

PH0066460

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
NOV 1 1974

HB
E 502 105
2/13 N 10407460

1. NAME
COMMON: Eugene, Field, House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 715 S Franklin (Washington Park)
CITY OR TOWN: Denver CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
STATE: Colorado CODE: 08 COUNTY: Denver CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

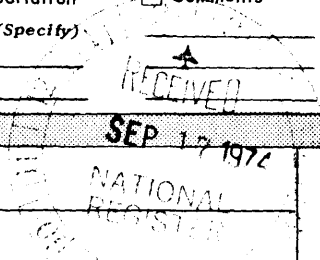
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: City and County of Denver
STREET AND NUMBER: City and County Building
CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Denver Assessment Divison
STREET AND NUMBER: 1445 Cleveland Place
CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
DATE OF SURVEY: May 1967 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Colorado State Historical Society
STREET AND NUMBER: 200 East Fourteenth Avenue, State Museum Building
CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house was built around 1875 and reflects the style of much of the frame construction of early Denver. This one-story, four room house is of clapboard painted a gold-yellow, a popular Victorian color. A truncated hip roof covers the rectangular main part of the house with a gable extending over the north wing. Two other gables, one facing east and the other west, appear at the rear of the house. A frame addition of a later date extends from the rear of the house.

An open porch with a single simple post is accessible to both the main part of the house and the north wing which is presently the main entrance. During the period of Field's residence, however, this was probably not the case as the north wing served as Field's library. Both doorways are decorated with a triangular frame lintel above a segmental, flush transom. Both are four-panelled singles with the panels beveled and recessed. The upper two panels of the main door are glazed.

The two east facing and one west facing windows of the main room are similarly topped with a triangular frame lintel. The two-over-two double sashed windows are surrounded by plain sides and a slip sill. The two windows of the north wing are the same except these have segmental tops. The remaining windows of the house consist of only two panes but are similarly surrounded.

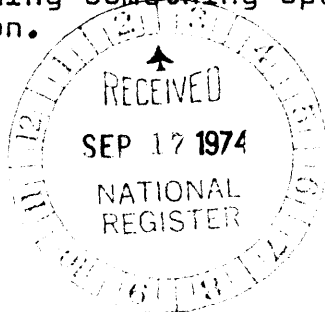
The roof is of shakes with the hips covered by overlapping planks. The projecting eaves are simply decorated with a boxed cornice and a sloped soffit.

The interior of the house is altered considerably from the time Field resided here. When the building was converted to a library, walls were moved and/or removed and two rest-rooms and a kitchen were installed. Originally there were no plumbing facilities.

Although most of the original Field furnishings have long since vanished, the Park People are attempting to restore the house, both interior and exterior, to the Victorian period. The house is surrounded by a small Victorian garden maintained by a local garden club and is located in Washington Park in Central Denver.

The house is one of hundreds of frame residences that stood in downtown Denver. It is quite probably the last one in existence and stands as a tribute to Eugene Field for it was his prominence that made this building something special and kept this house free from demolition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

c. 1875

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was the home of Eugene Field, noted journalist, story-writer and poet. The house was built around 1875 and is one of the last remaining examples of early frame structures in the Denver area.

Eugene Field lived here from 1881 to 1883 while he was the managing editor of the Denver Tribune. Among his most widely known poems are "Synken, Blynken and Nod" and "Little Boy Blue." He was very fond of children and tended to be one himself. He was the source of much amusement in the Denver area. One of his most famous escapades was when all Denver was awaiting the arrival of Oscar Wilde. He had one of his editors adorn a wig and a costume befitting the great aesthete. When this gentleman at the main station, "Field, followed by throngs of admirers, escorted the imposter about Denver, conspicuously pointing out buildings with his cane while the editor languidly contemplated his pastel gloves." The real Oscar Wilde was welcomed by a near-empty train station and failed to see the humor of the prank. "Denver responded with an equally low opinion of his lecture on 'interior design.'"

When he was not involved in one of his pranks, Field was aiming his wit and sarcasm at the area's bigwigs in his regionally acclaimed column of miscellanies, "Odd Gossip." This column served as the springboard for his "Sharps and Flats" column when he left Denver for a post with the Chicago Daily News. Though he lived here only two years, many of his later writings were based on his Denver experiences.

During the years after Field moved to Chicago, the house fell into general disrepair and was jeopardized by the growth of downtown Denver. In 1927, a group of preservationists persuaded Mrs. J.J. (the 'unsinkable' Molly) Brown (who was known to recite Field's poetry in public) to purchase the house. Three years later she donated it to the City of Denver with the stipulation that it be moved to city property.

The house was moved from its original site, 315 W. Colfax, to its present location in Washington Park. From the time of its relocation until 1969, it served as the Eugene Field Library, a branch of the Denver Public Library System. It is presently used as the headquarters of the Park People, a volunteer citizen's group devoted to the maintenance and improvement of the many city parks. It is also the meeting place of local garden clubs. The house is open to tourists upon request, an opportunity frequently utilized.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cherry Creek Gothic: Victorian Architecture in Denver,
Sandra Dallas, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla.
1971, p. 106.

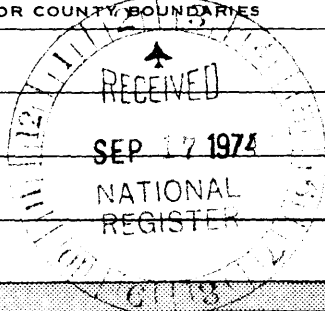
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 42' 12.9"	105° 58' 05.4"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: _____

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Keith Eugene Hess, Preservation Assistant

ORGANIZATION: **Colorado State Historical Society** DATE: **1 August 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 E. Fourteenth Avenue, State Museum Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Denver** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Stephen V. Hunt*

Title: *Colorado State Liaison Officer*

Date: *9/15/74*

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. B. Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *11/1/74*

ATTEST:
Wm. S. Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date: *10-29-74*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS