

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED NOV 05 1979
DATE ENTERED DEC 17 1979

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

John Elsner House

AND/OR COMMON

Elsner House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2810 Arapahoe Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Denver

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Denver

CODE

031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

David R. Francis and Lawrence V. Sage

STREET & NUMBER

2810 Arapahoe Street

CITY, TOWN

Denver

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80205

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City and County of Denver Local Improvements; 2276-19-014

STREET & NUMBER

County Assessor's Office, Civic Center, 1445 Cleveland Place

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

16/01/0292

DATE

Ongoing

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 2810 Arapahoe Street in Denver, the John Elsner House is a single detached structure built in the Italianate style. The plan is rectangular with a rectangular wing on the northeast side and a five-sided wing on the southwest side. The primary building material is a soft red brick set in courses of stretcher bond three bricks thick. The main or northwest facade has three bays, the other sides a varying number. The foundation consists of the same soft red brick, and the foundation walls extend eighteen inches above the ground, leaving only a crawl space below the first floor except for one room that was excavated at the time of construction. This room, possibly a root cellar, is about six feet high and has a floor made of soft red brick. The medium hip roof is covered with golden brown asphalt shingles. The main facade also has an open gallery porch extending the width of the building. There is also a single story open gallery porch on the northeast wing; this once served to provide a private office entrance. Both porches are of frame construction with a wood deck and decorated posts with frieze and brackets and other decorative elements.

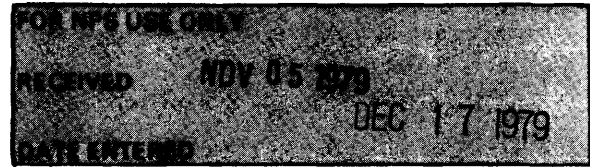
The secondary features are simple, yet tastefully done. The eaves are cornice boxed with frieze and double brackets. The windows are large: three feet wide and six feet high; and they have stone lintels and sills, wood molded trim on the top and sides, and two sashed and double hung frames with two panes in each sash. The main entrance door is off center to the left; it is double leafed with two panels; the bottom panel is a molded rail raised panel and the top is a molded rail shaped window with a Palladian motif. It has a flat opening and stone lintel with wood molded trim on the sides and top to match the windows. The entrance door on the northeast wing is a single leaf four panel with three recessed beveled panels and a plain recessed panel of glass. It has a flush transom panel above containing a single pane of glass in an oval shape. The opening is flat with stone lintel and there is wood molded trim on the sides and top. Another entrance door located on the southwest side of the structure is a single leaf with four panels; two at the bottom are molded rail raised panel, aligned vertically with the two at the top which are molded rail with single glass pane in a long rectangular with half round top shape. The opening is flat with wood lintel and wood molded trim on the sides and top.

The interior is graced by a long bracketed staircase curved at the top with a wide banister, decorative spiral balusters, two per step, and large decorated newel post at the base. The bracketed trim along the side is arabesque in style. The first floor front section of the house has four large single leaf doors with six molded rail recessed panels, three at the top and three at the bottom aligned vertically. The separation between the front and back parlor is by double leaf sliding pocket doors with six molded rail recessed panels in the same fashion as the single leaf doors.

The interior case molding is quite elaborate. Around six of the windows it extends beyond the bottom of the window to the floor and in the area between the bottom of the window and the floor, there is a single wood leaf with a molded rail recessed decorated panel. The case molding in the office is of similar material to the front and back parlor; however, the application was varied to create a unique effect. The original mantle for the main first floor fireplace had been removed at an unknown

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

time. It was replaced by the previous owner in 1976 with a mantle which is dated 1886. The mantle is decorated cast iron painted to simulate the green and black marble side and top panels. The front parlor, back parlor and office have 12 foot ceilings accented with plaster cove molding which is different in each room and plaster medallions.

The Elsner House has no related outbuildings at the present time, although there was a carriage house on the southeast side until the 1940s. The former owner, a Mr. Takemura, was a licensed chicken sexer and used the structure for his work. Unfortunately, anti-Japanese sentiment combined with the complaints of neighbors about health code violations resulted in the condemnation and demolition of the building.

Ed. JEF 7/79

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 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 1872-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Elsner House is significant for its historical associations and architectural features. Elsner was an important physician in the area and the house is a fine example of the type, period, and method of construction of late Victorian architecture in one of Denver's oldest residential neighborhoods.

John Elsner came to Denver in 1866 as the head of a medical department for the United States Army and subsequently looked after the physical condition of soldiers who came up for discharge from the service. Deciding to make Denver his home, Elsner entered private practice but also took an active role in public health. He started the movement for a county hospital and saw his plan for a public hospital service succeed. He was also appointed Denver's first county physician in 1870 and was largely instrumental in organizing the Denver Medical Society in 1871. He was also a founder of the Gross Medical College and with Mrs. Francis Jacobs, was instrumental in launching the National Jewish Hospital. He held a high position in the Masons, belonged to many medical, health, and scientific organizations, and was renowned by many of the local Indian tribes for his work with them.

It was in 1872 that Elsner commissioned the building of this house at what was becoming the first true residential neighborhood in Denver. Though not unusually fancy for the day, the structure was indeed so for the mile-high city, scarcely thirteen years old in that year. And it remains today a reminder of a very early day in the city's development. Walking through the house with its large rooms, lofty ceilings, marble and cast iron fireplace mantle, and grand staircase leaves one with the feelings and associations of that bygone era.

Ed. JEF 7/79

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Grantee/Grantor files of the City and County of Denver
Transamerica Title Insurance Company Records
Rocky Mountain News, October 6, 1940; March 31, 1945
History of Colorado, Stone and Vickers
City Directory 1873-1875

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Commerce City

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 5,0,1,7,0,0 4,4,0,0,8,2,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 13 and 14, Block 49, Case and Ebert's Addition to the City of Denver.

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

David R. Francis and Lawrence V. Sage

ORGANIZATION

DATE

May 1, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

2810 Arapahoe Street

TELEPHONE

(303) 573-8276

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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

William C. Johnson 10/30/79

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol D Skud
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-17-79

ATTEST: *William H. Bradham*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

12-10-79