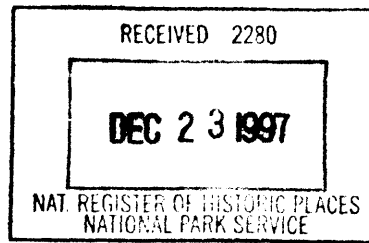


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1665

# 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 Brighton High School  
other names/site number North Junior High School; Brighton Heritage Academy; 5AM580

### 2. Location

street & number 830 E. Bridge St. [N/A] not for publication  
city or town Brighton [N/A] vicinity  
state Colorado code CO county Adams code 001 zip code 80601

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

James Edward Hartman State Historic Preservation Officer December 3, 1997  
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 W. Beall Signature of the Keeper 1/23/96 Date of Action

Brighton High School  
Name of Property

Adams County, Colorado  
County/State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	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)

EDUCATION/school

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS  
Other: Byzantine Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other TERRA COTTA

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Brighton High School  
Name of Property

Adams County, Colorado  
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.

**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
- # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION  
ARCHITECTURE

**Periods of Significance**

1926 - 1947

**Significant Dates**

1926  
1940

**Significant Person(s)**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).  
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Fuller, Robert K.  
Tamminga, W.M.

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:  
Colorado Historical Society  
Denver Public Library, West. Hist. Dept.  
Brighton School Dist. 27J Archives

Brighton High School

Adams County, Colorado

Name of Property

County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.67

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 516120 4426000
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 Ron Sladek, President

organization Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc.

date August 29, 1997

street & number PO Box 1909

telephone 970-229-9705

city or town Fort Collins

state CO

zip code 80522

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 Brighton School District 27J

street & number 630 S. 8th Ave.

telephone 303-655-2900

city or town Brighton

state CO

zip code 80601

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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOLADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Brighton High School, along with associated buildings and grounds, occupies a square block in central Brighton, Colorado, an agricultural community located eighteen miles northeast of downtown Denver. The school building fronts toward the north onto Bridge Street (Colorado Highway 7), the main east-west thoroughfare through the city. The block is also bordered by 8th Avenue on the west, Bush Street on the south, and 9th Avenue on the east. The Brighton High School building occupies the northern portion of the block, and is surrounded to the north, east and northwest by mature landscaping. The area on the west side of the building is paved for a parking lot. A former agricultural/wood shop building occupies the southernmost portion of the block, fronting toward the south onto Bush Street. In addition, a newer metal building (and parking lot) is located on the west central edge of the property, fronting onto 8th Street. The remainder of the site is a dirt playground surrounded by a chain link fence.

The high school building is an irregularly-shaped, two-story, flat roofed, red brick structure with blonde brick and terra cotta highlights. The overall style might best be classified as early 20th century Byzantine Revival, specifically due to the ornamental terra cotta work found on the three main (north facing) entrances, along with the brick and terra cotta work along the parapet wall. The classrooms form two north-south wings along the east and west sides of the structure, with the gymnasium in the center. The auditorium extends toward the north, projecting from the center of the building. The Brighton High School building was constructed on this site in 1926, at a time when Bridge Street was still unpaved. The classroom wings were then extended toward the south, with additions to the west wing in 1953-1954 and the east wing in 1955-1956.

Rising from a concrete foundation, the lower exterior walls are finished with blonde brick up to the first floor sill level. This visual base consists of a soldier course resting on the concrete foundation, with stretcher courses rising to the sill level, where a rowlock course forms window sills and a connected belt course. The remainder of the walls are composed of dark red brick, laid in common bond in a pattern of four courses of scored stretchers alternating with one course of smooth headers. This pattern is used in the original building and the southwest addition. The southeast addition employs a pattern of four courses of scored stretchers alternating with one course of scored headers. The result throughout the building is a subtle series of brick belt courses quietly emphasizing the horizontal nature of the building.

Also emphasizing the horizontal on the building is a wide belt course of smooth terra cotta tiles, which circles the building and forms the lintels of the second-story windows. The parapet is capped with terra cotta tiles, supported by an unusual course of alternating red and blonde bricks in a dog-tooth pattern. The interesting contrast and shadow pattern give the appearance of terra cotta dentils when viewed from a distance. Square or diamond terra cotta tiles are used as accents over each upper floor window bay, and the parapet wall is pierced in several locations by terra cotta drain spouts. A heavy, square, red brick chimney rises through the roof in the northeast portion of the building above the basement boiler room, topped by terra cotta banding and several upper feet of blonde brick.

