement	n/a philosophy	n/a theater
n/a 1900-	n/a communications	n/a industry	n/a politics/government	n/a transportation
		n/a invention		n/a other (specify)

Specific dates 1888 **Builder/Architect** not known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dixon-Markle House is significant for its unusual vernacular design using Queen Anne elements. It was constructed during the height of Aspen's silver mining boom which ended in 1893. The angle of the two story bay across the front corner of the house gives it a distinctive appearance unlike other Aspen residences of the same period. Sited on a corner, this house is one of the largest and most visable in the immediate neighborhood.

BACKGROUND

The Dixon-Markle House was built ca. 1888. The original owner was J. M. Dixon who lived here until the mid-1890s and then sold the house to L. C. Markle, owner of a blacksmith shop. Dixon, who is believed to have been a miner, went into the real estate and stock brokerage business in the early 1890s with the firm of Dixon, Smith and Mulqueen. ¹

The Queen Anne style, which began in England with 19th century architects such as Richard Norman Shaw, was built extensively throughout the U. S. beginning in the 1870s until after 1900 when its popularity declined. Queen Anne designs were publicized through pattern books and The American Architect and Building News and railroads transported ready-made architectural details across the country. The Dixon-Markle House design is typical of these pattern books, but is unique in Aspen. It was constructed from local lumber by local builders.

As early as 1881-1882, Aspen had several saw mills and a number of carpenters, contractors and builders. By 1888, there was a significant increase in the number of building trades people working in Aspen. ²

Footnotes

1. Aspen City Directory, 1889, 1892, 1893.

"Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures:", prepared for the City of Aspen by Vera Kirkpatrick and John P. Stanford, December, 1980.

2. Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knoph, 1984), pp. 263-268.

Colorado Business Directory, 1880 - 1889.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property under one
Quadrangle name Aspen

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

1	3	3	4	2	6	4	0	4	3	3	9	0	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 70, lots H, I Aspen Townsite

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Norgren, Consultant

organization n/a date July 28, 1986

street & number 7453 E. Jefferson Dr. telephone (303) 740-7860

city or town Denver state CO 80237

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-8-87

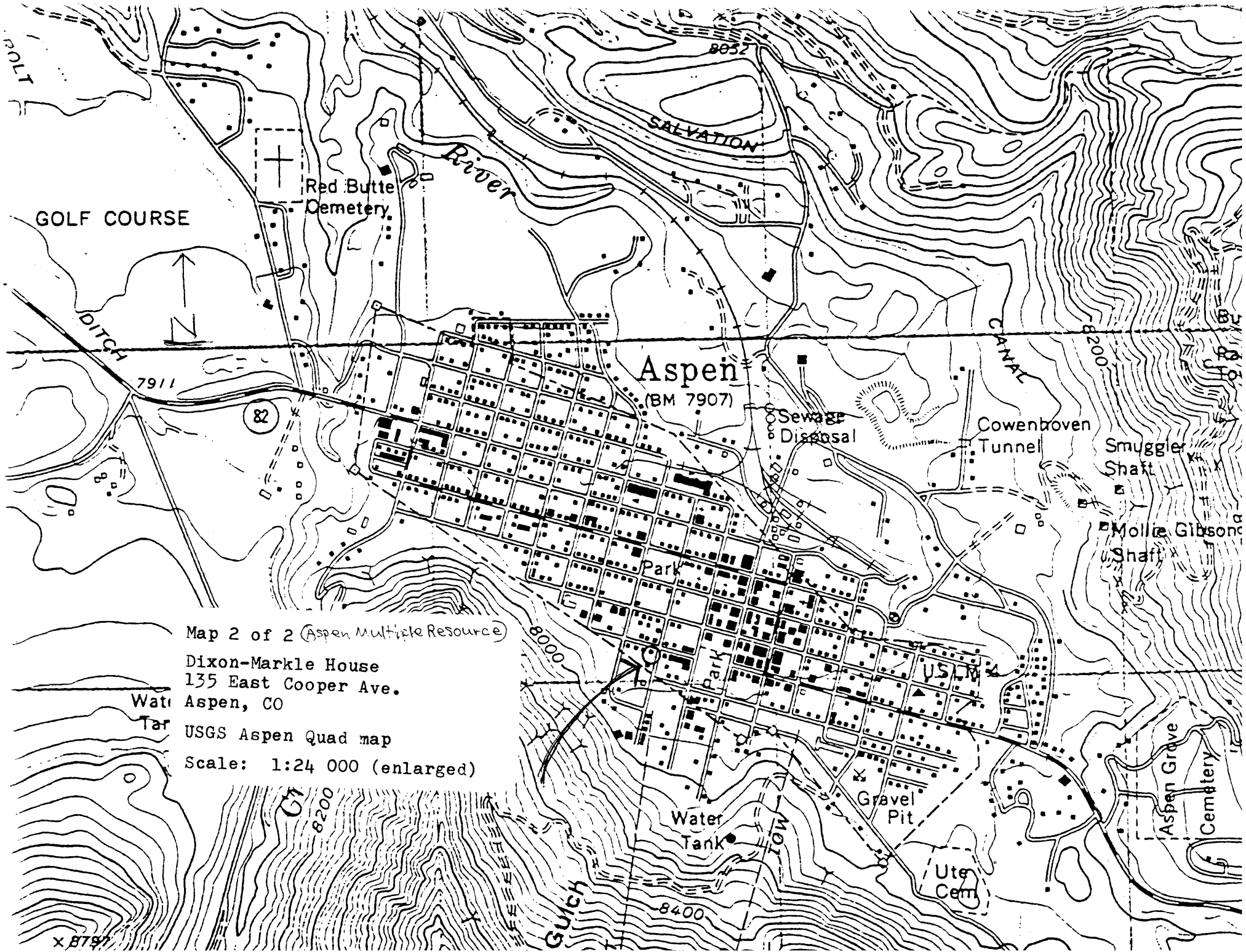
For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

