

PH0066354

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| STATE:<br>Colorado                              |                 |
| COUNTY:<br>Denver                               |                 |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY                                |                 |
| ENTRY NUMBER<br>704.05, <del>0012</del><br>0007 | DATE<br>4/28/70 |

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Brown Palace Hotel

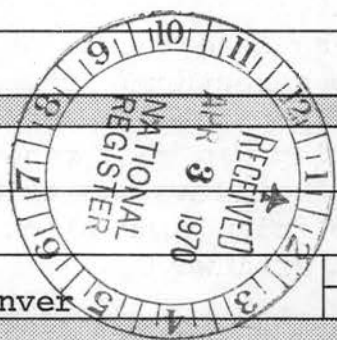
AND/OR HISTORIC: H. C. Brown Palace

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 17th and Tremont Place

CITY OR TOWN: Denver

STATE: Colorado CODE: 05 COUNTY: Denver CODE: 031



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                     |  |  |                                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural          | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational           | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious         |  |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment         | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific        |  |                                   |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Boettcher Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER: American National Bank Building 17th and Stout Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 05

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Tax Assessor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: City and County Building

CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 05

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Junior League Survey of Historic Denver Structures

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966-67  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of State Historical Society of Colorado, State Museum

STREET AND NUMBER: 200 14th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 05

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Colorado  
COUNTY: Denver  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |   |                               |                                       |   |                                    |
|-----------|---|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                   |   |                               |                                       |   |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (Check One)                                   |   |                               | (Check One)                           |   |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered |                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Except for the numerous changes of the interior decor, the Brown Palace appears much as it did in the late nineteenth century. Construction on America's second fireproof building began in earnest in 1889 after British financial support failed. The structural frame was steel and iron, clad in terra cotta and supported upon a foundation of granite. The exterior facing was red granite and Arizona sandstone. The design of the building was triangular in plan; in order to utilize fully the triangular block bordered by Tremont Place, 17th Street and Broadway.

The Brown Palace was one of Denver's earliest skyscrapers, rising 10 stories from the street. It boasted 400 rooms and a lobby which rose to a height of eight floors. The walls of the public rooms were faced with onyx from Coahuila, Mexico. The overall architectural motif is that of the Italian Renaissance. The hotel also maintained a reading library for its guests; an idea novel to that time. Water for hotel use came from wells drilled to a depth of 700'. These wells are still in use, although the hotel is also linked to the city water supply.

The architect for the project was Frank E. Edbrooke of Chicago; the contractors were Giddes and Seerie. The sculptor of the twenty-six animal medallions which encircle the building was James Whitehouse of Denver. The total cost, at the hotel's completion in 1892, came to \$2,000,000. Of this amount, Henry C. Brown, half owner of the hotel, put up approximately \$1,600,000 for construction. The difference came from the co-owners, W. H. Bush and N. M. Tabor and was used to furnish the interior.

After changing hands a number of times, the hotel is now in the ownership of the Boettcher Foundation of Denver.

NOTE: Only the original, triangular structure is nominated for listing on the Register. The newer addition across the street, is not nominated.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1889-92**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Cultural</u>                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>development of</u>                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>Denver</u>                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | <u>RECEIVED</u>                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | <u>3 1970</u>                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | <u>REGISTER</u>                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Begun in 1889 and completed in 1892, the Brown Palace was America's second fireproof building. It stood as an early Denver skyscraper and cost its promoters \$2,000,000. At the time, the Brown Palace was considered to be the finest of its kind between Chicago and the Pacific Coast.

Aside from its architecture and engineering achievements with stone and steel, the Palace's chief significance lies in its role as the social and cultural landmark of Denver. The success of the silver strikes in the nearby Rockies drew European and eastern financial interests to the Denver vicinity. These interests demanded more amenities than the usual found in western towns. Thus the occurrence of the opera houses, theatres, and grand hotels of the area.

The Palace has seen such notables as President "Teddy" Roosevelt, President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and Queen Marie of Romania. Dwight D. Eisenhower made the Brown Palace his campaign headquarters in 1952. After his presidential victory, the hotel became known as "Ike's summer White House."

Acts of great generosity and great tragedy have taken place within the Palace. A Thanksgiving dinner for 1500 needy children was hosted by Simon Guggenheim in 1901. Two men were shot to death when they chanced to meet in the downstairs bar and quarreled over a third man's wife.

Today, the Brown Palace still functions as Denver's leading hotel and social center. An author once wrote, "The story of Greece is in its temples; that of America is in its hotels." The growth of Denver and Colorado is reflected in the Brown Palace in much the same manner.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

really?