The windows on the original classroom wings are grouped in bays of four, while those found in the additions are grouped in bays of five. The first-story openings have blonde brick rowlock sills and soldier course lintels. Each window is separated from the next by a narrow red brick pier topped by a short blonde brick soldier course. The second-story windows are similar, except for their terra cotta lintels and red brick

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL  
ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)**

piers with blonde brick soldier course bases as well as tops. In all of the classroom bays, the inner window openings are sealed with wood panels, while the remaining outer two windows are covered with metal louvered grilles. The original six-over-nine, wood frame, single-hung sashes remain behind the louvered grilles.

The symmetrical north elevation of the high school consists of the central extended auditorium and flanking classroom wings containing the main school entries. The auditorium's entry vestibule is accessed off a two-step concrete stoop through double metal doors with narrow half-lights and a transom above protected by a diamond-patterned grille. The entry is flanked by blonde brick piers partially hidden by segmental terra cotta Tuscan columns with capitals molded in a spread-winged owl motif. The capitals support a terra cotta secondary cornice which runs across the face of the entry vestibule and wrap around to the side elevations. An ornate semicircular terra cotta archivolt springs from the cornice directly above the columns, enclosing a multicolored terra cotta tile panel featuring a decorative vesica piscis terra cotta plaque depicting a student in cap and gown holding open a book for all to see. A blonde brick rowlock course follows the outer arch edge.

Above the entry is a triple arch bay. The lintel is terra cotta and the blonde brick voisoirs spring from two terra cotta Tuscan columns. Each arch shelters a three-light casement window. The entry vestibule roof is side-gabled and covered with red clay tiles, with an alternating red and blonde brick dog-tooth course along the eave. Short hipped-roof extensions with terra cotta roof tiles off the east and west elevations of the entry vestibule contain single windows with semicircular blonde brick arches.

The north elevation walls on either side of the projecting auditorium vestibule contain a triple blind arch at the second-story level. Blonde brick forms the soldier course base and pilaster capitals, while horizontal courses form the two center pilasters. The semicircular arches are of blonde brick voisoirs, and the soldier course base wraps around to the east and west elevations as a string course. The east and west elevations of the auditorium contain four large window bays, each of which is topped by a semicircular blonde brick arch which springs from a belt course. The window openings have been infilled with oversized red brick. Above the arches are a terra cotta band, diamond shaped terra cotta plaques, and dog-tooth and terra cotta courses that wrap around to the north-facing elevation of the auditorium.

The north-facing elevations of the east and west classroom wings each consist of three sections. The slightly projecting center sections contain school entryways whose first-stories match the details and ornamentation found on the auditorium entry. The second-stories contain double arched bays similar to but somewhat taller than the auditorium entry, and contain six-light casement windows. The entry parapet rises to form a gable with red clay tile coping. A classical, arched terra cotta plaque is centered below the upper gable end, ornamented with a floral pattern and the Latin phrase "Quanti Est Sapere," translated as "How important it is to be wise." Details on the outer wall sections (closer to the outer corners of the building) match the flanking walls of the auditorium vestibule entrance, while the inner wall sections (closer to the auditorium portion of the building) contain standard four-window bays on the first and second-stories.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)**

The east elevation of the east classroom wing consists of a four bay original section on the north, and a two bay 1955-56 addition on the south. A slight setback marks the junction of the two sections. Each bay in the original section consists of the standard four window design on the first and second-stories. The bays in the addition contain five windows each. A grade-level door enters the building on the east-facing elevation near the southeast corner, above which is a narrow five-light window which illuminates the interior stairwell. The south elevation of the east wing contains a centered and slightly projecting entry similar to the north classroom entries. The south entry contains a simpler terra cotta archivolt which surrounds a panel made of alternating red and blonde brick headers. The west elevation of the east classroom wing consists of the two five-window bays of the addition. A recessed entry forms an alcove at the junction of the addition with the original building, and contains a single grade-level door and a second-story covered window opening. Terra cotta and brick ornamentation on the exterior walls is similar to that found on the rest of the building, and was matched on the addition as well.

The west elevation of the west classroom wing consists of a three bay original section on the north and a single bay 1953-54 addition on the south. As with the east classroom wing, the original bays contain four windows each, and the bay on the smaller addition contains five windows. A slight setback differentiates the original section from the addition. The east elevation of the classroom wing is only visible above the first-story. This section contains two single-light windows on the southernmost part. The south elevation closely resembles that of the east wing, except that the entry is shifted to the east. Terra cotta and brick ornamentation on the exterior walls is similar to that found on the rest of the building, and was matched on the addition as well.

