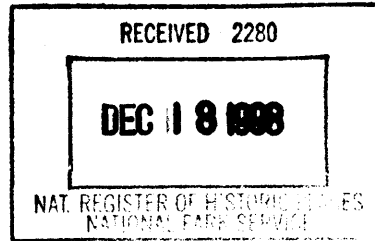


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1599

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 location or by entering the information requested. If any 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 WINDSOR TOWN HALL

other names / site number OLD TOWN HALL; WINDSOR-SEVERANCE HISTORICAL MUSEUM; SWL2050

#### 2. Location

street & number 116 5TH ST. N/A not for publication

city or town WINDSOR N/A vicinity

state COLORADO code CO county WELD code 123 zip code 80550

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet.)

*Deborah C. Chubb*  
Signature of certifying official

December 3, 1998  
Date

State Historic Preservation Office, 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.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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):  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Edson H. Boal*  
Signature of the Keeper

1.15.99  
Date of Action

WINDSOR TOWN HALL  
Name of Property

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO  
County and State

5. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b> (Check as many as apply) <input type="checkbox"/> private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local <input type="checkbox"/> public-State <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<b>Category of Property</b> (Check only one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> (Do not include previously listed resources in the count) <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Contributing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Noncontributing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: right;">buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> </tr> </table>	Contributing	Noncontributing		1	0	buildings			sites			structures			objects	1	0	Total
Contributing	Noncontributing																			
1	0	buildings																		
		sites																		
		structures																		
		objects																		
1	0	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  
N/A

6. Function or Use

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions) GOVERNMENT / city hall GOVERNMENT / correctional facility GOVERNMENT / fire station	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions) RECREATION & CULTURE / museum COMMERCE / organizational
--	--

7. Description

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS / Classical Revival	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions) foundation SANDSTONE walls BRICK roof ASPHALT other WOOD
---	---

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

WINDSOR TOWN HALL  
Name of Property

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more locations 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 locations 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 a 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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS / GOVERNMENT  
COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1909 - 1948

**Significant Dates**

1909

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

FELMLEE, OSCAR R.

FELMLEE, A. M.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Name of repository:**

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY  
WINDSOR HISTORY MUSEUM

WINDSOR TOWN HALL  
Name of Property

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>13</u>	<u>508160</u>	<u>4480900</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
						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 RON SLADEK, PRESIDENT

organization TATANKA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATES, INC. date 20 AUGUST 1998

street & number P.O. BOX 1909 telephone 970 / 229-9705

city or town FORT COLLINS state CO zip code 80522

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 WINDSOR-SEVERANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

street and number 116 5TH ST. telephone 970 / 686-7476

city or town WINDSOR state CO zip code 80550

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.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

Property WINDSOR TOWN HALL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY**

The 1909 Windsor Town Hall (Old Town Hall) occupies a .12-acre site in Windsor, a small agricultural town between the larger cities of Fort Collins and Greeley in Weld County, Colorado. Located on the southwest corner of 5th St. and Ash St. in the downtown commercial district, the property is occupied by a two-story, 4800 square foot, brick commercial building originally erected to serve as the town hall. The property is surrounded by an alleyway and Ash St. to the north, 5th St. and downtown commercial buildings to the east, and more downtown commercial buildings to the west and south. In general, the Windsor Town Hall is in good condition and exhibits an excellent degree of historic integrity through its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building currently houses the Windsor-Severance Historical Society and Museum, and the office of the Windsor Chamber of Commerce.

Essentially a two-part, flat-roofed commercial structure with a rectangular plan oriented on an east-west axis, the Windsor Town Hall measures 60' from east to west and 40' from north to south. Constructed above a sandstone foundation (not visible above grade), the facade is composed of light tan pressed brick laid in a running bond pattern, while the darker brick side walls are covered with light-colored stucco. The interior of the Windsor Town Hall contains some of the original finishes. Most notable is the richly decorated pressed tin ceiling in the northeast area of the first floor, a space now occupied by the Chamber of Commerce. Pressed tin ceilings are likely to be present in other areas of the building, but have been covered by dropped ceilings. Original yellow pine flooring and trimwork are also found throughout the structure, and the basement contains an intact 1913 boiler. Exterior areas of the property are limited to narrow dirt driveway/parking areas to the west and south of the structure, which is built up against the north and east property lines on this small downtown lot.

