

1541

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 Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center

other names/site number 5JF1048.13

2. Location

street & number Denver Federal Center [N/A] not for publication

city or town Lakewood [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Jefferson code 059 zip code 80225

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Constance Werner Ramirez
Signature of certifying official/Title

October 7, 1999
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

U.S. General Services Administration

In my opinion, the property [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.

[] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Debraanna Coutyuglia State Historic Preservation Officer

8/12/99
Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society

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

Carol Asher

Date of Action

12-16-99

Name of Property

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)

Government

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Underground Quonset Hut

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation
walls Earth
roof Earth
other

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- [x] 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.
[x] 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.
[x] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

Architecture

Periods of Significance

Ca. 1960-1969

Significant Dates

Ca. 1960

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

United States Army Corps of Engineers

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
#

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State Agency
[] Federal Agency
[] Local Government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society
Denver Federal Center

Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center

Jefferson County/Colorado

Name of Property

County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 489800 4395980
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Waddell, Historic Preservation specialist

organization General Services Administration date 2/28/1999

street & number Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 41, Room 288 telephone 303-236-7131 x293

city or town Lakewood state CO zip code 80225

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 United States Government, General Services Administration, Portfolio Management

street & number Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 41, Room 288 telephone 303-236-7131 x293

city or town Lakewood state CO zip code 80225

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*)

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National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center
Jefferson County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Emergency Operations Center building is located at the Denver Federal Center in Lakewood, Colorado. The Federal Center was created after World War II from the Denver Ordnance Plant, a 2,080 acre installation devoted solely to the production of ammunition for the war effort. The 690 acres retained by the federal government after the war became the largest single compound of federal agencies outside Washington, D.C. In 1996, a cultural resource survey of the Federal Center found the building to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its importance within the context of American Cold War History. A Building Preservation Plan was prepared in 1998.

The Emergency Operations Center is a metal Quonset Hut which is primarily below ground, with several feet of earth fill covering the top. It was constructed during the early 1960s. The building was not used on a regular basis, but was meant to serve as a base of operations for state and local officials in the event of a nuclear attack. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, it is believed to have been built before federal assistance became available in 1964 for the construction of more substantial structures. The building was apparently abandoned when Building 710, the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, Region 6 Operations Center was constructed in 1969. There have been no significant alterations, and the building retains a high degree of integrity.

Exterior

Located north of Main Avenue, just northeast of Building 61, the exterior of the approximately 96' long by 22' wide bunker-like building appears as a large rectangular earth mound, with four vent stacks along the top. The two center vent stacks have large conical steel hoods which house air filters.

The north bunker entrance consists of a concrete stair and hall enclosed by 2' thick concrete and metal walls. The hallway leads into the bunker through a metal entry door. The entry roof is metal with an earthen covering.

At the north end of the mound, there is a small front-gabled wood frame structure, which extends approximately 10 feet from the end of the building and covers the north entrance to the bunker. Roofing material consists of asphalt composition shingles and is in deteriorating condition. The north walls are wood framed and partially clad with vertical, inverted board & batten, pressed-wood siding. The east and west wood framed walls rest on concrete foundation walls approximately three feet high. There is some evidence along the top of these walls of a previous steel post structure or pipe railing. The exact date of construction of the entry structure is unknown, but evidence exists that the original entry covering was replaced with this current structure, or that, perhaps, no cover existed as part of the original design. Large bands of cables for power and antennae array can be seen under this frame structure. These wires emerge from the earth mound and re-enter the ground at the northwest corner of the structure.

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Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center
Jefferson County, Colorado

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At the southeast corner of the mound, there is another entrance to the bunker which is an enclosed concrete ramp. This ramp is enclosed with seven to eight-inch thick metal walls and roof which all appear to be filled with earth. On the ceiling, at the bottom of the entrance ramp is a showerhead. The ramp leads into the bunker through a metal entry door. The southeast entry roof is metal with an earthen fill covering. The galvanized metal entry walls emerge from the earth and have a fluted cross-sectional profile on the exterior and a smooth lapped face on the interior. This entry appears to be in its original configuration and condition.

Interior

The interior of the structure is bare. There is a small wood frame enclosure on the west side of the interior. The interior reveals that the Quonset Hut was constructed of deep corrugated metal, with ribs approximately 10 to 12 inches deep. There are concrete foundation walls and a concrete floor. Several extant communication boxes exist along interior walls. It is believed that the interior of the building was always relatively empty, and communication devices were only installed in the event of an emergency.

