

PH0066397

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

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 DATE | FEB 27 1974 |

1. NAME

COMMON: Civic Center

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~Between Grant and Delaware Streets, bounded on the south by 13th Avenue and on the north by the State property lines~~ (Con

CITY OR TOWN: Denver

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #1 - Patricia Schroeder

STATE: Colorado

CODE: 08

COUNTY: Denver

CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

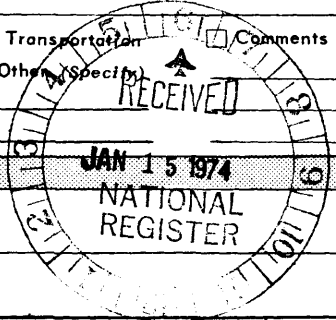
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple Ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Denver

STATE: Colorado

CODE: 08



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk and Recorder, Room 200, City and County Building

STREET AND NUMBER: West Colfax and Bannock

CITY OR TOWN: Denver

STATE: Colorado

CODE: 08

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967, 1968, 1970 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

| | |
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

| | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (Check One) | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" 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

Civic Center District

Civic Center is an open plaza designed to link together various public buildings. It also provides a gateway to downtown Denver and is situated between downtown Denver and the Capitol Hill residential area.

Built around the perimeter of the Civic Center and the State Capitol grounds are buildings which house state and city governmental offices and state and city public facilities.

The two dominant buildings in the Civic Center District are the State Capitol Building at the east edge of the District and the City and County Building at the west edge of Civic Center. Behind the City and County Building is the United States Mint at the west boundary of the District.

The State Capitol and City and County Building are facing each other separated by the Capitol grounds, which end at Broadway, and Civic Center, starting at Broadway and continuing west to Bannock Street and the City and County Building. This open plaza is landscaped with trees and formal flower beds and various memorial structures, fountains, and statues. The whole visual effect is one of orientation to the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains while at the same time providing reminders of Colorado's and Denver's past.

On the north and south sides of the State Capitol and grounds are the supporting buildings in the state government complex. West of Broadway on the north and south sides of the Civic Center are the public and quasi-public facilities of the city of Denver.

COLORADO STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, East Colfax Avenue to East 14th Avenue and Broadway to Grant Street: 1908

Architect - Elijah E. Myers, Detroit, Michigan. (Also designer of the Denver County Court House, the Michigan, Texas and Utah state capitols.)

Contractor - Geddes & Serie - Denver

Materials - Constructed wholly of Colorado materials except for the brass used in the interior which is from Ohio.

Exterior - Selected dressed gray granite from quarries near Gunnison, Colorado. (Beaver Creek, Gunnison County)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

#7 DESCRIPTION

Interior - Polished Colorado onyx and marble. The onyx is used as facing for interior columns and wainscotes.

Building plan - Greek Cross

Building style - Federal Revival

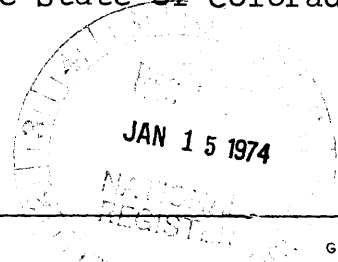
The building is three storys high and has a basement and a sub-basement which is connected by a tunnel to the State Museum Building and the State Office Building. There are 160 rooms. The central dome on the exterior, is 272 feet from the ground to the top. It is famous for the gold leafing, weighing several hundreds of pounds, which was donated by Denverites whose wealth came from the gold mines. On the steps leading to the west entrance is a marker indicating the elevation of one mile above sea level, hence "The Mile High City".

There is an entrance portico on each face of the building. A flight of steps leads up to three arched entrances which support columns, two storys high. On top of the columns is a triangular pediment with bi-relief figures.

All four faces of the building are identical; the fenestration is symetrical with pilasters between the square windows and the porticos are located in the center of each face. The building has a low hipped roof.

In the center of the building is the dome which is supported by a cylindrical or drum shaped structure which has free-standing columns around the central portion. There are two storys of narrow arched windows around the circumfrence. The dome itself is faced in gold leaf and is divided into segments. In each segment is a window which is the Colorado Hall of Fame. There are sixteen windows which are the portraits of citizens who figured prominently in the history of Colorado and are executed in stained glass.

On the main floor of the interior are four broad corridors which lead from the four entrances and meet at the central rotunda. Around the rotunda are murals by Allen True, Denver artist and lyrical inscriptions by Thomas Hornsby Ferril, Colorado poet. These were a gift to the State of Colorado by the Boettcher Foundation.



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(Number all entries) #7 DESCRIPTION

CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING (Municipal Building), 1437 Bannock Street: 1932

Architect - Allied Architects Association (39 local architects)
Principal Architect - Roland L. Linder (also Robert K. Fuller* and George Gray)
Chief Designer - George Koyle, McKim, Mead & White.

Contractor - Varnum, Bate, Fleisher Engineering & Construction Company.

Materials - Brick, Granite, Marble, Bronze

Exterior - Brick with dressed Colorado Cotopaxi granite facing. Bronze entrance doors. "Fluer de Peche" marble used for exterior detailing.

Interior - Eleven varieties of marble. Colorado Travertine used on walls of main corridor and for eight columns on the second floor which are 19 feet high.

Building plan - Basic H plan with a curved front facade.

Building style - Greek Revival

It is used to house the city and county executive offices, district and county court rooms, and City Council chambers.

The building has a total of 438,000 square feet. It is 435 feet long, 275 feet deep and 90 feet high. It covers the entire block, (including grounds). It is four stories high. The roof of the central portion is gabled and the rest truncated hip. The front of the building is a curved facade of smooth engaged columns with Doric capitals. A wide flight of steps lead up to a massive central entrance portico with six smooth columns which have Corinthian capitals, supporting a pediment that rises above the main roof height. There are two massive cast bronze entrance doors flanked by smaller bronze doors.

*Robert K. Fuller was the president of the Association and a partner of Robert Boeschlaub, Colorado's first licensed architect in 1914.

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(Number all entries) #7 DESCRIPTION

At the center of the building, rising above the roof, is a tower at the top of which is The Speer Memorial Tower Clock and Chimes. Rising above the clock is a bronze eagle, six feet six inches in height. The tower is a duplication of Coragic Monument and Lysicrates. The clock is a Seth Thomas Quarter Hour Striking Clock. The clock has four faces with dials of sectional bronze and glass 74 inches in diameter and 1/4 inch thick. The hands and numerals are of blackened bronze.

The chimes which ring every quarter hour are from the Meneely Bell Company Troy, New York. The chimes play a tune arrangement from St. Mary's in Cambridge, England from a musical air by Handel.

The City and County Building is situated at the west side of the Civic Center proper, facing the State Capitol Building across the broad expanse of landscaped open space of Civic Center and the Capitol grounds.

The long, low design of the City and County Building was planned in order to preserve the view of the mountains from the Capitol Building.

GREEK THEATER AND COLONNADE OF CIVIC BENEFACTORS. (Open Air Theater), South side of Civic Center: 1919

Architect - Marean and Norton. E.H. Bennett, consulting architect

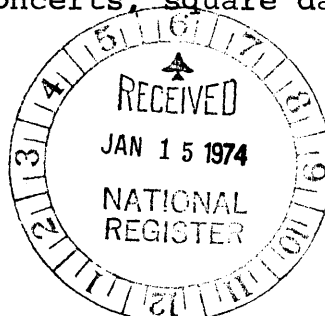
Contractor - Edward Seerie and Company

Materials - Interior walls are of Tennessee marble.

Structure plan - Rectangular central portion with curved colonnade on each side.

Structure style - Greek Revival, Ionic Order

Use - Public religious services, concerts, square dancing and other public functions.



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(Number all entries)#7 DESCRIPTION

The central portion is a rectangular, roofed structure which is open through the center. A double colonnade which is roofed extends out in a curve from the central structure. The columns of the colonnade and the central structure have smooth shafts and Ionic capitols. The central open space is used for a stage and there is seating for 1200 people in the terraced area at the base. In the east and west portals are memorial murals by Allen True which were given by Mrs. Charles Hansen Toll in memory of her husband.

This structure supports of balances the Voorhies Memorial Gateway which is located at the north side of Civic Center.

COLORADO STATE MUSEUM BUILDING, Corner East 14th Avenue and Sherman Street: 1915

Architect - Frank E. Edbrooke

Contractor -

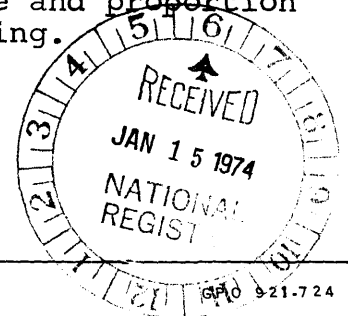
Materials - Built of native Colorado materials. Polished Yule marble, Dressed Cotopaxi granite, bricks and tiles from Denver. Golden oak and brass interior trims.

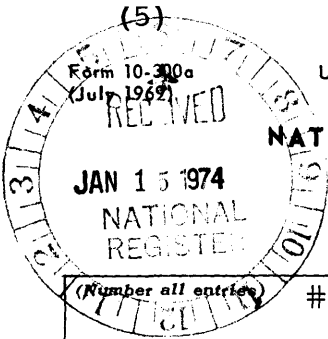
Building plan - Square

Building style - Modified Greek Revival, Ionic Order

The building is the headquarters for the State Historical Society of Colorado, a museum and library. On the exterior there is a base of dressed granite up to the first floor. The rest of the building is dressed marble. It is three storsys high with a basement and sub-basement. The roof is flat. The front entrance is reached by a broad flight of steps. The shallow entrance portico has four fluted columns with Ionic Capitols. The columns extend up from the top of the granite steps to the top of the second floor.

The State Museum Building is situated south of the Capital acroos East 14th Avenue. This is an important building in the Capitol Group relating to the Capitol in style and proportion and to it's companion, the State Office Building.





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#7 DESCRIPTION

Starting at the sub-basement of the State Museum Building there is a tunnel built of stone and concrete, which connect the Capitol and the State Office Building. The tunnel is now closed to pedestrian use.

The equipment for heating, lighting and ventilating the State Office Building, Capitol and Museum is located under the Museum building.

STATE ARCHIVES BUILDING (Woodward House), 1530 Sherman Street: 1889

This house was built in 1889 and owned by Benjamin F. Woodward. The architect and/or contractor are unknown.

The house is built of rusticated red sandstone and is of the Victorian style (Eclectic) with a large front gable.

In 1941 the house was purchased by the State of Colorado for the Department of Game & Fish and some remodeling took place to convert it from a residence to office space. One of the largest changes to the interior was the removal of the front stairway. The contractor for the remodeling was Newstrom-Davis & Company and the architect was J. Roger Musick, A.I.A.

In 1948 an addition or annex was put onto the rear of the house and again the architect was J. Roger Music, A.I.A.

In 1963 the State Game & Fish moved to new quarters and the house became the offices for the Division of State Archives.

This house, originally a single family residence, is one of the few remaining examples of late Victorian architecture which was at one time so prevalent in the Capitol Hill area.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's, Capitol Hill was where some of the city's most prominent and wealthy citizens resided. Many of the fine residences are now gone, replaced by high rise apartment buildings and office buildings.

The house is a visual reminder of the kinds of houses which were in the neighborhood and is related in use to the other buildings in the Capitol complex.

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#7 DESCRIPTION

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS BUILDING (WATER BOARD BUILDING, OLD DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY), 144 West Colfax Avenue at Bannock Street: 1910

Architect - Albert Randolph Ross, New York City, New York

Contractor - Henry W. Schleuter, Lichter and Company

Materials - Turkey Creek sand stone

Building plan - rectangular

Building style - Greek Revival Corinthian Order

The building is three stories high and a basement. It is 178 feet wide and 94 feet deep. The entrance faces West Colfax Avenue. The columns are across the front of the building. They extend up from the base or foundation of the building to the dentils under the cornice of the roof. The roof is truncated hipped. The columns are free standing and behind them are square pilasters which are around the entire exterior.

