

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **MAR 22 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name 5DV1365

historic Zeitz Buckhorn Exchange/~~Buckhorn Exchange~~

and/or common Buckhorn Exchange

2. Location

street & number 1000 Osage Street n/a not for publication

city, town Denver n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Denver code 031

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Buckhorn Associates (Roi Davis and Steve Knowlton)

street & number 1000 Osage Street

city, town Denver n/a vicinity of state Colorado

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk and Recorder's Office

street & number 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

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Buckhorn Exchange is located across from the old Rio Grande Railroad yards in the West Side neighborhood, an older residential area south of downtown Denver. The building is brick, painted white, set in stretcher bond. The structure is two stories, with a flat roof that slopes to the rear (east). A one-story section that houses the kitchen is attached to the rear.

The main entrance is centrally located on the west facade. The main door, which is original, is double-leaf two panel with recessed-glazed side panels. The main door surround is plain, while the side surrounds have a rosette at the sill level. The windows on the main floor are single sashed, fixed, and flat in shape. The slipsill is wood painted brown, as are the window side surrounds. Above the first floor openings is a decorative band of wood molding which resembles a string course, but does not extend the full width of the facade. An awning projects from this molding. The windows of the second story on all four sides of the building are 1/1 light and double-hung. The head surrounds are segmentally arched with radiating voussoirs of brick and all have wooden lugsills. The cornice level on the west and south facades is finished with a stepped brick parapet painted brown, while the east and north sides were never decorated. The first level on the south and north sides of the structure are ornamented with wildlife murals reportedly painted by visiting Indians. They depict elk, bear, an Indian chief, and landscape settings.

The interior of the restaurant has been altered slightly. The stairs that were originally at the back have been moved to the front and the upper level, which was originally living quarters, has been converted into a lounge. The white oak bar that was brought by the Zeitz family from Germany was originally located just inside the front door. It has been moved to the upstairs lounge. The interior walls are the original brick throughout the building. The ceiling in the downstairs restaurant area is decorative metal and the floors are hardwood. Both are original to the building. The outstanding feature of the interior is the numerous animal heads adorning the walls. These have been the hallmark of the Buckhorn Restaurant since "Shorty Scout" Zeitz first opened his doors in 1893.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1886 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Buckhorn Exchange is significant as one of Denver's oldest and best-known historic restaurant/bars. With the exception of a brief period during Prohibition, the business has continued in its original function since its founding in 1893. It is in an excellent state of preservation, and as such, serves as the city's most authentic representation of a late 19th-early 20th century restaurant/saloon.

H.H. Zeitz, Sr., the founder of the Buckhorn Exchange, was born in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin in 1865. One of fifteen children, Zeitz began his exploits at the age of ten.¹ When told that his family had fallen upon hard times, Zeitz made the decision to leave home, with Colorado as his destination. He began his journey via a boxcar and then joined a family heading west, who was in need of someone to drive the oxen.² Upon his arrival in Firstview, Colorado, he found shelter on a farm where he was eventually employed at \$10 a month. It was there that he learned the "profession" of ranch hand, and by his thirteenth birthday, he was a fully charged cowboy earning \$30 a month.³ With time and by association with William F. "Bill" Cody, Doc Carver, and others, Zeitz became an Indian scout. (Zeitz obtained his nickname "Shorty Scout" from the great medicine man and warrior, Sitting Bull.⁴ A longstanding friendship ensued between the two, culminating in the presentation of General Custer's sword used at the Battle of Little Big Horn to Shorty Scout by Sitting Bull's nephew.⁵)

Zeitz traveled with Buffalo Bill and his scouts until 1883 when he became interested in mining gold and the opportunities for wealth which it seemed to offer. He moved to Leadville where he found work in the household of H.A.W. Tabor, "Silver King"/entrepreneur. He was taught to read and write and soon became Tabor's aide accompanying him on his trips to Denver.⁶

The crash of 1893 convinced Zeitz to move on. With \$5,000 saved, he opened his saloon "Zeitz Buckhorn Exchange" at 1000 Osage in Denver.⁷ A white oak bar which was brought from Essen, Germany, by Zeitz' father was installed just inside the door. The restaurant's advantageous location, across the street from the railroad tracks, aided the Buckhorn Exchange's success, for it appealed to the many rail workers who wanted a quick lunch and libations.

