

1192

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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 Roth, Henry, Residence

other names/site number 5DV5041

2. Location

street & number 5,7 and 9 South Fox Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Denver [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Denver code 031 zip code 80223-1608

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

James Edward Hartmann State Historic Preservation Officer February 3, 1997
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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
See continuation sheet [].

for
Signature of the Keeper Date
Edson H. Beall 9/30/97

Roth, Henry, Residence
Name of Property

Denver County, Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not count previously listed resources.)
Contributing Noncontributing

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
5	0	structures
0	0	objects
8	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century
American Movements/
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Stone
Stucco
Metal
roof Metal
Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Roth, Henry, Residence
Denver County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description

The three cobblestone bungalows and five metal barrel-lid sheds located at 5, 7 and 9 South Fox Street in Denver were built by Henry Roth during the period from 1927 to 1941. The three buildings and sheds occupy the perimeter of the property, enclosing a common yard that is characteristic of a motor court. The Craftsman-style residences are located between the Victorian houses of the Baker Historic District and an industrial area that extends to the South Platte River. The builder employed the innovative use of found and recycled materials in the construction of these modest residential structures.

Henry Roth built 5 South Fox Street in 1927-1928, while living at 3 Fox Street. The garage behind 3 Fox Street was one of Roth's first attempts at stone construction. Cobblestones for the exterior walls of 5, 7 and 9 South Fox were hauled by Roth and his sons from the nearby South Platte River. The three houses show a sequence of style and availability of materials that changed over the years. 5 South Fox has an upper story of stuccoed walls, while the garden level basement is built with cobblestones. The walls of 7 and 9 South Fox were built entirely of cobblestones; 7 South Fox has smaller, more uniform stones, while 9 South Fox was built with slightly larger stones. The size of the cobblestones for each house mimic the size of the house. Due to the sloping condition of the property, 7 and 9 South Fox are on the same level as the basement of 5 South Fox, which means that the building walls at this level are constructed completely of cobblestone.

Metal barrel-lids from a railroad tie factory on South Santa Fe Drive in Denver were used for the roof of 9 South Fox, and for the roofs and walls of the five original sheds on the property. The sheds are strategically placed at the three corners of the property opposite the location of 5 South Fox, the main household. The sheds mark the borders of the property, and distinguished this complex of buildings before a chain link fence was erected in the 1970s. These sheds were rented as sleeping quarters during the 1930s; they have windows and are long enough to accommodate a cot.

Ceramic tiles used in the walls of the buildings were manufactured locally. They were filled with recycled concrete, bricks and more cobblestones to add strength to the walls. Gravel for the concrete mix was mined on the property.

An addition was built onto the back of 5 South Fox before the original construction was completed. The interior floor plan is simple, characteristic of bungalows, with a combined living and dining room, a kitchen beyond that, with two bedrooms and bathroom along the south side of the house. The basement, on the garden level, was used as a garage until the current owner replaced the garage doors with an atrium door and glass brick wall in 1988. The kitchen was recently remodeled, exposing the interior of one of the walls that was built with ceramic tiles and filled with recycled concrete, brick and stones. Cabinets in the wall between the dining room and kitchen open into both rooms.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Roth, Henry, Residence
Denver County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 2

7 South Fox Street was built in 1937, after the city disallowed the continued use of the sheds on the property as rented sleeping quarters. It was built to look like a garage, but was immediately turned into a studio apartment. This house was renovated in 1983, to expose the roof beams inside and separate the kitchen from the living space with a half-wall. The garage door was replaced with cedar boards.

9 South Fox Street was built in 1941 by Henry Roth for his disabled sister; she could easily be wheeled down the driveway to her front door. This house has a front living room, a kitchen large enough for dining, and a back bedroom with a bath. There is an outside door in each of the three major rooms, indicating that exterior views from an inside chair were important.

The five original metal barrel-lid sheds on the property are currently used for storage. One shed was removed by the current owners and replaced with a grape arbor. The barrel-lids from that shed were saved and used for the roof of another shed built by the current owners in 1989.

The built elements in the landscape reflect the indigenous architecture of the buildings. Cobblestones were used for a small pond, and a raised planter on the south side of 5 South Fox Street. Cobblestones were also used to frame the steps and walks around the house. The concrete walks were poured over a base of broken bricks and stones. A large bird bath was constructed out of broken granite. Other walls were built by the current owners repeating this style, with raised planters built from broken granite found on the property. A terraced orchard was recently built with flagstone bricks formerly used for city streets in Denver.