When the library was in the building there was a book stack arrangement which had seven floors. They started at the base and ran nearly to the ceiling and were independent of the other floors. These book stack floors were connected to the building only at the third floor. The stacks were constructed of metal and glass and were enclosed by an ornamental railing and connected by iron stairways.

The main floor contained Executive offices, an open shelf department, the reference room. On the ground or first floor there were the children's room and the newspaper reading room. On the third floor there was a hall used for art exhibits, a lecture room and a magazine reading room. The ceilings were 18 feet high on the main floor. The floors are of reinforced concrete and were covered in a cork carpet in the reference and reading rooms and tile in the halls. The interior stairways were of marble with cast iron enameled balustrades.

When it was announced that the City and County Building would be erected it meant that the buildings at the rear of the library would be torn down. This would complete the Civic Center plan but would make the architectural rear of the library building the Civic Center front. The Library Board asked the city in 1924 to provide for expansion to increase the capacity of the building by about 100%.

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#7 DESCRIPTION

In 1956 the Denver Public Library moved to more spacious quarters at West 14th Avenue and Broadway and the Board of Water Commissioners took over the building. The book stacks were removed and were replaced with floors that lined up with the three main floors of the building. All of the interior space was converted into offices. The windows for each floor of stacks were changed to align with the three main floors. The second floor windows were all blocked off and all of the original wood window frames were replaced with metal ones.

Auxiliary Buildings of Note

BYERS - EVANS HOUSE, 1300 Bannock Street: 1880

National Register of Historic Places and Denver Landmark

Information on file with the National Park Service and the Denver Landmark Commission.

The house is situated on the south west corner of the block. The rest of the block is occupied by the Denver Art Museum. The ultra contemporary design of the Denver Art Museum and the Victorian charm of a bygone era provide a pleasing visual contrast.

THE DENVER ART MUSEUM, 100 West 14th Avenue Parkway: 1971

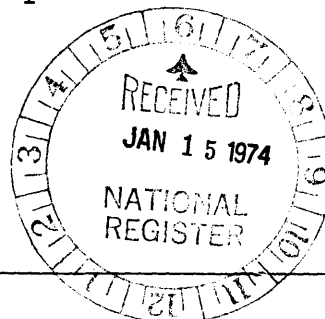
Architects - James Sudler and Gio Ponti of Italy

Materials - Reinforced concrete with gray, faceted, reflective tiles.

Building plan - Irregular

Building style - Modern

The exterior walls have various angles and strong vertical lines. The contemporary style is reminiscent of a fortified strong hold with narrow window openings placed at random and parapets.

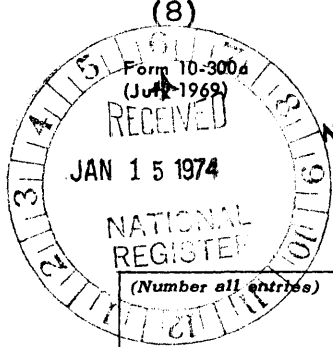


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#7 DESCRIPTION

The Denver Art Museum was built in 1971 replacing the old museum building which was on the same site. The new building is on the south side of the Civic Center and it's modern design is visually pleasing in contrast with the classic styles of the structures in Civic Center and the City and County building.

In addition to being architecturally important to the Civic Center, it has a great cultural importance and in this aspect relates to the Denver Public Library and to The Colorado State Museum.

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER LAW CENTER, 200 West 14th Avenue: 1960

Architect - Perkins and Will and Buell and Company

Building style - Modern

The Law Center was built in 1960 and is constructed around an open central court. It houses a college of law, a law library and an auditorium.

Architecturally the Law Center is a secondary building in the Civic Center District, however, it has a functional importance in it's close proximity to the City and County Building where the Denver district courts are located.

MAIN DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1357 Broadway: 1956

Architect - Burnham Hoyt

Building style - Modern. The scale, massing and color reflect the Classical design of the Civic Center.

The building is three storys high and a basement. There is a Children's Library in the west wing and Wyer Auditorium.

The building along with lawns and parking lie between West 14th Avenue and West 13th Avenue which is the south boundry of the Civic Center District.

The building has a functional importance to the Civic Center District which it shares with the Denver Art Museum and the State Historical Museum.

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#7 DESCRIPTION

The library was erected by the City and County of Denver in 1956.

The library was previously housed in the building on the north side of the Civic Center which is now occupied by the Board of Water Commissioners.

STATE CAPITOL ANNEX, Corner of Sherman Street & East 14th Avenue: 1939

Architect - Associated Architects for Colorado State Office Buildings A. A. Fisher, Sidney Frazier, G. Merrideth Musick, Fred Montjoy, C. Francis Pillsbury, Charles E. Thomes

Building plan - Rectangular

Building style - Modern

Due to the need for more office space for the governmental offices for the State of Colorado, the State Capitol Annex was constructed in 1939. It is situated across East 14th Avenue from the State Capitol and across Sherman Street from the Colorado State Museum.

STATE OFFICE BUILDING, Corner East Colfax Avenue and Sherman Street: 1919

Architect - William N. Bowman

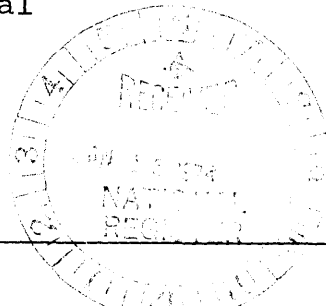
Materials - All are native Colorado materials except for some exterior marble and steel work.

Exterior - Dressed Colorado Cotopaxi granite and Colorado Yule marble.

Interior - Colorado and Tennessee marble.

Building plan - "U" shaped

Building style - Classic Revival



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The State Office Building was built beginning in 1919 and finished in 1921 when it was decided that the space at the State Capitol was not sufficient for the needs of the state government.

The building houses offices for state boards and commissions.

The building is situated across East Colfax Avenue north of the Capitol Building. It is an important element in the Capitol Group and is complimented by the State Museum Building which occupies the opposite site across East 14th Avenue, south of the Capitol Building.

The roof style of the State Office Building is truncated hip. In appearance, the State Office Building echoes the classic elements of the State Capitol Building in symmetrical fenestration, pilasters, and cornices.

STATE SERVICES BUILDING,

Architect - G. M. Musick and Temple H. Buell

Contractor - Mead and Mount

Building plan - Rectangular

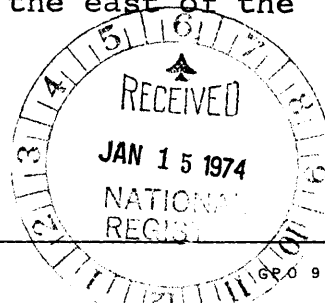
Building style - Modern

This building, constructed in 1960, is situated across East Colfax Avenue from the State Capitol Building and across Sherman Street from the State Office Building.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Corner East 14th Avenue and Grant Street

Information on file with the National Park Service and Denver Landmark Commission.

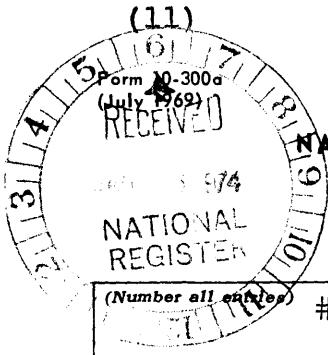
The church building is across East 14th Avenue to the south of the State Capitol Building next door to the east of the State Museum Building.



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#7 DESCRIPTION

HOSPITALITY CENTER, 225 West Colfax Avenue: 1951

This small, low, one story building is built on a small island made by the convergence of Court Place and 14th Street with West Colfax Avenue directly north of the City and County Building.

The building is the headquarters for the Denver Convention and Visitor's Bureau which was organized in 1908.

The building was dedicated on June 21, 1951.

Near the north entrance is a hitching post owned by David H. Moffat, prominent Denver citizen during the mining era and builder of the Moffet Railroad Tunnel under the Continental Divide.

The building is so situated that it permits views of the downtown area or the expanse of the Civic Center District from either location.

It's location is a convenient one for visitors to the city.

DENVER UNITED STATES MINT, West Colfax Avenue and Cherokee Street: 1904

National Register of Historic Places and Denver Landmark

Information on file with the National Park Service and Denver Landmark Commission.

The Mint is situated directly behind the City and County Building and is on the west boundry of the Civic Center District.

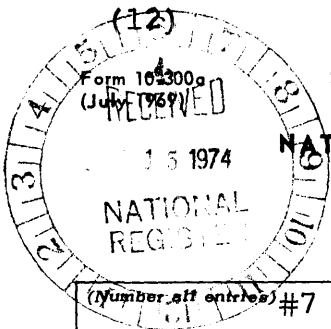
The building style was copied from the old Medici Bank of Florence, Italy and was completed in 1904.

Civic Center District Memorials and Monuments

VOORHIES MEMORIAL GATEWAY, North side of Civic Center: 1921

Architect - Fisher and Fisher (W.E. & A.A. Fisher)

Contractor - Frank Kirchoff



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(Number of entries) #7 DESCRIPTION

Fountains designer - Robert Garrison, sculptor

Materials - Turkey Creek sandstone

Structure plan - Rectangular central portion with curved colonnade on each side.

Structure style - Greek Revival, Ionic Order

A large arch in the central portion, which is roofed and floored, forms a gateway from downtown Denver into Civic Center. From each side of the gateway a double colonnade curves in toward the Civic Center. The columns of the colonnade and the columns at each side of the gateway are fluted with Ionic capitals. The colonnade is also roofed and floored. In the curve of the colonnade is a pool with two sea lion fountains.

High up on the interior walls of the central portion are two lunettes by Allen True, Denver artist who painted the murals in the rotunda of the State Capitol Building. The lunettes, painted in ancient Greek style, are of groups of native Colorado animals. They are painted directly on the concrete. They are badly faded from exposure to the weather.

The Greek Theater, a companion structure, gives balance and support. John H. P. Voorhies bequeathed to the City of Denver \$125,000 for a memorial to him and his wife to be erected on the Bates Triangle. Bates Triangle was a parcel of land at the corner of Colfax and Broadway which was separated from the main body of Civic Center by Colfax Avenue.

Mr. Voorhies, a pioneer Denver resident had lived for many years opposite the Bates Triangle. He came to Silverton, Colorado in the early 1870's from Lexington, Kentucky. He settled in Denver in 1885 and became prominent politically and socially, investing in mining property and other large realty holdings.

The Memorial was completed by the end of 1921 and the pool and fountains in the spring of 1922.

With the construction of the Voorhies Memorial, Colfax Avenue was closed at this point and moved to the north.

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| STATE | |
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| COUNTY | |
| Denver | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | FEB 27 1974 |

(Number all entries)

#7 DESCRIPTION

On the walk south of the Voorhies Memorial, about 20 yards from the intersection of Colfax and Broadway, there is a bronze plaque set in a large stone base. A street light is mounted on the base. This plaque commemorates the end of the streetcar era which lasted nearly 80 years starting in 1871. This is near the site of the cable house which provided power for the transit lines. The plaque was presented to the City of Denver by the Colorado State Historical Society and The American Pioneer Trails Association on June 3, 1950, the day the streetcars were placed by rubber-tired vehicles.

PIONEER MONUMENT (A fountain) Intersection of Broadway, Cheyenne Place and West Colfax Avenue, 1911

Sculptor - Frederick MacMonnies

Contractors - Ladd and Sanger

Materials - Base is Colorado granite. Figures are bronze.

Cost - \$75,000

At the top of the monument, facing to the east, is Kit Carson pointing the way westward. He is sitting astride a horse wearing buckskin clothes and holding a rifle. Below the top is a bronze frieze in the form of skulls and horns of oxen. On the three faces below the frieze, are three dedication and commemorative plaques. One plaque states that here was the end of the famous Smoky Hill Trail.

