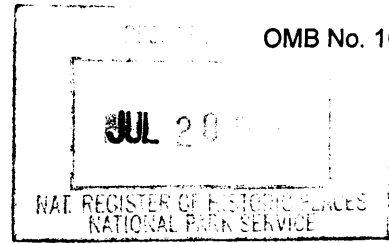


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Cañon City State Armory

other names/site number 5FN1642

2. Location

street & number 110 Main Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Cañon City [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Fremont code 043 zip code 81212

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.)

Cherianne Cortez State Historic Preservation Officer 7/15/99 Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register [] See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register [] See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain [] See continuation sheet.

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper

8/20/99 Date of Action

Cañon City State Armory

Fremont County, Colorado

Name of Property

County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [] private
[] public-local
[X] public-State
[] public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- [X] building(s)
[] district
[] site
[] structure
[] object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing Noncontributing

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and 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)

- Defense: arms storage
Defense: military facility
Recreation and Culture: sports facility
Recreation and Culture: auditorium
Recreation and Culture: music facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Defense: arms storage
Defense: military facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Late 19th and 20th Century Revival
Other: Mediterranean Revival

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.)

Cañon City State Armory

Fremont County, Colorado

Name of Property

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Military
- Entertainment/Recreation
- Architecture

Periods of Significance

- 1922-1949

Significant Dates

- 1922

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

- N/A

Cultural Affiliation

- N/A

Architect/Builder

- Huddart, John James

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
- # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:
Colorado Historical Society
Cañon City Public Library

Cañon City State Armory

Fremont 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 478610 4254230
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 Verdeda R. Watt-Hazen, Environmental Intern

organization AGINS/CEV/COARNG Stop 26

date 22 February 1999

street & number 660 South Aspen Street

telephone 303-677-6735

city or town Buckley ANGB

state CO

zip code 80011-9599

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 Maj. Gen. William A. Westerdahl, Department of Military Affairs

street & number 6848 South Revere Parkway

telephone 303-397-3024

city or town Englewood

state CO

zip code 80112

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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Continuation Sheet

Cañon City State Armory
Fremont County, CO

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

Adjacent to the commercial area of Cañon City, the State Armory is located on the southeast corner of Main Street and 1st Street. Across the street to the west is the Colorado State Penitentiary. On each side of the building are large fenced-in asphalt pads that serve as parking areas for military vehicles. The rectangular plan, two-story brick building shows influences of the Mediterranean style with round-arched windows and corbelling. Towers with tan stuccoed walls anchor each front corner of the building. The variegated brick ranges in color from blond to dark red. The walls are a running bond; rowlock bricks form archivolts, lugsills and stringcoursing; a soldier course creates the labels above the first story windows. The building has a full basement and a reinforced concrete foundation. The combination flat and bowstring truss roof is covered with rolled asphalt and a brick chimney extends up from the southeastern corner of the building. Maintained and still being used by the Colorado Army National Guard, the building is in excellent condition and has undergone very little alteration since its construction.

The Armory faces north onto Main Street. The symmetrical front façade is composed of three bays, a slightly recessed central bay flanked by the two identical towers. The central bay, which contains the entrance, is distinguished by a triangular parapet with a plain raking cornice. Below the cornice is a series of small, brick, corbelled arches that follows the rake and runs the entire width of the bay. Below these corbelled arches, "State Armory" is incised into terra cotta tiles. Centered on the second-story wall is a cluster of three round-arched windows that are double-hung with nine-over-nine lights. Rowlock brick forms the archivolts and lugsills of these windows. The entrance is framed in terra cotta with a decorative crown molding and dentiled frieze supported by paired pilasters with plain capitals. The recessed entry has been infilled with a centrally positioned single leaf, solid metal door surrounded by vertical board paneling.

Flanking this central bay on the north front are two identical bays with stuccoed upper portions forming the towers that project above the roofline. All four sides of each tower culminates in a white capped triangular parapet wall. Within the tan stuccoed walls of the towers are a cluster of four tall, narrow, rectangular indentations; these "slits" are purely decorative. The second story windows are paired, flat-arched windows that are double hung with nine over nine lights. Aligned below are the first story windows. These windows are also paired, flat-arched, and double hung, but consist of nine lights over one and are topped with labels of soldier course brick. All the windows in the building are wood frame, double hung with brick lugsills. The stringcourse forms the labels for the straight-headed windows and follows the arches of the rounded windows as it runs across the second story of the entire front façade and partially extends onto the east and west sides.

