

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 The New Brick/The Brick Saloon (Historic Resources of Aspen - MRA)

and/or common The Red Onion

2. Location

street & number 420 East Cooper Avenue n/a not for publication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
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple resource		<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 Red Onion Investors Joint Venture, c/c Charles Israel

street & number 418 E. Cooper Avenue

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 E. Main Street

city, town Aspen state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State 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 Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town Denver state CO

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Brick Saloon (The Red Onion) faces south onto the Cooper Street Mall with views of Aspen Mountain beyond. The two story building appears tall and narrow, rising above the adjacent buildings. In 1947, this was the only building remaining on this side of Cooper Street, which is now filled in with contemporary buildings.

The Victorian facade has Colonial elements including three arched second story windows with decorative dentil-like brick work outlining the arches and linking them together. The highly decorated cornice features, brackets, dentils and finials at the ends. In the center of the cornice, rising above the roof line is a triangular pediment on an ornate base. The 1892 date of construction is in relief on the face of the pediment and the name of the original owner, "T. Latta," is below across the face of the base.

The Victorian store front is asymmetrical with a large display window in one half of the building width with a kick plate below and a clerestory above with four vertical panes. The main entry, next to the display window, has a clerestory which no longer contains clear glass. The entry to the second story, next to the main door, has been sealed and the clerestory blocked off. There is an awning, the width of the two doors, extending out over the brick sidewalk of the mall. In the summer, the sidewalk area in front of the building is fenced off for open air dining. The brick is now painted pink with beige and blue trim, *(photo #15). The non-original sign probably dates from the 1940s.

On the interior, there have been few changes from the original appearance. The bar room is long and narrow with a high ceiling faced in embossed tin, similar to what was there originally. The original beige tile floor, similar to the floor in the Jerome Hotel lobby, has a blue tile design in the border, diamond insets of blue tile near the entry and the name "Latta" in blue tile. The original sandstone step, now well worn, is still at the entrance. (photo #15a, 15b)

The prominent and most important interior feature is the original bar along the west wall. The type of wood is not known. Across the front of the bar, below the top, are a series of inlaid floral designs in different colors of wood. (photo #15c) The same inlaid designs enhance the cabinet doors in the lower part of the backbar. The center of the backbar features a very large mirror, probably of plate glass, which is flanked by shelves supported by slender turned spindles. There is a spindle frieze across the top of the uppermost shelf. (photo #15d)

The Brick Saloon is a locally designated landmark and is in the local Commercial Core Historic Overlay District. It is the only building on the lots.

* The non-original pink exterior color probably originated with Walter Paepcke, who painted his own house and a number of other buildings a particular shade of pink.

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 1892 **Builder/Architect** not known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1892 saloon, known simply as the "New Brick", is significant for its excellent Victorian Commercial style design with Italianate elements in the arched second story windows and an elaborate bracketed cornice topped by a triangular pediment. The building also retains many elements of the Victorian commercial store front in the large display window with kick plate and clerestory window and a recessed entry. On the interior, the original tile floor and large bar and backbar have been retained.

BACKGROUND

Thomas Latta, the owner of "The Brick", came to Colorado from Pennsylvania in 1876 and to Aspen ca. 1884 where he began operating a saloon and clubrooms at an unknown location. Latta became a city councilman and a respected member of the community. In late 1892, construction began on Latta's brick saloon, which he furnished elegantly with fixtures from the eastern United States. The clubrooms, in the present dining room, and the five rooms upstairs, were for billiards, pool and other forms of gambling. The Aspen Daily Times called them the "handsomest in the West". The patrons of the New Brick were men interested in all types of sporting events, such as boxing, wrestling, cycling and other sports popular at that time. Hanging on the bar room walls are photographs of old time sports figures, many of whom were acquaintances of Latta and subsequent owner, Tim Kelleher. Kelleher, who owned the building in the 1920s, ran a restaurant there during prohibition and lived with his family in the upstairs rooms.¹

It is notable that most of the original integrity of the building has been retained with exception of painting the exterior brick, closing off the clerestory over the entry and sealing up the upstairs entry door and clerestory to the right of the main doorway. On the interior, the bar room appears much as it originally did with the large, handsome bar and backbar with various colored wood inlays.

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	9	4	0	4	3	3	9	0	6	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 89, lots M 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

organization Consultant date July 13, 1986

street & number 7453 East Jefferson Drive telephone 740-7860

city or town Denver state Colorado

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

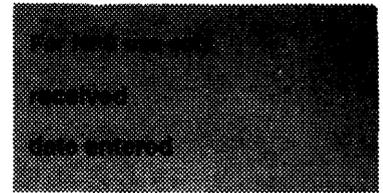
Alvin J. [Signature] National Register date 3-6-87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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The Brick Saloon

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number #8

Page 2

When World War II ended, several of the ski troop members of the army's Tenth Mountain Division came to Aspen to live and ski, including John Litchfield who opened the Red Onion in the building in January of 1947. The Red Onion was and still is a popular gathering place for skiers and summer tourists.

