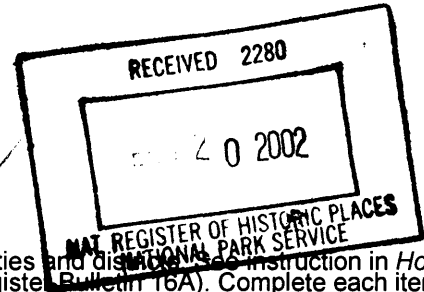


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. 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 Nettleton-Mead House

other names/site number Nettleton, Edwin S., House; Mead, Dr. Ella Avery, House; 5WL2575

2. Location

street & number 1303 9th Avenue [N/A] not for publication

city or town Greeley [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Weld code 123 zip code 80631

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.)

Germanina Conteguglia State Historic Preservation Officer December 13, 2001 Date

Signature of certifying official/Title

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.

Signature of the Keeper Beth Boland Date of Action 4/2/02

Nettleton-Mead House
Name of Property

Weld County, Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	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.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone
walls Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other Brick

Narrative Description

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

Nettleton-Mead House
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 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
- # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Health/Medicine

Architecture

Exploration/Settlement

Periods of Significance

1872-1874

1905-1958

Significant Dates

1872

1958

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Nettleton, Edwin S.

Mead, Dr. Ella Avery

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bentley

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

Greeley Museum Archives

Nettleton-Mead House
Name of Property

Weld County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 526100 4474010
Zone Easting Northing

2. _____
Zone Easting Northing

3. _____
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 Julia Richard

organization _____ date August 10, 2001

street & number 1313 9th Avenue telephone 970-351-7256

city or town Greeley state CO zip code 80631-4607

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 Paul W. and Julia A. Richard

street & number 1313 9th Avenue telephone 970-351-7256

city or town Greeley state CO zip code 80631-4607

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.

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Nettleton-Mead House
Weld County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The 1872 Nettleton-Mead House is sited on the southwest corner of the intersection of Ninth Avenue and Thirteenth Street, south of Greeley's downtown commercial district. The house sits on a 90 foot by 99 foot lot separated from the streets by concrete sidewalks and wide parking strips. Two 100-year-old maple trees stand at the front edge of the lawn bordering the entryway sidewalk. The lawn wraps around three sides of the house with the northwest portion of the lot devoted to a concrete parking lot. Foundation plantings off the east and north elevations complete the landscaping.

The Italianate style, irregular plan, two-story, woodframed and clapboard sided house is topped by a gently pitched, asphalt shingled, hip roof. The widely overhanging boxed eaves are supported by pairs of decorative brackets. The two brick chimneys with corbeled caps are located near the southeast and northwest corners. A full-width front porch with central pediment is supported by squared chamfered and fluted posts with roof eave brackets. Most of the windows are wood frame one-over-one double-hung sash covered by metal storm windows. The majority of the windows have bracketed crowns. The porch foundation is of rock-faced sandstone. The remainder of the house foundation is of dressed stone covered by a concrete parge coat. A wood skirt board wraps the building.

The house fronts east onto Ninth Avenue. The main entry is contained below a central second-story gable-roofed bay. The replacement door and side lights are fully glazed and aluminum framed. The original fluted pilaster wood surround remains. The second -story bay contains a pair narrow windows in a wood surround with semicircular crowns. Each side of the square-sided bay contains a single narrow sash.

The most distinctive feature on the north elevation is the one-story square-sided bay window. The bay roof is supported by channeled posts similar in design to those on the front porch. Pairs of decorative brackets spring from the capitals and support the wide overhangs of the flat roof. The apron below the bay windows is paneled. The remainder of the elevation fenestration consists of irregularly spaced sash of varying heights with typical eared trim supporting a cornice lentil.

The south elevation contains a two-story square-sided bay of similar design to that on the north elevation. The south elevation bay is wider, containing an additional window. The second-story contains a pair of off-center windows. The unsupported middle cornice brackets and the lack of a bracketed hood on the paired windows suggests a change to the original design of the second-story bay. It may have originally been an open porch. The remainder of the elevation fenestration consists of irregularly spaced sash of varying heights along with a first-floor and basement entry.

