

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

SECTION I

Name of Property

Historic Name Ault Pump House

Other Names Waterworks House

Address of Property

address not for publication

Street Address 420 Graefe Avenue

City Ault County Weld Zip 80610

Present Owner of Property

(for multiple ownership, list the names and addresses of each owner on one or more continuation sheets)

Name Town of Ault

Address 201 First Street Phone 970/834-2844

City Ault State Colorado Zip 80610

Owner Consent for Nomination

(attach signed consent from each owner of property - see attached form)

Preparer of Nomination

Name Marjorie Gieck Date August 16, 2006

Organization Ault Area Historical Museum

Address P.O. Box 81 Phone _____

City Ault State Colorado Zip 80610

FOR OFFICIAL USE:		Site Number <u>5WL.5026</u>
<u>11/22/2006</u> Nomination Received	Senate # _____	House # _____
<u>2/16/2007</u> Review Board Recommendation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Denial	<u>2/22/2007</u> CHS Board State Register Listing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	
	Listing Criteria <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E	
Certification of Listing: President, Colorado Historical Society		Date _____

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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SECTION II

Local Historic Designation

Has the property received local historic designation?

no

yes --- individually designated designated as part of a historic district

Date designated _____

Designated by _____ (Name of municipality or county)

Use of Property

Historic GOVERNMENT/ public works

Current GOVERNMENT/ public works

Original Owner Town of Ault

Source of Information Town of Ault Book of Minutes- 1906 and 1907

Year of Construction 1907

Source of Information Town of Ault Book of Minutes- 1906 and 1907

Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer O.F. Shattuck; F.J. Stoner; Hart & Cooper

Source of Information Town of Ault Book of Minutes- 1906 and 1907

Locational Status

Original location of structure(s)

Structure(s) moved to current location

Date of move _____

SECTION III

Description and Alterations

(describe the current and original appearance of the property and any alterations on one or more continuation sheets)

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SECTION IV

Significance of Property

Nomination Criteria

- A** - property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history
- B** - property is connected with persons significant in history
- C** - property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan
- D** - property is of geographic importance
- E** - property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history

Areas of Significance

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology – prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology – historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/ Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/ Settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Geography/ Community Identity | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/ Government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Planning and Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Social History |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |

Significance Statement

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

Bibliography

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

SECTION V

Locational Information

Lot(s) 10-12 Block 6 Addition Graefe's 4th Addition

USGS Topographic Quad Map Eaton

Verbal Boundary Description of Nominated Property

(describe the boundaries of the nominated property on a continuation sheet)

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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SECTION VI

Photograph Log for Black and White Photographs

(prepare a photograph log on one or more continuation sheets)

SECTION VII

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO ACCOMPANY NOMINATION

Owner Consent Form

Black and White Photographs

Color Prints or Digital Images

Sketch Map(s)

Photocopy of USGS Map Section

Optional Materials

Use of Nomination Materials

Upon submission to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, all nomination forms and supporting materials become public records pursuant to CRS Title 24, and may be accessed, copied, and used for personal or commercial purposes in accordance with state law unless otherwise specifically exempted. The Colorado Historical Society may reproduce, publish, display, perform, prepare derivative works or otherwise use the nomination materials for Society and/or State Register purposes.

For Office Use Only

Property Type: building(s) district site structure object area

Architectural Style/Engineering Type: Hipped-roof Box

Period of Significance: 1907

Level of Significance: Local State National

Multiple Property Submission: N/A

Acreage less than one

P.M. 6th Township 7N Range 66W Section 11 Quarter Sections S SE NE SE

UTM Reference: Zone 13 Easting 522411 Northing 4492668 NAD27

Property Name Ault Pump House

DESCRIPTION and ALTERATIONS

The 1907 Ault Pump House is located on the southeast corner of Graefe Avenue and West Fifth Street and faces west. It is four blocks north of the main street, also known as Colorado State Highway 14. At the time the Pump House was built, it was $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the Post Office. Over the years it has been surrounded by residential development.

The site is landscaped with a grass lawn and three trees. A six-foot chain link fence surrounds the north side addition and large water storage tank at the rear, then runs along the east and south property lines. Vehicle gates are located on the north, east, and south fences for maintenance access.

Erected for the protection and security of the town's water system, the Ault Pump House is a simple rectangular 40' x 64' one-story building constructed of locally produced brick. The foundation consists of two tiers of 8" x 16" concrete blocks. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Cornice, doors, and window frames are painted white. All windows are segmentally arched and have concrete sills.