The east and west sides of the building are broken up by a series of vertical divisions. The first section on each side continues the towers. As with the front face, the brick and stuccoed walls are separated by the stringcourse that follows along the top of a second story window and directly below is the first floor window with its label. The next section incorporates a capped parapet wall with a series of small, brick,

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Cañon City State Armory
Fremont County, CO

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corbelled arches below (like those on the central front bay). As in the previous section, the two windows with brick lugsills, one on each level, are aligned. Six pilasters divide up the remaining wall surface that is punctuated by a series of windows. The east and west sides of the building possess a similar fenestration pattern of straight-headed, double-hung windows, with 12-over-12 lights on the upper story and 12-over-1 on the main level.

The southern end (rear) of the building is comprised of the red brick except where a stage door was infilled in a decorative pattern of blond and red brick. Most of the randomly positioned windows are 12 lights over one. Two of the windows, including one within the infill are sliders. A metal stairway and landing lead to a solid metal door that provides access to the apartment, which is located in the rear of the building.

The interior of the building is in excellent condition and still is used for military training. The main level contains a large two-story open area (a drill hall) with maple tongue and groove flooring that has recently been refurbished. At the south end of the drill hall is the vestiges of a stage--a proscenium arch framed by rosettes which contain light sockets. The word "Our Country" is still evident at the top of the stage. In 1953, the stage was enclosed and converted into an apartment. The double stage door was removed on the south end of the building and infilled with a window. Basketball backboards and hoops were installed in 1922. On the front of the stage, a removable basketball hoop was originally installed in the decorative molding on the front of the stage. Now the basketball hoop is permanently attached to the ceiling. At the north end of the drill hall floor, the basketball hoop attaches to the metal pipe railing of the balcony.

The balcony overlooks the drill hall area on three sides, narrowly running along the east and west sides with access stairs and a mezzanine section on the north end wall. The stairs and balustrade are solid oak. All the wood floors in the balcony area are of original tongue and grooved. The original two-inch metal pipe railing encloses the balcony area. Decorative modillions support the beams that span the width of the drill hall.

The basement is of unusually heavy concrete and reinforced steel construction, and is divided into a series of compartments. The ammunition room is absolutely fire-proof. In addition, there are storage rooms for artillery, rifles, side arms, and military uniforms. The basement also has lavatories, toilets, and showers as well as other conveniences for the National Guard members. The boiler and coal rooms are on the south end of the basement. Heat, energy and hot water was provided originally by the prison by piping it underground. Today the building has its own boiler, which was replaced in 1988. In the mid 1950's, there were two small iron doors in the rear of the basement on the west side which were replaced by a large sliding door. During the installation of the sliding door, the area to the west and rear of the building was built-up and a concrete ramp was installed to access the below-grade sliding door. This re-contouring of the grounds forced the replacement of the original 5' by 3' basement windows with 2' by 3' openings of glass block.

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Cañon City State Armory
Fremont County, CO

