

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 24 1978
DATE ENTERED APR 11 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

William J. Dunwoody House

AND/OR COMMON

LaLoma Restaurant

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2637 West 26th Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Denver

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Denver

CODE

031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

XOCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

XBUILDING(S)

XPRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

XCOMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

__YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

XYES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Valid Investment Incorporated

STREET & NUMBER

1821 Vine Street

CITY, TOWN

Denver

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City and County of Denver Local Improvements; 58-834

STREET & NUMBER

County Assessor's Office, Civic Center

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (16/01/0282)

DATE

Ongoing

__FEDERAL XSTATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input 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

Located at 2637 W. 26th Avenue in Denver, the William J. Dunwoody House is a single detached structure irregular in plan and constructed of red brick. The basement is made of coursed, rough stone. The roof line is created by crest lines at different levels broken by a variety of gable shapes and a small turret. The main gable, located on the south or main facade, has heavy fascia along the roof edge and a small sunburst decoration filling in the top. A fishscale shingle is used on the front of the gable and around the top of the small turret on the east side. The roof is covered with white asphalt shingles.

The windows on the south are the focus of the decorative elements. The windows are framed by low, decorative arches connected by a string course to the great arch over the large, main window. The windows are two-sashed and double hung with single panes some of which are stained glass. The sills of the south windows are stone beneath which are panels framed and decorated by brick laid at an oblique angle. The quality of the brickwork itself is apparent in the arch over the main window on the south facade and the small oculus (now filled with an Aztec calendar) on the east side.

Wrapped around part of the south and east sides is a wooden porch. A small wooden pediment marks the front entrance and echoes the shape of the south gable. Sawn work forms an archway beneath the pediment. Both the pediment and the eave of the porch are decorated with small dentils emphasized by white paint. The porch is supported by timbers that have small, turned vase shapes immediately above the level of the baluster. The balusters are plain supports, square in section.

Behind the Dunwoody House lies a small red brick garage which well complements the house. The garage opens into an alleyway that bisects the block.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1889-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William J. Dunwoody Home is significant for its architectural distinction; for the high quality of its craftsmanship; and for its association with William J. Dunwoody, an important businessman whose work contributed to the industrial development of the region.

The Dunwoody Home is situated in an area of Denver known as Highlands. Originally, the Town of Highland was platted across the South Platte River from Denver, and was intended by its developers to be an elite residential suburb to which men who earned their living in the Mile-High City would return in the evening to enjoy the cooler air, fine homes, good schools, and high morals at a time when Denver was known for gambling, prostitution, and other unsavory practices. The hopes of the developers were short-lived, however, for Highland was annexed to Denver at an early date and was thenceforth known simply as Highlands.

The house is most notable for its association with William J. Dunwoody, its builder and first resident. Dunwoody was born in 1858 in Poughkeepsie, New York, where his family had been in the soap manufacturing business for some time. Dunwoody entered the business himself at an early age, but his health failed, he contracted tuberculosis, and in 1883 at the age of twenty-five he came to Colorado to recover. His health improved somewhat, and in 1884 he was able to return to New York, marry, and return to Colorado with his bride. At first he worked for the Geyselite Soap Company, but in 1887 his brother, Foster Dunwoody, came west and the two established the Dunwoody Soap Company, which opened a plant on Nineteenth Street near the South Platte River. The enterprise prospered. Its major product, called Water White Soap, was sold as soap flakes "from the Missouri River to the Pacific Coast and from Montana to Texas" according to one source. The American Journal of Health once lauded it as a fine, pure, high quality soap. Despite the company's success, Dunwoody's health did not prosper. Even with the tonic effect of the clean, dry, high altitude air, he could not shake off the effects of consumption. He hung on, making winter trips to southern California, but on one such trip in 1901 he died at Banning, California. Eventually, Foster Dunwoody sold the enterprise to Proctor and Gambel.

Dunwoody built the house a few years after his marriage. He bought the land in 1887, had to build up his savings account in order to get a loan, and could not complete the structure until 1889. He lived there until his death, and his descendants con-

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ruth E. Wiberg, Rediscovering Northwest Denver, (Northwest Denver Books, 1976).
 Jefferson Park Neighborhood Plan, Denver Planning Office, May 19, 1976.
Denver Times, October 7, 1900.
 Personal Communications, Edith Dunwoody, Various dates, 1977 and 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Arvada

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 4,9,8 3,2,0 4,4 0,0 3,6,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 12 and 13, Block 14
 Emerys Subdivision, Highland

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

Robert Costales and Arthur Padilla

ORGANIZATION

Valid Investment Inc.

DATE

May 25, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

12977 W. Oregon Drive

1821 Vine Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Lakewood

Denver

STATE

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

October 13, 1978

FDR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

4.11.79

ATTEST:

William H. Abraham
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

4.9.79

DATE

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William J. Dunwoody

CONTINUATION SHEET House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

tinued to live there until 1960 when they sold the property to one Joseph Drobnick, who in turn sold the house to the present owners in 1974. By this time the structure had become quite run down, but the new owners took great pride in the artistic quality of the house and restored it with sensitivity in order to draw attention to the original lines, colors, and detailing. The exterior reflects the 19th century heritage while the interior has been remodeled in such a way as to preserve the fine woodwork and still operate what has become known as one of Denver's finest restaurants--La Loma.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Dunwoody House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Architecturally, the Dunwoody House is typical of the one-story, vernacular, brick houses built in late nineteenth century Denver. While many such structures remain in the mile-high city, there are few in the Highlands neighborhood.

JEF 3/79