

PH0066605

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado
COUNTY: Denver
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 4 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Wood-Morris-Bonfils House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
707 Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Denver

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
1

STATE
Colorado

CODE
08

COUNTY:
Denver

CODE
031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Edward Mike Davis

STREET AND NUMBER:
First National Bank Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Denver

STATE:
Colorado

CODE
08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Denver Assessment Division City and County of Denver

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 Museum Building

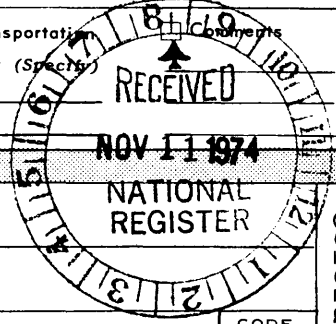
STREET AND NUMBER:
200 Fourteenth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Denver

STATE:
Colorado

CODE
08

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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bonfils House brings a touch of Europe to Denver with its French Mediterranean styling designed by architects M. Biscow and Hewitt. Built in either 1909 or 1911 the home displays lunettes over the windows as the outstanding motif and other motifs on the front carved with white stucco.

The solid construction of the home reflects the great care that was given to building in the early 1900's. The materials in the home consist of concrete for the foundation, brick stucco for the exterior walls, a wood drame roof of medium flat pitch, and difficult framing with a built-up clay tile covering. The interior was built with yellow pine floors, and plastered walls and ceilings. The fifteen rooms include a parlor, a dining room, kitchen, four bedrooms on the first floor, five bedrooms on the second, five baths, a breakfast room, library. and pantry. In 1928 a brick addition was made; and in 1957 a second garage was added.

The house occupies "lots 24-27 inclusive and a strip 8 feet wide adjacent S.D. L. on W & E 75 feet of L 20 to 23 inclusive and a strip 8 feet wide adjacent S.D. L. on E. Blk 17 in the Arlington Heights Addition."¹ The house was appraised in 1973 at \$126,800.

1 The Denver Assessment Division City and County of Denver.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Few homes in the Denver area can boast of having three outstanding owners, but the Wood-Morris Bonfils house can. These three owners, Guilford S. Wood, Andrew S. Hughes, and Miss Helen Bonfils each made significant contributions to the development of the Denver area.

The first owner, Guilford S. Wood, who obtained the title for the land in 1907 and built the home in either 1909 or 1911, made his fortune, like so many of Colorado's historical figures, in gold and silver. He was both president of the Vindication Consolidated Gold Mining Company and Vice-president of the South Sierras Power Company. He was not only a businessman but a concerned Denver citizen as well. Realizing that the young city of Denver needed play areas for her children, he founded the Denver Playground Association, in recognition of the educative value of recreation.

The second owner, Andrew S. Hughes, made his contribution to Denver by making her a major link in cross country transportation. He was virtually a pioneer in this effort and helped to establish the overland stage line. He also served as Traffic Manager of Denver, a form of early day Denver planning. He died in March 17, 1924, leaving the home to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Randolph Morris, who lived there until her death in 1934 and his death in 1947. Helen Bonfils obtained title to the property, becoming the third owner.

The old saying that the third time is a charm must be true for the home's third owner, Miss Helen Bonfils, was a great philanthropist. Indeed, one could almost ask of her: What

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bluemel, Elinor, One Hundred Years of Colorado Women, 1973, "Helen Bonfils: philanthropist", page 29

_____, The Saturday Evening Post, December 23, 1944 Volume 217, No. 26, "Papa's Girl", page 14.

_____, Historic American Building Survey Inventory, the Morris Bonfils House file.

Denver Assessment Division City and County of Denver

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

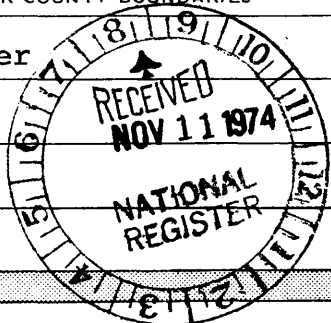
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . .	0 . .		39 43 . 39 .	104 0 58 . 42 .	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

UTM
13/501820
4397310
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **c. 1.4 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Colorado	08	Denver	031
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Mary M. Clement**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Denver** DATE: **August 15, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1015 Nineth Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Denver,** STATE: **Colorado 80204** 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: *Steph V. Hart*

Title: *Colorado State Liaison Officer*

Date: *11/1/74*

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

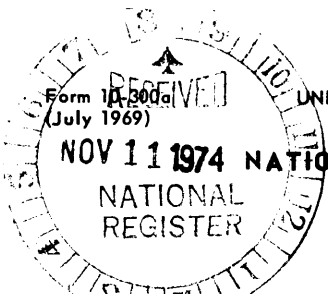
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A.R. Worleson
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *12/4/74*

ATTEST:
George T. Emery
Keeper of The National Register

Date: *Dec 3, 1974*



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STATE Colorado	
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Statement of Significance

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didn't she donate and help build? Although she is well-known for her contribution to Denver theatre, called The Bonfils Theatre and founded in 1953, she contributed to Denver's schools, churches, and hospitals. She continued in her father's footsteps by helping to set-up and finance the University of Colorado Medical Center, by giving financial support for the Bonfils Tumor Clinic and by supporting the Belle Bonfils Blood Bank in 1943 to 1945. She is also accredited with helping to establish the University of Colorado's School of Nursing expansion in 1942 and in 1956 the establishment of the Colorado Foundation of Research in Tuberculosis. She was also interested in education and co-financed the Margery Reed Mayo Day Nursery; she also gave \$500,000 to St. Mary's Academy. She donated to one hundred churches of all denominations but is most recognized for her donation to the Holy Ghost Catholic Church for which she received the pro Ecclesis of pontiface Medal (the papal Cross) from Pope Pius III and the first Mother Pancratis Bonfils Medallion from the sisters of Loretto.

Even though her list of awards is long for her financial support to many institutions, this does not give true insight into her genuine love of people. She also supported individuals who were in need, specifically old women in the Denver area. They would come to her office and she would say to each one, "Come right in, honey," and give her a check. No wonder Helen Bonfils is described by one of her friends as "the kindest person I ever knew."

And so, it is only fitting that a house that holds so many memories of her owners leading Denver from an unsophisticated boom town to one of growing sophistication be officially recognized.

This house as a memorial to the three distinguished families that once called it home is a memorial as well to the contributions each made to the community of Denver. All three families are

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noted philanthropist and trusts still stand in their name for this purpose. Both the Woods and the Bonfils made major contributions to the field of education and the processes of education in Denver and in Colorado. All three families were leaders in industry and finance in the State. The Bonfils, today a still highly prominent family, have likewise done much to forward the arts in Denver, the theatre and other cultural pastimes.

Architecturally, the house represents a past era of fine and gracious living within the city limits of Denver, favored by Denver's first families. It is of a piece with other large mansions and yet it has a unique flavor of its own.

It is curious that the families, whose names are household words, were yet so private as to make it difficult even now to reconstruct the lives they lived in this grand old mansion. It is truly a landmark in Denver history and architecture.