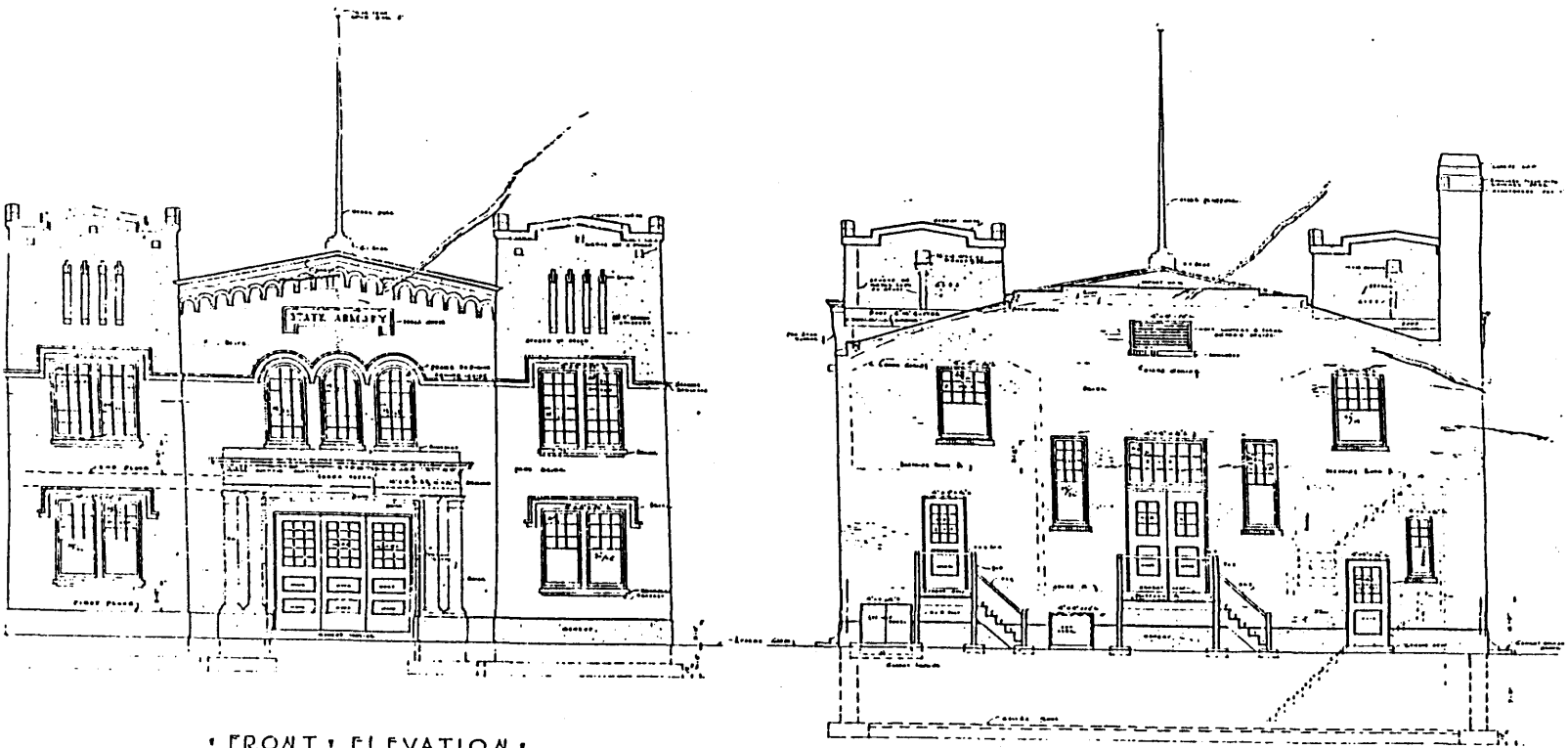
There are have been a few other changes to the building. In 1988, air conditioning was installed, the roof repaired, and the towers repaired with stucco. For security reasons, the front doors were removed and the metal door installed in 1990-91. At the same time, in order to increase the number of office spaces, drop ceilings were installed and the walls built. In 1992-1993, the west stage door was blocked for safety reasons. The modified men's restroom was remodeled to include three urinals and four showers. The parking lot was expanded to the east of the building. Window screens and gutters were replaced, and the wood drill hall floor refinished in 1998. In 1999, the offices on first floor were carpeted.

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STATE ARMORY NO.



FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"

REAR ELEVATION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"

| | |
|---|---|
| STATE ARMORY BUILDING 701 STATE OF COLORADO MILITARY DEPARTMENT JOHN J. HUDDART ARCHITECT 320 WEST BROAD STREET | DATE: 7-22-21 DRAWN BY: C.E. CHECKED BY: A.P. REVISION BY: A.P.A. SHEET NO. 6 |
|---|---|

Canon City State Armory
Fremont County, CO

**United States Department of the Interior
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Cañon City State Armory
Fremont County, CO

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SIGNIFICANCE

The State Armory of Cañon City is eligible to the National Register under criterion A for its association with the military and entertainment/recreation development of Cañon City. The construction of the building represents the initiation and maintenance of a National Guard unit in Cañon City. The building is significant at the state level as it is the longest continuously used Armory in Colorado. The Armory's dual purpose of serving as a focus of community activities fostered the growth of entertainment and recreational opportunities in the town. It was the only gymnasium in town until 1961, when the current high school was constructed. However, the period of significance arbitrarily ends in 1949 in order to comply with the National Register's fifty year rule. The Armory is also eligible to the Register under criterion C because it is representative in its design and construction of the National Guard Armories built throughout Colorado. The building is also significant architecturally as it represents the work of prominent Denver architect John James Huddart, and the Mediterranean-influenced building is a style rarely seen in Fremont County.

