

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received 10 22 1987
date entered 6 1987

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

1. Name

historic La Fave Block (Historic Resources of Aspen - MRA)

and/or common La Fave Block (Les Chefs D'Aspen)

2. Location

street & number 405 South Hunter Street n/a not for publication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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	n/a park
n/a structure	n/a both	n/a work in progress	n/a educational	n/a private residence
n/a site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	n/a entertainment	n/a religious
n/a object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	n/a government	n/a scientific
	n/a being considered	n/a yes: unrestricted	n/a industrial	n/a transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple resource		n/a no	n/a military	n/a other:

4. Owner of Property

name Stein Eriksen

street & number P. O. Box 1245

city, town Aspen n/a vicinity of state CO 81612

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 two story brick La Fave Block is sited on a corner and adjoins two brick buildings of similar size and design. The clipped corner entrance, with a triangular pediment, the two bay store front on the Cooper Avenue elevation and the cornice with large sawn brackets are the focal points of this Victorian Commercial style building. There is a secondary cornice with small brackets over the display windows between the first and second floors. (photo #18) There is another store front near the rear of the building on the Hunter Street elevation. While the front portion of the building is of brick, the rear part is frame with non-original windows and a two story open back porch. (photo #18a) The second story windows are tall, narrow and evenly spaced. They are one-over-one wood sash and have stone sills and brick label molds at the top. The corner triangular pediment, plainer in design but similar to the Aspen Block and the Brick Saloon, has the 1888 date of construction in relief across the face.

Beginning in the 1950s, the ravages of deterioration and vandalism were stopped and repaired. The most recent remodeling was in 1982 for the first floor occupant, Les Chefs D'Aspen. E. Brickham was the architect.

The exterior of the building, which is painted pink, a color which originated with Paepcke, has a dark trim with the ornamental details highlighted. The building appears much as it did in a photo taken ca. 1889.

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/ humanitarian
n/a 1700-1799	n/a art	n/a engineering	n/a music	n/a theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	n/a commerce	n/a exploration/settlement	n/a philosophy	n/a transportation
n/a 1900-	n/a communications	n/a industry	n/a politics/government	n/a other (specify)
		n/a invention		

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

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The La Fave Block, constructed in 1888, is significant for its simple Victorian Commercial design which retains much of its original integrity. The building was built during Aspen's silver mining boom by Frank La Fave, one of Aspen's notable pioneers who built several commercial buildings between 1885 and 1889. The preservation of the street front is particularly notable.

BACKGROUND

Frank La Fave, the original owner of this business block appears to have left Aspen following the construction of this building. La Fave had wanted to construct a larger building, but the owner of the frame building next door to the west would not sell. In September of 1888, a fire destroyed that frame building. In 1892, that property was purchased by John Bowman, a saloon keeper, who built a two-story brick building adjoining the La Fave Block. ¹

The La Fave Block is notable for its Victorian architecture similar to other Aspen commercial buildings of that period with large display windows, kickplates and clerestories, a clipped corner entrance with a triangular pediment at the roof line and a bracketed cornice.

One of the original occupants of the La Fave Block was the much touted St. James Restaurant. This "magnificent, neat and clean" establishment opened in the corner space late September, 1888. ² Through the 1920s, the corner space continued to be occupied as a restaurant. The building deteriorated over time, but in the 1950s, The La Fave Block and the two adjoining brick buildings were bought by architect Fredric Benedict who made the corner restaurant space into his office. In 1955, Herbert Bayer, artist, architect and designer who was involved with Walter Paepcke in Aspen's post-war resort development, bought the La Fave Block. He later sold it to the present owner, famed skier Stein Eriksen. ²

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

13	343020	4338970
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 96, Lot 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 August 15, 1986

street & number 7453 East 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:

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

William Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3-6-87

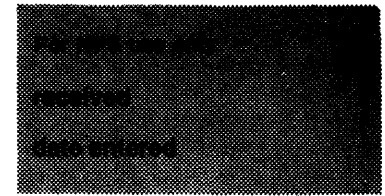
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