The landscaping around the house includes many traditional plants that have matured over the years. Native Honey Locust trees were planted, some with dual trunks twisted around each other during their early growth. The Lilacs that were originally planted are some of the largest in Denver. Spruce and Pine trees add to the park-like atmosphere where the trees, shrubs and ground covers create outdoor spaces. The Honey Locusts, Siberian Elms and a Box Elder tree create a canopy over the entire property. Virginia Creeper and English Ivy cover many of the walls. Periwinkle is the chosen ground cover.

The current owner has allowed Virginia Creeper and Silver Lace Vine to cover a chain link fence that was erected in the 1970s, so the property looks more enclosed than ever. Parts of an old split-rail fence remain. Other cedar fences have been erected to create some privacy for the tenants on the property, but their style of open pickets preserves the communal feeling in the yard. The lack of public sidewalks on Ellsworth Avenue, and the narrow walk on Fox Street accentuate the rural feeling of the grounds. A swimming pool was installed in the 1980s, where there was once a driveway, maintaining this aspect of open space. A large plot of grass replaces the former drive in front of 9 South Fox Street. With the three buildings and sheds occupying the perimeter of the property, the open space in the hollow between buildings seems significantly larger than the area of the property would indicate. The sloping condition also contributes to this illusion. This slope and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Roth, Henry, Residence
Denver County, Colorado

the location of the buildings suggests the orientation and atmosphere of a mountain tourist camp or motor court. A driveway gate on Fox Street preserves this aspect of drive-up camping on the grounds.

This complex of three buildings has had only 3 owners: Henry and Mary Roth; Glen George; and Donna Altieri and Michael Thornton. Mary Roth lived at 5 South Fox until the late 1960s. Glen George and his family occupied the houses for a decade. Donna Altieri and Michael Thornton bought the property as part of a group of people in 1979; they now own it together, live in 5 South Fox and rent the other two houses.

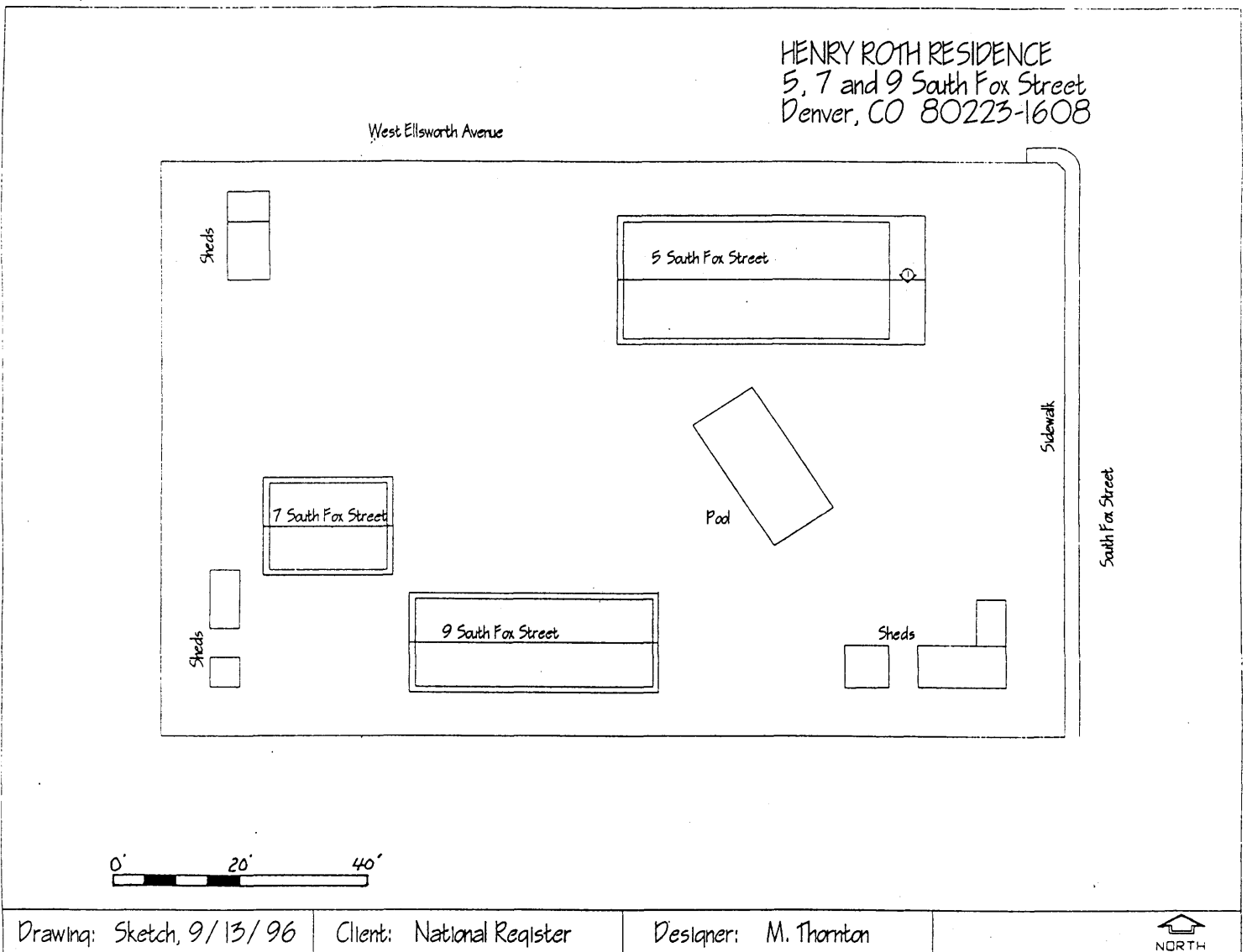
The houses are intimately connected to the outdoors and the large yard that they share, and the landscaping emphasizes the communal living arrangement of the houses. The cobblestone houses, barrel-lid sheds and privacy landscaping remain intact and have even aged to enhance the historic integrity of the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Roth, Henry, Residence
Denver County, Colorado