The south elevation of the central gymnasium resembles the east elevation of the auditorium. Six evenly spaced window openings with semicircular arches are infilled with oversized red brick. The western portion of the elevation contains a recessed one-story section with a single wood door.

The interior of the school retains much of its historic design and materials. The hallway floors are of concrete and the walls and ceilings are of plaster. Original wood doors, molding and trim remain throughout the building, as well as blackboards, lockers and built-in fixtures. Maple and red oak are used in the interior trim and inside vestibule entry doors, and yellow pine is used for the paneled classroom doors. The twenty-five classrooms have hardwood floors and the two stairways are of oak. Nearly all the interior spaces remain unaltered from their appearance during the building's period of use as a high school.

Two particularly significant spaces within the building are the gymnasium and the auditorium. The flat auditorium ceiling is of stained wood, and the massive exposed rafters are hand-stenciled in green and gold. The full space remains open and the stage area is intact, although the theater seats were removed and a false wood floor installed over the original sloping surface. The slightly below grade gymnasium contains its original maple floor, along with the original solid maple bleachers which line the full north wall. The eight rows of seating are in remarkably good condition considering their seventy years of use.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 4

Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL  
ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)**

The agricultural/wood shop building was constructed in 1940 on the southern edge of the school campus. Although not designed by the same architect, the building closely duplicates the design characteristics and materials of the main high school structure. The rectangular plan, flat-roofed building fronts toward the south onto Bush Street. The building uses the same brick wall and window surround pattern as the high school structure. The windows are double ten-light casements grouped in single and double bays. The south elevation is divided into seven evenly spaced bays by brick pilasters that terminate in sloping blonde brick caps below the parapet. The westernmost bay contains a pedestrian entrance accessed through a solid wood door off a three-step concrete stoop. The door is framed in blonde brick and is capped by a semicircular arch similar to the south classroom entries on the main high school building. Each of the bays contains a pair of double casement windows except for the entry bay, which contains a single window, and the easternmost bay, which contains a vehicular entry with a roll up door. The windows in the three eastern bays are covered with wood panels. The east elevation contains a centered vehicular dock door flanked by standard two-window bays. A sloping concrete ramp provides truck access to the dock. The north elevation is similar to the south, although each bay contains only one double casement. The center bay contains a pedestrian entry that matches the south elevation entry. The west elevation contains two double casement windows. A small square red brick chimney rises through the middle of the roof and is decorated at the top with blonde brick. The interior consists of two large offices on the west, small storage rooms in the center, and a large open storage area on the east. Interior finishes are simple concrete floors and plaster walls and ceilings. Interior walls in the large open storage area on the east are of brick.

The final building on the campus is a modern, all metal Butler-type structure, located on the west edge of the site between the school and the agricultural/wood shop building. This annex contained a band room, library and office space. The rectangular plan, gable-roofed building contains metal frame windows on the north, west and south elevations, and half-light metal doors on the east, north and west elevations. This building is the only non-contributing structure on the property.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 5

Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

**ALTERATIONS**

The two classroom additions constitute the largest alterations to the original building. In 1953-54, two classrooms were added to the west side of the building utilizing the same design and material as the original structure. In 1955-56, eight additional classrooms were added off the southeast corner of the original school. Some slight variations in material and design differentiate the new section from the original. Atchison & Kloverstrom served as architects for the project, and contractors N.R. Nielson & Sons completed the \$91,000 expansion.

In July of 1965, the auditorium seating was removed and sold, and the sloping floor was framed in and covered with a flat wood and tile surface. The original hanging ceiling lights were replaced with fluorescent fixtures attached directly to the beams. At the same time, all the school floors and ceilings were painted and the window louvers were added. Architects Bourn & Doloney planned this remodel.

In 1966, kitchen facilities were installed in the classroom to the east of the auditorium. At the same time, sinks and stoves were added to one classroom for the home economics program. Then in 1994, the kitchen facilities were removed entirely from the one classroom and the stoves were removed from the home economics area.

The eight auditorium windows and the six gymnasium windows were removed and infilled with brick in 1978. In the same year, all of the original wood fresh-air louvers on the interior doors were replaced with metal grids.

In 1980, the gymnasium lighting was changed from fluorescent to mercury vapor. In 1986, the heating system was upgraded and all exterior doors and framing were replaced with metal doors. In 1993, the original glass panel skylights in the locker rooms were replaced with plastic domes. The following year, the east wing steam piping was replaced beneath the floor, and a new fire alarm system was installed along with a new roof and \$2,000 worth of door locks.