The site of Cañon City, the mouth of the grand canyon of the Arkansas River, was a favorite camping ground for the Ute long before the coming of Euro-Americans. In the spring of 1859, a small village known as Cañon City was established on the north side of the Arkansas River and the town flourished with the influx of gold seekers. By 1862, Cañon City was designated the county seat of Fremont County. The United States Congress authorized the building of six territorial penitentiaries in the western part of the country and in January 1868, the Colorado Territorial Penitentiary was established by an act of the Colorado Territorial Legislature. Cañon City was chosen as the site for the prison and the federal government began construction in 1870. The following year, the State Penitentiary was ready for prisoners. In 1872, the town was officially incorporated. A crucial factor in the growth of the Cañon City and Fremont County was the railroad, which entered the city in 1874. Cañon City remained the western terminus of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad while the famous Royal Gorge was waged in the courts. In the 20th century, mining, agriculture, and tourism dominated Cañon City's economy.

The National Defense Act of 1920 reorganized the Army of the United States, dividing it into three branches: the Regular Army, the National Guard and the Reserves. The National Guard would consist of enlisted personnel with the numbers for each state in proportion to the state's population. The federal government would provide equipment, supplies and pay to the men while training. Each state would be responsible for the construction and maintenance of armories for the units organized within their boundaries.

Early in 1921, the Colorado General Assembly enacted a law appropriating funds for the construction of armories throughout the state in those localities that organize and maintain federally recognized military units. Any locality that wanted an armory would have to petition the Governor and State Military Board indicating that the people of that locality were willing to support such a military unit. On 22 April 1921,

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Cañon City State Armory
Fremont County, CO

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Canon City organized the Howitzer Company 177th Infantry, it was redesignated as Howitzer Company 157th Infantry and was federally recognized on 23 May 1921. The state proceeded with the construction of the Canon City Armory with ground breaking in the late fall of that year.

At the corner of Main Street and 1st Street, the site for the Armory was located just east of the State Penitentiary. Warden Tynan was instrumental in the construction of the Armory employing prisoners to build it at a cost of \$30,000. This sum was considerably less than what the State could build it for, considering that the armory was constructed using the best materials available at the time. The local brick company supplied the bricks and a major Portland Cement Company provided the cement. The building was started in early spring 1922, but the progress was slow due to the complications of the foundation. Water continued to fill the excavated area in and the sandy soil continued to cave in. It was necessary to go deeper than anticipated to reach shale upon which to lay the foundation. Because the foundation was laid so deep, the basement of the Cañon City Armory is mostly underground.

By the end of 29 December 1922, the Armory was completed and a formal dedication service was held with 500 people in attendance from the town and out-of-town guests. One newspaper writer concluded

"There is little to denote in the exterior design its military character, its easy, graceful lines suggesting as much for uses of commerce as those of war. The only implication of its real purposes is the legend "Colorado State Armory" over the Main street entrance and the battlement towers, which adorn its front. The Armory is perhaps the most substantially constructed building in Canon City."

On several occasions the Cañon City National Guard has been involved with riot control at the State Penitentiary. In October 1929, serious overcrowding at the prison prompted the infamous riot that forced the activation of the National Guard personnel to assist in the control of the prisoners with cannons just outside the prison walls for over a week. The National Guard personnel at Cañon City have also been activated to assist in the apprehension of prisoners that have escaped from the prison. On 30 December 1947, National Guardsmen were called to active duty to assist in the apprehension of twelve hardened criminals. The most recent activation to apprehend escapees occurred on 31 October 1997. Other riots and escapees have forced the activation of the National Guard.

