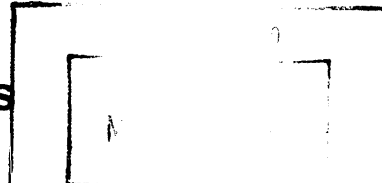


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting 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 Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist

other names/site number Zen Center of Denver; Lotus in the Flame Temple; 5DV611

2. Location

street & number 3101 West 31st Avenue [N/A] not for publication

city or town Denver [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Denver code 031 zip code 80211

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title: Georganna Centiguy Co, State Historic Preservation Officer; Date: February 25, 2004

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 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:

- [X] 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.

Signature of the Keeper: Edson H. Beall

Date of Action: 4/21/04

Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist
Name of Property

Denver County, Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

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

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

		Contributing	Noncontributing	
		1	0	buildings
		0	0	sites
		0	0	structures
		0	0	objects
		1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religious facility

Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals
Italian Renaissance

foundation Sandstone
walls Brick
Stucco
roof Ceramic tile
other Terra cotta
Limestone

Narrative Description

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

Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist
Name of Property

Denver 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)

Architecture

Periods of Significance

1921

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hoyt, Burnham F.

Hoyt, Merrill H.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist
Name of Property

Denver County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 497696 4401026 (NAD27)
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. 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 Nicole Hernandez, Program Coordinator

organization Historic Denver, Inc. date July 3, 2003

street & number 1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 400A telephone 303-534-5288 x16

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80202

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 Zen Center of Denver

street & number 3101 W. 31st Avenue telephone _____

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80211

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.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist

Denver County

Section number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

The 1921 Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, building stands in a triangular plot defined by the intersection of Speer Blvd. and West 31st Avenue in northeast Denver. The surrounding West Highland neighborhood consists primarily of a mix of single- and multi-family residences. To the west is a commercial district of small restaurants and shops. North High School stands across Speer Blvd.

The multi-story Italian Renaissance Revival style church has a triangular-shaped plan, blonde brick walls rising from a buff sandstone foundation, and a truncated hip roof made of red tile. A large skylight illuminates the auditorium. The sheet metal eaves are decorated with closely spaced modillions and a dentil course. The foundation is topped with a rounded water table. The brick is laid in an English rowlock bond of alternating courses of headers and stretchers.

The south elevation is divided into five bays by paired pilasters with Tuscan capitals. Semicircular terra cotta arches spring from each capital. The capitals form part of a terra cotta belt course around the building. The arch spandrels contain round, floral patterned terra cotta medallions.

The central three bays each contain pairs of four-light, wood frame, basement windows with sandstone surrounds in the form of ancones. The brick walls above these windows are covered in stucco. The upper level windows are of tall, narrow design with wood frames, narrow side lights and semicircular transoms. The multi-light windows are glazed with varying colors of stained glass. The sills are of sandstone. The two outer bays contain identical upper level windows above prominent entries. Each entry is flanked by unfluted limestone columns with Composite capitals. The limestone architrave contains decorative scrolls flanking a central medallion with a cornice supported by five modillions. The wood double doors are of ten-panel design with four-panel door heads. The north elevation is identical to the south.

The west elevation is slightly rounded in plan and is divided into three bays. The outer bays are similar to those on the south elevation. Both contain an upper level window identical to that on the south. The southern bay contains a grade-level entry with a wood frame door, transom and side light all protected by a flat, glazed, steel framed canopy. The northern bay also contains a pedestrian entry and a multi-light window. The central bay contains three lower level multi-light windows with sandstone sills and flat arches and three tall, narrow, multi-light windows with semicircular transoms on the upper level. The center bay is defined by square pilasters, the southern of which forms a chimney which pierces the roof.

The east elevation contains a circular colonnaded apse. Five identical bays are defined by brick pilasters with Ionic capitals supporting a simple entablature with a plain frieze. Each bay contains a four-over-four sash surmounted by a single-hung four-over-eight sash with a semicircular transom. The spandrels are of stucco. The dedication stone occupies a position below the windows in the center bay and bears the inscription "Fourth Church of Christ Science 1920." The foundation contains five two-light sash. The entire elevation is framed by large pilasters that rise to the roof line where they support a full-width pediment. The pediment's raking and horizontal cornices contain dentil courses and the brick tympanum

**National Register of Historic Places
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Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist

Denver County

Section number 7 Page 2

includes a semicircular window with radiating muntins. The frieze below the pediment is engraved "GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH."