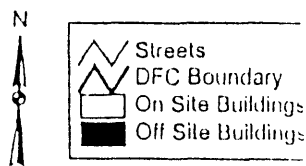
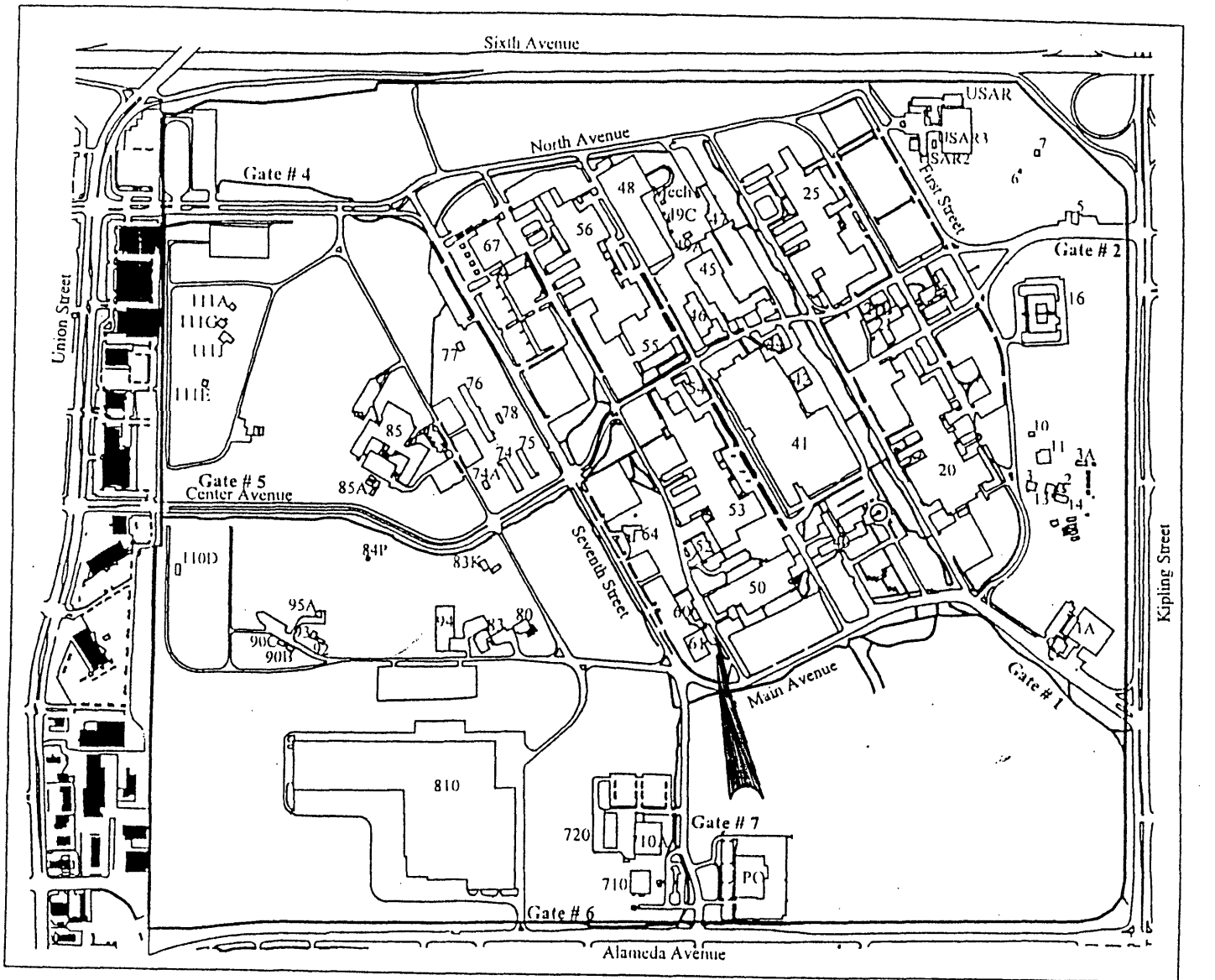
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Jefferson County, Colorado

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OVERALL SITE PLAN
Denver Federal Center