Canon City Armory is the only armory currently being used for its original purposes. The other armories that were built around the state during the 1920s have all been sold and are being used in other ways.

The National Defense Act of 1920 would inadvertently provide Cañon City with an important entertainment and recreational facility. The State of Colorado built the Armory that was home to the National Guard in Cañon City, but the building with its large open drill area and stage became much more than a military training facility. The Armory served as the local community center, being the only building in the area large enough to hold large functions with a stage, auditorium, and balcony until the 1950s. The Armory was the only gymnasium in Cañon City until 1961. The building was the "Home of

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Cañon City State Armory
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Canon City Tiger Basketball" [intramural men's teams] until the mid-1960s. Several automobile shows were held in the building during the 1920s and 1930s. High School dances and graduations were held at the Armory until the late 1940s. The building was also the site of many community dances and concerts that included such well-known musical groups as Ray Hawes and his orchestra, the Blue Chasers of Phil Linneer, George Nix, and the Rolling Stones (in as late as 1971). Other events that were held at the Armory included flower shows, KKK lectures, 4-H Club craft and poultry shows. The large hard wood floor of the drill area was also used as a roller skating rink. The armory has also been used to film movies. The first movie filmed in the armory was "Canon City" filmed in 1948 about the 1947 escape of twelve prisoners. Other movies filmed at the armory include "True Grit" [John Wayne was not in this version] in late 1970s and "The Duchess and Dirt Water Fox" in 1975. During the mid 1980s the Armory was rented by the World Wrestling Federation "WWF", which was a big deal for the community. Today the Armory is still used for community activities. It is the site of various boy scout and girl scout meetings, as well as overnight functions.

Completed in December 1922 with John James Huddart as architect, the Cañon City Armory also has architectural significance because it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type and method of construction. The Armory in Cañon City was built on a standard plan adopted for many of the armories constructed throughout Colorado. A 1939 pictorial review of Colorado's National Guard shows twelve armories built in the same style. They were brick, two stories, with towers, and a central bay comprised of round arched second story windows and a pilaster flanked recessed entrance. Details such as stringcourses, labels, corbelling, and the terra cotta name plaque were also repeated. The architectural drawings found in the archives of the Colorado National Guard have a title block that simply states "State Armory Building for the State of Colorado" with Huddart as the architect. While it appears that Huddart may have drawn up one set of plans that was used for many of the armories across the state, each building possesses slight variations on the detailing. The buildings employ terra cotta trim and colored brickwork differently. Due to the complications of building the foundation, the Canon City Armory deviates from Huddart plans with an entrance that is at grade, without benefit of any steps.

