

**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

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

**1. Name**

historic Matthew Callahan Log Cabin (Historic Resources of Aspen - MRA)

and/or common Matthew Callahan Log Cabin

**2. Location**

street & number 205 South Third Street

n/a not for publication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	
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Mark and Jennifer Sherwin

street & number 7017 Arandale Road

city, town Bethesda

n/a vicinity of

state MD 20817

**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 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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 small, one story, rectangular Callahan Log Cabin is located at the corner of West Hopkins Avenue and South Third Street. It is of hand-hewn logs with gabled roof and a small chimney in the center of the ridge. The north gable end facing onto Hopkins is finished in board-and-batten. It is likely that the original entrance into the cabin was on the north since the 1889 Aspen City Directory gives the address as 401 West Hopkins. There is now a large, slightly projecting window on this elevation instead of a door. The roof had worn wood shingles prior to 1980, but has been reshingled since then. The original cabin, of hand-hewn logs with chinking in between, probably had only two or three small rooms. There are several older additions - a small lean-to addition on the northwest rear, a gable roof wood frame addition on the southwest rear which extends to the west forming an L, and a gable roof, wood frame addition extending to the south from the south gable end.\* The entrance door is in this addition facing onto South Third. The windows are one-over-one wood sash with board trim.

Even though the front yard has grass, the site has a natural appearance with shrubs and trees planted at random. With Aspen Mountain close at hand, the Callahan Cabin and its surroundings evoke strong feelings of the past associated with Aspen's early mining days. (photo #11, 11a)

The Callahan Log Cabin is a locally designated landmark. It is the only building on the site.

\* The dates of the additions are unknown.

## 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/ humanitarian
<u>n/a</u> 1700-1799	<u>n/a</u> art	<u>n/a</u> engineering	<u>n/a</u> music	<u>n/a</u> theater
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	<u>n/a</u> commerce	<u>X</u> exploration/settlement	<u>n/a</u> philosophy	<u>n/a</u> transportation
<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> other (specify)
		<u>n/a</u> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1885      **Builder/Architect** Possibly Matthew Callahan, builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Callahan Log Cabin is significant as the oldest hewn log building in Aspen dating to 1885 or earlier. While other pioneer log buildings were later covered with siding or incorporated into larger wood frame buildings, the Callahan cabin remains relatively intact. Associated with the early years of the silver mining boom in Aspen, this cabin represents the first permanent building type which replaced the tents in the Rocky Mountain mining camps. Additional significance is found in the building's association with the Callahan family, Aspen residents in the late 19th century and who owned the cabin for sixty-five years. <sup>1</sup> This family was important in the early settlement of Aspen.

### BACKGROUND

In the early 1880s, not only silver miners were attracted to Aspen, but also carpenters and builders, such as Matthew H. Callahan, who built up the early mining town. Callahan built this log dwelling for his own family in addition to other early buildings. By 1889, Callahan had become a brick mason, possibly when local bricks became available with the start of J. T. Atkinson's brick yard in 1888. <sup>2</sup>

Callahan's son became the owner of Tompkins Hardware, which had been Tompkins and Gill Hardware, established ca. 1887. <sup>2</sup>

### Footnotes

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

Inventory Data Form for the Matthew H. Callahan Log Cabin, Colorado Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society.

2. Aspen City Directory, 1889.

Aspen Daily Times, April 5, 1888, p. 4.

3. "Inventory"

Colorado Business Directory, 1887-1888.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See footnotes

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property under one

Quadrangle name Aspen

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

### UTM References

A 

1	3	3	4	2	2	8	0	4	3	3	9	3	8	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 39, lots G, 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:

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

Andrew Zyner

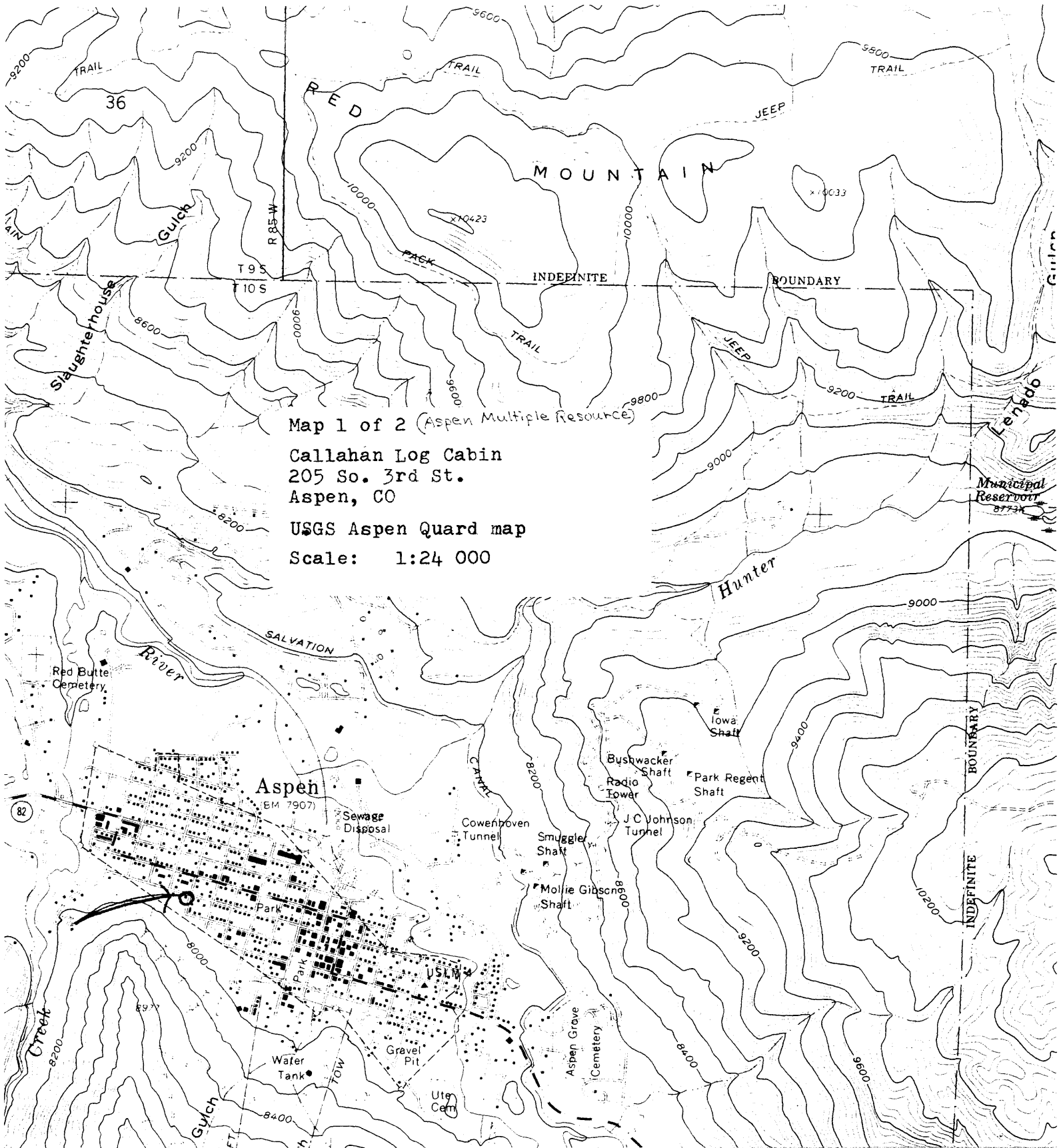
date 3/6/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