Changes to the overall campus include the construction of the agricultural building in 1940 and the metal annex structure in 1973. The agricultural building was later used as a student wood shop and is now used for school district food services. Alterations to the building include the replacement of a bay of windows on the east elevation with a roll up freight door, and the covering of several windows with wood panels. The metal annex building has not been significantly altered since its construction.

Most of the alterations to the Brighton High School and its campus occurred during the years when the building functioned as a high school, and later as a junior high school, and represent the evolution of the building as an educational facility. While the loss of historic materials in the auditorium and the infill of the large arched gym and auditorium windows and many classroom windows is regrettable, the building retains a high degree of historic integrity and is fully capable of conveying its architectural and historical significance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 6

Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brighton High School, built in 1926, and its associated agricultural/shop building, constructed in 1940, are wonderful examples of the exotic Byzantine Revival style, as interpreted and executed by one of Colorado's master architects, Robert K. Fuller. The Byzantine Revival style is evident on these buildings in the form of winged capitals resting on Tuscan-style columns, ornate terra cotta highlights on the arches and archivolts, brick and terra cotta banding on the primary exterior walls, and dogtooth coursing atop the parapet wall. All of these elements lend an Eastern (Byzantine) flair to the otherwise Mediterranean appearance of the buildings.

With the Brighton High School, Fuller designed a dignified, elegant and functional building while keeping within the modest budget of a rural school district. In addition to their unique architectural style, the buildings are historically significant for their long association with the education of the youth of the Brighton community from 1927 through the present time, although the period of significance for the purpose of this nomination is limited to the period from 1927 to the 50-year significance threshold of 1947. The property served as a high school from 1927 through 1955, as North Junior High School from 1955 through 1984, and is utilized by Brighton Heritage Academy in the 1990s as a public educational facility. The Brighton High School building and the agricultural/wood shop building meet National Register Criterion A in the area of Education as excellent examples of the public instruction of students in Colorado farming communities during the pre-WWII auto age. In addition, these buildings meet National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture for their distinctive characteristics of a type or style of construction, as well as their association with the body of work of a noteworthy Colorado architect, Robert K. Fuller.

The city of Brighton was incorporated in 1887, three years after the organization of School District 27 in September of 1884. Over the following several decades, Brighton thrived as an agricultural center and became the county seat in 1904. The school district responded to the community's growth with the construction of new school buildings as needed. The first high school was constructed on 4th Street in 1913, when the population was pushing 1000 (in 1916, this school was attended by 143 students). By 1923, the population had more than tripled as a result of the growing agricultural economy and the expansion of the Kuner Pickle Co. plant (1917) and the Great Western Sugar Co. factory (1917). A December 1925 city assessment of Brighton school conditions found that the old high school had 276 students enrolled in a building that could contain only 225 seats. Brighton community leaders realized that a larger high school facility would be required to handle the growing student population, which was overloading both the limited space and teacher-per-student ratios in the 1913 school building.

In 1925, School District 27 successfully floated a \$175,000 bond for the construction of a new community high school. The Board of Education, along with Superintendent of Schools Arthur J. Foster, hired renowned Denver architect Robert K. Fuller to design the new building. Eleven bids were received for the general construction contract, which was awarded to William Tamminga for \$115,202.00. A separate award for the plumbing and heating contract was made to Samson Brothers for \$21,664.00. In addition, Fuller submitted a total for equipment costs of \$10,997.71, and the architect's fee was \$9,078.52. Construction began on the new Brighton High School building, which was completed in late 1926 for a total cost of \$156,942.23. The building was prepared for the students and faculty, and occupied in March 1927.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7

Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Robert Kenneth Fuller was one of Colorado's most esteemed architects, the son of Fort Collins pioneer architect Montezuma Fuller, and the father of widely respected architect Kenneth Fuller of Denver. Born in 1886, Robert Fuller grew up in Fort Collins and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from Colorado A & M in 1906, now known as Colorado State University. After working with his father for a short time, he continued with his professional education, graduating in 1908 from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in architecture. He returned to Fort Collins and joined his father's firm, then known as M.W. Fuller & Son, where he worked for two years before deciding to find his fortune in Denver.