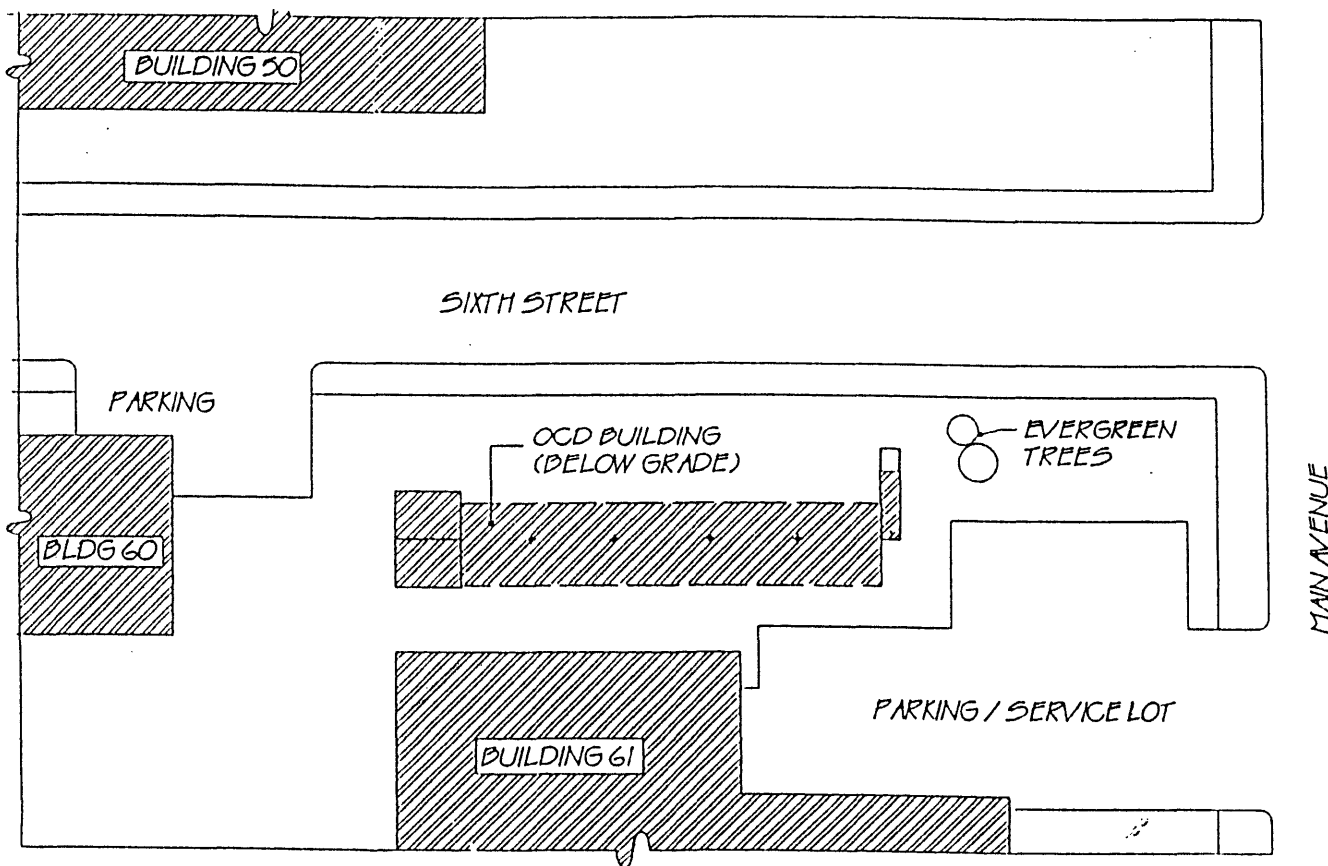
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Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center
Jefferson County, Colorado

