

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received **JUL 26 1983**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic General Electric Building

and/or common The G. E. Building

**2. Location**

street & number 1441 <sup>18th St.</sup> ~~Eighteenth Street~~ n/a not for publication

city, town Denver n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Denver code 031

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name The 18th & Blake Street Partnership, Attn: Walter Garnsey

street & number 1441 Eighteenth Street, Suite 300

city, town Denver n/a vicinity of state Colorado

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City & County Annex #1

street & number 1445 Cleveland Place

city, town Denver state Colorado

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Ongoing  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Colorado Preservation Office

city, town Denver state Colorado

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The G. E. Building is situated in downtown Denver on the corner of 18th and Blake streets. The building is of brick construction standing three stories high. The unique interior features are: 1) a tin-pressed ceiling on the first level with wooden support; and 2) steel, Corinthian support columns have been refurbished and maintained.

The ground level features large glazed (storefront) openings between decorative pressed metal columns and beams. Over the years a number of alterations had been made to the glazing pattern of these facades. With the restoration of the building the original pattern of glazing was recaptured and the entry door returned to its original location at the center of the 18th Street facade. The pressed metal surrounds for the columns and beams were restored, creating a very strong base for the structure.

In order to be able to use the basement of the building, a continuous window well was created along 18th Street. In addition, an existing loading dock along Blake Street was reconstructed to create a light well for the basement. A traditional metal rail has been constructed along the top of the light well wall and at the reconstructed loading dock.

The 'middle section' of the street facades, floors two and three, are composed of brick with single hung window openings. The windows stack vertically within brick pilasters, a second color of brick provides the spandrel between the windows and each vertical element is capped with a brick arch. The use of limestone sill and detail pieces within each window composition is both playful and subtle.

The two facades are capped with a deep pressed metal fascia, or cornice. All brick, metal and stone has been restored. The two street facades have regained their elegance and are very reminiscent of the Chicago School of commercial architecture, on a smaller scale.

On the alley side the vernacular of the street facades turns and continues back about ten feet. An exterior metal, fire stair has been eliminated and the stucco has been replaced and repaired on the remainder of the alley side.

The fourth facade of the building is a common wall with adjacent structure and is not, therefore, visible.

In 1982, both the interior and the exterior of the building were completely rehabilitated for use as offices. The brick was cleaned and repointed. On the interior, the original cast iron columns which supported the high volume first floor space and mezzanine have been incorporated into the design and are visible throughout these levels. Three bays of tin ceiling have been recreated above the building lobby, recapturing the spirit of the first floor ceiling.

# 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 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 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** c. 1906 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The General Electric Building is a prime architectural example of commercial structures built for use as warehouses in the lower downtown area of Denver at the turn-of-the-century. This section has historically been the warehouse district of Denver, a character it still retains. The General Electric Building is distinctive within its period of construction for its design and interesting use of ornamentation, including panels between the second and third floors of contrasting brick with triangular shapes set in the center; circular "eyes" placed in several of the arches above the third floor windows; and a punched metal cornice. Also significant is the retention of the original pier supports separating the bays on the first floor.

The original use of the building was as a site for the processing of metals. The historic significance of the building, in this regard, is more readily understood in this connection, as smelting and refining was the primary industry of the Denver area at the turn of the century.<sup>1</sup> For a majority of its existence, the General Electric Company commercially served Denver and Colorado by using the building to warehouse and distribute electrical supplies.

The architectural significance of the General Electrical Building arises from its sturdy, brick construction, mixed with ornate details, such as the early Art Deco details appearing on the building's facade. Additionally, the dock-like structure constructed in the place of the original loading dock continues the memory of the original commercial demands of the lower-downtown area in 1906, the year of Carry Nation's Denver crusade.<sup>2</sup> The building is situated within three blocks of Union Station, within five blocks from historic Larimer Square; within six blocks distance from the original site of the U.S. Post Office; and within two blocks of the original sites of such infamous businesses as Bell Bernard's brothel on Market Street.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Thomas J. Noel, Denver: Rocky Mountain Gold, (Continental Heritage Press, Inc., 1980), p. 91

<sup>2</sup>George U. Hubbard, Carry Nation and Her Denver Crusade of 1906. (Outwest Country Printers, Inc., 1972)

<sup>3</sup>Thomas J. Noel, p. 105.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Hubbard, George U. Carry Nation and Her Denver Crusade of 1906. (Outwest Country Printers, Incorporated, 1972.)

Noel, Thomas J. Denver: Rocky Mountain Gold. Continental Heritage Press, 1980.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 6,250 sq. ft. / .14 acre

Quadrangle name Commerce City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 15 & 16, Block 39, East Denver, City & County of Denver, State of Colorado

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allan Friedman; Russell Seacat, Architect/Edited by Gloria Mills

organization date February, 1983

street & number 1770 Blake Street telephone 832-6242

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

*Barbara Sudler*

title State Historic Preservation Officer (Acting)

date 7/21/83

For NPS use only

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

*for Melvyn Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

8/25/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration