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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 Bryant-Webster Elementary School
other names/site number 5DV358.18

2. Location

street & number 3635 Quivas Street [N/A] not for publication
city or town Denver [N/A] vicinity
state Colorado code CO county Denver code 031 zip code 80211-3051

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 [].)

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer October 24, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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] Signature of the Keeper Date
Edson H. Beall 12-7-95

Entered in the
National Register

Bryant-Webster Elementary School

Name of Property

Denver County, CO

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

_____ sites

_____ structures

_____ 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)

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description

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

Bryant-Webster Elementary School
Name of Property

Denver County, CO
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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1931

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Musick, J. Roger

Musick, G. Meredith

Anderson, Frank B.

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

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

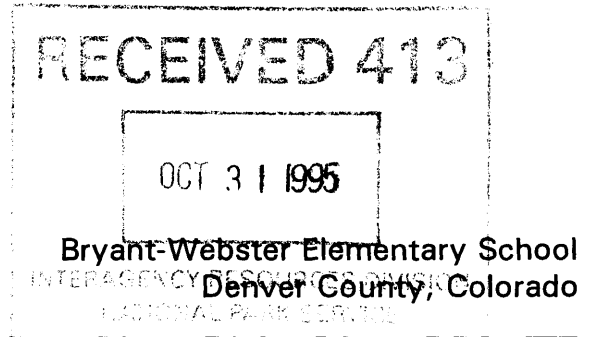
Other:

Name of repository:

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DESCRIPTION

The two-story, flat roofed Bryant-Webster Elementary School, with tower entrances, is located on a block bounded on the east and west by Quivas and Shoshone Streets and on the north and south by 36th and 37th Avenues. The school faces east and extends the length of Quivas Street. One-story wings extend from the north and south elevations. The north extension contains the library and the south extension contains classrooms. Extending from the west, rear elevation are two wings containing a one-story gymnasium near the southwest corner and the one-story with balcony auditorium near the northwest corner. Behind to the west are paved and graveled play yards enclosed with chainlink fencing. The yard to the northwest of the school is leveled within a concrete retaining walls. West of this play yard are two private residences on the northwest corner of Shoshone Street and 37th Avenue. These residences are excluded from this nomination. To the south of the residences is an employee parking lot. A ball field occupies the southwest corner and a sandlot with swing equipment is located to the south of the gymnasium. A paved play yard is located between the gymnasium and the auditorium. Two additions, designed to be compatible with the school's distinctive architecture, are to be located at the rear. A one-story, three-room classroom addition wraps around the south and west elevations of the gymnasium. An outside stairwell has been constructed from the southwest corner of the auditorium to provide better access to the cafeteria located in the basement under the auditorium. These additions do not compromise the integrity of the building and the east facade.

In addition to the play yards, the landscaping consists of a perimeter sidewalk around the block and set back from a parking strip. There are a few specimen trees in the parking strip on the east and north. The school, at the northeast is located above a rise contained within a brick retaining wall. Elsewhere, the school opens at grade or near grade with the street level. Around the school, except play yards, the site is sodded. Random deciduous and coniferous shrubs are used as foundation planting; flowering trees are located adjacent to corners. The ornamental shrubbery is very much overgrown and does not appear to relate to a historic landscape plan. A grove of mature blue spruce is located within the ell of the library and auditorium wings at the northwest. Beyond the maintenance of the grade, the landscape, including the play yard configuration and parking, does not contribute to the significance of this property.

The brickwork is the most distinguished feature of the school structure. It consists of deep red, hard fired, smooth face brick set with wide joints of soft, cream colored mortar. Generally in common bond on larger wall expanses, there is much use of stack bond, all header courses, soldier coursing often in stack bond, "hound's tooth" panels, diapering utilizing glazed headers and stretchers, inset coursing, diagonal coursing, carved relieving, and extensive corbelling. Much of the brick for the school was specially molded and fired to create the striated fins, shallow angling, diagonal coursing, and decorative panels of tothing. The brick was molded rather than cut on site to produce the masterful effects that created the Pueblo Deco style.

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Bryant-Webster Elementary School
Denver County, Colorado

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Facing Quivas Street, the school is a two-story structure with a large tower configuration at the northerly main entrance and a smaller towered secondary southerly entrance. One-story wings extend from the north and south elevations. The main entrance is accessed by a stairway set within brick masonry podia as it rises from the public sidewalk to an intermediate landing at grade. From there the stair narrows to the entrance portal. The north flanking podia is filled with large coniferous shrubbery. The south flanking podia is flat-topped. A secondary podium is located to the north of the upper stairway and is edged completely with a wrought iron railing in a chevron pattern. Pipe railings extend up the stairways. The brick masonry podia are characterized by strong horizontal banding with soldier coursing at the base and at the top which is finished with a beveled brick cap. Recessed courses off set every fifth course. The step tread and risers are also brick creating a strong horizontal design element.

Two concrete steps rise from the public sidewalk to the grade at the southerly secondary entrance. The long landing is concrete paved and extends to a flight of brick steps set within brick podia. The podia have a top soldier course and a concrete cap set with chevron patterned wrought iron railings. Typically, the railings are purely decorative and completely enclose the top of the podia on three sides. A pipe railing extends up the center of the brick steps.