On the sill of the hexagonal base are three larger than life bronze figures representing the Prospector, the Hunter and the Pioneer Mother and Child.

There are five steps leading up to the base. At the top of the steps were bronze standards holding electric lamps which have been removed.

The Pioneer Monument was erected under the auspices of the Denver Real Estate Exchange. The Exchange was also responsible for establishing our system of Mountain Parks. Frederick MacMonnies, a well known sculptor, was given the contract to design the Pioneer Monument on May 16, 1907. The funds for the monument were from donations from the State of Colorado, the City of Denver, the Denver Real Estate Exchange, Walter S. Cheesman, Thomas F. Walsh and the rest was raised by popular subscription from prominent Denver citizens.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | | |
|------------------|----------|-------------|
| STATE | Colorado | |
| COUNTY | Denver | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | | DATE |
| | | FEB 27 1974 |

(Number all entries)

#7 DESCRIPTION

The corner stone was laid March 30, 1910 and the unveiling was on June 24, 1911.

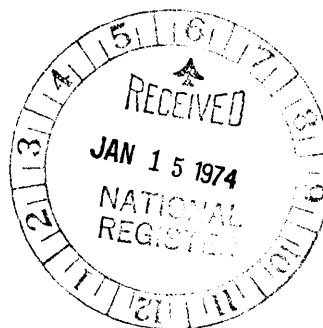
Mr. MacMonnies became interested in the Civic Center proposal while he was in Denver making a study for the Pioneer Monument and he suggested the present location. In 1907, the Civic Center Commission, appointed by Mayor Speer, adopted the MacMonnies proposal.

ON THE WAR TRAIL

A bronze statue of an Indian on a horse by Alex Phimister Proctor. "Big Beaver" or Jackson Sundown was the Indian model and a horse named "Satan". The cost was \$15,000 and was presented to the City of Denver by Stephen Knight in 1922.

BRONCO BUSTER

A bronze statue of a rider on a bucking horse by Alex Phimister Proctor. Presented to the City of Denver by John Kernan Mullen and Stephen Knight in 1920.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" 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

DENVER PLANNING PRIMER 1940
The Denver Planning Commission

Mayor Speer was the first mayor to be elected under the new Denver Charter. It was with Mayor Speer's election that Denver's real development as a metropolitan city began. Mayor Speer was one of the first city executives in America to realize the value of city planning. He worked mainly on the principle that cities should be developed from the aesthetic standpoint. This principle was sometimes called "City Beautification". He was responsible for beautifying Cherry Creek and planning for flood control. Mayor Speer developed a greater park system and there were created four park districts in 1904. He also had the dream that became the Civic Center.

In 1868 Henry Cordes Brown, the building of the Brown Palace Hotel, gave the land for the future capitol of the Kansas State Territory. The State Capitol Building was finished in 1896. West across Broadway from the capitol grounds is the Civic Center.

The United States Mint was built in 1904 at West Colfax Avenue and Cherokee Street. The first proposal for a Civic Center was made to Mayor Robert W. Speer in 1904 by the Municipal Art Commission. The commission selected and brought to Denver Charles Mulford Robinson, one of the best known professional city planners of that day. His plan was for the city to acquire the land between the State Capitol grounds and the old Court House grounds by general taxation. The plan was defeated by vote in 1906.

It was about that time that Frederic MacMonnies, a famed sculptor, was in Denver making a study for the Pioneer Monument and he suggested the present location for the proposed Civic Center. In 1907 Mayor Speer appointed a Civic Center Commission and this commission adopted the MacMonnies proposal.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Louisa Ward Arps, Denver In Slices, Sage Books, Denver; 1911. pp. 114, 115. State Historical Society.

"The Colorado State Capitol" by J. Frank Coss. Civic Center National Register file; State Historical Society.

Denver's Historic Markers, Memorials, Statues and Parks; compiled by Agnes Wright Spring, State Historian, State Historical Society of Colorado. pp. 7-10, 28-31.

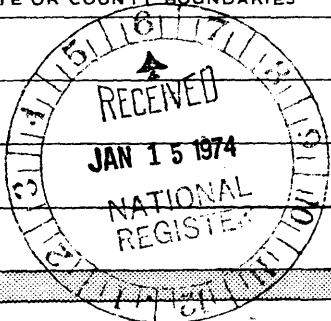
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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' | 29" | 104° | 59' | 25" | | | |
| NE | 39° | 44' | 29" | 104° | 59' | 00" | | | |
| SE | 39° | 44' | 11" | 104° | 59' | 00" | | | |
| SW | 39° | 44' | 11" | 104° | 59' | 25" | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: About **81** acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



HP 5006... 1397360/0000... SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Barbara Norgren and Cynthia Emrick

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society** DATE: **12/10/73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 14th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Denver** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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. Arps*

Title: *Colo State Parks Officer*

Date: *Dec. 15, 1973*

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

R. R. [Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *9/29/74*

ATTEST:

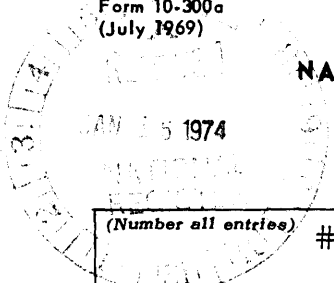
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: *2.25.74*

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

(Continuation Sheet)

| | | |
|------------------|----------|-------------|
| STATE | Colorado | |
| COUNTY | Denver | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | |
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| | | FEB 27 1974 |



(Number all entries)

#8 SIGNIFICANCE

In 1912, Mayor Henry J. Arnold succeeded Mayor Speer. Mayor Arnold ordered the ground of the proposed Civic Center cleared of buildings and announced that the city would erect a city building in each corner of the Center. The Public Library was built in 1910 and was already occupying one corner of the land at the time. Before the mayor could finish his plan he was removed from office by the adoption of the commission form of government.

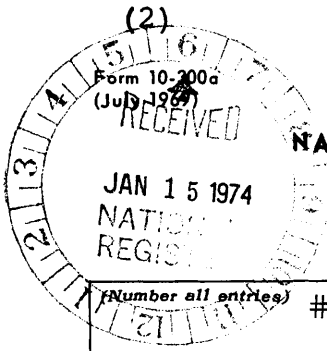
A detailed study of the Civic Center location was made by Frederick Law Olmstead and Alfred Brunner, both nationally known planners. From that time until Mayor Speer was elected for a third time in 1916, no further progress was made except to plant grass. Mayor Speer then employed E. H. Bennett of Chicago and Mr. Bennett's development plan has since been followed. Mr. Bennett was Chicago's city planner.

However, before Mr. Bennett was hired, the Pioneer Monument had been built in 1911 at the intersection of Broadway, Cheyenne Place and West Colfax Avenue. The Colorado Museum Building was next in 1915 followed by the State Office Building in 1916. The real development of the Civic Center came in 1919 when the Greek Theater and Colonnade of Civic Benefactors was completed. The idea was conceived by Mayor Speer, but he died in office before the structure was completed. The next element in Civic Center, The Voorhies Memorial Gateway, was placed at the opposite side of the Center from the Greek Theater. The gateway is a companion structure to the theater and was completed in 1921. It is a memorial to John H. P. Voorhies, a pioneer Denver resident. The building of this structure changed the route of Colfax Avenue.

The City and County Building was constructed in 1932 just east of the Mint at the west end of Civic Center. Much attention was paid to the design of the City and County Building so as to preserve the mountain view. The expanse and orientation to the mountains make Civic Center unique among other state capitols.

The construction of other state and city buildings continued with the State Capitol Annex in 1939, at the corner of East 14th Avenue and Sherman Street, The Hospitality Center to the north of the City and County Building, The Denver Art Museum Building was built at West 14th Avenue parkway in 1949 followed by a new Denver Public Library at the corner of West 14th Avenue and Broadway. The Old Denver Public Library was then leased by the Board of Water Commissioners.

(2)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
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| STATE Colorado | |
| COUNTY Denver | |
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| | FEB 27 1974 |

(Number all entries) #8 SIGNIFICANCE

A State Services Building was constructed in 1960 across Sherman Street from the State Office Building on East Colfax Avenue.

University of Denver's Law Center was built in 1960 and was located across Bannock Street from the Denver Art Museum and across West 14th Avenue from the City and County Building. In 1971 the Denver Art Museum built a new building on the same site.

Civic Center lies at Colfax and Broadway, the survey lines of the National Grid. These survey lines are the outgrowth of Thomas Jefferson's National Land Act to aid in the development of western lands.

More historic information will be found in #8 for individual ? buildings.

Buildings located on two blocks within the district will be demolished for city and state projects. None of the buildings on these sites have any great architectural or historical importance.

A new Police Administration Building will be built on the block bounded by Delaware Street, Cherokee Street, West 14th Avenue, and West 13th Avenue.

A Colorado Supreme Court Building and Heritage Center will be built on the block bounded by Broadway, Lincoln, East 13th Avenue, and East 14th Avenue.

The proposed new buildings will be important elements of the Civic Center because of the function and the urban design relationships with the existing buildings in the Civic Center District.

STATE CAPITOL: 1896

Henry Cordes Brown, builder of The Brown Palace Hotel, gave the land for the future capitol of the Kansas Territory in 1868. The site was known as "Brown's Ridge".

Excavation for the capitol building started July 6, 1886 and the cornerstone was laid July 4, 1890. Portions of the building were occupied in 1895 and was fully occupied in 1896.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |

FEB 27 1974

(Number all entries)

#8 SIGNIFICANCE

The dome of the capitol was originally of copper, tin and zinc. In 1907, Otto Mears, persuaded the legislature to authorize the money to gold plate the capitol dome. Two hundred ounces of gold leaf were used at a cost of \$14,680 for the total job. The dome was again plated in 1950 using 7½ tons of lead for a base for the gold leaf which was donated by the mining industry of Colorado. The cost of this, labor and materials, was \$19,000. The gold is symbolic of the state's beginning.

The Colorado State Capitol Building is dominant at the center of the east boundary of the Civic Center District and Civic Center over looks the downtown and western portions of the city. More importantly, the north to south expanse of the front range and the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains can be clearly seen and the zoning ordinances protect this view.

The grounds of the capitol cover about 15 acres, 10 of which were given by Mr. Brown and the balance were purchased by the state. There are trees of different varieties, many from foreign countries, growing on the capitol grounds. Also found on the grounds are the two statues:

"Closing Era" - On the east lawn. Bronze statue of a buffalo and an Indian. Sculptor: John Preston Powers. Given it's name by John Greenleaf Whittier when the statue was on display at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

"Soldier's Monument" - Near the west entrance to the capitol. Bronze figure of a Union soldier mounted on a stone base. Sculptor: Captain John D. Howland, Civil War veteran, western scout, and artist. Unveiled on July 24, 1909.

The City and County Building was completed in 1932. It replaced the Cout House at 16th Street and Tremont Place which was built in 1883.

In 1923 The Civic Center Extension Committee was instrumental in promoting a bond issue to build a new City and County Building. On December 3, 1924 the Allied Architects Association of Denver was formed. It consisted of 39 licensed architects from the Denver area. The preliminary drawings for the building were completed June 29, 1925.

On June 29, 1931 the State Supreme Court ruled the Association could not practice architecture under Colorado law and the corporation was then dissolved.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries) #8 SIGNIFICANCE

Ground was broken in 1929, the cornerstone laid in 1931 and completion of the building was approved in 1932.

The City and County Building is the dominant building at the west end of Civic Center. The plans for the Civic Center began in 1904 when Mayor Robert Speer was in office. He was instrumental in promoting the idea of "an open plaza with the Mint to the south; the state capitol, public library and Pioneer's Monument all in plain view. Other public and quasi-public buildings would soon be clustered around this center".

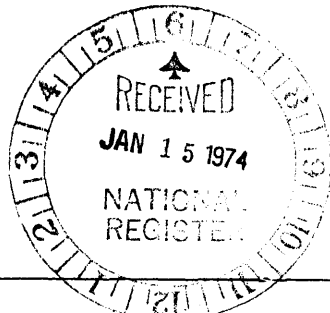
The first mayor elected under home rule, Robert W. Speer, was mayor of Denver from 1904 to 1912 and again from 1916 to his death in 1918. Mayor Speer improved and created parks in the city and was instrumental in the planting of great numbers of shade trees around the city. The Civic Center is a result of Mayor Speer's planning for open spaces. The clock in the spire of the City and County Building was presented to the city by Kate A. Speer in memory of her husband, Robert W. Speer. It is The Speer Memorial Tower Clock and Chimes.

The Greek Theater was dedicated August 1, 1919. The idea and design was conceived by Mayor Speer, however, Mayor Speer died in office before the structure was completed.

Recorded on the outside of the east and west walls of the theater, in bronze letters are the names of the civic benefactors who have added to the beauty or the distinction of the city by gifts of material character. The letters were designed by Robert Garrison, a Denver sculptor.

Construction of the State Museum Building was begun in 1915. The museum was previously located in the basement of the State Capitol.

The State Museum Building is on the south-east perimeter of the open space which links the Capitol and the City and County Building. It has historic importance in the Capitol Group and functional importance and relationship to the Denver Public Library and the Denver Art Museum which are at the south side of the Civic Center proper.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries) #8 SIGNIFICANCE

STATE ARCHIVES BUILDING (Woodward House)

The property upon which the State Archives Building stands was patented to Henry C. Brown, builder of the Brown Palace Hotel, by the United States of America in 1867 and it became part of the H. C. Brown addition to Denver in 1868. After several changes of ownership, the land was owned by Henry M. Porter who conveyed it to Helen M (Bassett) Woodward and wife of Benjamin F. Woodward. Woodward and Porter were close business associates.

Woodward was born in Newark, Ohio in 1834. He came to Denver about 1863 and was in charge of the construction of the Pacific Overland Telegraph Company's extension to Denver, the first telegraph into Denver. Mr. Woodward figures most prominently in the history of the telegraph in Denver. Mr. Woodward also was one of the organizers and a director of the first YMCA in Denver; one of the founders of Riverside Cemetery, where many of Denver's pioneers are buried; active in the real estate business and many other undertakings which contributed to the development of Denver.

Records show that the house was completed in 1889. Mrs. Woodward died early in 1900 willing the property to her husband and June 7, 1900, Benjamin F. Woodward conveyed the property to Emma Winchester. From that time until purchased by the State of Colorado there were several changes in ownership.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BUILDING (Water Board Building, Old Denver Public Library); 1910

In 1902 Mr. Andrew Carnegie offered to the city of Denver \$200,000.00 for the erection of a library building in response to a request by a Denver attorney, William L. Palm. In 1903 the gift was accepted by City Council. The property was already in the process of being purchased. The property was a block from Acoma Street to Bannock Street and facing West Colfax Avenue and is now part of Civic Center. The block contained several dwelling houses and one terrace named La Veta Place. These were stylish terraces built by H.A.W. Tabor and was the residence of Issac Large, the builder of the house which was purchased from him by J.J. Brown, husband of the "Unsinkable Molly Brown".

The corner stone was laid in 1907 and opened to the public on February 16, 1910. In 1956 the Board of Water Commissioners leased the building from the city after the library had moved into it's new building at Broadway and 14th Avenue.

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

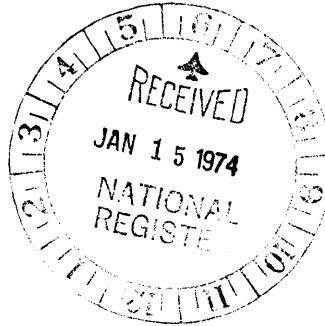
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| STATE Colorado | |
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| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
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(Number all entries)

#8 SIGNIFICANCE

When the Library Board bought the site for the new library building, there was no plan for other municipal activities in the neighborhood. Before many years had passed, however, the plan for a Civic Center was developed and the library found itself part of Civic Center in a beautifully landscaped open space.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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| STATE Colorado | |
| COUNTY Denver | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | FEB 27 1974 |

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charles A. Johnson, Denver's Mayor Speer, Denver: Green Mountain Press, 1969. Civic Center National Register File, State Historical Society.

Civic Center file; Denver Landmark Commission.

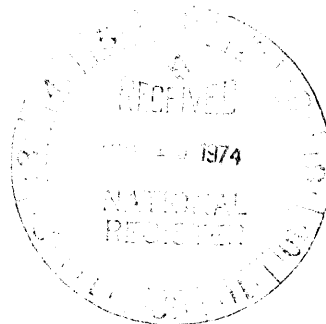
Denver Planning Primer (Revised); The Denver Planning Commission; 1940; vol. 6, pp. 27-30. Denver Planning Office.

1967 HABS Historic Buildings Survey; State Historical Society and Denver Planning Office.

Colorado State Archives

Colorado State Division of Public Works

Jerome C. Smiley, History of Denver, The Denver Times; The Times-Sun Publishing Company; Denver 1901. p. 848.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

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|-------------------|-------------|
| STATE Colorado | |
| COUNTY Denver | |
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(Number all entries)

2. LOCATION

following Grant to 16th, south on Lincoln to Colfax, west to Broadway, north to Cheyenne place, southwest to Colfax, west to Court and southeast to Colfax, thence to Delaware.



STATE CAPTOL

E

Grant →

State Archives

State Services Bldg.

Open Space Plaza

Pioneer Monument

Voorheis Memorial Greek Theatre

Brd. Of Water Commissioners Bldg.

State Offices

Baptist church
State Museum Bldg.

State Office Bldgs.

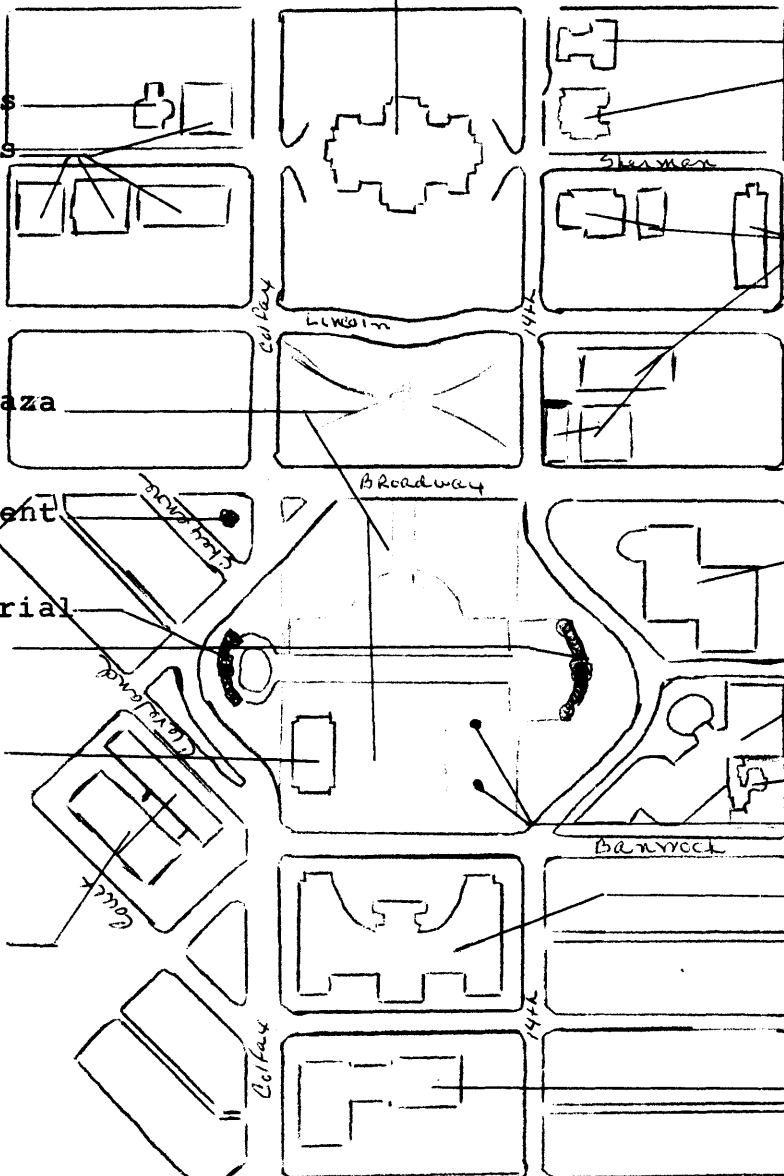
Denver Public Library

Denver Art Museum

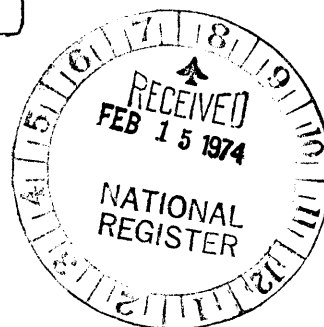
Byers-Evans House
Monuments

City&County Bldg.

Denver Mint



Delaware



w

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Civic Center Historic District Colorado

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

for Keeper Betty L. Savage 1-14-88

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 30 1988

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page 1 Civic Center Historic District
(Boundary Revision and New Information)

This revision to the Civic Center Historic District is submitted to better define the district boundaries and to update the information in the original nomination and on the sketch map.

When the nomination was submitted in 1974, a large rectangular area was drawn around the historic district as required for areas over 10 acres. The four corners of the rectangle were located by longitude and latitude and later by UTM's. This area remains the same with the UTM's corrected. The sketch map did not clearly define the district boundaries or correctly identify the buildings. The revision to the 1974 nomination will accomplish the following:

- Provide a new sketch map of the district with names of contributing and non-contributing buildings, structures, and objects shown on the map.
- Provide a list of contributing and noncontributing elements in the district with numbers corresponding to the sketch map.
- Show numbers for new photos of the district on the sketch map.
- Update the 1974 nomination with new information on the First Baptist Church (#6), Argonaut Hotel (#2) and the University of Denver Classroom Building-City Annex Number One (#31) and several monuments and objects which were in the district but not included in the original nomination form (#'s 12a & b, 13, 14, 15 and 16).
- Provide criteria for contributing and noncontributing elements.
- Discuss the renovations that have occurred since 1974 to the buildings in the district.
- Provide a planting plan for the State Capitol Grounds which has been field checked.
- Give a boundary justification, corrected UTM's and acreage.

