

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate location or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name UTE CEMETERY

other names / site number EVERGREEN CEMETERY: 5PT.122

2. Location

street & number UTE AVENUE N/A not for publication

city or town ASPEN N/A vicinity

state COLORADO code CO county PITKIN code 097 zip code 81611

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties
in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property
be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet

 determined eligible for the National Register

 See continuation sheet

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

UTE CEMETERY

Name of Property

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many as apply)

☐ private☒ public-local☐ public-State☐ public-Federal**Category of Property**

(Check only one)

☐ building(s)☐ district☒ site☐ structure☐ object**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1 0 buildings1 0 sites1 0 structures1 0 objects1 0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources

previously listed in the National Register

N/A**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY / cemetery**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY / cemetery**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/Awalls N/Aroof N/Aother N/A**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

UTE CEMETERY

Name of Property

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County and State

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more locations for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property 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 lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all locations that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B** removed from its original location
- C** a birthplace or a grave
- ☒ **D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT**Period of Significance**1880 - 1940**Significant Dates**N/A**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A**Cultural Affiliation**N/A**Architect/Builder**N/A**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARYASPEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



UTE CEMETERY

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10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 4.67 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | <u>13</u> | <u>343500</u> | <u>4338400</u> | 3 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | 4 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | | | | | | <u>see continuation sheet</u> | |

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title RON SLADEK, PRESIDENT
organization TATANKA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATES, INC. date 28 JUNE 2001
street & number P.O. BOX 1909 telephone 970 / 229-9704
city or town FORT COLLINS state CO zip code 80522

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name CITY OF ASPEN
street and number 130 S. GALENA ST. telephone 970 / 920-5096
city or town ASPEN state CO zip code 81611

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Property UTE CEMETERY

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Ute Cemetery is located on the north side of Ute Ave., 1/4 mile southeast of the downtown Aspen commercial district at the foot of Aspen Mountain. The northern and western edges of the property abut a modern residential subdivision, the southern edge borders a hiking/biking trail that parallels Ute Ave., and the eastern edge runs adjacent to the city's Ute Park. At the present time, the property boundaries are generally marked by a modern split rail wood fence that runs along the southern, eastern and western perimeters of the site, while the northern edge is open to the adjacent residential neighborhood.

Ute Cemetery's terrain is rolling, with high points located in the west-central area, the northeast corner, and the southeast corner of the property. During the cemetery's early years, before it became filled with vegetation and the adjacent properties developed with large homes, it would have been possible to view the town of Aspen from these locations. At this time, the site is overgrown with a variety of plants, including aspen trees, gambel oak, serviceberry bushes, sagebrush, a small number of evergreens, and a diversity of native grasses and flowers. Dense foliage makes it difficult to traverse the property and to find many of the graves located there, particularly during the summer months. The only established path is a very narrow, unimproved, winding dirt trail that runs generally on an east-west axis from Ute Park on the east to a parking pullout and the hiking/bike trail near the southwest corner of the site. The entrances to this trail, which is used by hikers and mountain bike riders, are marked by openings in the split rail fence.

Most burials in the cemetery are laid out in a random fashion, with no evidence of a grid pattern or other elements of planning common to town cemeteries dating from the late 1800s. Graves are scattered throughout the site, and no signs of historic roadways or walking paths are present. The most heavily utilized area appears to be the western half of the cemetery, where approximately 125 burials are known to exist. The eastern half contains an estimated 50 graves, most of which are those of Civil War veterans buried in two long rows marked with government-issue monuments. These two rows of soldiers' graves represent the only feature at Ute Cemetery that exhibits evidence of planning. Laid out on the crest of a ridge, one row above the other, the Civil War veterans appear to have been buried in battle formation, as if even in death they were prepared to defend their position from attack.

