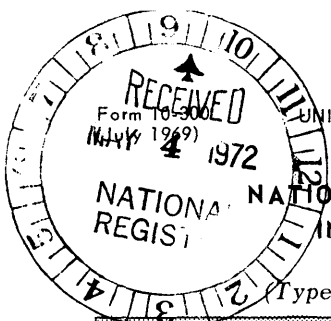


1771.66.219



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE: <b>Colorado</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Clear Creek</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>MAY 31 1972</b>	

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Hamill House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Hamill House**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Argentine Street and Third**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Georgetown**

STATE <b>Colorado</b>	CODE <b>08</b>	COUNTY: <b>Clear Creek</b>	CODE <b>019</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Georgetown Society, Inc.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P. O. Box 657**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Georgetown**

STATE:  
**Colorado**

CODE:  
**08**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Clear Creek County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Georgetown**

STATE:  
**Colorado**

CODE:  
**08**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**None**

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

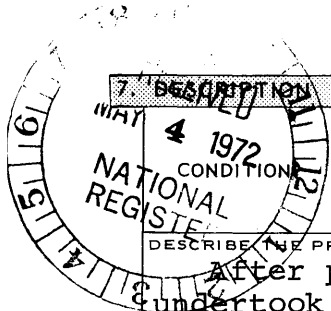
STATE: **Colorado**

COUNTY: **Clear Creek**

ENTRY NUMBER: **MAY 31 1972**

DATE: **MAY 31 1972**

FOR NPS USE ONLY



7 DESCRIPTION  
CONDITION  
4 1972

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

After purchasing the Watson house in 1874, William Hamill undertook numerous projects to improve the property. Through these efforts, Watson's typical frame residence was enlarged, embellished and refined to reflect an obvious concern for architectural style. For this reason, the house assumed the name of its innovative **second** owner.

The Hamill House is a 2½ story wood building constructed on a stone foundation. The steep, gabled, wood shingle roof is dotted intermittently with gabled roof dormers and brick chimneys. Although the pointed arch is used only once, the house is seemingly Gothic in spirit. The steep, pointed gabled roof and the center front lancet window, divided by simple wood tracery into twin arches, are each reminiscent of the Early Gothic Revival style.

Those improvements credited to Hamill's imagination include construction of the center and back wings and the glass solarium and the addition of matching sets of single oriel and bay windows on the north and south facades. At some unknown date, the small front entrance porch was enlarged and re-designed to span the width of the front facade and a carved wood balustrade was mounted to the porch roof. The present owners plan to restore the porch to its original design and more graceful proportions. The back and side porches are of more delicate proportions and repeat the cornice and frieze motif utilized to accent the oriel and bay windows. With the exception of these special window types, all main window openings are headed by labels.

The interior of the house reflects Hamill's devotion to elegance, as well as his interest in modern improvements. At an early date, gaslights were installed throughout the house and a central heating system (gravity flow) served the first floor which provided a rich background of walnut woodwork and scrolled brass hardware. The two fireplaces on the first floor are of special interest: one designed of black marble with alabaster columns; the other faced in Minton tile. The solarium is panelled in walnut. Many of the rooms have been preserved intact with original wall coverings, ceilings, moldings and fireplaces.

Two Chateausque stone buildings stand at the rear of the property. The more sophisticated building, to the left, served as Hamill's office. Constructed of cut, coursed granite, the building is accented by quoins and an iron work railing around the flat top of the hipped roof. Ground floor openings feature a granite lintel below an arch and keystone. The companion building served as a stable and carriage house and is constructed of rough cut uncoursed stone. The steep-sided hipped roof rises to a ridge which is straddled by a cupola. Granite lintels are surmounted by a simple arch. Both buildings feature a high wall dormer with steep pinnacled gable on the front facade.

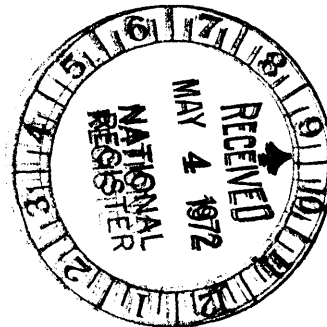
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAY 31 1972

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

The interior of the office is of special note. Hamill's attention to quality is evident throughout. All ten interior structural openings are surrounded in walnut with a burlled walnut veneer and topped by massive carved walnut broken pediments. Two openings feature doubled pediments. The winding walnut staircase is marked by an elaborate newel post at its base. The use of scrolled brass hardware is repeated.

The privy stands to the rear of the house. It is a full story high with clapboard siding below a hipped roof. An ornamental cupola, topped by a carved finial decorates the roof line. The two entrances are hooded and supported by elaborate wood braces.



**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

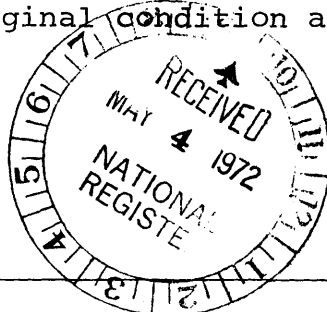
- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | losophy   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | itarian   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1864, miners flocked to the Griffith mining district in response to the call of silver. In contrast to the familiar cycle of excited rumor, followed by mass migration and disappointment, this initial discovery was only the first in a series of momentous strikes. By the year 1867, it had become evident to even the most pessimistic that the mines would not fail. That same year, Georgetown, the principal camp in the district, began to take on the trappings of a permanent settlement and Joseph Watson began construction of a comfortable residence there, on Argentine Street.

It is likely that Watson both designed and built his own house, with assistance from his brother-in-law, William A. Hamill. Seven years later, Hamill, who had in the meantime acquired an interest in many of the more valuable mining properties in the district, purchased the house and gradually transformed it into an architectural landmark. Watson's unpretentious frame residence, built of the desire for permanence in a town too unsettled for pretension, was converted into an elegant reflection of Hamill's increasing personal wealth and prestige. Among Georgetown residences, Hamill's house was conclusive proof of one man's success. Today, the house is a reminder of an almost forgotten era of prosperity and excitement.

After the Hamill family moved from the house in 1914, it was adapted to use as a lodge. Following a 20 year period of vacancy, the house was re-opened as a museum. In 1971, the Hamill House was purchased by the Georgetown Society, Inc., a local organization actively involved in the preservation of Georgetown history. The Society continues to operate the Hamill House as a historic house museum, with plans to restore the building to its original condition and elegant appearance.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

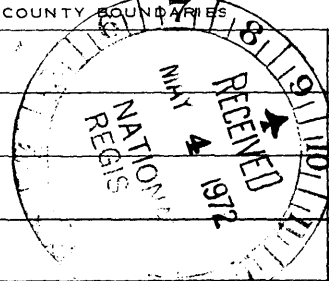
W. A. Hamill and the Hamill House, by Kathryn De Pew, booklet reprinted from the October 1955 issue of The Colorado Magazine.  
 The Papers of William A. Hamill, in the George Society, Inc. collection.  
Gaslights and Gingerbread, by Sandra Dallas, 1965, Sage Books, Denver.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		39 ° 42 ' 17"	105 ° 41 ' 55 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



AD 19/113 1040120

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Susan A. Nieminen, Assistant to the Director**  
 Assisted by **Cindy Wadsworth, Georgetown Society, Inc.**  
 ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Colorado** DATE: **18 Apr. 1972**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: **200 E. Fourteenth Avenue**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Denver** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Stephen H. Hart  
 Title: State Liaison Officer  
 Date: 4/20/72

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

Robert W. Wiley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/31/72

ATTEST:  
William M. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_