

Architectural Inventory FormOfficial Eligibility Determination
(for OAHF use only)

Date _____ Initials _____
 Determined Eligible - National Register
 Determined Not Eligible - National Register
 Determined Eligible - State Register
 Determined Not Eligible - State Register
 Need Data
 Contributes to eligible National Register District
 Noncontributing to eligible NR District

I. Identification

1. Resource number: 5HN68.7
2. Temporary resource number: 177
3. County: Hinsdale
4. City: Lake City
5. Historic building name: Hough-Olney-Blair House
6. Current building name:
7. Building address: 500 Gunnison Avenue, Lake City, CO 81235
8. Owner name and address: Stephen Peters, 2218 East 35th Street, Tulsa OK 74105

II. Geographic Information

County Property No.: R1193

9. P.M. 6th Township 44N Range 4W NW4 of NW4 of SE4 of SW4 of Section 34
10. UTM reference
Zone 13 296930 mE 4211590 mN
11. USGS quad name: Lake City Quad year: 1985 Map scale: X 7.5' ___ 15'
12. Block(s): 38 Lot(s): 17-19 Legal:
Addition: Year of Addition:
13. Boundary description and justification: Perimeter of parcel

III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan: Irregular
15. Dimensions: 917 square feet
16. Number of stories: 1
17. External wall material(s): Wood horizontal siding
18. Roof configuration: Cross gabled
19. Roof material: Metal
20. Special features: Flared eaves, porch, chimneys, fence garage
21. General architectural description:

One-story, cross-gabled frame dwelling. Metal roof with three dentiled brick chimneys in roof ridge. Walls clad in shiplap siding and trimmed in cornerboards. Porch in ell is flat roofed with molded cornice. It has elaborate posts of thin board with capitals, decorative brackets, and plain balusters. The porch shelters two entrances, both with transoms and paneled door, one with screen door. Windows are 4-over-4 double hungs with cornice window heads. South gable wall has prominent bay window with mansard roof with flared eaves; windows in it are segmental-arched with molded woodframes containing 4-over-4 double hungs.

Addition on east elevation was altered somewhat circa 1995. It has an inset porch in northeast corner, bay window with flared eaves and entrance with glazed and paneled door and screen door. Entrance in east elevation has multi-lite door and screen door. Flat-roofed porch in northeast ell has same posts; shelters a 4-over-4 double-hung windows and an entrance with paneled and glazed door with transom. Concrete foundation.

22. Architectural style/Building type: Italianate
23. Landscaping or special setting:
The property occupies a large, prominent corner lot and is edged by a picket fence. Vertical board fence along alley edge.
24. Associated building, features or objects:
Privy, circa 1910
One-story, shed-roofed frame building with roof asphalt, walls clad in vertical boards, and a vertical board door.

Carriage house, circa 1880
One-story front-gabled frame building. Composition roofing. Walls clad in board and batten. Board covering over 4-over-4 window. Garage door in west elevation. Shed-roofed carport on north elevation.

IV. Architectural History

25. Date of construction Estimate: _____ Actual: 1877 Source of info: Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., January 5, 1878, page 2.
26. Architect: None Source of info:
27. Builder/contractor: Unknown Source of info:
28. Original owner: John S. Hough Source of info: Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., January 5, 1878, page 2.
29. Construction history (major additions, alterations, demolitions):
A small historic rear addition was altered somewhat, circa 1995. The carriage house was converted into a garage and re-sided in board and batten in recent decades.
30. Original location: Moved Date of move(s) _____

V. Historical Associations

31. Original use(s): Single dwelling
32. Intermediate use(s):
33. Current use(s): Seasonal dwelling
34. Site type(s):
35. Historical background:

Colorado pioneer John S. Hough has left architectural reminders of his residence in a succession of Colorado communities, including the Colorado Historical Society's Baca House in Trinidad, Colorado, a hipped-roof adobe residence in Greek Revival style which Hough built in 1870 and sold to Felipe Baca in 1873. Hough moved to Lake City in 1876 but was temporarily living in Las Animas, Colorado, when he built yet another residence for his own use, this a single-story house with bay window and elaborate porch brackets. Hough's Las Animas house dates to 1888 and is reportedly the town's oldest surviving structure.

Hough's building record in Lake City, representing his residence here from 1876 until his death in 1919, includes this Italianate style frame residence at 500 Gunnison which he built in 1877. He sold the house in 1880 to newspaper publisher Henry C. Olney. Hough later occupied a corner suite of the Hough Block, 300 Silver, which he built in 1880. In 1883 he moved to a no longer-extant "suburban villa" on Bluff Street near its juncture with Fourth Street which, like his 1888 house in Las Animas, Colorado, was a side-gable dwelling with full length front porch. In diminished circumstances, Hough lived at this Bluff Street house until his death. The house was demolished in 1932, although the front porch was reused on the May-Bardwell-Heath House, 421 Gunnison.

Lake City SILVER WORLD chronicled construction of J.S. Hough's frame residence at 500 Gunnison, the newspaper reporting the frame dwelling measured 15x30 feet, with two 15x15' wings. Total cost of the house, together with a detached 18x40' carriage house, was \$2,000.

Lake City SILVER WORLD publisher H. C. Olney owned the Hough house for two decades, dating from his purchase of the property for \$2,000 in April, 1880, until June, 1900, when it was sold to John F.