SITE PLAN
OCD Emergency Operations Center



SCHMATIC SITE PLAN

Federal Building - OCD Emergency Operations Center

C00656M

Denver Federal Center, Denver Colorado

IMAGE #20



NO SCALE

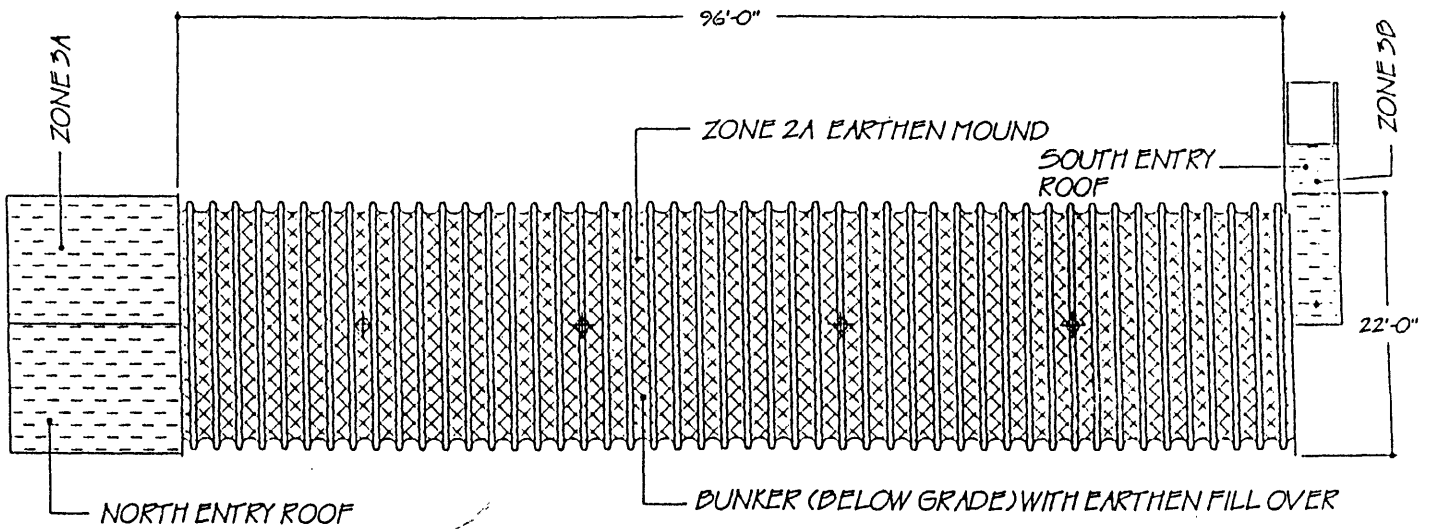
United States Department of the Interior
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
Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center
Jefferson County, Colorado

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ROOF PLAN
OCD Emergency Operations Center



LEGEND

-  ZONE 2 - PRESERVATION
-  ZONE 3 - REHABILITATION

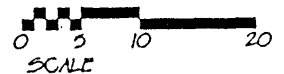
ROOF PLAN

Federal Building - OCD Emergency Operations Center

CO0606A1

Denver Federal Center, Denver Colorado

IMAGE #29



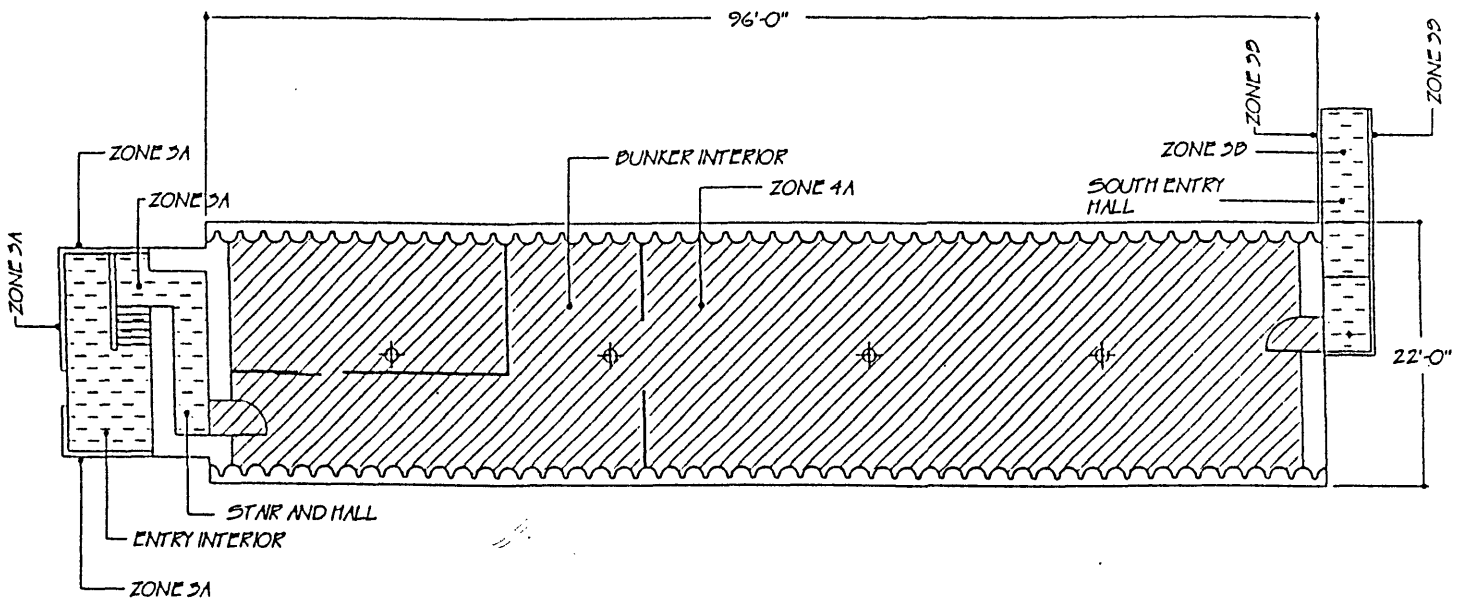
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

Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center
Jefferson County, Colorado

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FLOOR PLAN
OCD Emergency Operations Center



LEGEND

-  ZONE 3 - REHABILITATION
-  ZONE 4 - FREE

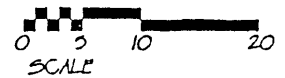
FLOOR PLAN

Federal Building - OCD Emergency Operations Center

CO0656A1

Denver Federal Center, Denver Colorado

IMAGE #28



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Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center
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SIGNIFICANCE

The Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center meets National Register criteria A and C under Consideration G, governing resources under 50 years of age. It possesses exceptional value in illustrating the military history associated with the Cold War Era in the United States, and it exhibits the distinguishing characteristics of an early type of civil defense nuclear fallout protection shelter.

In the early 1960s, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) constructed this small Emergency Operations Center at the Denver Federal Center. The bunker-like facility was designed to provide shelter for state and local government officials in the event of an emergency. The building was not used on a regular basis, but was meant to serve as a base of operations in the event of a nuclear attack. It is believed that this facility was one of the first of eight regional shelters, and one of the first of its type ever constructed. According to the FEMA Historic Preservation Officer, it is not known if any other of these original shelters are extant.

The temporal boundaries for the Cold War are from the March 1946 "Iron Curtain" speech by Winston Churchill to the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. The intercontinental land and sea-based delivery system of nuclear weapons defined this era. The need for survivability of a nuclear attack warranted the creation of a civil defense system to keep the country running after an attack. In June of 1955, the United States staged the first nationwide civil defense exercise. During the Vienna Summit of 1961, President John F. Kennedy called for military build-up and the beginning of a civil defense program (Department of Defense 1984:73-95).

In the 1960s the OCD, which was organized in 1961 as a result of Executive Order 10952, set up an office at the Denver Federal Center. With the support of local boosters, Denver had been viewed as a center for federal agencies as early as the 1920s. By 1930, over 2,000 employees overseeing the activities of various government agencies in the Rocky Mountain region were housed in rented space in and around Denver. After World War II, the federal government retained 690 acres of the 2,080 acre Denver Ordnance Plant, a major supplier of ammunition located just west of Denver. The Denver Federal Center site currently houses more than 25 federal agencies in its more than 90 buildings.

There were eight regional OCD offices nationwide, and Building 50 at the Federal Center originally housed the offices for Region 6 from circa 1960-1969. OCD's program had five major components: locate and develop fallout shelter space; implement national civil defense systems, including warning, communication, monitoring and reporting and damage assessment systems; give federal assistance to all levels of government in the form of education and surplus property donations; research in civil defense; and other supporting activities.

The Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center building is a Quonset Hut, built partially underground and covered with earth. Quonset huts were first developed for the Army Signal Corps during World War I, using plans developed by the British. Originally known as the Nissen Bow Hut, it

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Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center
Jefferson County, Colorado

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was a prefabricated structure intended for use on the airfields of France. Early designs combined wood and metal components identified by their semi-circular roof of galvanized corrugated sheet metal attached to timber purlins and supported by steel ribs. The ends were typically of board and batten, with a center door and two flanking windows with two-over-two lights. The foundation and floor were usually wood. World War II Quonsets followed this form but were constructed of metal throughout.

The Quonset Hut was named for its principal place of manufacture, the Davisville Construction Battalion Center at Quonset Point Naval Air Station, North Kingston, Rhode Island. One of the reasons for turning to metal was that the immense construction needs of the mobilization effort of WWII resulted in a shortage of structural timber. The quick mobilization made the Quonset very popular because Seabees could put one together in a day. Because of their durability and adaptability they continued to be used in place of frame-constructed barracks and other temporary buildings (Garner 1993:30-56).

The Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center building represents a somewhat unique adaptation of the Quonset Hut building type and methods of construction for a shelter designed to be used in the event of a nuclear attack. The building possesses integrity of location, materials, workmanship, and design. Its austere appearance conveys a strong sense of its importance in the role of basic survival, and it possesses integrity of feeling, and association with the Cold War Era. The building was abandoned when a permanent, protected regional shelter (Building 710) designed to withstand the worst nuclear attack was completed in 1969. Since then, it sometimes served as a training site for local fire departments, but it has primarily been vacant. The building has undergone few changes since its construction and sustained little fire or smoke damage from the fire training exercises.

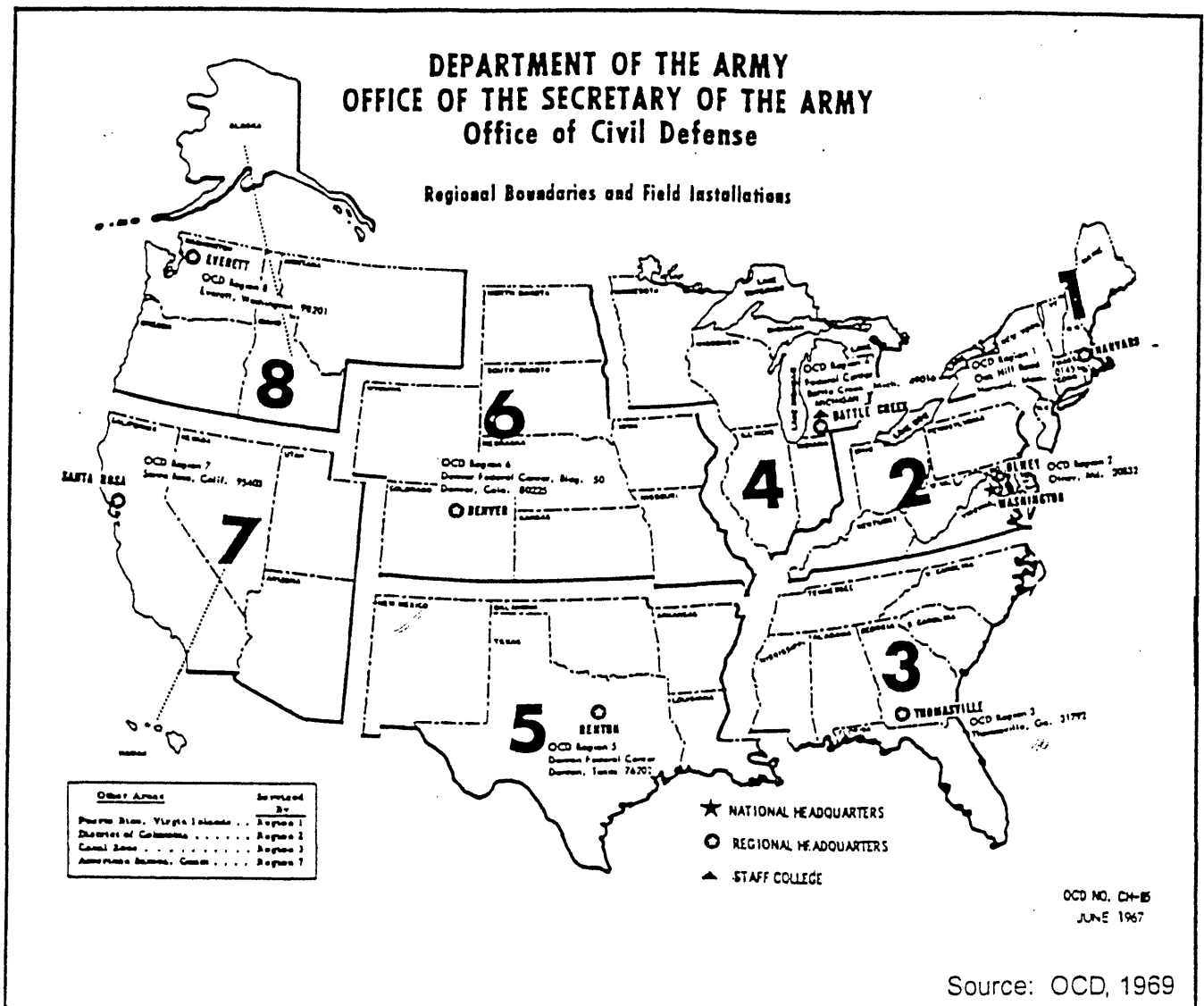
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1967 OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE REGIONS