The west facade has a large modern overhead door towards the south end. A driveway leads to the building from Graefe Avenue. The overhead door is a replacement of a smaller door, changed in 1976 when the two 17,000 gallon storage tanks were removed from the building. Adjacent to the overhead door is a pedestrian door. A segmental arch over the pedestrian doorway is still visible though a modern hollow core door replaced the original one. North of the door is an eight light fixed pane window with a wood panel infill at the bottom. The façade boasts large white numerals of the construction date above the pedestrian door.

The north wall consists of two windows; one is covered with wood, the other is a 1/1 double-hung covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ " wire mesh screen. A large covered 4' x 4' opening that was once used for coal delivery is located towards the west end of the north wall. A concrete block shed roof addition abuts a portion of the north wall and extends past the east (rear) wall. (See building footprint on Site Plan.)

The east (rear) wall faces the large supply tank and alley. Original asymmetrical double doors on the south end are constructed of diagonal wood boards. The door was secured by putting a wood plank in place on the inside. Two 1/1 double-hung windows, also covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ " wire mesh screen, are situated just north of the doors.

The south wall has four 1/1 double-hung windows covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ " wire mesh screen. A large segmental arch originally framed double doors. This area was bricked in with slightly different colored brick in 1976. A vehicle driveway runs along the south side of the building for maintenance access.

Interior

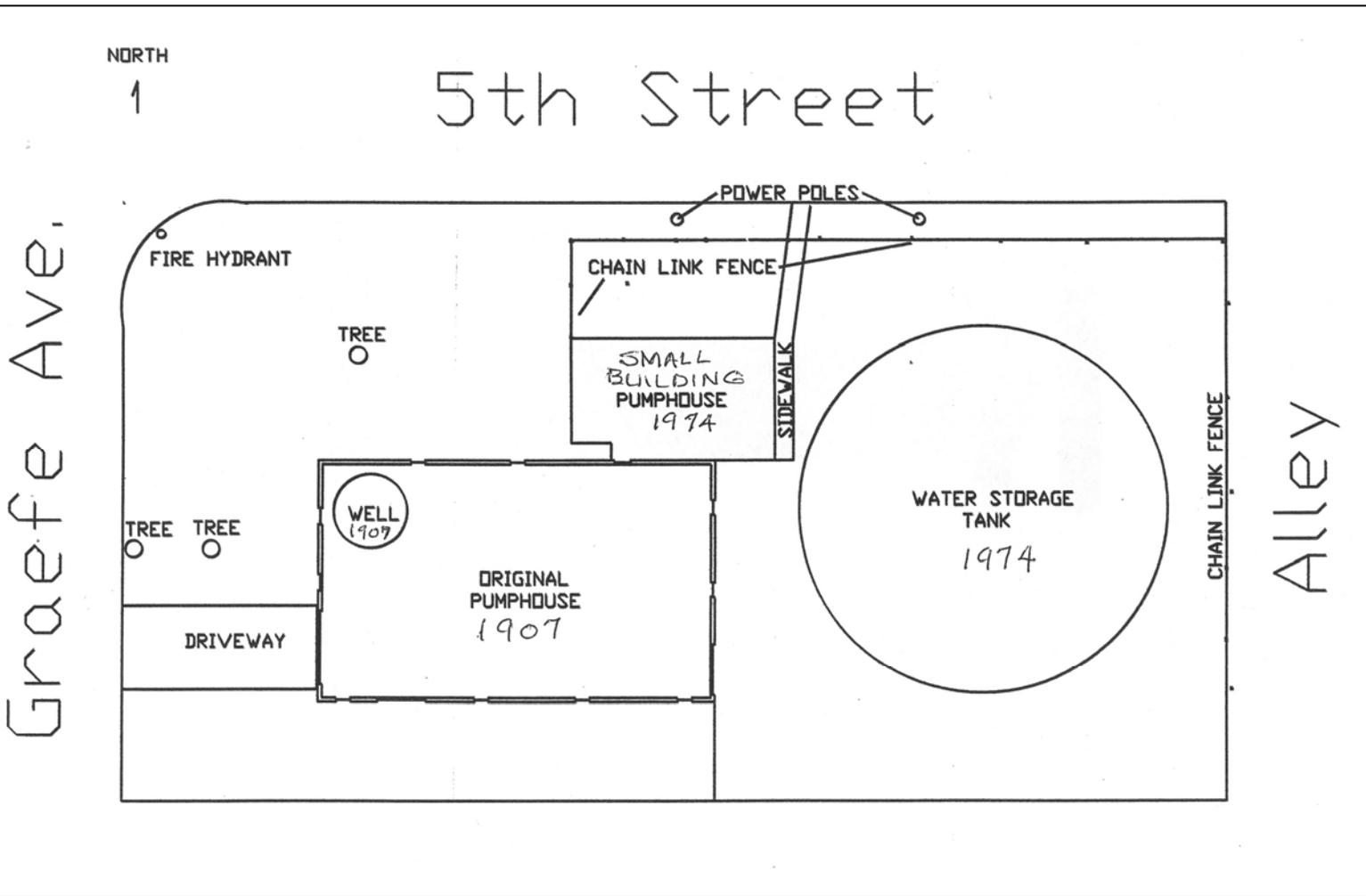
The west pedestrian door opens into a small room housing the town's public works department. The original well is located here; a wood and concrete floor covers the well and room. The water level of the well is clearly visible when the floor panel is removed. The well is approximately 12' in diameter and 40' deep. The rest of the building has a concrete floor. Original brick walls are painted white. The ceiling in the larger space is tongue and groove wood planking while it is drywall in the small room. A segmental arch window on the north wall was converted into a door to allow pedestrian access into the shed roof addition.