Barbara Sudler
State Historic Preservation Officer

9-23-88
Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 30 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number _____ Page 2 Civic Center Historic District
(Boundary revision and additional information)

COLORADO STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX

1. Colorado State Capitol Building and Grounds (1890-1894) - between East Colfax Avenue, East 14th Avenue, Broadway and Grant Street. Contributing building
2. Argonaut Hotel-Argonaut Apartments (1913) 233-289 East Colfax Avenue. Contributing building
3. State Office Building (1919) - 201 East Colfax Avenue. Contributing building
4. Old State Archives Building - Woodward House (1899) - 1530 Sherman Street. Contributing building
5. State Services Building (1960) - 1525 Sherman Street. Noncontributing building
6. First Baptist Church (1938) - Southwest corner of East 14th Avenue and Grant Street. Contributing building
7. State Museum Building (old) (1915) - 200 East 14th Avenue. Contributing building
8. State Capitol Annex (1938-1939) - 1375 Sherman Street. Contributing building
9. State Power Plant (1939) - South of 1375 Sherman Street. Contributing building
10. Statue, "The Closing Era" (1893) - East capitol grounds. Contributing object
11. Statue, "Soldiers' Monument" (1909) - West Capitol grounds. Contributing object
- 12.a and 12b Civil War Cannons (1862-63) - West Capitol grounds. Two contributing objects
13. Colorado Volunteers Flag Pole (n.d.) - Lower capitol grounds - Lincoln Park. Contributing object
14. Liberty Bell (1950) - Lower capitol lawn-Lincoln Park. Noncontributing object
15. Ten Commandments Plaque (1956) - Lower capitol lawn-Lincoln Park. Noncontributing object
16. Sadie M. Likens Water Fountain (1923) - Lower capitol lawn-Lincoln Park at corner of East Colfax Avenue and Broadway. Contributing object

SEP 30 1988

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number _____ Page 3 Civic Center Historic District
(Boundary revision and additional information)

DENVER MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX

17. Denver Public Library (1956) - 1357 Broadway. Noncontributing building
18. Denver Art Museum (1971) - 100 West 14th Avenue Parkway. Noncontributing building
19. Byers-Evans House (1883) - 1310 Bannock Street. Contributing building
20. Greek Theater and Colonnade of Civic Benefactors (1919) - South side of Civic Center Park. Contributing structure
21. Voorhies Memorial Gateway, Pool and Fountains (1921) - North side of Civic Center Park. Contributing structure
22. Old Denver Public Library - Water Board Building - Treasury Building (1910) - 144 West Colfax Avenue - Civic Center Park. Contributing building
23. Pioneer Monument (1911) - West Colfax at Broadway. Contributing object.
24. Statue, "Christopher Columbus"(1970) - Civic Center Park. Noncontributing object
25. Statue, "On the War Trail" (1922) - Civic Center Park. Contributing object
26. Statue, "Bronco Buster" (1920) - Civic Center Park. Contributing object
27. University of Denver Law Center/City Offices (1960) - 200 West 14th Avenue. Noncontributing building
28. City and County Building (1932) - Between Bannock and Cherokee Streets; West 14th and West Colfax Avenues. Contributing building
29. United States Mint (1904) - 320 West Colfax Avenue. Contributing building
30. Denver Metro Convention and Visitor's Bureau/ Hospitality Center (1951) - 280 14th Street. Noncontributing building
31. University of Denver Classroom Building - City Annex #1 (1949) and Kenneth Macintosh Park - 1445 Cleveland Place. Noncontributing building

Total buildings, structures and objects:

| | | |
|------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| Buildings | 18 | (12 contributing, 6 noncontributing) |
| Structures | 2 | (2 contributing) |
| Objects | 12 | (9 contributing, 3 noncontributing) |
| Totals | 32 | (23 contributing, 9 noncontributing) |

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National Register of Historic Places
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(Boundary Revision and New Information)New Information

To update the original nomination, new information is presented for the buildings and objects included in the district boundaries which were not discussed in the original nomination form.

THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER CLASSROOM BUILDING--CITY ANNEX NUMBER ONE (1948-1949) (map #31), 1445 Cleveland Place. Noncontributing building.

This building is located directly northwest of Civic Center at the gateway into downtown Denver. In the early 1980s, Cleveland Place was closed in front of the building and a small park was created in memory of former city councilman Kenneth Macintosh. This park reinforces the physical link between this building and Civic Center Park.

The University of Denver Classroom Building, constructed in 1948-1949 is a non-contributing building to the Civic Center District because it is less than 50 years old, but it has a unique architectural merit as the best International Style building in the city. One of the few buildings in Denver designed in the International Style, it was created by a partnership formed by G. Meredith Musick, Dudley Smith, Casper Hegner and Thomas Moore all of Denver. Both Hegner and Moore had been designing International Style residences since the mid-1930s. The only two other sizable commercial buildings in Denver influenced by the International Style are the Railway Exchange Building at 909 17th Street and the old Police Building, 1245 Champa Street.

The International Style developed simultaneously in several European countries during the 1920s and found its way to the United States in the 1930s. This was a disciplined style governed by three principals--a design of regularity by asymmetry and architecture of volume rather than mass (free planes rather than enclosed blocks or cubes) and the avoidance of applied decoration. International Style buildings are characterized by flat roofs, metal or reinforced concrete skeletons sheathed in white or light colored materials such as metal plates, smooth stucco or dressed stone. The wall surfaces appear unbroken and stretched with windows an integral part of the wall plane which gives the illusion of one continuous surface. Even though conspicuous horizontality is the rule, vertical elements are also expressed where function demands. The lowrise character and the white limestone materials used in the building indicate it was consciously designed to complement and be a part of Civic Center.

The University of Denver Classroom Building demonstrates its architectural significance by incorporating the major characteristics of the International Style. The building's design is simple and straightforward. Four stories in height with a flat roof, it has continuous bands of windows on each floor alternating with bands of Indiana limestone

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Continuation SheetSection number _____ Page 5Civic Center Historic District
(Boundary Revision and New Information)

across the steel frame. A cantilevered roof and a metal railing frame a fourth floor deck overlooking Civic Center. Two solid walls of dressed limestone blocks form rectangular planes which enclose the building ends. On the rear of the building, vertical elements are introduced in the asymmetrical arrangement of the projecting, glassed stairways. When viewing this building against the backdrop of the more recent skyscrapers of downtown Denver, it is apparent that this building is the first generation of Denver's modern architecture and is a very important element in Denver's architectural history.

THE ARGONAUT HOTEL (1912-1913) (map #2) 233 East Colfax Avenue. Contributing building.

At the time the nomination was prepared in 1974 the significance of the Argonaut Hotel was not recognized and information about this building was not included. Current research indicates that this building has architectural and historical significance and that it contributes to the significance of the historic district.

According to the Denver Building Permit Records, the Argonaut was a three story hotel designed by Denver architect T. Robert Wieger in 1912. In 1913, a two story addition was designed by architects Robert Willison and Montana Fallis making 5 stories in all.

The hotel occupies a prominent corner site across East Colfax from the State Capitol and is the anchor for the northeast corner of the district. The 125 room hotel was originally owned and built by George Snyder, Jr. a Denver real estate developer. In 1916, the Argonaut was sold to Mrs. Barbara E. Schwalbe, a widow. Mrs. Schwalbe owned and managed the hotel until her death in 1936. Her son O. Henry Schwalbe became the owner and manager until the building was sold in 1973. Henry Schwalbe was named Colorado Hotel Man of the Year in 1963 by the Colorado Hotel-Motel Association.

The Argonaut, once regarded as one of the fashionable hotels in the city, was a popular stopping place for visiting politicians who had business at the capitol. It was also a gathering place for local politicians in what was known as the Senate Lounge which opened in 1960 in conjunction with the opening of the adjacent Quorum Restaurant. This nationally acclaimed restaurant which has won many awards for its fine food, service and atmosphere, is still located in the buildings.

The Argonaut was sold in 1973 to Goldrich, Kest and Associates and was closed for 14 months for remodeling into apartments for the elderly. It reopened again in November of 1974 as the Argonaut Hotel Apartments. The Argonaut and the 20 unit El Tovar Apartments (1908) next door to the north were renovated into 51 one-bedroom apartments and 57 buffets. The building is still in this use.

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Continuation SheetSection number _____ Page 6Civic Center Historic District
(Boundary Revision and New Information)

The Argonaut is of 1912 fireproof construction consisting of reinforced concrete, concrete floors, metal and concrete partitions. The roof is flat with a frame and composition roof over a concrete roof. The Neoclassical style building is five stories high with a front light court above the first story creating an inverted U plan. The main body of the building is brown face brick with light tan brick in the four story corner pilasters and the parapets on the south and east. The pilasters have composite terra cotta capitols. There are three bays on the south front and east side elevations. At the back of the light court, there is a semi-oval shaped bay above the first story. The windows are arranged in threes across the bays on each side of the light court and on the east side the windows are outlined in narrow terra-cotta molding with terra cotta sills. Some have radiating brick visours with terra-cotta keystones, while others on the third floor have semiarched brick lintels. The middle windows have piers on each side with terra-cotta label molds across the top.

The cornice is supported by elaborately designed terra-cotta brackets. Above the cornice is a parapet of light tan brick with brown brick panels on the face. The parapet is lower at the ends of the building and slopes up toward the middle where it ends in a diminutive curved parapet which is also repeated at the corners. The parapet is capped with terra-cotta.

When the Quorum Restaurant went into the building in 1960, the first floor of the south and east elevations was faced with aggregate panels of green stones. The secondary cornice above the first floor was boxed with metal. In 1974 when the building was converted into elderly housing, the original wood window frames were replaced with metal and a four story wooden addition was constructed on the east wall in the light court. Despite these changes, the building still retains most of its original architectural character due to the bold design of the building elements. There is a strong contrast between the dark brick and the trim of white terra-cotta and light tan brick which make the upper stories visually dominant rather than the alterations.

The 1960 and 1974 renovations have left little or none of the original interior intact.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (1938) (map #6) East 14th Avenue and Grant Street. Contributing building.

Like its companion building, the Argonaut Hotel, the First Baptist Church anchors the southeast corner of the historic district. This building was included in the 1974 nomination, but little information was given.

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Continuation Sheet

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(Boundary Revision and New Information)

The building was designed by Denver architect G. Meredith Musick in a Georgian Revival style. Musick was also one of the architects for the University of Denver Classroom Building. According to Denver architect Langdon Morris, a former member and chairman of the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission, the design of the building is a "stylistic throwback to the James Gibbs churches of Renaissance London via Atlantic seaboard Georgian antecedents. It is an outstanding example of an architectural style rarely utilized for churches in this region (Rocky Mountain)." The building was designated a Denver landmark in 1968 when it was barely 30 years old because it was so highly regarded by the local community. In 1939, when the Architectural Record, set out to discover and publicize the finest buildings in six American cities, the First Baptist Church ranked third out of eighteen Denver buildings.

LIBERTY BELL (1950) (map #14) Lower capitol lawn - Lincoln Park. Noncontributing object.

The Liberty Bell is one of fifty-three bronze bells cast in France in 1950. This bell was taken throughout Colorado in 1950 as an inspirational symbol for the U.S. Savings Bond drive. In 1974, the bell was placed in the basement of the old State Museum Building and later moved to the outside lawn on the corner of East 14th and Sherman Streets. In 1986, the bell was installed at its present location.

FLAG POLE - COLORADO VOLUNTEERS, Spanish American War (1898) (map #13) - Lower Capitol lawn - Lincoln Park. Contributing object.

Erected in honor of Colorado Volunteers of 1898 who fought in the Spanish American War by the Society of the Sons of the Revolution. The names of those volunteers who died in service in 1898 and 1899 are engraved on plaques placed around the flag pole.

Ten Commandments - Stone Plaque (1956) (map #15) Lower capitol lawn - Lincoln Park. Noncontributing object.

The Ten Commandments engraved on a low red granite monument was presented to the city by the Fraternal Order of Eagles in 1956.

SADIE M. LIKENS WATER FOUNTAIN (1923) (map #16) - Lower capitol lawn - Lincoln Park at the corner of East Colfax and Broadway. Contributing object.

A four-sided, tapering black granite monument with circular drinking fountains on two

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Civic Center Historic District
(Boundary Revision and New Information)

opposing sides. The monument, erected in 1923 by the Grand Army of the Republic, was dedicated to Sadie M. Likens (1840-1920) who devoted many years of her life aiding the survivors of the Civil War and other wars.

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT-CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL (1909) (map #11) West capitol grounds. Contributing object.

The monument consists of a cast bronze Civil War soldier on top of a large rectangular stone base. Monument was designed by John D. "Jack" Howard, a Civil War veteran. The soldier was modeled by J. Otto Schweizer of Philadelphia. The monument was erected by the state of Colorado and unveiled in 1909.

There are bronze plaques on all four sides of the stone base. On the west side are facts and dates about Colorado Territory, and statehood; Colorado's military organizations in the Civil War and the dates and names of the battles and engagements in 1864. The names and dates of the Colorado soldiers who died in the Civil War are engraved on the south, east and north plaques.