Since Litchfield, there have been several owners, including John Seiler, Sr., Warner Kuster and partner Arnold Senn and later partner James Perry. 2

Footnotes

1. Aspen Daily Times, August 3, 1891, p. 4; January 1, 1893, p. 11.

Menu from the Red Onion, n.d.

Aspen City Directory, 1889, 1892, 1893.

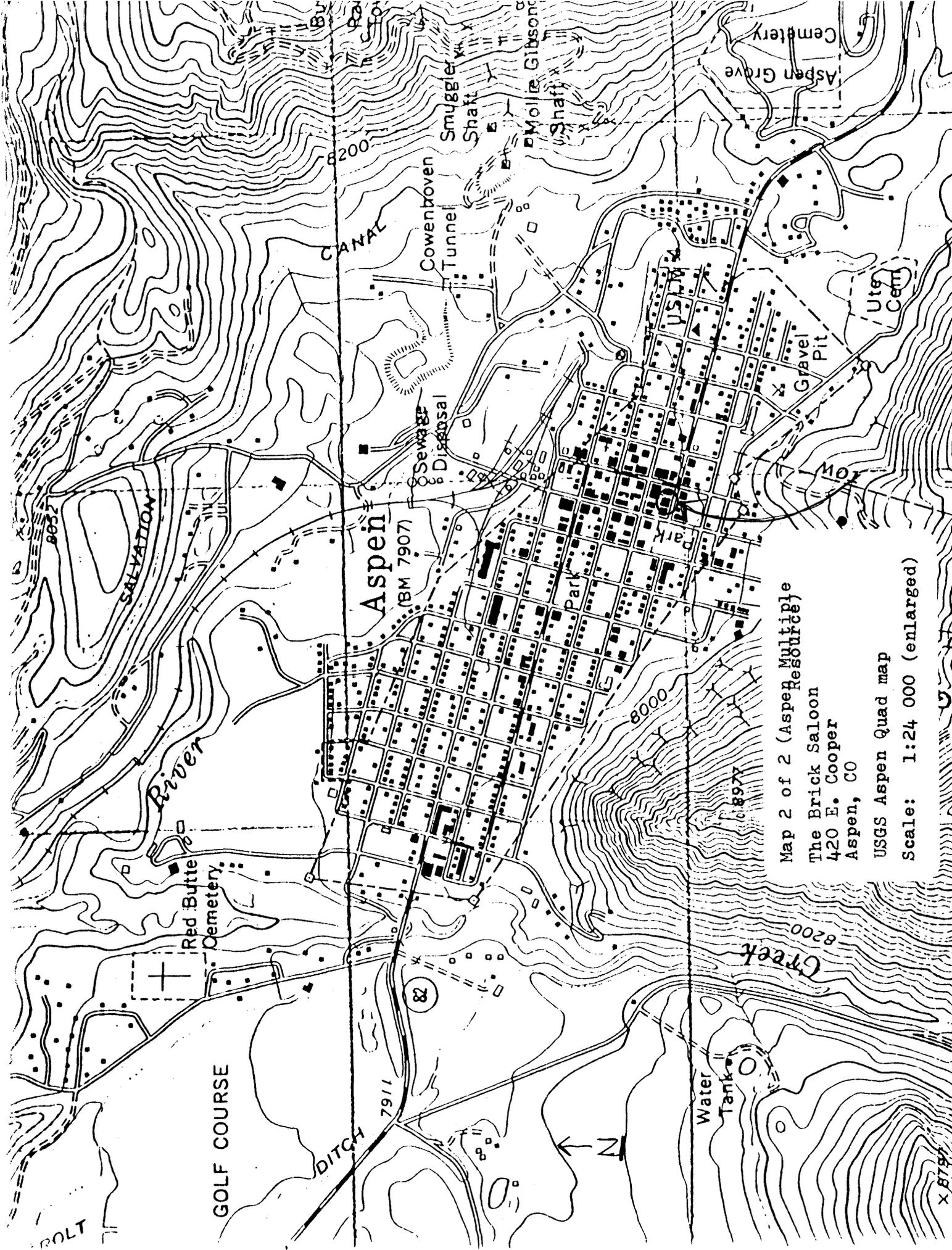
Colorado Business Directory, 1885 - 1893.

Aspen Historical Society Inventory

2. Red Onion menu

Aspen Inventory

Aspen Times, February 28, 1985, n.p.



Aspen
(BM 7907)

Map 2 of 2 (Aspen Multiple Resource)

The Brick Saloon
420 E. Cooper
Aspen, CO

USGS Aspen Quad map

Scale: 1:24 000 (enlarged)

X 8797



(The Red Onion) The Brick Saloon, 420 East Cooper Avenue, Aspen, Colorado ca. 1948