Addition

Property Name Ault Pump House

The concrete block addition on the north wall measures 18' x 37' and was constructed in 1974. A concrete floor and modern equipment fill the space. Slider windows are located on the west, north and south walls along with an overhead door at the east end of the north wall.

Site Plan



Property Name Ault Pump House

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The 1907 Ault Pump House is eligible for the State Register of Historic Properties under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development for its use as a major part of the community infrastructure. Providing an adequate water supply for the town was a major step in establishing Ault as a central community within the local region. This water system contributed to directing the progress of the community by elevating living conditions and fire protection. The Pump House has had changes brought on by technology and progress but remains a governmental asset. The Ault Pump House is the only building constructed by the town government still in existence.

Historical Background

Ault lies in the path of the once traveled Trappers Trail being located north of Forts St. Vrain, Lupton and Vasquez and south of Fort Laramie. During this era horses and wagons, traders and trappers, explorers, travelers and miners used the Trail. The grasslands brought cattlemen and the rich soil attracted farmers.

The Water Supply and Storage Company was incorporated to supply water via a ditch system for these newly arrived farmers raising potatoes and sugar beets. The Union Pacific Railroad arrived in Colorado in 1869, and on November 11, 1869, the tracks reached the present location of Ault.

During the 1880s, ranchers had to drive their cattle to Eaton for shipment. Difficulties arose with fences and farmers; the solution brought a railroad spur to Ault. During the Panic of 1893, Alexander M. Ault, a grain buyer, installed platform scales and agreed to buy and ship wheat and cattle. The community was first called McCallister and then Burgdorf, but the citizens voted to name the town Ault. Mail reached the town by train in 1898, though the first depot wasn't built until 1903. The community grew out of the existence of the Union Pacific Railroad, making it a crossroads for rural farms and ranches. Ault became a hub to market agricultural products at the turn of the twentieth century.

The *Ault Advertiser* editorial of September 17, 1904, notes that "First of all, we want a water system for our town. Several methods are now being investigated and discussed. We want water and must have it, as our business houses are suffering for lack of a proper supply." The September 30, 1904, article states: "The irrigating ditch crossing Main Street has washed the side of the ditch beyond its plank covering and causing a hole to cave in the surface of the street." Water was already a significant issue for this plains town.

Following Ault's incorporation in 1904, a water system for the town to replace the ditch system became a reality in 1907. A well was dug, two 17,000 gallon storage tanks put into place and pumping equipment purchased. The brickyard was adjacent to the site chosen for the waterworks, so the source of building material was native brick. The Ault Pump House was then erected to cover the well, tanks and equipment, as well as the Fire Department's equipment. This included two hose carts with 600 feet of 2½ inch cotton hose each and 600 feet of hose at the pumping station, all new. The church bell or the night watchman firing his revolver served as the fire alarm. When a new municipal building was constructed in 1909, the Fire Department moved into the space set aside for them after occupying the Pump House from 1907 to 1909. The building continued in its use as the municipal water storage and supply facility.

The Sanborn Map of 1908 shows that Ault, population 900, established a functional water system. The

