

**Official Eligibility Determination**

(OAHP use only)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Determined Eligible - NR

\_\_\_ Determined Not Eligible - NR

\_\_\_ Determined Eligible - SR

\_\_\_ Determined Not Eligible - SR

\_\_\_ Need Data

\_\_\_ Contributes to eligible NR District

\_\_\_ Noncontributing to eligible NR District

# Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Architectural Inventory Form

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## I. Identification

1. Resource Number: **5PT991**
2. Temporary Resource Number: **Not Applicable**
3. County: **Pitkin**
4. City: **Aspen**
5. Historic Building Name: **Mountain Rescue Aspen Building**
6. Current Building Name: **Not Applicable**
7. Building Address: **630 W. Main St.  
Aspen, CO 81611**
8. Owner Name & Address: **City of Aspen  
130 S. Galena St.  
Aspen, CO 81611**

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### II. Geographic Information

9. P.M. **6th** Township **10 South** Range **85 West**  
**NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4** of Section **12**
10. UTM Reference Zone: **13** Easting: **342050** Northing: **4339585**
11. USGS Quad Name: **Aspen, Colorado**  
Year: **1960 (photorevised 1987)** Map scale: **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **M** Block: **24**  
Addition: **Aspen Original Townsite** Year of Addition: **1880**
13. Boundary Description and Justification: **This parcel (2735-124-44-855), defined by a lot and block description, includes all of the land and built resources that are historically associated with this property and remain in place there today.**
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### III. Architectural Description

14. Building Plan: **Rectangular Plan**
15. Dimensions in Feet: **20' x 65'**
16. Number of Stories: **2**
17. Primary External Wall Material(s): **Log**
18. Roof Configuration: **Front Gabled Roof**
19. Primary External Roof Material: **Metal Roof**
20. Special Features: **Porch**
21. General Architectural Description: **Facing toward the south across a small landscaped front yard, this log kit building rests upon a masonry foundation and has a rectangular plan of 20' x 65'. This consists of the original 20' x 30' one-story building toward the front, behind which is a 20' x 35' two-story addition. The building's exterior walls are constructed of slender milled logs that interlock at the corners. These were designed to fit snugly together so that no chinking or daubing were required to make it weathertight. A 5' x 5' open cutaway porch with the main entry is located on the southwest corner. In addition to the areas of exposed logs, clapboard siding has been applied to the upper rear wall and on the east and west sides of the building.**

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The roof over the one-story portion of the building is front-gabled. Behind that, the two-story roof consists of hipped, pyramidal and gabled sections. All of these are finished with standing seam metal panels. The southeast corner of the rear addition projects above the main roof and forms a 10' x 12' cupola. Wood beam purlins are visible at the open eave along the front of the building. However, while those located directly above walls are clearly engaged, the eastern midpoint purlin and ridge beam may be decorative rather than functional. Boxed eaves with fascia boards are present on the rest of the building. A short metal ventilator rises above the one-story roof.

**South (front):** The front of the building holds the main entry, which is located in an open cutaway porch on the southwest corner. The entrance faces west and contains a wood panel door with an X-pattern in the lower half and nine lights in the upper. The 5' x 5' porch is open to the south and west, although the west side has a half wall formed by a closed rail of milled logs. The floor is of wood planks, and the openings are arched overhead. A large window dominates the front wall. This consists of a central fixed six-light window flanked by what appear to be three-light casements, all set in wood framing.

The south wall of the rear cupola and adjacent wall above the front gabled roof is finished with wood siding with a curved face. These seem to have been manufactured to look like milled logs. However, they do not have the same profile as the true milled logs on the main floor. The cupola contains two pairs of awning windows set in wood frames. Above these, the upper walls of the cupola are finished with beadboard siding. Another pair of fixed single-light windows set in wood frames is found near the upper floor's southwest corner.

**West (side):** This side of the building consists of two sections, each with its own features. The front one-story portion holds no entries and is mostly characterized by clapboard siding over the original milled log walls. A small fixed single-light window with a wood frame is present toward its northwest corner. The rear area of the building has a side entrance that contains a slab door with a small hood above. The hood is gabled and supported by metal bracing. Flanking the entry are three fixed single-light windows with wood frames. Near the two-story addition's southwest corner is a horizontal band of three small single-light fixed windows that are set high on the wall. These provide light to an interior stairway. Toward the rear of the building, the wall material changes from clapboard siding to wood panels secured with multiple rows of large-diameter screws. These extend from the foundation to the eaves.

**North (rear):** The two-story rear of the building is dominated by a full-width overhead metal garage door on the main floor. A chain-operated door control projects from the building's northwest corner. Centered in the upper wall is a pair of glass doors set in wood framing. These provide access to a small unadorned metal balconet that allowed personnel to participate in loading and

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unloading activities on the ground below and to engage in rope climbing practice associated with a metal frame system that projects from the ridge beam above.

**East (side):** This side of the building holds no entries. The front one-story area contains two pairs of sliding windows with wood frames. As on the west, the original milled logs that form the walls have been clad in clapboard siding. The rear two-story area has a pair of single-light fixed windows on the main floor. The cupola holds a pair of what appear to be casement windows set in wood frames.

22. Architectural Style / Building Type: **Kit Building**
23. Landscaping or Special Setting Features: **This property is located on the west side of Aspen's developed core, in a predominantly residential area along the north side of Main Street (Colorado State Highway 82) two properties east of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Pedestrian access is from the sidewalk along Main Street, with street parking available in front of the building. A short concrete sidewalk runs toward the north through the small front yard, reaching the porch at the building's southwest corner. The yard is simply landscaped with grass, along with a small graveled area on the west with a bike rack. Reaching over the western property line above the bike rack is a spruce tree whose trunk is actually located on the adjacent lot to the west. A wooden picnic table sits in the grassed area on the east side of the yard. The picket fence along the eastern property line appears to be associated with the adjacent house rather than this site.**

The side yards are extremely narrow because the building reaches almost to the property lines with a very small setback. An east-west alley runs behind the building, providing access to the rear garage entry. Outside the garage door, the ground is covered by a concrete apron.