The only evidence of a building on the site is a deteriorated brick foundation located in the northwest corner of the property. This 12' x 20' structure of unknown height was likely used as a caretaker's shed, and an early photo of the town shows what appears to be a shed-like building at this location. Although no historic entrance to the cemetery is marked today, an 1893 bird's eye view of Aspen shows a city street entering the site from the north.

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Of the approximately 175 graves found at Ute Cemetery, about 75 are marked with monuments that provide information about whose remains were placed there. Although these markers date from the early 1880s through the 1930s, most of them were erected between 1882 and 1900. These monuments consist predominantly of granite or marble headstones resting on sandstone bases. The many other burials on the site are marked only by grave-sized depressions, flagstone or cobblestone coping, wooden or iron fence enclosures, or base stones from which the monuments are missing. Cobblestone coping was widely used at Ute Cemetery, and is often the only clue to an otherwise unmarked grave. These graves are found scattered throughout the site, although many are hidden by vegetation and the buildup of soils, and it is likely that other graves are present that are no longer visible. Also characteristic of Ute Cemetery is the presence of many wooden fence enclosures surrounding single and multiple grave sites. While several of these remain standing, many others have deteriorated and collapsed.

Ute Cemetery has been unmaintained for at least the past fifty years, and no original plan for the site has ever been found. It appears that some of the headstones were stolen or have fallen over and been covered by dirt and plant material. Further investigation of the site may reveal a small number of missing markers that could identify the occupants of some of the unmarked graves, many of whose names have been collected through documentary sources. A 1999 ground penetrating radar study completed at the site seems to indicate that buried headstones may be found at a few of these unmarked graves. However, because of the cemetery's history of use, it appears likely that many were never marked (or were marked with simple wooden monuments that have decayed) and that no correlation with their exact occupants will ever be completed.

Even with the aging and decay that has taken place, Ute Cemetery exhibits an excellent degree of historic integrity through its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. As Aspen's oldest cemetery, started out of immediate necessity by the original pioneers, the property was never planned as a landscaped site established on a grid or any other pattern, resulting in the rustic, random, disorganized, overgrown appearance it exhibits today.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ute Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the early settlement of Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley. The land upon which the cemetery is found was initiated as a burial ground out of necessity when one of the first prospectors attempting to reach the valley of the Roaring Fork perished during his journey. Beginning with this burial in the summer of 1880, Ute Cemetery became the final resting place of numerous working-class settlers who came to Aspen during its formative years and lost their lives there. The occupants of this cemetery were the people who erected Aspen's first buildings, excavated its mines, maintained its mills, delivered the mail, kept house and raised children. Some were the offspring of these laborers, children who died in childbirth or succumbed to illness or injury during their early months and years.

Aspen's two other cemeteries, Aspen Grove and Red Butte, are very different from Ute Cemetery in that they were both planned on a grid pattern and contain the graves of the town's leading citizens who achieved wealth and status during their lives. These two cemeteries are filled with the names of mine owners, mayors, attorneys, engineers, and prominent business owners. By comparison, Ute Cemetery was clearly used as a burial ground for those early residents who lived without fame or fortune, served in modest roles during the early days of Aspen's history, and ended their lives at this location. Many of them were single men who died in this alpine frontier while helping to develop one of the country's newest mining districts. A clear indication of the site's use as a cemetery for the working class and indigent is the lack of a plan that would have allowed visitors to visit the property in carriages or wagons, the random scattering of graves throughout the property, the modest nature of the headstones and wood enclosures, and the numerous unmarked graves that were likely to have been filled with the remains of unmarried miners and the town's poorest residents.

Ute Cemetery is thus a testament to the numerous working-class people who settled in Aspen during its early years and upon whose labor the town thrived as a leading silver-producing center. The site provides the modern visitor and historian with information about who these pioneers were, how they lived their lives, and in what way they met their deaths. The characteristics of Ute Cemetery also speak about the social history of a nascent silver-mining community and how it handled the inevitable deaths and necessities of burial. Ute Cemetery meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration D, due to its use as Aspen's first burial ground and its association with the initial settlement of the town and surrounding mining district.

