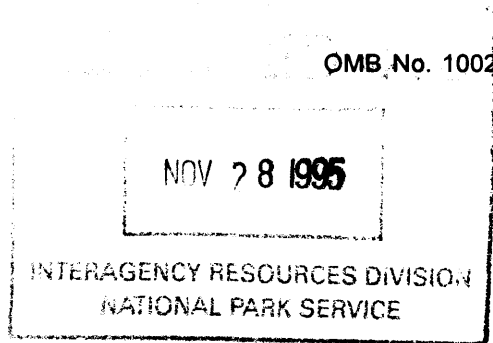


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Vanatta Apartments

other names/site number 5MF3875

2. Location

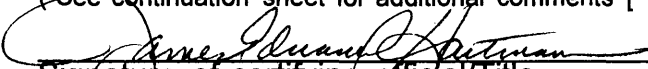
street & number 660 Yampa Avenue [N/A] not for publication

city or town Craig [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Moffat code 081 zip code 81625

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

State Historic Preservation Officer

November 22, 1995
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].
- determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [].
- determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- removed from the
National Register
- other, explain
See continuation sheet [].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

Entered in the
National Register
1.11.96

Vanatta Apartments
Name of Property

Moffat County
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD

roof METAL
other METAL
WOOD

Narrative Description

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

Vanatta Apartments
Name of Property

Moffat County, CO
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 Bibliographic 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)
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Periods of Significance
1924

Significant Dates
N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

Vanatta Apartments
Name of Property

Moffat County, CO
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. Zone	13	284220	Easting	4488065	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 Linda Lockhart/owner
organization N/A date December 13, 1994
street & number P. O. Box 666 telephone (303) 824-5057
city or town Craig state CO zip code 81626

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 Linda Lockhart
street & number PO Box 666 telephone 303-824-5057
city or town Craig state Colorado zip code 81626

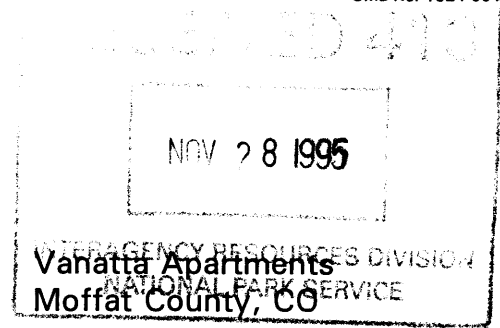
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



DESCRIPTION

The Vanatta Apartments building is a large rectangular plan, front-gabled, two-story, wood-framed structure located on Yampa Avenue in Craig, Colorado. The building fronts east on a fifty foot wide lot. The elm trees planted sixty years ago have now grown quite large. The designer/builder of the 1924 building is unknown, but the local newspaper of the period announced that the materials were furnished by the local Craig Lumber Company. In addition to the apartment building, a small two-car garage also occupies the rear (northwest) portion of the property. The garage can be reached from the alley.

The 44' x 30' apartment building sits on a full poured concrete basement. The entire building is clad with wood lap siding. A standing seam metal roof with exposed rafter ends covers the building. A small brick chimney with a metal flue rises through the roof on the south elevation. Three wood steps on the front (east) elevation lead to the central vestibule entrance which contains a fifteen-light wood door flanked by two ten-light fixed windows. These, like all the other windows in the building, are wood framed and original. Each side of the vestibule contains a tripartite ten-light window. Lap siding covers the area below the windows while a standing seam metal roof covers the short gable. The remainder of the east elevation consists of lap siding pierced by evenly spaced sets of fifteen-light french doors on both the first and second-story. A band of wood molding forms a secondary cornice between the two stories just below the second-story doorsills. A fixed, six-light window occupies a central position just below the gable peak. Five knee braces support the roof eave. A small wood porch projects from the base of the first-story french doors on the north side of the east elevation.

The north elevation contains a series of hopper windows along the concrete foundation. The first-story contains two sets of paired six-over-one windows on the east half of the elevation and two smaller six-over-ones on the west half. The first and second-stories are divided by a continuation of the molding found on the front. The second-story contains one pair of six-over-one windows, two narrow, vertical single-lights and one small six-over-one. The south elevation is a mirror image of the north.

The west elevation is dominated by an enclosed, two-story, gabled-roof stairwell. An offset wood panel door with transom provides access and is flanked by a small three-over-one window. A six-over-one window provides light to the stairwell on the second-story. A three-over-one window illuminates a shed-roofed, first story stairwell extension. The remainder of the rear (west) elevation is punctuated by a series of six-over-one windows. Five knee braces support the roof eave.