Being an ambitious and now married young man, Robert Fuller set his sights on working with prominent Denver architect Robert S. Roeschlaub. Known as Colorado's first great architect, Roeschlaub was the founder of the Colorado chapter of the AIA and was the most influential Denver architect during the late-1800s, known for his design work on many of the city's early schools, as well as public buildings in other Colorado communities. In 1903, his son Frank joined the practice, which was renamed Roeschlaub & Son. Robert Fuller arrived at Roeschlaub & Son in 1910, and was hired as the firm's chief draftsman, a position he held until 1914. He immediately went to work on the design of the Greeley High School and the ornate Isis Theater in Denver. Fuller's early design experience coincided with the City Beautiful movement, spearheaded by mayor Robert Speer, which emphasized public works projects designed to beautify Denver and elevate it from an overgrown mining supply town to a full-fledged cosmopolitan city. Reaching the end of his long career the senior Roeschlaub retired in 1912, leaving the firm to his son Frank, who elevated Robert Fuller to the position of partner in 1914 and renamed the firm Roeschlaub & Fuller.

Frank Roeschlaub left the firm several years later, and by 1917 Robert Fuller had gained enough of a reputation to change the name of the company to his own. Over the next 48 years, Robert Fuller designed numerous public buildings throughout the state. He is particularly noted for his courthouses in places such as Glenwood Springs, Steamboat Springs, Lamar and Hot Sulphur Springs, and for his school buildings in Berthoud, Boulder, Brighton, Carbondale, Denver, Littleton, Loveland and Meeker. Fuller also designed other public and private buildings such as the Boettcher Center at the University of Denver, the Grand Junction Public Library, the 1st National Bank Building in Greeley, the Rialto Theater in Loveland, and a dozen structures at the School of Mines in Golden. He is also remembered for his work as president of the Allied Architects Association, the organization responsible for the 1924-1934 design work on the Denver City and County Building. In 1949, Robert Fuller added his two sons to the firm and changed its name to Fuller, Fuller & Fuller Architects-Engineers. After a long and successful career, he retired in 1965 and passed away the following year.

With both Montezuma Fuller and Robert Roeschlaub as his mentors, Robert Fuller was guaranteed to provide the community of Brighton with a new high school building that would meet its financial and educational needs, yet soar to heights of architectural beauty. He certainly did not let the school district down. Fuller's plans for the new school were in line with the predominant Eclectic movement of the time, which drew its stylistic inspiration from the entire spectrum of traditional architecture. He looked to the styles of the ancient Mediterranean for this project, specifically drawing inspiration from the architectural heritage of the Byzantine Empire, which flourished in the eastern Mediterranean after Byzantium (Constantinople/Istanbul) became the capital of the Roman Empire in 330 AD.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 8

Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The original Byzantine style is known for its use of Roman methods of construction, modified by the use of colorful materials and unrestrained ornamentation. The Byzantine Revival style emerged in the United States after the Civil War as an offshoot of the Romanesque style, introduced by the prominent architect, Henry Hobson Richardson. The first Richardson buildings designed with Romanesque and Byzantine elements were the 1871 Brattle Church and the 1872 Trinity Church, both of which are located in Boston. The revival style was inspired by Byzantine Empire-era structures, many of them churches, found in Mediterranean cities such as Ravenna, Milan, Florence, Venice, and the heart of the empire, Constantinople.

A small number of buildings in the Denver metropolitan area were designed in the Romanesque/Byzantine Revival style, notably the 1915 National Jewish Hospital Building (an ornate Byzantine Revival structure), the 1924 South High School (with some Byzantine elements), and the 1923 Valverde School (also with some Byzantine elements). Throughout the state, seventeen historic Romanesque Revival school buildings have been documented thus far, and only seven structures (including non-school buildings) designed in this style have been documented for the period from 1920-1929. Because "Byzantine Revival" is not an officially accepted stylistic term, falling under the general category of Romanesque Revival, it is difficult to determine how many buildings with Byzantine elements are in existence statewide. It does appear, however, that a relatively low number of buildings with Byzantine features exist in the state.

Other schools and public buildings designed by Robert Fuller during this stage of his career were similarly designed as period revivals, and his creative use of terra cotta and masonry resulted in a collection of some of the most beautifully conceived and ornamented buildings in the state. The Brighton High School was designed to fit the scale and budget of a small agricultural town, yet it exhibits the same historical image of Eastern beauty and elegance that the Byzantine Revival style brought to structures in Denver and other large American cities. In turning to Robert Fuller to design their new educational showpiece, the Brighton community essentially imported an element of the City Beautiful movement from Denver to their own rural municipality, siting the building on the main east-west thoroughfare for visibility and ease of access.