The main entrance is distinguished by an asymmetrical tower-portal arrangement. The entire feature extends well above the parapet of the school and contributes directly to the animated skyline of the facade. Entrance is gained by a pair of double doors located within a canted reveal and one step above the top landing of the stairway. The doors are solid core flush panel with a glazed upper panel. Above the doors, decorative corbelled brickwork, in a vertical rectangular pattern, extends into three striated brick fins which extend as mullions through a segmentally arched stair landing window opening and rise to the roof parapet. The wide center fin extends in a mullion between the pairs of doors. Set across the corbelling of the door heads is aluminum lettering spelling out "Bryant-Webster/School."

The stair landing window is composed of nine-light casement sash in each of the four bays. Above are fixed six-light sections. The frosted glass glazing is set in wooden frames and muntins. Infilling the upper third of the opening and within the segmental arch are leaded came sections with pink and beige glass set in stepped chevrons. The segmentally arched head of the window opening spans between the larger, taller north tower and the smaller, shorter south tower. The arch has brick voussoirs. Above the arch and between the striated brick fins are panels of shallow relief ornamentation of carved and molded brick in abstract and geometric patterns. Continuous bands span between the fins and ornament the slightly arched parapet.

The larger north tower of the main entrance is essentially a symmetrical composition consisting of a center section with an elongated corbelled arch which extends from the stairway podia to the height of the second floor window heads. The corbelled arch contains narrow window openings at each floor within the deep and angled reveal. A striated fin extends the height of the tower through the center of the corbelled arch and in front of the window openings. Continuous jambs, slightly angled out, extend

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the height of the tower, flank the corbelled arch, and repeat the striation of the central fin. At the corners are buttresses of glazed all header bond which extend to the height of the central reveal parapet. Above at the corners are diagonal panels of glazed brick laid in all header bond. These panels step across the angled jamb sections. The central fin also is stepped and is flanked with geometric reliefs of chevrons and sunburst motifs. Pyramidal stepping completes the parapet around the central fin.

The strong diagonal detail of the top of the tower is echoed in the secondary south tower flanking the main entrance. This tower, with a flat parapet, has abstract relief work on the surface infilled with diagonal coursing and stepped and diagonal enframements. Two strong diagonal stepped brick courses carry the eye across the entry reveal to the larger tower. The diagonals oppose one another, forming a gabled suggestion. At the first floor level is a corbelled panel with smaller corbelled niche set into it at the lowest level.

The secondary east entrance is symmetrical. It consists of two single leaf doors (flush panel with glazed openings) separated by a striated brick fin extending to the stepped parapet. Above the doors are corbelled panels which form the sill of a smaller stair landing window also with a segmentally arched head of brick voussoirs. The window opening has six-light casement sash, two tiers of fixed four-light sash, and a shallow colored glass transom. Pink and beige glass form stepped chevrons. Above the arch are carved geometric relief panels which integrate into the stepped parapet. This feature is flanked by plain towers that extend above the parapet of the school. The towers have flat parapets, angled reveals, and are set with corbelled brick ribs. Six ribs angle out from the face and are centered on each tower. These extend the height of the door heads. Corbelled above are three ribs with a long center rib extending to the height of the second floor window heads.

The two-story sections of the east facade are generally characterized by bays of classroom windows having five windows separated with molded brick mullions. The individual openings have six-over-six-light sash. To the south of the secondary entrance in one bay. There are five bays between the entranceways and one bay to the north of the main entrance. Each bay consists of a brick foundation with horizontal banding and soldier coursing with a beveled water table course. The first floor spandrels are ornamented with a running chevron pattern worked out in glazed headers. The chevron relates to the striated brick mullions and is carried through into the between floor spandrel ornamented with geometric diapering. The second floor mullions are extended with glazed headers onto the parapet through a "tree of life" pattern worked out in stepped chevrons and diagonal coursing. This glazed header motif extends to the top of the parapet finished with a soldier course.

Separating each bay are angled projections of masonry. The foundation coursing continues across the shallow angle. The first floor spandrel ornament is stopped by the angle. The space between the window openings is infilled with glazed headers set in stack bond angled 45 degrees in hounds tooth panels. The stack bond creates vertical shadow lines. The intermediate spandrel diapering is stopped at plain masonry. Similar hounds tooth panelling infills between the second floor windows. At the parapet level, extending from the height of the window heads, the brick at each pier has a deep chevron

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formed by glazed headers laid in stack bond. A raked soldier course caps the pier parapets. The outside corners of the two-story facade are similar piers with higher, stepped parapets.

The first floor bay immediately to the south of the main entrance accommodates the school offices. The windows have twenty-four-light, industrial scaled sash. Each of the three openings have a pair of four-light casement sash and are separated by wide brick striated mullions. Generally, the fenestration has minimal relationship of the glazed header designs of the spandrels.

At the north end of the building is the one-story library wing which steps back from the facade. The library wing is has no fenestration on the east and west elevations and has seven window openings on the north elevation--five central bays flanked by single bays. The east and west elevations have the typical foundation of vertical bands as described above. The walling is characterized by a corbelled parapet of angled diamond panels infilled with running bond and stack bond glazed headers similar to the facade piers. The effect is folded plates of brick. At the center of each wall a waterfall of corbelled brick bands extends the corbelling down the surface. At each end of each elevation are panels of hounds tooth brickwork which correspond to the window height of the north elevation. The panels wrap around to the single window openings and are set between those openings and the central five openings which have mullion ribs extending through the foundation to the parapet. The parapet is a corbelled version of the side elevation parapets with the diamond pattern giving way to chevrons above the windows. Above the piers, between the flanking windows and the window band, the parapet is stepped to form raised panels. An emergency exit and a concrete stairway has been constructed within one window opening. Above at the second floor level of the north elevation brick hounds tooth panels continue across and enframe windows at the end of the second floor hallway.

The one-story south wing contains two class rooms which flank a secondary entrance into the longitudinal main hallway. This wing projects beyond the walling of the facade and the rear elevation. It has the banded foundation detailing found elsewhere and has no window openings on the east and west elevations. The detailing is characterized by the parapet design. At the north and south elevation, the corners have corbelled brick tabernacles. Corbelled and striated brick pinnacles are spaced on all elevations and are infilled between with stepped chevron bands in relief. At the center of each east and west elevation the pinnacle forms a fin which extends to grade through the foundation. The walling adjacent angles out slightly and is ornamented with brick waterfall bands of stacked headers which project slightly from the walling and blend into the walling.

Hounds tooth panels ornament the corners of the south wing and relate to the height of the windows on the south elevation. Each bay flanking the entrance feature has five openings with striated mullions. The spandrel has typical chevron patterned brick work. The parapet has pinnacles and tabernacles at the corners and above the hounds tooth panel adjacent to the entrance feature. The low entrance feature has two flat towers which flank a segmentally arched doorway and two shallow steps above the public sidewalk. Two doors have a central striated mullion rib that extends up through the stepped parapet. The transoms are infilled with plain wooden panels. A stepped chevron relief springs

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from the mullion rib and relates to the stepped parapet detailing. The flanking towers have sloped reveals, a soldier course parapet cap, and niches with corbelled brick heads and sills of stack bond headers. The niches contain light fixture sockets.

Continuing around the library wing, the west rear elevation of the single bay of the two-story section mirrors the east single bay. The window bands abut the north wall of the auditorium which is identical to its south wall. The walling, essentially a one-story composition, extends nearly to the height of the two-story school block. Each elevation is basically a four-bay composition with end piers. Each bay is defined with a segmental blind arch with a striated center mullion extending into a rib through the foundation to the parapet. The spandrels are infilled with stepped corbels in a chevron pattern. The parapets above the segmental arches are ornamented with stack bond headers and corbelled chevrons. In between are slightly angled piers that extend from foundation to parapet level. The pier tops are ornamented with glazed headers in an arrow pattern. Below each blind arch are basement windows with areaways lighting the cafeteria. The end piers have a folded plate, diamond pattern corbelled brick parapet which extends around the west elevation. Here a pair of exit doors from the auditorium have a brick mullion which extends in a fin to the parapet. Flanking the fin are waterfall stack bond bands set into the masonry walling rather than projecting from it. This motif is further defined with flush stacked headers extending up from the door heads. On either side are shallow flat headed niches that extend from the top of low podia flanking the brick edged steps to door head height. The niches have projecting brick hoods and contain light sockets near the heads.

The rear, west wall of the two-story school block extends between the auditorium wing to the gymnasium wing. Built at grade, it has plain brick spandrels, hounds tooth panels between and below window openings forming a continuous band at each floor, a plain brick intermediate spandrel, and a chevron ornamented parapet. The window openings, generally asymmetrically located on the elevation, usually consist of five windows, with brick mullions, per classroom. There is additional fenestration providing window openings for cloak rooms, restrooms, locker rooms, and service rooms. Except for the two cloakroom windows shared by two kindergarten rooms, all the window heads are a uniform height. Service room window sills are higher than the classroom window sills and contain four-over-four-light sash.

Near the south gymnasium is a recessed doorway within corbelled and stepped brick surround. The two doors have two transom panels. The head of the recess extends to the height of the hounds tooth panels and is integrated into the toothing at the jambs.

The lower one-story gymnasium wing contains a tall chimney stack flanked by window bays at the west end elevation. The north and south elevations each have three bays consisting of two tall openings with six-over-six-light sash separated by brick mullions which corbel into chevrons above the heads and are shallowly angled with stack bond headers. Below the sills are slightly angled panels of hounds tooth brick work. The pier parapets between the window bays are capped with soldier coursing.

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Similar detailing characterizes the west windows. The chimney stack has slightly angled sides and is terminated in a banded cap formed of inset courses.

To the south of the gymnasium is a small one-story infill section between the gymnasium and the south one-story classroom wing. This section contains two pairs of windows with four-over-four-light sash. The spandrel and parapet is unornamented. Hounds tooth panels infill between the window openings. Above, a pair of windows with six-over-six-light sash and a brick mullion light the second floor hall. It is this area and the south and west elevations of the gymnasium that will be obscured by the new addition of three class rooms.

The building forms a "C" plan with a long, longitudinal hallway extending nearly the length of the school on both floors. Classrooms and service rooms line the hallway with the one-story library extending across the north end. The main entrance, within the asymmetrical towers, opens into a stairhall which projects into the main hallway and provides direct access across the hall to the auditorium. The secondary east entrance opens into a smaller stairhall and provides direct access to the gymnasium. Storage room infills the space within of the main entrance's larger tower. Service rooms are located along the west side of the main hallway. The classrooms typically each have five window openings, trimmed in flat trim with molded stepped edges, like the door trim, and wooden sills and aprons. The trim, typically stained and varnished Michigan birch, is mitered. Doors are glazed with six to nine lights. The rooms have wooden baseboarding, asphalt tile floors, two-door cupboards, and blackboards and tack boards with molded stepped edge trim. The ceilings are acoustic tile which is, in some rooms, dropped. The walls are sand finished plaster and have a picture molding near the ceiling.