CANNONS (1862 & 1863) (map #12a and 12b) - Placed on each side of Civil War Monument. Contributing

No information available on the origin of the cannons but they are believed to have been from the Civil War. Put on the capitol grounds ca. 1910.

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(Boundary Revision and New Information)

Criteria for Contributing and Noncontributing Elements in the Civic Center Historic District

The buildings, structures and objects 50 years or older are considered to be contributing to the significance of the district if they retain their original integrity and are significant to the district's sense of time, place and history through location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The noncontributing elements are those that are less than 50 years of age even though they may contribute to the historic or architectural significance of the district. There are no elements in the district that are over 50 years of age and are noncontributing due to loss of integrity through alterations.

Changes to the Buildings in the District Since 1974

State Office Building (#3) Renovation in 1985, Urban Design Group, architects. Complete restoration of exterior, public lobby spaces on first floor and upper floor hallways. Offices under went major rehabilitation with redefinition of spaces. The rear light well was enclosed and a skylight was added to create an atrium. The open stairway was modified above the second floor to meet fire code regulations. The building retains its original integrity on the exterior and interior public spaces and is a contributing building.

Old State Museum Building (#7) Renovation in 1987, Pahl, Pahl & Pahl, architects.

The restoration of this building, which had been vacant since the mid-1970s, did not alter any of the original fabric or change the exterior appearance. It did improve the appearance and condition of the building through cleaning of the white marble on the interior and exterior. Interior modifications were made to house the state auditor's office, but did not damage or remove the original fabric. The building retains its integrity and contributes to the district.

University of Denver Law Center - City Office Building (#27) Renovation 1988, C. W. Fentress and Associates, architects.

In the original nomination, this building was considered as a supporting building to the district. While it is a noncontributing building because it is less than 50 years old, the rehabilitation will improve the building's appearance and strengthen its relationship to the City and County Building and Civic Center. The low rise character of this building is in keeping with the other buildings in the district. A rotunda-type

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Civic Center Historic District
(Boundary Revision and New Information)

entrance added to the northeast corner of the building will reinforce its relationship to the classical architecture of Civic Center. Since it will house city offices, the building will relate functionally to the surrounding buildings.

United States Mint (#29) Addition in 1986-1987, Rogers-Nagel-Langhart, architects.

The additions on the west side and south rear of the Mint have been designed using elements from the original building with arches being predominant. The new work has little impact on the two primary elevations on the east and north. The building is still considered to have integrity and to still be contributing to the district.

Amendments to the Civic Center Historic District 1974 Nomination Form

There is a portion in Section 8 in the 1974 nomination form which discusses the new construction to take place on two blocks within the district. The block bounded by East 13th and East 14th Avenues, Broadway and Lincoln streets now contains the Colorado Supreme Court Building and the Colorado History Museum both completed in 1977. The other block is bounded by West 13th and West 14th Avenues, Cherokee and Delaware streets where the Police Administration Building was constructed in the mid-1970s. These buildings were not completed in 1974 and are not considered part of the district at this time because of their recent construction dates.

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Civic Center Historic District
(Boundary Revision and New Information)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the Civic Center Historic District generally incorporates the area nominated in 1974. It includes a number of the state buildings immediately adjacent to the State Capitol and grounds east of Broadway and the city buildings around Civic Center west of Broadway. The exceptions to state or city functions are the buildings in the district such as the First Baptist Church (#6) and the Byers-Evans House (#19). These were included in the original nomination because of their architectural significance and because they have traditionally been associated with the Civic Center District.

The buildings less than 50 years of age that are in the district have been included because of their modern architectural significance such as the International Style University of Denver Classroom Building (City Annex Number One) (#31) and the Denver Art Museum (#18) for its architectural significance and association with nationally prominent architect Gio Ponti and local architect, James Sudler. The Denver Public Library (#17) was originally included for its architectural relationship to the district and for its association with the prominent architectural firm of Fisher and Fisher. Discussion of the Art Museum and the Library are in the text of the original nomination.

The State Services Building (#5) was also included in 1974 even though it is less than 50 years old because it is an architectural companion to the State Capitol Annex (#8) on the opposite side of the State Capitol Grounds.

The boundaries have been drawn to eliminate vacant ground, parking structures and parking lots. Key anchor buildings like the Argonaut Hotel (#2) is included for its prominent geographic location and for its architectural significance and association with prominent architects, T. Robert Wieger and Willison and Fallis. The University of Denver Law Center (#27) was included in the original nomination form. This building anchors the southwest corner of the district.

The city or state buildings which are not within the boundaries may relate functionally to the city or state, but are less than 50 years old and as yet lack local recognition of architectural merit or association with architects who were prominent in Denver's history.

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(Boundary Revision and New Information)

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Civic Center Historic District
(Boundary Revision and New Information)

UTM's (corrected for Civic Center Historic District)

A 13 501460 4398900

B 13 501460 4398340

C 13 500640 4398340

D 13 500630 4398880

Argonaut Hotel

13 501430 4398540

University of Denver Law Center-City Offices

13 500840 4398500

University of Denver Classroom Building-City Annex Number One

13 500920 4398780

Acreage 82

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(Boundary Revision and New Information)

PHOTO LOG

1. Civic Center Historic District
2. Denver, Denver County, Colorado
3. Photographers: Northglenn High School photography class
4. Location of negatives: Northglenn High School
5. Date: Spring 1988

| <u>Photo #</u> | <u>Feature</u> | <u>View</u> |
|----------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Colorado State Capitol Building (1) | E |
| 2 | Capitol - W. entrance detail | |
| 3 | Capitol - interior detail 2nd floor | |
| 4 | Capitol - interior detail 1st floor | |
| 5 | Capitol - interior detail - dome | |
| 6 | Capitol - interior detail | |
| 7 | Capitol - interior detail | |
| 8 | Capitol - interior detail | |
| 9 | "The Closing Era" (10) | W |
| 10 | Civil War Cannon (12a; 12b) | NE |
| 11 | "Soldiers' Monument" (11) | N |
| 12 | First Baptist Church (6) | NW |
| 13 | First Baptist Church | NW |
| 14 | Old State Museum (7) | SE |
| 15 | Old State Museum (interior detail) | |
| 16 | State Capitol Annex (8) | SW |
| 17 | Argonaut Hotel (2) | N |
| 18 | Old State ARchives - Woodward House (4) | NE |
| 19 | State Office Building (3) | NW |
| 20 | State Office Building - lobby detail | |
| 21 | State Office Building - lobby detail | |
| 22 | State Services Building (5) | NW |
| 23 | Liberty bell (14) | NW |
| 24 | Ten Commandments Plaque (15) | NW |
| 25 | Sadie Likens fountain (16) | N |
| 26 | Pioneer Monument (23) | NE |
| 27 | Pioneer Monument - detail | NW |
| 28 | "Columbus" (24) | SW |
| 29 | "On the War Trail" (25) | NE |
| 30 | "Bronco Buster" (26) | W |

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(Boundary Revision and New Information)

Photo log continued:

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| 31 | Voorhies Memorial (21) | N |
| 32 | Voorhies Memorial - detail Allen True mural | |
| 33 | Voorhies Memorial - detail pool | |
| 34 | Old Public Library (22) | E |
| 35 | Greek Theater (20) | S |
| 36 | Denver Public Library (17) | W |
| 37 | Denver Public Library (17) | S |
| 38 | Denver Art Museum (18) | SW |
| 39 | Byers-Evans House (19) | NE |
| 40 | Byers-Evans House - front detail | NE |
| 41 | Byers-Evans House - dining room | |
| 42 | Byers-Evans House - main stairway | |
| 43 | Byers-Evans House - 2nd floor bedroom | |
| 44 | Byers-Evans House - interior | |
| 45 | City and County Building (28) | W |
| 46 | City and County Building - detail | |
| 47 | Civic Center Park from State Capitol | W |
| 48 | Civic Center Park streetscape | NW |
| 49 | Old DU Law Building (27) | SW |
| 50 | City Annex #1 (31) | N |
| 51 | U.S. Mint - North entrance (29) | |

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Civic Center Historic District
(Boundary Revision and New Information)

MAP LOG

Map #

- 1 of 7 Old National Register Sketch Map, 1974
- 2 of 7 Old National Register Boundary Map, 1974; updated, 1988
- 3 of 7 New Sketch Map, 1988
- 4 of 7 New Photo Number Map, 1988
- 5 of 7 New U.S.G.S. Map
- 6 of 7 Landscape Map, 1977, updated, 1988
- 7 of 7 Landscape Map - capitol grounds, 1911

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Beginning at a 2" X 3" redwood post standing at the most northerly corner of that certain 3.95 acre parcel as described and contained in agreement of sale from Rojelio J. Castro and Bertha Castro, his wife, to Helen Haight, dated August 22, 1936 and recorded March 27, 1939 in Volume 612 of Official Records of Monterey County, California, page 97; thence running east southeasterly 385.01 feet, bounded on the northeast by forested open space, thence running easterly 80.00 feet, bounded on the north by forested open space, thence running southwesterly 174.00 feet, bounded on the south east by Castro Canyon, thence running westerly along the northeasterly boundary of State Highway 1 519.27 feet, bounded on the southwest by said highway, thence running north northeasterly 470.55 feet to the point of beginning, bounded on the north northwest by open space. The property is recorded as Assessor's Parcel Numbers 601-894-00 and 601-895-00.

STATE CAPTOL

E

Grant →

State Archives

State Services Bldg.

Baptist church
State Museum Bldg.

State Office Bldgs

Open Space Plaza

Pioneer Monument

Voorheis Memorial
Greek Theatre

Brd. Of Water
Commissioners
Bldg.

State Offices

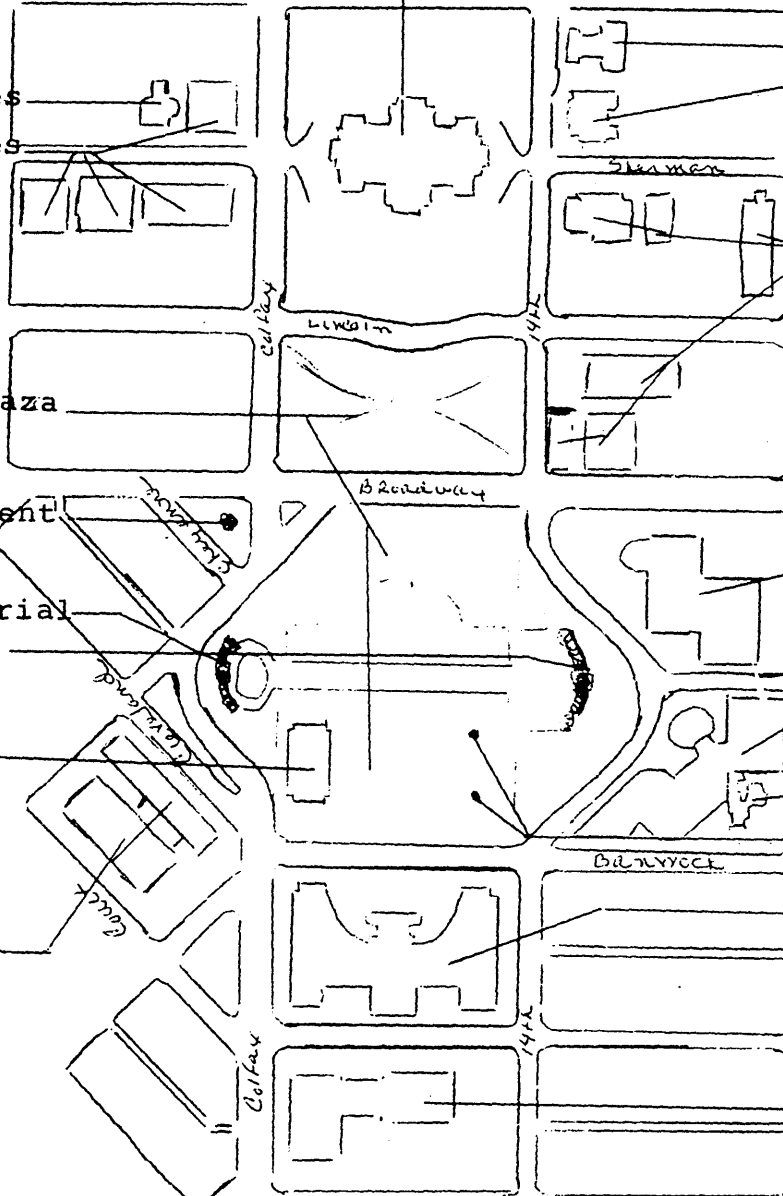
Denver Public
Library

Denver Art Museum

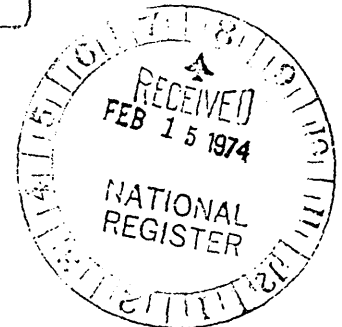
Byers-Evans House
Monuments

City&County Bldg.

