



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 determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name: State Armory

other names/site number: Museum of Northwest Colorado

2. Location

street & number: 590 Yampa Avenue

(na) not for publication

city, town: Craig, Colorado

(na) vicinity

state: Colorado

code: CO

county: Moffat

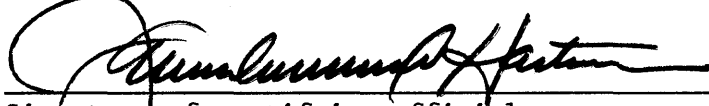
code: 081 zip code: 81625

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
Name of related multiple property listing:		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>	
<u>n/a</u>			

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.
() See continuation sheet.



Signature of certifying official

5/14/92
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, 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.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

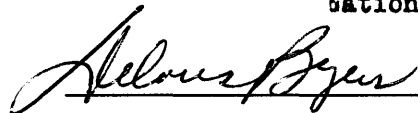
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the
National Register

entered in the National Register.
() See continuation sheet


 6/25/92
Date

() determined eligible for the National Register. () See continuation sheet

() determined not eligible for the National Register.

() removed from the National Register.

() other, (explain:)

 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
 (enter categories from instructions)
DEFENSE/Arms Storage
RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater,
auditorium, sports facility

Current Functions
 (enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY
REVIVAL
OTHER: MEDITERRANEAN REVIVAL

Materials
 (enter categories from instructions)
 foundations Concrete
 walls Brick

 roof Wood/Asphalt
 other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Adjacent to the commercial area facing Yampa Avenue, the State Armory is located on the northeast corner of the city block bordered by Sixth Street on the north and Yampa Avenue on the east. The rectangular plan, two story, predominately light brick building shows influences of the Mediterranean style. The Armory is in excellent condition having been recently rehabilitated into a county operated museum. Despite some alterations to the building, it retains its historic integrity and appears very much as it did when constructed.

The symmetrical front facade is composed of three bays. The slightly recessed central bay contains the entrance and a triangular parapet with a plain, narrow cornice. Below this cornice is a series of small corbelled arches composed of dark brick that follows the parapet (a v-shaped course) and runs the entire width of the bay. Below the corbelled arches, "State Armory" is incised into terra cotta tiles. The second story of this central bay has three round arched windows that are double hung with nine over nine lights and dark brick lugsills. The central recessed entrance has a decorative crown molding and dentiled frieze supported by paired pilasters of dark brick with plain capitals. Access to the building is up several concrete steps and through oversized glazed and paneled double doors with sidelights and transoms.

The other two front facade bays are identical with stuccoed upper portions that are the remnants of the towers that once projected above the roofline. Below the stucco are paired second story flat arched windows that are double hung with nine over nine lights and dark brick lugsills. The first story windows are also paired, flat arched double hung windows, but with nine lights over one. These first story windows have dark brick labels and lugsills. A dark brick stringcourse above the

(x) See Continuation Sheet

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Armory

second story windows runs across the entire front facade and partially extends onto the north and south elevations. This stringcourse forms the labels for the flat arched windows and follows the curves of the round arched windows.

While the eastern (front) and the northern elevations are light tan brick, the western (rear) and two-thirds of the southern elevations are red brick. The facades of the north and south sides of the building are broken up by a series of vertical divisions. The first section on each side continues the outside bays of the front facade with the stuccoed upper portion (remnants of the tower) and the dark brick stringcourse. The next section has a lower roof with a narrow cornice and small corbelled arches below like those on the central front bay. The roof lowers again and the majority of the facade is broken up by pilaster-like elements. Like the front facade, the north and south sides of the building possess a similar pattern of fenestration of flat arched wooden double hung windows, with nine-over nine lights on the second story and with nine over one on the first story. On the southern elevation there is an outside ramp with a shed roof covering that allows wheelchair access to the building.

The building has a concrete foundation and a full basement, except for a small area of crawl space in the very front of the building. With the exception of the front portion of the building, the roof is a bowstring truss. A brick chimney extends up from the southwest corner of the building. A metal stairway and landing on the western elevation provides outside access to the apartment at the rear of the building.