Property uses beyond the site boundaries are residential in all directions, primarily consisting of small single-family homes. The building on the site fits with the surrounding scale and appears to be another house.

24. Associated Buildings, Features or Objects: **Located behind the building off its northeast corner is a tall metal pole that rises above the two-story rooftop. Atop the pole is an old emergency siren that probably dates from the 1960s but is long out of use. This appears to be a Darley Model 5 siren manufactured by the W. S. Darley Company of Chicago. The siren looks like a metal canister with a series of vertical openings around the perimeter and a conical cap. This rests upon and is bolted to a small metal plate. The plate and siren are secured with guy wires to welded metal framework that is located several feet lower on the pole.**

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### IV. Architectural History

25. Date of Construction: Estimate: Actual: **1965-1966**  
Source of Information: **General Construction Permit, City of Aspen, Building Inspection Department, Approved 22 November 1965 (Permit #960C)**
26. Architect: **Pan Abode Southern Division, Inc.**  
Source of Information: **Building Plans for Aspen Mountain Rescue Unit, 630 W. Main St., 1 November 1965**
27. Builder/Contractor: **Mountain Rescue Aspen Volunteers**  
Source of Information: **General Construction Permit, City of Aspen, Building Inspection Department, Approved 22 November 1965 (Permit #960C)**
28. Original Owner: **Mountain Rescue Aspen**  
Source of Information: **General Construction Permit, City of Aspen, Building Inspection Department, Approved 22 November 1965 (Permit #960C)**
29. Construction History: **The one-story log kit building on this property was constructed in 1965-1966 for meeting and training space, along with equipment storage use, by Mountain Rescue Aspen. Its two-story rear addition was built in 1989-1990 to hold a garage, mechanical room, equipment storage area, shower and sink room, office space and a meeting room. Clapboard siding was applied to the east and west exterior walls of the original building, possibly during the 1989-1990 expansion. In 1990, a window on the second floor at the rear of the addition was removed and replaced with a pair of doors.**  
  
**A pair of sliding windows on the east side of the original building was replaced in 2015 with a set that closely matched what was already there. The current metal roof was installed in 2015 to replace a metal roof that had been present for an unknown amount of time. Finally, the front windows were modified sometime after 1975 to include casement windows on either end (they were originally all fixed windows). Despite this change, the overall window pattern remained visually intact and they continue to be framed with wood.**
30. Original Location: **Yes**

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### V. Historical Associations

31. Original Use(s): **Commerce & Trade: Organizational**
32. Intermediate Use(s): **Not Applicable**
33. Current Use(s): **Government: Government Office**
34. Site Type(s): **Offices, Meeting Rooms, Equipment Storage, Training**
35. Historical background: **Throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, the site under study was situated toward the west end of Aspen in a residential neighborhood of small mining-era homes. Unique among its surroundings, Lot M in Block 24 contained a small firehouse, known at the time as a hose house, behind which was a bell tower. Organized in 1881, the Aspen Fire Department maintained a primary firehouse downtown, along with a small number of outlying hose houses. Each location was staffed and managed by volunteers forming a single company that took pride in its facility, equipment, firefighting ability, and athletic prowess.**

**In June 1887, the City of Aspen purchased Lot M with the goal of building a hose house for Red Star Hose Company No. 3 (it was one of four fire companies in Aspen at the time). Founded exactly one year earlier, the Red Star men needed a home where they could meet, train, and store their hoses and carts. A false front building was erected on the front of the lot, together with a lattice bell tower behind it, and the company remained there into the very early 1900s before disbanding.**

**Aspen fell into decline following the 1893 Silver Crash, resulting in closure of the mines and the town's depopulation. The community entered what became known as the "Quiet Years," and by the early 1900s there was no longer any need for several fire brigades. Lot M likely sat vacant throughout the first half of the twentieth century after the Red Star Hose Company disappeared. Exactly when the hose house was demolished is not currently known.**

**As the City of Aspen emerged from its long slumber following World War II, tourists and other visitors began to arrive in the still small but once-again growing community to engage in a variety of recreational and cultural activities. These included skiing, hiking and mountain climbing. As the number of residents and visitors increased year after year, so did the frequency of mishaps that required rapid, skilled, organized rescue efforts. For skiers on Aspen Mountain, the ski patrol handled their needs. But for those who encountered trouble among the region's extensive peaks and valleys, a different sort of rescue operation was needed.**

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Throughout the 1950s and into the 1960s, a series of headline-grabbing incidents occurred in the Aspen area that called on the determination and skill of volunteers who were willing and able to engage in rescue efforts. Just a few of the episodes that took place are mentioned here. What they underscored was how critical it was for coordinated, trained rescuers to be available at any time to help those in need. Eventually this led to the formation of a permanent organization devoted to rescue operations. In the meantime, a determined group of Aspen residents rose time and again to meet the challenge.

In September 1952, Larry Hackstaff (age 20) and his good friend Gordon Schindel (age 19) were climbing the Maroon Bells when they both fell and were unable to descend further. After they failed to return to Aspen, two small airplanes scoured the area but did not locate them. Two days after they were reported missing, more than forty volunteers from Aspen set out to find the young men and bring them to safety. Hackstaff was found alive in a crevasse but was severely injured. Schindel was deceased, his body located in a snow field about 175' away. With great effort, the rescuers carried the two down the mountain to Maroon Lake, from where one was transported to the Pitkin County Hospital and the other to Sardy Mortuary.