The main kindergarten room, directly across from the school offices on the first floor, is the Leone C. Bradbury mural which extends across the north end wall of the room above a central fireplace feature and flanking built-in book cases. Painted in 1939, the mural is a triptych composition. The large central panel is a scene of a Southwest Puebloan village. The focus is on three children in a four-wheeled cart set within a ramada. At the left another child, with a dog, is looking around the ramada post. A donkey is tethered to the opposite post. Behind the child at the post are two Indian women against an adobe wall, one draped in a robe, one carrying a pot on her head. Opposite is an Indian woman with her back to the viewing plane. She sits on a stone masonry wall section and carries a baby who is looking over her shoulder. A small child peeks out from her right. The seated figure faces of pueblo. In the foreground are two large pots. The side panels each contain a thunderbird rendition in the upper half and geometric bands at the bottom which are similar to a band directly above the fireplace. The left panel contains an Indian woman with pots in an interior scene. The right panel contains a Indian man in a breechcloth sitting crosslegged on a geometric patterned ground. This figure is three-quarter turned with his back to the corner of the room. The artistic style of the mural is very much like WPA-CCC work of the period.

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The fireplace has a tiled face and firebox. The mantle shelf is wood. Large tiles with geometric motifs are set below the mantle. The firebox is edged with roundel tiles with geometric designs in the center and the head has three long tiles with curvilinear motifs. A central keystone is ornamented with a pyramidal motif. The jamb and head tiles are edged with a molded half round band. The hearth is paved in the same monochromatic golden colored tiles as the face.

The main hallways on each floor are characterized by having green glazed brick wainscotting that extends to the height of metal lockers set flushy into the walls. The wainscotting, with curved corners, steps around deep door reveals which accommodate the depth of the lockers. The door reveals extend around transoms which have been enclosed. Two borrowed light openings, now recesses with steeply sloping sills, originally lit the hallway from the rooms. Drinking fountains are located in corbelled brick arch alcoves within the wainscotting. The library entrance has a pair of glazed doors with sidelights and transoms. The sidelights have chevron patterned leaded glass glazing.

The stairwells have a double run from the first floor to the landing and a wide single run from the landing to the second floor. The upper run has an exposed soffit. The glazed brick is stepped up the lower runs to the height of the stringer. The balustrade is solid and is plastered flush with the brick and is capped with a wooden molded rail which terminates at each landing with a cast metal newel that is vertically fluted and molded at the cap to match the hand rail. Green glazed brick wainscotting steps up the runs to landing wainscotting.

Entrance vestibules are located under the landings and have coffered ceilings formed with plaster cavetto moldings forming a cornice. Stepped bands extend around the spaces at the ceiling levels. At each end of each vestibule, set the height of the cornice, are geometric tile panels reflecting asymmetrical southwestern designs. The vestibule floors are quarry tile. The main entrance contains three steps, typically with asphalt tile and non-slip edges, which extend up to the main hallway floor level. Both stairhalls are enclosed from the main hallway by solid core doors with glazed openings and metal framed sash with vertical lights.

The auditorium is accessed from the main hallway by two corridors that flank a raised stage. The flat arch openings into the auditorium have fluted panels in the jambs. The stage proscenium is a large cyma recta molding with flutes in the jambs above wainscot height. The proscenium is segmentally arched with full miters at the corners. The hall is a two-story space with a balcony across the rear. Pairs of stairways with iron railings springing from a bottom volute provide access to the balcony which is presently enclosed and is to be opened up again in the remodeling project.

The walls in front of the balcony are divided into three bays, with the fourth bay being enclosed by the balcony infill. Each bay is separated by a 5-rib band which terminates on the walling in a stepped drop: the ribs step down to one longer central rib. Each bay contains a segmentally arched opening, corresponding to the exterior bays, which are infilled with acoustic tile. The ribbed wall bands extend to plain blocks at the ceiling and extend across the ceiling. There is a plain block at the intersection of a center ribbed band running the length of the auditorium. Within each ceiling panel

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formed by the ribs are acoustic strips which form coffers. Two wide strips, two medium strips, and two narrow strips extend up from each long side of the cross bands. The ends are open. At the center of each coffer, the acoustic strips are cut to form a star-like rosette from which hangs a light fixture. Each fixture has a opaque white glass tiered shade. Sconces are mounted on the wall rib bands and also have tiered shades.

The balcony is fronted with a panel of three angled bands which extends almost to the wall plane. There the soffit of the balcony angles down in a fan pattern to bracket the ends. The underside of the balcony has three angled coffer bands.

The interior of the gymnasium has green glazed brick extending to the underside of four open steel trusses. A cafeteria is located under the auditorium and contains modern finishes. Access is by enclosed stairwells under the main entrance stairway.