The interior layout contains four apartments, with individual kitchens and bathrooms. Although the first floor apartments have housed various businesses over the years, the original structure remains intact.

Prior to a recent, though incomplete, exterior painting, decorative wrought iron grills covered the lower portions of all the french doors. These were removed and have not as yet been reinstalled.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Vanatta Apartments
Moffat County, CO

The front vestibule was originally an open porch entry. The date of its enclosure is not known. These appear to be the only alterations to the building.

The two-car garage is a 20' x 14' rectangular plan, one-story, wood-framed and drop sided building with an end gable, exposed rafter ends, and corrugated metal roofing. Vehicular access is provided on the west elevation by a series of folding, wood doors with five-lights each in a three-over-two pattern. A half-light three-panel door with transom provides pedestrian entry on the east elevation. A four-over-one window shares the east elevation. No alterations appear to have been made to the garage. The garage was constructed of approximately the same time as the apartment building. The garage is considered to be a contributing building.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Vanatta Apartments
Moffat County, CO

Statement of Significance

The Vanatta Apartments are eligible for the National Register under criterion A for their association with the pattern of community planning and development which occurred in 1924 when the Craig area experienced a spurt of economic and population growth resulting from the local discovery of oil. The Vanatta Apartments were the first modern apartments to be built in town as a response to the rapid influx of new oil-related residents and their need for affordable housing.

The population of Craig stood at less than 400 in 1910. The agricultural based economy depended upon cattle and sheep raising. The arrival of the Denver and Salt Lake Railway in 1913 gave the economy a positive thrust by providing easier market access for the region's products. Craig became a regional transportation and supply center. By 1920 the town's population reached 1,300, although in subsequent years it began to level off and even decline. The discovery of oil deposits south of Craig brought new economic vitality to the community. Significant oil deposits were discovered in 1924 when the Texas Company (now Texaco) made a major find in the Hamilton dome. Additional finds occurred in the Iles Grove area south of Craig. The oil industry beat a path to Craig in hopes of profiting from the new petroleum opportunities. The 1925 *Colorado Business Directory* lists eleven oil-related companies doing business in Craig. The speculation boom spurred population growth as both individuals and families arrived to work the oil rigs, search for more strikes, and service the industry.

As the nearest community of any size and with its important rail link, Craig became the focal point of this rapid population increase. Affordable lodging was needed to house those moving into the town. Prior to 1924, apartment houses were not found in Craig. Hotels and boarding houses provided the only form of multi-unit housing.

Casper, Wyoming, lawyer Edward G. Vanatta likely saw the expanding economic activity in Craig as an opportunity and he relocated his practice to the growing community in 1924. At the same time, he constructed the Vanatta Apartments, both to provide for his own lodging and as a means to supplement the income derived from his law practice.

Edward Vanatta began his career as an attorney in 1889 at his father's office in Plattsmouth, Nebraska. He established his own office in Cripple Creek, Colorado, in 1892. It was during the gold rush years in Teller County that he earned his reputation as a capable legal advisor. He practiced law in Cripple Creek until approximately 1920 when he moved his practice to Casper, Wyoming. His career is more remarkable in light of his unfortunate accident as a young man.

At age nineteen he was pursuing a trade as foreman in a printing shop. Some trouble developed with the machinery he was working with, his hand got caught in a press, and it was severed just above the wrist. Undeterred by his misfortune, he entered business college and took courses in shorthand and bookkeeping. He rapidly developed a unique ability for one handed typewriter operation. At one time he entered a contest for two-handed men and won. He was awarded a machine with a double keyboard.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

Vanatta Apartments
Moffat County, CO

Throughout his career he made out all his own briefs and did his own stenography work with only one hand.

The 1924 Vanatta Apartment house was the first modern apartment building to be built in Craig. For over twenty-five years the building served not only as home for a changing group of Craig citizens, it also functioned as the residence of one of Craig's prominent citizens and attorneys. Vanatta served as Craig city attorney and was for a number of years president of the Craig Chamber of Commerce. He resided in the apartment building until his death in 1952.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9/10 Page 5

Vanatta Apartments
Moffat County, CO

Bibliography

Books

Bollinger, Edward T., and Bauer, Frederick, *The Moffat Road*, (Chicago: Swallow Press, 1962).

City Directory of Cripple Creek, (Denver: Gazetteer Publishing Co.) 1897; 1905; 1915.

