

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 7 1983
DATE ENTERED	

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Canon City Downtown Historic District

AND/OR COMMON
Canon City Downtown

LOCATION *Roughly main + from 3rd to 7th st. and Macon ave* 516 Macon, 107 N. 7th; ~~404 Macon~~
STREET & NUMBER 300-800 blocks of Main St.; Maupin Bldg; n/a NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Canon City VICINITY OF n/a CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Colorado 08 Fremont 043

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT (80 bldgs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	n/a IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	n/a BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Library

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership -- see continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fremont County Clerk & Recorder Office

STREET & NUMBER 601 Macon Avenue, Fremont County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Canon City STATE Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Downtown by Mary Taylor, Vol. I & II)

DATE May, 1981 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN Denver STATE Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Canon City Downtown Commercial District is composed of eighty structures, largely two-story buildings, constituting the most intact historic commercial area of the downtown.¹

The commercial buildings that line Main Street were constructed from approximately 1870 to 1920. Brick and stone are the most common construction materials, although the original storefront areas, a number of which have been altered, display a variety of surfaces. The upper stories of the buildings (only a handful of one-story structures are present) are largely intact and provide a common pattern of cornice, window, and storefront alignment. The architectural styles exhibited range from very simplified Italianate to the twentieth century Classical and Renaissance revivals.

The district, containing a total of eighty structures located primarily on Main Street between Fourth and Seventh streets, provides an excellent example of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture. The structures form a continuous, cohesive grouping and reflect the development of Canon City as a regional commercial center. The buildings have generally maintained their integrity with major alterations--addition of siding, window modifications, etc.--occurring on the lower facade. Twenty-five non-contributing structures (two of which are alleged to have the original features substantially undamaged underneath altered facades) are also included.

The following buildings constitute the district:

(see continuation sheets)

¹Canon City was comprehensively surveyed by Mary Taylor in 1981. Much of the information for the nomination form was obtained from the Taylor survey.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1870-1930 BUILDER/ARCHITECT (See Item Number 7.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Canon City Downtown Commercial District composes the historic commercial core of the city. The eighty buildings included, located within an approximately five block area along Main Street, form a continuous, cohesive grouping that reflects the development of Canon City as a regional commercial center. The buildings express a quality of design and richness of detail which defines the district as the best collection of late 19th to early 20th century commercial structures in the county.

The buildings are largely two-story, brick which in their design illustrate a wide range of architectural styles, from Italianate to the twentieth century Classical and Renaissance revivals. The degree of ornamentation and the scale of the buildings point to the rise of Canon City as a prosperous regional trade center. The physical integrity of the district also add to its importance. Although the streetfronts have experienced some alteration, the upper stories are amazingly intact.

In the decades before the Pike's Peak gold rush, the site of Canon City was a favorite gathering place and trading post for the area's native population and the fur traders, trappers and mountain men who moved into the region in the 1820s. These early inhabitants valued the mild climate and park-like setting of the site which offered relief, particularly in the winter months from the harsher environment of the nearby mountains.

Environmental factors, although of a more strategic variety, also entered the thoughts of William Kroenig, a native of Weshpalia, Germany, who located the townsite of what would become Canon City in 1859. Kroenig had been farming along the Huerfano River and when news of the gold rush reached him, had quickly realized the potential of supplying the thousands of gold seekers. He was first involved in the development of Fountain City (Pueblo), but when that city languished, moved to the more favorable location east of the Grand Canon of Arkansas. At this spot Kroenig and his companions established the "Gate City to the Mountains"--a supply and layover center at the entrance to the mining areas (Campbell 1972).

Canon City, as the Gate City was named in reference to its proximity to the Grand Canon, flourished once the gold strikes in South Park (1895) and California Gulch (1860) became known. Just as Kroenig had envisioned, the freighters, carrying supplies for the ever-increasing mining population, were halted by the rugged mountain terrain immediately north and west of the new community and forced to store their stock in sheds. Traders were oftencalled upon to carry the goods directly to the mining camps. As this transportation system matured, it formed the nucleus for the growing settlement.

Designated the county seat of Fremont County in 1862, Canon City was well established by the 1870s, despite a temporary setback during the Civil War years. In 1871 the territorial prison was constructed at the foot of the Dakota Hogback and a year later

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Taylor, Mary. Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites. (Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Downtown, Volumes I & II. 1981.)

Little, W. T. Personal Interview, 1983. Canon City, Colorado

~~Steinmeyer, Ruth. Notes. Assistant Curator City Museum.~~

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 28

QUADRANGLE NAME Canon City

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 499400 4254830

B 13 479470 4254710

C 12 478800 4254310

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheets.

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

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	--	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Sammy M. Wittmer, Urban Planner; Bill Simpson, Community Development

ORGANIZATION

City of Canon City, Colorado

DATE

March 1983

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 711

TELEPHONE

275-2366

CITY OR TOWN

Canon City

STATE

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL x

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Barbara Sudler

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer (Acting)

DATE 8/25/83

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Bill Groover

DATE 10/20/83

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

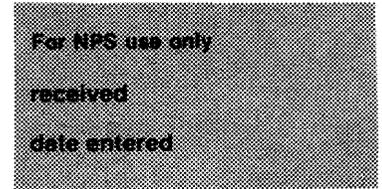
ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Canon City Downtown
Commercial District