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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Emergency Operations Center. October 1998. On file at U.S. General Services Administration
Region 8, Building 41, Room 288, Lakewood, CO.
- Balloffet and Associates, Inc. Architectural Inventory Denver Federal Center
Preservation Plan. April 10, 1996. On file at U.S. General Services Administration Region 8,
Building 41, Room 288, Lakewood, CO.
- Department of Defense. Coming in from the Cold: Military Heritage in the Cold
War. June, 1994. On file at U.S. General Services Administration Region 8, Building 41, Room
288, Lakewood, CO.
- Garner, John S. World War II Temporary Military Buildings. Champaign, IL: U.S.
Army Corps of Engineers. 1993.
- Personal Communication with Karen Forbes, FEMA Historic Preservation Officer, 500 C Street S.W.
Room 713, Washington, DC20472

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Jefferson County, Colorado

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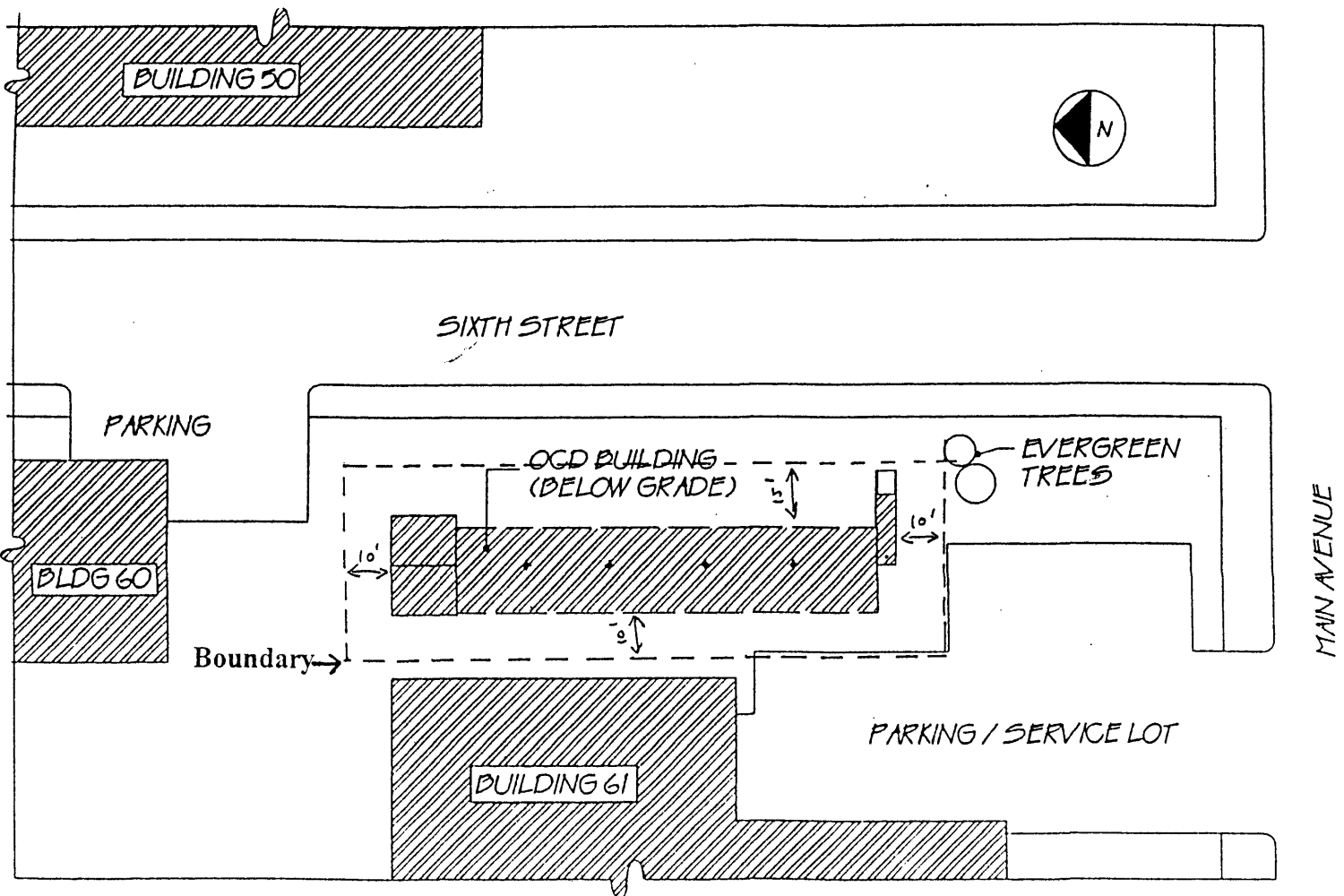
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Description

The boundary forms a rectangle measuring approximately 130 feet by 50 feet. It includes the footprint of the structure plus 10 feet on the north, west, and south sides and 15 feet on the east side.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the parcel of land historically associated with the property.