The church interior is a four-level floor plan with the apse end consisting of four stories and the central portion consisting of a sloped-floor auditorium with a lower level foyer tucked underneath and a raised basement. Concrete slabs are supported by steel beams for the floor structures. The truncated hipped main roof is supported by steel trusses.

There is a partial basement under the foyer at the west end of the building and at the apse. The basement contains the boiler room and former coal rooms on the west end. The east, or apse end, of the basement contains the kitchen, vault, toilet room and some storage. The space in-between is unexcavated. The raised basement under the auditorium was originally the Sunday School room. It is an undivided space. The foyer has decorative plaster walls, wood trim, Gothic vaulted ceilings, and original terrazzo floors. Opening off the foyer are men's and women's changing rooms, originally coat rooms, and two toilet rooms along with the original usher's room, now a small store. To the east, the apse contains offices on two floors with the organ loft on the upper partial floor.

The auditorium slopes toward a raised stage. The walls are of decorative plaster scored to imitate stone blocks. The paneled plaster ceiling is slightly arched. A dentil crown molding surrounds the room. A circular domed skylight is centered in the ceiling. The auditorium chandeliers are original.

Alterations to the church building have been minimal. Early photographs indicate the spandrels in all the bays were originally of exposed brick. It is not known when the stucco was applied, though it appears to be sometime after the mid-1930s.

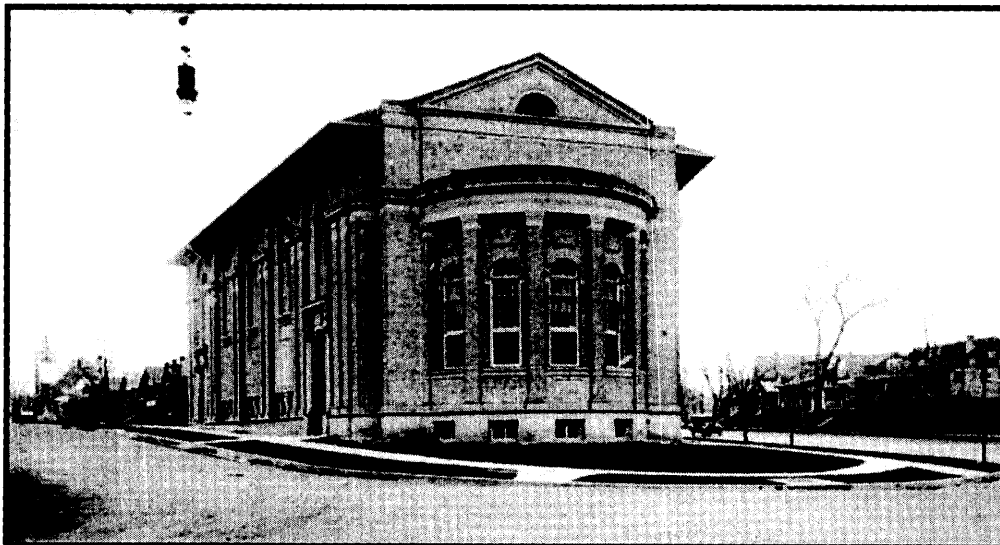


Figure 1. Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, shown shortly after its completion in 1921. (Source: Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist Denver County

Section number 7 Page 3

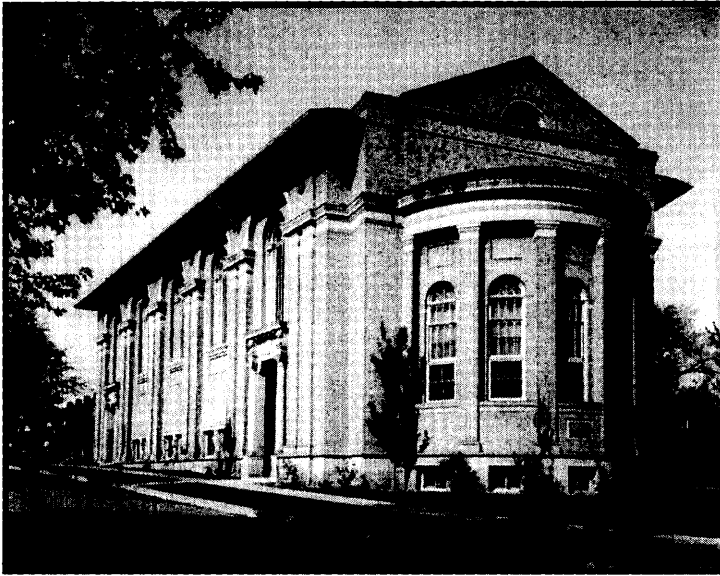


Figure 2. Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, shown about 1930. (Source: Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library)