The west (rear) elevation is of plainer design than that of the other elevations. The eaves are supported by single brackets. The windows are not sheltered by bracketed hoods and the fenestration is minimal, including a first-story and basement entry. Two additions rise near the building's southwest corner – one of single story and the other two story. The hipped roofs of these additions have moderate overhangs supported by simple milled brackets.

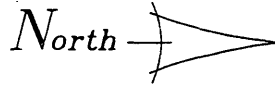
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Continuation Sheet

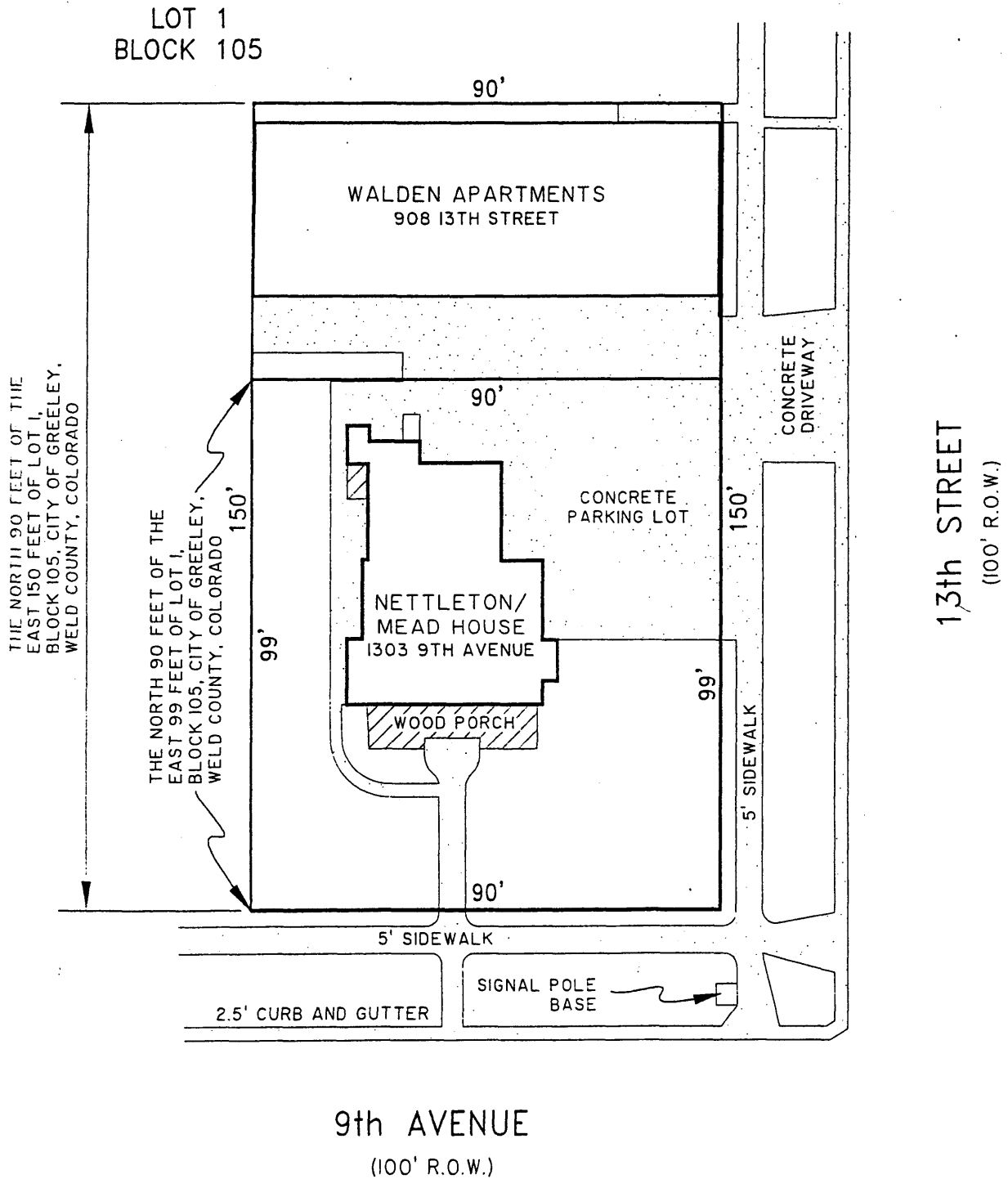
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Nettleton-Mead House
Weld County, Colorado

SITE PLAN



SCALE: 1"=30'



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Nettleton-Mead House
Weld County, Colorado

Some alterations have been made to the property in addition to those noted above. In 1977 the interior was reconfigured and remodeled for use as apartments. Little remains in the way of original or historic materials except for a few radiators and the second-floor staircase balustrade. The exterior foundation of the house, but not the porch foundation, has been plastered over. Also, a stairwell on the southwest corner was added some time since 1969.

The property is in good condition and although substantially altered on the interior, the structure retains its exterior integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Nettleton-Mead House
Weld County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 4

SIGNIFICANCE

The 1872 Nettleton-Mead house is significant under Criterion A for having been associated with the settlement of northeast Colorado. The Nettleton-Mead house is one of the few surviving residences which retains its physical integrity from the early years of the Union Colony. Nathan Meeker established the agricultural colony in 1870. The successful colony grew into the current city of Greeley.

The Nettleton-Mead House is significant under Criterion B for having been associated with the lives of Edwin S. Nettleton (1831-1901) and Dr. Ella Avery Mead (1874-1961), two individuals who contributed significantly to the history of Greeley and Weld County. Nettleton designed several early canals that brought critical irrigation water to the farmlands and urban homesteads of the Union Colony. His canals, perhaps more than any other single factor, lead to the initial success and sustained growth of the community. The 1872-1874 period of significance relates to Nettleton's ownership of the house.

Dr. Ella Mead became the first female doctor in the Greeley area, beginning her practice in 1905. She dedicated her professional life to the improvement of children and women's health. As the City Health Officer for Greeley she enforced quarantine laws, instituted milk inspections, and implemented a health screening system of the area's public schools. In 1920 Dr. Mead established one of the first birth control clinics in the nation. The 1905-1958 period of significance relates to the years in which she occupied the house as a practicing physician through the year in which she received several professional awards in recognition of her lifetime accomplishments.

The Nettleton-Mead House is also significant for its architecture. The house is an excellent example of a woodframe Italianate style residence. Intact woodframe residences of any style from the 1870s are rare, most having been significantly altered, lost to fire, or demolished. The Nettleton-Mead House is particularly important in that it exhibits the defining characteristics of the Italianate style as often used in early Greeley development and throughout Colorado.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNION COLONY

Backed by *New York Tribune* newspaper editor Horace Greeley, Nathan Meeker founded the Union Colony of Colorado, the antecedent of Greeley, in 1870. It was no accident that Meeker chose 12,000 acres of land laying between the Cache la Poudre and South Platte Rivers. Meeker's intentions were to create a utopian community based on the principals of temperance, education, religion, cooperative effort, and irrigated agriculture.

The town of Greeley was originally platted on a grid system with a two-block park at its center and the Denver Pacific Railroad bisecting the town on a north-south line. The first colonists arrived in April of 1870 by Denver Pacific train. Most colonists were Easterners with moderate to large savings to invest in the bold experiment. The first decade was characterized by a struggle first to subsist and later to prosper, mostly by agricultural means. Meeker encouraged the pioneers to live in the town of Greeley and

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**Nettleton-Mead House
Weld County, Colorado**

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maintain farms on the surrounding bench lands of the Cache la Poudre River. The built landscape reflects this social arrangement, with schools, churches, homes and businesses located centrally to encourage development.

The later prosperity of Greeley led to the alteration and replacement of most of its early buildings. Intact surviving buildings from the 1870s are extremely rare. The Nettleton-Mead House is an important representative residence of the community's first decade.