The 1926 Brighton High School also represents a new era in small town education in Colorado. Prior to 1913, Brighton area high school students attended 19th-century rural schools. The high school constructed that year consolidated students at one central location, and the advent of the automobile (and school bus) allowed students to attend school in Brighton from a wide geographic area. However, this building quickly became overcrowded and had to be replaced due to the tremendous growth of the Brighton area. The 1926 high school was built in response to the community's understanding of the need for quality education in a quality environment. Overcrowded conditions and limited facilities were not conducive to the proper education of their children, and the city acted quickly to replace the decade-old school with a larger, more versatile structure designed for providing education in an increasingly sophisticated world. The new building offered amenities not found in the old, including more classrooms (and more teachers), a gymnasium, and an auditorium. The 1940 addition of the agricultural/wood shop building brought a vocational component to the school that enhanced its educational offerings as well. Robert Fuller's Brighton High School building replaced what was in form an essentially late-19th century, centrally-massed school (although constructed in 1913) with an inspiring, horizontally sprawling 20th-century structure that accomplished Brighton's goal of a facility in which they could bring quality education to their children.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 9

Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

"Architectural Impressions." *Municipal Facts*. January-February, 1926 (Vol. IX, Nos. 1 & 2).

Archives of the *Brighton Blade*, located at 139 N. Main St., Brighton, Colorado.

Archives of School District 27J, located at 630 S. 8th St., Brighton, Colorado.

Brighton Genealogy Society. History of Brighton and the Surrounding Area, 1887-1987. Dallas: Curtis Media Corp., 1987.

Dorr, Carl W. Looking Back: A Historical Account of the Development of Brighton and the Surrounding Community from 1859-1976. Brighton: Brighton Centennial Commission, 1976.

"Engineering Council to Honor R.K. Fuller." *Rocky Mountain News*. 16 January 1955.

"Facts Concerning School Bond Issue." *The Brighton Blade*. 5 January 1926.

Franci, Giovanna and Mangaroni, Rosella and Zago, Ester. L'Altra Sponda Di Bisanzio Ovvero L'Immaginazione Dell'America (The Other Shore of Byzantium, or the Imagination of America). Ravenna, Italy: Longo Editore, 1992).

Haber, Francine and Fuller, Kenneth R. and Wetzel, David N. Robert S. Roeschlaub, Architect of the Emerging West, 1843-1923. Denver: Colorado Historical Society, 1988.

Houston, Tracy. *Old Brighton High School Historical Dedication*. (unpublished pamphlet) 2 May 1997.

Noel, Thomas J. and Norgren, Barbara S. Denver: The City Beautiful and its Architects, 1893-1941. Denver: Historic Denver Inc., 1987.

Pearce, Sarah J. A Guide to Colorado Architecture. Denver: State Historical Society of Colorado, 1983.

"Robert K. Fuller." (obituary) *Denver Post*. 19 April 1966, p. 51.

"Robert K. Fuller." (obituary) *Rocky Mountain News*. 19 April 1966, p. 29.

*Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*. Brighton, Colorado. 1928, 1948, 1956.

*State Register of Historic Properties, Nomination Form for the Brighton High School*. Prepared by Tracy Houston, 15 February 1997.

Stone, Wilbur Fiske, ed. History of Colorado. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1918.

Who's Who in Colorado. Boulder: Colorado Press Association Inc., 1938.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 10

Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

All of Block 45, Walnut Grove Second Addition, City of Brighton, Adams County, Colorado.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes, and is limited to, the land on which the Brighton High School, the adjacent agricultural/wood shop building, the adjacent school yard, and adjacent parking lots and landscaped grounds are found, within the boundaries of Block 45, Walnut Grove Second Addition to the City of Brighton. Also included on this property is a modern metal building, which is a non-contributing structure for the purposes of the National Register nomination.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 11

Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information applies to all photographs submitted with this registration form:

Name of property:	Brighton High School
City, county and state:	Brighton, Adams County, Colorado
Photographer:	Ron Sladek, Tatanka Historical Associates Inc.
Date of photograph:	6 August 1997
Location of negative:	Tatanka Historical Associates Inc. P.O. Box 1909 Fort Collins, CO 80522

