

PH0066435

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado	
COUNTY: Denver	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 1 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Denver Mint (Original Section)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
* United States Mint in Denver

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
W. Colfax Avenue and Delaware Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Denver

STATE Colorado	CODE 08	COUNTY: Denver	CODE 031
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States Government, Department of the Treasury

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D. C.

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE:
11

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:
08

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971
 Federal State County Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 Fourteenth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Denver

STATE:
Colorado

CODE:
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Colorado
COUNTY: Denver
ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 1 1972
DATE: FEB 1 1972
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original section of the second Denver Mint building was constructed during the period from 1897 to 1904, in the style of the Second Renaissance Revival. Exterior ground story walls are faced with rusticated Colorado granite. Second story walls are faced with ashlar granite, providing a subtle contrast in exterior wall textures. A granite entablature marks the division between the ground and second stories.

Exterior style elements reaffirm the symmetry of the rectangular plan. High, rectangular windows, framed in marble and surmounted by marble lunettes, open at even intervals from three ground story facades. Originally, the uniform placement and size of windows was disrupted on the rear facade by two pairs of narrow rectangular windows, headed by stepped voussoirs. Later, all such architectural features on the rear facade were obliterated with the construction of a modern addition, which adjoins the original section. The marble lunettes above all ground story openings on the front facade, above two windows on the east facade and above three windows on the west facade are ornately carved in an eagle motif. Each window is accented by rusticated granite voussoirs and marble molding.

An alternate window design, of smaller dimensions, is utilized throughout the second story. Each window opening is doubled by a center marble column, which forms two minor rounded arches within the opening. The solid marble panel above each pair of double arches is decorated by a single marble disc, a motif originally duplicated on the rear facade, above each pair of narrow rectangular windows. Radiating ashlar granite voussoirs form arches above each window opening.

The second story rises to a massive granite cornice, composed of brackets and a decorated frieze. The low, truncated hip roof above is covered in red tile and barely visible from the street.

Wrought iron lamps flank the main entrance on the front facade. Smaller, less ornate lamps were added after the original construction between window arches on the ground story. Additional wrought iron features include the protective grilles at the main entrance, and at all basement and ground story windows. A wrought iron fence was attached to the low, granite retaining wall at a later date, enclosing the Mint property.

The two story Mint building houses, in addition, two basement levels, a mezzanine and a full attic.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1897 - present

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 type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | history of U.S. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | Mint; history of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | Denver |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In February, 1861, Congress approved an act to create the Territory of Colorado. One year later, on April 21, 1862, an act was approved to establish a branch Mint at Denver, in the Territory of Colorado, exclusively for the coinage of gold. Early in 1863, the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to purchase a private mint building, located at Sixteenth and Market Streets, to house the new branch Mint. Title to the building was obtained from the owners, Clark, Gruber & Company, in April, but due to delays in the delivery of equipment, the Mint was not opened until September, 1863.

Operations at the Denver branch Mint did not conform to the provisions established by Congress. Bullion was melted, refined, assayed, stamped and returned to depositors until 1869, when operations were further restricted to include only melting, assaying and return to depositors. Although bills were repeatedly introduced in Congress, it was not until 1895 that an act was approved to establish a United States Mint at Denver for the coinage of gold and silver. In March, 1895, the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to contract for the construction of a new building designed to meet the special requirements of a government coinage Mint. On April 22, 1896, a site was purchased at the corner of Colfax Avenue and Delaware Street.

Construction of the new building began in 1897 and continued intermittently, under the supervision of James Knox Taylor, until 1904, when it was turned over to the Federal government. The new building was occupied in 1904 by a nucleus of assay workers from the branch Mint, but coinage operations did not actually commence until February, 1906. Experts from Philadelphia, New Orleans, Washington and San Francisco had been detailed at Denver for months prior to this date arranging the new equipment which, according to the Director of the Mint, was believed to be, "of the most approved designs for all the operations of coinage." Although designed specifically to house an industrial operation, however, great care was devoted to decorative elements. In terms of architectural design, the new Mint building was constructed within the turn-of-the-century tradition of architectural elegance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arps, Louisa A. DENVER IN SLICES. Denver: Sage Books, 1959.
 ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES MINT. Ed. by George G. Evans. Philadelphia: George G. Evans, 1893.
 Hobart, E. L., comp. "Glitters of Gold." n.d.
 Miller, Fern V. "A Summary of The History and Operations of The United States Mint in Denver, Colorado." 1962.

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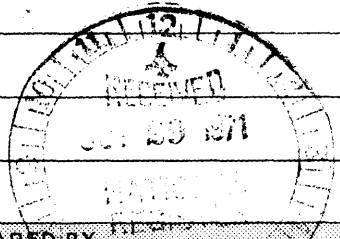
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	44'	23"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	104°	59'	30"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one (1) acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Susan A. Nieminen, Assistant to the Director

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Colorado DATE: 16 October 71

STREET AND NUMBER: 200 Fourteenth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Colorado State Liaison Officer

Date: 20 October 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 1 1972

Date: _____

ATTEST: William J. Huntley
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **DEC 14 1971**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Colorado	
COUNTY	Denver	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	FEB 1 1972	

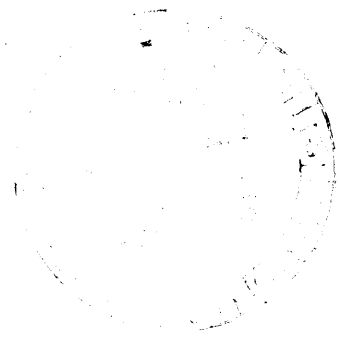
(Number all entries)

8. Significance

1933

In 1934, international tension necessitated the movement of gold bullion from San Francisco inland, to Denver for safety. The following year, and again in 1944, additions were built on the original structure (indicated on attached drawing) to accommodate growth and increased storage requirements.

