

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 6 1977

DATE ENTERED JAN 9 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Denver Dry Goods Company Building

AND/OR COMMON

The Denver Dry Goods Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

southwest corner, 16th & California Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Denver

VICINITY OF

01

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Colorado

08

Denver

031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Denver Dry Goods Company

STREET & NUMBER

16th and California Streets

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Denver

VICINITY OF

Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk and Recorder, City and County Building

STREET & NUMBER

14th and Bannock Streets

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Denver

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Denver Inventory/Colorado Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1973 / 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Denver Planning Office, 1445 Cleveland Place

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Denver,

Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Denver Dry Goods Company Building, built in 1888-89 and believed to have been designed by Frank E. Edbrooke, is located on the corner of 16th and California Streets and was originally three stories high. The building was built of brick and limestone in the Victorian Commercial style, and its 16th Street entrance faces north-east.

The entire ground floor is composed of glass show windows, the upper portion of which are now sealed off with wood. Awnings extend over the sidewalk from the top of each window, reminiscent of the original striped awnings. The entrances have been altered from the original wood and wrought iron arches to modern glass and steel that match the show windows.

The second and third stories are separated by a plain frieze and the cornice topping the third floor is also plainly evident. The windows are flat lintel and double hung, and at evenly spaced intervals, there are structural elements that give the impression of pilasters, which appear as bands of brick and limestone. The decoration of the capitals is at a minimum.

In 1898, an addition was made to the rear of the structure, and a fourth story was added. The windows on the fourth floor, round-headed and arcaded, are in the Italianate style. They are grouped together by threes, and the pilasters, with subordinated ornament, are similar to those on the second and third floors. The cornice is bracketed, and the wide, festooned frieze adds a touch of the Renaissance Revival style. The building in general has a feeling of horizontality even though the windows are organized between vertical bands.

In 1906, a second addition was made extending the building the entire length of the block to 15th Street. Edbrooke designed this addition as well. The show windows and entrances are the same as those on the original structure. The second and third floors are separated by a small, plain cornice and the remaining floors are connected with pilasters, topped with small capitals, between each window. The 3 X 3 double-hung windows are wider than those on the original building, but are of the same height. The frieze below the bracketed cornice is narrow and plain.

A three-story addition was made in 1924 on top of the four-story portion of the original structure. It also is made of brick but does not cover the entire flat roof. A walkway, approximately twenty feet wide, remains along the edge of the roof parallel to California and 16th Streets and a small turned balustrade lines the roof edge along the walkway. The windows on all of these floors are small paned and are arched on the seventh floor.

The entire building is now painted white; however, all of the structural elements are still visible. The Denver Dry Goods Company Building remains today an example of our architectural heritage and a monument in the community.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1888-89

1890-1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank E. Edbrooke-architect
J.J. Riethmann-builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Denver Dry Goods Company is significant because it is one of Denver's major pioneer retail stores and is, in fact, the oldest dry goods establishment in Denver to remain in its original location. The company's forerunner, the McNamara Dry Goods Company, played an important role in the development of the 16th Street business district.

The McNamara Dry Goods Company was founded in 1886 by M.J. McNamara, an Irish-born merchant, who was also an early director of the Colorado Mining Exchange and the first Vice-President of the Denver Chamber of Commerce. The company was encouraged to move to 16th and California Streets by John J. Riethmann--a builder and the President of the German National Bank--who promised to build for them a structure that would increase their operating space many times. Frank E. Edbrooke, one of the most influential architects involved in the development of downtown Denver in the 1880's and 1890's, is believed to be the architect of the building constructed in 1888-89. Edbrooke also designed the imposing Brown Palace Hotel (1890-92), as well as the Central Presbyterian Church (1890-92) and the central building on Loretto Heights campus (1890-91). The McNamara Company moved into the three-story brick building that covered only half of the block closest to 16th Street in 1888-89.

The demonitization of silver in 1893 forced the company to reorganize in 1894 under the new name of the Denver Dry Goods Company with Dennis Sheedy as the first elected president. Sheedy, an important figure in the history of Denver and the West, first came to Denver in 1863 and, after working in the cattle business that took him all over the western United States, returned to Denver in 1881 to permanently make his home. In the following years, he became the Vice-President of the Colorado National Bank and the owner of the Globe Smelting and Refining Company, one of the greatest smelting operations at that time. Sheedy was President of the Denver Dry Goods Company from 1894 until his death in 1927, leading the company with ingenuity and wisdom. "The Denver," as it is now referred to, was one of the first to offer delivery service to its customers, a mail-order catalog department, and a department solely for the manufacture of customized leather work, silver spurs, saddles, hats and other cowboy goods.

"The Denver" has grown along with the city and has paralleled the trends and tastes of her residents throughout the years. There were three additions to the original structure to meet the increasing demands. In one of these additions was located the Denver's Tea Room, a favorite meeting place for business groups for many years, occupying the fifth floor and opening onto a walkway which parallels 16th and California Streets. The original plans were to use this as an outdoor cafe and strolling place during warm weather because of its magnificent view of both the city and the mountains.

Keeping pace with Denver and the needs and wants of the entire Rocky Mountain region, the Denver Dry Goods Company continues as a leader in the commercial growth of the area and has contributed much to the community that it serves.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Smiley, Jerome C., History of Denver, Denver: The Denver Times, The Times-Sun Publishing Company, 1901, pages 562-4, 959.

Denver, City and County of, Building Department
 Applications for Building Permits, 1905-26
 Mss. Denver Public Library

See Continuation number 1 -

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 | 5100640 | 43199240
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 139, Lots 17-32, East Denver Addition

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kim Benson
 ORGANIZATION

January 5, 1977
 DATE

Historic Denver, Incorporated
 STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

770 Pennsylvania Street
 CITY OR TOWN

837-1858
 STATE

Denver

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

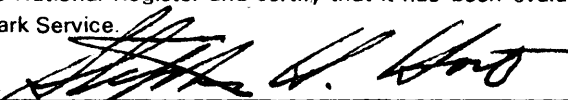
NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE MARCH 31, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Wm. M. ...
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: Charles ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1.9.78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 1.6.78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 6 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 9 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET number 1 ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

Denver, City and County of, Water Department
Water Tap Permits, 1888-1889
Microfilm, Denver Water Department

News articles in various issues of The Denver Times, The Denver Post and The Rocky Mountain News, 1896-1969.