Colorado Business Directory, (Denver: Gazetteer Publishing Co.) 1910; 1918; 1919; 1925.

Newspapers

The Craig Empire, June 4, 1924.

August 20, 1924.

Fall, 1924.

September 13, 1939.

April 16, 1952.

Rocky Mountain News, September 21, 1924.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 20, lots 9&10, Craig original townsite.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the apartment.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 6

Vanatta Apartments
Moffat County, CO

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photographs numbers 1-10:

Name of Property: Vanatta Apartments
Location: Craig, Moffat County, Colo.
Photographer: Linda Lockhart
Date of Photographs: December, 1994
Negatives: Linda Lockhart

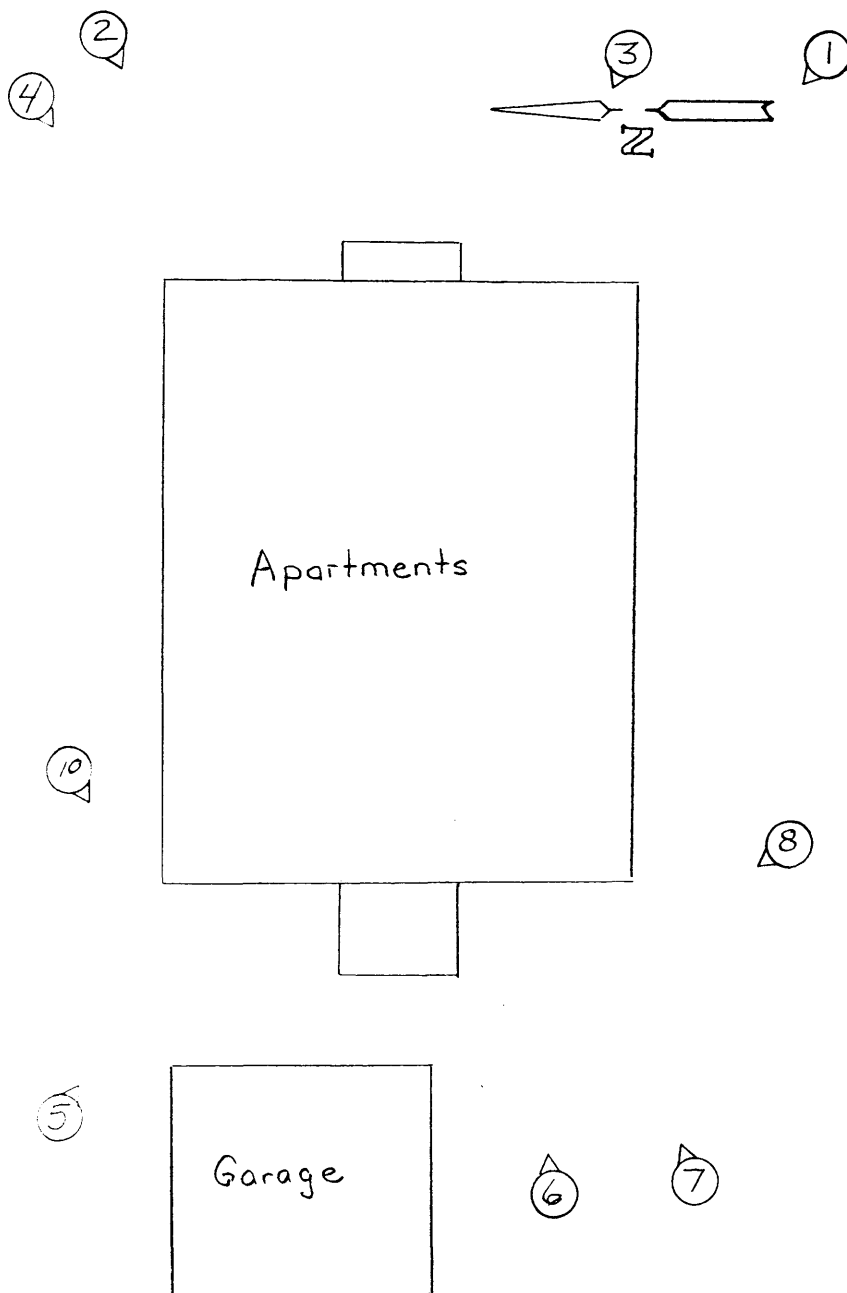
<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	East and south elevations; view to the northwest.
2	East elevation; view to the southwest.
3	East elevation detail; view to the west.
4	East and north elevation detail; view to the southwest.
5	West elevation detail; view to the southeast.
6	West elevation; view to the east.
7	West elevation; view to the east.
8	Garage, east elevation; view to the northwest.
9	Garage, west elevation detail; view to the east.
10	Garage, east and north elevations; view to the southwest.


