NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Judson Moss Bemis House
AND/OR COMMON
Hearthstone Inn

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
506 North Cascade Ave.
CITY TOWN
Colorado Springs
STATE
Colorado
__ VICINITY OF

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT
__BUILDING(S)
__STRUCTURE
__SITE
__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
__PUBLIC
__PRIVATE
__BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
__UNOCCUPIED
__WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
_AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
__PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Ms. Dot Williams

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
El Paso County Clerk and Recorder
STREET & NUMBER
27 East Vermijo Street
CITY TOWN
Colorado Springs
STATE
Colorado

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (#21/04/0046)
DATE
Ongoing

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Colorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway
CITY TOWN
Denver
STATE
Colorado

FOR NPS USE ONLY
AUG 7 1979
SEP 14 1979
DATE ENTERED
The Bemis House at 506 North Cascade was built in a neighborhood of substantial homes in Colorado Springs in 1885 from plans by Architect W. F. Ellis. An excellent example of the late Victorian era, it is essentially "Queen Anne" in style, yet incorporates elements of the previous era's "Stick Style," while tending in some details toward the classicizing "Federal" or "Colonial" style soon to follow. The original three story building had 10 rooms and a partial basement, measured 62 by 56 feet, and was designed, typically, from the inside out. The room and fireplace arrangements determined the roof shape and exterior forms, characteristically irregular and romantic. Shortly after completion, additions in 1886 and 1887 completed the present structure, which has remained essentially unchanged for more than 90 years, except for an unsympathetic but not fatal conversion to 10 apartments in 1935 by Architects MacLaren and Thomas.

Cut random ashlar masonry walls form the foundations on the rear-sloping site, and a wood frame structure bears cedar clapboard siding on the first floor. Fancy-cut cedar shingles form the siding on the second floor and on the gables and dormers of the third floor. A Helm-roof with projecting gable tops the semi-octagon of the dining room and superposed bedroom on the south side, and an oriel window graces the major pedimental gable fronting east, the principal facade. These gables on an otherwise steep hipped roof are trimmed with ornamental raking bargeboards, hammerbeams, and console brackets, complementing in scale and intricacy the brick chimney tops and the multi-paned upper sash lights of the double hung windows of the upper stories. Lower, however, the boxed eaves of the porch are treated as a classical architrave with dentils, ogee moldings, and console brackets atop modified unfluted Doric wood columns, with entasis. The windows of the main floor are similarly restrained, with single pane upper and lower sash, and plain side and top moldings. But extravagance returns in the double-S carved slip sills, and in the maze-paneling and intricate moldings of the front door, original, as are nearly all parts of the building. The sheltering and spacious porch wrapped around the east and south front and side is approached directly on the centerline of the house from Cascade and mounted by three low risers. Entry is into a typical spacious Queen Anne stair hall, top-lighted by a skylight, and from which are entered the public rooms, now restored to a state of antique elegance.

Renovation and restoration work by Architects William Odum of Dallas, and Al Feinstein of Colorado Springs, involved removal of casual accretions, repair and painting of the exterior in appropriate Victorian color, and internal adjustments consonant with the current use as an inn while exposing the remaining original interiors, complementing them with period furnishings.

The trebiated treatment of the three stories, in terms of their texture, scale, and detail is typical of the Stick Style as well as the Queen Anne style, finding its origins in the Renaissance palaces of Florence. H. H. Richardson of Boston is also a father of this style, and of the blending of styles, in his work immediately prior to the date of construction of the Bemis House, and many of the details of interior and exterior are to be found in the Pattern Books published in this period.

Ed. JEF 7/79
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
1400-1499
1500-1599
1600-1699
1700-1799
1800-1899
1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
ART
COMMERCE
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMUNITY PLANNING
CONSERVATION
ECONOMICS
EDUCATION
ENGINEERING
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
INDUSTRY
INVENTION
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LAW
LITERATURE
MILITARY
MUSIC
PHILOSOPHY
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
RELIGION
SCIENCE
SCULPTURE
SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
THEATER
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1885-present

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bemis House is significant as a fine example of the best architectural work of its period and locale. It demonstrates the exuberance and self-confidence of the Queen Anne style, yet shows both the conservatism of the older Stick Style and the restraint and greater historicism of the later Colonial Revival style. Perhaps more innocent than its contemporaries elsewhere, it is also more hopeful than they might be in the post-Civil War period in other parts of the country. Pragmatic planning, exuberant but rational detailing, and assertive form-making are demonstrated in a highly responsive dwelling, attentive to the particular needs of its owners for light, air, and comfortable, elegant public entertainment rooms. The house is also quite significant in the community, having housed persons singularly important to the community.

Judson Moss Bemis built this house for his wife, Alice Cogswell Bemis after they moved to Colorado Springs for her health in 1881. Bemis, founder of the J. M. Bemis Company now of Minneapolis, Minnesota, was born in Fitchburg, Massachusetts in 1831. He moved west, first to Chicago, then to St. Louis, where he established a plant producing cloth containers and bags for local millers and the Army Quartermaster Corps. Mrs. Bemis, who perhaps had tuberculosis, made the house on North Cascade her permanent residence, though he lived there only two or three months of the year, the rest of the time tending his business interests from offices in Boston. Despite frequent absence, Bemis was an active participant in the community. An early trustee of Colorado College, he donated funds for Jackson and Bemis Halls, and founded the school of Business Administration and Banking.

The Bemis's daughter, Alice Bemis Taylor, also a significant philanthropist, lived in the house on Cascade in her youth. Particularly interested in education, and in child care and understanding, Mrs. Taylor donated heavily in the 1920s and 1930s to support Colorado College, became its first woman trustee, and founded the Bemis-Taylor Child Guidance Clinic. She supported various scholarships, helped to support the Geology Department, and left a large portion of her rare book collection to the school. Taylor Hall is named to honor her. She also provided funds in 1921 for the construction of the Day Care Center building, an organization established in 1897 by her mother to care for the children of working mothers.

During the depression, Mrs. Taylor made a major contribution to the city in the form of the donation of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center which opened in 1936. It housed her extensive collection of Mexican Art objects, and was inaugurated with performances the first year by violinist Albert Spaulding, and by dancer Martha Graham.

Both local history and national architectural history are well served by the preservation of this significant Victorian house, essentially intact and vital.

Ed. JEF 7/79
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one-half acre

QUADRANGLE NAME: Colorado Springs

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 11 and 12 inclusive, Block F, Beverly Resub Addition
Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado

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

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**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE: William Thomas Odum/Architect

ORGANIZATION: Architect William Thomas Odum

STREET & NUMBER: 3141 Hood Street, Suite 204

CITY OR TOWN: Dallas

STATE: Texas

DATE: March 9, 1979

TELEPHONE: 214-522-0662

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL _V_

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: [Signature]

DATE: July 30, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER


CHIEF OF REGISTRATION DATE: 9.11.79

GPO 921-803
Colorado Springs Gazette, Feb. 21, 1885; Apr. 4, 1885; Sept. 10, 1885; Jan. 1, 1886; 1887; 1888; Jan. 1, 1895.

Exterior Decoration, DeVoe Paint Co. 1885 (Athenaeum, Philadelphia, 1975)


Victorian Architecture; Two Pattern Books by A. J. Bicknell & William T. Comstock. 1873; 1881 (American Life Foundation, 1976)