Denver Mint





Delaware



Civic Center Historic District

Map submitted with original nomination in 1974

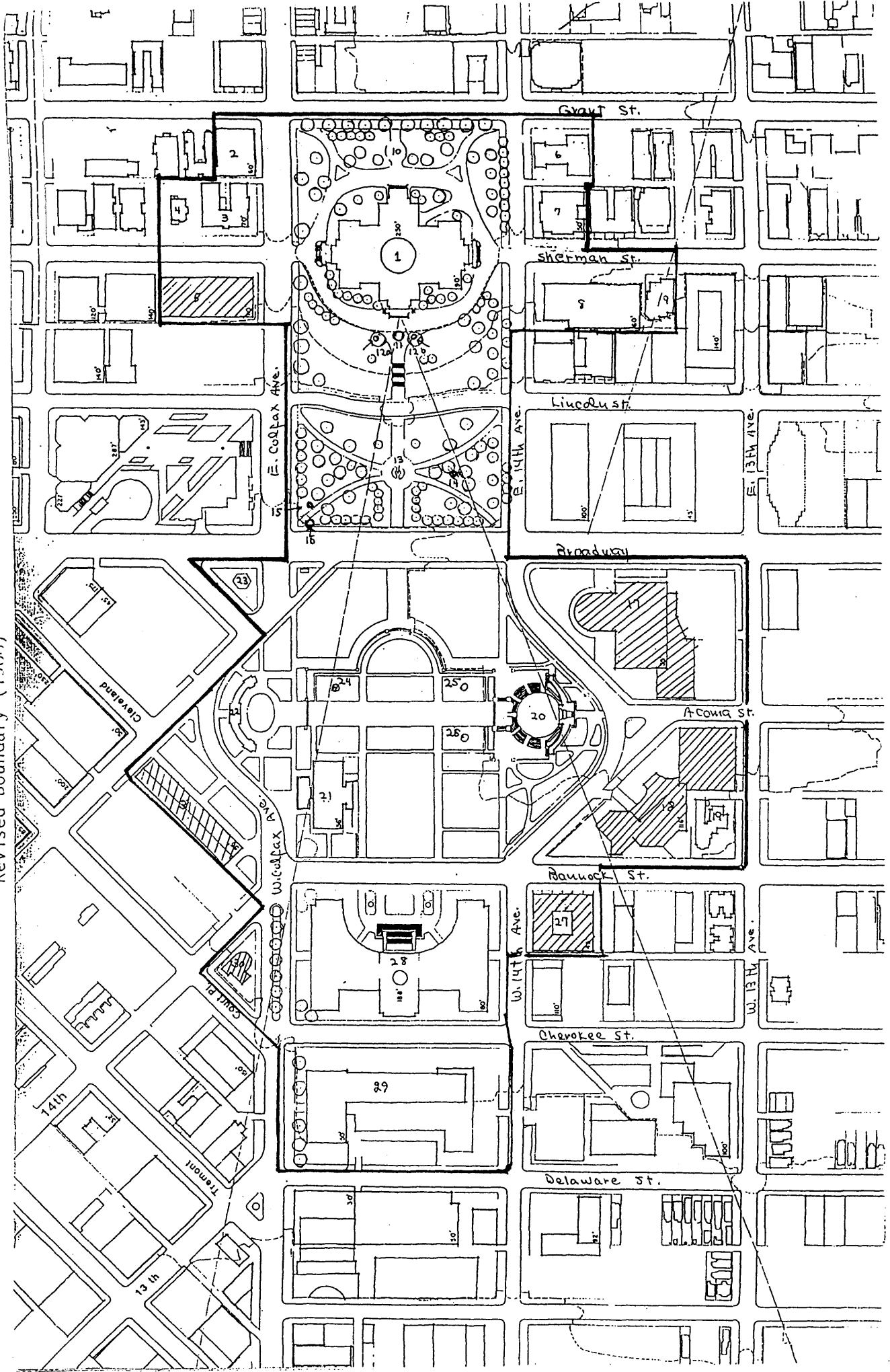
Sketch map 1 of 7

- Contributing 
- Noncontributing 

Revised Boundary (1988) 

Scale - 1:200
(reduced)

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SEP 20 1988

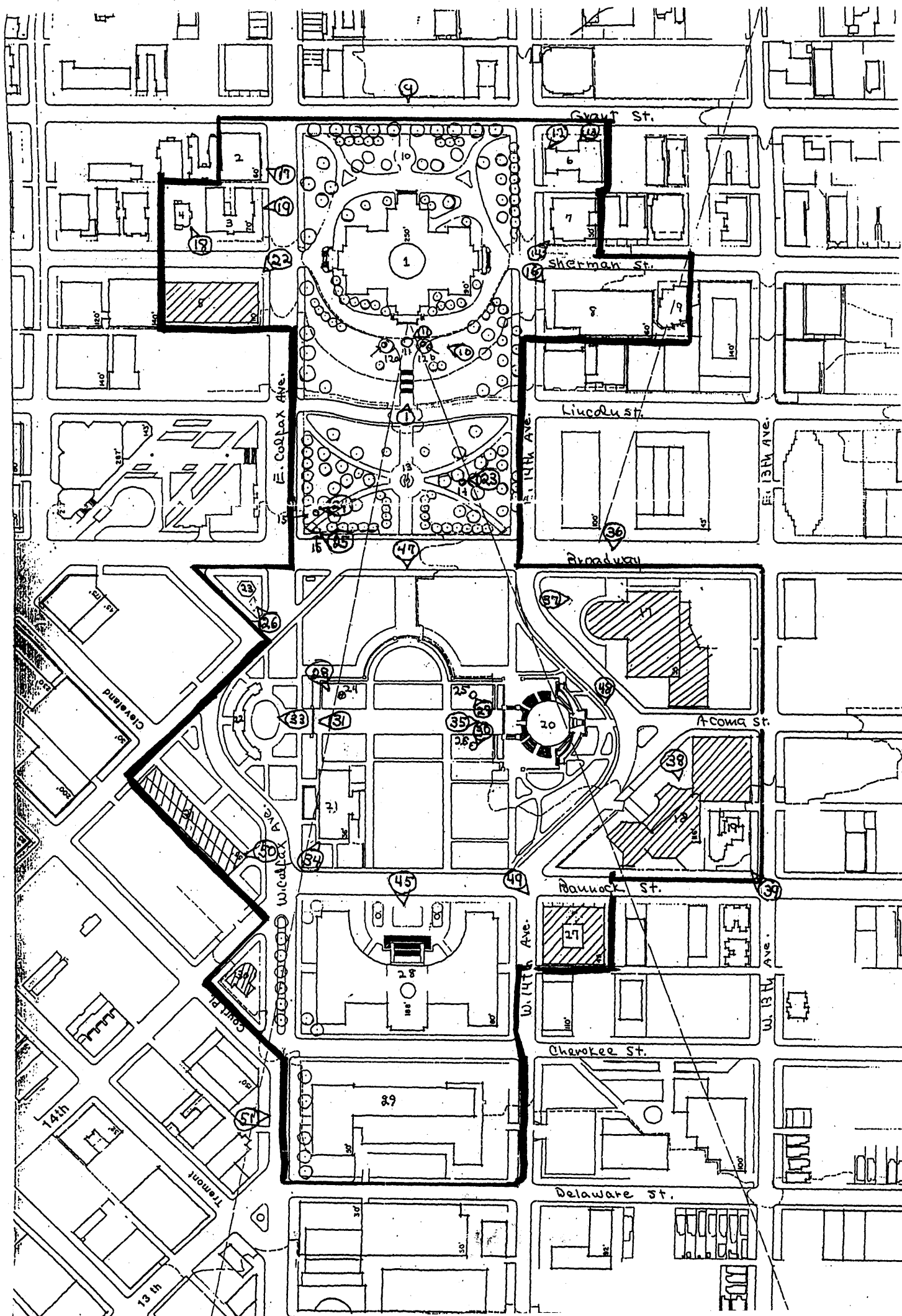
VIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Denver, Denver County, Colorado