The interior of the building, despite its conversion to a museum, still reflects its original use as a military training facility. The main floor possesses a large two-story open area, originally used as a drill hall, that now serves as a spacious exhibits area. A second story balcony overlooks the drill/exhibit area on three sides, narrowly running along the north and south walls of the building with access via stairs and a mezzanine section on the east wall. The floors of the drill/exhibit area are maple tongue and groove that have been carpeted. The west wall of the exhibit area contains a well lit proscenium arch, the remains of what once was a stage. A large stretched canvas, an oil painting, is mounted in the old stage opening. Painted by local artist Frances Williams-Reust and entitled "Craig, Colorado 1895," the oil painting measures 10.8 by 15.6 feet. It is said to be the largest painting of its kind on the Western Slope of Colorado.

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State Armory

During its long and varied use the building has undergone some alterations. The most notable exterior change was the removal of the tower tops that anchored the northeast and southeast corners of the building. In approximately 1950, the towers were "clipped off" as they were deteriorating and causing water damage to the second story interior spaces. At about the same time the basement level windows were removed for security reasons. Removal of the doors on the back of the stage area (west elevation) occurred when the caretaker's apartment was enlarged and the stage itself was no longer needed. The outside ramp on the south side of the building was added when Horizons For The Handicapped used the building sometime after the Guard moved from the facility in 1977. The ramp with its shed roof covering has minimal impact on the overall look of the building as it parallels the southern elevation that is adjacent to other construction in the block. With the exception of the "clipped" towers, the east and north elevations, which are the most prominent facades and the ones that face the streets, have remained intact.

Alterations to the interior have occurred over time reflecting its various community uses since the Guard moved out and its current use as a museum. Originally the basement contained a heated swimming pool and locker rooms for both the National Guard and school activities. The pool was only used for a few years as it was causing damage to the assembly floor above it. The pool was filled in because of this damage in approximately 1940. This area is now used as an exhibit/display and meeting area.

The main floor has gone through less dramatic changes. The two small rooms on the north off the entrance hall were combined into one large room during the recent museum renovations and now serve as a research room. The original offices remain on the south side of the entrance hall. One room is the director's office and the other is now a gift shop.

The main assembly area floor was used for basketball games, dances and skating. During the museum conversion, this wooden floor was screwed down to eliminate the squeaks and carpeted to reduce the noise level in the newly created museum exhibit area. In compliance with federal regulations regarding handicapped access, an elevator was installed but was done in such a way as to not detract from the original interior character of the building. Installed in 1991 during the museum conversion, the elevator shaft is unobtrusively situated off in a corner of the drill/exhibit area. It has been incorporated into an exhibit and at first glance appears to be case furniture for the display.

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State Armory

Beyond the west wall of the assembly area, behind the abbreviated stage area is a caretaker's apartment using all three levels of that end of the building. The proscenium arch that frames the stage was painstakingly restored including the "OUR COUNTRY" detail; damaged plaster work and light fixtures were replaced.

The second story has also seen very few changes over time. The original metal pipe balcony railing was low and very open. As it did not meet code, it was removed and replaced with a wooden handrail and balusters that matched the balustrade of the staircase. The large second floor room located in the east portion of the building was originally used as a reception room. During the 1930s or 40s, a partition was added creating a small room on the south end. Due to water damage, a drop ceiling was put in over the original lathe plaster ceiling. During the museum conversion, the drop ceiling was removed and sheetrock was applied over the original ceiling.

During the renovations, all the original clear fir woodwork and the floors were stripped and refinished. The building's mechanical systems, such as plumbing and heating, were also renovated. Much of the work that was done during the conversion brought the building into compliance with health and safety codes. Many of the alterations that have occurred to the building are historic ones; the most recent renovation corrected some of the inappropriate or poorly executed alterations to the building.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: () nationally () statewide (x) locally
Applicable National Register Criteria (x) A () B (x) C () D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) () A () B () C () D () E () F () G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Areas of Significance	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1922</u>
<u>ENTERTAINMENT/Recreation</u>	<u>1922-1942</u>	<u>1922</u>
<u>MILITARY</u>	<u>1922-1942</u>	<u>1922</u>

Cultural Affiliationn/a**Significant Person**n/a**Architect/Builder**John J. Huddart

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The State Armory of Craig is eligible to the National Register under criterion A for its association with the military and recreational development of Craig. The construction of the building represents the initiation and maintenance of a National Guard unit in Craig. The Armory's dual purpose of serving as a community center fostered the growth of entertainment and recreational opportunities in the town. The Armory is also eligible to the Register under criterion C because it is representative in its design and construction of National Guard Armories built throughout Colorado. The building is also significant architecturally because the Mediterranean influenced building is of a style rarely seen in Moffat County and it represents the work of prominent Denver architect John James Huddart.