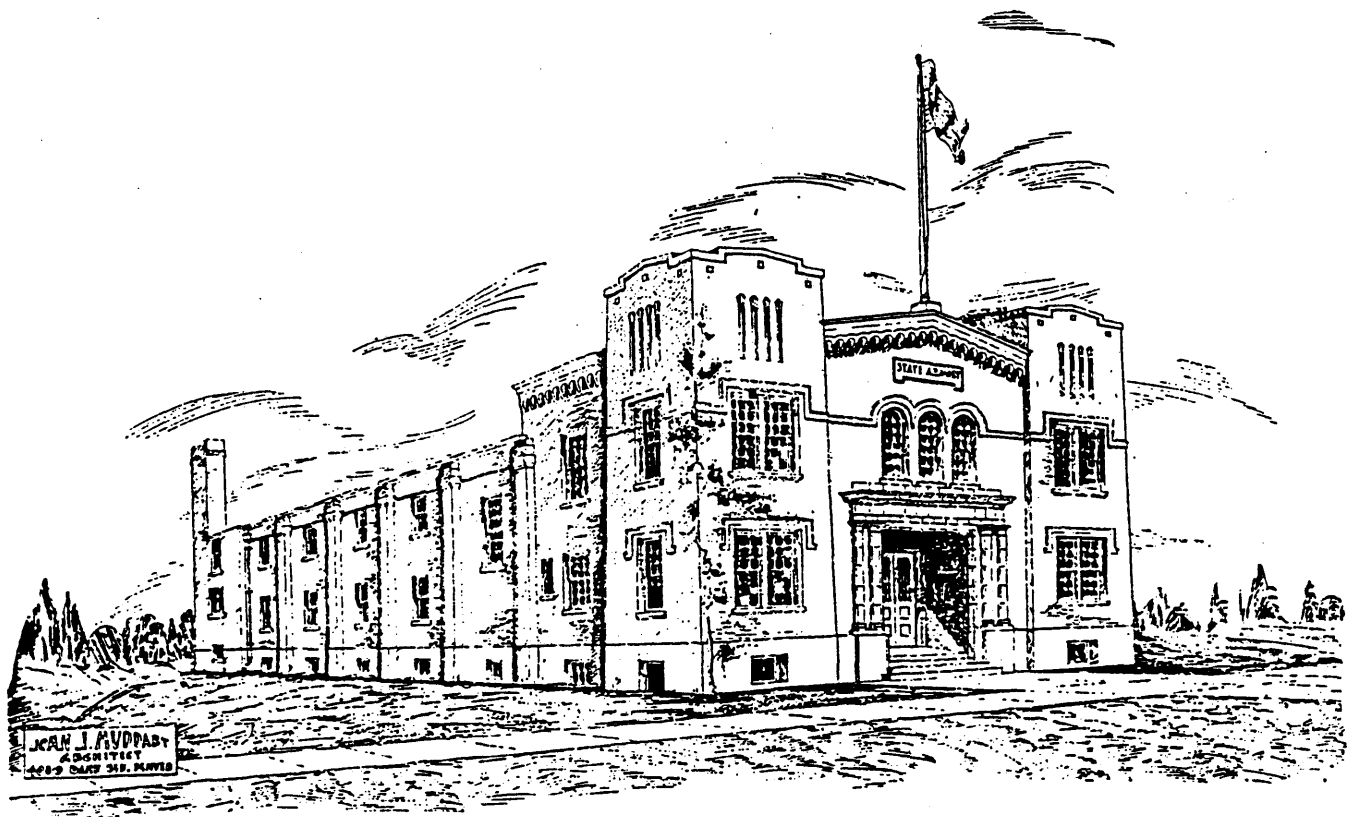
John James Huddart was born and trained in England as an engineer and architect. Arriving in Denver in 1882, he became a draftsman for Frank E. Edbrooke. Huddart went into practice for himself in 1887 and by the turn of the century expanded his practice to Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Grand Junction, Durango, Montrose, and Salt Lake City. Richard Brettell in his book Historic Denver describes Huddart, as one of Denver's a very talented 19th century architects, who practiced a clear and self-conscious eclecticism. Huddart's use of eclectic detailing and massing is quite evident in the Canon City Armory. The eclectic details make it difficult to classify the building as one particular architectural style. Although lacking the characteristic tile roof, the building most closely represents the Mediterranean style with its restrained ornamentation, flat surfaces, arched windows, brick construction, and low pitched roof behind a parapet. While the building with slight variations appeared as armories in other parts of the state, the Mediterranean-influenced style is not well represented in Fremont County.

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THE STATE ARMORY

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CO

Military Special Order Book. Property of State of Colorado. Office of the Adjutant General. Special order No 16, 14 February 1918.

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Page 24-25.

Warranty Deed. 6 Sep 1921.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 9 and 10, Block 7, of the Original Town of Cañon City