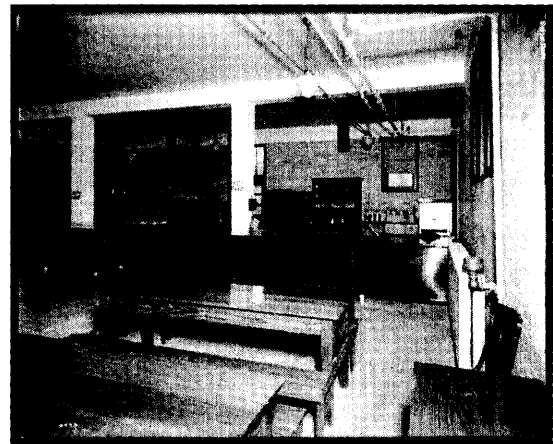


Figure 3. Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, lower level cafeteria around 1925. (Source: Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library)



Figure 4. Interior view around 1925. (Source: Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library)

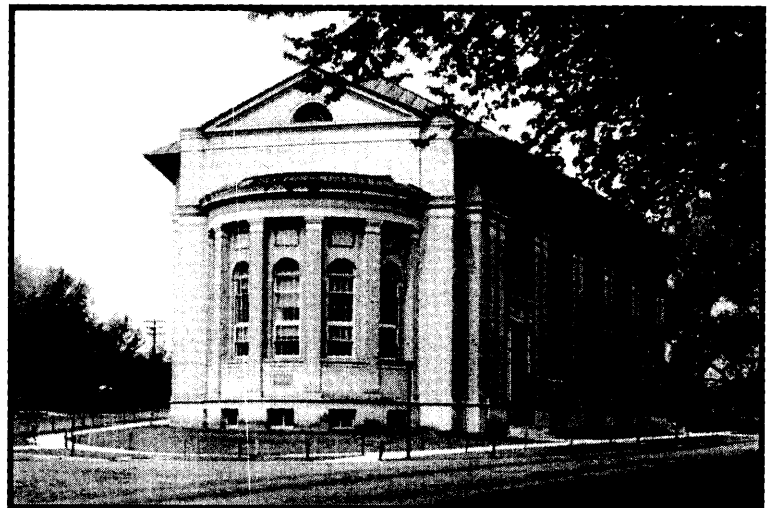


Figure 5. Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, shown shortly after its completion in 1921. (Source: Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist

Denver County

Section number 8 Page 4

SIGNIFICANCE

The 1921 Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, in the area of *Architecture*. The building embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Italian Renaissance Revival style as executed by two master Denver architects, Burnham F. Hoyt and Merrill H. Hoyt of the firm Hoyt and Hoyt. The church is a well-preserved example of an early twentieth-century urban neighborhood church executed in the Italian Renaissance Revival style with Classical Revival influences. The building retains much of its integrity in respect to its original design, materials and workmanship.

Architecture

The Italian Renaissance Revival style emulated the Renaissance palazzi of northern Italy and was most popular in America from about 1890 to 1930. Buildings of the style are usually rectangular or square in plan. Houses are usually ornate and two- or three-stories high; public buildings are usually imposing and also three- or four-stories high.

The church displays many of the character-defining elements of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. The arcading of the north and south elevations is the most prominent characteristic. Other defining characteristics include the ceramic-tiled hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves and decorative brackets below; the exclusion of the frieze; the symmetrical elevations with tall, narrow, arched windows; the entry entablature supported by classical pilasters; and the ancones used in the lower window surrounds.

Denver's finest example of the style in a commercial building is the 1892 National Register-listed Equitable Building at 17th and Stout. More in the stylistic variation and scale of the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, are the 1897 Denver Mint and the 1914 Dickinson Branch Library. Both buildings are National Register-listed.

The Denver Mint features a strong horizontal orientation with its deeply recessed masonry joints. The building exhibits a strictly symmetrical facade typical of the style.