The following summer, the Aspen Chamber of Commerce organized the Aspen Mountain Rescue Squad. Sheriff Lorain Herwick oversaw its efforts and coordinated with the US Forest Service. In addition to deploying volunteers on foot, the squad was able to call for reconnaissance flights and recruited area ranchers able to search on horseback. They planned to spend time training for rescue operations. This was the first formal rescue organization to exist in the Aspen area.

In July 1954, a music student visiting Aspen became stranded on Maroon Bells while climbing with a friend. Arthur Grossman (age 19) from Oklahoma City became ill with what appears to have been altitude sickness and his friend Malcomb Norton (age 22) of Baker, Oregon descended to find help. Sheriff Herwick gathered the rescue squad volunteers, who ascended the mountain and brought both of the young men to safety.

Two years later, in August 1956, Aspen lodge owner Ralph Melville fell more than 300' while climbing North Maroon Peak and sustained serious injuries. He was accompanied by two friends, Loren Jenkins and Mary Lou Hayden. After the fall, the 17-year-old Jenkins descended to find help and Hayden had to complete an extensive series of climbing maneuvers to reach her injured friend. She moved Melville to a safe location where they could wait for assistance and bundled him in extra clothing and her own jacket as the temperature fell. A group of rescuers, including Dr. Charles Houston (leader of the 1953 K2 expedition), set out by horseback and then on foot to reach Melville and Hayden. At daybreak, they brought Melville down to Maroon Lake for transport to the hospital. For her efforts, Hayden received the Carnegie Medal for Heroism.

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On August 9, the editor of the *Aspen Daily Times* printed commentary on the rescue effort, lauding the character of those Aspenites who stood ready to help anyone in need:

“Last Sunday an Aspen resident slipped and fell while descending a mountain. Unable to succor himself, he was dependent on his fellow men for aid. Without their help he would have died.

He did not perish on the mountain, however. Several people, both friends and strangers, reacted to his plight and altered the normal pattern of their lives to rescue him.

They did not have to do this. There were no tangible rewards. No law required them to undergo the physical hardship and possible danger necessary to save the injured man.

Some people take their actions for granted; attribute them to an intangible, unwritten code, always present in the mountains, which requires man to aid his fellow man when in danger.

Such a code does indeed exist. But unfortunately it does not seem to apply to all men. The majority usually can, and do, find excuses for not participating.

This makes the actions of the minority the more laudable.

Last Sunday’s rescue was carried out with speed and efficiency. Two hours after word of the accident reached town a group of nine men were riding horses, loaned by a local rancher, up a mountain path en route to the snow-gulley accident site. By 11:15 the next day the injured man was safe in the hospital.

We are proud of all the men who participated in this altruistic effort and we think they merit our gratitude and the gratitude of all men.”

Later that same month, another incident took place that called the rescuers into action. In this case, two climbers were reported to be in trouble on the face of Hagerman Peak, where they could be heard calling for help. Four mountaineers from Aspen, Bob Craig, Sepp Kessler, Tony Woerndle and Sandy Sabbatini, rushed to provide assistance. Sheriff Herwick drove them to the end of the road and from there they climbed to Snowmass Lake to assess the situation. Forced to spend the night on the cliff face, the climbers in distress were known to be lightly clothed and had taken no extra food with them. What happened to them in the end is unknown, as the Aspen newspaper failed to follow up on the story.

In addition to the rescuers mentioned so far, many others responded to calls during the 1950s and 1960s. Among them were Hugh Strong, Fritz Benedict, Elli Iselin, Steve Knowlton, William “Shady” Lane, Dick Wright, Jim Snobble, Gale Spence, Jack Dollinger, David Swersky, Bill Golesten, Jack dePagter, Ralph Melville, Richard Arnold, Dr. Robert Lewis and Earl Eaton. Most of these men were avid skiers and climbers themselves, and some taught skiing on Aspen Mountain. Others provided necessary assistance from carrying litters to flying search planes and helicopters. As time passed, many of the same names appeared in the newspaper accounts of each rescue operation.



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In August 1957, the body of a young man from Delaware had to be recovered from Capitol Peak after he fell to his death. Unable to raise a rescue squad in Aspen, Sheriff Herwick arranged for the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group from Boulder to be flown to Aspen to handle the recovery effort. The body was in an area of snowfields, unstable rock and steep cliffs, and proved difficult to reach. The rescue group was assisted by ranchers from Carbondale, who had traveled to the area on horseback.

A year and a half later, on New Year's Day 1959, a rescue operation was mounted to retrieve a student from the University of Colorado who had developed a heart condition while skiing and climbing near Snowmass Lake. His companion secured the young man in a tent, wrapped in sleeping bags to fend off the bitter cold, while he skied down to get help. The rescue team from Aspen traveled for hours by weasel and then skis to reach the ill man, and then it took four more hours to bring him out by toboggan.

Incidents such as these kept happening into the early 1960s. For example, in June 1960, several members of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group from Boulder were flown to Aspen at the request of Sheriff Herwick to retrieve the body of Walter Taylor from a deep gulch in the Snowmass Wilderness. He had gone hiking with a group of friends despite the fact that he was not feeling well, was under the care of a doctor for heart problems, and was complaining of numbness. Due to the strain of hiking at an altitude of more than 10,000', Taylor died of a heart attack. The rescue team traveled by horse to within three miles of the body and then had to hike from there. As darkness was approaching, they were forced to spend the night before bringing the body down.

One month later, Sheriff Herwick posed a question to the Pitkin County Commissioners, asking them if the families of those rescued shouldn't be expected to cover the mounting costs of rescue operations. He stated that in all his years as sheriff, no family had ever offered to cover the costs of rescuing their loved ones. The commissioners determined that it was fair to ask, but not demand, that at least some of the costs be covered, especially in cases where extraordinary efforts were required. Pitkin County would continue to pay the costs in cases where no more than a sheriff's posse and volunteers were needed. Beyond that, the sheriff was given the authority and discretion to ask that families cover the costs inherent in engaging numerous personnel and hiring search planes, rescue helicopters, and bloodhounds.

Rescues continued to take place and predominantly involved backcountry skiing incidents, climbing falls, avalanches, car accidents, plane crashes, health emergencies, and a variety of injuries. As in the 1950s, those who responded through the 1960s were Aspen and Pitkin County residents with the necessary skills, physical ability, equipment and determination to be of help at a moment's notice. While they skied, rode horses, hiked and climbed to reach those in need, others rushed to the staging areas below to provide critical supplies. The

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**T-Lazy-7 Ranch on Maroon Creek Road below the Maroon Bells, owned by Harold and Louise Deane, regularly provided horses and mules for rescues and often participated in the operations themselves.**

**Mountain Rescue Aspen was incorporated in 1965 under the leadership of Aspen resident Fred Braun and since then has worked in conjunction with the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office. Alfred A. Braun was born in Germany in 1904 and immigrated to the United States as a young man. After living in the Chicago area for a number of years, where he worked as a tool maker in a factory, he moved west to Aspen in 1951 with his wife Renate. There the couple owned and operated the Holiday House ski lodge. Fred also became an avid mountaineer and loved spending time hiking and skiing in the backcountry.**

**Braun founded the Aspen chapter of the Colorado Mountain Club in the mid-1950s, and its members regularly participated in area rescue operations. Between 1967 and his death in the late 1980s, he managed Colorado's first cross-country ski hut system, located in the Elk Mountains between Aspen and Crested Butte. Today the popular cabins are collectively known as the Alfred A. Braun Memorial Hut System. Fred was inducted into the Aspen Hall of Fame for his service to the community.**

**In July 1965, a fourteen-year-old from St. Charles, Illinois by the name of Robert Rossetter disappeared while on a hike from Ashcroft to Marble with companions from the Ashcrofters Camp. The newly-formed Mountain Rescue Aspen launched an extensive search that turned into one of the largest mounted to that time. Because of the sizable area that had to be scoured, they were assisted by two Army helicopters, two search planes, and a twelve-man team with radio equipment from Fort Carson near Colorado Springs. More than two hundred people participated on foot, many of them from the Outward Bound school in Marble. The boy's parents arrived to help with the search and privately hired a third helicopter.**

**After a week of searching with no sign of the boy, who was reportedly carrying a sleeping bag, food, a parka and matches, speculation arose that perhaps he had hiked out of the area and was attempting to hitchhike back home. The Army team withdrew from the search, leaving the effort to the remaining volunteers, many of them from Aspen and from the Outward Bound school. Two weeks after he went missing, Rossetter's body was found in a fork of the Crystal River near Geneva Lake, just a few hundred yards from the base camp of one of the groups searching for him.**

**Thankful for their efforts, Rossetter's family and friends contributed \$1,127 in August to Mountain Rescue Aspen. His parents requested that any additional donations be sent to the organization. The money was used to purchase supplies, including radio equipment, ropes, flashlights, and a tent. Another \$800 were donated by the Pitkin County commissioners and City of Aspen,**

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which provided the group with quarters at city hall. The commissioners authorized a \$500-per-rescue fund for the group, which would be made available to cover various expenses, including the hiring of helicopters and horses. Primary among those who founded the organization that summer were Alfred Braun, John Mueller, Jack dePagter, Glen Brand and Ralph Melville.

Mountain Rescue Aspen clearly needed an adequate facility that could serve as a base of operations. Fred Braun arranged to lease Lot M in Block 24 from the City of Aspen, and the organization set out to construct a building there that would serve as its headquarters. Donations to the Rossetter memorial fund were solicited and the project was soon underway. Seeking an affordable design for the narrow residential lot, they settled upon erecting a small pre-manufactured building purchased from the Pan-Abode Company.

Founded in 1948 in British Columbia, Canada by Danish cabinetmaker Aage Jensen, the firm was formally known as Pan-Abode International, Ltd. In 1952, it opened a second factory in Renton, Washington that supplied the U.S. market. Pan-Abode engineered and manufactured kit buildings that employed a patented system of interlocking milled logs for the exterior walls. The timbers were fabricated of Western Red Cedar and then shipped to the buyer for assembly. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, most Pan-Abode buildings were one-story in height and ranged from 1,000 to 2,000 square feet in size, although they could also be larger or smaller. In addition to its Pacific Northwest operations, the company maintained an office in Walnut, California that operated as Pan-Abode Southern Division, Inc. A network of local agents handled sales across the United States and Canada.

In Aspen, Pan-Abode was represented starting in the late 1950s by Jack Holst, a senior pilot with United Airlines who commuted to Denver for work. He also owned Aspen Travel Service together with his wife, Janet. The couple launched their travel agency around 1957, with offices located at 104 South Mill Street. In addition to offering travel services, the Holsts provided car rentals, foreign automobiles sales, and the marketing of Pan Abode buildings to the public. Jack was an avid skier who took on additional work as an instructor. In 1963, he posted an advertisement in the *Aspen Times* (31 May 1963, p. 9) that read:

**PAN ABODE PRE-CUT log homes have proven themselves extremely well in the past five years....in the Aspen area....both COST and WEATHER-wise! When considering the type of construction for your new house, or cabin why not consult JACK HOLST – ASPEN TRAVEL....sole agent for....PAN ABODE, INC. REMEMBER NOTHING CAN BE BUILT FOR LESS.**

Although he handled sales out of the travel agency office, Holst operated his business representing Pan-Abode for many years as a separate legal entity called Pan-Abode Sales of Aspen, Inc.