EDWIN S. NETTLETON

Particularly important to the establishment and early growth of the Union Colony was the construction of the large scale irrigation canals. Union Colony marked the first attempt to irrigate large tracts of land in Colorado. Smaller scale irrigation began earlier in the Hispano settlements of the southern San Luis Valley and Ancestral Pueblos had engaged in irrigation in the southwest for generations. Before the arrival of the Union Colony, farming in eastern Colorado was seldom engaged in as a primary source of income. In Weld County prior to 1870, crops supplemented or augmented the business of cattle raising. Edwin Nettleson provided the catalyst for change.

Originally from Medina, Ohio, Edwin S. Nettleton joined Nathan Meeker's Union Colony during 1870 but was not an original member. Trained in civil and mechanical engineering, the agricultural colony's Executive Committee recognized the value of his talents by hiring him to design irrigation canals. The Union Colony articles of incorporation outlined four future ditch projects. Although three diversions from the Cache la Poudre River and one from the Big Thompson River were planned, only two were actually built by the Colony. Nettleton designed both. Ditch No. 3 (1870) and No. 2 (1871) irrigated town lots and farmland, respectively, with water diverted from the Cache la Poudre River. Historian Robert G. Dunbar referred to the No. 2 Ditch as "revolutionary" because it was the "first large canal to water extensive areas of benchland." The No. 2 Ditch brought water to 25,000 acres by moving it from the floodplain to lands distant from the stream via lateral ditches extending from a twenty-seven mile long, thirty-foot wide, and four-and-a-half-foot deep canal. The No. 3 and No. 2 Ditches still supply water to the agricultural lands around Greeley. The No. 2 Ditch, now also known as the New Cache, delivers water to 40,000 acres and the No. 3 waters 2,460 acres.

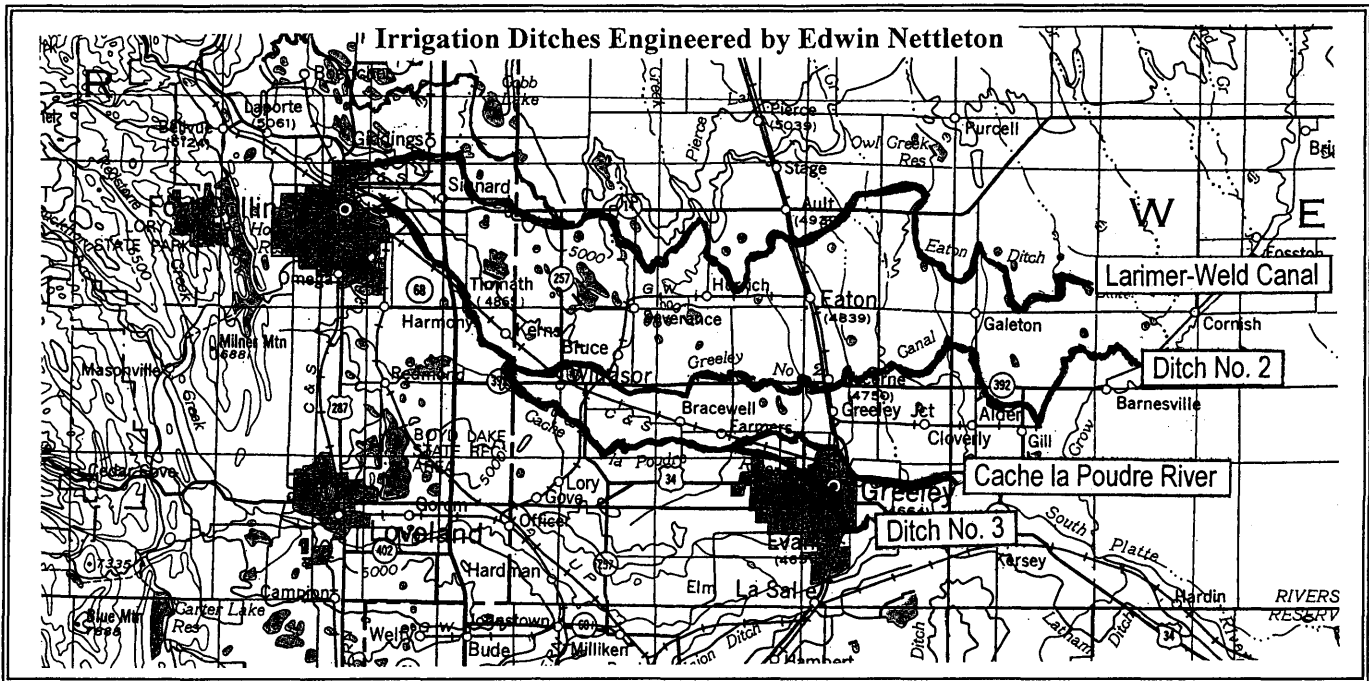
On August 10, 1871, Ovid Plumb deeded over Lot 1, Block 105 of the Union Colony to Edwin Nettleton. Nettleton hired a Mr. Bentley to build a two-story Italianate house, which was completed in 1872, on the corner lot of Monroe Avenue, later renamed Ninth Avenue. Nettleton's closest neighbors were the Meekers. The No. 3 Ditch he had designed for residential water ran just two blocks south. The home was reported to be one of the "handsomest" and most expensive in Greeley. The residence boasted the latest conveniences which included bathrooms and hot and cold running water. In October of 1874, Nettleton sold the property to Mrs. Carolina Packard.