Roth, Henry, Residence
Name of Property

Denver County, Colorado
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes 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 the boxes 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 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic 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
- # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1928; 1937; 1941

Significant Dates

1928; 1937; 1941

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Roth, Henry

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

Roth, Henry, Residence
Name of Property

Denver County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 500440 4396090
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

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 Michael Thornton
organization _____ date September 13, 1996
street & number 5 South Fox Street telephone 303-765-4700
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80223-1608

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 Michael Thornton
street & number 5 South Fox Street telephone 303-765-4700
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80223-1608

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Roth, Henry, Residence
Denver County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 5

Narrative Statement of Significance

The three houses built by owner Henry Roth, and their associated sheds, are eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The cobblestone bungalows with their unusual metal barrel-lid roofs represent the important use of found materials for residential construction by a property owner during the era of the Great Depression. The houses take the form of variations on the popular Bungalow-type while the use of readily available found and recycled materials demonstrates the economic ingenuity of Depression-era builders and property owners.

The houses at 5, 7 and 9 South Fox Street were hand-built by Henry Roth in the Bungalow or Craftsman style of architecture. He made ingenious use of cobblestones from the South Platte River, metal barrel-lids from canisters of railroad spikes, and other found and recycled materials. He built the houses from 1927 to 1941, during the time of the Great Depression with its transient populace. This was also the time when tourist camps and motor courts spread throughout America. These cobblestone houses not only reflect the Craftsman style of building, but their orientation in conjunction with the sheds on the property represent the typical grouping of cabins in a motor court. Henry Roth's occupation as a cooper aided him in making use of salvaged metal barrel-lids to construct the sheds, which served as sleeping quarters during the 1930's. The landscaping is reminiscent of tourist camps located near rivers, where fast growing trees like elms and honey locusts are prevalent. Common lilacs provided a sense of hospitality. The buildings and grounds have been preserved, and represent a historical period in America when people were struggling to make ends meet. Henry Roth built the houses for his family, and built the sheds for income. He used materials that other people overlooked or dumped. These houses stand in marked contrast to the neighboring Baker Historic District in Denver, where Victorian houses built at the turn of the twentieth century are the norm. The houses at 5, 7 and 9 South Fox Street were built in the vernacular style of the 1920s and 1930s, and their orientation and landscaping typified the motor courts that were gaining popularity at that time.

The house at 5 South Fox Street has the typical arrangement of rooms for a bungalow. The house was completed in 1928. The front door opens into a long combined living and dining room, with a kitchen beyond. Cabinets in the wall open into the kitchen and dining room. A simple brick fireplace graces the living room. The exterior of the house is more indicative of the Bungalow and its connection with the Craftsman movement. Cobblestones are used for the foundation of the house and the front porch, with its natural open-beamed ceiling. Cobblestones were further used to frame outside stairs and for raised planters. The front porch and the garden-level basement emphasize the house's connection to the outdoors, typical of bungalows. The low broad roof and simple overhangs add to its unaffected style. This house was very much made to fit into its environment, on a sloping lot that might have proved difficult to other home builders. Henry Roth saw its potential.