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Fred Braun worked with Holst during the fall of 1965 to acquire a Pan Abode building for Mountain Rescue Aspen. Plans for the small, one-story, 600-square-foot log cabin (the front 20' x 30' area of the current building) were provided by the Pan-Abode Southern Division office in California at the beginning of November. These showed interior uses that were limited to a meeting room, storage space, kitchenette, hallway and restroom. The exterior would feature exposed milled log walls, a multi-light front window, two-light sliding windows on the sides and back, a rear pedestrian entrance, a low-sloped gabled roof, and a cutaway porch with arched openings at the southwest corner. A handwritten note on the plans suggest that the building cost \$2,435.00.

The City of Aspen approved the plans provided by Pan-Abode on 23 November 1965 and the construction permit was issued. Aspen contractor Magna Nostdahl was engaged to supervise construction (many of the city's Pan-Abodes were built by the Marthinsson and Nostdahl Construction Company). However, Fred Braun and Mountain Rescue Aspen chose to act as the general contractor and have volunteers from the organization provide the necessary labor. Because Pan-Abode supplied the bare structure and nothing else, the additional work and materials required were expected to boost the cost to \$3,500.00. Aspen Valley Plumbing and Heating donated both labor and supplies to install the restroom and kitchenette.

Construction of the building took place within a relatively short period of time over the winter of 1965-1966. On 6 March 1966, the new home for Mountain Rescue Aspen was dedicated as the Robert B. Rossetter Memorial Cabin. A sign identifying it as such was mounted on the south wall of the front porch. This included the cabin's name as well as the short span of Rossetter's life from 1951 to 1965. The dedication ceremony was attended by members of the organization, along with city, county and Forest Service officials and representatives from other Colorado rescue units. Rossetter's parents and other family members also attended the event.

In 1966, Mountain Rescue Aspen became a member of the national Mountain Rescue Association and its dedicated volunteers began earning accreditation in various areas of rescue training. From that point on, rescue operations became more sophisticated and professional, making use of modern technology and search and rescue practices. The headquarters on Main Street continued to be occupied for the next forty-eight years, although the building eventually had to be expanded to meet the organization's needs. In 1970, Fred Braun arranged to have a detached garage added to the back of the lot for storage.

No substantial changes appear to have taken place on the property throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s. However, by the late 1980s the 600-square-foot Pan Abode had become inadequate to handle the activity that took place there, especially when rescue operations were about to be launched. There was simply not enough room for the volunteers to store their equipment, meet for

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training, and get geared up. In the summer of 1989, Aspen architect Graeme Means prepared plans for an addition that more than doubled the building's size. Constructed over the following months and finished in early 1990, the two-story rear addition included a garage, mechanical room, equipment storage area, shower and sink room, and office and meeting space.

This expansion allowed Mountain Rescue Aspen to remain in the building for another twenty-four years. As time passed, it outgrew the headquarters on Main Street and had to find a new location, not only for meeting and training, but also to store vehicles and equipment nearby so they could be accessed quickly. In 2014, the organization benefitted from another sizable donation and constructed a much larger, 14,000-square-foot facility in the Aspen Business Center. Since then, the property at 630 West Main Street has been remodeled on the interior and turned into office space occupied by the City of Aspen.

36. Sources of information:

**Architectural Inventory Form, 630 W. Main St., Aspen, Colorado (Site 5PT991).  
Prepared by Suzannah Reid and Patrick Duffield, Reid Architects, June 2000.**

**Aspen, Colorado 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle Map, US Geological Survey  
(1960, photorevised 1987).**

**Aspen, Colorado 1:62,500 Topographic Quadrangle Map, US Geological Survey  
(1894, reprinted 1939).**

**AspenModern, Pan Abode, 630 W. Main St., City of Aspen Website Located  
Online at [www.aspenmod.com](http://www.aspenmod.com).**