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 7

Vanatta Apartments
Moffat County, CO



 Photograph location,
view, and number

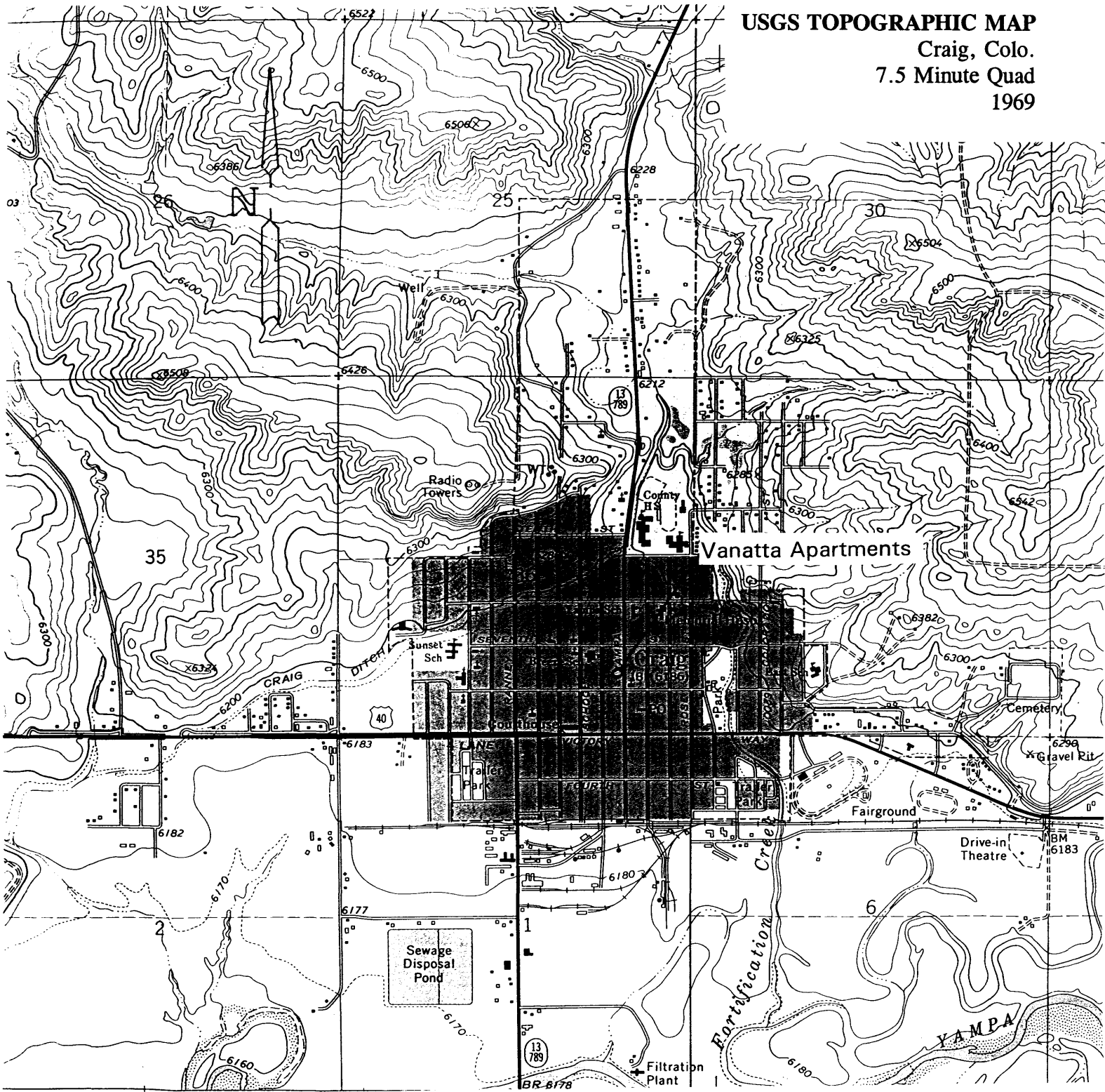
 9

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 8

Vanatta Apartments
Moffat County, CO



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Craig, Colo.
7.5 Minute Quad
1969