Though his business thrived, Zeitz remained a devoted hunter. His expertise as a scout aided the reputation of his saloon, making it a gathering place for notable personalities who wanted to hunt with the former Cody scout. Once such enthusiast, Theodore Roosevelt, made numerous hunting trips to the Rockies, always accompanied by Shorty Scout. Zeitz in turn traveled with Roosevelt to Africa on several big game expeditions.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"The Saga of Shorty Scout," Rocky Mountain News, July 24, 25, 28, 1936.
The Telephone & Business Directory of Denver, January-April 1905.
The Denver Catholic Register, March 7, 1946, February 17, 1938,
Coronet, February 1948,

continued

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .34 acres

Quadrangle name Fort Logan Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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4	3	9	7	8	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 16 to 20 Inc., Block 25 Hunts Addition, Denver, Colorado. A parking area is located to the north of the building. No other structures remain within the nominated area.

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

state	n/a	code	county	code
state	n/a	code	county	code
state	n/a	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathleen Snyder

organization _____ date July 28, 1982

street & number 919 E. Boulder telephone (303-632-6428/work, 473-2233, ext 375)

city or town Colorado Springs state Colorado 80903

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

Babara Suda

title State Historic Preservation Officer (Acting)

date March 14, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

4/21/83

for *Alvina Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Continuation sheet Significance Buckhorn Exchange Item number 8 Page 2

These hunting trips furnished Zeitz with the nearly 700 animal trophies which still adorn the walls of the Buckhorn Exchange.⁸

During prohibition, the saloon was converted into a grocery store. Afterwards, the family combined the food and liquor business and reopened their business as "Zeitz Buckhorn Restaurant," the establishment which was issued Colorado Restaurant and Bar Permit #1.⁹

After H.H. Zeitz' death in 1949, the restaurant was passed on to his son, H.H. Jr., himself a big game hunter, who perpetuated the reputation of the Buckhorn. Numerous celebrities and historic personalities continued to frequent the Buckhorn attracted by the legendary personality of the elder Zeitz and by the restaurant's unique ambiance. This atmosphere which has been retained and restored by the present owners was and is created in a large part by the hundreds of animal heads displayed throughout the restaurant. The collection includes deer, antelope, mountain goat, elk, indigenous fowl and buffalo which form the decor for the "Buffalo Room." An impressive firearm collection is also exhibited. Photographs, both historic and non, of the many celebrities which have visited the Buckhorn fill what empty wall space is left. The original hardwood floors, decorative metal ceiling, and 100 year old poker tables serving as dining tables complete the decor which accurately reflects the eccentric personality of Shorty Scout and captures the tone of a rugged late nineteenth century Colorado.

Footnotes

¹The Denver Catholic Register, March 7, 1946.

²The Rocky Mountain News, July 24, 1936.

³The Denver Catholic Register, March 7, 1946.

⁴The Denver Catholic Register, March 7, 1946.

⁵The Rocky Mountain News, January 29, 1961.

⁶The Rocky Mountain News, July 30, 1936.

⁷The building, which dates to 1886, was not constructed by Zeitz. Its original use and builder is not known at this time.

⁸The Rocky Mountain News, July 30, 1936.

⁹Coronet, February 1948, p.133.

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Major Bibliographical References

Continuation sheet Buckhorn Exchange

Item number 9

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The Rocky Mountain News, April 23, 1939; July 6, 1949.

Original real estate maps for the city of Denver in the DPL-Western History Dept.