***The Aspen Times* (Aspen, CO)**

**"Local Laconics," 17 June 1887, p. 4.**

**"Youth Killed; Another Injured in Peak Climb," 11 September 1952, p. 1.**

**"C. of C. Organizes Mt. Rescue Squad," 23 July 1953, p. 1.**

**"Mountain Rescue Group Called Out Again Thursday," 22 July 1954, p. 1.**

**"Jack Holst...," 26 July 1956, p. 15 (photo caption).**

**"Melville Recovers Quickly," 9 August 1956, p. 1.**

**"Editorial," 9 August 1956, p. 4.**

**"Aspen Alpinists Leave on Dramatic Rescue," 30 August 1956, p. 13.**

**"Body of Climber Taken Off Capitol Monday," 1 August 1957, p. 13.**

**"Ski Rescue," 8 January 1959, p. 1 & 8.**

**"Medical Data Gained From Ski Rescue Here," 8 January 1959, p. 3.**

**"Snowmass Hiker Dies of Heart Attack June 25," 1 July 1960, p. 9.**

**"Mary Lou Hayden Killed in Auto Crash Sat., July 2," 8 July 1960, p. 10.**

**"Aspen Travel Service," (advertisement including mention of Pan Abode homes), 14 July 1961, p. 6.**

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- "An Open Letter from Aspen Travel,"** (advertisement for Pan Abode homes), 13 July 1962, p. 9.
- "Who Should Pay Rescue Costs, Sheriff Asks,"** 6 July 1962, p. 15.
- "Woman's 3 Crashes Wed. End with 250-Foot Plunge,"** 3 August 1962, p. 13.
- "Unlucky Angler Breaks Leg at Lake,"** 17 August 1962, p. 5.
- "Pan Abode Pre-Cut Log Homes,"** (advertisement) 31 May 1963, p. 9.
- "Thirty Boys in Ashcrofters Camp Mountain School,"** 16 July 1965, p. 4.
- "No Sign of Missing Youngster,"** 23 July 1965, p. 1.
- "Search Called Off for Rossetter Boy,"** 23 July 1965, p. 1.
- "Members of the Ft. Carson Leadership Mountain Rescue Team....,"** 23 July 1965, p. 5.
- "The Possibility of Death,"** 30 July 1965, p. 8.
- "Camper's Body Found in River,"** 30 July 1965, p. 17.
- "Ropes Used to Rescue Climber,"** 13 August 1965, p. 17.
- "Rescue Group Gets \$1127 in Robert Rossetter's Name,"** 27 August 1965, p. 12.
- "Double Fall Kills Maroon Climber,"** 27 August 1965, p. 13.
- "Mountain Safety,"** 27 August 1965, p. 20.
- "Some Restrictions Needed,"** 3 September 1965, p. 8.
- "Dedication Sat. for Rescue Facilities,"** 3 March 1966, p. 1.
- "New Rescue Cabin Dedicated Last Sat.,"** 10 March 1966, p. 9A.
- "Dedication of the Robert Rossetter Cabin....,"** 10 March 1966, p. 14B.
- "The Braun Huts: A History,"** 16 March 2004.
- "Mountain Rescue Aspen Honoring its Roots this Year,"** 6 July 2015.

**Bird's Eye View of Aspen, Colorado,** *Aspen Times*, 1893.

**"The Braun and Friends Huts,"** 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Hut Association, Organization Website Located Online at [www.huts.org](http://www.huts.org).

**Building Plans for Aspen Mountain Rescue Unit,** 630 W. Main St., 1 November 1965 (located in City of Aspen building permit file).

### ***Chicago Tribune***

- "St. Charles Boy, 14, Lost in Mountains,"** 20 July 1965, p. 1.
- "2 Copters, Climbers Hunt St. Charles Boy,"** 21 July 1965, p. 3.
- "Hunt For Lost Boy Is Halted Temporarily,"** 23 July 1965, p. 7.

**City of Aspen, Building Division, Community Development Department, Building Permits File for 630 W. Main St.**

**Colorado Midland Railway Map of Aspen and Vicinity.** Colorado Springs, CO: General Superintendent's Office, Colorado Midland Railway, January 1901.

**Find A Grave Memorial, Alfred Braun, Red Butte Cemetery, Aspen, Colorado.**

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Fred Braun, Aspen Hall of Fame, Organization Website Located Online at [www.aspenhalloffame.org](http://www.aspenhalloffame.org).

General Construction Permit, City of Aspen, Building Inspection Department, Approved 22 November 1965 (Permit #960C).

Hayes, Mary Eshbaugh. *The Story of Aspen*. Aspen, CO: Aspen Three Publishing, 1996.

Map of Aspen, Colorado & Subdivisions, 1964.

“Mission Accomplished,” *Aspen Sojourner*, Midwinter/Spring 2015 Issue, 1 February 2015.

Mountain Rescue Aspen History and Information, Organization Website Located Online at [www.mountainrescueaspen.org](http://www.mountainrescueaspen.org).

*Pan Abode Buildings in Aspen: A Historic Context*. Prepared for the City of Aspen by TEC, Inc. of Golden, CO, 2010.

Pan Abode Cedar Homes History, Company Website Located Online at [www.panabodehomes.com/history](http://www.panabodehomes.com/history).

Photograph from the Koch Home at 611 W. Main St., View Toward the North, Aspen Historical Society Collection, circa 1900 (ID #2013.007.0053).

Photograph of the Mountain Rescue Aspen Building at 630 W. Main St., View Toward the North, City of Aspen, Community Development Department Files, circa 1975.

Pitkin County Assessor, Real Estate Appraisal Records, 630 W. Main St. (Lot M, Block 24), Aspen, Colorado (parcel #273512444855).

*Rocky Mountain Sun* (Aspen, CO)  
“Red Stars,” 12 June 1886, p. 2.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Aspen, Colorado, 1890, 1893, 1898, 1904.

United States Federal Census Records for Alfred and Renate Braun, 1940 (Norwood Park, Cook County, IL).

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### VI. Significance

37. Local landmark designation: **None**

38. Applicable National Register Criteria:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history
- B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction
- D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory

Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G

Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria

39. Area(s) of significance: **Architecture, Recreation**

40. Period of significance: **1966 (Architecture)**  
**1965-1967 (Recreation)**

41. Level of significance: National **No** State **No** Local **Yes**

42. Statement of significance: **Between approximately 1887 and 1905, during Aspen's mining era, this property was in its first stage of development and use. Located there throughout those years was a City of Aspen firehouse operated by the Red Star Hose Company No. 3. Behind the building stood a bell tower that was used to call the men to action. As the city went into decline following the 1893 Silver Crash, the firehouse closed and was eventually dismantled. Throughout Aspen's "Quiet Years" and into the early post-World War II era (from about 1905 to 1965), the property appears to have sat vacant.**

**Criterion A: For twenty years after World War II, search and rescue operations were conducted by an informal group of Aspen mountaineers with the necessary skills, stamina and determination to be of help. They worked under the direction of the Pitkin County Sheriff and were aided by others in the community who stepped forward to provide necessary equipment and supplies. In some cases, outside assistance was requested when helicopters and search planes were necessary, and when more personnel were needed on the ground.**



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Mountain Rescue Aspen was founded in 1965 to become the area's primary organization that provided search and rescue services for backcountry skiers, hikers, climbers, and other travelers and recreationists who found themselves in dire straits. Although dependent upon volunteers, those who participated were provided with extensive training and certification. The establishment of this organization brought search and rescue activities into the modern era.