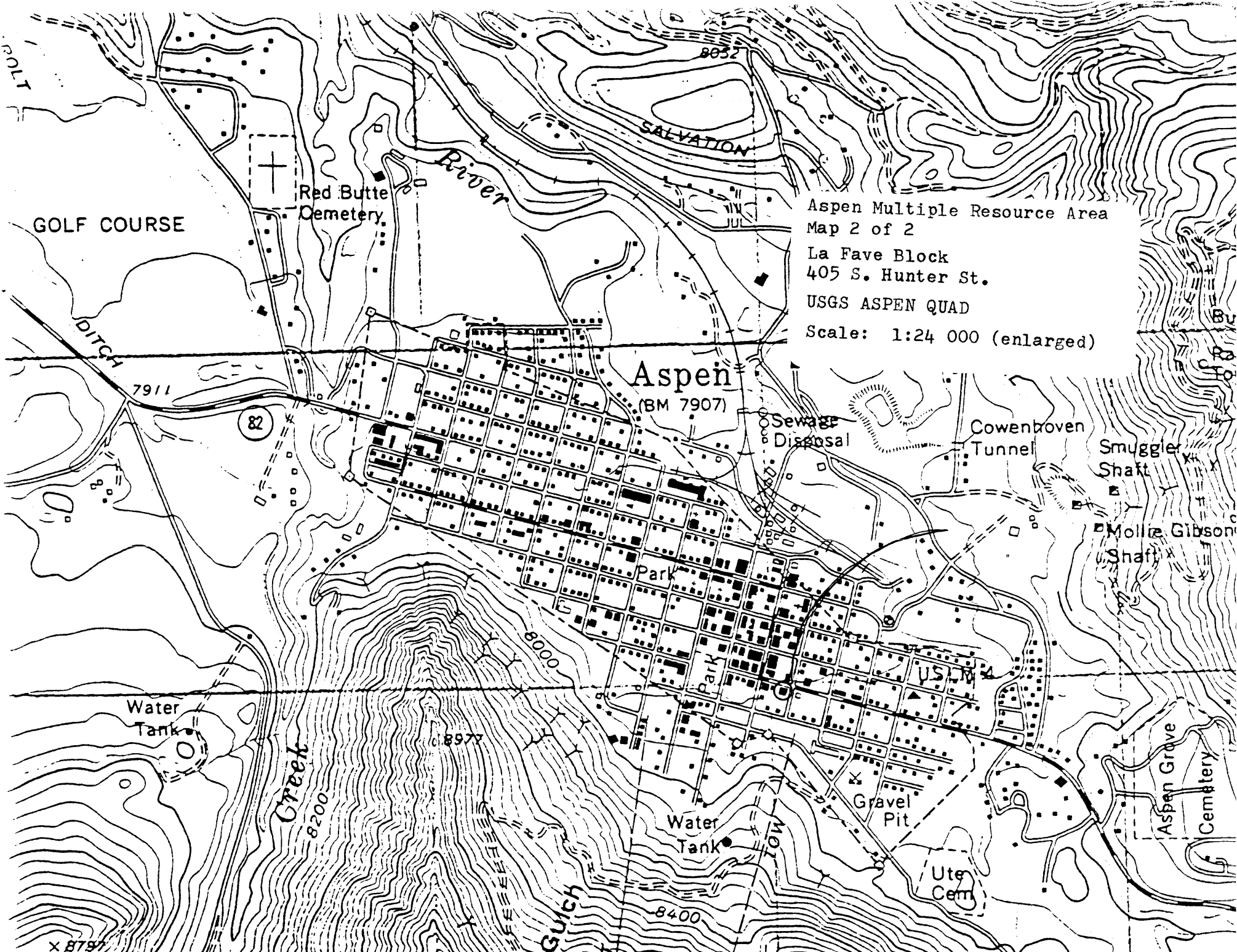
Significance

Item number 8

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Footnotes

1. Heather Hopton and Lilo Shuldener, Aspen's Early Days: A Walking Tour (Boulder: Aspen Historical Society, 1975), pp. 42-43.
Aspen Daily Times, September 7, 1888, p. 4.
2. Aspen Daily Times, September 29, 1888, p. 2.
3. Hopton, p. 44-45.



GOLF COURSE

Red Butte Cemetery

River

SALVATION

Aspen Multiple Resource Area
Map 2 of 2
La Fave Block
405 S. Hunter St.
USGS ASPEN QUAD
Scale: 1:24 000 (enlarged)

DITCH

7911

82

Aspen
(BM 7907)

Sewage Disposal

Cowenboven Tunnel

Smuggler Shaft

Mollie Gibson Shaft

Park

Park

U.S. M.A.

Water Tank

Creek

8977

Water Tank

Gravel Pit

Ute Cem

Aspen Grove Cemetery

Guich

8400

X 8797

The La Fave Block, 405 South Hunter Street, Aspen photo ca. 1889

Please Credit Colorado Historical Society
Commercial use requires additional fee.



e-Aspen

circa 1889

↓
Cooper St.

Boyd, Chas, propr. Theatre Comique — 1889 Aspen
Directory

Loaned by Fleeta Cooper

The La Fave Block
(Historic Resources of Aspen - MRA)
Aspen, Pitkin County, Colorado

Photo: Colorado Historical Society
Date: ca. 1889

View: SW

F-15581

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