Item number 4

Page 2

OWNERS

BUILDING NAME	OWNER(address, telephone)
Building Address	
Central Block 513-516 Main Street	Margaret W. James 30 E. Fontanero Colorado Springs, CO 80907
Arthur Block 517-519 Main Street	Herbert R. & Hildegard M. Ventker 111 Main Street Canon City, Colorado 81212 (303)275-7802 (work) (303)275-2317 (home)
Palace Drugs/Havens 601-603 Main Street	Kenneth F. & A. Grace Charles 328 Orchard Avenue Canon City, Colorado 81212 (303)275-2724
Harrison Building 609-611 Main Street	Harvey E. & Betty M. Opher 729 Rudd Canon City, Colorado 81212 (303)275-1556(work) (303)275-2519(home)
former Rex Theater 625 Main Street	Mr. Ralph E. Giem & Frances L. 624 S. 10th Street Canon City, Colorado 81212 (303)275-2325 (same as 6 & 34)
Hotel Canon 627-631 Main Street	Mr. Ralph E. Giem 624 S. 10th Street Canon City, Colorado 81212 (303)275-2325(same as 6&34 except wife)
Harvey Opher/H&R Block 421-423 Main Street	Wesley K. Carhartt 320 Adams Avenue Canon City, CO 81212 (303)275-7421 (same as 9 & 29)
Apex Building 425-431 Main Street	Wesley K. Carhartt 320 Adams Avenue Canon City, CO 81212 (303)275-7421(same as 8 & 29)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 3

F.L. Smith Building
501-503 Main Street

Marion C, & Pearl V. Yarbrough
1811 Barr Avenue
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-0684 (same as 11 & 12)

Annex Building
505-507 Main Street

Family Enterprises
c/o Marion C. & Pearl V. Yarbrough
1811 Barr Avenue
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-0684 (see 10 & 12)

Sulphide Building
509-511 Main Street

Family Enterprises
c/o Marion C. & Pearl V. Yarbrough
1811 Barr Avenue
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-0684 (see 10 & 11)

Felter Building
518-520 Main Street

Vincent A. & Diana V. Kelley &
Willard G., Barrett & Hart
623 Harrison (518 Main shop closed)
Canon City, CO 81212
(303)275-5769 (home)

Burrage Building
506-508 Main Street

Paul L. Queen
1539 Park Avenue
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-9345

Ben Franklin Store
502 Main Street

James B. & Lena P. Santilli
626 Main Street
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-9345

Becker's Office Furniture
424 Main Street

Lewis E. & Helen E. Becker
1607 Sherman Avenue
Canon City, CO 81212
(303)275-3772

Pauline's Sportswear
422 Main Street

Lida N. Province
422½ Main
Canon City, CO 81212
(303)275-5396

Lincoln Park Florist
420 Main Street

George Harvey T. Whipple
420½ Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212
(303)275-2466

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 4

Zenith TV
418 Main Street

Melvin H. & Joyce E. Thomas
418 Main Street
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-3714

Thomas's
416 Main Street

Roy T. & Ruth Thomas
418 Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212 (303)275-5055

Weaver & Bond Building
408 Main Street

J.L. & Aften F. Rencher
900 Harrison Avenue
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-6444 (work)
(303)275-7252 (home)

Royal Gorge Lounge
part of 404-406 Main St.

Hazel R. Bell
406 Main St.
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-6892 (work)
(303)275-3037

Merriam Plumbing
part of 404-406 Main St.

Fred W. Merriam, Jr.
806 Harrison Avenue
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-6555

Cablevision
402 Main Street

Fred W. Merriam, Jr.
806 Harrison Avenue
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(same as part of 22)

Maupin Building
113-121 N. 5th

Andrew C. Douglas
127 N. Circle Drive
Canon City, Colorado 81212

City Library
516 Macon Avenue

City of Canon City
c/o Honorable Mayor, George Turner
P.O. Box 711
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-6841

Standard Station
701 Main Street

Boxley H. Cole, Jr. & Hellen B.
P.O. Box 670
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-6404

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 5

Acme Building
722-724 Main Street

Pete, Elmer & James Santilli
626 Main
Canon City, Colorado 81212

Raynolds Bank
332 Main Street

Wesley K. Carhartt
320 Adams Avenue
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-7421 (see 8 & 9)

Raynolds Bank
330 Main Street

Fraternal Order of Eagles
Aerie # 2123
330 Main Street
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-9927

Catlin Building
304 Main Street

Charles B. & Geraldine McCasland
604 Diamond
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-3362 (work)
(303)275-9582

Baptist Church
107 N. 7th Street

Pastor
First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 469
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-0874

United Methodist Church
801 Main Street

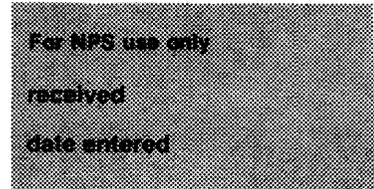
Pastor, United
United Methodist Church
801 Main
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-0681

Elks Club
404 Macon Avenue

Elks, B.P.O.
404 Macon Avenue
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303)275-1880

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

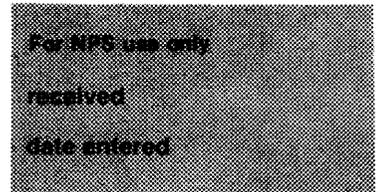
Item number 4

Page 6

306 Main St.	Canon Lodge Loyal Order of Moose 316 Main Canon City, Colorado 81212
320 Main St.	Cheryl K. & Lloyd B. Moore 3030 Pear Canon City, Colorado 81212
322 Main St.	Chery K. & Lloyd B. Moore 3030 Pear Canon City, Colorado 81212
401-407 Main	Bob Lazlier Vail, Colorado
409-411 Main	
323 Main St.	Dale J. & Gerry Gripp 331 Main Canon City, Colorado 81212
602 Main	Mount Moriah Lodge No. 1 602 Main Canon City, Colorado 81212
606 Main	Harold Lester McCormick 606 Main Canon City, Colorado 81212
622-624 Main	Robert G. Fredrickson 503 N. 15th Canon City, Colorado 81212
626 Main	Pete, Elmer & James Santilli 626 Main Canon City, Colorado 81212

