

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1076

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate location or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Lowry Field Brick Barracks  
other names / site number Buckingham Palace; Headquarters Building; Building 349; 5DV712.19

#### 2. Location

street & number 200 N. Rampart Way N/A not for publication  
city or town Denver N/A vicinity  
state Colorado code CO county Denver code 031 zip code 80230

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Theresa Ann Cantagust July 14, 1998  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Beth Boland 9/3/98

LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS  
Name of Property

DENVER, COLORADO  
County and State

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National Register  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
DEFENSE / military facility

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
VACANT / NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS /  
Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
roof TERRA COTTA  
other LIMESTONE

**Narrative Description**

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING**

The 1940 Lowry Field Brick Barracks Building (commonly known today as the Headquarters Building), along with its surrounding landscaped grounds and loading dock/parking area, occupies a 7.8-acre site on the former Lowry Air Force Base located within the eastern edge of the city of Denver. Oriented on a northwest to southeast axis with the main entrance facing toward the southwest, the Brick Barracks is bordered to the southwest by Rampart Way, to the northeast by Red Cross Way, to the northwest by 4th Ave., and to the southeast by Firehouse Pl.. The 337,588 square foot building is surrounded by former base buildings to the northeast and southeast, a large parking lot to the southwest, and vacant property and detached officers' quarters to the northwest. In general, the currently vacant Brick Barracks Building is in excellent condition and exhibits a high degree of historic integrity, with no significant exterior changes noted from its original construction.

The massive symmetrical Brick Barracks Building may be characterized as an H plan with a lengthy central cross bar and a large addition extending from the center of the cross bar toward the northeast. While the central portion of the primary northwest to southeast cross bar is a four story structure, the northwest and southeast end sections of this central bar of the H plan are three stories in height. The central bar connects with the outer wings of the H plan, which are aligned on a northeast to southwest axis, resulting in the creation of large courtyards on both the northeast and southwest sides of the building. Overall, the structure measures approximately 546' from northwest to southeast along the central cross bar axis to the outer walls of the wings, and 325' from northeast to southwest along the length of each outer wing on the H plan. The depth of the central cross bar is approximately 60' from front to back, while the depths of the outer wings are 53' each from side to side. The addition extending from the central bar toward the northeast measures 107' in length and 101' in depth.

Constructed above a raised concrete foundation and full basement marked by partially above grade concrete window wells, the exterior walls are ornamented to several feet above grade with a wide concrete foundation band that serves as a visual base for the building. Exterior walls above this band are composed of variegated blond brick laid in a common bond pattern of five rows of stretchers alternating with a single row of headers. The lengthy exterior walls are broken by a regular pattern of 6/6 double hung sash windows set in wood frames, with stone lug sills in most locations and continuous sills on the southwest primary elevation.

Ornamentation on the building is found in the form of Spanish revival carved limestone frontispieces surrounding the primary entryways, Spanish revival carved limestone balconies on the southwest elevation, and carved limestone cartouches surrounding the balconies. Deep concrete and brick porches face onto the southwest and northeast courtyards from the interior portions of the two side wings of the building. The roof on the structure is predominantly composed of intersecting gables finished with red terra cotta mission-style tiles, although the terminal structures on the wings are hipped and the two shallow southwest projections and the large central northeast wing have flat roofs.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION DESCRIPTION

The massive southwest elevation of the Brick Barracks Building faces onto a circular entry drive (enclosing a flagpole area) and a large landscaped courtyard. Rising to a height of four stories, the walls of the primary southwest-facing facade are broken by a narrow stone continuous sill belt course found below the third-story windows and another wider course located below the fourth-floor windows. The main entry to the building is composed of a pair of metal single-light doors accessed via a sidewalk and three steps from the circular drive, which are flanked by stone wingwalls ornamented with curved caps and recessed panels.

Located at the center of the elevation, the main entryway features a three-story carved limestone Spanish Revival frontispiece around and above the doors. Executed in a restrained and formal style appropriate to a military facility (without the ornate flourishes typically found on many Spanish and Mediterranean Revival buildings), the first-floor level of the frontispiece features a lunette with radiating arches and spokes above the doors, which are flanked by door-height pilasters from which springs a semicircular archivolt with scrolled keystone at the peak. On either side of the doorway arch are pilasters reaching upward to support a decorative cornice placed at the level of the second-story window sills. Just below this cornice are a band of dentils and two blank circular plaques on a limestone block panel.

The second story of the frontispiece is ornamented with two carved statues of stylized eagles standing at the tops of the first-floor pilasters that project from the decorative cornice. Between the eagles is a circular window recessed into a limestone block panel, above which are two pendants flanking a corbel table which supports another decorative cornice set at the third-floor sill level. The third floor of the frontispiece features two finials above the cornice, flanking a 6/6 double hung sash window surrounded by colonettes and a small pediment lintel. Above the frontispiece and attached to the brick wall are large block letters identifying the building as the "Headquarters, Lowry Technical Training Center," flanked by painted shields of the Air Training Command and the Lowry Technical Training Center.

Projecting toward the southwest from the ends of the southwest-facing four-story primary structure are two shallow, three-story, flat-roofed additions. Also constructed of variegated blond brick, each projection features a centered second-story limestone balcony ornamented with a carved panel and heavy latticework balustrade supported by large brackets, a keystone centered above the doors on a block panel, pilasters flanking the doors that rise to meet stone pendants, a decorative cornice with scrollwork above, and wood French doors entering the building. The balconies are flanked on either side by identical carved stone cartouches projecting from the brick walls in place of the second-story windows. Each cartouche is ornamented with five stylized lizards (or dinosaurs) designed to look like scrollwork, an urn containing what appear to be feathers, and a sculpture of a scallop that frames a hand holding a key. Underneath each urn are the words "Sustineo Alas," or "I Sustain The Wings," the motto of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command. First-floor windows on these projecting additions are set into wide stone surrounds with flanking pilasters and stone sills and lintels.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The outer three-story sections of the northwest to southeast length of the main crossbar on the building are characterized by brick walls broken only by windows. Wrapping around the courtyard to the southwest are the matching outer three-story wings of the building, both of which are characterized by inner lengths ornamented simply with rectangular concrete porch openings, and terminal structures of brick walls broken only by windows.

**NORTHEAST ELEVATION DESCRIPTION**

The northeast elevation of the Brick Barracks Building is composed of the primary crossbar structure, with three-story end and central wings projecting toward the northeast. This side of the building contains rear service entrances, loading docks, and small parking areas. The first three floors of the rear four-story wall of the primary crossbar of the building contains open brick porches with arched openings, creating an arcaded appearance. The fourth floor is set back and appears on this facade as an attic story. The end portions of the central block, along with the inner portions of the intersecting end wings are characterized by concrete porches with rectangular openings similar to those found on the wings of the southwest elevation of the building. As on the southwest elevation, each of the two outer wings terminates in a three-story, hipped roof intersecting brick structure.

The central projecting wing is three stories in height, with a flat roof, brick pilasters extending beyond the roof line, stone banding above the first and third floor windows, and two small flat-roofed one-story projections off the outer corners of the structure. The northeast-facing wall of this wing contains a double door entrance, ornamented with stone surrounds and dentils, and a concrete stoop with metal handrails accessed via four stairs from the sidewalk.

**SOUTHEAST ELEVATION DESCRIPTION**

The southeast elevation of the Brick Barracks Building contains an ornate side entrance with a stone stoop accessed via four steps from the sidewalk. Ornamentation around the entry consists of a central three-story carved limestone frontispiece that extends upward to the roof line. Details on the first floor feature a wide segmental stone arch and tympanum around the double doors, and two narrow bands of ornamental molding projecting from a stone block panel and extending upward to the second floor. The second floor of the frontispiece is characterized by the narrow bands of ornamental molding from the first floor, a central carved federal stars and stripes shield flanked by two 4/4 double hung sash windows, and two shield plaques with geometric patterns. A decorative cornice is found at the base of the third-floor level, above which are two fluted pilasters that flank a pair of 6/6 double hung sash windows separated by a classical pilaster mullion, along with a pair of arched lintels recessed into a stone block panel and a shared stone lug sill. A wrought iron lantern is located above the doors in the wide stone arch. Each end of the southeast wing elevation is highlighted by a shallow gabled three-story projection (facing toward the southeast), ornamented with arcaded cornices, stone quoin blocks, and round vents near the gable peaks. The remainder of the elevation is characterized by brick walls punctuated by a regular pattern of windows with stone sills and brick surrounds.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 4

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

NORTHWEST ELEVATION DESCRIPTION

The northwest elevation of the Brick Barracks Building is virtually identical to the southeast elevation.

DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR FEATURES

Although the exterior of the building is virtually unchanged since it was constructed, the interior was extensively remodeled in 1961, when the building was converted for use as the base's headquarters. Further remodeling over the past several decades has eliminated most, if not all, of the original finishes in the building. The interior is currently characterized by lengthy hallways, off of which are numerous offices. The central wing extending to the northeast also contains the former Post Exchange and large rooms for headquarters activities.

DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR AREAS

Exterior areas on the property are entirely occupied by landscaping, the design of which is not particularly notable. The southwest courtyard is characterized by a large expanse of grass, broken by mature trees and shrubs, along with the curved entry drive that encircles a flagpole. The northwest and southeast grounds contain narrow areas of grass and mature trees and shrubs. The two northeast courtyard areas contain paved parking lots.

LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS  
Name of Property

DENVER, COLORADO  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**  
(Mark "x" in one or more locations for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**  
(Mark "X" in all locations that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B removed from its original location
- C a birthplace or a grave
- D a cemetery
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1940 - 1945

**Significant Dates**

1940

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, OFFICE OF THE  
QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
MEAD & MOUNT CONSTRUCTION CO.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS):**
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

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

**Name of repository:**  
Denver Public Library, Western History  
USAF Historical Research Agency

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS  
DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1940 Brick Barracks Building at Lowry Air Force Base is the product of a significant shift in national military policy during the late 1930s, as the Roosevelt administration increased American air power to counter rising global tensions and militarism. With Germany's aggressive expansion in Europe and Japan's extension of its area of occupation in the Pacific presenting a very real threat to world peace by the late 1930s, Washington determined that an increase in the number of trained US military airmen was necessary for the defense of the nation and its interests abroad. As the number of enlisted personnel rose substantially throughout 1939, plans for the Brick Barracks Building had to be changed several times before it was completed in late 1940, in order to accommodate the rapid influx of airmen assigned to Lowry Field's Air Corps Training School. Throughout the course of the war, thousands of men were housed in this building while they received training in aerial bombardment, gunnery, and aerial photography and reconnaissance techniques. Their training was then put into practice over Europe and the islands of the Pacific from 1941 through 1945, contributing greatly to the Allies' ultimate defeat of Germany and Japan.

The building stands today as a striking visible reminder of the national commitment towards providing technical training for a burgeoning force of airmen who graduated and were then sent into battle during the Second World War. Of all the buildings constructed at Lowry Field during the 1940s, this singular structure stands out due to its national (and perhaps international) significance, both from a military history and social history perspective. For these reasons, the Brick Barracks Building meets National Register Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Specifically, this relates to the building's original use as one of the nation's largest military barracks during the World War II era, used to house airmen being trained for aerial reconnaissance and combat against Germany and Japan. The Brick Barracks' period of significance begins in 1940 when the structure was completed, and ends in 1945 at the conclusion of the war.

The Brick Barracks Building is also an excellent example of the Spanish Revival style, as interpreted by military architects, applied to a massive brick housing structure late in the style's period of popularity. The Office of the Quartermaster General's Construction Division, given the task of designing a basically utilitarian barracks structure, created a unique ornamental building for the new Air Corps training base in Denver under rushed and changing conditions just prior to American entry into World War II. With its variegated blond brick walls, red tile roof, multi-level carved limestone frontispieces, and stone balconies and plaques, the building stands out as one of the most architecturally interesting structures on the base. For these reasons, the Brick Barracks Building meets National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

For more than five decades, the monumental Brick Barracks Building has served as an important component of a major training facility established by the US Army Air Corps in 1937. Originally referred to as the Denver Branch of the Air Corps Technical School (ACTS), the facility was renamed Lowry Field in 1938 and then Lowry Air Force Base in 1948. Completed late in 1940, the Brick Barracks Building's function has evolved along with the changing mission of this once vital military base.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 6

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The origin of Lowry Field can be traced to 1934, when the United States Army Air Corps determined the need for a new site to replace the aging and inadequate facilities of the Air Corps Technical School based at Chanute Field in Rantoul, Illinois. Recognizing the benefits a new military base would provide to the community, business leaders of Denver as well as the Denver Chamber of Commerce, Governor Edwin C. Johnson, and Colorado Congressman Lawrence Lewis waged a persuasive multi-year campaign beginning in the spring of 1934 to convince military authorities of the merits of the Denver area as the best location for a new Air Corps training facility. The vacant Agnes Phipps Memorial Sanitarium, a closed tuberculosis clinic on the east edge of Denver, was proposed as an ideal location with substantial existing buildings and open land that offered potential for adaptation to a military function. The Denver location also offered the Air Corps a favorable climate for year-round flying and proximity to further undeveloped land suitable for aerial bombing and gunnery practice.

In mid-March of 1935, the federal government announced that Denver was the prime choice among six cities vying for the new Air Corps school. An Army scouting committee, sent to investigate the area, was favorably impressed by their visit and recommended approval of the 880-acre site. Following the successful passage the following year of a bond issue approved by Denver citizens, who hoped the project would aid the locally depressed economy, the city purchased the property and added further incentive to the Army Air Corps by offering to donate the sanitarium grounds and buildings for the establishment of a technical training center. The proposed Denver Air Corps Technical School was ultimately included in a \$23 million Army Housing Bill placed before Congress in 1937. After passage of the bill by both houses, President Roosevelt signed it into law on 27 August 1937, breathing new life into the Denver site.

Work began almost immediately on the new Air Corps Technical School in Denver. Conversion of the sanitarium into a military base commenced on 4 October 1937, under the supervision of Capt. Harold D. Stetson, Quartermaster at nearby Fort Logan. Using labor funded by the Works Progress Administration, a federal agency established during the Depression to relieve unemployment, the former sanitarium buildings were renovated for use as a training facility. Many new buildings were also planned, however their construction was dependent upon a sizable appropriation of federal funds. New construction was also stalled pending completion and final approval of the post layout plans being drafted in Washington.

With conversion of the sanitarium buildings complete, the base began operations on 28 February 1938 with the arrival of the first students. As originally conceived, the new facility was assigned to the photography and armament departments of the Air Corps Technical School. Unlike other Air Corps schools which emphasized flight training, airmen in Denver were instructed in the production and use of aerial photography for reconnaissance purposes, as well as the theoretical and practical aspects of aerial gunnery and bombardment. Thus the new Air Corps Technical School's students learned important skills needed for aerial reconnaissance and combat, both integral aspects of the increasingly sophisticated technological basis of military preparedness in the twentieth century.

On 21 March 1938, the Denver branch of the Air Corps Technical School was renamed Lowry Field in honor of Lt. Francis B. Lowry, a Denver aviator who lost his life in action over France during the First World War. This was actually the second base to be named Lowry Field -- the original Lowry Field was established in 1924 at the northeast corner of E. 38th Ave. and Dahlia St. in Denver. Occupied by the 120th

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Observation Squadron, an aerial unit of the Colorado National Guard, the earlier Lowry Field was utilized until the site proved to be inadequate for the requirements of the aircraft and personnel. The first Lowry Field was abandoned by the spring of 1938 as the 120th Observation Squadron relocated to the Denver Municipal Airport. The other major change begun during the month of March 1938 was the commencement of runway construction at the newly designated Lowry Field. The first aircraft arrived at the base in June, noticeably changing life in the east side of Denver with the sound of military planes on training missions.

More than \$3.7 million were made available for construction at Lowry Field in July 1938, including \$1,125,000 allotted for WPA projects and \$1,050,000 for a Public Works Administration project. Approximately one hundred new buildings were to be erected on the post, including a massive barracks capable of housing 850 men, along with officer's quarters, noncommissioned officer's quarters, hangars, and a variety of other structures. The Denver Post reported in July 1938 that the proposed new barracks building would be one of the first structures erected, and would be three stories high, measure 700' long by 250' wide, and cost \$935,000 to build. The architectural style for the new air school buildings was to depart from the Mission style employed in the original Phipps Sanitarium on the site. Capt. Stetson, in charge of construction at Lowry, described the planned look of the new barracks as "simple but massive."

Even as the initial plans for the base were being carried out, further expansion of Lowry was hastily being planned by the Army. This expansion of American air power was the result of President Roosevelt's assessment of the growing danger posed by German Chancellor Adolph Hitler, who's *Luftwaffe* effectively terrorized Spanish cities in 1936 and was used as an instrument of intimidation in the subjugation of Austria and Czechoslovakia in 1938-39. While he initially sought to increase the number of American military aircraft to 10,000 as a clear warning to Hitler, Roosevelt's advisors convinced him that an increase in aircraft had to be met with sufficient funding for manpower, training and facilities. Ultimately, the President presented a revised request for funding to raise the strength of the Air Corps to 6,000 airplanes in a special message delivered to Congress on 12 January 1939. Following the advice of his top military advisors, including Major General Henry "Hap" Arnold, Chief of the Air Corps, slightly more than half of the \$300 million allocated for the program was slated for aircraft purchases, while the remainder would be used to raise manpower, increase maintenance and training facilities, and build new air bases.

Air Corps planners initiated an intensive recruiting campaign to achieve a manpower goal of 48,000 officers and men by June 1941. To handle the rapid growth of the Air Corps, the training process had to be expanded accordingly. In addition to augmenting flight training capability by contracting with civilian flying schools, the technical training program was split among three bases. Prior to late 1939, all technical training for the Air Corps was conducted at Chanute Field in Illinois. Subsequently, new recruits were sent through a basic course at Scott Field, Illinois, before graduating to specialized instruction at either Chanute or the new Lowry Field in Colorado. In January 1939, it was announced that the greatly increased flying strength of the Air Corps necessitated a three-fold increase in the training capacity of Lowry. The proposed barracks was hastily redesigned to accommodate an expanded force of trainees, and it was reported that bids were soon to be solicited for construction of this "huge barracks" capable of housing 1,950 airmen. The proposed building was expected to cost approximately \$1.5 million, and according to reports in the Denver Post would be "the largest barracks ever built by the army."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 8

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On 13 May 1939, Capt. Stetson declared that bids for the enlarged permanent barracks "to be built at a cost of approximately two million dollars" would probably be sought in June. At the same time, Army authorities were actively proceeding with plans to acquire a nearly 40-acre parcel of land adjacent to Lowry Field to contain temporary barracks to accommodate the influx of airmen. Following its purchase, the annexed parcel became the site of a hastily erected tent city. The initial government appropriation for Lowry proved to be insufficient as a result of the 1939 Air Corps expansion program, however Colorado Senator Alva B. Adams succeeded in obtaining an additional \$1.2 million to augment the construction budget to include completion of the giant barracks building.

After the foundation was prepared by WPA workers during the summer of 1939, Denver-based Mead & Mount Construction Co. was awarded the contract for an unknown sum to construct the permanent barracks building. In mid-September, bids were solicited a second time for the erection of four additional wings on the structure, and Mead & Mount was awarded this contract after acceptance of their low bid of \$512,000 for the project. At the same time, the construction company was also given a contract to erect the base's central heating plant.

By early September of 1940, Lieutenant Col. Carl H. Jabelonsky, constructing quartermaster who succeeded Capt. Stetson, announced that construction work on numerous major building projects at Lowry Field was proceeding rapidly and ahead of schedule. The giant barracks, the growing cost of which was expected to exceed \$2,000,000, was nearing completion well in advance of the December 28 deadline. By the end of 1940, the numerous major construction projects had increased the value of Lowry Field to approximately \$13 million. The base had been transformed into one of the Air Corps' major installations, and plans called for it to house a permanent garrison of 150 officers and between six and seven thousand enlisted men, in addition to temporary groups of students undergoing technical training.

As this frenzy of construction activity proceeded, in fact during the entire period that Lowry was being transformed from a sanitarium into an air base, ominous events unfolding in Europe were making it clear that President Roosevelt's plan for expansion of the Air Corps was imperative. Hitler's *Luftwaffe* was unleashed upon Poland on 1 September 1939 with effective results. Following the rapid conquest of Poland, Denmark and Norway were attacked in April of 1940, after which German forces quickly overran Holland, Belgium and France. By the time France accepted surrender terms on 22 June 1940, Hitler had taken control of most of western Europe. In August and September of 1940, as Lowry's Brick Barracks was nearing completion, the Battle of Britain was raging over the English Channel and southern England. This conflict, in which England's Royal Air Force was pitted against marauders from Nazi Germany in a fight for national survival, convincingly underscored the importance of a strong air force for national defense.

The Brick Barracks were completed and formally accepted on 7 October 1940, and 3,200 airmen and students vacated the tent city and temporary barracks on the base and moved into the enormous building ahead of schedule. The number of men quartered in the building far exceeded the original specifications for an 1,800-man barracks and reflected the urgency of the housing problem at Lowry Field. Described by Commanding Officer Jacob H. Rudolph as "one of the largest and finest barracks buildings ever constructed for troops of the U.S. Army," and by the airmen as "Buckingham Palace," the four-story building with large three-story wings contained squad rooms for sleeping as well as a modern mess hall capable of serving 600

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 9

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

men at a time. In addition, the Brick Barracks was equipped with a bakery, bowling alley, laundry and dry cleaning facilities, barber shops, Post Exchange, and recreation rooms. Alteration of the building during the Second World War was limited to the installation of centralized post, technical, and intelligence libraries in the north wing basement, as well as enlargement of the bowling alleys within the structure.

The Air Corps expansion continued in 1941, and Lowry anticipated that as many as ten to twelve thousand airmen would be present on the base by the end of the year. To meet an ambitious initial training quota of producing more than 15,000 graduates by mid-1942, the air school adopted a two-shift schedule. However, American entry into World War II and the mobilization of military forces resulted in tremendous expansion of technical training activities at Lowry Field, which was forced to adopt a three-shift training schedule that ran seven days a week for the 55,000 men then passing through the base each year.

By 1943, Lowry Field was one of seven bases in four states comprising the Western Regional Technical Training Command of the Army Air Forces (the name was changed from Army Air Corps in 1941). In 1944, numerous small training facilities for airmen across the country were inactivated and training functions consolidated in the major installations, including Lowry Field. Then in 1945, with the war approaching its end in both the European and Pacific Theaters, the Training Command effected further consolidation by eliminating two of the three regional Flying Commands (flight training schools), and by combining the eastern and western Technical Training Commands into a solitary Technical Branch. Lowry was one of six Technical Training Facilities retained after the 1945 reduction.

In the decades following World War II, operations at Lowry Field were affected by changes in the organization and administration of the air defense forces, as well as by global events. In July 1946, the Army Air Forces Training Command was re-designated the Air Training Command. Tentative planning for an independent air force began as early as 1943, when General George C. Marshall called for a study of the subject and referred the document to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their consideration. After several years of inter-branch review, the US Air Force achieved independence with passage of the National Security Act of 1947. The act created the umbrella National Military Establishment, including the Secretary of Defense and the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. With the creation of this new branch of the armed forces, Lowry Field was officially renamed Lowry Air Force Base in June 1948, although it changed again to Lowry Technical Training Center in 1959.

The mission of the post-World War II Air Force adapted to the advent of the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as to the widespread adoption and development of technological advances in military aviation including jet-powered aircraft, guided missiles, and nuclear ordnance. The outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950 initiated another rapid expansion of technical training to meet Air Force requirements. The Air Training Command was directed to accelerate combat crew training, with pilot production to be increased from 3,000 to 7,200 per year by the end of the year. Lowry remained a vital center for technical training throughout the conflict, and instituted a six day training week with three shifts per day to meet the wartime demand for airmen. Korean War trainees at Lowry Air Force Base were housed in the Brick Barracks while taking courses on subjects such as rocket propulsion, missile guidance, radar-operated fire control systems, computer specialties, and armament electronics.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 10

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For its final role, the Brick Barracks Building shifted to a new and important use in 1961. On July 7 of that year, the headquarters of the Lowry Technical Training Center was moved from the deteriorating large Mission-style former sanitarium building (which was later demolished) into the newer Brick Barracks. For this reason, the building is commonly known in the Denver area today as the Headquarters Building, rather than as the Brick Barracks. The final 33 years of the operation of the Lowry Technical Training Center were marked by numerous changes in mission, including the training of airmen for the Vietnam War, training of personnel for maintenance of high-tech military equipment, the housing and retraining of airmen convicted by court-martial of non-violent infractions of military law, the installation and operation of Titan missile silos on the former bombing range in 1962, and aerospace and intelligence instruction through the 1990s. With air traffic becoming a hazard to area residents, flying activity was terminated at the base in 1966 due to its envelopment by growing Denver and Aurora. The Brick Barracks continued to serve as the Headquarters of the Lowry Technical Training Center until final closure of the base occurred in 1994.

For over fifty years, the Brick Barracks Building stood as an important structure at Lowry Field and its renamed successor, the Lowry Technical Training Center. The massive Spanish Revival building represents the concerted national effort undertaken between the late 1930s and 1945 to oppose the international threat presented by Nazi Germany and imperialist Japan. Tens of thousands of enlisted men were trained in the use of aerial photography and reconnaissance, as well as in the skills of aerial gunnery and bombardment while living in the Brick Barracks Building, after which they were sent overseas to serve as pilots and support crew in the Allied war effort. These early years of the building's existence, when its importance can be seen on an international level, clearly constitute its most significant historical period. Following the end of the war, the building continued to serve as a barracks until it was converted for use as the base's headquarters in 1961. Throughout its entire history, the Brick Barracks Building has also represented the fine design work of architects in the Quartermaster General's Office, who under great pressure created a massive but ornate example of Spanish Revival architecture applied to a military setting.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 11

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 12

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 13

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

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LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS  
Name of Property

DENVER, COLORADO  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.8 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	13	508680	4396700	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
						see continuation sheet	

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ron Sladek, President Jason Marmor, Historian Jane Blandford, Researcher  
organization Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc. date 6 March 1998  
street & number P.O. Box 1909 telephone 970/229-9705  
city or town Fort Collins state CO zip code 80522

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Lowry Redevelopment Authority (being transferred to National Investment Funds, LLC)  
street and number 555 Uinta Way telephone 303 / 343-0276  
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80220

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 14

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Given the property's past status as part of a larger military facility, no known precise legal description was found. The Brick Barracks (Building 349) property may be described, however, as the property bordered by Rampart Way on the southwest, Red Cross Way on the northeast, 4th Ave. on the northwest, and Firehouse Pl. on the southeast, Lowry Technical Training Center, Denver County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes, and is limited to, the land and improvements within the boundaries described above, occupied by the Brick Barracks Building and surrounding landscaped grounds and parking areas. These boundaries were selected due to the fact that they include all of the significant features on the property that were originally designed by the Construction Division, Office of the Quartermaster General, and due to the fact that the surrounding grounds are important to the setting and historic integrity of the property as a whole.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS  
DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information applies to all photographs submitted with this registration form:

Name of property:	Lowry Field Brick Barracks
City, county and state:	Denver, Denver County, Colorado
Photographer:	Ron Sladek
Date of photograph:	1 March 1998
Location of negative:	Tatanka Historical Associates Inc. P.O. Box 1909, Fort Collins, CO 80522

- Photograph #1: View of the main entry frontispiece on the southwest primary elevation of the Brick Barracks Building. View to the northeast.
- Photograph #2: View of the side entry frontispiece on the southeast side elevation of the Brick Barracks Building. View to the northwest.
- Photograph #3: View of the southeast elevation of the northwest wing, and the front courtyard of the Brick Barracks Building. View to the north.
- Photograph #4: View of one of the two brick projections with balcony and cartouches on the southwest elevation of the Brick Barracks Building. View to the northeast.
- Photograph #5: Detailed view of one of the cartouches on the southwest elevation. Note the scrollwork on the perimeters, actually composed of five stylized lizards or dinosaurs.
- Photograph #6: View of the northwest side elevation of the Brick Barracks Building. View to the east.
- Photograph #7: View of the southeast side elevation near the southeast corner of the Brick Barracks Building. View to the northwest.
- Photograph #8: View of the southwest elevation of the northwest wing of the Brick Barracks Building. View to the north.
- Photograph #9: View of one of the covered porches on the northeast rear elevation of the Brick Barracks Building. View to the northwest.
- Photograph #10: View of the entrance and the northeast elevation of the northeast central projecting wing of the Brick Barracks Building. View to the southwest.
- Photograph #11: View of the northeast rear elevation of the central block (with arcaded porch) and the southeast elevation of the central projecting wing (on the right) of the Brick Barracks Building. View to the west.
- Photograph #12: View of the northeast rear elevation of the central block (with arcaded porch) and the northwest elevation of the central projecting wing (on the left) of the Brick Barracks Building. View to the southwest.

Photo views (interpreted by NR Reviewer Beth Boland, 9/3/98)

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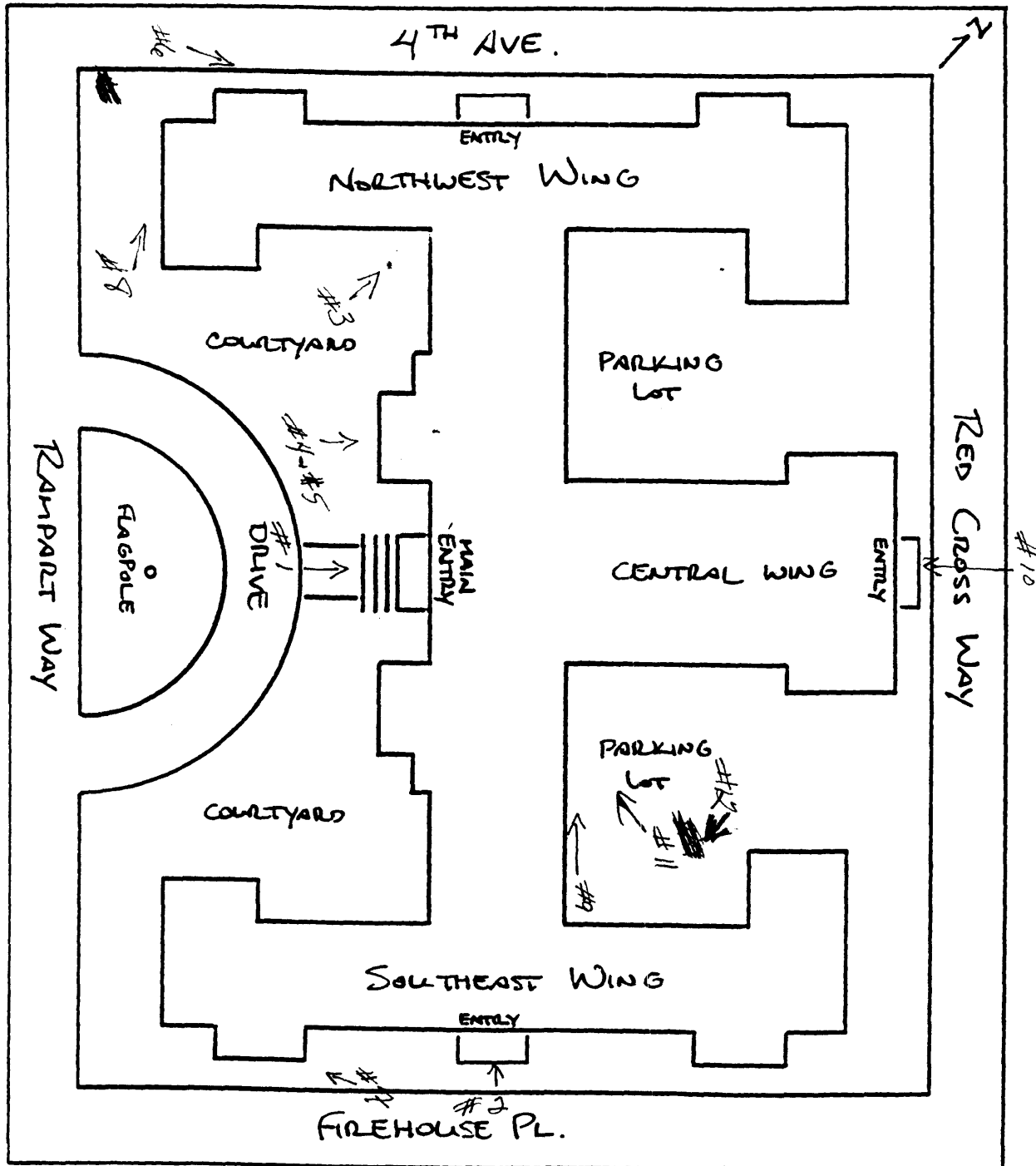
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 16

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

BRICK BARRACKS DIAGRAM (not to scale)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 16

Property LOWRY FIELD BRICK BARRACKS

DENVER COUNTY, COLORADO

BRICK BARRACKS DIAGRAM (not to scale)