The town of Craig was founded in 1889 and grew slowly for a number of years. Craig was known primarily for its vast cattle industry. The town was incorporated in 1908 with a population of several hundred citizens. The coming of the railroad in 1913 caused a significant change in the growth pattern of the town due to transportation accessibility. With the addition of the Great Divide Homestead colony and similar circumstances occurring in the mid-teens, the population doubled during this time. As the population of the town continued to grow, there was more and more need for a building that had the facilities to be used as a community center. The National Defense Act of 1920 would inadvertently provide such a building.

(x) See continuation sheet

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Section number 8 2
National Guard Armory

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. By March 10th of that year a petition with the names of 65 Craig men was on its way to the Governor's office. Ten days later, Company A, 157th Infantry of the Colorado National Guard was established and on April 30, 1921 the Company was given federal recognition. The state proceeded with the construction of the Craig Armory with ground breaking in the late fall of that year. By June 1922 the building was completed.¹

The State of Colorado built the Armory that was home to the National Guard in Craig. But the building with its swimming pool, large open drill area and stage became much more than a military training facility. In its early years the building was used for most of the large public gatherings in town, including dances, basketball games and boxing matches. Many of these activities were free to members of the National Guard as a means of keeping up enlistments. The Armory with its stage became the place for theater, plays and musicals. In June 1928, the Fife Brothers, "noted Evangelists", held revival meetings there.² The school district used the Armory for its indoor sports and other activities, including graduations, from 1922 until 1936 when the district added an auditorium to the high school. Numerous bands played there for community dances until the 1950s.

In 1974 the National Guard moved to a new facility on the east edge of town and in 1977 the State of Colorado deeded the building to Moffat County with the stipulation that it continue to be used for community purposes. The Armory was then used for classes by Colorado Northwestern Community College and for roller-skating. Horizons for the Handicapped also used the old Armory, which prompted the construction of the ramp on the south side of the building. In 1990, the Moffat County Commissioners decided to make the Armory the new home of the Museum of Northwest Colorado. So while the period of significance was arbitrarily ended at 1942 to comply with the 50 year criteria, the building continues to serve the community.

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State Armory

Completed in 1922 with John James Huddart as architect, the Craig Armory building also has architectural significance because it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type and method of construction. The Craig Armory 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 the stringcourse, corbelling and terra cotta name plaque were also repeated. The floor plans for the building found in the archives of the Museum have a title block that simply states "State Armory Building for State of Colorado" with Huddart as 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, it is believed the Craig Armory may have been the first constructed from those plans because there was such a short span of time between the completion of the drawings and the ground breaking. The title blocks on the plans give dates of "7-30-21" and "8-13-21". Ground breaking for the construction of the Craig Armory began in October that same year with the building completed in June 1922. While the Craig Armory was under construction the contractor also had contracts for building the armories in Brush and Fort Morgan.

State owned National Guard armories were located in 19 towns across Colorado. While more research needs to be done to determine how many of the armories still exist, others of the same Mediterranean style can be found in Fort Morgan, Greeley and Delta. However, the armory constructed at Craig was the only one in the northwestern section of the state and may have been the first armory constructed from the architect's plans. Because of our lack of knowledge about the armories statewide, the Craig Armory was evaluated at the local level only. We hope at some later date that a statewide inventory of National Guard armories will be conducted.

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

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State Armory

Denver's most talented 19th century architects who practiced a clear and self-conscious eclecticism.³ Huddart's use of eclectic detailing and massing is quite evident in the Craig 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 quite rare in Moffat County.

FOOTNOTES

1. Craig Courier, 1 January 1925.
2. Northwest Colorado Daily Press, 25 January 1990.
3. Richard R. Brettell, Historic Denver. (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), pp. 128-129.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(x) See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested | Primary location of additional data:
<input type="checkbox"/> State Historic Preservation Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously listed in the National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # <u>n/a</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # <u>n/a</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
- Specify Repository:
n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property: less than 1 acre

UTM References

A <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	B <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
C <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	D <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing

() See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Craig City Block 29, Lots 1,2,3

() See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass the land historically associated with the army.