Finding a stack of metal barrel-lids available for the taking at a railroad-tie factory on South Santa Fe Drive, Henry Roth used these to construct a number of sheds on the property which he rented

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Roth, Henry, Residence
Denver County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 6

out as sleeping quarters during the 1930s. The sheds were water-tight and each had a window; they were long enough to accommodate a small bed or cot. Tenants could wash up in the basement of 5 South Fox. When the city finally prohibited the use of these sheds for rooms, Henry Roth built 7 South Fox in 1937. The exterior was built completely out of cobblestones, except for the garage door facing east, at the end of the driveway into the yard. He immediately closed the garage door, and rented the unit as a small apartment. Henry Roth had situated this house at the rear of the property, to preserve as much of the open central yard and still provide parking as needed.

With the construction of 9 South Fox in 1941, Henry Roth realized the full potential of the metal barrel-lids; he used them as a lid for the house. He cut the lids and overlapped them in a manner that duplicated the layering of shingles. He coated them with an asphalt mixture that made them water-tight. The roof on 9 South Fox only requires occasional painting. The rocks for the walls and chimney of the house were hauled from the South Platte River. The layout of the rooms is simple, with a large living room, kitchen and bedroom, with each room having its own outside door. The windows are long and wide along the south side of the house. The location of the house on the south side of the property preserved the open space and driveway into the yard. This last building closed off more of the yard to the south, and gave the property its distinctive look of a mountain tourist court, where people could drive up to rustic cabins and enjoy the great outdoors.

The landscaping has proven to be a major attraction in this complex of buildings. Large Elms and Honey Locusts stand at the center of the yard, where there is a small pond crafted out of cobblestones. The trees that border the rest of the property create a canopy and hedgerow that encloses the yard. The plant selection consists of fast-growing common varieties of trees, shrubs and perennial plants: Elms, Honey Locusts, Pines, Spruce, Lilacs, Iris, Daylilies, Periwinkle, Lilies of the Valley, Virginia Creeper and Ivy. Planting by the current owners has expanded on this theme, adding more Spruce, Rocky Mountain Junipers, Honeysuckle, Rabbit Brush and Apache Plume. An original birdbath built from broken granite which had been hidden has been exposed by placing a path next to it. Gravel paths follow the previous drives. A swimming pool occupies the place of the driveway from Fox Street to the garden level of 5 South Fox. The garage doors have been replaced with glass brick, and the pool maintains the open space. This house appears even more grounded with the changes. One element that initially detracted from the property is the 6' chain link fence that surrounds it. This was installed by Glen George in the 1970s, to protect his property from people walking through it. This fence has actually contributed to preserving this complex of buildings with its vernacular landscaping. The fence is now covered with Virginia Creeper and Silver Lace Vine, making it less offensive while it has kept intact the yard and buildings.

The property at 5, 7 and 9 South Fox Street stands in marked contrast to the Baker Historic District, which borders the property. Whereas Baker contains many classic Victorian houses built in the late 1800s, most on standard city lots, the three buildings at West Ellsworth and South Fox Street were built in the Bungalow style, and take full advantage of the outdoors and expanse of land that they

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8, 9 & 10 Page 7

Roth, Henry, Residence
Denver County, Colorado

share. Henry Roth built these houses and sheds using materials that he found and recycled. The houses are some of the only cobblestone structures in Denver. The houses were built by a craftsman, who knew well America's plight in the 1930s.

Bibliography

Tax Records, Denver County Tax Assessor's Office

Denver City Engineer's Office

Denver Householder's Directory, volumes covering 1924 through 1945

Interview with Mary Lois Taylor, granddaughter of Henry Roth, Architect/Builder, by Michael Thornton, August, 1996.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 23 and 24 (except back 6') of Block 16, Lake Archer Subdivision, 1880

Boundary Justification

The boundary retains the original property lines and includes the three buildings and original sheds that make up the Henry Roth Residence, or 5, 7 and 9 South Fox Street.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 8

Roth, Henry, Residence
Denver County, Colorado

Photographs

The following information pertains to photographs numbers 1-8 except as noted:

Name of Property: Henry Roth Residence
Location: Denver County, Colo.
Photographer: Donna R. Altieri
Date of Photographs: 9/7/96
Negatives: 5 South Fox Street, Denver, CO 80223-1608

