

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

County Assessor's Office, Schedule #02283-34-011.

Robinson, Elisha, Atlas of the City, 1890.

"History of the Highlander Boys," Denver Post, May 14, 1934, p.3.

Denver Household Directory, 1924.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .544 acres

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

QUADRANGLE NAME Arvada

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 4992510 4400555

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

              

              

              

              

              

              

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lot 1 to 5 inc. Blk 9, Kasserman's Addition

**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

Geraldine Burggraff, Associate

ORGANIZATION

Goff Corporation of Real Estate Enterprises

DATE

September 17, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

1020 - 15th St., #40L

TELEPHONE

(303)892-6477 & (303)458-5420

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL ✓

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Arthur C. Johnson*

DATE

Jan. 31, 1980

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

DATE

3/27/80

ATTEST:

W. Ray Luce  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-11-80

William A. Krausman  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1884 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The A. H. Root Building is significant for its association with Amos H. Root, an important businessman in Colorado, for its architectural features, and for its role in the commercial development of the downtown Denver area.

Amos H. Root had a long and eventful life, much of it spent in Colorado. He was born in Schoharie County, New York, in 1842, but soon moved west with his parents to Ripon, Wisconsin. He attended Brockway College in Wisconsin with the intention of pursuing a career in law, but the Civil War interrupted his studies and he never embarked in that direction. Instead, he enlisted in the Fourth Wisconsin Infantry, in which he served three years. In June 1863 he was made a prisoner of the Confederate Army, but escaped after eight days in prison by swimming across the Mississippi River at night. Sometime after the war he emigrated to Greeley, Colorado, where he established himself in the hotel business, but he later moved to Denver where he became a wholesale dealer in cigars and tobacco, served as a member of the Board of Aldermen, and later entered the banking industry as one of the founders and directors of the North Denver Bank.

It was during this long career in Denver that he built the A. H. Root Building. Originally, it was surrounded by hotels and served as a drugstore, furniture store, warehouse, and rooming house. Later George Washington Olinger used the structure as a manufacturing center for his Highland Casket Company, one of the constituents in the large mortuary empire that he developed and which still exists.

Architecturally, this building is an important structure in the lower downtown area. It is a monument to the prideful brick detailwork, but more than that, it is one of the last, perhaps the last cast iron structure in Denver. The first floor facade is all of cast iron column and beam construction, and this supports the upper two stories of fine brickwork. The style itself displays many elements characteristic of commercial structures in late nineteenth century Denver.

Ed, MAW & JEF (10/79)

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at the corner of 15th and Platte streets in Denver, the Root Building is a three-story brick structure with cast iron storefronts, multiple sandstone stringcourses, and a flat tar and gravel roof. The significant facades are the east and south sides which front on Platte Street, and the 15th Street facade. The first floor storefronts consist of regularly spaced cast iron pilasters and engaged columns with large infill panels of multiple-paned, fixed sash. The cast iron posts support a lintel with brick architecture and a small cornice. The second floor is bounded by a narrow sandstone sillcourse and a wider sandstone beltcourse. The windows are double hung with one over one sash. The third floor also has a narrow sandstone sillcourse, but has round arched windows with one over one sash and a brick stringcourse which forms decorative archivolt above each window. Above the third floor the building has a decorative brick corbel table with a cut sandstone cornice and a brick parapet capped with sandstone with projecting chimneys.

The interior floors and trim consist of hardwood including the window frames and sills. The ceiling height of the first floor is twelve feet, the second and third floors nine feet. The interior walls are brick although they are painted or plastered in some areas. A massive skylight runs the length of the building and produces illumination to the first floor. The first floor and basement are presently used as a retail area, the second floor for an art gallery, office space, and trade shops. Part of the second and third floors are vacant.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 8 1980  
DATE ENTERED MAR 27 1980

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

Amos H. Root Building

AND/OR COMMON

Root Building

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1501-1529 Platte St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Denver

VICINITY OF

1

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Denver

CODE

031

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Lee and Margaret Tipton

STREET & NUMBER

3723 S. Elm Street

CITY, TOWN

Denver

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

1445 Cleveland Place, Room 101

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

(16/01/0163)

DATE

Ongoing

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203