**EAST (PRIMARY) ELEVATION**

The east elevation of the Windsor Town Hall faces onto 5th St. and contains two recessed front entrances, located near the northeast and southeast corners of the building and accessed from the sidewalk via two concrete steps with wrought iron handrails. The northern doorway enters the main floor of the building and is finished with a modern single-light metal frame door with wood surrounds, a boarded transom, and a sandstone floor. The southern doorway enters the stairwell to the second floor and is finished with a solid wood door, wood surrounds, a transom, and a sandstone floor.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 7 Page 2

Property WINDSOR TOWN HALL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

This primary facade also exhibits brickwork and Classical Revival ornamentation original to the building. Ornamentation on the first floor includes a rock-faced coursed sandstone base, rock-faced sandstone sills, and two brick pilasters with sandstone bases and thin carved stone capitals. The pilasters support a secondary tin cornice, decorated with an egg-and-dart band over a bead-and-reel band, between the first and second floors. Above this cornice, the second floor is ornamented with two columns with simple bases, smooth shafts and Corinthian capitals. Flanking these columns and the three narrow central recessed windows with sandstone sills are two brick pilasters with brick bases and thin carved-stone capitals supporting another secondary tin cornice identical to the one found above the first floor. Above the second story is a primary wood cornice ornamented with an egg-and-dart band, the words "City Hall," a dentil band, a central pediment containing the date "1909" surrounded by simple scrollwork, and a brick parapet with a sandstone cap. A circular metal U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey benchmark elevation marker is also found at the center of the first floor wall, set into the brickwork and dated 1934.

Two basement window spaces formerly located on this elevation have been filled with light tan brick. First floor windows include one large set of three fixed windows with a wood frame, sandstone lug sill, and a boarded transom. A set of a single fixed window with flanking casements is found in the former fire department garage door space, which has been filled below the window with tan brick. This window features a brick rowlock slip sill and a small I-beam lintel ornamented with four metal patera. The second floor contains five original 1/1 double-hung sash windows (two wide and three narrow) set in wood frames and surrounds, with sandstone lug sills, metal storms, and a small wood pediment lintel over the outer two windows.

### WEST (REAR) ELEVATION

The west elevation of the Windsor Town Hall overlooks a dirt parking area and adjacent commercial structures. Two entrances are present on this elevation, one on the first-floor level and the other at the top of an old metal staircase rising from the ground to the second floor. The first floor door is solid and contains one narrow light. The second floor entrance contains an old wood panel door with a single boarded light, wood frame and surrounds, and a two-light transom. Windows are found only on the first floor, and include two small spaces that have been filled with stucco (the sandstone lug sills can still be seen), and one original 1/1 double-hung sash window with a wood frame and surrounds and a metal storm. The old first floor windows and second floor doorway all appear to have brick segmental arch lintels under the stucco. The west elevation wall is also believed to be constructed of brickwork that is darker than that used on the front of the building.

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Property WINDSOR TOWN HALL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

**NORTH (SIDE) ELEVATION**

The north elevation overlooks an alley and Ash St. The single entrance contains an old single-light over three-panel wood door, with a sandstone floor, transom, and old wood screen. Basement windows are limited to two original three-light awnings with metal storms. The first floor contains three 1/1 double-hung sash windows and one two-light fixed window with wood frames and surrounds, sandstone lug sills, and metal storms, as well as a set of modern windows toward the rear with a single-light fixed flanked by sliding windows in a metal frame. Windows on the second floor include four 1/1 double-hung sash windows with wood frames and surrounds, sandstone lug sills, and metal storms. An metal pipe projects over the alley from the wall toward the front of the building between the first and second floors. This water pipe was used to fill the fire truck stationed in the Windsor Town Hall during its early decades, as well as water trucks brought by area farmers to fill their cisterns.