The cemetery's period of significance begins in 1880 when the first burial took place, and ends in 1940 at the end of its period of intensive use. Only two burials are known to have taken place since the end of the period of significance.

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long, for his body was exhumed on 31 July 1881 for reburial in the family cemetery in Texas. Prior to Colonel Kirby's sudden need for a final resting place, no cemetery existed in Aspen. The town had grown quickly, with hundreds of residents present and more on the way. Aspen was flourishing overnight, and the city's leaders recognized that the town would need a designated burial ground.

On 4 June 1881, Aspen's Board of Trustees ordered the Committee on Health to select and prepare a burial ground for public use. The burial place of Colonel Kirby on the southeast edge of town had been initiated, but was located on private land owned by Charles A. Hallam, part-owner and superintendent of the Smuggler Mine on the mountainside across the valley. In addition, it was perceived to be too close to the center of Aspen and the town board wanted a more outlying site. Evidently nothing better was found and no action taken, for the rolling ground at the eastern end of Ute Ave. near the Ute Spring continued to be used. The new cemetery was not managed by the city Board of Trustees thereafter, and the town's public ordinances dating from 1881 through 1895 include not one mention of any burial place at all.

By 1882, Aspen was still being reached primarily by miners traveling with pack mules. To get there, the train could be taken from Denver or Pueblo to Leadville, from where the traveler was forced to embark by foot, on horseback or by wagon via the rough road over Independence Pass that had just been completed that summer. With the population of the Aspen mining district booming throughout the early to mid-1880s, the rate of deaths began to increase. Richard Wheatley, a miner in the Ironsides Mine, was killed by an explosion of blasting powder. John P. Mason, also a miner, was killed by an avalanche in Ophir Gulch. Many of Aspen's residents during these early years were single men or poor families who relied upon the assistance of their fraternal lodges in times of need. Following John Mason's death, for example, the Aspen Masonic Lodge took possession of his remains until his family in Kansas could be reached. Providing a form of life insurance to their members, the lodges offered support to the widows and children left behind by those who perished.

Aspen gained a reputation for being relatively peaceable when compared to other mining camps, but the weather occasionally unleashed its fury upon the town's residents. On 11 March 1884, with heavy late winter storms blanketing the landscape with deep snow, an avalanche suddenly rushed down Aspen Mountain, burying the operating Vallejo Mine shafthouse. Men from the town hurried up the steep slopes to the site, hoping to rescue anyone they could. A small number of survivors began to emerge, all of them men who were working below ground when the disaster struck and were forced to climb up the vertical shaft and then dig their way out through the deep snow. Of the workers in the shafthouse, all were killed, among them George Marshall and John Meginnity, both of whom were buried in the nearby Ute Cemetery. Avalanches took the lives

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of numerous Aspen residents, including Alexander C. Adair, the mail carrier between Aspen and Crested Butte, who in April 1885 was buried by an avalanche near Ashcroft.

Other early Aspen residents were killed in the mines by falling boulders and timbers, in the Roaring Fork River by drowning, and through various other accidents. Jack Lewis, a "sporting man" said to be well known in Denver and Leadville, arrived in Aspen in 1885 only to be fatally shot there. Major events in the new town soon reached the point that Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* offered its readers the amusing comment that "Aspen is becoming metropolitan. Two disappointed people attempted suicide." (3/21/1885) While these two attempted, others succeeded and found themselves resting peacefully in the local cemetery.