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

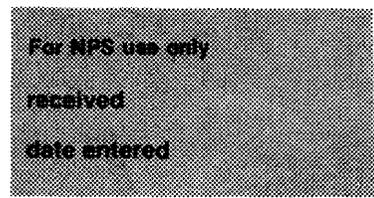
Item number 4

Page 7

610-612 Main	Charles E. & Abel M. McIntyre 1330 S. 9th Canon City, Colorado 81212
331 Main	Dale J. & Gerry Gripp 331 Main Canon City, Colorado 81212
706-708 Main	Fremont National Bank 532 Main Canon City, Colorado 81212
710-712	Canon Lodge #7 P.O. Box 212 Canon City, Colorado 81212
714-720 Main	Harrison Hawthorne P.O. Box 346 Canon City, Colorado 81212
709 Main	Ralph Callagan & Dorothy Lou Walser 110 Park Lane Canon City, Colorado 81212
725-731 Main	Main Street Corp. 731 Main Canon City, Colorado 81212
719-721 Main	Pete, Elmer, & James Santilli 626 Main Canon City, Colorado 81212
723 Main	Jerry Schmallen & Richard Babcock 723 Main Canon City, Colorado 81212
420 Macon	Aletha C. & Franklin P. Hammond 420 Macon Canon City, Colorado 81212
722-724 Main	
701 Main	

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 8

718 Main

World Savings
618 Main
Canon City, Colorado 81212

630 Main

First Federal Savings
630 Main
Canon City, Colorado 81212

700 Main

Lyle E. Jacobson & James C. Bosse
700 Main
Canon City, Colorado 81212

422 Macon

415-419 Main

Stuart Graham
P.O. Box 1222
Canon City, Colorado 81212

413 Main

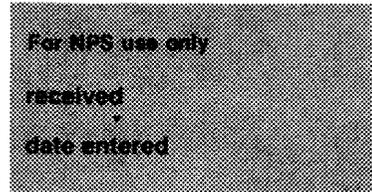
Gerald E. Benson
P.O. Box 854
Canon City, Colorado 81212

310-316 Main

Edna M. Waxon
1102 Rudd
Canon City, Colorado 81212

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

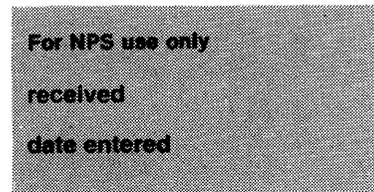
Item number 4

Page 9

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 326-328 Main | Marion F. Liphardt
810 Grand
Canon City, Colorado 81212 |
| 726-628 Main | Golden Age Council
726 Main
Canon City, Colorado 81212 |
| 730-732 Main | William C. & Cleone P. Hower
730 Main
Canon City, Colorado 81212 |
| 831 Main | First United Methodist Church
801 Main
Canon City, Colorado 81212 |
| 426-428 Main | P. Bruce & Patricia E. Sherwood
721 Macon
Canon City, Colorado 81212 (303-275-7077) |
| 430 Main | P. Bruce & Patricia E. Sherwood
721 Macon
Canon City, Colorado 81212 (303-275-7077) |
| 510 Main | Greeley National Bank
510 Main
Canon City, Colorado 81212 |
| 532 Main | Greeley National Bank
510 Main
Canon City, Colorado 81212 |
| 523 Main | Martha Hardy
921 Greenwood Avenue
Canon City, Colorado 81212 |
| 531 Main | First National Bank
531 Main
Canon City, Colorado 81212
(303-274-2311) |
| 619 Main | Sidney C. Tegner
1814 Franklin
Canon City, Colorado 81212 |
| 621-623 Main | R. Eric & Margaret E. Domroese
130 E. Circle Drive
Canon City, Colorado 81212 (303-275-7120) |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Canon City Downtown
Historic District

Item number 7

Page 2

SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

- PHOTOS
KEYED TO
BLDG. NO.
1. 5FN526 CENTRAL BLOCK 513-515 Main St. (1901) is basically a classical structure but the exuberance of the facade reflects a Beaux Arts influence. It is a fine two-story brick building with white metal and wood trim. The elaborate metal cornice is rounded and topped by a pinnacle. A large round headed window (it is actually composed of paired bays with a paned transom above) is beneath the rounded cornice. Large windows (these are composed of three bays with transoms) with classical surrounds flank the center window. Window modifications have been made on the first floor. In 1908 a clothing & boots & shoes store was in it.
 2. 5FN527 ARTHUR BLOCK 517-519 Main Street (1895-1901) C.C. Rittenhouse, architect. It is a two-story cream brick structure which displays characteristics of Renaissance architecture. The brick used on the tripartite facade has been given the appearance of rusticated masonry---an appearance which lends a feeling of massiveness to the structure. In addition, the six second story bays---four rectangular bays flanking two round headed ones (the round arch is a Renaissance feature as well as the rusticated masonry)---are accented by brick (again imitating rusticated masonry) radiating voussoirs. In 1901 a general notions store occupied this building. Alterations of metal siding on first floor facade and first floor window alterations have been made.
 3. 5FN528 PALACE DRUGS/HAVENS 601-603 Main St. (1901-1908) This corner commercial structure was built during the first decade of the twentieth century. It is a simple single story building constructed of brick distinguished by various brick work patterns at the cornice. A rough cutstone string course highlights these patterns. In 1908 the building housed a drug store and grocery. Metal and brick siding obscure the original front facade.
 4. 5FN529 HARDING BUILDING 605 Main St. (1908-1914) A two-story brick commercial structure with simple detailing. In the early twentieth century period revivals were very popular and the localized versions, of which this is an example, were for the most part "simpler and sparer". This building echoes features from the Victorian period ---features which are found on other buildings in the district. A metal entablature with ornate scroll-like modillions is apparent, in addition to corbelling and stone string courses. Even the small parapet containing the Harding name is reminiscent of earlier architectural detailing. The Harding Hardware Company, which first occupied this building, was established in 1879.
 5. 5FN530 HARRISON BUILDING 609-611 Main St. (1901-1908) Simple detailing marks this building, erected during the first decade of the twentieth century. Pilasters rising from the storefront area to the cornice line divide the facade into five parts corresponding to the four store areas and central entrance on the lower floor. The thirteen bays, of which the central one is round headed and the remaining double hung and accented by transoms, also correspond to the lower area. The center bay is framed by pilasters which rise above the cornice and this detail, in addition to the vertical brickwork above the windows, infers the medieval period. In 1908 the building contained a bakery, clothing store & drug store with one store area vacant.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canon City Downtown