() See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: <u>Daniel K. Davidson, Director and Frances Reust, Curator</u>	Date: <u>January 15, 1992</u>
Organization: <u>Museum of Northwest Colorado</u>	Telephone: <u>303-824-6360</u>
Street & Number: <u>590 Yampa Avenue</u>	State: <u>CO</u> Zip Code: <u>81625</u>
City or Town: <u>Craig</u>	

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Craig Courier, 1 January 1925.

Craig Empire, 23 March 1921; 30 March 1921; 17 August 1921; 26 October 1921.

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National Guard of the State of Colorado: Pictorial 1939 Review, Atlanta, Georgia:
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Noel, Thomas J and Barbara S. Norgren, Denver the City Beautiful, Denver: Historic
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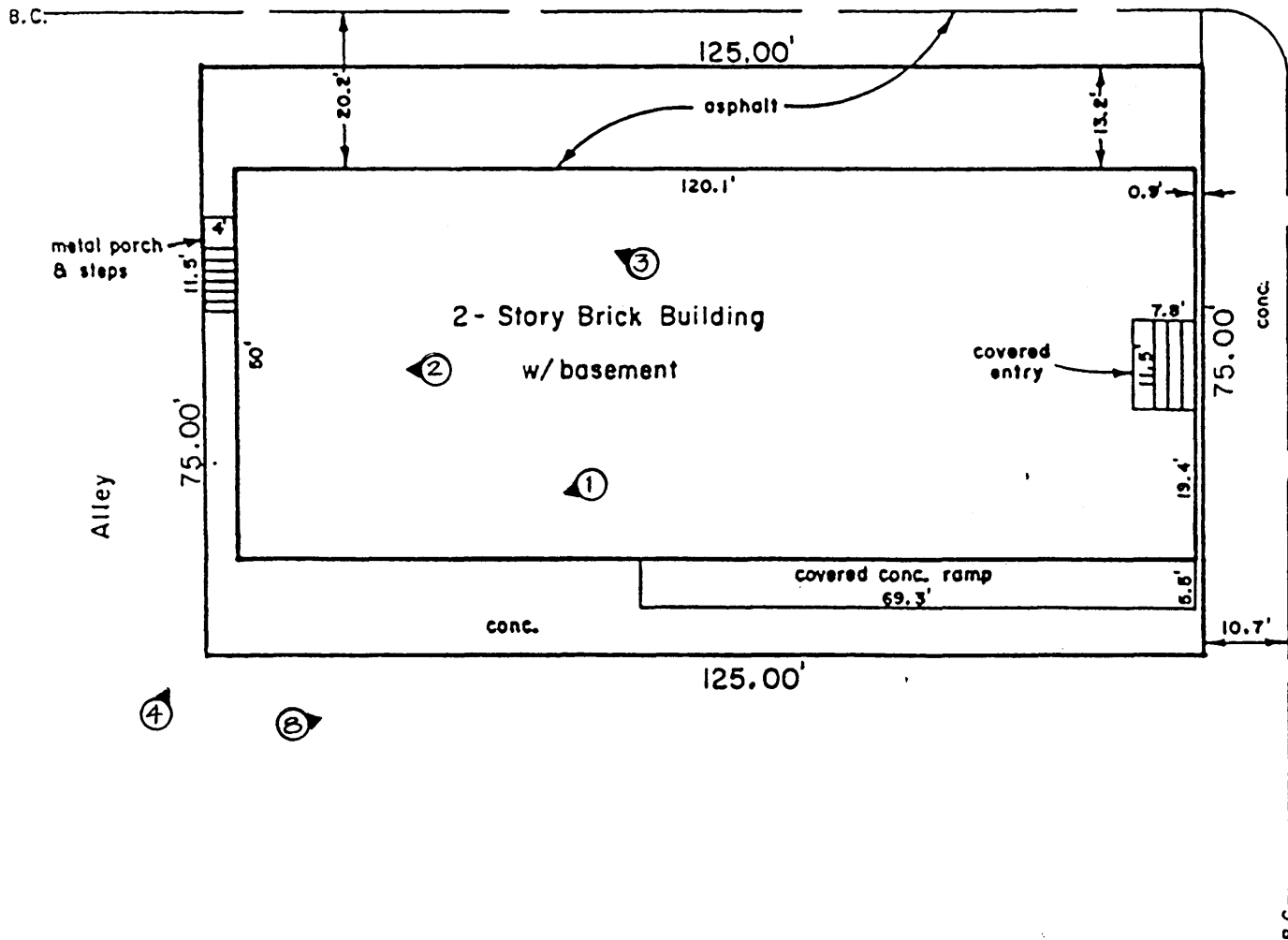
Northwest Colorado Daily Press, 24 January 1990; 25 January 1990.