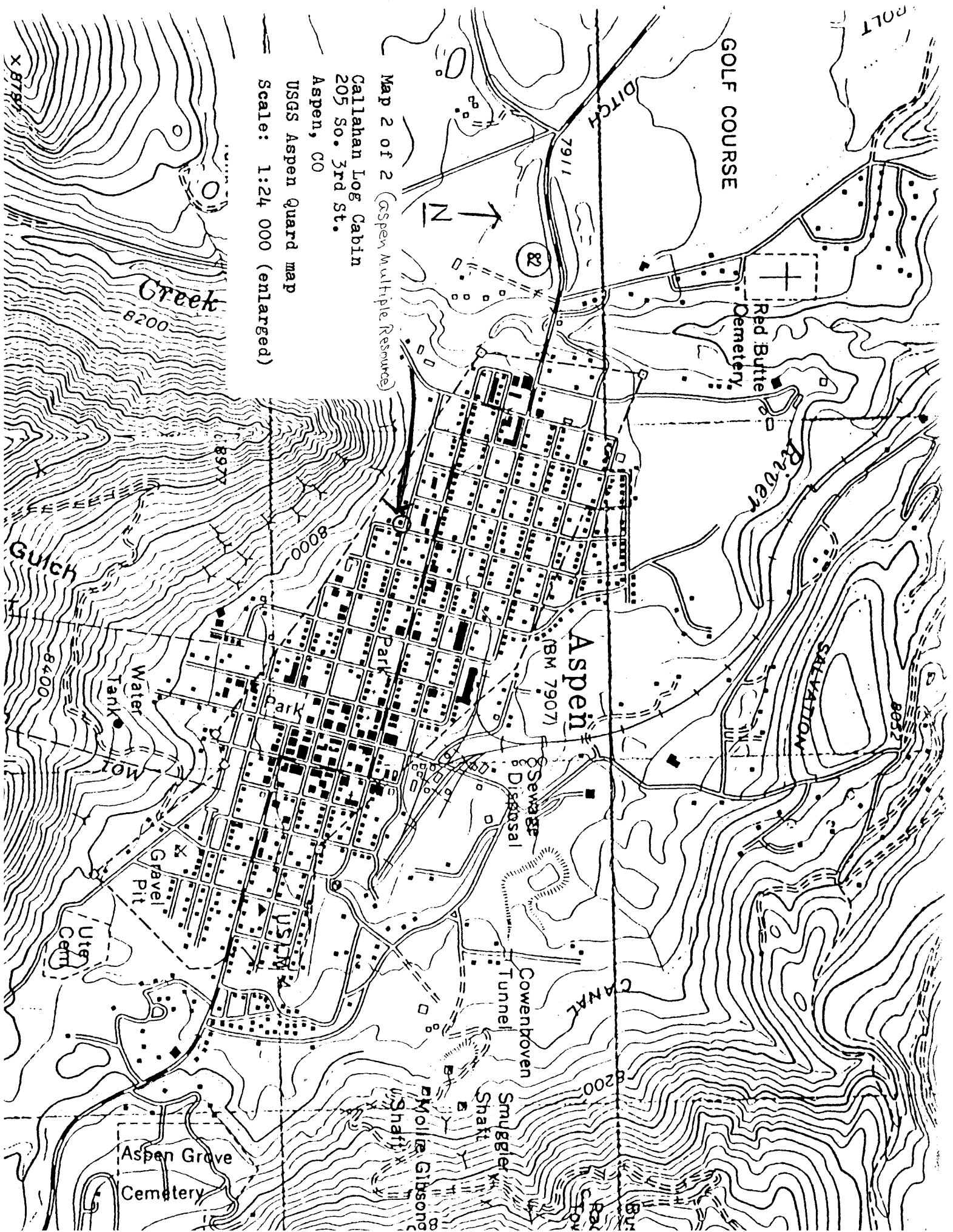


Map 1 of 2 (Aspen Multiple Resource)

Callahan Log Cabin  
205 So. 3rd St.  
Aspen, CO

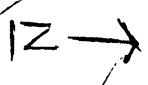
USGS Aspen Guard map

Scale: 1:24 000



GOLF COURSE

Aspen



Map 2 of 2 (Gspen Multiple Resource)

Callahan Log Cabin  
205 So. 3rd St.  
Aspen, CO

USGS Aspen Quad map

Scale: 1:24 000 (enlarged)

Greek  
8200

Guich  
8400

X BTG

Aspen Grove  
Cemetery

Smuggler  
Shaft  
Mollie Gibsons  
Shaft

Sawyer  
Disposal

Cowanbreen  
Tunnel

Water  
Tank

Gravel  
Pit

Utter  
Cem

(BM 7907)

CANAL

Red Butte  
Cemetery

SALVATION  
ARMY

SMUGGLER  
SHAFT

SMUGGLER  
SHAFT

SMUGGLER  
SHAFT

SMUGGLER  
SHAFT

SMUGGLER  
SHAFT

7911

82

8977

8000

8200

8017

8057

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