

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 5 1986

date entered MAR 20 1986

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

1. Name

historic Hotel Jerome

and/or common Hotel Jerome

2. Location

street & number 330 E. Main St. n/a not for publication

city, town Aspen n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Pitkin code 097

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name The Hotel Jerome Limited Partnership

street & number c/o Garfield & Hecht, 601 E. Hyman Avenue

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

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pitkin County Courthouse

street & number 506 E. Main St.

city, town Aspen state Colorado 81611

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date ongoing federal state county local

depository for survey records Colorado Historical Society, OAHP, 1300 Broadway

city, town Denver state Colorado 80203

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hotel Jerome is located in the mountain town of Aspen and commands the community's busiest intersection. It is sited on 47,000 square feet in three stories plus a full basement and two-story annex on the north side. The Hotel measures 120 feet east to west on Main Street. Completed in the fall of 1889, the Jerome is constructed of brick with trim of peachblow sandstone from a quarry located fifty miles away in the Frying Pan River Valley. The building presents a three-part composition with a focus on the slightly projecting center pavilion. The center section is articulated at the third floor by six arches forming an arcade, supported by engaged pilasters that extend to the first floor storefront. The unusual parapet is decorated with four rows of small panels.

The center pavilion is flanked by three bay sections. The storefronts have large display windows with transoms, kickplates, and a center entryway (originally recessed, but now flush with the main wall). Dividing the first and second floor on the end bays is a wide molded tin cornice with a sandstone stringcourse set directly on top extending across the facade. On the second floor are three arched windows trimmed with brick vouissoirs and a sandstone stringcourse at transom level. The third level has a group of four windows, double hung, united by a sandstone band forming the sill. A heavy ridged convex metal cornice with dentils divides the third story from the parapet.

The center pavilion has similar detailing to that of the side bays. The six arched windows on the third floor are accented by brick vouissoirs and have sandstone sills. Set within the arch on the second floor are six pairs of rectangular double windows with transoms. The pilasters extending to the arcade at the third floor have foliated caps at the imposts and are set on stone bases. There are two flat-headed windows on the first floor to each side of the center entrance. The sills are sandstone. There is an original one-story porch covering the entrance, supported by slender iron columns. The porch has a balustrade of turned wood spindles.

The east wall facing Mill Street contains similar fenestration, cornice treatment, and sandstone trim as that on the front facade. The west wall has segmental arched windows and has little ornamentation.

There is a two-story late 19th-century annex on the north wall that visually is a non-contributing element.

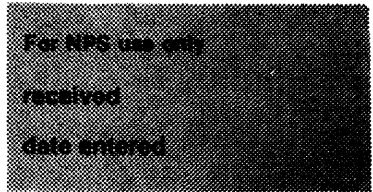
INTERIOR

Originally, the Jerome boasted seventy-six rooms (averaging 11' by 15') with fifteen baths, and a bar, restaurant, billiard room, ladies' waiting room and retail shops. In the 1940s, the Aspen Institute leased the Jerome to house program participants and staff. They remodeled the rooms into a total of thirty-nine and moved the bar and front desk to their present locations. (The bar is located in space on the west front of the building.) The Institute also painted the exterior and opened the pool and poolhouse. In 1968, John F. Gilmore bought the then closed hotel and reopened with thirty-four rooms. On the east wall, additional doors were cut for the retail shops.

At present, the Lobby level has the original uses and detailing in the tile flooring, front desk, column detailing, carved stair banister, center light shaft, original bar and many light fixtures. The upper floors exhibit change in many of the room configurations.

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The Annex originally provided kitchen storage in the basement, kitchen on the ground level, and maid and butlers' rooms on the top floor. These uses remain.