- Photograph #1: General view of the north elevation of the Brighton High School, with the main entrance on the right and the auditorium on the left. View to the southeast.
- Photograph #2: General view of the north and east facades of the Brighton High School, with the north-facing entrance to the east wing just right of center. View to the southwest.
- Photograph #3: View of the north-facing main entrance to the school, located on the west wing. View to the south.
- Photograph #4: View of the brickwork and terra cotta details around the south-facing entrance of the west wing. This elevation was constructed in 1953-54 as an addition to the building, although it matches the older part of the building in scale and details. View to the northeast.
- Photograph #5: General view of the south facade of the Brighton High School agricultural/wood shop building on the southern edge of the site. This building was constructed in 1940, and matches the details found on the adjacent main high school building. View to the northwest.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

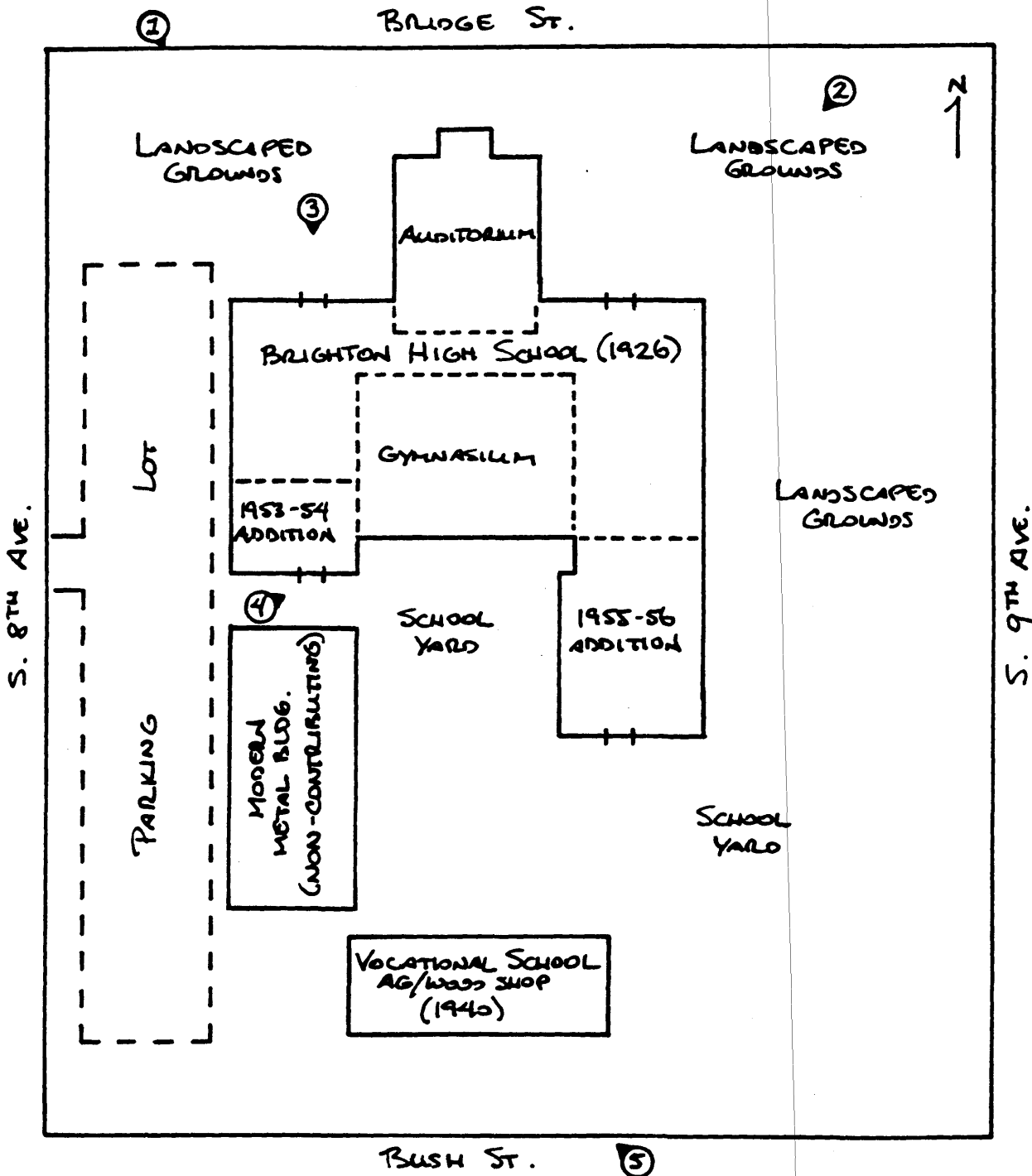
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 12

Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

SITE DRAWING (not to scale)