A 1992 addition to the school by the Denver firm of JH/P Architecture attaches to the west or "back" side of the building, just to the north of the southernmost facade, creating an L in plan. The addition was positioned in a manner that allowed it to mesh neatly with the existing building's circulation, avoiding an awkward collision of massing. Further, it was located adjacent to a one story portion of the school, to prevent a jarring contrast in scale. It was placed with an offset in planes on the south, with a groove where the new connects to the old. The surface of this groove is clad in metal, to signify a clear distinction between the two. The basic proportions and rhythms of the existing fenestration are repeated, albeit with greater simplicity in detail. The brick surface of the addition is moderately textured; there is also applied ornament, formed of steel components, that is derivative of the original without mimicry.

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Denver County, Colorado

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bryant-Webster Elementary School contains architectural design, material and craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation in local architecture of the period, displaying the distinguishing characteristics of the Art Deco Style. Bryant-Webster School is the work of G. Meredith and J. Roger Musick, local masters of architecture whose individual work influenced the development of the Art Deco Style in Denver.

Bryant-Webster School is a masterpiece of Art Deco Style architecture in Denver. Widely recognized by the architectural community when built, Bryant-Webster School was featured in an article in Architectural Forum. It was constructed of dark red and deep purple custom brick worked out in fancy patterns. The main entry is marked by an over-scaled stair tower. There is a beautiful sense of the building's mass. The architects of Bryant-Webster School were J. Roger and G. Meredith Musick acknowledged masters of local architecture. The school also contains a Leone C. Bradbury mural.

Historic Architectural Context

When Bryant-Webster School was planned in the late 1920s, radical changes in American architecture were underway. The imitation of the past which had dominated architecture for decades, began to be discredited on ethical grounds. Architects, drawing inspiration from the present, instead of the past, came to increasingly believe that the design of their buildings should reflect the time in which they were built. This outlook led to the development of Modern architecture.

The Art Deco Style in architecture and design first appeared in France in the 1920s. By the 1930s, the Art Deco Style was firmly established in Europe and the United States. In the decade before the Second World War, the Art Deco Style became a major trend in American architecture. At that time, the style that is today known as the Art Deco Style was known simply as "Modern" or more aptly, "Modernistic." This latter term would increasingly take on a pejorative tone in the later 1930s and in the 1940s. At this time, the Art Deco Style was held in disrepute and was supplanted by the Art Moderne Style and the International Style. For the next several decades, the Art Deco Style fell out of favor.

A rare variant of the Art Deco Style, inspired by Southwestern motifs, is called Pueblo Deco style. The Pueblo Deco style enjoyed its greatest popularity in the 1920s and 1930s American West. The running zig-zag frieze and the stepped diamond patterns seen on the Bryant-Webster School are hallmarks of the Pueblo Deco style.

In the 1960s, an historical reappraisal of the Art Deco Style was begun. The Pop Art Movement in the Fine Arts and the related "Camp" connoisseurship of chic and fashion-conscious urban gays were in the vanguard of this reassessment.¹ At the same time, the critical writings of architects like Robert Venturi and Charles Jencks began to disavow the inevitability of the hegemony of the International Style, in part, by championing its early rivals, including the Art Deco Style.²

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Beginning in the 1960s, the Art Deco Style was revived by the Late Modernists and later by the Post-Modernists. Reflecting this renewed interest, the term Art Deco was coined in 1968 by British decorative arts historian Bevis Hillier.³ Hillier's term is widely accepted today.

Art Deco Style architecture is a rare resource in Denver. The best known Art Deco Style buildings in Denver are two movie theaters, the Mayan by Montana Fallis at 110 Broadway⁴ and the Paramount by Temple Buell at 1621 Glenarm Place,⁵ both of 1930. Another important building in the annals of Denver's Art Deco Style is the Katherine Mullen Memorial Nurses' Home at 19th and Franklin of 1932, the work of Temple Buell.⁶ The 1939 Colorado State Capitol annex by Associated Architects, G. Meredith Musick, President, is a rare example of an Art Deco Style building in Colorado which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bryant-Webster Elementary School

Bryant-Webster School has architectural significance as one of the best examples of the Art Deco Style in Denver. The school contains many of the prominent elements of the style as identified by architectural scholars,⁷ including:

- Linear composition;
- Vertical emphasis with a strong secondary horizontal orientation;
- Facades arranged to emphasize the geometric form;
- Building highlighted by geometric stylized ornamentation;
- Hard-edged low relief ornamentation appears around doors and windows and in the brick work on the walls and along the roof parapet;
- Straight-headed sash windows; and
- Ornamental details executed in the same material as the building.

The Bryant-Webster School is also the finest example in Denver of the "Pueblo Deco" style. The brickwork has been executed out in shapes inspired by forms used in the art of the Native Americans of the Southwest. Musick's translation of the motifs used in Navajo weaving, Pima baskets and Pueblo ceramics into Art Deco Style brick work is the hallmark of the Art Deco Style.⁸

At the tail-end of the Denver Public Schools school building boom of the 1920s, Bryant School at 36th and Shoshone Streets (1890, William Quayle, demolished) and Webster School at 36th and Lipan (1892, David W. Dryden, demolished) were deemed to be obsolete and it was decided to consolidate the two schools into a new planned single school, Bryant-Webster. The Bryant School, which once stood on the site of the current Bryant-Webster playground, was demolished in 1931 after the completion of the new school. Webster School was sold in 1931, after the completion of Bryant-Webster and was subsequently demolished.