**SOUTH (SIDE) ELEVATION**

The south elevation overlooks an adjacent dirt parking lot. One entrance is present on this elevation, featuring an old wood door with a boarded light and wood surrounds. This door is difficult to see from the exterior because it is covered by a thick growth of foliage. Windows on the first floor include two original 1/1 double-hung sash windows with wood frames and surrounds, stone lug sills, and metal storms. The second floor has four original 1/1 double-hung sash windows with wood frames and surrounds, stone lug sills, and metal screens.

**ALTERATIONS TO THE WINDSOR TOWN HALL**

Alterations to the facade are limited to replacement of the fire truck door with brickwork and a window (the original surrounds and lintel are still in place), replacement of the original front window with the one currently present (the original window space is intact), closure of the two basement windows with brick, and replacement of the original front doors with those currently found there (the original door spaces have not otherwise been altered). Alterations to the side and rear elevations are limited to the application of stucco over the original brickwork, closure of the two small rear windows with stucco, and the placement of a modern window near the northwest corner of the building along the alley. The timing of these alterations is not known, however they appear to date from the 1970s. None of these changes have seriously diminished the historic integrity of the building, and restoration plans include reversal of the described alterations to return the building to its 1909 appearance (based upon very early photos).

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Property WINDSOR TOWN HALL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Windsor Town Hall is significant under Criterion A in the areas of politics and government, as well as community planning and development. Constructed in 1909, the building is an excellent example of an early 20th-century local government administrative center. Designed to accommodate a variety of city and organizational functions, the Windsor Town Hall housed not only the town's governing board and administrative offices, but also the police station, fire station, city jail, and public meeting rooms. Municipal offices remained in this building for decades, finally vacating the structure for new quarters in the mid-1980s. Use of the structure for multiple purposes is also representative of a pattern of clustering governmental services into a single municipal facility, a practice common to small Colorado towns during the late 1800s and early 1900s, when limited public funds required efficient use of available resources.

The Windsor Town Hall is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. The two-story, pressed brick, Classical Revival structure exhibits architectural ornamentation on its primary elevation that includes pilasters with thin carved stone capitals, patera, columns with Corinthian capitals, pediment lintels, rock-faced sandstone sills, and a prominent cornice featuring a dentil band and large central pediment. Constructed on a scale appropriate for a small agricultural community, the Windsor Town Hall was ornamented with classical details common to public buildings of the period. Although a small number of town halls dating from the late 1800s and early 1900s have been surveyed on the northeastern plains of Colorado (those in Sterling and Fort Morgan are good examples), few still exhibit the Windsor Town Hall's intact facade ornamentation. This building is an excellent representative example of the Classical Revival style applied to a modest town hall building in a small Colorado plains region agricultural community.

The Windsor Town Hall's period of significance begins in 1909 when the structure was erected, and ends in 1948 at the fifty year mark as it continued to be occupied by the same city offices and served as the center of local government into the post-World War II era.



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Property WINDSOR TOWN HALL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

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**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Completed in 1909, the Windsor Town Hall served for decades as the center of local government in this small Colorado agricultural community. The building's origin reflects the evolution of Windsor from an emerging late-1800s pioneer farming village to a 20th-century agricultural town that increasingly served as the commercial and administrative center of the surrounding farming economy. With a history that serves as a testimonial to its integral place in the community, the building is important as a versatile structure that has served the public well and is representative of the democratic process of town government and the planning and development of infrastructure on the local level. This modest building, and the activities that it contained over the decades, contributed significantly to the political and social well-being of the town of Windsor, and enhanced its growth and stability as an agricultural community in rural Weld County. The structure is a notable landmark that attests to the fundamental historic importance of early 20th-century town-building both to the community of Windsor and to the state of Colorado. Today the Windsor Town Hall appropriately houses the area's history museum and stands as a prominent landmark, evocative of Windsor's modest agricultural roots and early municipal history.

The town of Windsor was platted in 1882 in the Cache la Poudre valley as the Greeley, Salt Lake and Pacific Railway was being constructed from Greeley westward toward Fort Collins. Along with a depot, commercial buildings and homes were erected and the community grew quickly into a supply and shipping center for a thriving agricultural region largely populated by German immigrants from Russia. With Windsor's importance established, the town was incorporated in April of 1890, and for the following nineteen years the town board met to discuss and vote on local government affairs at various locations in the growing community. During this time, the business of the town board also became more complex as the needs of the community multiplied. Growth was steady through the turn of the century, however the 1903 construction of a large Great Western Sugar Co. factory in Windsor, more rapid expansion of the local population, and efforts to modernize the town's infrastructure placed an increasingly challenging administrative burden upon local government services.

Around 1905, with Windsor's population expanding to just under 2000 citizens, the town government divided into departments overseen by six committees, one of which was directed to investigate the possibility of constructing a sorely needed town hall. Movement on this issue was exceedingly slow until December 1908, when \$100 was placed on an option for a 50' x 75' lot (with an asking price of \$1750) at the corner of 5th St. and Ash St., one block north of the town's main commercial thoroughfare. On 8 February 1909, the town board passed Ordinance No. 50, calling for a public vote on a bond issue to purchase the property and fund the erection of a town hall building to cost no more than \$7,500.

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Property WINDSOR TOWN HALL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

Public opinion clearly favored the construction of the town's first government building, a feature so glaringly absent that the *Windsor Poudre Valley* (27 March 1909) declared that "the lack of a creditable municipal building is about the only particular in which Windsor falls behind other progressive towns." The spring election, held on 6 April 1909, saw 318 out of 390 registered voters casting their ballots. Mayor C.A. Yancey (owner of the local livery) felt so strongly about the town hall issue that he parked a large mule outside the polling place, dressed in a blanket covered with painted slogans encouraging voters to support the project. The town hall bond issue was carried by a margin of almost four to one. Although the question of financing was supposedly resolved, the town board soon reached a stalemate on final approval of the site. Unwilling to risk his political future on this issue by deciding the tie, Mayor Yancey called a public meeting in mid-April to allow the citizens of Windsor to express their opinions. The result of this meeting was formal approval to finalize the purchase of the lot at 5th St. and Ash St. for the erection of the new Windsor Town Hall.

Controversy erupted immediately, however, as conservative members of the town board continued to object to the proposed location and attempted to gain control of the project by suggesting that the cost of the building be limited to a grossly insufficient sum of \$3,000. With the board split down the middle, the progressive board members countered that this level of funding for construction was wholly inadequate, questioning the merits of erecting a substandard town hall that would fail to meet the community's future needs. The editor of the *Poudre Valley*, reacting to the controversy, printed his comments on May 8th:

"While a small building would of course be all right for present needs it would probably have to be torn down later and a larger one erected in its place in order to meet the requirements. It is hoped the building erected will be at least in keeping with the cost of the ground -- and we believe the board will endeavor to make a creditable building in every way -- one that the town can always be proud of. And this is the only kind we should have, for it is to stand for years and years."

Bids for the town hall bonds were accepted for consideration during the middle of May and awarded to the First National Bank for \$6331.50. The town hall building committee, however, reported that a suitable building would require greater funding, recommending that the water rights attached to the property be sold. Discussion of this issue at town board meetings, which also turned into heated arguments between conservative and progressive board members, frustrated Mayor Yancey to the degree that he finally "offered to build the town hall himself and pay for it out of his own pocket, but became very serious when it looked as if the board was going to accept his offer." (*Poudre Valley*, 29 May 1909) The *Poudre Valley* (12 June 1909) may just have tapped into the truth when it commented that the conservatives on the town board were simply out for a little revenge, taking the political stance that "if the hall is not to be built where we wanted it we will try and make it look like thirty cents."

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Property WINDSOR TOWN HALL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

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Also during May 1909, plans for the building were considered by the town board, which was meeting in a room over Cloud's Meat Market. The submission of Fort Collins architect E. Francis Williams appealed to the board members, who unanimously voted to hire him for the project. On 14 June 1909, the town board passed Ordinance No. 54 (which repealed Ordinance No. 50) and called for a bond issue of only \$6000 for the purchase of the lot and erection of the new town hall. With this decrease in funding for the project, architect E. Francis Williams' plans for the building, although attractive, were determined to be too expensive and scrapped in favor of a simpler design submitted by local builder Oscar R. Felmlee.

The problem with this turn of events was that Williams was still under contract to the city and a formal vote to rescind his contract was never taken. A new architecture and construction contract was awarded over the strenuous objections of a minority on the board to Oscar and A.M. Felmlee in July for \$5,835. From that point on, Oscar Felmlee was credited with the architectural design of the planned Windsor Town Hall. Responding to the seemingly endless arguments of preceding months, the *Poudre Valley* (14 August 1909) editorialized that "some towns have government by boards of aldermen, others by commission -- but Windsor has government by the building committee."

The cornerstone for the new town hall was laid during a heavy rainstorm on 18 August 1909, with a modest ceremony attended by a small crowd of Windsor citizens who gathered to hear speeches offered by Mayor Yancey, Postmaster Hanna, and architect-contractor Felmlee. Following the speeches, the unmarked cornerstone was set in place, containing a tin box filled with mementos, coins, trinkets, copies of the local newspaper, and stationery from every business in Windsor. Bricklayers began to erect the walls of the structure the following day.

Although the Windsor Town Hall was rising smoothly from its foundation, trouble emerged in the form of an irate dismissed architect trying to collect the fees promised by his contract with the city. In early September 1909, E. Francis Williams filed suit against the town in the district court in Fort Collins, claiming that Windsor still owed him \$395 in architectural fees. Williams declared that he had proceeded with design work on the building and that the adoption of Oscar Felmlee's plans did not exempt the town from following through on its obligations under the original contract. Town attorney Ralph Norris had warned the board for weeks of a possible law suit resulting from the improper midstream adoption of Oscar Felmlee's plans, advising the board to settle with Williams before things got out of hand. Once the suit was filed, Norris refused to defend the town, forcing the board to seek outside legal assistance for its defense. Within two weeks, the town board had employed Greeley attorney C.D. Todd to act on its behalf in the case, which was settled later that year.

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Property WINDSOR TOWN HALL

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

The Windsor Town Hall was completed in December 1909 for a total cost of \$7,500, not including the unfinished second floor, and the town moved its offices into the building before the end of the year. Constructed on a "Fort Collins rubble stone" foundation, the building was erected with 16-inch-thick main floor and 13-inch-thick second floor No. 1 Denver pressed brick walls, heavy joists and timbers, and cornices and belt courses of galvanized iron. Interior finishes included yellow pine floors, stairs and trimwork, and ornate pressed tin ceilings. Although some form of heating (probably coal-burning stoves) was initially installed in the building by the Windsor Hardware Company, it evidently proved inadequate since the boiler currently found in the basement dates from 1913 (local lore claims that the building was entirely unheated for the first several years). On 25 December 1909, the *Poudre Valley* declared "The new town hall is not architecturally beautiful, nor is it especially designed to look like a municipal building except in front. But it is built, and Windsor can feel proud that few other towns the size of this, or even larger, can point to one half so good."

The main floor was occupied by the town clerk's office, council chambers, a fireproof records vault, the town jail, and the fire department engine house. The second story initially contained one large room intended to be finished as a public auditorium when funds became available. In the meantime, the town leased the upper floor to Company E of the Colorado National Guard as an armory for \$50 per month. A late December 1909 resolution authorizing the town clerk to rent space in the new building to area organizations was rejected, however meeting space was donated to the local Socialist group the first week after the building was occupied. Finally finished in 1921, the second floor was utilized over the following decades by the Boy Scouts, American Legion, Chamber of Commerce, Civic Committee, Planning Commission, Housing Authority, and Windsor Town Band.

The fire department occupied the south half of the Windsor Town Hall's first floor from 1909 through 1963. A firefighting cart was first stored in the building, however in 1916 the department acquired a motorized fire truck that was kept there for many years. The designated fire truck driver was also present in the building at all times, sleeping in a dedicated room on the main floor. During the 1920s, fire department volunteers finished the large room at the front of the second floor into a club hall, which they occupied for social gatherings through the early 1960s. In addition to the town jail, the police department also occupied part of the Windsor Town Hall from 1909 through 1986.

In 1940, the main floor of the building housed the council chambers and clerk's office, the records vault, a fire department equipment room, the city jail, a sleeping room for the fire truck driver, and the office of the police chief. The second floor was occupied by the fire department's club room, the American Legion hall, and a practice and storage room for the town band. From 1948 through 1961, the Windsor Library occupied the second floor, increasing visits by town

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residents to the building. The city administration vacated the Windsor Town Hall in 1984 for new quarters, and the police department moved on in 1986. Three years later the building was saved from demolition and acquired by the Windsor-Severance Historical Society, and has been used since as the town's history museum and offices of the Chamber of Commerce.

While many of Windsor's buildings were significantly altered during the 1960s and 1970s, this structure is one of the few with a largely intact early 20th-century facade, and one of the best examples of Classical Revival ornamentation in the town. Typical of government buildings of the period, the Classical Revival style was applied to public structures of all sizes throughout the country, representing America's belief that its political roots reached back to the classical world of ancient Rome, and serving as a public reminder that this is a nation rooted in respect for law and the authority of democratically-elected government. In addition to their practical function, these early halls of government served nascent towns as sources of community pride and fostered an environment of permanence and stability. The Windsor Town Hall is typical of small town government buildings erected during the late-1800s and early-1900s in Colorado, many of them designed of necessity to house a variety of functions under one roof.

The story of this building's construction touches upon the divergence of opinion between conservatives and progressives early in the century. In this particular case, local government efforts to build the Windsor Town Hall sparked a battle between fiscally conservative town board members who wanted to severely limit funding for the building, and progressive board members who argued that public funds expended for the improvement of the community be amply allocated with an eye to the needs of the future. By 1908, an ideological rift divided the town board between these two opposing forces, resulting in a story that ultimately highlights the proper functioning of democratic government on the local level.

In the context of Colorado plains development, the structure was erected during the period of agricultural expansion and town building around the turn of the century, when early municipal leaders constructed government buildings as soon as feasible. During the decades that the Windsor Town Hall served as the seat of local government, the town board and committees met frequently there to discuss and vote upon many issues critical to the town's proper functioning and development. Inside these walls, city employees implemented local government policies and practices, and planned the future of the town. From this building, the fire and police departments worked to protect the community from a variety of hazards, and the second floor served the community with its meeting halls used by a diversity of public organizations. The Windsor Town Hall served for 75 years as the center of the town's administrative and community functions. Today the building represents the early maturation of Windsor into a thriving center of area agriculture and commerce, and its first successful democratic effort to create an adequate home for local government services.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 1, Block 6, First Filing, Town of Windsor, Weld County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes, and is limited to, the land and improvements within the boundaries described above, including the 1909 Windsor Town Hall and surrounding grounds measuring 50' x 75'. These boundaries were selected due to the fact that they include all of the original Windsor Town Hall property, with the building and narrow surrounding grounds important to the setting and historic integrity of the property as a whole.



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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-8 except as noted:

Name of Property: Windsor Town Hall  
 Location: Windsor, Weld County, Colorado  
 Photographer: Ron Sladek  
 Date of Photographs: August 11, 1998  
 Negatives: Tatanka Historical Associates Inc.  
 PO Box 1909  
 Fort Collins, CO 80522

Photo No. \_\_\_\_\_ Photographic Information \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 View of the east (primary) elevation. View to the northwest.
- 2 View of the east (primary) elevation. View to the southwest.
- 3 View of the west (rear) and south elevations. View to the northeast.
- 4 View of the north elevation. View to the south.
- 5 View of the pressed tin ceiling on the first floor.
- 6 View of the recreated early dental office in the history museum at the Windsor Town hall. Note the original yellow pine flooring.
- 7 View of the east elevation, ca. 1930. View to the west. Photographer unknown. Original photo in possession of Windsor Museum, Windsor Town Hall.
- 8 View of the east elevation, ca. 1930. View to the northwest. Photographer unknown. Original photo in possession of Windsor Museum, Windsor Town Hall.

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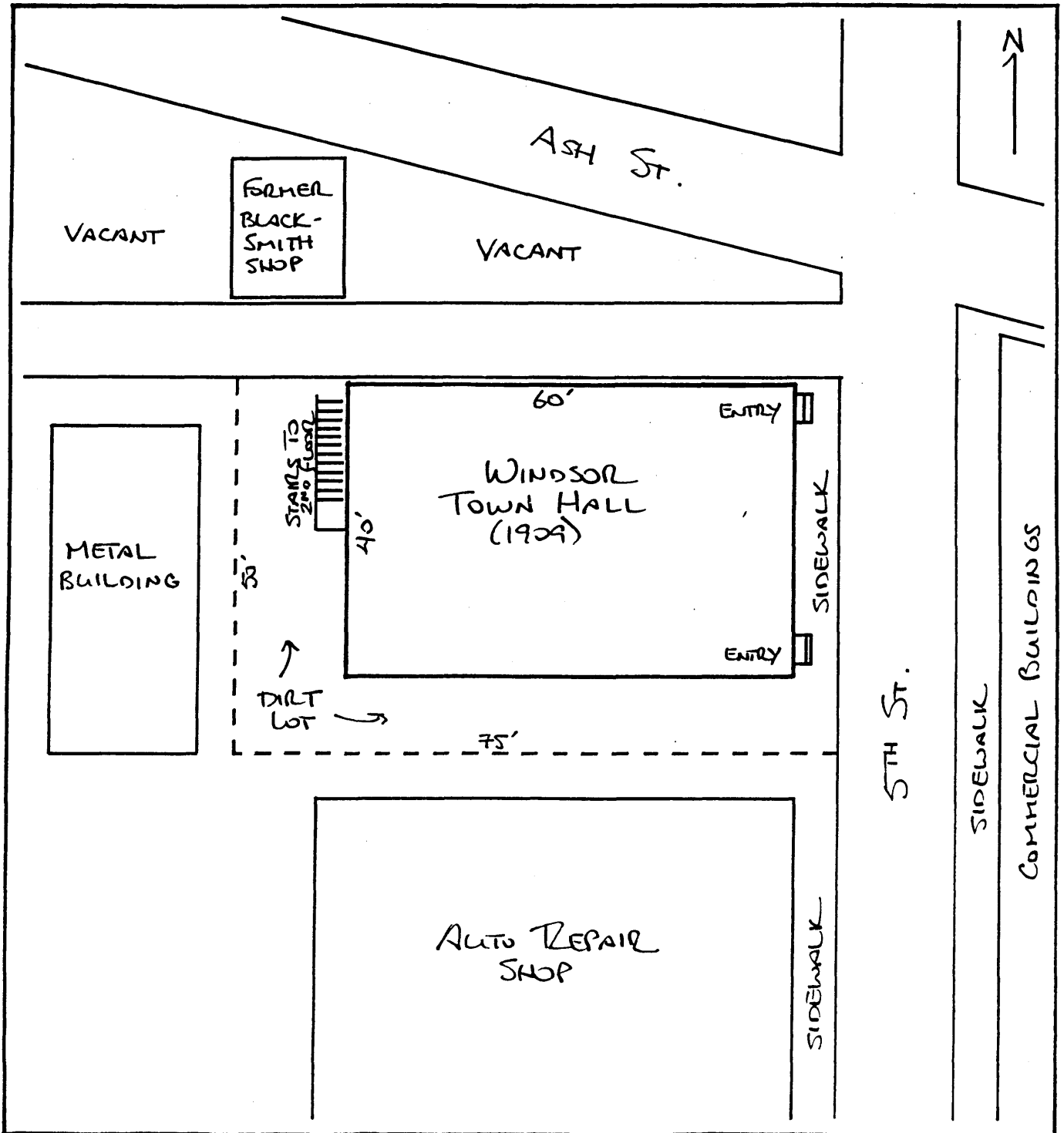
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WINDSOR TOWN HALL PROPERTY (not to scale)



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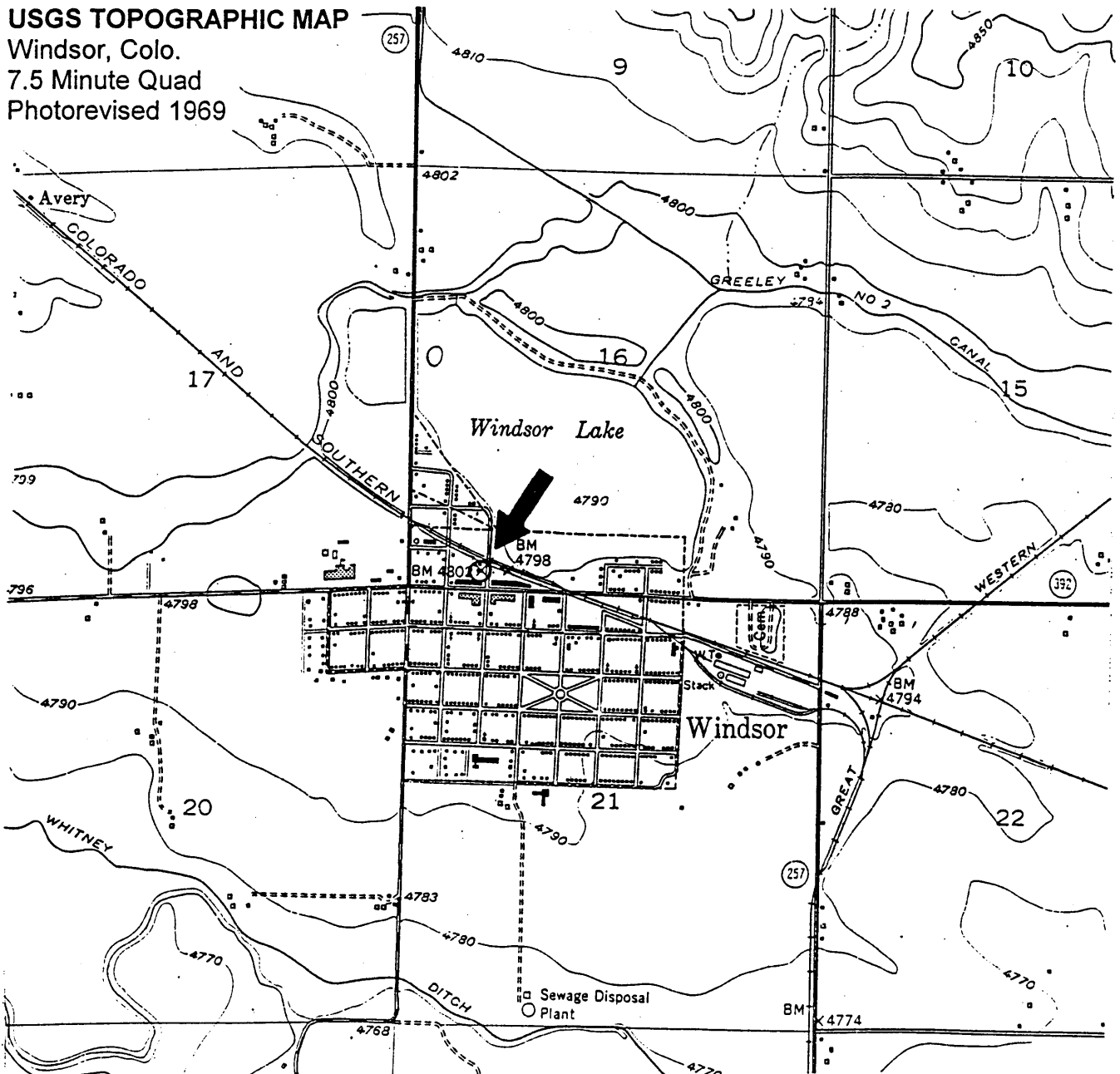
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 15

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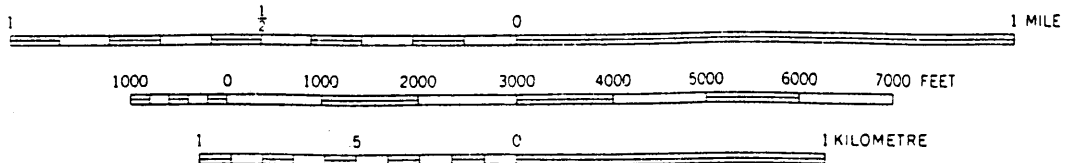
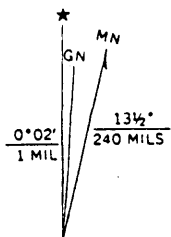
WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**

Windsor, Colo.  
7.5 Minute Quad  
Photorevised 1969



SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929