Continuation sheet Historic District

Item number 7

Page 3

For NPS use only

received

date entered

5. (continued) The first floor facade was altered with metal siding and a shake roof, etc.
6. 5FN531 Former REX THEATRE (1886-1890) According to Sanborn Perris maps the second floor of this two-story brick building was originally connected to the adjoining St. Cloud Hotel (presently the Hotel Canon) and continued hotel rooms. Various business enterprises occupied the ground floor, beginning with a grocery. The narrow building features a metal cornice and three large rectangular windows which are partially outlined by a continuous stone lintel. At some point (after 1946) the building housed a theatre and the ornate marquee was added. At present the seats are no longer existent in the interior of the building.
7. 5FN532 HOTEL CANON 627-631 Main St. (1879, moved to Canon 1883-1886) Dominating the corner of Main and 7th St. is the four-story Hotel Canon. Originally named the Powell House and later the St. Cloud, the hotel was constructed in nearby Silver Cliff in 1878 or 1879. When the mining boom ended in that community, the hotel was moved to Canon City between 1883 and 1886 and reconstructed. At that time the hotel's location was outside of the city's main business district. The new establishment was advertised as the "healthseeker's resort" (Campbell 1972). A mansard roof---the hallmark of the Second Empire style---pierced by dormer windows caps the rectangular brick structure, while the front facade is divided into three parts by a projecting central pavilion. Rough cut stone marks the building's corners and the segmental arch windows on the second floor. A corner-wrap veranda first appears on the 1895 Sanborn Perris map. Hotel Canon is the only example of the Second Empire architecture in the district. It provides on the local level, a fine illustration of that late nineteenth century style. First floor facade alterations have been made. Contractor: Korbell & Sell
8. 5FN538 HARVEY OFFER/LAND-AIR-SEA TRAVEL/H & R BLOCK 421-423 Main St. (1895-1901) A simple one-story brick commercial structure, the building's facade is divided into three parts by pilasters which rise above the cornice line. A brick corbel table provides ornamentation. The building's scale distinguishes it from the majority of buildings in the district, yet it complements these structures through its construction material and detailing. In 1901 the building housed a jewelry store and offices. The first floor facade has seen alteration by addition of metal siding.
9. 5FN539 APEX BUILDING 425-431 Main St. (1895-1901) Architect: Maneau & Norton, Denver; Builder: S.A. van Buskirk. Lyman Robison had this building and the Annex building (5FN541) built, also Robison Mansion (12 Riverside Drive in Old South Canon Historical District) which is Second Empire structure & still standing. The Apex Building is a large two-story red brick structure featuring fine classical detailing. It is accented by an entablature complete with modillions, egg and dart moldings, and dentils. Prominent cream brick quoins and voussoirs highlighting the twelve bays are additional details. An early photo of the building is included and marked by number in streetscapes accompanying this application. Extensive remodeling of first floor facade & addition of metal siding and lower brick panels has occurred. 2nd floor original staircase & woodwork remains on interior.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Canon City Downtown
Historic District

Item number 7

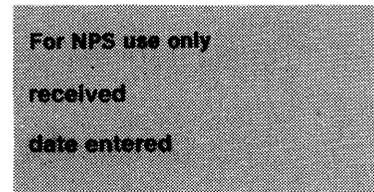
Page 4

10. 5FN540 F. L. SMITH BUILDING 501-503 Main Street (1895-1901) This building and the three structures to the east (5FN541, 542 & 526) are dominating features of downtown Canon City. More sophisticated architecturally than the majority of surrounding buildings, these commercial structures form the focus of the historic district. The F.L. Smith building is a long two-story brick structure, distinguished by a variety of details, classical in form, but with the added exuberance of the Beaux Arts style. The Main Street facade is a symmetrical one dominated by two roundheaded bays flanking two small rectangular bays. The round headed bays (three similar bays are evident on the side facade which has eleven bays total) are accented by molded brick arches and pilasters, all of cream brick. Pilasters also highlight the building's corners. The roofline is enhanced by a richly decorated cornice and by a large sculptural element. In 1901 stores occupied the ground floor, while the second housed a lodge hall. The first floor facade has been obscured by metal siding and a shake roof.
11. 5FN541 ANNEX BUILDING 505-507 Main St. (1901-1908) Lyman Robison had this building built (see 5FN539). It is classically inspired, a two-story brick structure which also reflects the Beaux Arts style through the lively use of detail and varied surface textures. The three part facade is distinguished by a wood and metal cornice which forms a central pediment. Below the pediment is an elaborately outlined Palladian window which is flanked by paired windows (double hung and with a transom). Single granite columns mark these outside bays, while paired columns highlight the Palladian window. Sculptural elements at the roofline provide additional detail. On the ground floor an added overhang obscures a large portion of the facade. The original display windows have also been removed. Recently some first floor remodeling and addition of a stage (south end of 2nd floor) and an antique bar (under balcony of north end of 2nd floor) has left the remainder of 2nd floor either the same as or restored to its condition of 1940 when the ballroom was closed & the space used as storage. A clothing store occupied the lower floor in 1908. The upstairs was the home of the Ku Klux Klan in mid to late 1920's.
12. 5FN542 SULPHIDE BUILDING 509-511 Main Street (1890-1895) is a two-story brick commercial structure constructed in the late nineteenth century, featuring a four part facade. The seven bays (with transoms) are divided 2-2-2-1 by pilasters which rise to the decorative metal cornice. The single bay corresponds to the side entrance on the main floor. Brick corbelling and a rough cut stone string course provide additional detailing. Originally the Handy & McGee Wholesale and Retail Grocers firm occupied the lower floor of the building, while the second floor held the YMCA and various offices. According to an early picture of the structure (1981 Daily Record article) the cornice was a later addition, which altered the medieval feeling of the original building. The first floor facade has been altered by metal siding and brick.
13. 5FN550 FELTER BUILDING 518-520 Main Street (1895-1901) is a two-story structure constructed of brick, is distinguished by a coursed sandstone facade. The stone, reddish or pink in color, is seen on other Canon City commercial buildings and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canon City Downtown
Historic District



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

13. (continued) in this case is accented by buff colored stone. Originally the building's roofline was characterized by a centrally placed semi-circular projection topped by a bird-like ornament (photo County Assessor's office). The lower facade of the structure has been completely modified, yet the building has been determined to be a contributing structure because it continues the patterns, size, shape, building material, etc.---evidenced in the district. In 1901 the Felter Building contained a grocery and hardware store. A tin shop was located at the rear of the building. Windows have been modified on 1st floor.
14. 5FN551 BURRAGE BUILDING 506-508 Main Street (1895-1901) Architect: C.C. Rittenhouse (same as for First Presbyterian Church, Mt. St. Scholastica's Academy Frank L. Smith Building, Arthur Block and Municipal Library); Builder: C.M. Ward. This building is a two-story brick structure which features six second story bays capped with stone voussoirs. Additional detailing includes stone string course and an uneven (or slightly crenellated) roofline. Metal siding over a portion of the lower storefront area obscures the building's recessed entrances. In 1901 this structure contained a drugstore and books and stationary store. This building continues the features which unify the district buildings--- brick construction and a continuous pattern of cornice, window and storefront alignment. Mrs. Burrage was of the first Municipal Library Board of Directors.
15. 5FN552 BEN FRANKLIN BUILDING 502 Main Street (1886-1890) is a two-story brick building which continues the district's architectural patterns, despite modifications to the original storefront area and elimination of the wrought iron railings on the sidewalk staircase that led to the basement in a 1915 photo. The building is distinguished by an ornate cast-iron cornice and wide segmental arch windows accented by brickwork. Some of the ornate cornice was added after 1915 as it did not exist in that photo. Two rows of rough cut blond stone mark the corner entrance. This building recently was painted in earthtones and signage reduced, bringing out the features of the building. Awnings have been added since 1915. In 1890 the structure housed a furniture store and the offices for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad.
16. 5FN553 BECKER'S OFFICE FURNITURE 424 Main St. (1875-1880) This two-story brick building can be considered only as marginally contributing to the district since it has been extensively altered, but still it carries the dominant characteristics---window alignment, size, and shape---from the structures to the west of it. The building's remaining original features are three second story segmental arch windows with radiating voussoirs and keystones, and its recessed entrance. A jewelry store owned by William Mayhew in which Ralph Patton clerked, occupied the building in 1833.
17. 5FN554 PAULINE'S SPORTSWEAR 422 Main St. (1875-1880) Various brickwork patterns including a chevron design are featured at the cornice line of this two-story brick structure. These patterns are repeated on the adjoining building, resource no. 5FN555. The facade is also characterized by three segmental arch windows which are highlighted by voussoirs and keystones. The building housed a

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Canon City Downtown

Continuation sheet

Historic District

Item number 7

Page 6

17. (continued) meat market in 1883. The first floor facade has been altered.
18. 5FN555 LINCOLN PARK FLORIST 420 Main St. (1875-1880) This two-story structure features the same cornice line (5FN554) brickwork pattern as displayed on the adjoining building. It also has three second story bays, but these are smaller rectangular windows with several panes. These more modern windows disturb (somewhat) the window alignment which is a dominant visual feature of this block. On the ground floor the facade has been modified in the Art Deco style using carrara glass and glass blocks. In 1883 the post office and a news store were located on the first floor of this building. Three years later a millinery shop occupied the building.
19. 5FN556 ZENITH TV 418 Main St. (1875-1880). A wooden cornice and three large second floor bays with stone lintels and sills are the distinguishing features of this two-story brick building. Once again it complements the other buildings on the block and plays a contributing role in the district. On the 1883 Sanborn Perris map, the IOOF Hall was located on the second floor of this building. Alteration has been made by placing metal siding on the first floor storefront.
20. 5FN557 THOMAS'S 416 Main St. (1875-1880). An exceptionally long facade providing the basic pattern (window, cornice and storefront alignment) for the entire block, this two-story brick commercial structure, originally called the Hartwell Block, is a dominant feature of this block for its twelve bay facade sets the visual pattern. The twelve segmental arch windows are grouped in threes and correspond to the four recessed entrances and display windows on the ground floor. A wooden cornice and cast-iron lintel and pillars delineating the storefront area are additional design features. According to the Sanborn Perris Map various business establishments occupied the lower floor while the second story was used for offices and furnished rooms. Metal siding modifications have been made to the storefront.
21. 5FN558 WEAVER & BOND BUILDING 408 Main St. (1890-1895) Reddish colored brick with cream brick accents has been used in this two-story commercial building which was constructed somewhat later than its neighboring structures. Three compound arch windows dominate the facade giving the small structure a Romanesque feeling. A brick corbel table adds a decorative detail and underscores the stone block bearing the building's name. The first floor renovation work was recently completed and instead of returning the building to a least an approximation of its former appearance, a "Victorian Revival" storefront was created. In 1895 a meat market and cold storage facility occupied the structure.
22. 5FN559 ROYAL GORGE LOUNGE/MERRIAM PLUMBING 404-406 Main St. (1878) Originally this building contained a dry goods store and a boots, shoes and hats establishment (1883 Sanborn Perris map). The dry goods store was operated by M.M. Engleman who first opened a business establishment in Canon City in 1870. In a photo from the Denver Public Library, Clelland's firm occupied the western portion of the building. James Clelland, a native of Scotland, was also in the grocery and trading business and an influential citizen of Canon City. He was a member

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Canon City Downtown

Continuation sheet

Historic District

Item number 7

Page 7

22. (continued) from Fremont County in the Territorial Council in 1876. Architecturally the two-story brick structure presents an interesting contrast. The first floor facade of the Merriam plumbing Shop is the most intact storefront remaining in Canon City's commercial area. It features a lintel separating the storefront from the upper story, large display windows, and a recessed entrance. In contrast, the lower area containing the Royal Gorge Lounge has undergone modification during the 1920's or 30's. The first floor facade on the eastern portion of the building has a 1930's Art Deco exterior.
23. 5FN560 CABLEVISION 402 Main St. (1880) According to an early photo this two-story brick building was erected somewhat later than the neighboring structure (5FN559) which is very similar in appearance. The upper stories of the buildings (this at 402 Main St. & only half of its neighbor, 404-406 Main St.) are connected and at one time contained offices and rooms. The corner building features a bracketed wooden cornice (both brackets and bracket-like modillions are evident) and three segmental arch bays with stone sills and window caps. The quoins are also stone. Major modifications to first floor facade have been made and second story windows have been boarded up.
24. 5FN567 MAUPIN BUILDING/POST OFFICE BLOCK (Various commercial establishment: ^{SW cor 5th &} Macon. Burns Realty, Calico to Satin, Daylight Donut, etc.)(1901-1908) The Post Office Block or the Maupin Building(both names are on the structure) is a two-story corner structure, constructed of cream brick. Distinguishing features include a wood cornice with modillions and a second story pattern of windows which includes bay windows, "regular" rectangular windows, and round headed openings. In the last instance, the curved portion of the window is filled with a decorative wood design. Various brickwork patterns provide additional detail. The Maupin Building has had some window modifications of the first floor.
25. 5FN568 PUBLIC LIBRARY 516 Macon (1902) The Canon City Public Library, a gift of Andrew Carnegie, is a single story structure constructed of reddish and buff colored sandstone. Classically inspired, the library features a low hipped roof broken by a gable which accents the centrally located entrance. Pilasters further define the symmetrical facade and highlight the transomed bays. The wooden cornice is distinguished by both modillions and dentils. The architect, C.C. Rittenhouse of Canon City, also did the 1st Presbyterian Church, F.L. Smith building and several others in this district or being filed as a site. The builder was U. S. Okey of Canon City. Remodeling is now nearing completion to supply a 12,000- S.F. addition on the back and west side of this building. Every attempt was made to keep this addition compatible with the original building by reuse of removed cornice, removal of a minimum of dark pine interior trim and re-use of it to make a smooth transition between the historical Carnegie building and the new area. The interior woodwork of the original building still remains, virtually undamaged, above the lowered accoustical ceiling tile in metal grid which was put in several years ago. The roof line will be tied into remaining as true as possible to the original architectural features of the building as modern construction methods allow.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canon City Downtown Historic District

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 8

For NPS use only

received

date entered

26. 5FN533 STANDARD STATION 701 Main St. (1930) This corner Standard Service Station is an excellent intact example of "Gas Station" architecture. It is also a distinctive symbol of the automobile age. A Wisconsin Trails article (1980) discusses the evolution of the gas station. "Continued refinement of the gasoline pump and the increasing popularity of automobiles led to a new type of gas station, the drive-in filling station. Set up to serve only the automobile the filling station offered soil, air, water and a quick fill. In 1920, there were about 15,000 stations nationwide controlling about half the gasoline market. By 1929, there were more than 121,000 and they had better than 90% of the business". This particular station, constructed of brick, exudes a Spanish air (it may be a regional design) through its curved parapet over the entrance and the use of barrel tile on the roof. The original pumps and fixtures are still intact and in use. This is an unaltered building and site.
27. 5FN545 ACME BUILDING 722-724 Main St. (1890-1895). This building is a fine example within Canon City, of a nineteenth century commercial structure since only minor alterations to the display area detract from the building's integrity. The two-story brick structure has a facing of cut stone---a treatment seen on other Canon City commercial buildings. The facade is dominated by four second story bay windows. On the ground floor the central recessed entrances are flanked by large display windows. Separating this area from the second floor is a transom window stretching the width of the building. These storefront features---recessed entrances, transom windows---were once found on nearly all of the city's business establishments. The pillars on the first floor were made by Hassell Iron Works, Colorado Springs. In 1895 a furniture store and grocery occupied the building. In 1908 the grocery was replaced by an undertaking establishment.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canon City Downtown
Historic District