With the help of donations that were secured following a series of tragic hiking and climbing incidents, in 1965 the organization leased Lot M in Block 24 (630 West Main Street) from the City of Aspen and arranged to have a building erected on the property. Completed in early 1966, this served for the next forty-eight years as the home of Mountain Rescue Aspen. The facility provided storage space and served as a meeting place and training facility for the organization's many volunteers. Throughout its decades of operation, Mountain Rescue Aspen earned and has maintained the respect of the community for its professionalism and the necessary work it does.

Due to its history of use, the Mountain Rescue Aspen Building is NRHP eligible under Criterion A on the local level for its association with Recreation in Aspen during the second half of the twentieth century. Its period of significance is limited to 1965-1967, the fifty-year mark in accordance with NRHP guidelines, despite the fact that the organization remained there through 2014.

**Criterion B:** One of the driving forces in the establishment of Mountain Rescue Aspen was local hotelier and mountaineer Alfred Braun. An immigrant from Germany who arrived in the United States earlier in the century, Braun came to Aspen with his wife Renate in the early 1950s. There they owned and operated the Holiday House ski lodge. Fred was an avid mountaineer and loved spending time hiking and skiing in the backcountry.

In the mid-1950s, Fred Braun founded the Aspen chapter of the Colorado Mountain Club, whose members participated in area rescue operations. Between 1967 and his death in the late 1980s, he managed Colorado's first cross-country ski hut system, located in the Elk Mountains between Aspen and Crested Butte. Today the cabins are collectively known as the Alfred A. Braun Memorial Hut System. Fred was eventually inducted into the Aspen Hall of Fame for his service to the community.

In addition to founding and leading Mountain Rescue Aspen together with other volunteers of that era, Braun arranged for the lease on the property and construction of the building that would become its home. He then went on to manage Mountain Rescue Aspen for a number of years and is viewed today as one of its primary founders. Due to the property's association with the life and volunteer work of Alfred Braun, the building is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B in the area of Recreation on the local level. As above, the period of this association is limited to 1965-1967.

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**Criterion C:** The building originally erected on this property for Mountain Rescue Aspen was a 600-square-foot Pan Abode log kit cabin. Purchased from Pan-Abode International and manufactured in their factory in Washington State, it was shipped to Aspen in pieces that required assembly. However, what the company provided was essentially the structure and nothing else. Other elements such as the foundation, flooring, utilities and interior finishes were to be provided by the buyer. The construction work was undertaken by volunteers from the organization, with supervision provided by a local contractor. Completed between late November 1965 and early March 1966, the building housed the organization for the next forty-eight years.

As the number of participants grew and the frequency of rescue operations increased with a growing population and expanding tourist economy, the small building eventually became inadequate to handle meetings, training sessions, and the frenetic activity of preparing to deploy on search and rescue missions. By the late 1980s, the situation had become problematic and in 1989-1990 Mountain Rescue Aspen arranged to have the Pan Abode more than doubled in size with the construction of a two-story rear addition. The expanded building is what remains on the property today.

The front section is clearly recognizable as a pre-manufactured rustic kit building dating from the middle decades of the twentieth century. Elements of the style and era include its tongue-in-groove cedar log construction with notching at the corners, wood framed multi-light front window, low pitched gabled roof, deep overhanging eaves, recessed entrance with rounded corners, one story height, and simple rectangular form. According to *Pan Abode Buildings in Aspen: A Historic Context* (2010), the building exhibits many of the style's characteristic features and the established criteria in terms of time period, methods of construction, and architectural detailing.

For these reasons, this property is NRHP eligible under Criterion C on the local level in the area of Architecture for embodying the distinctive characteristics of the twentieth century Kit Building style of architecture. The building type was common in Aspen between 1956 and 1970. This site's period of significance is limited to 1966, the year the building was completed.

**City of Aspen Significance:** The Mountain Rescue Aspen Building at 630 West Main Street clearly meets the City of Aspen's guidelines for the character-defining features of what it terms the Rustic Manufactured Style of architecture (also known as a Kit Building). As stated above, it falls within the criteria established in *Pan Abode Buildings in Aspen: A Historic Context*, with the primary exception being the fact that its exterior walls are painted rather than natural, stained wood.

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**Most of the more than fifty Pan Abode buildings constructed in Aspen during the period between 1956 and 1970 served as single-family homes. A smaller number were used as apartments, commercial buildings, a church hall, and for ski resort purposes. The Mountain Rescue Aspen building was among the smallest of these, with a footprint of just 600 square feet.**

**Today the building is representative of the post-World War II decades, during which numerous rustic homes, tourist cottages, and other buildings were erected in Aspen. As discussed in detail above, it is also associated with Fred Braun and the history of Mountain Rescue Aspen. While some owners employed more traditional log construction materials and techniques, others such as Mountain Rescue Aspen purchased and erected manufactured log kit buildings that could be assembled and finished with local labor. A number of Pan Abodes remain standing in Aspen today, most of them single-family homes. What makes this one unique among them are its small size and history of use, both characteristics that add to the building's importance.**

Applicable City of Aspen Criteria (Section 26.415.030.C.1, Aspen Municipal Code):

- A. The property is related to an event, pattern, or trend that has made a contribution to local, state, regional or national history that is deemed important, and the specific event, pattern or trend is identified and documented in an adopted context paper
- B. The property is related to people who have made a contribution to local, state, regional or national history that is deemed important, and the specific people are identified and documented in an adopted context paper
- C. The property represents a physical design that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or represents the technical or aesthetic achievements of a recognized designer, craftsman, or design philosophy that is deemed important and the specific physical design, designer, or philosophy is documented in an adopted context paper
- D. The property possesses such singular significance to the City, as documented by the opinions of persons educated or experienced in the fields of history, architecture, landscape architecture, archaeology or a related field, that the property's potential demolition or major alteration would substantially diminish the character and sense of place in the city as perceived by members of the community
- E. The property or district possesses an appropriate degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship and association, given its age.