STATE ARMORY BUILDING

Map 1 of 2

Craig

6th Street (asphalt)



⑤

⑥

⑦

④

⑧

③

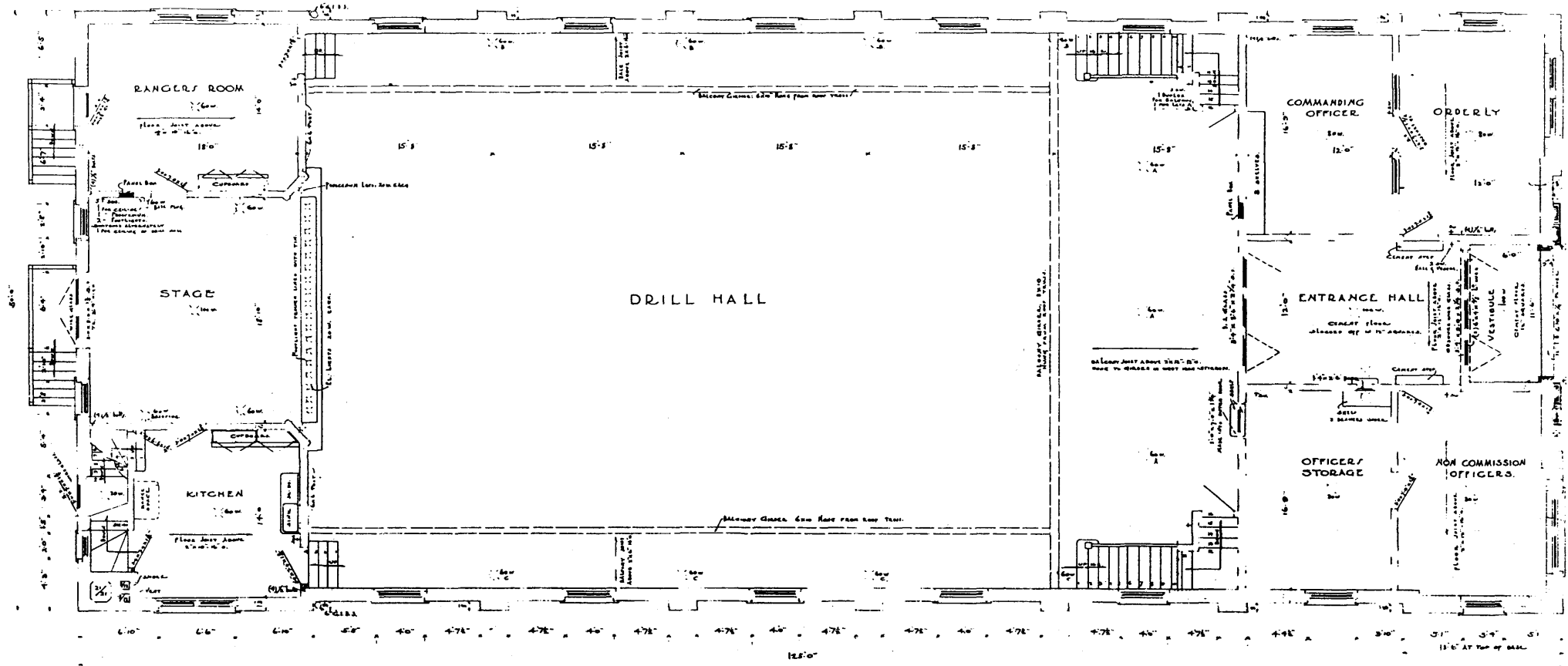
②

①



1" = 30'