① - camera directions





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

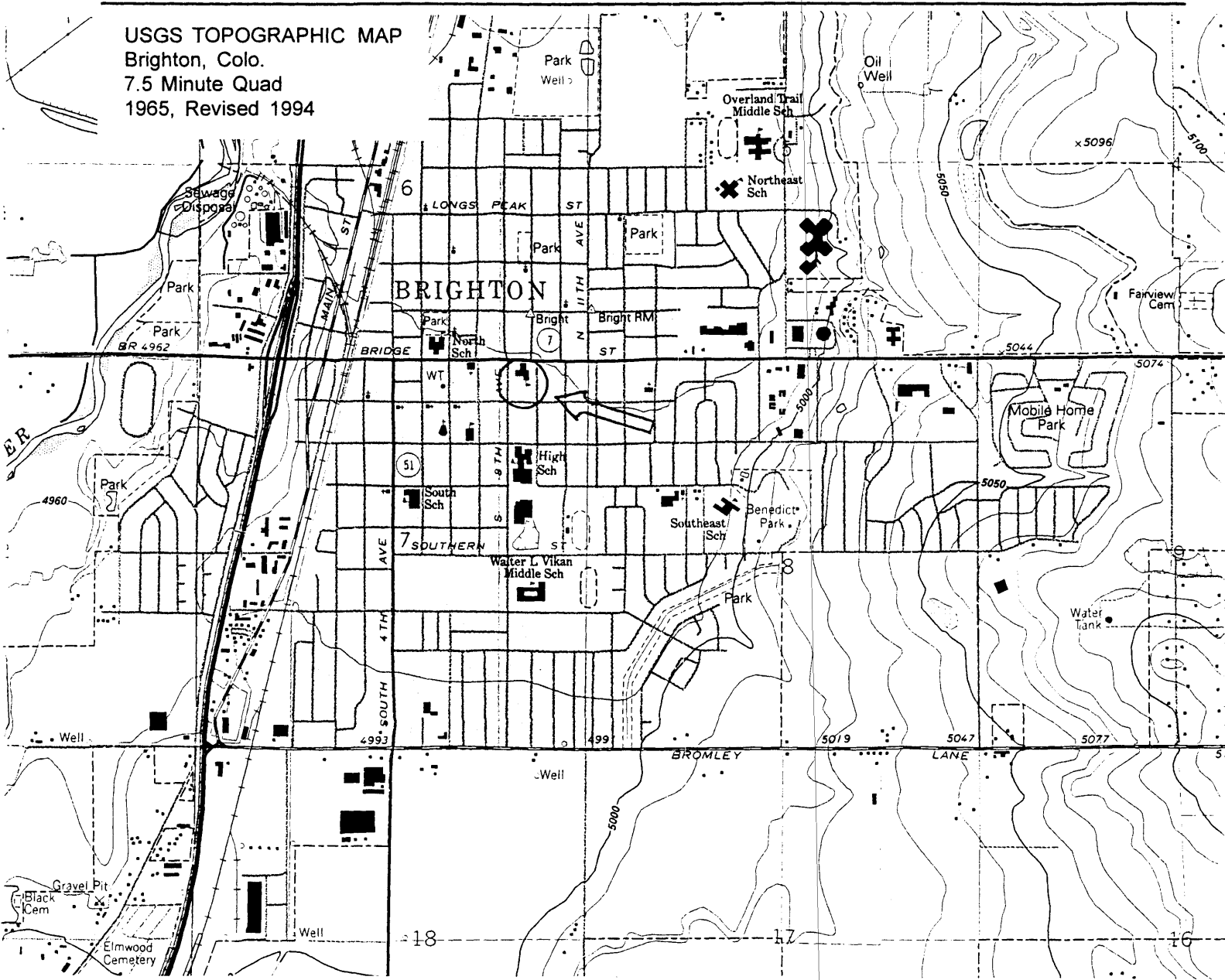
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 13

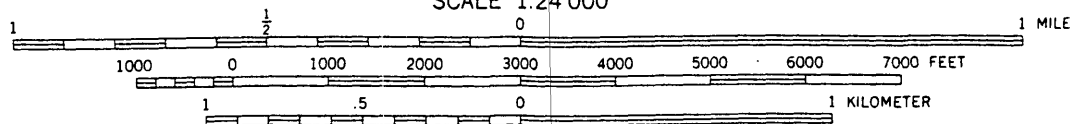
Property BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP  
Brighton, Colo.  
7.5 Minute Quad  
1965, Revised 1994



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