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Brown Palace in Denver, By Caroline Bancroft, 1955, Golden Press, Denver

The Brown Palace Hotel, booklet by Brown Palace Staff, 1967

The Colorado Magazine, Vol. XX, p. 67, March, 1943

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |          |         |           | OR      | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |         |           |         |         |
|---|----------|---------|-----------|---------|---|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| CORNER  | LATITUDE |         | LONGITUDE |         | LATITUDE  |         | LONGITUDE |         |         |
|   | Degrees  | Minutes | Seconds   | Degrees | Minutes   | Seconds | Degrees   | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW  | 0        | '       | "         | 0       | '   | "       | 39°       | 44'     | 39"     |
| NE  | 0        | '       | "         | 0       | '   | "       | 104°      | 59'     | 14"     |
| SE  | 0        | '       | "         | 0       | '   | "       |           |         |         |
| SW  | 0        | '       | "         | 0       | '   | "       |           |         |         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: LESS THAN TEN

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
|        |      |         |      |
|        |      |         |      |
|        |      |         |      |
|        |      |         |      |

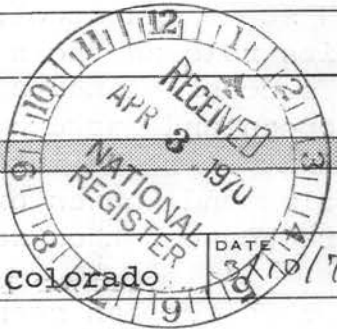
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Robert Fink

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Colorado

STREET AND NUMBER: 200 Fourteenth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 05



12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Stephen H. Hart  
 Title: State Liaison Officer of Colorado

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Currenly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

APR 28 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: William J. Huntley  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

13/501100/4399150  
 UTM REF  
 12-5-75 um

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



70000157

0007

70.4.05. ~~0017~~

Cdo  
DENVER SIGN

Brown Palace Hotel

RECEIPT

5/15/70

|                      |        |                                     |                          |        |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Date of Receipt      | 4/3/70 | Yes                                 | No                       | Number |
| Data Page            |        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| Photo(s)             |        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1      |
| Photo Description(s) |        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| Map(s)               |        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1      |
| Map Description(s)   |        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| Logged               |        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| Acknowledged         | 4/7/70 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |        |

accessible to public  
unattached  
ms 4/7/70

OK  
Dante  
4/8/70

REVIEW

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Historian   | Comments   |
| ok  |  |
| Architect   | Comments   |
|   | Statement on "2nd fireproof bldg" must be questioned or backed up with fact. Putting steel is a misst. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Architect | <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Archeologist <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Historian                   |

if checked  
ret. to  
Herb

Checked  
4/8/70

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| Keeper | Comments |
| ok     |          |

4/13/70  
Wintz

ENTRY

|                      |                          |                          |      |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Chief, OAMP          | Comments                 |                          |      |
| ok                   |                          |                          |      |
| Date of Entry        |                          |                          |      |
| Registry Clerk       | Yes                      | No                       | Date |
| Assign NPS No.       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |
| Acknowledgement Sent | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |



ok  
4-28-70

EDITORIAL PROCESSING

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Editor                 | Date   |
| Federal Register Entry | 6/2/70 |
| Annual Edition Entry   |        |

ok

|                 |      |      |
|-----------------|------|------|
| <del>FILE</del> | FILE | FILE |
|-----------------|------|------|

43701

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Brown Palace Hotel  
Historic Resources of  
Downtown Denver MPS

Denver County, Colorado

Section number \_\_\_ Page 1

Additional Documentation for NRIS #70000157

This previously listed property meets the registration requirements of the property type **Domestic Buildings Associated with the Development of the Denver Central Business District, 1880-1973**, as outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Historic Resources of Downtown Denver*.

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this additional documentation 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. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Geoffrey A. Crotz* State Historic Preservation Officer 11/2/04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE

Coloradp

COUNTY

Denver

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

70-4-05-~~0012~~ 4/28/70  
0007

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Brown Palce Hotel

AND/OR HISTORIC: H. C. Brown Palace Hotel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

17th and Tremont Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Denver

STATE:

Colorado

CODE

COUNTY:

Denver

CODE

031

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Jr. League St. Historical Society of Colorado

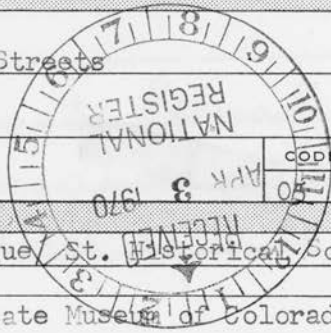
DATE OF PHOTO: 1967

NEGATIVE FILED AT: State Museum of Colorado, Denver

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

In the foreground is the original hotel, as built in 1892. The facade remains basically unchanged. In the background is the newer addition (which is not being nominated).  
The view is towards the north-west.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

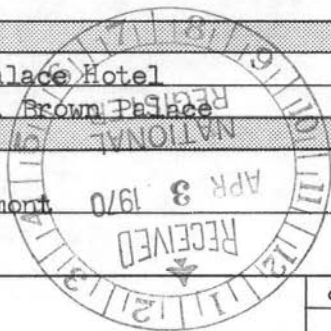
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| STATE<br>Colorado           |                 |
| COUNTY<br>Denver            |                 |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY            |                 |
| ENTRY NUMBER<br>70.4.05.005 | DATE<br>4/28/70 |
| 0007                        |                 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