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Nettleton-Mead House
Weld County, Colorado



Nettleton went on to be instrumental in planning the towns and waterways of Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs. In 1878 and 1879 he designed the Larimer-Weld Canal, a massive project envisioned by Benjamin Eaton and capitalized by the Colorado Mortgage and Investment Company. The Larimer-Weld is still the largest irrigation system in the Cache la Poudre area and delivers water to 50,000 acres. From 1880 to 1883 Nettleton engineered the High Line Canal in Denver. Nettleton also served as the second State Engineer for Colorado appointed by both Governors James Grant and Benjamin Eaton. During that time he designed a stream flow gauge that he named the *Colorado Current Meter*. In his final years he was connected with the United States Geological Survey and worked for the Department of Agriculture as well.

Always a dedicated professional, Nettleton died in Denver in 1901 at age sixty-nine. A few days prior to his death he over-exerted himself catching a train but continued to keep his work appointments in Utah and Wyoming. As his health worsened, he returned to Denver, was hospitalized, and then died of heart failure. Nettleton's work significantly impacted the settlement of Greeley and the region. His engineering projects brought all-important water to both homes and farmlands.

DR. ELLA AVERY MEAD

By 1901 the former Nettleton house was owned by Alexander Mead. The Mead family came to Greeley in 1878. Daughter Ella Avery graduated from Greeley High School in 1894 and she then attended Colorado A&M, graduating in 1898. In 1901 Mead entered the University of Colorado Medical School where she was the only woman in her class. Graduating with a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1903, she secured an 18-month internship at Denver General Hospital. "After I graduated," Dr. Mead later

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Nettleton-Mead House
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commented, "I competed in an examination for internship and, though I took first place in the exam, it took a good deal of effort to get me an appointment for an internship at Denver General Hospital. There was a good deal of resistance to women interns at that time."

Dr. Mead returned to the family home in Greeley in 1905 to start her medical practice. She made her first house-calls by bicycle, hanging her medical bag over the handlebars. In time she purchased a two-cylinder Maxwell car but noted that horses were still necessary for country calls due to the muddy roads. Dr. Mead dedicated her professional life to the improvement of children and women's health. She served as the City Health Officer for Greeley in which capacity she enforced quarantine laws, instituted milk inspections, and implemented a health screening system of the area's public schools. In 1920 Dr. Mead established one of the first birth control clinics in the nation.