As one of two United States coinage Mints in operation at this date, the Denver Mint can easily be defined in terms of national significance. Within the context of local history, however, the Mint has played an equally significant role, symbolizing continuity in the development of Denver from a frontier mining center to a major metropolitan area. Strong emotional ties of pride and shared history have developed over the past one hundred years, binding the Mint closely, as an emotional landmark, to the City of Denver.



Denver Mint
Denver Mint, above main entrance of building
Denver Mint, above main entrance of building
Denver Mint, above main entrance of building
Denver Mint, above main entrance of building

WEST COLFAX AVENUE

NORTH



UNITED STATES MINT (1904)
original section to be nominated

CHEPOKEE STREET

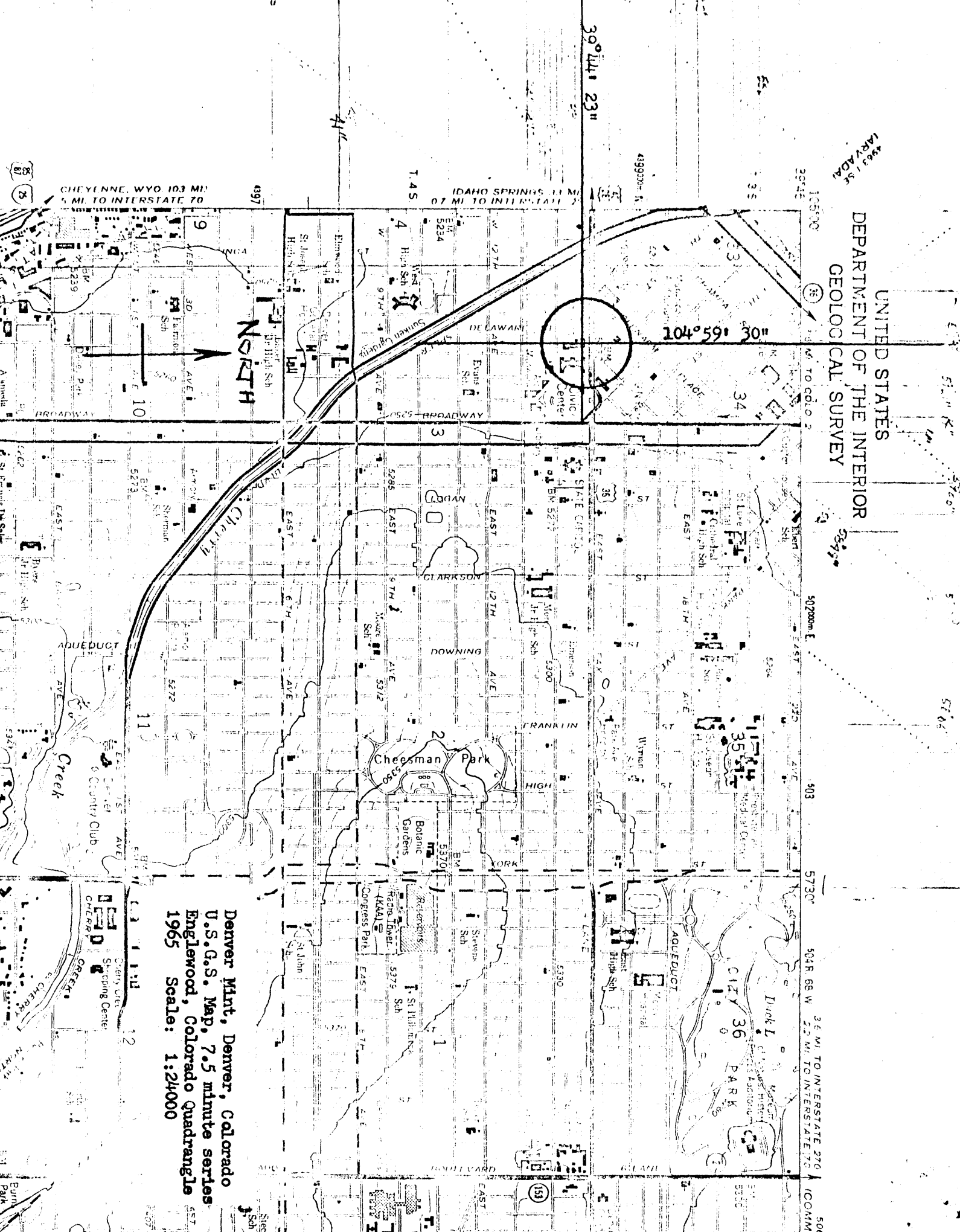
Additions to UNITED STATES MINT (1935 and 1944)

DELAWARE STREET

COURTLAND AVENUE

Denver Mint, Denver, Colorado
Sanborn Insurance Maps of
Denver, Colorado
1929 (revised 1958)
Scale: 1" : 50'

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Denver Mint, Denver, Colorado
 U.S.G.S. Map, 7.5 minute series
 Englewood, Colorado quadrangle
 1965 Scale: 1:24000

39° 44' 23"
 104° 59' 30"
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 IDAHO SPRINGS 11 MI
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