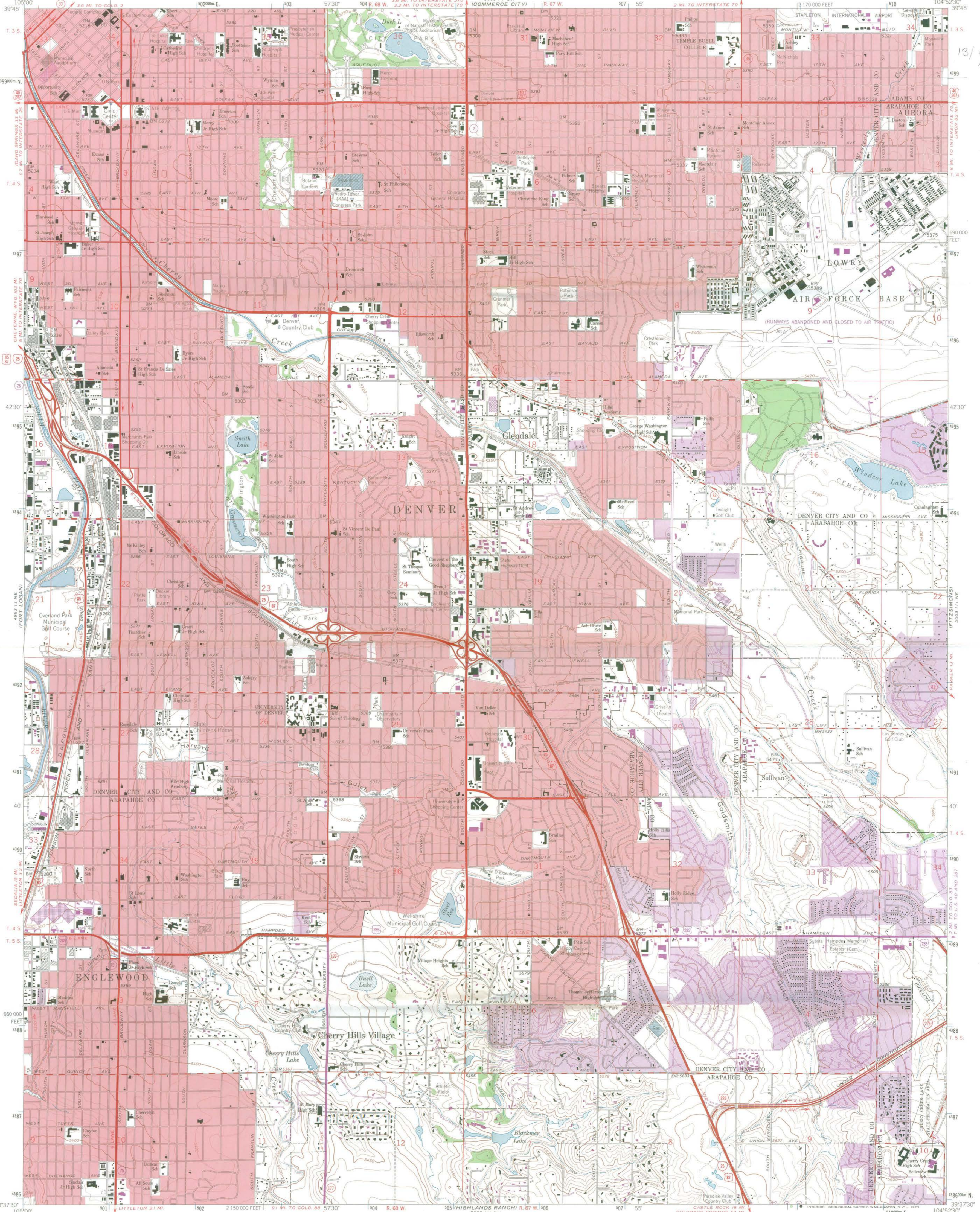
|   |  |            |                   |
|---|--|------------|-------------------|
| 1. NAME   |  |            |                   |
| COMMON: Brown Palace Hotel  |  |            |                   |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: H.C. Brown Palace  |  |            |                   |
| 2. LOCATION   |  |            |                   |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>17th and Tremont  |  |            |                   |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Denver   |  |            |                   |
| STATE:<br>Colorado  |  | CODE<br>05 | COUNTY:<br>Denver |
|   |  |            | CODE<br>031       |
| 3. MAP REFERENCE  |  |            |                   |
| SOURCE:<br>U.S.G.S. Map Englewood, Colo. Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series  |  |            |                   |
| SCALE: 1965 1:24000   |  |            |                   |
| DATE: 1965  |  |            |                   |
| 4. REQUIREMENTS   |  |            |                   |
| TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS  |  |            |                   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Property boundaries where required.</li> <li>2. North arrow.</li> <li>3. Latitude and longitude reference.</li> </ol> |  |            |                   |