Always quick to follow the growth of any pioneer town, particularly those with a propensity for accidental deaths, undertaking businesses began to spring up in Aspen. The first undertaker was E.C. Morse, who opened shop in 1885, followed by H.P. Orndorff (1889), and Allen & Wilson (1890s). Another local undertaker, J.C. Johnsen, advertised his specialty of embalming bodies for shipment. These morticians prepared their clients for burial and made a number of trips to Evergreen Cemetery each year with their horse-drawn hearses (available in black or white) carrying the earthly remains of pioneer Aspen's most unfortunate working-class miners, mechanics, ranchers, housewives, gamblers, carpenters, retirees and children. Funeral processions traveled through the unpaved streets toward the southeast edge of town, entering the cemetery along an unnamed road that terminated at the site's northern edge. Business must have been good, for the undertakers were among the first commercial enterprises in Aspen to list telephone numbers in their advertising. Families or friends without the financial means to hire an undertaker would take the body to the cemetery themselves in a wagon and perform their own burial, erecting a modest monument in memory of the deceased.

Decoration Day celebrations were heavily attended in most American towns of the late 1800s, with many Civil War veterans still living and the carnage of battle unhealed. In Aspen, Evergreen Cemetery was the locus of these events throughout the 1880s. The ceremonies on 30 May 1885 began with a march to the cemetery, where the crowd gathered to recite prayers, sing songs and decorate the graves. Following these activities, they marched back through the streets of Aspen to the opera house, where the closing ceremonies took place. The following year, local members of the G.A.R. organization cleaned the cemetery before the crowd arrived. Pleased with the result, the *Aspen Times* on 30 May 1886 requested that future generations of Aspenites "should see to it that hereafter the place is kept halfway respectable."

In 1887, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad reached Aspen, providing the mines with an affordable and efficient method of shipping ore, and the town with a convenient mode of

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transport for both people and supplies. The following year, Aspen saw the arrival of a competing railroad, the Colorado Midland. Within this short period, Aspen's isolation subsided as it became connected to the rest of the state and the nation through rail transportation. Access to fine carved stone markers was limited before the railroads arrived, and only a handful of the earliest burials at Ute Cemetery were identified with small carved markers brought over Independence Pass on wagons. Most of the stone monuments present at Ute Cemetery today date from the late 1880s to 1900, after the railroads connected the town with outside sources of cut stone such as the Pueblo Marble Company in Pueblo, Colorado.

Other methods commonly used to mark graves at the cemetery included the erection of wooden markers or fence enclosures (a few of which are still standing) and the placement of cobblestones or flagstones to create rectangular boundaries around the grave sites (many of these can still be seen throughout the property). In a smaller number of cases, graves (mostly family plots) were marked with durable wrought iron, cast iron, or pipe iron fencing. With the harsh winter weather conditions, the wood markers and fence enclosures deteriorated over the years, although they continued to be used by the poor because of their low cost. Cobblestone and flagstone coping does not deteriorate rapidly, but in many cases these have been covered by the buildup of soils and growth of vegetation at the cemetery over the years. Even with all of these options, the cemetery is filled with unmarked, shallow depressions that alone identify the locations of early graves.

In 1889, a second cemetery by the name of Aspen Grove was started by the local fraternal societies on the eastern edge of town. This site, laid out in a formal grid pattern of intersecting paths, rectangular burial plots and a central carriage turnaround, was used for years by many of Aspen's prominent pioneer families. The garden-like layout of Aspen Grove Cemetery, established under a canopy of pre-existing Aspen trees, apparently appealed to the town's emerging middle class and upper crust more than the random, haphazard and evidently unmaintained Evergreen Cemetery. Designed to promote the area and make no mention of negatives, the 1889 *Aspen City Directory* stated that

"Aspen has two prospectively fine cemeteries. The comparative newness of the city and its unusual healthfulness have made the demand for extensive and fine cemeteries less emphatic than is usual in cities of its size. Evergreen Cemetery is beautifully located east of and just beyond the city limits, east of Ute Avenue."

Even with the more attractive layout of Aspen Grove Cemetery (located on a rise along the south flank of Smuggler Mountain, it was not necessarily easier to access), it appears that Aspen's working class, its single miners with no family nearby, and its poor continued to use what was known throughout the 1890s as either Evergreen Cemetery or the "old cemetery."