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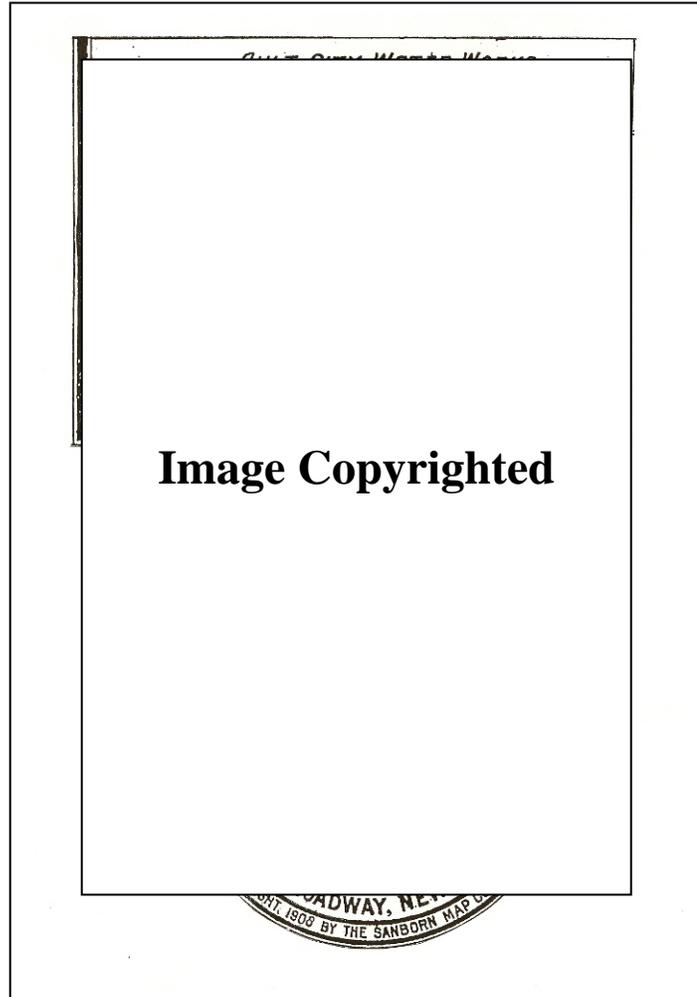
technical data, the exact pathways of distribution to the bustling businesses and residences defines the existence of a healthy, economically sound community. On September 27, 1909, 5,000 people attended the Third Annual Ault Harvest Carnival, Potato Roast and Free Barbecue. There were barrels of water with cups attached.

Over the years, the Pump House site is remembered as a place where Boy Scouts camped and the town allowed travelers to use the rest stop and camp. Groups of gypsies were also welcome. Children used the Pump House as a place to "hang out" and parents used the "give you to the gypsies" threat as child behavior control.

The initial water system sufficed for several decades but the supply could not meet the ever-increasing demands. In 1937-38, the well could not be made deeper because of shale. Two new wells were dug and water tunneled to the original well at the Pump House. The town again upgraded the water system in 1952 with new water mains and sewer lines.

Residents wanted softer, better quality water, so in February 1965, Ault started buying water from the North Weld Water District. A 500,000 gallon storage tank was ordered and erected in 1976 at the rear of the Pump House property. At the same time, a concrete block equipment building was added at the northeastern portion of the Pump House. (See building footprint on Site Plan.)

During recent years, progress in transportation and communication has caused much of the business to shift to urban areas and Ault has become a bedroom community. In agreement with the town trustees, the Ault Area Historical Museum has been organized to create a museum and preserve this building as a place of local pride. The goal is to eventually light the well and provide a transparent cover so it can be viewed as an attraction. This is the appropriate building for a community museum and a permanent marker of the area's early development.



Property Name Ault Pump House

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ault Advertiser. 1904-1910, located at the Northern Plains Public Library, Ault, Colorado.

Achziger, Burman, Grauberger, and Danielson. *Ault-Pierce Fire Department*, 1904-1979. 75th Anniversary brochure, March 1980.

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Burman, Charles. Interview May 11, 2006, by Marjorie Gieck.

History of Ault, Colorado. Brochure compiled and published by Ault Centennial-Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

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Lesh, Lynn. Interview July 14, 2006, by Anne & Gary White and Marjorie Gieck.

Research at Northern Plains Public Library, Ault, Colorado.

Robinson, Margaret. History of Ault and 114 file cards compiled during research about Ault, 1976.

Sanborn Map Co., *Ault City Waterworks*, 1908.

**COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Page 6
Section V**

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 10-12, Block 6, Graefe's 4th Addition, Town of Ault, Weld County, Colorado.

Property Name Ault Pump House

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-7 except as noted:

Name of Property: Ault Pump House
Location: Weld County/ Colorado
Photographer: Gary & Anne White
Date of Photographs: February 9, 2006
Negatives: with photographers

Photo No. Photographic Information

- 1 West façade, camera facing northeast.
- 2 North side and west façade, camera facing southeast.
- 3 East (rear) side, camera facing west.
- 4 Southeast corner, camera facing west.
- 5 South side, close up of bricked in door, camera facing north.
- 6 Interior- view of ceiling and rear wall, camera facing east.
- 7 Interior- view of pump and well room.

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Eaton Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

