

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received 1-22-87

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Smith-Elisha House (Historic Resources of Aspen - MRA)

and/or common Elisha House

2. Location

street & number 320 West Main Street n/a not for publication

city, town Aspen — vicinity of n/a

state Colorado code 08 county Pitkin code 097

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Estate of Svea F. Elisha, Ingrid M. Stuebner, Trustee

c/o Kenneth T. Eichel - Elrod, Katz, Preeo & Look

street & number 1120 Lincoln St., Suite 1100

city, town Denver n/a vicinity of state CO 80203

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

title Colorado Inventory of
Historic Sites

has this property been determined eligible? n/a yes no

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

depository for survey records Colorado Historical Society - OAHP

city, town Denver state CO

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<u>n/a</u> excellent	<u>n/a</u> deteriorated	<u>n/a</u> unaltered	<u>x</u> original site	
<u>x</u> good	<u>n/a</u> ruins	<u>x</u> altered	<u>n/a</u> moved	date _____
<u>n/a</u> fair	<u>n/a</u> unexposed			n/a

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The large, two-and-one-half story Smith-Elisha House is one of Aspen's best Queen Anne style residences. It has an irregular plan, a multi-gable front elevation, a wrap-around porch and a massive two story side bay topped by a gabled roof dormer. The wood frame structure is faced with narrow clapboards on the first story and shingles on the second introducing the Shingle style to the building. The house, on an elevated site at the west end of the three lots, has a large side yard where a large, two story, wood frame and clapboard barn sits at the alley and is visible from the street.* (photo #5a) There is no evidence of an original formal landscape plan. There are foundation plantings around the house, a large spruce tree in front of the house and a low stone wall at the front edge of the property along the sidewalk. An old water pump remains in the front yard near the wall.

The house is a marvel of Victorian design with two main roof gables of unequal height with a third smaller gabled dormer. The gables are faced in diamond cut shingles. The front-most gable has a large round opening which is boarded up. The wrap-around porch has a second story hipped roof porch above the gabled entry. The wooden porch elements consist of a beaded spindle frieze at the entry, turned posts, sawn brackets and railing with plain balusters. At the roof line there is a molded cornice and paneled frieze. The windows, one-over-one double hung wood sash, vary in width and are arranged singly and grouped in twos and threes. (photo #5)

Undoubtedly, there have been interior alterations through the years, but the exact nature or the dates of these is not known at this time.

* The barn is considered to be contributing.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates ca. 1890 **Builder/Architect** not known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Smith-Elisha House is significant for its exuberant Queen Anne and Shingle styles characterized by a shingled second story, a multi-gable roof and an ornate Victorian porch. It was one of the large wood frame residences built during the height of Aspen's silver mining period. Its materials are most likely to be local from the lumber mills near Aspen and construction by local craftsmen.

BACKGROUND

The first owner of the house, Eben Smith, was one of the most prominent mining men in Colorado. With some forty years of experience, Smith was among the most successful mining operators in the state. He did much to promote safety and productivity of Colorado's mining industry.

Smith, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1831, went to the California mining regions in 1852.¹ When he later returned to the east, he learned about the 1858 gold discoveries in Colorado. Smith formed a partnership with Jerome B. Chaffee and brought a stamp mill to Gilpin County, Colorado in 1860. Smith was involved in many Colorado mining and other business ventures in the 1860s and 1870s, including mines in Gilpin and Boulder counties. In 1882, Smith obtained some mining interests in Ashcroft, Pitkin County and in 1883, he moved to Leadville where he managed the Maid of Erin, the Henrietta and the Louisville mines. Smith also held large financial interests in these mines.²

It is believed that Smith had this house built when he came to Aspen ca. 1889 or 1890 as the manager of the Franklin Mine and the Deep Shaft Company.³ Smith returned to Leadville in 1892 and moved to Denver in 1893.

One of Smith's later and lasting contributions to the mining industry was the founding of the Mine Smelter and Supply Company in April, 1896, with John S. and Robert J. Cary and his son, Frank L. Smith. The company sold large, heavy mining equipment world wide, including the Wilfley Concentrating Table and the Marcy Ball Mill which revolutionized the ore refining process.⁴ Smith retired to California in 1901 at age seventy-three and died at the Denver home of his daughter in 1906.⁵

9. Major Bibliographical References

See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property under one

Quadrangle name Aspen

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

1	3	3	4	2	3	8	0	4	3	3	9	4	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 44, lots N, O, P 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 August 15, 1986

street & number 7453 East Jefferson Drive telephone (303) 740-7860

city or town Denver state Colorado 80237

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

n/a national n/a state X 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

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Kathleen Anderson
for Keeper of the National Register