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In April of 1890, a train arrived in Aspen carrying fifteen white marble, government-issue headstones, sent to mark the graves of Evergreen Cemetery's Union veterans. One of these men, George Marshall, had been prospecting in the Aspen area for three to four years. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having served in the 3rd Michigan Infantry. As already mentioned, Marshall was killed at the age of about 40 in the avalanche that buried the Vallejo Mine shafthouse in March 1884. Most of the veterans buried at the cemetery served with the Union army, although two Confederate veterans are reportedly buried there as well, one of them in a still-unmarked grave.

Typical of many early Aspen residents, Ute Cemetery's Civil War veterans were mostly single men who died with no local family to coordinate and pay for a proper funeral and a carved headstone. According to the *Aspen Daily Times*,

"These graves of our dead heroes are scattered all over the cemetery grounds. It is the intention of the Grand Army here to take up the remains of their comrades and bury them all in one lot around the cenotaph [this monument was evidently never built]. This work will require some time and will be finished just in time for the new graves to be decorated with flowers on the coming Memorial Day, May 30, 1890." (23 April 1890)

The G.A.R. group succeeded in reburying their brothers-in-arms in the two lines of graves identified by the military markers still found there. (A ground-penetrating radar study completed on the site in 1999 confirmed that graves are in fact present below each of these markers.) Others of the cemetery's total of 38 to 40 Civil War veterans were placed in line with them over the next fifteen to twenty years, creating the impression today that they were lined up in battle formation on the crest of the hill. One of these later additions, John Roddy, served for three years in D Company of the Vermont 2nd Infantry. He was attached to the Army of the Potomac and on 13 December 1862 was wounded at Fredericksburg. Roddy came to Aspen as a prospector, only to die of paralysis there in 1899, widowed and alone at the age of 59.

By 1891, Aspen's mines were outpacing those in Leadville and the town, with 8,000 residents, had become the largest single source of silver in the United States. Two years later, Aspen was occupied by around 12,000 townsfolk residing in extensive neighborhoods that surrounded the downtown commercial district, which was filled with retail stores, banks, theaters, schools and a small but well-attended red light district. The town also prided itself upon its modern electric power plants, which by the mid-1880s began to provide the mines, businesses and residences with power. With all of its promise for the future, Aspen was devastated by the federal government's 1893 decision to return to the gold standard, which severely undermined the town's economic base. This monumental change in the town's fortunes forced Aspen into what became known as its "quiet years," the period from 1893 through the early 1940s, when it served as a

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county seat and market center for the surrounding farms and ranches. Although limited silver mining continued during these decades, the area was best known for its potato crop.

Sometime around 1900, and certainly by 1905, Evergreen Cemetery became known as Ute Cemetery, possibly connecting it to the nearby Ute Spring, Ute Avenue, or the town of Aspen's short-lived but original name, Ute City. Although the population of Aspen began to decline following 1893, the Ute Cemetery continued to be used. Death certificates located at the Pitkin County Courthouse indicate that at least twelve people were buried there between 1891 and 1907, among them a laborer, a farmer, a prospector, a housewife, a ranch hand, and several children who succumbed to scarlet fever, cholera, diphtheria or complications at birth. In March of 1897, another Civil War veteran was buried there. George F. Buzzard served with Company G of the 40th Iowa Infantry, and perished in an avalanche in Conundrum Gulch at the age of 66. Buzzard was buried in a funeral conducted by the G.A.R. Post, the Ladies Circle and the Woman's Relief Corps.

Also in 1900, a third cemetery was started by Aspen's Masons, Woodmen of the World, Elks and other fraternal lodges, this one located on the west edge of town on an easily-accessed, flat site near the river. Red Butte is a planned cemetery containing driving paths, irrigated grassed areas, and rows of shade trees, all features of modern cemeteries. Its location and groomed appearance, along with the relative ease of finding grave sites, evidently appealed to some Aspen residents. With the new grounds open to the public, the bodies of various loved ones were reportedly moved to Red Butte Cemetery from Aspen Grove Cemetery, accounting for the monuments found there that pre-date the cemetery's founding.