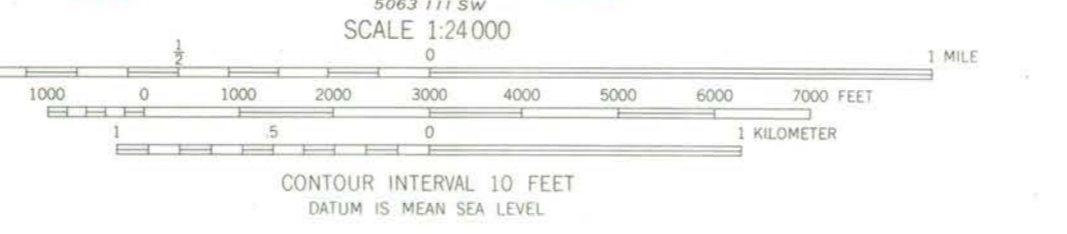
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BROAD PALACE HOTEL  
PH 0066364  
ENGLEWOOD QUADRANGLE  
COLORADO  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

UTM REF  
18-5-75-00  
13/501100  
4399150



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1964. Field checked 1965. Supersedes map dated 1957  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Colorado coordinate system, central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 13, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1971. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension urban areas



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ENGLEWOOD, COLO.  
N3937 5 - W10452 5/7 5  
1965  
PHOTOREVISED 1971  
AMS 5063 111 N - SERIES V877

# National Register of Historic Places

## Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2018

AD70000157

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

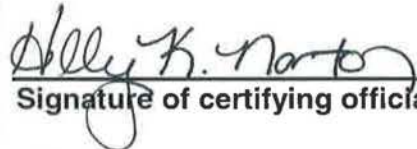
|  |
|--|
| Brown Palace Hotel                       |
| Name of Property                         |
| Denver, Colorado                         |
| County and State                         |
| Historic Resources of Downtown Denver    |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   1  



As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this   X   amendment meets the documentation standards for amending National Register of Historic Places nominations and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

|   |  |             |
|---|--|-------------|
|  | Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer | 11/30/17    |
| <b>Signature of certifying official/ Title</b>                                    |  | <b>Date</b> |
| Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado                 |  |             |
| <b>State or Federal agency and bureau</b>   |  |             |

**Brown Palace Hotel (NRIS 70000157, 5DV.110): Additional Documentation**

**321 17<sup>th</sup> Street (17<sup>th</sup> and Tremont Place), Denver**

The Brown Palace Hotel was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 28, 1970 under Criterion C for its architectural and engineering significance as well as its role in Denver's cultural development. Begun in 1889 and completed in 1892 for two million dollars, the building, designed by architect Frank E. Edbrooke, is described in the nomination as America's second fireproof building. The hotel's location as a pole for social activity is further described in the 2004 *Historic Resources of Downtown Denver* National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form.

Through History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's (OAHP) Heritage Diversity Initiative, it has recently become aware that the Brown Palace holds additional significance to Chinese visitors as well as the Chinese-American community for its association with Sun Yat-sen. Therefore, OAHP submits additional documentation to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places with the National Park Service to recognize this association. The nomination amendment does not propose a change in boundary. This amendment seeks to recognize an underrepresented aspect of Colorado's history, Ethnic Heritage: Asian at the local level of significance for the year 1911.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

|  |
|--|
| Brown Palace Hotel                       |
| Name of Property                         |
| Denver, Colorado                         |
| County and State                         |
| Historic Resources of Downtown Denver    |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number 8 Page 2

**Sun Yat-sen: Father of the Chinese Revolution**

Sun Yat-sen (November 12, 1866-1925) is known as the father of modern China and was the leader of the Chinese Nationalist Party. As a young man, he lived with his brother in Hawai'i from 1879 to 1883, attending the 'Iolani School in Honolulu, where he became fluent in English and first learned about democratic political principles. Sun enrolled in medical school in Hong Kong in 1887, but held revolutionary and anarchist ideals since his return from Hawai'i. Historian Allen F. Damon has documented Sun's interest in Christianity, the French revolution, and Darwinism. Beginning in 1894 after his return to Hawai'i, Sun Yat-sen spoke internationally to raise money to fund an eventual overthrow of the Manchus of Ch'ing dynasty.<sup>1</sup> He established the Xingzhongui (Revive China Society) in Honolulu, his first revolutionary organization.<sup>2</sup> Sun ultimately developed what he referred to as: "Three People's Principles, which became the revolution's guiding light. These principles were: nationalism, democracy, and socialism. Sun saw these as the cure to China's ills. In practical terms, they translated into three goals: the overthrow of the Manchus, the establishment of a republic, and an equitable economy based on socialism."<sup>3</sup> His political attitudes included Western ideals, but not the embrace of capitalism, as he feared resulting inequality and poverty.

**Sun Yat-sen's 1911 Fundraising Trip to Denver**

As part of two teams of a revolutionary treasury fundraising effort across the United States that began on September 2, Sun Yat-sen arrived in Denver at the Brown Palace on Tuesday, October 10, 1911: "Sun Yat-sen and Wong Won-Su took the northern route while the other team, consisting of Jung Oi Wong and C.S. Yook, traversed [the] southern United States."<sup>4</sup> Although Sinophobia was a particularly common attitude in the Western U.S., and Chinese immigrants were required to carry certificates of residence (the first immigrant group to be required as such), Sun apparently traveled unimpeded.<sup>5</sup>

While resting in room 321 at the Brown Palace on October 11 or 12 (accounts vary), he read in the *Rocky*

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed history, see Allen F. Damon, "Financing Revolution: Sun Yat-sen and the Overthrow of the Ch'ing Dynasty," *The Hawaiian Journal of History* 25 (1991): 161-186.

<sup>2</sup> Him Mark Lai, "A Memorable Day 70 Years Ago [Part 1]," *Bulletin: Chinese Historical Society of America* (Oct/Nov 1981).

<sup>3</sup> Damon 166.

<sup>4</sup> "Sun Yat-sen's 1911 Tour of America," Chinese Historical Society of America, <https://chsa.org/exhibits/online-exhibits/sun-yat-sen-an-american-legacy/sun-yat-sen-1911-tour-of-america/> (accessed 3 Jul 2017).

<sup>5</sup> William Wei, *Asians in Colorado: a History of Persecution and Perseverance in the Centennial State* (2016): 144-145.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

|  |
|--|
| Brown Palace Hotel                       |
| Name of Property                         |
| Denver, Colorado                         |
| County and State                         |
| Historic Resources of Downtown Denver    |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number 8 Page 3

*Mountain News* of the overthrow of the Ch'ing Dynasty and exploding revolution that began on October 10.<sup>6</sup> The Ch'ing or Qing Dynasty ruled China beginning in 1644.

According to historian John Yee,

“You need money to finance a revolution,” said Yee. “Sun Yat-sen knew Denver’s Chinatown was filled with hard-working successful Chinese people who would help.” Yee calls Sun China’s “George Washington” (...) Yee said the 1911 Revolution, which started with an uprising in Wuchang, central China’s Hubei Province, is a source of great pride and historical lore for the Chinese people, just like Revere’s famous ride.<sup>7</sup>

Sun Yat-sen departed immediately to China via Europe, where he was elected Provisional President of the new Republic of China on December 29, 1911.

By Saturday, October 14, 1911, *Rocky Mountain News* declared: “Rebels Proclaim China Republic; President Called From Denver; Old Manchu Dynasty Near End.” The article went on to state:

Dr. Sun Yat Sen, who is to be elected president of the new Chinese republic, proclaimed yesterday was a secret visitor in Denver, leaving this city Wednesday night for the East, supposedly on secret advices from revolutionary leaders in China. Dr. Sen raised \$500 among his countrymen here for the revolutionary cause. He addressed a meeting of the local Chinese secret society in Chinatown, in which he declared the emperor must be assassinated and the mandarins either slain or driven forever out of China...

Sun Yat Sen, revolutionary leader of the Chinese empire and the man upon whose shoulders the responsibilities of the president of the proposed new republic will devolve, should the insurrection be successful, left Denver Wednesday night after a twenty-four hours visit in the city. He is touring the United States in [sic] behalf of the revolution. He is sometimes known as Dr. Sun Mun, but Sun Yat Sen is his correct name.

His stay in Denver was brief though momentous. During the twenty-four hours which he spent here he was hailed by the Gee Gong Jung tong, the secret society which he represents, as not only the liberator of his people, but the future president of the Chinese republic. The news that the San Francisco members of the society, which is promulgating the revolution, had selected R. Sun Mun as president of the future republic was not made known generally in Denver until yesterday, though

<sup>6</sup> Some sources indicate October 11, rather than October 12, such as “Fan Orders For Chinese Stamps Soar,” *Rocky Mountain News* (4 Jul 1942): 5. However, the only *Rocky Mountain News* feature on October 11 was a short notice on p. 12 entitled “Chinese Rebels Beheaded.” The cover page on 12 Oct 1911 was “China Revolt Death Threat to Dynasty” (continued on page 3). The latter article details the failed uprising in Wu Chang from the Monday before, which resulted in the beheading of four revolutionary prisoners. By October 13, *Rocky Mountain News* published “Seize Chinese Empire Declare Republic, Rebel Move: Dr. Sen, Noted Exile and Leader of Anti-Manchu Party, to Be President.”

<sup>7</sup> Peter Mertz, “Spotlight: Sun Yat-sen in U.S. city of Denver at start of 1911 Revolution,” *Xinhau* (12 Nov 2011).

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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some of the members of the organization here were already aware of the fact.<sup>8</sup>

The research of historians Marie-Claire Bergère and Janet Lloyd notes that Sun Yat-sen had received a coded telegram from Huang Xing, but he was not immediately able to read it, not having his secret code key with him at the moment. He instead read the news in the paper.

In 1911, Sun Yat-sen, in Denver, rushed to buy a ticket for New York and London. A surprising reaction. Sun Yat-sen has himself offered an explanation in his Autobiography: “In twenty days I could land in Shanghai and take part in the revolutionary struggle, but at that point the diplomatic front was more important to us than the firing line. I therefore resolved to address myself to matters of a diplomatic order.” Sun Yat-sen sensed, with reason, that the attitude of the foreign powers would be crucial. Their neutrality could ensure the success of the revolution. Their active help and financial support would be trump cards in the struggle for power...

In London, where he arrived on October 20, Sun Yat-sen was reunited with old friends Dr. Cantlie and his wife. He also met up with Homer Lea. In spite of the collapse of his great plan for subverting the imperial regime, the American adventurer had decided to place his skills as a general at the service of Sun, who was thus presented with his “Lafayette.” At any rate, Lea appears to have taken an active part in Sun’s attempts to raise financial and diplomatic help for the nascent Chinese Republic.

Homer Lea acted as intermediary in contacting the representatives of the International Banking Consortium, suggesting that they should divert the funds destined for the Manchu dynasty to the future Republic. Lea also, through the mediation of Sir Trevor Dawson (of the Vickers, Sons and Maxim Company, which hoped to receive orders for arms once Sun had become “President of the United States of China”), arranged for a memorandum to be submitted to the Foreign Office proposing an alliance between Sun Yat-sen on the one hand and Great Britain and the United States on the other....<sup>9</sup>

Historian Lyon Sharman corroborated this account, stating that Sun Yat-sen clearly had not anticipated a telegram, having packed his code book in a trunk that had been sent ahead:

Not able to read the cable he put it aside. When he reached Denver a fortnight later, he deciphered the message and found it to be a request for the remittance of money, and a statement that the Wuchang revolutionists were ready to rise. He decided to have a night’s sleep before answering and he took a long one—until eleven o’clock the next day. On his way to a restaurant for breakfast he

<sup>8</sup> “Rebels Proclaim China Republic; President Called From Denver; Old Manchu Dynasty Near End,” *Rocky Mountain News* (14 Oct 1911): 2. Note that Sun Yat-sen was also the founder of Gee Gong Jung Tong in 1896.

<sup>9</sup> Marie-Claude Bergère and Janet Lloyd, *Sun Yat-sen* (Stanford University Press, 1998) 207-208. Regarding the meaning of the term Lafayette in the context of Sun’s political evolution, see Damon 167.



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bought a morning paper and read the headlines: "Wuchang occupied by revolutionists." After the long series of ten miserable failures such news must have been exciting.<sup>10</sup>

The fundraising tour, meanwhile, raised more than \$140,000 in contemporary (1911) U.S. dollars by the end of 1911. Sun arrived back to China on December 25, 1911 and was elected provisional president of the Republic of China four days later, although he resigned on February 14, 1912 in favor of Yuan Shikai. A period of exile followed. Sun only returned to power in 1923, prior to his death on March 12, 1925. Sun Yat-sen remains known as the Father of the Nation, or the Father of the Republic of China, and he is widely depicted throughout Chinese popular and administrative culture.

A 1942 account details Sun Yat-sen's 1911 visit and the commemorative U.S. stamp issued in 1942:

A small, dark, bespectacled man stood on the stage of the old Chinese Theatre on Market Street [in Denver] and made an impassioned plea for funds to help free his countrymen from the Manchu dynasty. On that October day in 1911, the Chinese residents of Denver raised \$500 for Dr. Sun Yat Sen, their distinguished speaker. On October 14, the telegraph wires of the nation hummed with the news the Revolution had broken. A Republic was proclaimed! Half a million revolutionists marched through Pekin! Heads were rolling in the streets! And the American-born Chinese in the black suit and derby hat was slated to be the first President of the new Republic!

When news of the Revolution broke in the Saturday papers, the discovery that Dr. Sun Yat Sen had been in the city came as a complete surprise to most Denver citizens. The statesman-philosopher had come secretly on Tuesday and was gone twenty-four hours later.

Years later, because of the coincidence of the Revolution and Dr. Sun Yat Sen 's visit here, Denver was chosen as the point for initial sale of the special five-cent postage stamp issued July 7, 1942, to commemorate China's five-year resistance to Japanese aggression.

This was Denver's first "first day cover sale," and it was record breaking. James I. Bell, philatelic agent for the post office department in Washington, took charge and announced almost 400,000 stamps were disposed of to stamp collectors from all over the nation. A special canceling machine was set up in the Denver office to provide the first day cancellation. When the original supply of \$17,500 worth was sold out, another 100,000 stamps were flown here from Washington.

The first officially issued and canceled stamp was on a letter sent to Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek. The first sheet was sold to Dr. Chang Lok Chen, Chinese consul general from Chicago.

The five-cent stamp is blue, nearly an inch by one and one-half inches, carries oval portraits of

<sup>10</sup> Lyon Sharman, *Sun Yat-sen: His Life and Its Meaning—A Critical Biography* (Stanford University Press, 1968) 128.

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President Lincoln and Dr. Sun Yat Sen. Between the portraits is a contour map of China, on the lower edge of which is superimposed the Chinese national symbol, a design of the sun with triangular rays. Inside the sun are the dates, July 7, 1937, and July 7, 1942, and four Chinese characters meaning "fight the war and build the country." Under the portrait of Lincoln is the famous Gettysburg "of the people, by the people and for the people."<sup>11</sup>

Because of its association with Sun Yat-sen, the Brown Palace has ongoing cultural significance in China as well as to Chinese Americans.<sup>12</sup> Room 321 is now used for conferences purposes, rather than as lodgings, but, visitors internationally continue to request to see the original guest ledger showing his sign-in to the hotel. Hotel historian Debra Faulkner recounted to OAHF Koch Fellow intern Mary O'Neil that Chinese guests are often very emotional visiting the room and bear small gifts to present to the hotel: "One woman even burst into tears, and expressed how because of this man, her feet weren't bound."<sup>13</sup>