date 3/6/87

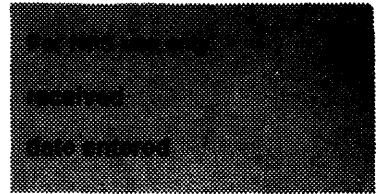
Alwanna - owner objection withdrawn

Attest: Alwanna Byers
Chief of Registration

date 1/19/89

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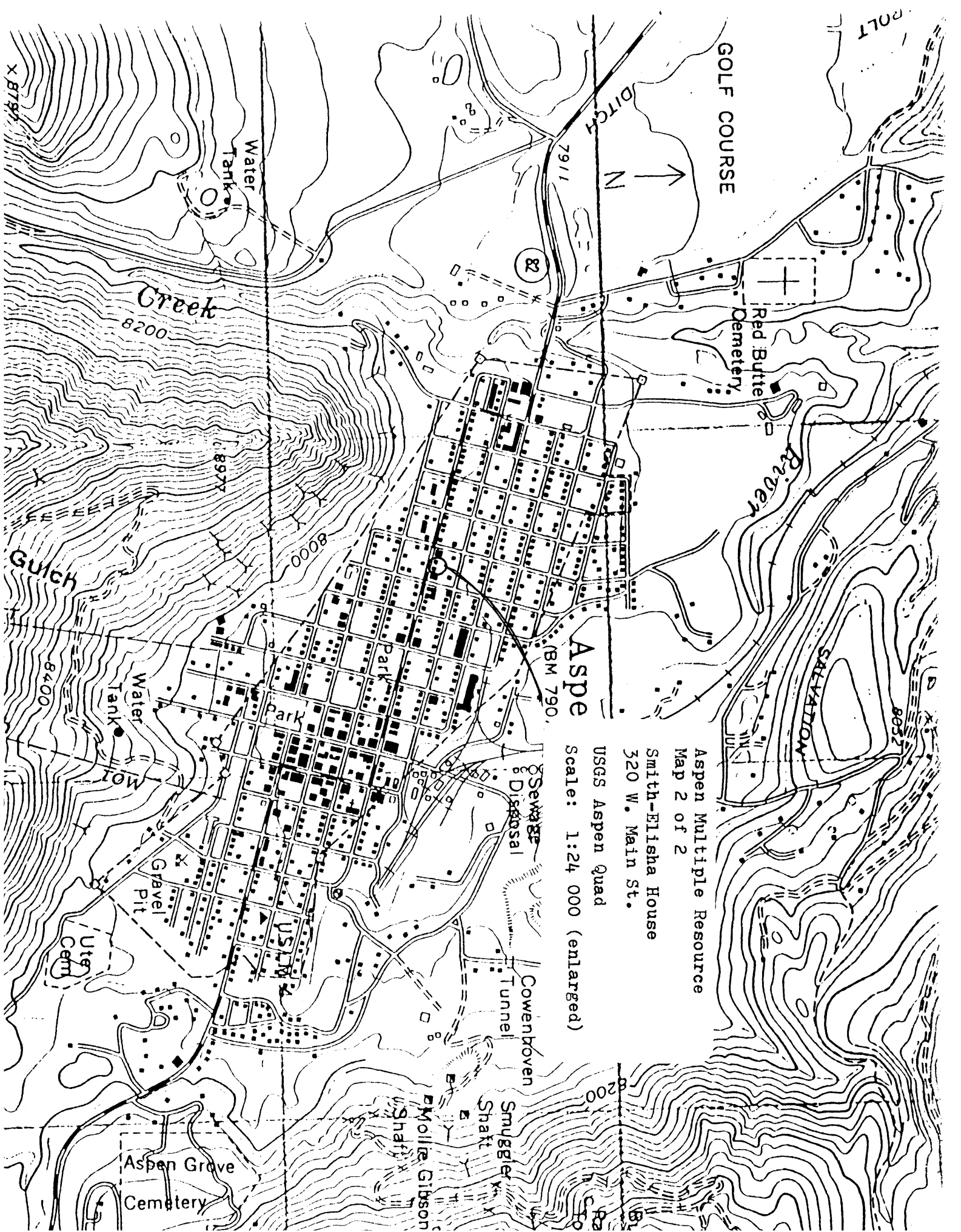


Continuation sheet Smith-Elisha House Item number 8 Page 2
 Significance

The second owners of consequence were Laurence Mansor Elisha and his wife Svea. Elisha's father, Mansor S. Elisha, came to Aspen ca. 1888 and had a cigar, stationery and confectionery business until 1911 when he bought the Jerome Hotel. The Jerome, listed on the National Register in 1986, was Aspen's most notable hotel constructed in 1889 by Jerome B. Wheeler. Mansor Elisha owned and managed the hotel until his death in 1935 and Mansor's son, Laurence Elisha, assumed the management of the hotel. In 1946, the hotel was leased to the new Aspen Company founded by Walter Paepcke. Laurence Elisha stayed on as assistant manager until 1960, when he became manager. Elisha died of a heart attack in September, 1961. 6

Footnotes

1. The Denver Post, November 6, 1906, obit., p. 3.
2. The Trail, Vol. V, November, 1912, pp. 8-11.
3. "Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures", prepared for the City of Aspen by Vera Kirkpatrick and John P. Stanford, December, 1980.
4. LeRoy Hafen, ed., Colorado and Its People (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1948), Vol II, p. 558.
5. The Denver Post, November 6, 1906, obit., p. 3.
6. Aspen City Directory, 1889, 1892.
Colorado Business Directory, 1896 - 1935.
Aspen Times, September 29, 1961, obit., p. 5.



Aspen Multiple Resource
Map 2 of 2
Smith-Elisha House
320 W. Main St.
USGS Aspen Quad
Scale: 1:24 000 (enlarged)