During her lifetime Dr. Mead held many offices including president of the Weld County Medical Society and chairman of the Board of Councilors for the Colorado Medical Society. In 1954 Dr. Ella Mead retired from the medical profession bringing to a close a remarkable 50-year career as Greeley's first female physician. In 1958 she received the Florence R. Sabin award from the Colorado Public Health Association. She was also one of eight in 1958 to be awarded the Medical Woman of the Year award from the National Medical Women's Association in Washington, D.C. She continued to live in the Nettleton-Mead House until her death in 1961.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE NETTLETON-MEAD HOUSE

The Nettleton-Mead House is an excellent example of the Italianate style as applied to a woodframe residence. Like many Victorian-era styles, Italianate emphasized vertical proportions and richly decorative detailing. It was found on residential, commercial, and industrial structures throughout Colorado from about 1870 up until the turn of the century.

Italianate is characterized by a low pitched hip roof, wide overhangs, bracketed cornice, a variety of fenestration (usually very tall, narrow, double-hung, one-over-one windows), molded window surrounds, and occasionally a cupola or balustrated balcony. Simple Italianate structures have a hip roof, bracketed eaves, and molded window surrounds. More elaborate or high style examples may feature arcaded porches, corner quoins, towers, and ornate detailing. There are also some Italianate structures that are flat roofed, with a front bay and entrance, and a decorated cornice.

The Nettleton-Mead House exhibits many of these defining characteristics, including: the low pitched hip roof; wide overhangs with bracketed eaves; tall, narrow, double-hung, one-over-one windows; molded window surrounds in the form of bracketed crowns; balustrated balcony; and a front entrance bay. The full-width porch is a common Italianate feature as are the square posts with beveled corners. The house falls into what residential architectural specialists Virginia and Lee McAlester have defined as the centered gable subtype. These are houses of both simple and compound plan having a front-facing gable. The gable is usually rather small and projects from a low-pitched hipped or side-gabled roof.

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Nettleton-Mead House
Weld County, Colorado

Frequently the front wall beneath the gable extends forward as a prominent central extension. About 15 percent of Italianate houses nationwide are of this subtype.

The Nettleton-Mead House is particularly important not just for its high degree of external integrity, but also for its being of woodframe construction. Wood framed and sided buildings are more subject to deterioration, storm damage, and fire than are those constructed of masonry. For this reason, woodframe Italianate style residences have steadily disappeared over the last century. The Nettleton-Mead is an important survivor of late nineteenth-century Colorado residential architecture.

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Weld County, Colorado

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Nettleton-Mead House
Weld County, Colorado

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The North 90 feet of the East 99 feet of Lot 1, Block 105, City of Greeley, County of Weld, State of Colorado. The designation shall not include the West 51 feet of the North 90 feet of Lot 1, Block 105, City of Greeley, County of Weld, State of Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries were determined by historic lot lines but exclude the west portion of the lot on which an apartment building was constructed in 1970.

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Continuation Sheet**

Nettleton-Mead House
Weld County, Colorado

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-13, except as noted:

Name of Property: Nettleton-Mead House
Location: Greeley, Weld County, Colorado
Photographer: Julia Richard
Date of Photographs: August 27, 2001
Negatives: Possession of the photographer

Photo No. Photographic Information

- 1 View of Ninth Avenue looking north towards the Nettleton-Mead House.
- 2 View of east elevation, looking northwest.
- 3 View of main entryway on east elevation, looking west.
- 4 View of north elevation, looking south.
- 5 View of north and west elevations, looking south.
- 6 View of south elevation, looking northwest.
- 7 View of brackets on northeast corner of porch and second story, looking west.
- 8 View of added stairwell to southwest corner of building, looking south.
- 9 View of brackets on west elevation of second story and stairwell addition, looking southeast.
- 10 View of south elevation stone foundation of porch and plastered foundation around house, looking north.
- 11 View of interior entryway since remodeling, looking west.
- 12 View of entryway hot water radiator. Similar radiators are found throughout the building.
- 13 View of second story banister, probably original to the house, looking west.

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Nettleton-Mead House
Weld County, Colorado

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Greeley Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series, 1978

