

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

David W. Brown House

AND/OR COMMON

David W. Brown House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2303 E. Dartmouth Ave.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Englewood

VICINITY OF

5

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Colorado

08

Arapahoe

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Leonard M. and Claris J. Chesler

STREET & NUMBER

11 Cherrymoor Drive

CITY, TOWN

Englewood

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80110

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Arapahoe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

5334 S. Prince

CITY, TOWN

Littleton

STATE

Colorado 80120

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (03/01/0012)

DATE

Ongoing

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 1979

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 2303 E. Dartmouth in Englewood, the Brown House is a single detached structure irregular in plan, but three and one-half stories in height. The dwelling was built of brick to serve as a substructure, and was then covered with a blue-grey stucco. The house evolves around a semi-octagonal turret which serves as the focal point and intercepts the horizontal line created by the low, multiple hipped roofs. A porte-cochere situated along the north side of the structure tends to counteract the verticality of the turret, physically extend the house, and add to the overall feeling of horizontality created by the veranda, balustrades, and hipped roofs.

The secondary elements all tend to accentuate the rhythm created by the major horizontal and vertical elements. The feeling of horizontality is enhanced by the closed veranda along the south facade, the open veranda along the east, and the porte-cochere on the north. The long, bracketed eaves on all three stories add to this effect, as does the low wall which runs along the east and south facades and forms the support for the posts which hold up the roofs covering the verandas. The fenestration is varied. Most windows are two-sashed and double-hung, but the turret and third story have large numbers of casement windows. The closed porch on the south facade has windows that are three-sashed with a transom. The windows in the first story of the turret also have transoms.

The remarkable interior still retains much of its original appearance. Dark wood paneling of oak, cherry, and walnut, approximately seven feet high, covers most of the front rooms, and along with the elegance of the wooden arches, the spiral staircase, sliding paneled doorways, and period chandeliers of alabaster and brass leave the impression of wealth and position - a reflection of the status of the original owner. The wood cornering in the dining room ceiling with matching side panels is made even warmer in its appearance by the tile fireplace with its carved wooden mantelpiece and unique brass-figured interior. In all the house has six fireplaces, each different, each a work of art. The structure has eighteen rooms including a thirty by thirty-six foot ballroom in the third story. This room is of particular interest because of its many windows and views which once looked over the plains. Also of special interest is the fresco-like art work in the turret room.

In 1979 a combination of circumstances forced the Brown House to be moved a short distance from its location, although it still remained on the same property. At the time, the owner was a church which slated the building for demolition in order to construct a modern parking lot. In order to preserve the structure, the present owner obtained an option on the property, and a short time later bought part of the original lot, and thus over the summer and fall the house was moved at great cost a distance of about 100 yards, thus preserving it. Rehabilitation is now under way.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George H. Williamson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brown House is significant for three reasons. It was built and occupied by David W. Brown, an important industrialist in Colorado; it was designed by George H. Williamson, a significant architect in the area; and it reflects certain elements characteristic of the prairie style of architecture, ironically not seen to any great extent here on the high plains.

David W. Brown was born in Marengo, Illinois, about 1864. At an early age he engaged in farming and the grain trade, but after a time he and his family emigrated to Colorado. At this time Brown moved from agriculture into mining, and in 1897 he was instrumental in founding the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, which over the next quarter century he built into the largest producer of lignite in Colorado. Brown was also prominent socially as a member of the Cherry Hills Club, the Denver Country Club, and the Denver Press Club. He died prematurely of pneumonia in 1922.

The architect for the Brown House was George H. Williamson. Born in Brighton, Colorado, in 1872, he earned his architectural credentials as a student-apprentice first for one Fred A. Hale and later for the renowned firm of Philip Varian and Frederick J. Sterner. When they dissolved their partnership in 1905, the business was continued by the firm of Sterner and Williamson, which over the next nine years designed many important buildings in Denver, notably the Daniels and Fisher Tower, now listed in the National Register. After Sterner moved to New York City, Williamson continued on in business by himself. He was particularly known for his public buildings, among them East High School, which Harvard University chose as a model of architectural design. Shortly before his death in 1936 he was voted an honorary fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

From an architectural perspective, the Brown House reflects many elements of the prairie style. The general feeling of horizontality created by the long veranda, gently sloping roofs, and extended overhangs all suggest the efforts of the architect to mirror the flat terrain of the land in the lines of the house. And, of course, the original setting was spectacular, for the structure stood by itself on the top of a hill as the prairie rolled away into infinity in every direction except the west where it was intercepted by an unbroken line of mountains which extended from north to south as far as the eye could see.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Denver Post (June 15, 1922).

Rocky Mountain News (October 12, 1936)

Copley, John Jr., Early Domestic Architecture of Englewood, Colorado

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.54728

QUADRANGLE NAME Englewood

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 3 | 5, 0, 3 | 3, 9, 0 | 4, 3, 8, 9 | 8, 8, 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

D [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

E [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

F [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

G [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

H [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Claris J. Chesler

ORGANIZATION

DATE

September 29, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

11 Cherrymoor Drive

TELEPHONE

(303) 781-8400 and (303) 893-8933

CITY OR TOWN

Englewood

STATE

Colorado 80110

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

Arthur C. Townsend 2/22/80

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

John W. Kay Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/10/80

ATTEST:

William H. Bralman
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

4.10.80

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Verbal Boundary

CONTINUATION SHEET description ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Lot 1, block 2, Hampden Hills Baptist Church Subdivision, except that part described as: beginning at the southeast corner of said lot 1, thence north along the east line of said lot 1 for a distance of 261.46 feet, thence west parallel with the south line of said lot 1 for a distance of 218.15 feet, thence south parallel with the east line of said lot 1 for a distance of 166.46 feet, thence west parallel with the south line of said lot 1 for a distance of 18.0 feet, thence south parallel with the east line of said lot 1 for a distance of 95.0 feet, thence east on the south line of said lot 1 for a distance of 236.15 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 110,959.62 square feet or 2.54728 acres of land more or less, City of Englewood, Colorado.