Boundary Justification

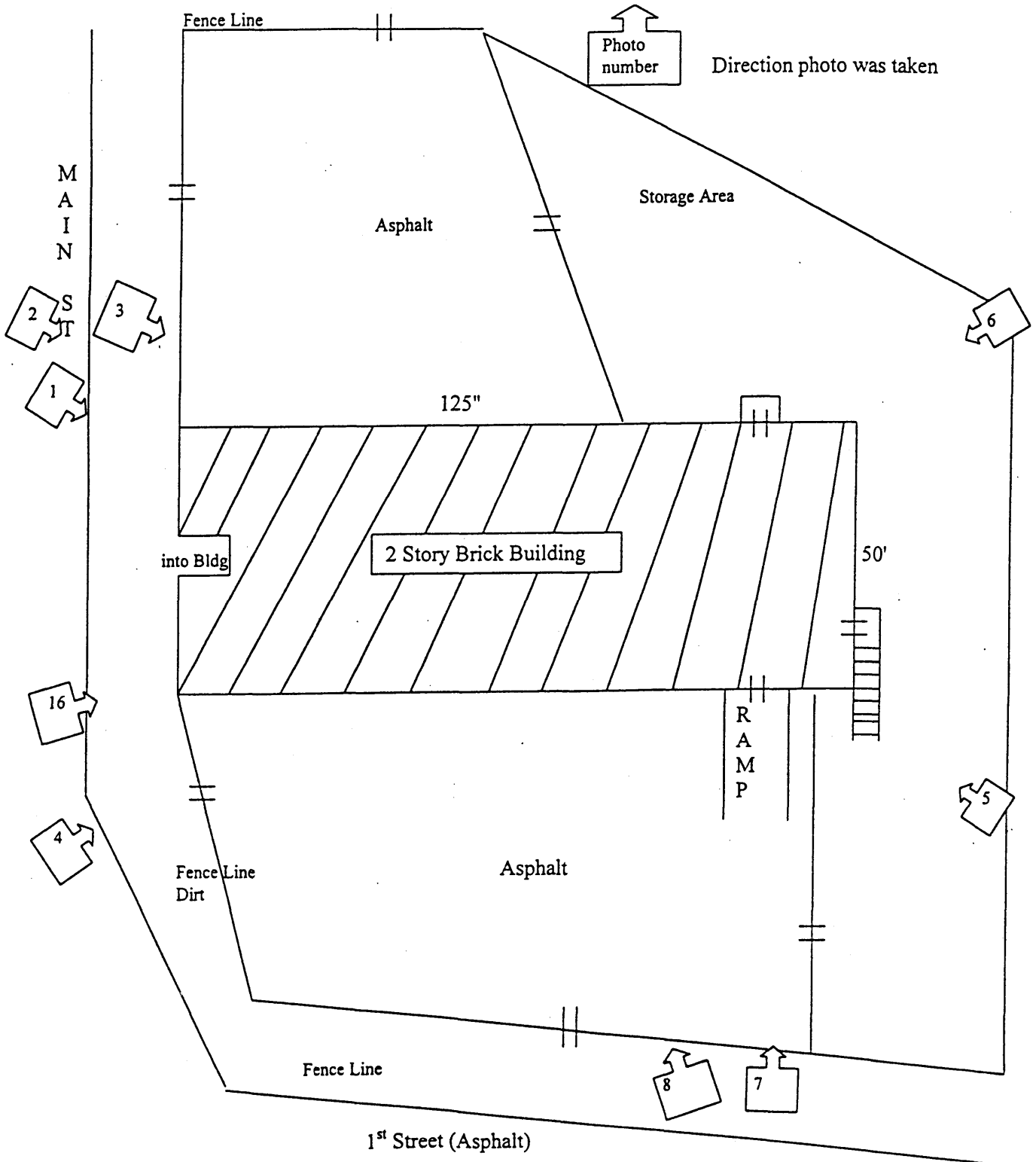
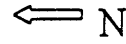
The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Cañon City Armory.