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One of the architects of the Bryant-Webster School, G. Meredith Musick (1892-1977), an acknowledged master among Denver architects, became a local pioneer of the Modern Movement with the construction of the school. Musick enjoyed a long and illustrious career, his work comprising a virtual history of 20th century architecture in the region. He designed buildings over a period of more than fifty years. His work illustrates the great revolution in early 20th century American architecture away from the various historical revival styles and toward the Modern styles.

Musick, like Temple Buell, is unusual among Denver architects in that he designed buildings in the three most dominant 20th century Modernist styles -- the Art Deco Style, the Art Moderne Style and the International Style.

At the time Bryant-Webster School was designed, Musick's younger brother, architect J. Roger Musick, was the chief designer in the Musick office. More comfortable in the vocabulary of Modern architecture than his older brother, the younger Musick was chiefly responsible for the design of Bryant-Webster.⁹ J. Roger Musick, in partnership with Charles Gordon Lee, later was involved in the design of some of the finest post-war era buildings in Colorado including the 1952 Carson Elementary School at 5420 East 1st Avenue, and the 1952 Johnson Elementary School at 1850 South Irving Street. Later, in solo practice, the younger Musick continued the high standard of his practice when he designed fine buildings like the 1958 Archdiocese of Denver, formerly the Banker's Union Life Insurance Company, at 200 Josephine Street.

Bryant-Webster School has many special features. Perhaps the most notable of these is the brick work. The brick used ranges in color from red to purple/brown featuring special brick patterns and shapes. These custom bricks were executed by Denver Clay Pipe and Brick Company. Mechanical innovation in the school includes a split heating system with unit ventilators, forced air and direct radiation. Bathroom, showers, auditorium and gymnasium were air conditioned.

Bryant-Webster cost \$239,190 to build. The structural engineers were Shakland, Ristine and Company. The heating engineer was Howard H. Fielding. General contractor was Frank B. Anderson. Heating/Ventilating contractor was McCarty-Johnson Heating and Engineering Company. The plumbing contractor was A.J. Tolan, Plumbing and Heating Company.

In the Bryant-Webster kindergarten, there are mural decorations by Leone C. Bradbury. Bradbury was born in Denver and educated at Yale. She was well known in Denver's art scene with a national reputation for Graphic Design during the pre-war period. She was one of the few local women, at the time, to have pursued a career in mural painting. Bradbury also executed mural decorations at the Brown Palace Hotel.

When dedicated on February 10, 1931, the Art Deco Style Bryant-Webster School was very much of its time. It remains an excellent early example of Modern Architecture in Denver and is one of the city's finest examples of the Art Deco Style.

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Endnotes

1. Bevis Hillier, Art Deco (New York: E.P. Dutton, 1971), page 45.
2. R. Craig Miller, Modern Design 1890 to 1990 (New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1990), pages 252-253.
3. Alistair Duncan, American Art Deco (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1986), page 7.
4. Thomas Noel and Barbara Norgren, Denver The City Beautiful (Denver: Historic Denver, 1987), page 131.
5. Ibid., page 132.
6. Ibid., page 76.
7. John Blumenson, Identifying American Architecture (Nashville: American Association of State and Local History, 1977), page 77.
8. Carla Breeze, Pueblo Deco (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 1990), page 8.
9. Michael Paglia and Diane Wray, Interview with Victor Hornbein, February 1993.

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Duncan, Alistair. American Art Deco. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1986.

Hillier, Bevis. Art Deco. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1971.

Miller, R. Craig. Modern Design 1890 to 1990. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1990.

Noel, Thomas, and Barbara Norgren. Denver The City Beautiful, Denver: Historic Denver, 1987.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 16-20, South 9.5 feet of Lot 21, Plots 1 and 2, Lots 1-4, south portions of Lots 24-27, Lots 28-35, plus the vacant alley adjacent, Block 26, H. Whitter North Denver Addition, Eicholtz's Resubdivision, City and County of Denver.

Boundary Justification

The nomination includes all the land historically associated with the school.

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photographs numbers :

Name of Property: Bryant Webster Elementary School
Location: Denver County, Colorado
Photographer: Dale Heckendorn
Date of Photographs: July 10, 1995
Negatives: Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	East elevation, view to the northwest.
2	South entry, east elevation, view to the west.
3	Main entry, east elevation, view to the west.
4	North elevation, view to the southwest.
5	West elevation with addition, view to the southeast.
6	West elevation, view to the northeast.
7	West elevation, view to the northeast.
8	South elevation, view to the northwest.