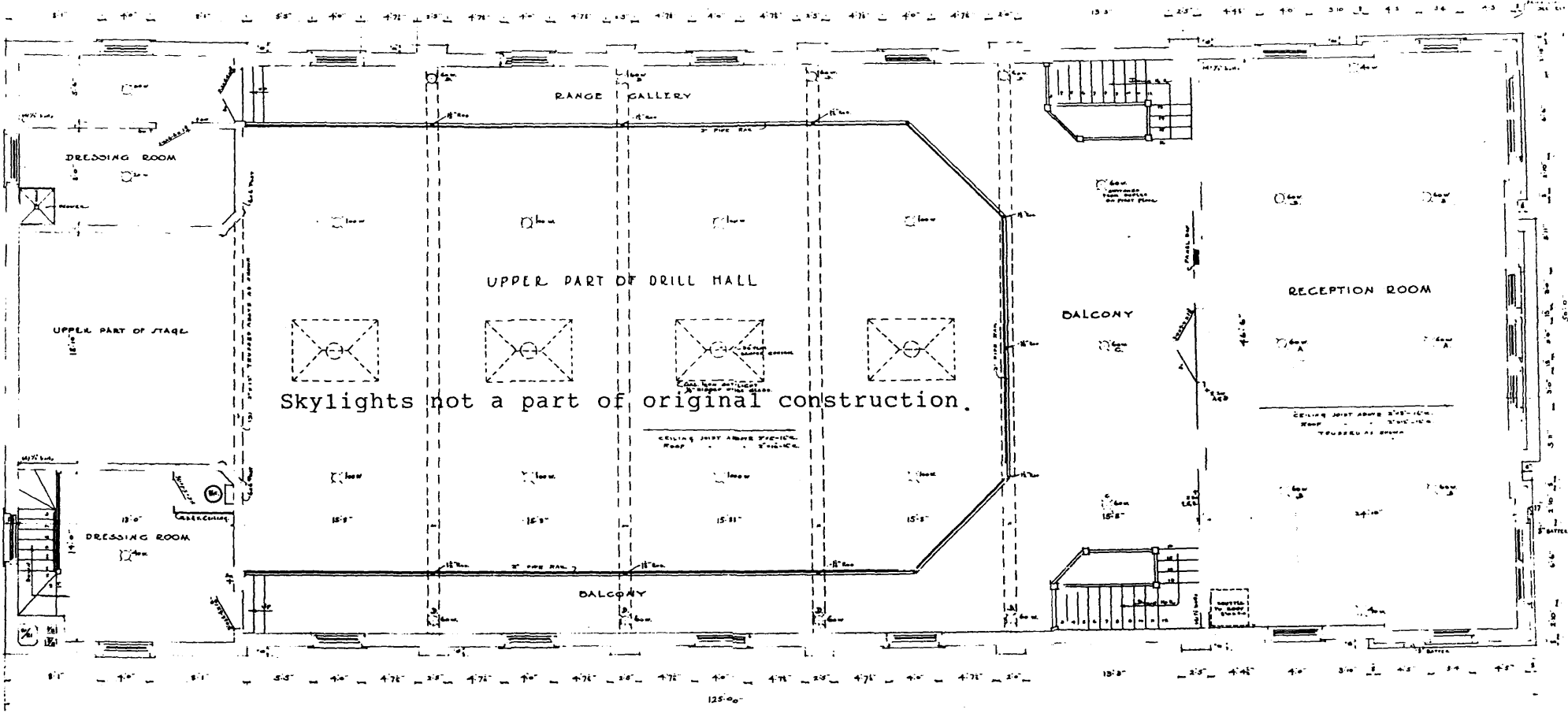
⊙ = photograph



• FIRST FLOOR PLAN •
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

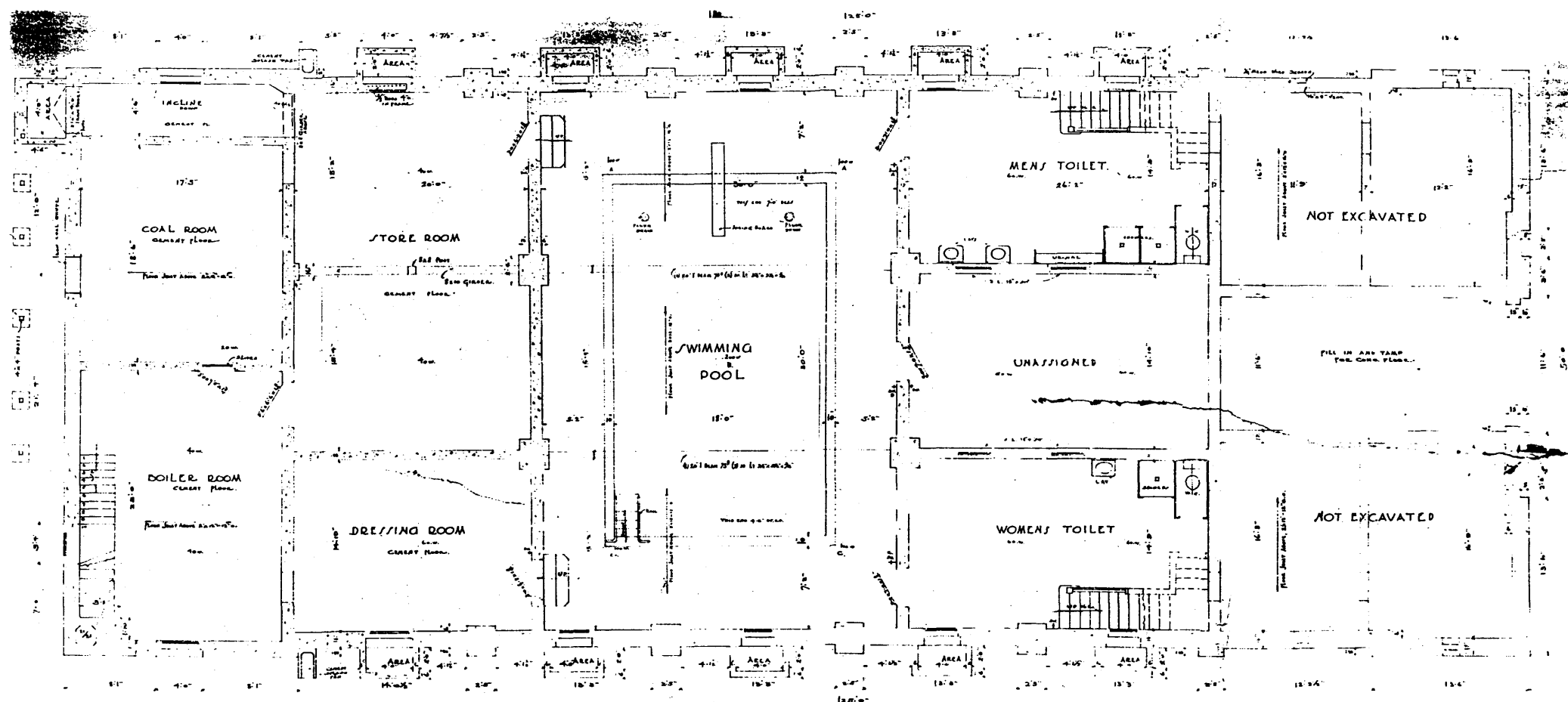
STATE ARMORY BUILDING FOR STATE OF COLORADO MILITARY DEPARTMENT	DATE: 8-13-21 DRAWN BY: H.P.A. CHECKED BY: C.H.E. CHECKED BY: H.P.A.
---	---

JOHN J. HERRERT 7



' SECOND FLOOR ' PLAN '
 //SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"

STATE ARMORY BUILDING FOR	DATE: 7-28-21
STATE OF COLORADO MILITARY DEPARTMENT	DRAWN BY: HPA CHECKED BY: HRA
JOHN J. HUDDART ARCHITECT 108-9 BANK BLOCK, DENVER, CO.	SHEET NO. 4



CELLAR AND FOUNDATION PLAN
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

STATE ARMORY BUILDING FOCAL STATE OF COLORADO MILITARY RESERVE JOHN J. HUBBART ARCHITECT 405 P. BARR BLOCK, DENVER.	DATE: 8-13-21
	DRAWN BY: H.P.A.
	TRACED BY: C.H.E.
	CHECKED BY: H.P.A.
	SHEET NO. 2