Cochran for \$800. Henry C. Olney (1842-1916) worked for the New York TRIBUNE, Chicago TRIBUNE, and St. Louis TIMES before joining the staff of Denver's Rocky Mountain NEWS in 1871. He purchased a half-interest in the Lake City SILVER WORLD newspaper in 1876. Olney also served as Registrar of the U.S. Land Office in Lake City and was owner of the Hillerton OCCIDENT, the first newspaper published in Gunnison County. Olney later moved to Gunnison and was living at Spokane, Washington, when he died in 1916. H.C. Olney's wife, Eugenie W. Olney, was a public school teacher in Lake City 1876-77 and, with her husband, was a founding member of the Lake City Female Suffrage Assoc. The Olneys, together with Mrs. Olney's sister and her husband, Adelia and J.W. Mills, personally entertained suffragette Susan B. Anthony on her visit to Lake City in September, 1877. The front parlors of the Olney home were the location of an organizational meeting for the Hesperian Archery Club on June 16, 1883.

Henry Olney began advertising in an attempt to sell his property holdings in Lake City -- including the Gunnison Avenue residence and SILVER WORLD newspaper -- as early as 1883. The January 8, 1887, edition of the SILVER WORLD carried an advertisement signed by Mrs. E.W. Olney, "For rent, cheap, with or without stoves, my house on Gunnison Avenue." John M. Finley, Charles D. Peck, Ed Quaintance, E.S. Weston, and Charles Watson were among those renting the house prior to its sale to John Cochran, a miner from the Hinsdale County mining community of Carson on the Continental Divide, in 1900.

Cochran evidently lost the property to Thatcher Bros.' Miners & Merchants Bank, who in turn sold it to Zelora and Josephine Howe in 1918. The house is closely associated with yet another Lake City SILVER WORLD newspaper publisher, William Crammond Blair (1869-1948) who bought the house from the Howes for \$450 in 1924. "This purchase only presages the beginning of home-buying expansion and activity," the SILVER WORLD wrote, "clearly indicating that the city will steadily grow until a population of not less than 5,000 has been reached, thus exceeding the high mark of 20 years ago." Mr. Blair began work for the Lake City TIMES in 1900 and purchased the paper in 1910. He returned the paper to its historic SILVER WORLD title in 1917 and continued weekly publication until the paper suspended in October, 1938. Blair's widow, Anna (Maurer) Blair, sold the house to Alex M. Carey for \$5,000 in 1956. Carey sold the house to the current owners, the Scovill and Peters families, in 1958.

36. Sources of information:

Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., January 5, 1878, page 2, Sat., May 5, 1883, page 3, Sat., June 9, 1883, page 3, Sat., January 8, 1887, page 3, Thurs., August 28, 1924, page 3, Thurs., January 14, 1932, page 3; WAGON TRACKS, Santa Fe Trail Assoc. Newsletter, August, 1989, page 6; Hinsdale PHONOGRAPH, Fri., March 22, 1889, page 4, Sat., May 18, 1889, page 4; Lake City TIMES, Thurs., September 7, 1893, page 3, Thurs., August 10, 1893, page 3, Thurs., October 19, 1899, page 3; Gunnison NEWS-CHAMPION, Thurs., September 26, 1956, page 2, Thurs., August 7, 1958, page 6, CEMETERIES OF HINSDALE COUNTY, COLORADO, 1874-1996, Anundsen Publishing Co., Decorah, Iowa, 1996, pages 4, 24, 78.

VI. Significance

37. Local landmark: Yes No Date of design.: _____ Design. authority: _____

Within Lake City Historic District (local historic district)

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 that possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- 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: Social history, architecture

40. Period of significance: 1877 - 1904

41. Level of significance: National State Local

42. Statement of significance:

This house is associated with settlement and development of Lake City during the late 1800s mining era. It is associated with two leading Lake City businessmen. Mine owner and commercial developer John S. Hough erected the house in 1877. In 1880, he sold it to newspaper publisher Henry C. Olney, who produced the Lake City SILVER WORLD, one of the best known periodicals in the San Juan region. Olney, who resided here from 1880 through 1900, was also a founder of the San Juan Suffragette Association. This is the only extant property in Lake City associated with Olney.

The house is a well-preserved representative of the local interpretation of the Italianate style constructed in Lake City during this period, as reflected in its porch brackets, narrow windows with cornice window heads, and square bay window. The carriage house/garage and privy located at the rear of the lot near the alley are also associated with settlement and development of Lake City. They are a somewhat altered representative of the outbuildings constructed in Lake City in the late 1800s and early 1900s as reflected in their alley location, frame construction, and wood siding.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity to significance:

The architectural integrity of this dwelling is intact, as evidenced by minimal alterations to its character-defining features. A historic rear addition was altered somewhat circa 1995; it retains the same footprint and the roof form and exterior materials are similar to the as the primary house. It detracts only slightly from the residence's architectural integrity.

VII. National Register Eligibility Assessment

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: Eligible Not Eligible Need Data

45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes No

Discuss _____

If there is National Register district potential, is this building Contributing Noncontributing

46. If the building is in an existing National Register district is it? Contributing Noncontributing
(Lake City National Historic District)

VIII. Recording Information

47. Photograph numbers: Roll 23, frame 4; roll 26, frames 23 - 29; roll 29, frames 13 - 14 Negatives filed at: Lake City Town Hall
48. Report title: 2003 Architectural Survey of Lake City, Colorado
49. Date(s): September 2002 - June 2003
50. Recorders Cathleen M. Norman and Grant E. Houston
51. Organization: Town of Lake City
52. Address: 230 Bluff Street, Lake City CO 81235 53. Phone no. (970) 944-2333

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