

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 Davis Waite House (Historic Resources of Aspen - MRA)

and/or common The Davis Waite House

2. Location

street & number 234 West Francis Street n/a not for publication

city, town Aspen n/a vicinity of

state CO 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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>n/a</u> being considered	<u>n/a</u> yes: unrestricted	<u>n/a</u> industrial	<u>n/a</u> transportation
<u>x</u> multiple resource		<u>x</u> no	<u>n/a</u> military	<u>n/a</u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name R. O. Anderson

street & number P. O. Box 1000

city, town Roswell — vicinity of n/a state NM 88201

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 Colorado Historical Society - OAHP

city, town Denyer state Colorado

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 1888 Davis Waite House is a large two story dwelling with a rectangular plan, hipped roof and a front gable ell. Sited on a corner, the house is constructed of wood frame faced in clapboard. There are several mature cottonwoods along the side street and in front. There is a low wooden picket fence around the street sides of the four lots. To the east of the house is a small, one story building with a gable roof and faced with clapboard which is said to be one of the early log cabins under the clapboard exterior, which was probably put on in the 1890s. (photo #8, 8a, 8b). The building is contributing.

The Waite House is a vernacular Queen Anne design with little ornament except in the gable, which is faced with fish scale shingles and has vergeboards. The front porch, on the west side of the ell, is small and projects out from the front of the house. There is a one story enclosed vestibule with a flat roof behind the porch, which may be a later addition with the porch rebuilt in the front. The porch roof is also flat supported by heavy turned posts with decorative brackets at the top.

The windows are one-over-one, double hung wood sash and for the most part, are tall and narrow single windows or in pairs. The first floor window in the front and the one on the west side are double the width of the single windows.

At the rear of the house on the alley is a two story, wood frame and clapboard house with a broad gable roof constructed in 1956.* In 1959, a one story gable roof addition was put onto the rear of the house connecting it with the 1956 building. (photo #8a) All of the buildings are painted a dark red color with white trim and black accents.

The Waite House is a designated local landmark.

* This building is non-contributing.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	n/a transportation	
		n/a invention		n/a other (specify)	

Specific dates	1888	Builder/Architect	Not known
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Waite House is significant for its association with Davis H. Waite, an Aspen attorney and newspaper publisher who was elected governor of Colorado in 1893. Waite lived here before and after his stormy two year term as governor, until his death in 1900. It is the residence most associated with Waite in the state. The small building just east of the Waite House is important in Aspen's architectural development. Originally a pioneer log cabin, it was later covered with clapboards as the town developed beyond a mere mining camp. The Waite House itself is an example of the large, plain vernacular dwellings typical of the late 1880s and early 1890s that were build of local materials. It is one of the best preserved houses of this type in Aspen.

BACKGROUND

Davis Hanson Waite, born in Jamestown, New York on April 9, 1825, came to Leadville, Colorado in 1879 where he practiced law before moving to Aspen in 1881. Waite was elected Justice of the Peace in 1881 and was also appointed the first superintendent of schools in Aspen.¹ In 1882, Waite and his son started the Ashcroft Journal in the mining camp of Ashcroft. Waite bought the Aspen Times in 1883, but sold it to B. Clark Wheeler, who later became Waite's son-in-law. Waite and Wheeler also established a law practice together.² In 1885, Waite married Mrs. Celia O. Maly of Sarquoit, New York, a second marriage for both.

Waite, a labor sympathizer and Populist, advocated free silver and other radical reforms. He founded the Aspen Union Era in 1891, a weekly newspaper. In 1892, the Populist Party nominated Davis Waite for Governor of Colorado and he was inaugurated on January 10, 1893. When Waite took office, the price of silver was declining and the business climate was economically unsound. By July, the situation was bleak as the economy crashed in Colorado with the demonitization of silver. Waite spoke to a large crowd assembled to discuss the deteriorating conditions. In his speech Waite earned the nickname, "Bloody Bridles Waite" from a phrase taken out of context: "It is infinitely better that blood should flow to our horses' bridles rather than our national liberties should be destroyed."

It was during Governor Waite's term that the bill for women's suffrage in Colorado was enacted into law, making Colorado the second state in the union to do so. For the most part, however, Governor Waite's term was stormy, marked by labor and political unrest, unemployment and economic depression. The miners strike at Cripple Creek which was settled in 1894, gave a victory to the new union, the Western Federation of Miners, and proved a political set back to Waite and the Populist Party. The "City Hall War" in March 1894, added further miseries to Waite's term. When he tried to dismiss two members of the Denver Fire and Police Board, they barricaded themselves in the Denver City Hall and refused to leave. Waite called out the armed militia and Federal troops to surround City Hall. Thousands of Denver citizens turned out to watch the action--which never materialized as Waite decided to let the courts decide the matter.³

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	5	2	0	4	3	3	9	6	3	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 48, lots K, L, 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, Consultant

organization n/a

date August 15, 1986

street & number 7453 East Jefferson Drive

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 state ~~n/a~~ 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

located in the
National Register

date 3-6-87

Keeper of the National Register

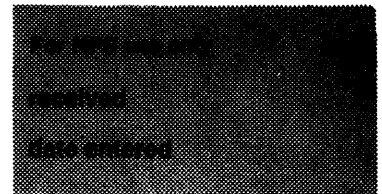
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Significance—Waite House

Item number 8

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Davis Waite's bid for re-election was unsuccessful and he returned to Aspen where he died of a heart attack in November 1900 while helping his wife prepare Thanksgiving dinner. Mrs. Waite died in 1937 and both are buried at Red Butte Cemetery in Aspen.⁴

In the late 1940s the house was the home of Herbert Bayer, noted artist and industrial designer, who came to Aspen in 1946 to work with Walter Paepcke. In 1953, the house was owned by R. O. Anderson, who is still the owner. Anderson served as the chairman of the board of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies.