The historian Allen Damon summarized Sun's fundamental significance to the Chinese revolution as follows:

...Sun played an indispensable role in this drama. Ideologically, he contributed the Three People's Principles and was the first to express the notion of a republic for China. It was his leadership and organization that coalesced the secret societies and other small revolutionary groups into the united front of the T'ung-meng-hui. And he personally spearheaded the revolutionary financing effort that funded most of the propaganda and armed revolts against the dynasty. Sun, in essence, injected the catalyst into the movement that eventually brought down the dynasty.<sup>14</sup>

### **Integrity**

Room 321 originally had two bedrooms and a parlor at the time of Sun Yat-sen's stay. However, it was renamed the Coronet Room during World War II, serving as an Officers' Club.<sup>15</sup> The Coronet Room

<sup>11</sup> Hazel C. Arnold, "Sun Yat Sen in Denver," *Colorado Magazine* 19.5 (1942): 197-198. Of note, in 1961 another commemorative stamp was issued with Sun Yat-sen featured, that of the Anniversary Republic of China 4-cent stamp. See Cheryl R. Ganz, "Sun Yat-sen on U.S. Postage Stamps," Smithsonian National Postal Museum, <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/collections/object-spotlight/sun-yat-sen.html> (2014, accessed 3 Jul 2017). Note Sun was not American born, but acquired papers attesting a Hawaiian birth for the purposes of facilitating travel to the United States and internationally for fundraising purposes.

<sup>12</sup> Bruce Finley, "Envoy: Taiwan set to fight," *The Denver Post* (14 Aug 1999). This significance was further signaled to the staff at History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation via the Heritage Diversity Initiative mapping project.

<sup>13</sup> Personal communication Debra Faulkner, hotel historian, to Mary O'Neil, July 2017.

<sup>14</sup> Damon 182.

<sup>15</sup> Personal communication Debra Faulkner, hotel historian, to Mary O'Neil, July 2017.

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remains available as a meeting space at the hotel.<sup>16</sup> The Brown Palace itself is well-preserved and maintains a high degree of integrity of feeling, setting, association, materials, workmanship, location, and design. In 1996, the hotel received a \$5000 Colorado State Historical Fund grant for façade and window restoration.

Additional documentation submitted by Astrid Liverman, Ph.D., National and State Register Coordinator, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado.

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<sup>16</sup> "The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa: Legendary Meeting Rooms in Denver," <https://www.brownpalace.com/meetings/meetingspaces> (accessed 8 Aug 2017).

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Oct 2013).

“Seize Chinese Empire Declare Republic, Rebel Move.” *Rocky Mountain News* (13 Oct 1911): 3.

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Figures

**Future Ruler of China Pays Denver a Visit**  
**Dynasty Offers \$100,000 for Dr. Sen's Head**

**說演聽請**  
 演 講 主 題  
 時 間 晚 間 七 點  
 地 點 金 山 大 學 禮 堂  
 演 講 者 孫 君 逸 仙  
 演 講 題 目 中 國 之 現 狀 與 未 來  
 演 講 時 間 晚 間 七 點  
 演 講 地 點 金 山 大 學 禮 堂

**DR. SUN YAT SEN,**  
 Who will become the first president of China if rebels win.

**Famous Revolutionary Leader Appeals to Compatriots Here for Funds.**  
 Sun Yat Sen, revolutionary leader of the Chinese empire and the man upon whom shoulders the responsibility of president of the proposed new republic, will deliver, should the insurrection be successful, left Denver Wednesday night after a twenty-four hour visit in the city. He is touring the United States in behalf of the revolution. He is sometimes known as Dr. Sun Sun, but Sun Yat Sen is his correct name.  
 His stay in Denver was brief though momentous. During the twenty-four hours which he spent here he was hailed by the Cio Dong Jung tong, the secret society which he represents, as not only the liberator of his people, but the future president of the Chinese republic.  
 The news that the San Francisco members of the society, which is promoting the revolution, had selected Dr. Sun Sun as president of the future republic was not made known generally in Denver until yesterday, though some of the members of the organization here were already aware of the fact.  
 Dr. Sun Sun arrived in Denver Tuesday.

**Leaves After Receiving Hearty Support From Sympathizers of Local Colony.**  
 A small black mustache and his hair is closely clipped. In complexion he is rather darker than the ordinary Chinaman. His cheek bones are more pronounced than most of his countrymen. He dresses in immaculate attire. He wears a derby hat. He is black and wears a derby hat. He might, on account of his slender build and the fact that he wears no queue, be mistaken for a Japanese. He speaks English as fluently as an American and his choice of English indicates that he had an unusual schooling.

**GROCERY CLERK DISAPPEARS; MAY BE ASTHMA VICTIM**  
 EDWARD MAWHINNEY LEFT HOME FOR WORK YESTERDAY NOON; NEVER REACHED STORE.  
 Search is being made for Edward M. Mawhinney, aged 21, 2029 Washington avenue, a sufferer from asthma, whose disappearance yesterday is being sought.