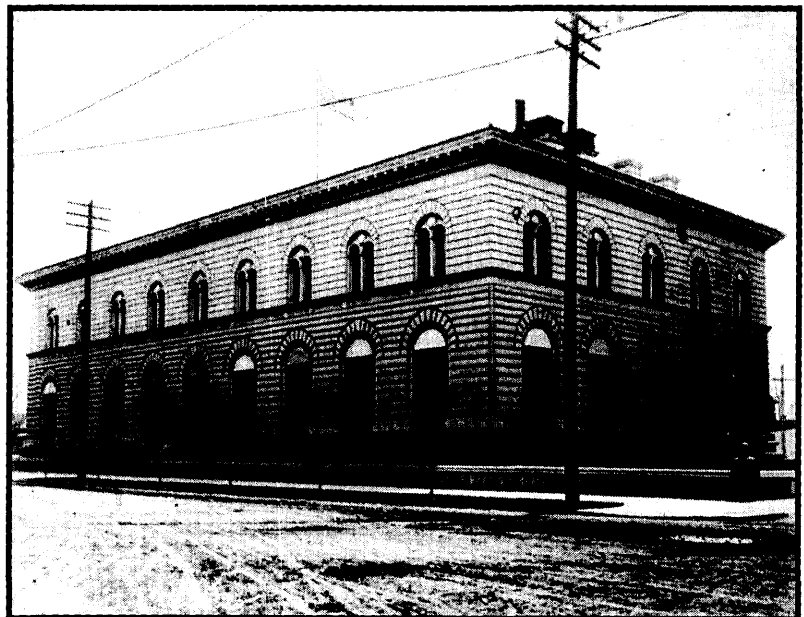


Figure 6. The Denver Mint is shown as it appeared in about 1905. (Source: Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
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Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist

Denver County

Section number 8 Page 5

The Dickinson Branch Library displays a more animated facade than does the Mint. While still symmetrical, the windows are taller and the bays are defined by pilasters. The library also exhibits more ornamentation in the spandrels and frieze. Stylistically, the church and the library share general design similarities in fenestration and ornamentation. The church exhibits greater Classical Revival influences in its monumental entries and pedimented east elevation.

The Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, compares favorably to these previously listed Italian Renaissance Revival style buildings, in design, execution, materials, and physical integrity.

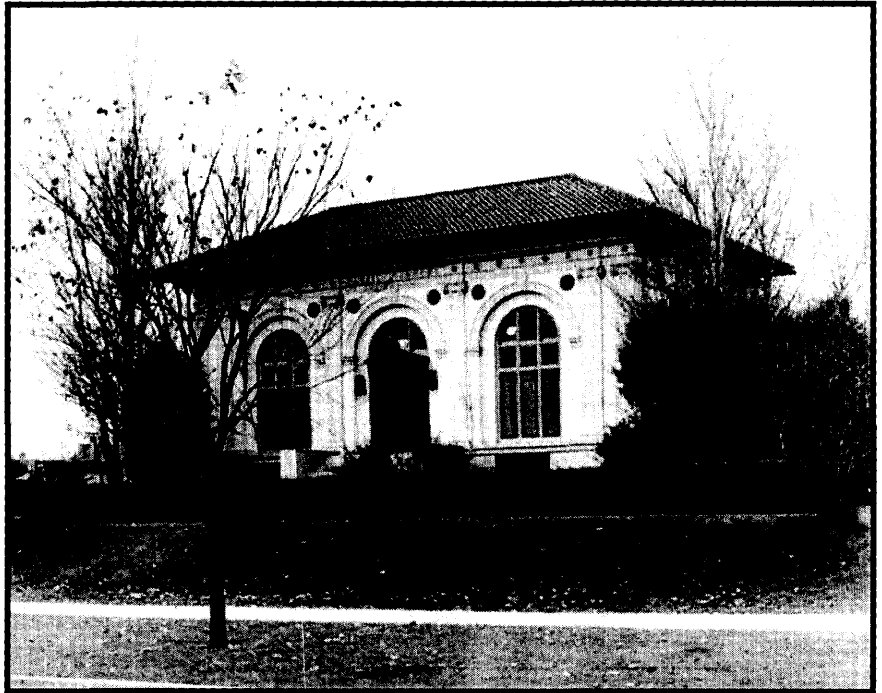


Figure 7. Denver architect Maurice Biscoe designed the Dickinson Branch Library in 1914. The building is shown here about 1920. (Source: Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library)