The current owners have begun a comprehensive rehabilitation of the Jerome. The plans include removing the exterior paint to restore the natural brick surface. All work and any additions will be in conformance with the Department of Interior's standards for rehabilitation.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1889 **Builder/Architect** Architect: George W. Myers (Detroit)
 Builder: Ellis & Ellis, Hastings

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hotel Jerome is significant as one of the landmark buildings associated with the silver mining days of Aspen's history. It was built by Jerome B. Wheeler, one of the town's most notable entrepreneurs in the late 19th century and a major factor in the community's economic growth. The hotel, an important local example of late 19th century commercial architecture, is located on Main Street at the corner of Aspen's primary intersection. The prominent siting made the Jerome a center for the 1890s commercial and social life of Aspen.

The construction of the Jerome in 1889 is linked to the early development period of Aspen's history. The town was founded in 1880 as a result of the discovery of silver in the area. It was around this time--in 1883--that Jerome B. Wheeler, president of R.H. Macy and Company (Macy's Department Store) in New York City, decided to vacation in Colorado. A Colorado mining tycoon, H.B. Gillespie, persuaded Wheeler to visit Aspen. As a result, Wheeler made several investments in the area, including silver mines, notably the major producer, the Aspen Mine.

In the following years, Wheeler's acquisitions in the Aspen area grew. In 1884 he built Aspen's first smelter, the Aspen Smelting Company. Within a few years his empire comprised silver, coal and iron mines, marble quarries, ranch land, and smelter and ore reduction mills. He was also a prime participant in the expansion of the Colorado Midland Railroad line to Aspen. Buildings he constructed in Aspen include the Wheeler Opera House (listed in the National Register), the Hotel Jerome, and a bank.

In 1888, Wheeler resigned his position with R.H. Macy and Company. While maintaining his legal residence and an office in New York City, he chose to live in Manitou Springs, Colorado. In 1893, Wheeler's fortune vanished with the Silver Crash but he managed to regain some of his wealth by the time of his death in Colorado Springs in 1918.

As did its builder, the Hotel was to play an important role in the life of the community. During the halcyon days of the silver boom, the Jerome was the site of town meetings and preferred lodging. From 1894 to 1945, the Jerome remained open, continuing to meet Aspen's dining, lodging, and meeting needs. In 1945 Walter Paepcke leased the hotel and remodelled the rooms and common area. It closed in the 1960s due to lack of business but reopened in 1968.

The Jerome has since resumed its place as an important landmark in the commercial and social life of Aspen. With the recent renovation (which included the removal of paint added in the 1950s) the significance of the design of the building is again apparent. The front wall is elaborately detailed with elements typical of the late 19th century. The massing is divided into three units, with the focus on the central projecting pavilion. The center section is distinguished by arched windows at the third level, separated by pilasters which extend to the second story. Stone trim adds further interest. Unusual is the wide parapet on the front wall, stepped on the side walls.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Aspen Daily Times: "Arrangements Completed for New Hotel"
October 11, 1888

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.08 acres

Quadrangle name Aspen

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	3	3	4	2	9	2	0	4	3	3	9	3	4	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 Lots: A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,O,P,O,R,S, and E 20 feet of N, All in block 79, city of Aspen and E 170.78 feet of vacated alley in block 79 Hotel, Annex, and Pool House.

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Perry Harvey

Edited: Gloria Weisgerber

organization Private Consultant

date 9/10/1985

street & number 601 E. Bleeker

telephone (303) 925-4545

city or town Aspen

state Colorado 81611

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 Sudley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2-28-86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 3/20/86

Jay M. McCheson
Keeper of the National Register

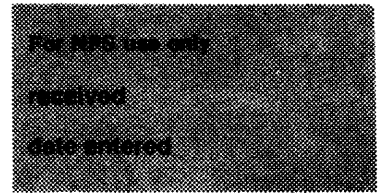
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Bancroft, Caroline. Famous Aspen. Aspen: The Aspen Times. 1951

O'Rear, John & Frankie. The Aspen Story. New York: A.S. Barnes & Co., Inc. 1966

Shoemaker, Len. Pioneers of the Roaring Fork. Denver: Sage Books. 1965.