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Fremont County, CO

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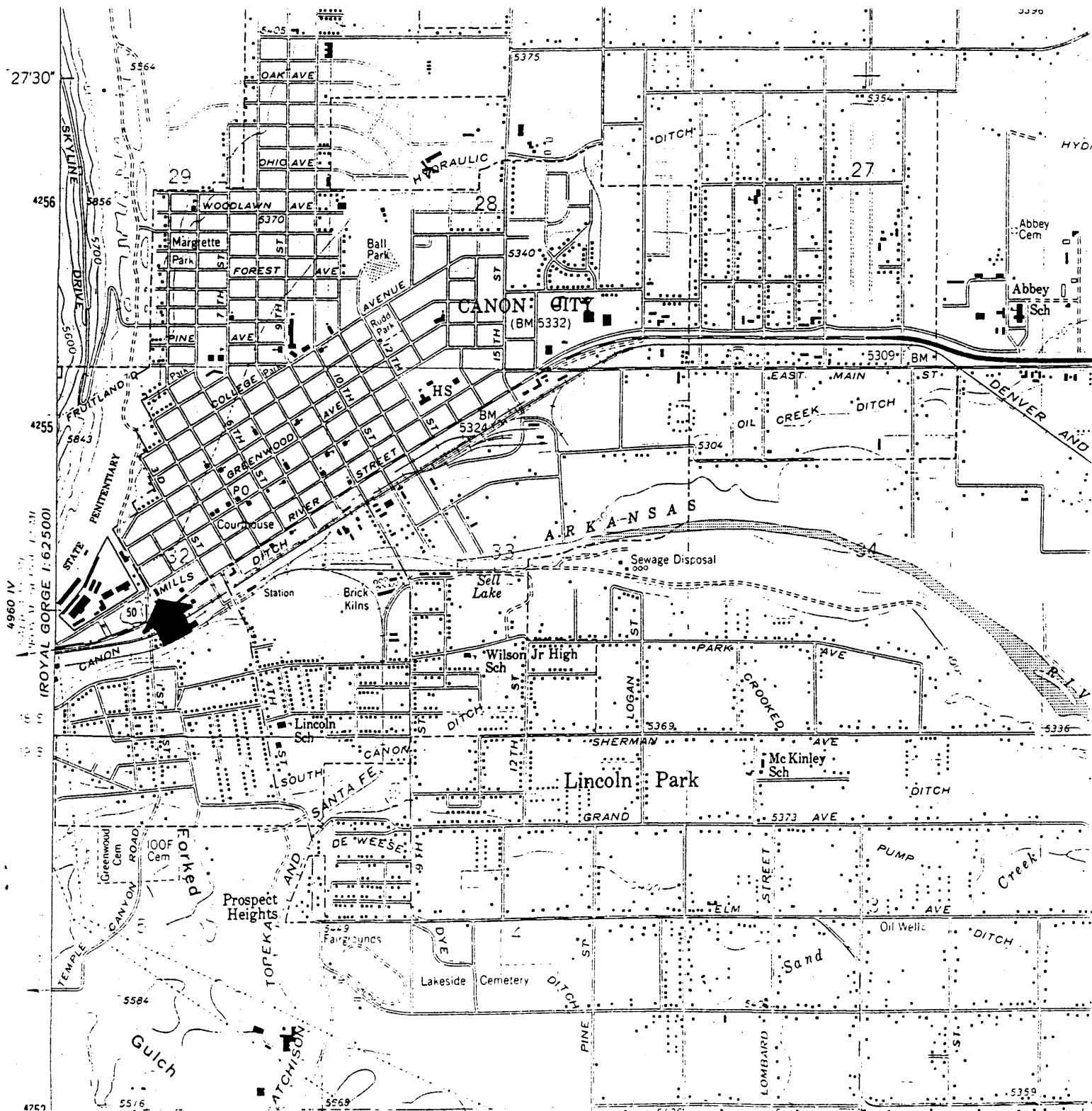
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U.S.G.S. MAP – Canon City Quad



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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name of property: Cañon City State Armory
 County and state: Fremont County, Colorado
 Name of photographer: Verdeda R. Watt-Hazen
 Date of photograph: 12 February 1999
 Location of negative: Environmental Office ARNG, 600 S. Aspen St., ANGB

| B&W | Direction | Description |
|----------------|------------------|---|
| 1 | Southwest | Front of Armory Building |
| 2 | Southwest | East side of building and NE corner of building |
| 3 | Southwest | East side of building and NE corner of building |
| 4 | Southeast | West side of building and NW corner of building |
| 5 | Northeast | Back of building |
| 6 | Northwest | East side of building |
| 7 | East | West side of building and ramp going into the basement |
| 8 | Northeast | West side of building |
| 9 | South | Just inside front door looking at the drill hall floor and the stage |
| 10 | South | Drill hall floor and balcony |
| 11 | North | Front the stage a look at the balcony and classroom area upstairs |
| 12 | South | Detail around rosettes which border the stage (lights) |
| 13 | East | Cornice ornamentation at the base of supporting beams and the original pipe railing |
| 14 | West | Unusual lighting fixture for candle use |
| 15 | East/West | Stairs that go up to balcony |
| 16 | South | Dedication marker on the northwest corner of the building |