Although it was to have been replaced by two successor cemeteries, Ute Cemetery continued to be used by the town's working class and poor. Burial permits dating from 1922 through 1927 indicate that at least thirteen people were buried there during these years, most of them old timers in their 60s to 80s. One had committed suicide, another died of injuries sustained from a fall, two deaths were due to fires, one individual was stabbed to death, and others fell to age-related illnesses. All of these deaths appear to have been indigent cases, and none of their graves were marked with headstones.

By 1935, only 700 people remained in Aspen and the town looked as if it was bound for obscurity. During the Depression years, just one burial is known to have taken place at Ute Cemetery, and over the following four decades the site saw just two more. Aspen's emergence as a ski resort began in the years just preceeding World War II, as skiing enthusiasts and entrepreneurs began to develop the world-class resort on Aspen Mountain that would soon breath new life into the sleepy town that had for decades longed for a return to its earlier boom

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times. With a new class of outdoor enthusiasts beginning to visit and populate the town, the Ute Cemetery fell not only into disuse but also disrepair. With no living family left in the Roaring Fork Valley to tend their graves, the estimated 175 to 200 people buried in the Ute Cemetery were abandoned and the site began its long slide into decay.

Over the years, Ute Cemetery has become overgrown with native grasses and trees. During the 1960s and 1970s, possibly due to its abandoned state, some of the headstones disappeared (occasionally turning up in local antique shops) and others were broken by vandals. Although suffering from years of neglect, Ute Cemetery has managed to retain a significant amount of its historic integrity as Aspen's oldest and original burial ground, exhibiting the unrestrained growth of natural vegetation expected to occur at a pioneer alpine cemetery that was unplanned and largely unmaintained from the very beginning. Finally, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, with historic preservation a high priority in Aspen, the city has initiated a process of studying the cemetery and working to preserve its historic integrity both out of respect for the town's history and those who are buried there, and for the education of future generations.

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Aspen City Ordinance Scrapbook, 1881-1882. (Located in the collection of the Colorado Historical Society's Stephen H. Hart Library.)

Aspen Daily News (Aspen, CO)

"Some of Aspen's Dead Missing." 21 June 2000, p. 1

Aspen Daily Times (Aspen, CO)

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Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is limited to the tract of land known as Ute Cemetery, City of Aspen, Pitkin County, Colorado. The legal description for this site is as follows:

Lot 6, Hoag Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 4 at page 218 of the Pitkin County Clerk & Recorder's Office. This description is found on the document recorded in the Pitkin County official records in Book 260 at page 572. Also a parcel of land being part of Lots 6 & 7, Section 18, Township 10 South, Range 84 West of the 6th Principal Meridian. Said parcel is more fully described as follows: Beginning at a point whence corner 9 of Tract 41, East Aspen Addition bears south 00°21' west 299.50 feet; thence north 00°21' east 150 .00 feet; thence west 183.86 feet; thence south 50°39' east 236.57 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination boundary includes all the land known to be historically associated with the cemetery during the period of significance and which retains its historic integrity.

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Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information applies to all photographs submitted with this registration form:

Name of property: Ute Cemetery
City, county and state: Aspen, Pitkin County, Colorado
Photographer: Ron Sladek
Date of photograph: 26 April 2001
Location of negative: Tatanka Historical Associates Inc.
P.O. Box 1909
Fort Collins, CO 80522