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Item number 7 Page 9

28. 5FN561 RAYNOLDS BANK 330-332 Main St. (1883) The Raynolds Bank is significant as an example of Gothic Revival architecture. It was associated with Fred A. Raynolds, a prominent Colorado banker, occupying the corner of 4th & Main Streets. It is a imposing two-story commercial structure of coursed ashlar, the former bank featuring lancet windows grouped in twos and threes and a recessed corner entrance accented by a gable roofed hood and flanked by columns. At one time, the building's medieval feeling was reinforced by a corner tower which carried the words "Raynolds Bank". The most western portion of the structure (that beneath the McGee name and currently the Eagles Lodge) apparently first housed a grocery store (1883 Sanborn Perris map). The lower facade of this portion has been extensively altered. According to a newspaper article, Fred A. Raynolds opened a bank in the corner of the McClure House (5FN536) in August, 1874. Somewhat later he moved his establishment---The Fremont County Bank ---to a structure in the 200 block of Main Street. In the early 1880's Raynolds constructed a new bank building on the corner of 4th & Main. When he opened the bank in 1874 at the age of 26 he was the nation's youngest bank president. He was a prominent figure in Colorado's banking industry and at one time had six banks in addition to this one. The tower which had been taken down due to structural damage has been replaced by the building's present owner. It had the 1st alarm protected bank vault.
29. 5FN565 CATLIN BUILDING 304 Main St. (1880) W. C. Catlin had this building constructed. He was an Englishman who first spent time mining in the California Gulch and was one of the original members of the Canon City Calim Club. He supplied bricks for the majority of the community's commercial structures. According to the 1881 history he was one of the most active businessmen in the community, with the Catlin residence still standing in South Canon near the Robinson Mansion (see Old South Canon Historical District 1980-81). The Catlin Building is a two-story brick structure located at the corner of 3rd & Main, characterized by elaborate detailing. Especially prominent are the cast iron cornice distinguished by a central raised portion bearing the building's name and date of construction and the window caps which embellish the seven second story bays. These metal caps appear almost as drapery. The bays on the Third Street facade are accented by stone lintels and sills. Stone quoins are additional details. This building has recently undergone earthtone painting and there have been removals of unsightly signs.
30. 5FN572 BAPTIST CHURCH 107 N. 7th St. (1890) Contractor: Anders C. Jensen. An addition was placed on the south side in 1952. This is a Richardsonian Romanesque Church done by the same architect/builder as did AOUW Hall and Catlin Block & the Post Office. It is constructed of the reddish stone that is so common in Canon City, the church is basically apsidal in plan and is characterized by an upright gable and entrance tower, which offsets the structure's horizontality. The tower is a vivid medieval element and was at one time balanced by a one story semi-circular tower. This tower was probably removed when the addition, which does not detract from the original structure, was completed in 1952. According to W. T. Little, the stone used in the 1952 addition was taken from the buildings at the Soda Springs which were razed in 1950. The Baptist congregation was organized in 1865 by Reverend B.M. Adams.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Canon City, Downtown Commercial District
Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 10

31. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 Main Street (1889). Architect: C. C. Rittenhouse, Builder: C. M. Ward (same as for Burrage Block, First (United) Presbyterian Church and F. L. Smith Building. The church is a locally significant example of Victorian Gothic architecture. The building, which has remained intact architecturally, displays in a localized version the major characteristics of the Victorian Gothic style. The large rectangular brick structure was erected in two stages--the western section in approximately 1895 and the eastern section in 1899. In keeping with the Victorian Gothic style, the imposing church building offers a complex profile. Three towers, all very medieval in form and capped by spires, provide vertical elements. Broad gables and a number of window types--round headed, gothic and rose--add to the variety of patterns found on the structure.
32. ELKS CLUB 404 Macon Avenue (1911). The three-story brick building is located at the corner of Macon and Fourth Street and is a significant local example of Classical Revival architecture. Distinctive features of the Revival style include a pedimented pavilion which is further enhanced by a two-story Doric portico, rusticated brick quoins, and a raised rusticated first floor. Block modillions articulate the cornices of the portico and side veranda, in addition to the entablature below the building's cornice line. There has been alteration by enclosing a portion at the rear of the building.
33. McCLURE HOUSE/STRATHMORE HOTEL 323-331 Main Street (1872). Listed in the National Register 1979. The Strathmore Hotel is a three-story brick building, with the east facade having eleven bays, and the main or north facade with eighteen bays. The windows on the second and third stories are tall, narrow, two-sashed and double-hung. Those along the north facade have decorative treatment consisting of radiating voussoirs with keystone on the second story, and a flat arch with keystone on the third story.

HISTORIC CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

34. COMMERCIAL BUILDING/Master Printers 306-308 Main (1888). Two-story brick building with upper story unaltered.
35. COMMERCIAL BUILDING/Dale's Used Furniture 320 Main (1888). Two-story brick building with upper section of front facade intact.
36. COMMERCIAL BUILDING/Enterprises 322 Main (1888). Two-story brick stuccoed building with four sets of paired bays with decorative hoods. Ornate cornice also intact.
37. COMMERCIAL BUILDING 409-411 Main (1898). Two-story brick building, with five arched bays with keystones at the second level. The middle bay contains a double window. The structure retains its original metal cornice. Other trim includes corbelling at the second level.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canon City Downtown Commercial District, Fremont County, Colorado