Photo Number Map

Map 4 of 7

Denver Planning Office Map

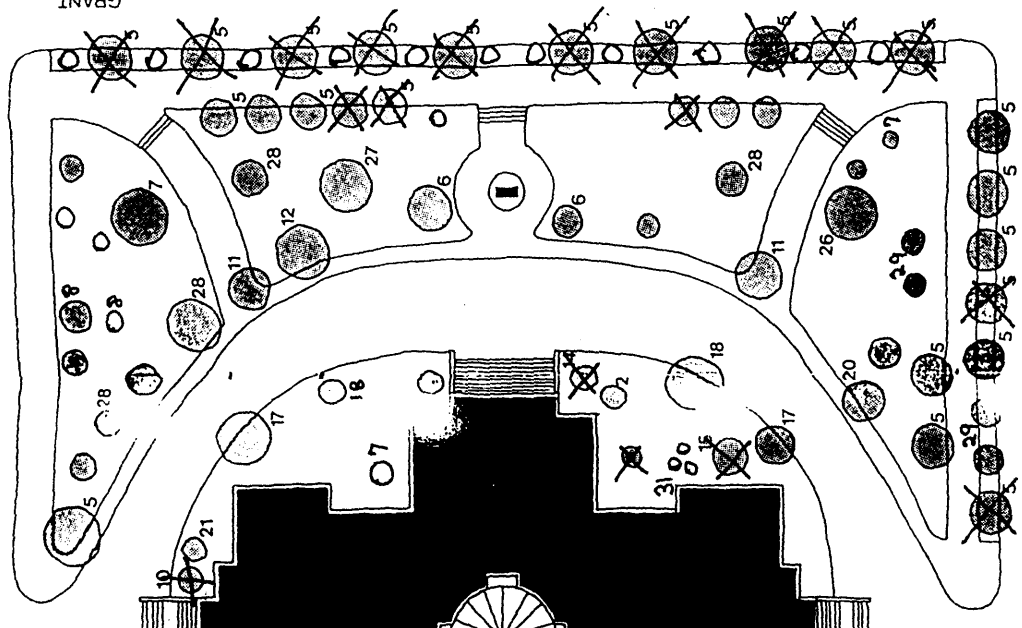
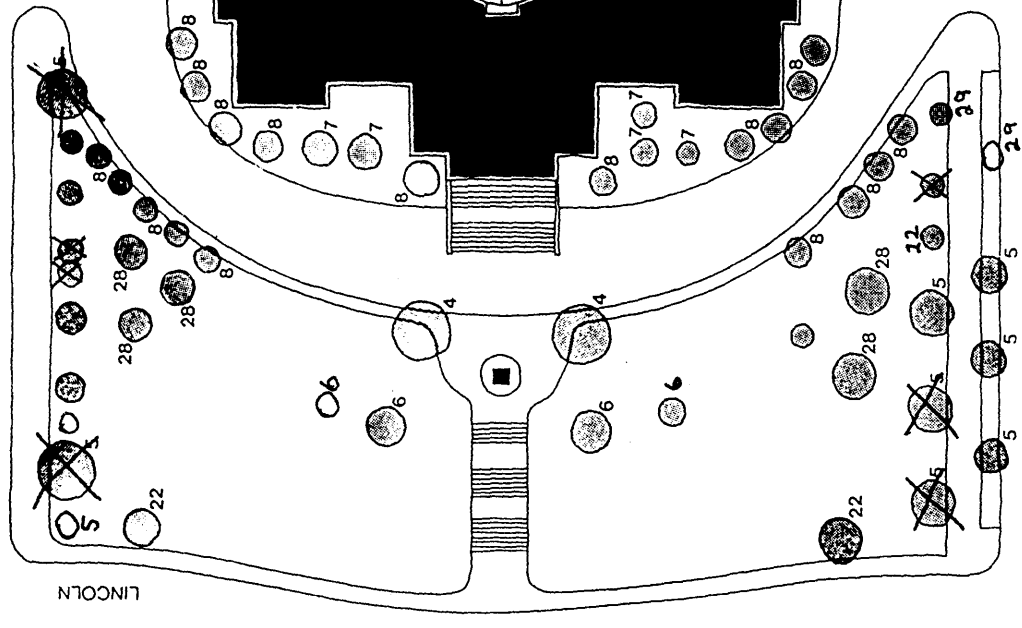
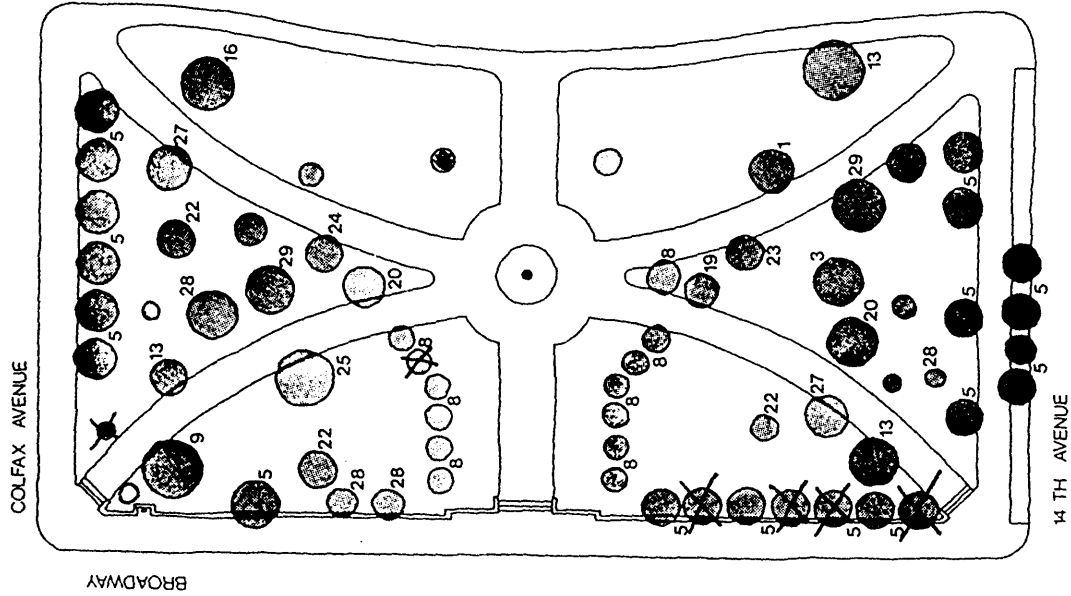
Scale: 1:200 reduced



Trees have been removed
 O New trees
 Map updated May 1988

Map 6 of 7
 by David Kent Ballast, 1977.

SEP 2 1966
 GRANT



16 Capitol Lawns
 One of the little-known features of the Civic Center is the nature of the landscaped area around the Capitol building. Between Broadway and Grant Street are nearly thirty varieties of trees from Europe and Asia as well as American trees not native to Colorado. The accompanying map and index indicate the locations of some of the various trees.

- 1 Basswood (American Linden)
- 2 Bechtel Crab
- 3 Black Cherry (Serotina)
- 4 Black Walnut
- 5 Chinese Elm
- 6 Colorado Spruce
- 7 Colorado Blue Spruce
- 8 Dolga Crab
- 9 Downey Hawthorn
- 10 European Mountain Ash
- 11 Goldenrain Tree

- 12 Green Ash
- 13 Hackberry
- 14 Juniper (Chinese)
- 15 Juniper (Pfitzer)
- 16 Kentucky Coffee Tree
- 17 Littleleaf Linden
- 18 Norway Maple
- 19 Oak Leaf Mountain Ash
- 20 Ohio Buckeye
- 21 Purpleleaf European Beech
- 22 Pearl Crab

- 23 Russian Olive
- 24 Schwedler Maple
- 25 Silver Maple
- 26 Sugar Maple
- 27 Sycamore (American Planetree)
- 28 Thornless Honey Locust
- 29 Western Catalpa
- 31 Aspen

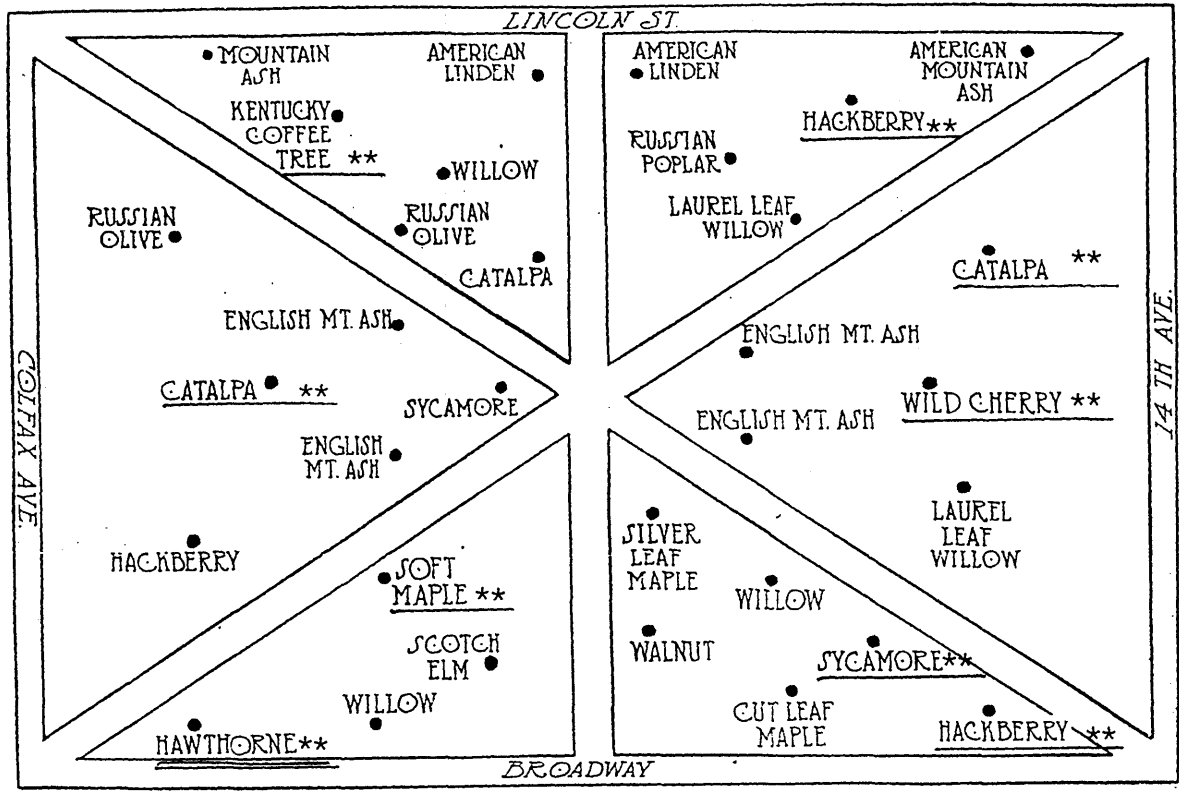


DIAGRAM OF CAPITOL GROUNDS, IN DENVER, SHOWING LOCATION OF TREES

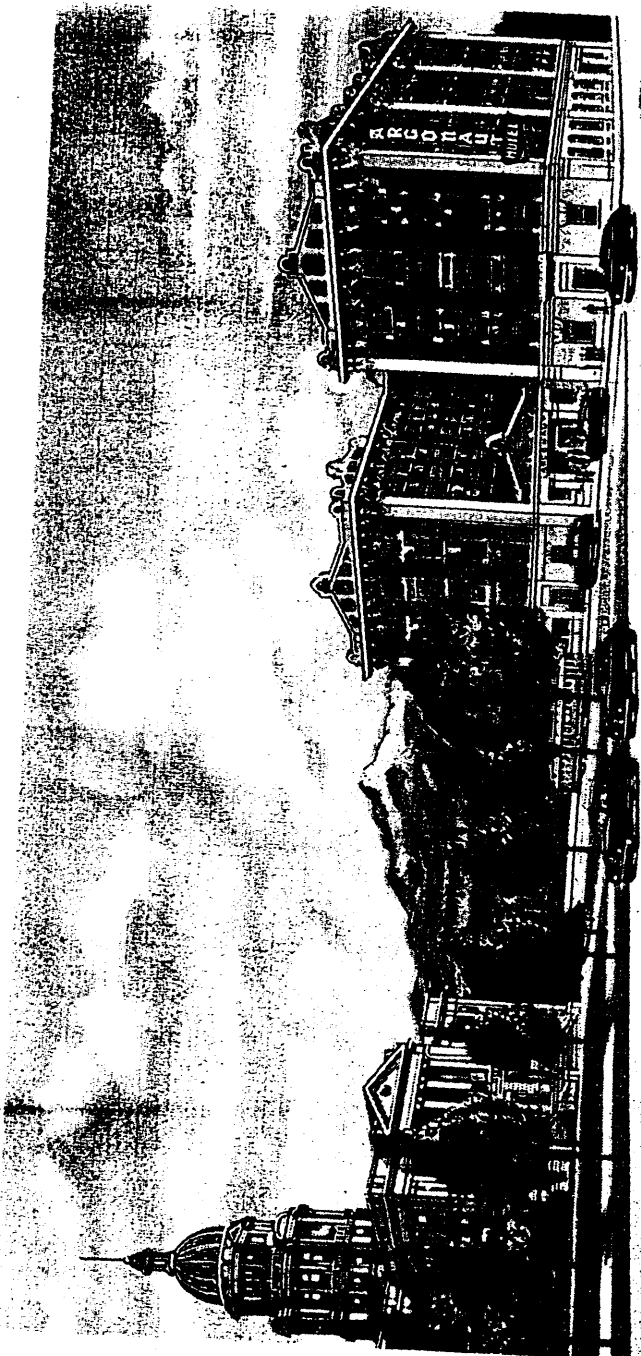
Original landscape plan for the lower state capitol grounds, Denver, Colorado. Landscape architect: Reinhardt Schutze who also designed Washington Park, Cheesman Park, Jefferson Part and Platt Park in Denver.

Key: ** Trees still in existence in 1988

Map 7 of 7

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 DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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HENRY SCHWALBE
MANAGER
et
Coffee Shop

Argonaut Hotel
Opposite the Capitol

DENVER, COLORADO
COLFAX AT GRANT ST.
et
Cocktail Lounge

Civic Center Historic District
Historic Sketch ca. 1950