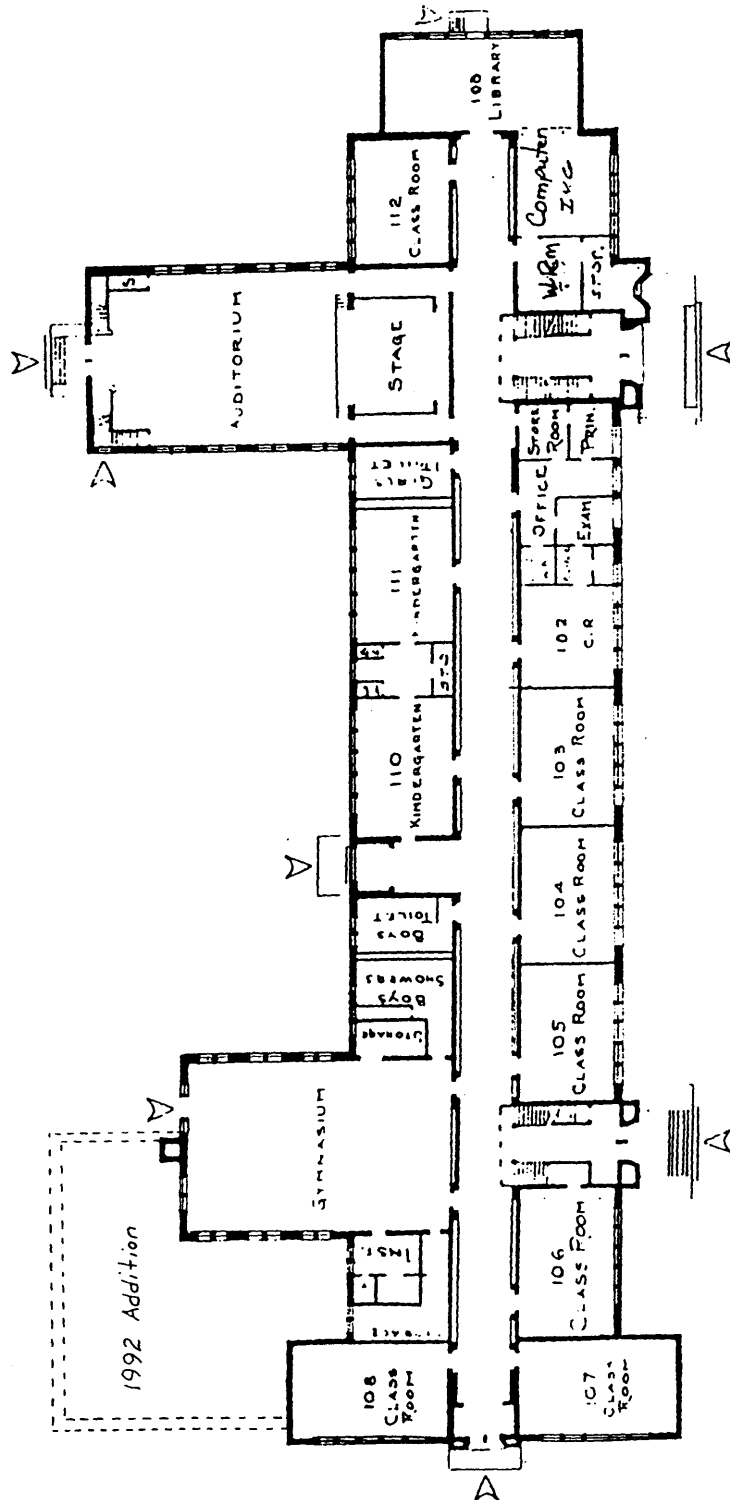
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Bryant-Webster Elementary School
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SKETCH MAP



BRYANT-WEBSTER
FIRST FLOOR



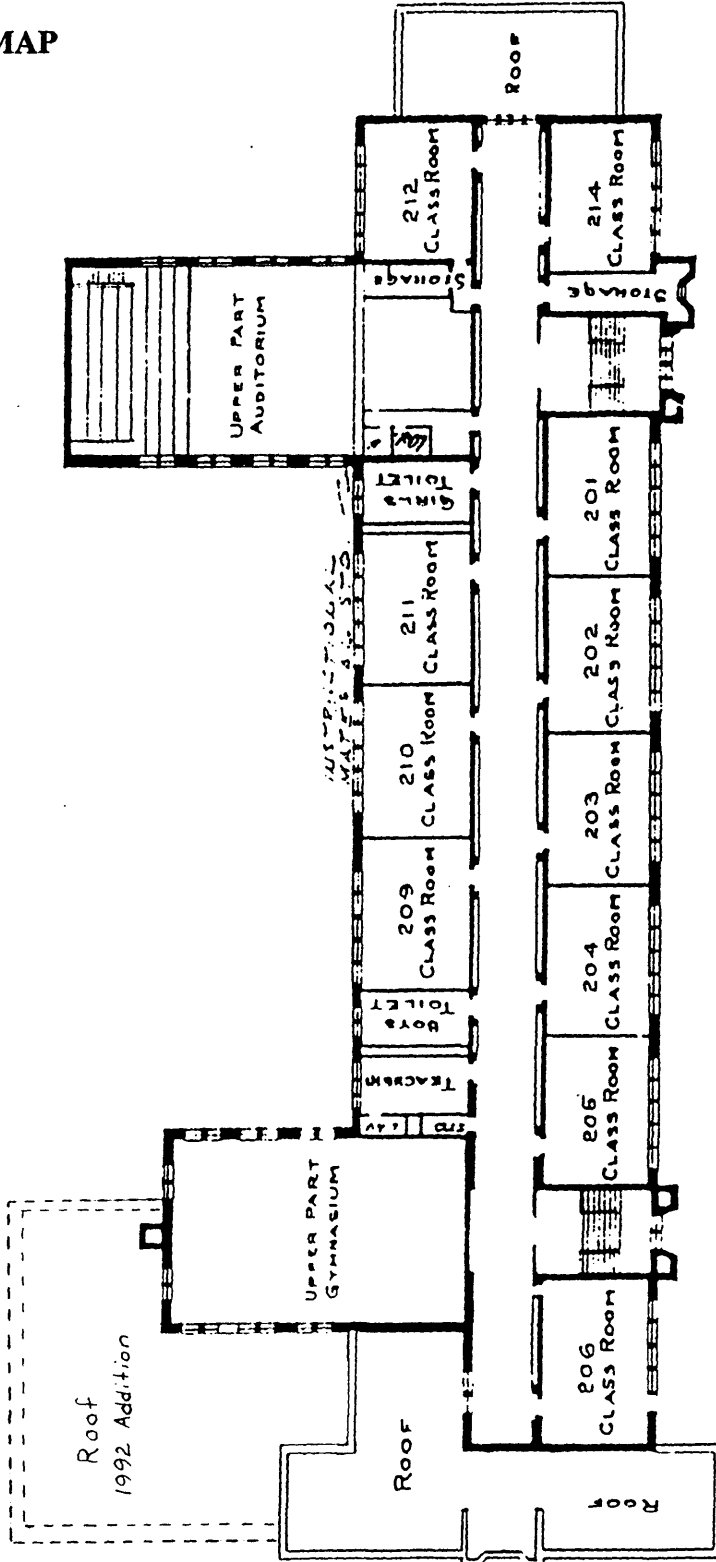
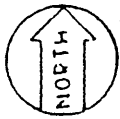
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SKETCH MAP



BRYANT-WEBSTER
SECOND FLOOR



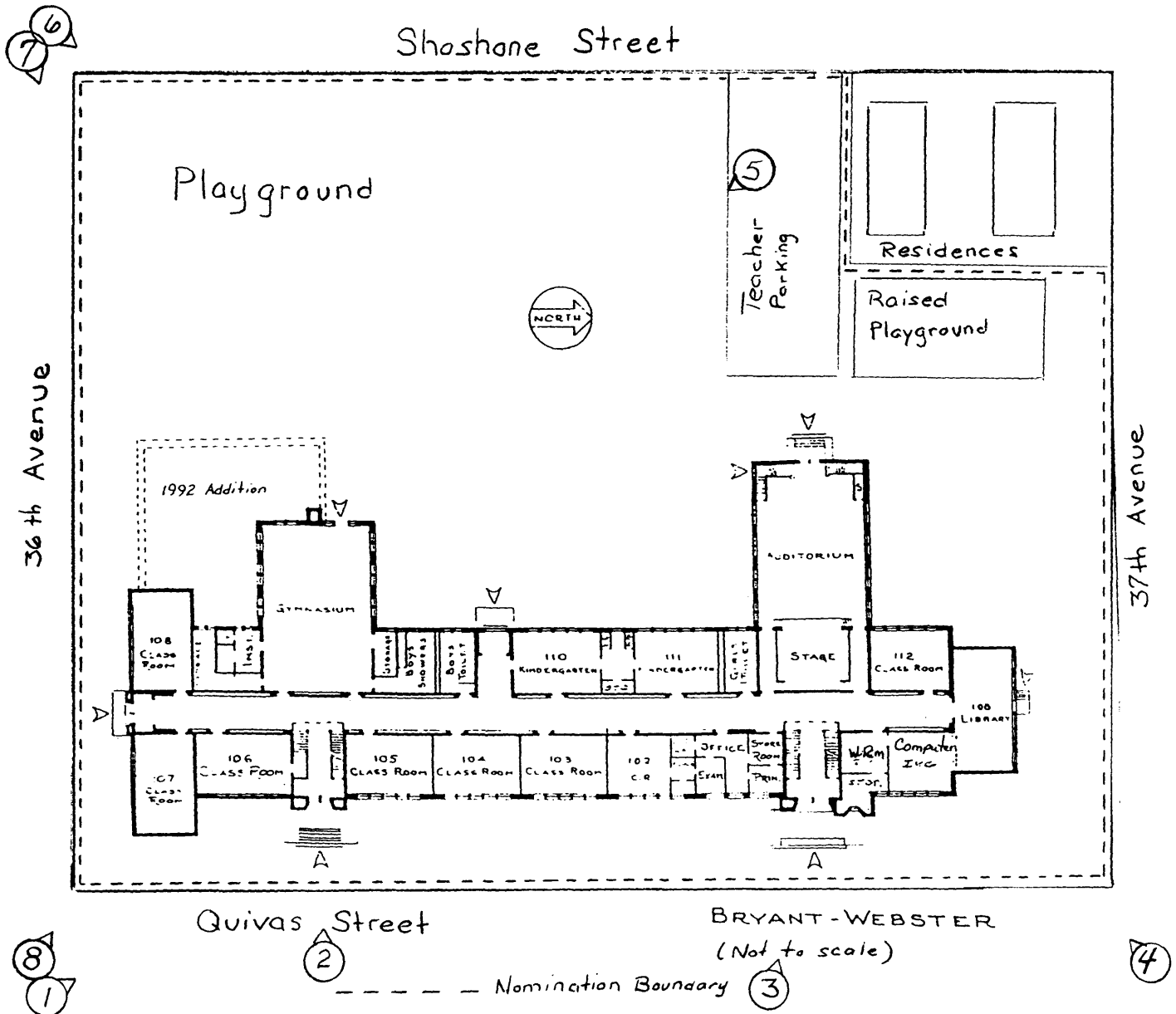
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SKETCH MAP



○ Photograph number, location and view

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USGS MAP
Arvada, Colo. Quad.