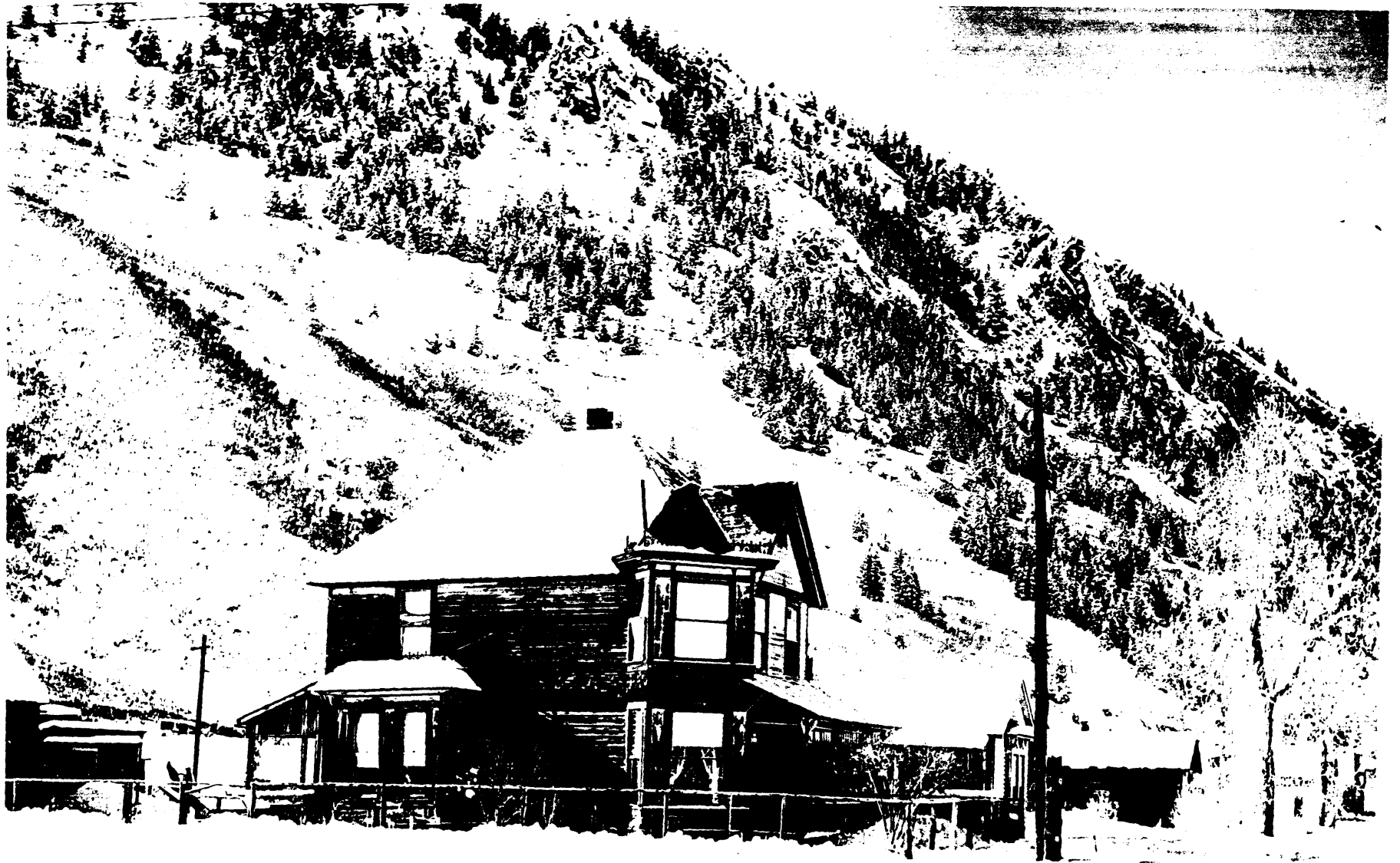
Richard Byrne date 3-6-87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration



Map 2 of 2 (Aspen Multiple Resource)
 Dixon-Markle House
 135 East Cooper Ave.
 Aspen, CO
 USGS Aspen Quad map
 Scale: 1:24 000 (enlarged)



The Dixon-Markle House, 135 East Cooper Avenue

photo ca. 1950s