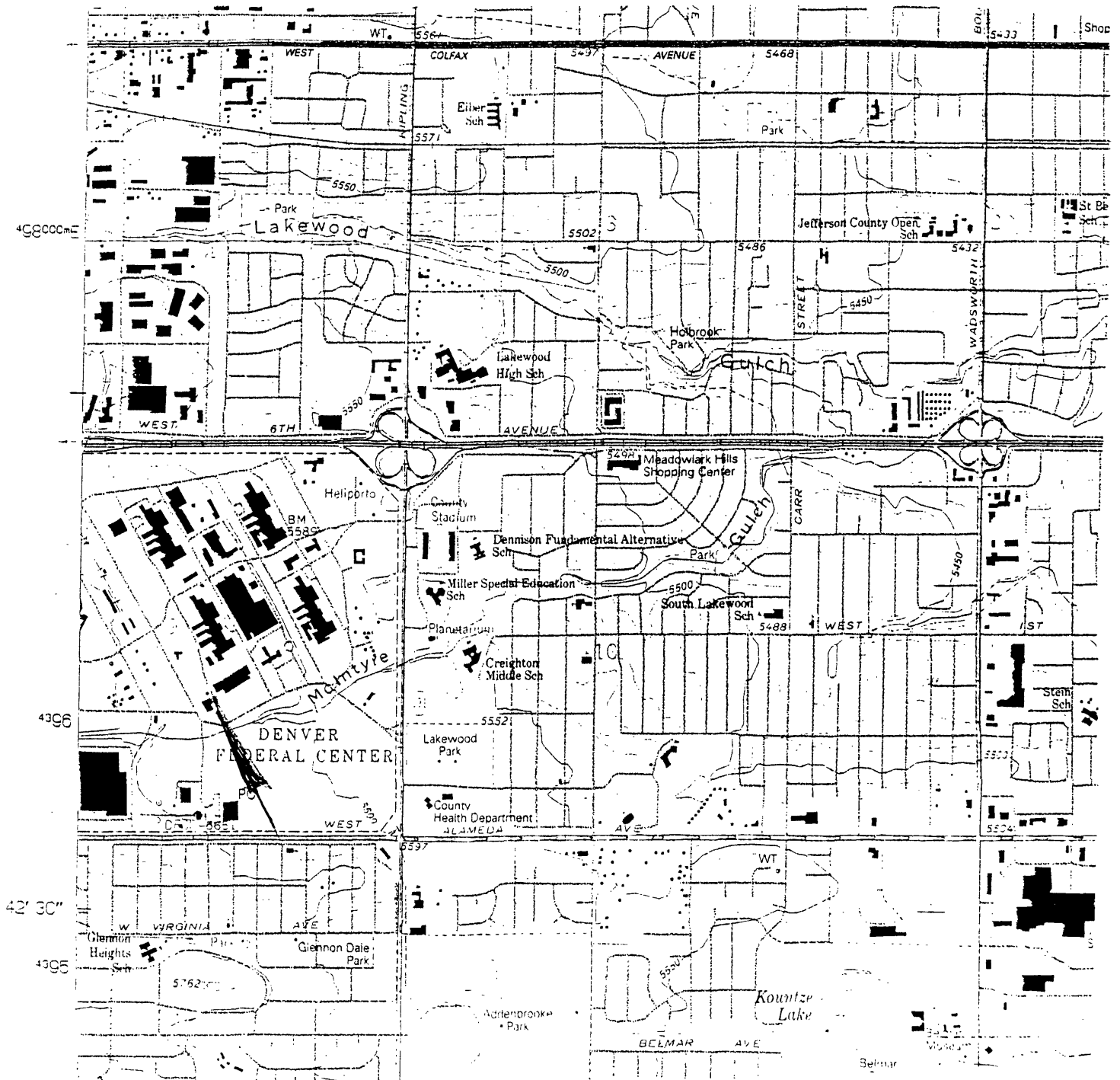
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Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center
Jefferson County, Colorado

Section number Add. Materials Page 12
Colorado

USGS MAP
Fort Logan, Colorado



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National Park Service

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 99001541

Date Listed: 12/16/99

Office of Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center		
	Jefferson Co.	CO
Property Name	County	State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Carol Shull
Signature of the Keeper

12-16-99
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The period of significance begins ca. 1961 (rather than prior to the establishment of the Office of Civil Defense).

This information was approved by Connie Ramirez, GSA FPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)