- Photograph 1: View of the southwest corner of Ute Cemetery, showing graves, the split rail fence, and the hiking/biking path along Ute Avenue. View to the west.
- Photograph 2: View of the Ute Cemetery from the hiking/biking trail along Ute Avenue. View to the northeast.
- Photograph 3: View across the Ute Cemetery. View to the west.
- Photograph 4: View of the Ute Cemetery, with the Civil War veterans graves in the trees at center. View to the south.
- Photograph 5: View of the narrow, unimproved walking and biking trail through the cemetery. View to the east.
- Photograph 6: View of the Morgan family plot (graves dating from 1910 to 1919) surrounded by wrought iron fencing. View to the north.
- Photograph 7: View of the Jordan family plot (graves dating from 1886 to 1928), surrounded by wrought iron fencing. View to the west.
- Photograph 8: View of an unmarked family plot in the northwest area of the cemetery, with pipe iron fencing set into cut stonework. View to the south.
- Photograph 9: View of an unmarked single grave in the southeast area of the cemetery, with a wire cradle enclosure. View to the north.

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- Photograph 10: View of an unmarked single grave in the northwest area of the cemetery, with a wire cradle enclosure. View to the northeast.
- Photograph 11: View of the Albers grave (1890) in the northwest area of the cemetery, surrounded by a wood fence enclosure. View to the northeast.
- Photograph 12: View of an unmarked single grave in the west-central area of the cemetery, surrounded by a wood fence enclosure. View to the southwest.
- Photograph 13: View of an unmarked single grave in the southeast area of the cemetery, surrounded by a collapsing wood fence enclosure. View to the northeast.
- Photograph 14: View of the Burt family plot in the northwest area of the cemetery, surrounded by a collapsing wood fence enclosure. View to the northwest.
- Photograph 15: View of an unmarked family plot near the western edge of the cemetery, surrounded by a collapsing wood fence enclosure and leveled with cobblestone coping. View to the southeast.
- Photograph 16: View of the Thomas grave (1888) and the Gibson grave (1888) in the southwestern corner of the cemetery, with an iron fence enclosure surrounding an unidentified family plot in the background. The Thomas stone is actually a base that is missing its monument. View to the west.
- Photograph 17: View of the Mitchell grave (1882) in the southwestern area of the cemetery. This is the oldest marked grave in Ute Cemetery. View to the west.
- Photograph 18: View of the Glasser grave (1888), Penz grave (1897), and Jamison grave (1892) near the west-central edge of the cemetery. View to the southeast.
- Photograph 19: View of the Walsh family plot (graves dating from 1886 to 1955) in the west-central area of the cemetery. The stone monument has been dislocated from its base, and the individual graves obscured by vegetation. View to the south.
- Photograph 20: View of the Nevitt grave (1884) in the west-central area of the cemetery. View to the northwest.

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- Photograph 21: View of the Kruse graves (1886 and 1936) in the west-central area of the cemetery. View to the northwest.
- Photograph 22: View of the Warner grave (1889) in the northeast area of the cemetery. This is the only cast iron monument at the site. View to the northwest.
- Photograph 23: View of the two rows of Civil War veterans graves in the east-central area of the cemetery. View to the southwest.
- Photograph 24: View down the middle of the two rows of Civil War veterans graves in the east-central area of the cemetery. View to the northeast.
- Photograph 25: View of the two rows of Civil War veterans graves in the east-central area of the cemetery. View to the northwest.
- Photograph 26: View of a Civil War veteran's grave and other broken stones in the east-central area of the cemetery. View to the west.
- Photograph 27: View of a Civil War veteran's headstone (in the foreground) that is almost completely covered by soil and vegetation. View to the west.
- Photograph 28: View of a grave in the western area of the cemetery that is marked only by flagstone coping. View to the southwest.
- Photograph 29: View of a grave in the western area of the cemetery that is marked only by cobblestone coping. View to the northeast.
- Photograph 30: View of an unmarked grave in the northwestern area of the cemetery that appears to have been exhumed decades ago. View to the northwest.
- Photograph 31: View of the brick foundation in the northwestern corner of the cemetery. View to the northwest.

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Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
LOVELAND, COLORADO
7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
1962 (PHOTOREVISED 1984)**