# National Register of Historic Places
## Inventory -- Nomination Form
### For Federal Properties

See instructions in how to complete national register forms.

**Type all entries -- complete applicable sections.**

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### 1. NAME

**Historic**

Leiffer House

**AND/OR Common**

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### 2. LOCATION

**STREET & NUMBER**

Colorado Highway #7

**CITY, TOWN**

Estes Park

**STATE**

Colorado

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### 3. CLASSIFICATION

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**CLASSIFICATION**

- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

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### 4. AGENCY

**REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)**

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

**STREET & NUMBER**

655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287

**CITY, TOWN**

Denver

**STATE**

Colorado

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### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**

Larimer County Courthouse

**STREET & NUMBER**

**CITY, TOWN**

Fort Collins

**STATE**

Colorado

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### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE**

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

**DATE**

ongoing

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

**CITY, TOWN**

Denver

**STATE**

Colorado 80203
The Leiffer House, a modified L-plan, is a two-story structure, approximately 33' x 35'. The structure is sited on the eastern flank of Longs Peak at a secluded spot in the midst of a lodgepole pine forest, intermixed with aspen.

A rubblestone entrance stoop with inset steps on the east and a rubblestone patio on the northeast are contiguous to the battered rubblestone foundation.

The walls of the first floor are of concrete daubed, fire-killed logs which lie horizontally at the window bays and stand vertically at the corners and between fenestrations. The second floor, slightly overhanging the first, is of frame construction, sided with alternating wide and narrow courses of shingles. The roof is gabled and shingled with asphalt. The cornice is plain with fascia board, and the rafter ends are exposed.

The windows are typically horizontal sliding sash, 6 lights, with panes of old glass, doubled and tripled. A large bay of windows at the west elevation is formed by six mullioned openings, each with fixed 6 light sash, three high.

A rubblestone kitchen chimney is set flush with the exterior wall, while the rubblestone corner chimney of the living room is enclosed.

The floor plan is a single space with side kitchen and dining area with bedrooms above. The log walls form the interior finish of the first floor, and the exposed studs, rafters, and external sheathing form the inner finish of the second floor and ceiling. The doors are of board and batten, with plain board jambs and heads, no trim. The floors are of hardwood.

The house's main space is dominated by columns and trusses of fire-killed, weather-eroded timbers and by puncheon-boxed beams above the first floor. Attention is focused on the south end of the central space by an antler type stairway of symmetrical divided flights rising to side balconies on the east and west. The stairs are of open stringer construction with decorative pole railings and balustrading, a motif reiterated in the construction of the balconies. A battered rubblestone chimney rises into the ceiling from a rubblestone fireplace with log mantel.

Of particular interest are the devices used to impose a symmetric design to an asymmetric space: the stairway and balconies, the large inverted V log truss, and gnarled tree root system under the truss.

The house's furniture is rustic, some wicker and some framed in hickory and rushed. Navajo wall hangings are attached to the walls and draped from the balconies, while Indian pottery graces the mantel.
Leiffer House

The owners have made a studied effort to keep the house rustic: although running water is piped into the kitchen, there is no sewage and no electricity. The central space is illuminated by kerosene lamps on the tables and attached to the log columns.

Adjacent to the Leiffer House is a privy and a two-room modern cabin of sawed-log construction.
The Leiffer House is a unique instance of a contrived rustic adaptation of the Southern California Craftsman style (1900-1920) to the Rocky Mountain west using local materials, notably fire-killed timber, for their decorative values. The rustic furniture is framed in hickory and rushed. Navajo wall hangings, draped from the balconies, and Indian pottery on the fireplace mantel complement the Craftsman style.

The land which the house stands was homesteaded by Carlyle Lamb, son of the pioneering Reverend Elkannah J. Lamb, by patent of October 24, 1890. The land was conveyed to Enos A. Mills, famous naturalist and the "father of Rocky Mountain National Park," on July 22, 1901. May L. Kidd purchased two acres from Mills in 1917 and constructed the subject house about 1923. This property, purchased by Julia M. Fink in 1929, was conveyed to Murry H. and Dorothy C. Leiffer on October 13, 1942.

The National Park Service intends to maintain and preserve the Leiffer House as an example of rustic adaptation of the Southern California Craftsman style; and it may be used for conferences, seminars, and meetings. The modern Cabin house/seasonal employees at a future date.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land record deeds. Larimer County Courthouse, Fort Collins, Colorado.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Only the house is being nominated, and it is located in a wooded area 900 feet west of Colorado Highway #7 and 200 feet north of Alpine Brook.

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

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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
D. Ferrel Atkins, Ranger Naturalist

ORGANIZATION
National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER
Rocky Mountain National Park

CITY OR TOWN
Estes Park

DATE
August 14, 1977

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X NO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National / State / Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

DATE
7/6/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE
8.2.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE
8.1.78