**金山 致公總堂**

Figure 1. Source: *Rocky Mountain News* (13 Oct 1911): 3.

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**The Brown Palace Hotel,**  
O. H. MORSE, Manager.  
DENVER.

All Money, Jewels, Coins, Valises and other Valuables must be left in the office, and checks received for them, otherwise the Company will not be responsible for any loss.

| NAME                  | RESIDENCE       | TIME | ROOMS  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------|--------|
| S. Kramer             | N. Y.           | 2    | 444 ✓  |
| Miss Maria Post       | Rockets N.Y.    | "    | 625 ✓  |
| W. H. Boyd            | ✓ Sagunto Colo  | "    | 541 ✓  |
| John Perkins          | ✓ Quebec        | "    | 333 ✓  |
| J. H. Lunnery         | ✓ Do            | "    | 333 ✓  |
| Geo. J. Burns         | ✓ Ayer. Mass    | "    | 538 ✓  |
| W. W. Ely             | ✓ Chicago       | "    | 231 ✓  |
| A. Howes              | ✓ Cleveland O.  | "    | 319 ✓  |
| Chas. Coughlin        | ✓ " "           | "    | 319 ✓  |
| John S. Warren        | ✓ New York      | "    | 326 ✓  |
| Catherine M. Campbell | Leicester Mass  | "    | 1203 ✓ |
| C. F. Jobe            | ✓ St. Louis     | "    | 411 ✓  |
| W. P. Dunn            | ✓ San Francisco | "    | 324 ✓  |
| W. S. Wong            | ✓               | "    | 323 ✓  |

Figure 2. Hotel register from October 10, 1911, showing signatures of Sun Yat-sen and W.S. Wong as the last entries for the day. Source: Debra Faulkner, Brown Palace Hotel.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Brown Palace Hotel

City or Vicinity: Denver

County: Denver

State: Colorado

Photographer: Astrid Liverman

Date Photographed: September 19, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 001 Brown Palace Hotel southeast side, camera facing northwest
- 002 Brown Palace Hotel southeast and southwest sides, camera facing north

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this Additional Documentation is:

entered in the National Register

  
Signature of the Keeper

1-16-18  
Date of Action



PEDESTRIAN CROSSING





National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

H34-HR

MAY 5 - 1970

Hon. Byron Giles Rogers  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rogers:

We are pleased to inform you that the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colorado, has been nominated by the officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Colorado and has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Gordon Llewellyn Allott and Peter H. Dominick have also been provided with this information. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosure

Entered in the National Register APR 28 1970

cc:

Mr. Stephen H. Hart, President, State Historical Society, Colorado State Museum, E. 14th Avenue and Sherman Street, Denver, Colorado 80203

Director, Midwest Region

Mr. Charles Steen, Southwest Regional Office

LL-Mr. Melvin

T-Mr. Butterfield

HR

RGamble:nm

4/17/70

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

an  
Denver Co, Corp  
Gamble  
APR 28 1970  
Columby 4-28  
Eaton 5/4/70  
Melvin 5-4

<sup>an</sup>  
Brown Palace Hotel  
Denver Co., Colo  
Dombale  
4/25/70  
Cawley 4-25  
Eaton 5/4/70  
Mullen 5-4

H34-HR

MAY 5 - 1970

Hon. Gordon Llewellyn Allott  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Allott:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Colorado and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator Peter H. Dornick and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register

APR 28 1970

cc:

Mr. Stephen H. Hart, President, State Historical Society, Colorado State Museum, E. 14th Avenue and Sherman Street, Denver, Colorado 80203

Duplicate letter sent to:  
Hon. Peter H. Dominick  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

4/17/70

RGamble:mm

HR

cc: Director, Midwest Region  
Mr. Charles Steen, Southwest Regional Office

LL-Mr. Melvin  
T-Mr. Butterfield

*Bank  
4/28/70*

H34-ER

Properties added to the National Register of Historical Places

COLORADO

- Brown Palace Hotel - Denver, Colorado
- Hotel de Paris - Georgetown, Colorado

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/1/2017      Date of Pending List: 1/2/2018      Date of 16th Day: 1/17/2018      Date of 45th Day: 1/16/2018      Date of Weekly List: 1/19/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      1/16/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



# HISTORY *Colorado*



December 1, 2017

Mr. J. Paul Loether  
Keeper and Chief, NR and NHL Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor (MS 2280)  
Washington, D.C. 20005-5905

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to submit for your review the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination amendment (additional documentation) for the Brown Palace Hotel (5DV.110) in Denver County, Colorado.

The Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the nomination amendment at its meeting on September 15, 2017. The board voted unanimously to recommend to the State Historic Preservation Officer that the amendment met the criteria for listing in the National Register.

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination amendment for the Brown Palace Hotel to the National Register of Historic Places.

We look forward to the formal listing of this property. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 303-866-4683 or by email at [erika.warzel@state.co.us](mailto:erika.warzel@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

Erika Warzel  
National and State Register Historian  
(303) 866-4683  
[erika.warzel@state.co.us](mailto:erika.warzel@state.co.us)

Enclosures

CDs (2)  
Signature Page