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	South side of Porch and Roof, 5 South Fox
2	Looking across grass towards Front or East side of 9 South Fox
3	East side of 9 South Fox
4	Metal Barrel-lid Roof of 9 South Fox
5	View from Door or North side of 7 South Fox to North side of 9 South Fox
6	View to South side of 7 South Fox with Shed
7	Looking across pool to South side of 5 South Fox
8	South side of 5 South Fox looking East.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

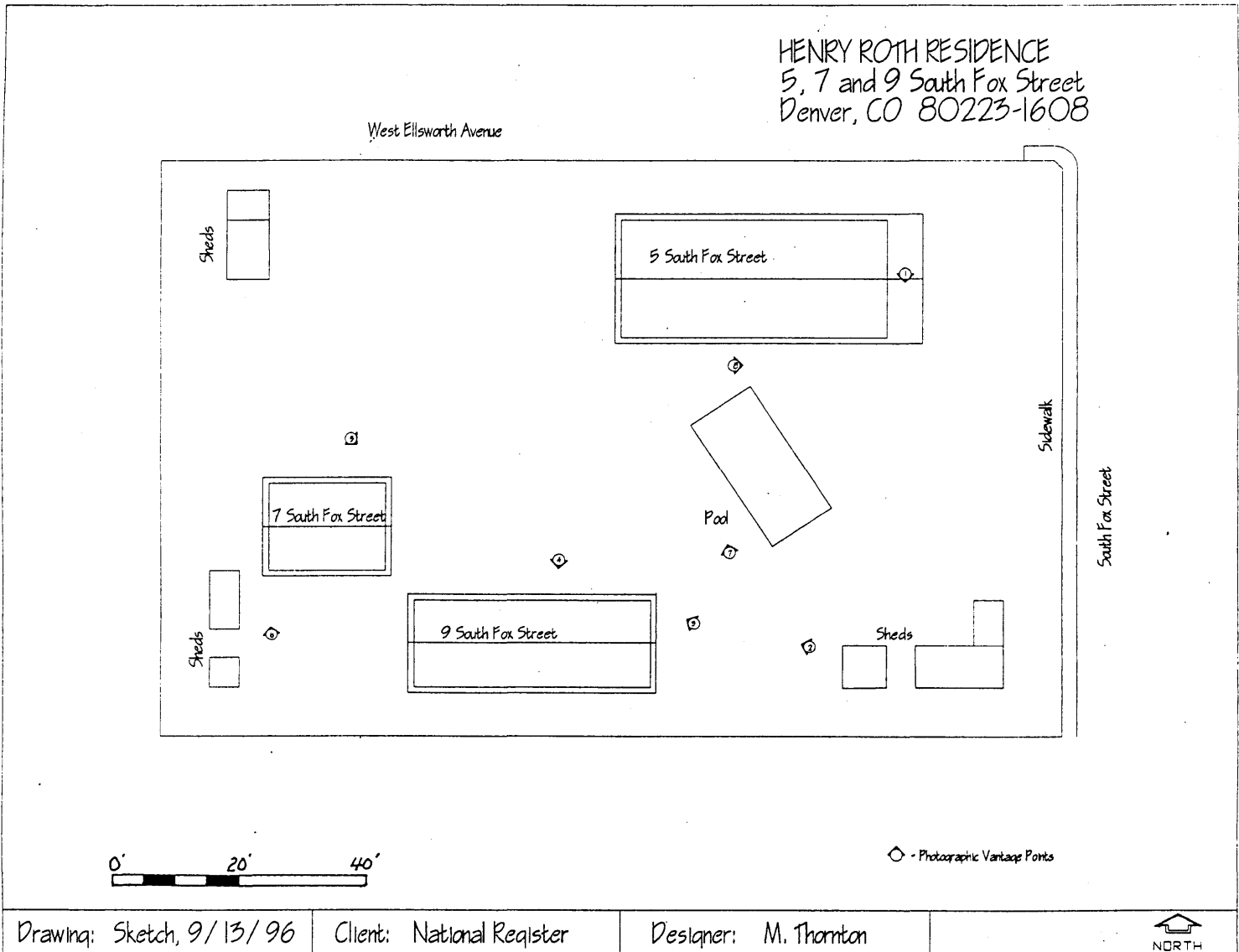
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 9

Roth, Henry, Residence
Denver County, Colorado

Photographic Views



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Roth, Henry, Residence
Denver County, Colorado

Section number Additional Documentation Page 10

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Englewood, Colo.
7.5 Minute Quad
1974