Footnotes

1. Robert F. Bartlett, "Aspen: The Mining Community", 1950 Brand Book (Denver: The Westerners, Vol. VI, 1950), p. 144-145.

Aspen Times, April 8, 1882, p. 2.

2. Andrew P. Buesch and Mannel Hahn, "Aspen over the Divide—Its Past and Present", The Westerners Brand Book. (Chicago: Vol. VIII, May 1951), p. 19.

Aspen Times, May 19, 1883, n.p.; January 12, 1884, p. 1.

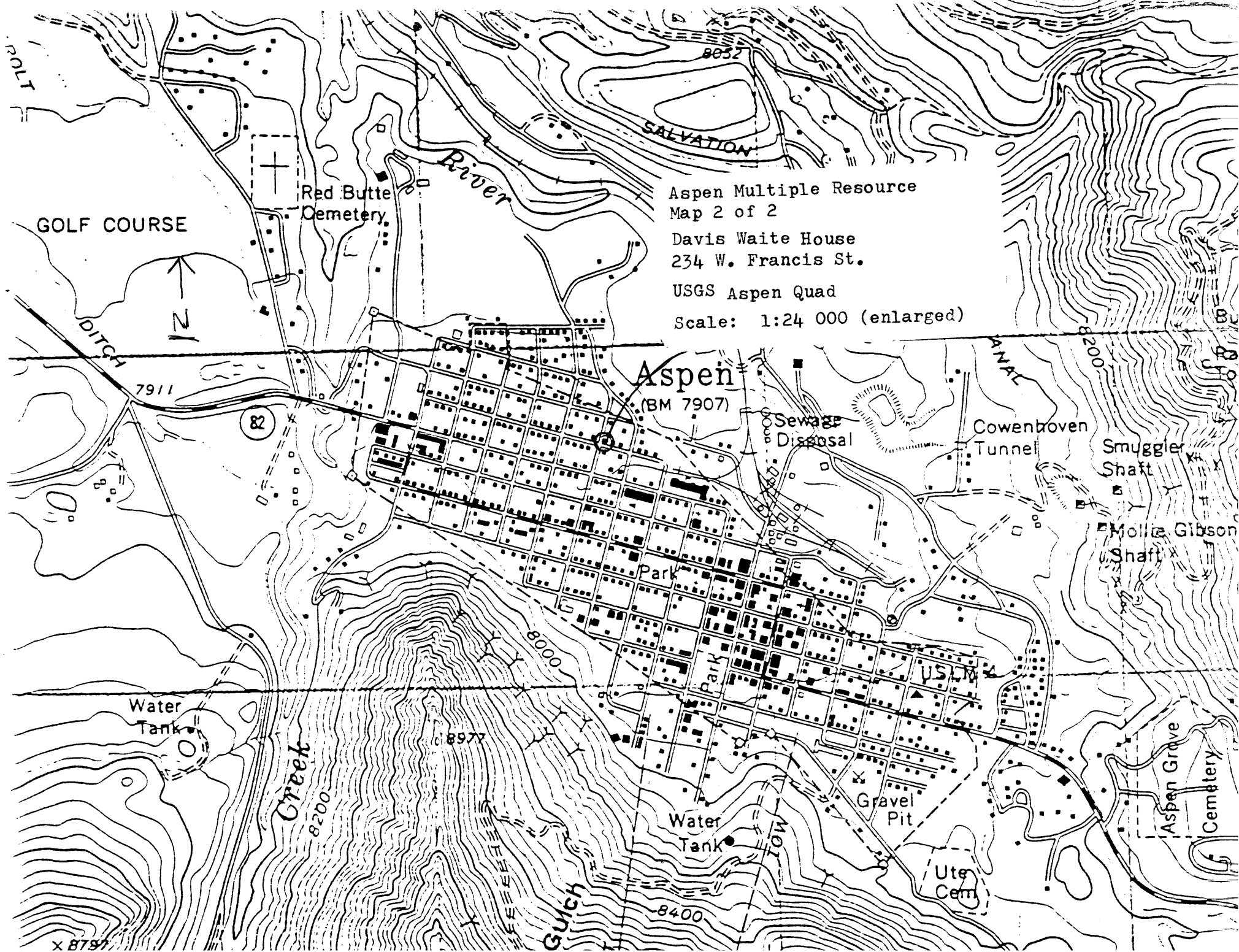
Len Shoemaker, Pioneers of the Roaring Fork (Denver: Sage Books, 1975) p. 77.

3. LeRoy R. Hafen, editor, Colorado and Its People (New Your: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1948), Vol. I, p. 465.

Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, Duane A. Smith, A Colorado History (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Co., 1972), pp. 224-225; 228-232.

4. Aspen Times, January 14, 1937, n.p.

Shoemaker, p. 77.



Aspen Multiple Resource
Map 2 of 2

Davis Waite House
234 W. Francis St.

USGS Aspen Quad

Scale: 1:24 000 (enlarged)



The Davis Waite House, 234 West Francis Street, photo ca. 1940s
Photo from Colorado Historical Society

C - Aspen - Residences
Gov. Davis Waite's home,

MSS. 977

Davis Waite House
(Historic Resources of Aspen - MRA)
Aspen, Pitkin County, Colorado

Photo: Colorado Historical Society
View: N
Date: ca. 1940s

Neg. # F - 7868

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