Does not meet any of the above City of Aspen criteria

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43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance: **This property was developed in 1966 with the front half of the building that remains there today. This was the original Pan Abode building that provided the site with something of architectural interest. The 20' x 30' one-story milled log kit building was more than doubled in size in 1989-1990 with a rear two-story 20' x 35' addition that extended the building back toward the alley.**

**The project also seems to have resulted in additional changes that impacted the Pan Abode. These included replacing some of the front fixed windows with casements, although the overall window pattern remained the same, and the milled log side walls were clad with clapboard siding. In addition, the roof material was changed to standing seam metal at an unknown time (although it seems to have originally been corrugated metal).**

**From the front sidewalk, it is still clearly apparent that this is a Pan Abode building based upon the appearance of the front wall and other characteristics. While the non-historic changes may be viewed as substantial, they have only impacted its architectural integrity to a modest degree. Today the building exhibits a reasonably good level of integrity related to its original design, materials and workmanship. What remain untouched are its location, setting, feeling and association. Substantial elements of the building's original architecture are still apparent, and it continues to convey its mid-1960s origins and use.**

## VII. National Register Eligibility Assessment

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Eligible**
45. Is there National Register district potential? **No**

**Discuss: This properties surrounding the site appear to include a concentration of historically and architecturally significant resources from the same era that are contiguous or close to one another and might allow for the creation of a National Register, State Register, or local landmark district.**

If there is National Register district potential, is this building contributing? **No**

46. If the building is in an existing National Register district, is it contributing? **N/A**

## VIII. Recording Information

47. Photograph numbers: **630 West Main Street, #1752-1777**
- Negatives filed at: **Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1909, Fort Collins, CO 80522**

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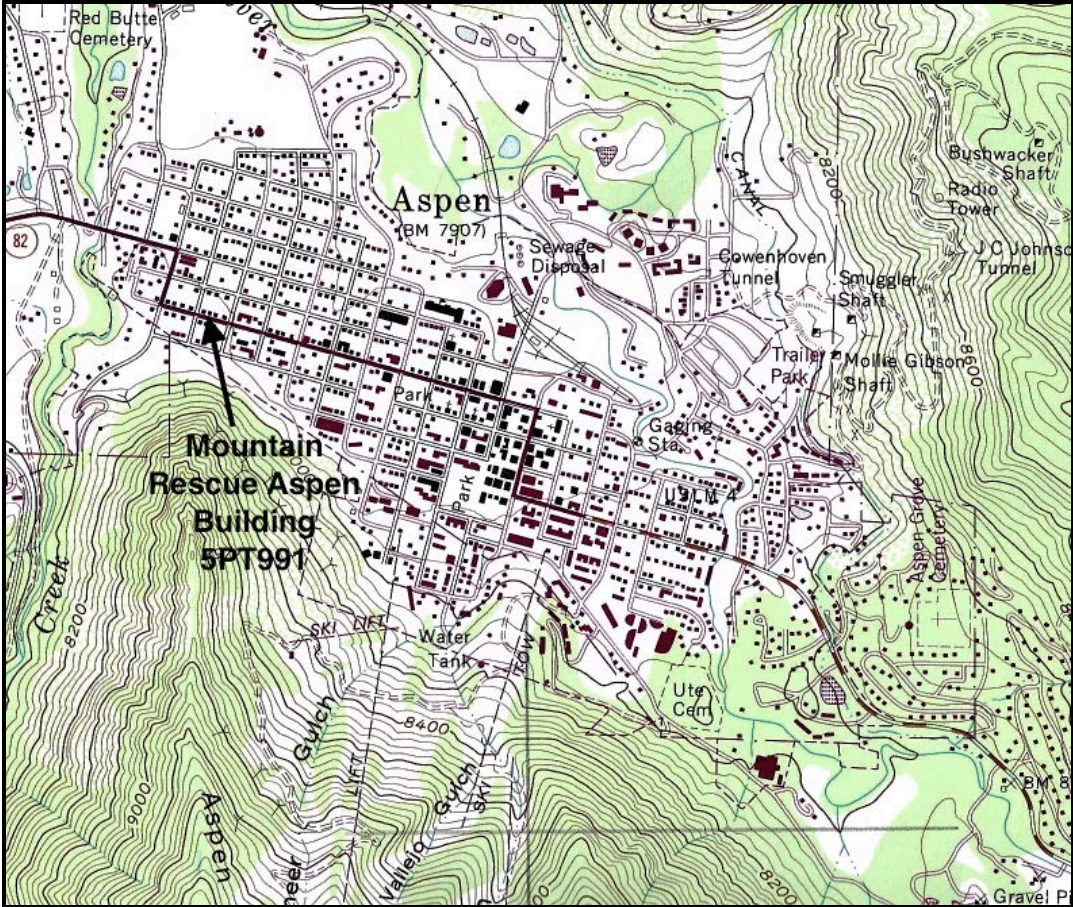
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48. Report title: **Intensive-Level Survey of Five City-Owned Historic Properties in Aspen, Colorado**
49. Date(s): **15 February 2017**
50. Recorder(s): **Ron Sladek, President**
51. Organization: **Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc.**
52. Address: **P.O. Box 1909, Fort Collins, CO 80522**
53. Phone number(s): **970/221-1095**

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## Site Location Map



USGS Aspen 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle Map  
1960 (revised 1987)

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## Aerial Map



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## Current Photographs



**View of the Property from Main Street  
View to the North**



**View of the Property from the Southeast  
View to the Northwest**



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## Current Photographs



North (rear) Wall of the Building  
View to the Southeast