Burnham and Merrill Hoyt

In 1920, Burnham F. Hoyt (1887-1960) with the help of his brother Merrill H. Hoyt (1881-1933) designed the Fourth Church of Christ Scientist. Burnham and Merrill Hoyt were Denver natives who grew up in the Highland neighborhood and went to North High School. Merrill began his career as a draftsman for the firm of William E. Fisher in 1899. In 1915 he started his own practice. His younger brother, Burnham, joined the firm in 1919 after studying at the Beaux-Arts Institute in New York City and further training with renowned architects of the day. Their architectural firm prospered in the post World War I era. In addition to the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, they collaborated on several other buildings in Denver, including the Denver Press Club, Lake Junior High School, and the Park Hill Branch Library (all designated as Denver Landmark properties), as well as St. Martin's Chapel at St. John's Cathedral and an addition to the Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church. Merrill's work was cut short when he died of a heart attack at the age of 52 in 1933.

Burnham's work encompassed the turn-of-the-century revival style movement that persisted into the 1930s, as this building demonstrates with the Italian Renaissance Revival style. His work also comprised the clearest examples in the Rocky Mountain region of the great transition from the use of historic styles to the mainstream modern movement as seen in the Denver Public Library and Red Rocks Amphitheater, both National Register-listed. The later

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Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist

Denver County

Section number 8 Page 6

property was selected by the Museum of Modern Art in New York as one of fifty outstanding examples of American Architecture in the decade. Burnham was as highly regarded in his own time as today. He received many awards and wide public recognition, including associate membership in the National Academy of Design in New York, and honorary doctorate from Denver University, the Civic Princeps award from Regis College, and a fellowship for design in the American Institute of Architects.

Background History

Christian Science began during the 1870s based on the teachings of Rev. Mary Baker Eddy. The movement quickly spread from its birthplace in Massachusetts to Chicago, its second major center, and then throughout the country. In 1885 the movement was introduced to Colorado. In 1891, this group incorporated as a church. The First Church of Christ, Scientist, is at 1401 Logan Street (1892) and Second Church of Divine Science, is at 99 South Grant Street (designed by S.S. Beman in 1910). Revival styles are very typical of the early buildings of the Church of Christ, Scientist. The simplicity and elegance of the styles are a visual reflection of the harmony of spirit presented in the teachings of the faith.

The Zen Center of Denver purchased this building in 1998 to provide space for growth, particularly in community outreach and residential Zen training. The Zen Center of Denver has several public offerings each week, including open meditation on most Wednesday evenings and Sunday Teisho (presentation of Zen Buddhist teachings) along with Introductory seminars on Zen Buddhism.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
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Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist

Denver County

Section number 9-10 Page 7

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

1929- Church records Actual 1920 –OAHP (Original drawings are dated 9/15/19 Revised 8/1/21)

Church records and OAHP biography-Photographs dating to 1923 are in the Western History Collection at the Denver Public Library.

Forth Church of Christ, Scientist flier.

Wilson, William H. *The City Beautiful Movement*. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989).

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The land nominated consists of Parcel 02293-02-016-000, City and County of Denver, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination includes all the land historically associated with the church.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist

Denver County

Section number ___

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-23, except as noted:

Name of Property: Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist
 Location: Denver County, Colorado
 Photographer: Nicole Hernandez
 Date of Photographs: October 4, 2002
 Negatives: Historic Denver, Inc.
 1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 400A
 Denver, CO 80202

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	East elevation with portion of north elevation, camera facing west
2	North elevation, camera facing west
3	Pediment of east elevation, camera facing west
4	Detail of cornerstone, east elevation camera facing west
5	Detail of entrance on north elevation, camera facing east
6	Detail of windows on south elevation, camera facing south
7	Detail of cornice and eaves, southwest corner, camera facing northeast
8	South elevation, camera facing northeast
9	Detail of entrance on north elevation, camera facing south
10	West elevation, camera facing north
11	West elevation, camera facing south
12	West elevation, camera facing south
13	Interior, entrance lobby, camera facing west; July 10, 2003
14	Interior, entrance lobby, camera facing east; July 10, 2003
15	Interior, stairs to auditorium, camera facing east; July 10, 2003
16	Interior, stage of auditorium, camera facing east; July 10, 2003
17	Interior, southeast corner of auditorium, camera facing southeast; July 10, 2003
18	Interior, west wall of auditorium, camera facing west; July 10, 2003
19	Interior, east wall of auditorium, camera facing east; July 10, 2003
20	Interior, southeast corner of auditorium, camera facing southeast; July 10, 2003
21	Interior, glass dome of auditorium, camera facing up; July 10, 2003
22	Interior, glass dome of auditorium, camera facing up; July 10, 2003
23	Interior, auditorium wall ornament, camera facing south; July 10, 2003

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist

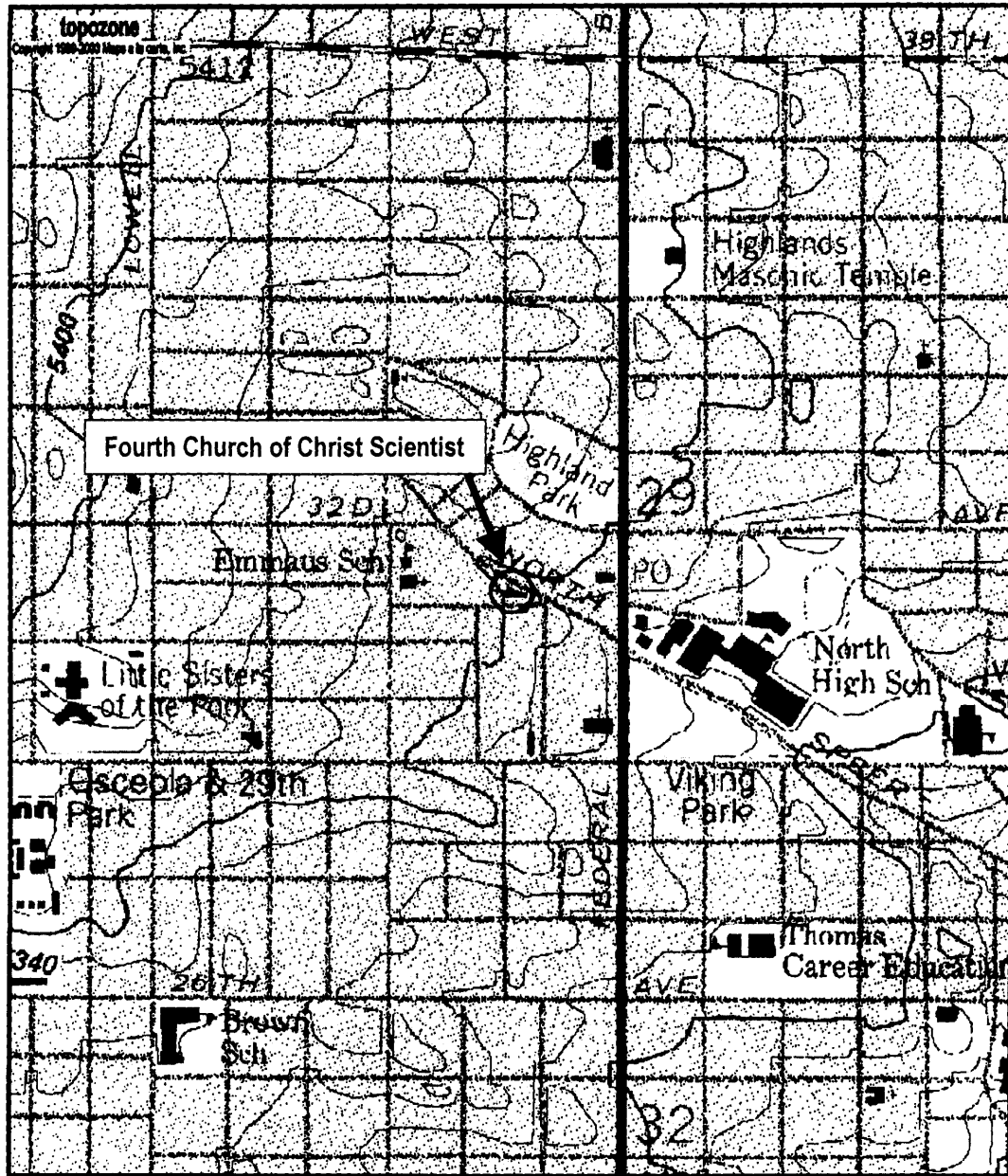
Denver County

Section number ___

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Arvada Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series (enlarged)

UTM: Zone 13 / 497696E / 4401026N
PLSS: 6th PM, T3S, R68W, Sec. 29 N½ NE¼ SW ¼
Elevation: 5,350 feet



0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 km
 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 mi

Map center is UTM 13 497696E 4401026N (NAD27)

Arvada quadrangle

Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum

MN
GN
MN=10.149
GN=0.018