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 12

For NPS use only

received

date entered

INTRUSIONS

- 714-718 Main One-story stuccoed building with a contemporary front.
700 Main Garment Shop. One-story stone and brick building. Contemporary front.
- 630 Main Federal Savings Bank. Two-story stone building, contemporary.
626-628 Main Ralphs Barber Shop. One-story building with upper section having aluminum sleeve. Contemporary facade.
- 618 Main World Savings. One-story brick with shingled mansard roof. Contemporary facade.
- 532 Main Fremont National Bank. One-story contemporary building with mansard roof.
- 510 Main J. C. Penney. One story building with aluminum sleeve.
432 Main Matchbox. Two-story brick building with upper level vertical boarded. Shingled mansard roof.
- 426-428 Main Mode O'Day. Two-story stuccoed building. Shingled mansard roof.
328 Main Rainbow Traders. One-story building with upper section metal sheathed; lower section tiled.
- 310-316 Main Moore's. One story building now covered with vertical boards.
401 Main Shanty's. Two-story building with 11 bays on front facade. Original fenestration appears to be intact on upper story. Five entrances on front facade surrounded by glass blocks, and gray tiles.
- 413 Main Dyer Office Systems. One-story cement block building. Contemporary facade.
- 415-419 Main One story building with stone lower section, stuccoed upper. Contemporary facade.
- 523 Main Canon City Daily Record. Two-story stone building. Upper section stuccoed. Contemporary facade.
- 531 Main First National Bank. Two-story contemporary building.
619 Main Derby Liquors. One-story brick building, with metal sheathing.
621-623 Main Book Corral. Front facade recently given frontier false front appearance. Some remnants of streetfront remaining.
- 606 Main Skyline Theatre. Two-story stuccoed building. Although the fenestration of the building appears unchanged on the front facade, all original detailing, including window surrounds has been obscured by the stucco.
- 723 Main Commercial Building. One-story structure with metal sheathing.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canon City Downtown

Continuation sheet

Historic District

Item number 8

Page 2

For NPS use only

received

date entered

the town was officially incorporated with George Rockafellow as the first mayor. Continuing as a major commercial center for the mining areas to the north and west, the community also prospered through the development of the resources in the surrounding area. As early as 1860, agriculture had flourished in the region owing to the ready market provided by the mining camps. Agricultural growth was assisted by an extensive irrigation system (an irrigation ditch runs through Canon City itself) which by 1880 had brought approximately 15,000 acres under cultivation. Fruit growing, too, contributed to Canon City's vitality. The state's first fruit tree nursery was established near present day Florence and its successes were repeated by several Canon City residents who planted orchards primarily south of the river (O'Rourke 1981).

Significant amounts of coal and oil were also found in Fremont County. The high grade coal along Coal Creek south of Florence enticed General Palmer's Denver & Rio Grande Railroad to the site in 1872. By the turn-of-the-century, additional coal discoveries south of Canon City and Florence had prompted the development of several small communities, including Rockvale, Bookside, Chandler, and later Prospect Heights. Oil, first discovered on Fourmile Creek in 1860, became important more than twenty years later when a second discovery on Coal Creek led to the establishment of the Arkansas Valley Oil and Land Company and a refinery in Florence by 1885 (O'Rourke 1981).

A critical factor in the growth of Canon City and Fremont County as outlined above was a railroad connection. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad had reached the Coal Creek coal field in 1872 and to Canon City residents it seemed only a matter of months before they too were part of the narrow gauge system. Yet the Panic of 1873 intervened and it was not until the community furnished the railroad company with an additional \$50,000 that the line was completed, entering Canon City in July of 1874. Although not intended, Canon City remained the western terminus of the Denver & Rio Grande while the famous Royal Gorge War was waged in the courts. Finally triumphing over the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad in 1880, Palmer's railroad tapped the lucrative Leadville traffic in the same year.

Canon City's Main Street provided the physical manifestation of the community's growth and diversity. North of the river and parallel to it, Main Street was the city's commercial center. In the 1860s and '70s the various business establishments, many of them located in stone buildings, were huddled at the western end of the street. As prosperity increased, the commercial district moved eastward, forming a continuous line of well built brick and stone structures. Financial successes in Leadville and later in Cripple Creek financed a few of the enterprises, while most were built after long struggles. Along the river were the industrial structures, as well as the depots and tracks of the D & RG and AT & SF railroads. Substantial residential areas to the north and south framed the core of the community.

In the twentieth century, mining, agriculture, and tourism dominated Canon City's economy. The coal mines in Fremont County which had come largely under the control of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, reached production heights in the 1910s and '20s, but were already surpassed by the mines in Las Animas, Huerfano, and Boulder counties. In

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canon City Downtown

Continuation sheet

Historic District

Item number 8

Page 3

For NPS use only

received

date entered

addition, agricultural growth, particularly in the fruit growing area, intensified during this time period. The orchards in the Canon City area continued to expand and to produce quality apples. To the west of Canon City the Royal Gorge had been attracting tourists since the late 1870s. Construction in 1929 of the world's highest suspension bridge across the gorge brought even greater numbers of visitors to the site and today the Royal Gorge draws approximately 200,000 people per year (O'Rourke 1981; Campbell, 1972).

Historical Associations

Several of the buildings were designed by the same architect and/or built by the same builder. The F. L. Smith building's namesake was a member of the Methodist Church. Warren R. Fowler arrived in 1860 and was the preacher of the Methodist congregation before it moved to the present structure. Reynolds of Reynolds Bank was also a mayor and his wife was a member of the first Board of Directors of the Municipal Library. Lyman Felter of the Felter Clothing Company in the Felter Building was also a member of the Presbyterian Church. The wife of Burrage, Burrage Building, was on the first Board of Directors of the Municipal Library, as was Mrs. Maupin (Maupin/Post Office Block) & Mrs. Harding wife of the owner of the Harding Building. These interrelationships intertwine the historical significance of the buildings in the District as well as ties them to structures which can be found in the Old South Canon Historical District.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Canon City Downtown

Continuation sheet Historic District

Item number 10

Page 2

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries are drawn to include the historic core of the downtown commercial district, which lies principally along Main Street. Side streets are incorporated only if they are intact and relate to the commercial district.

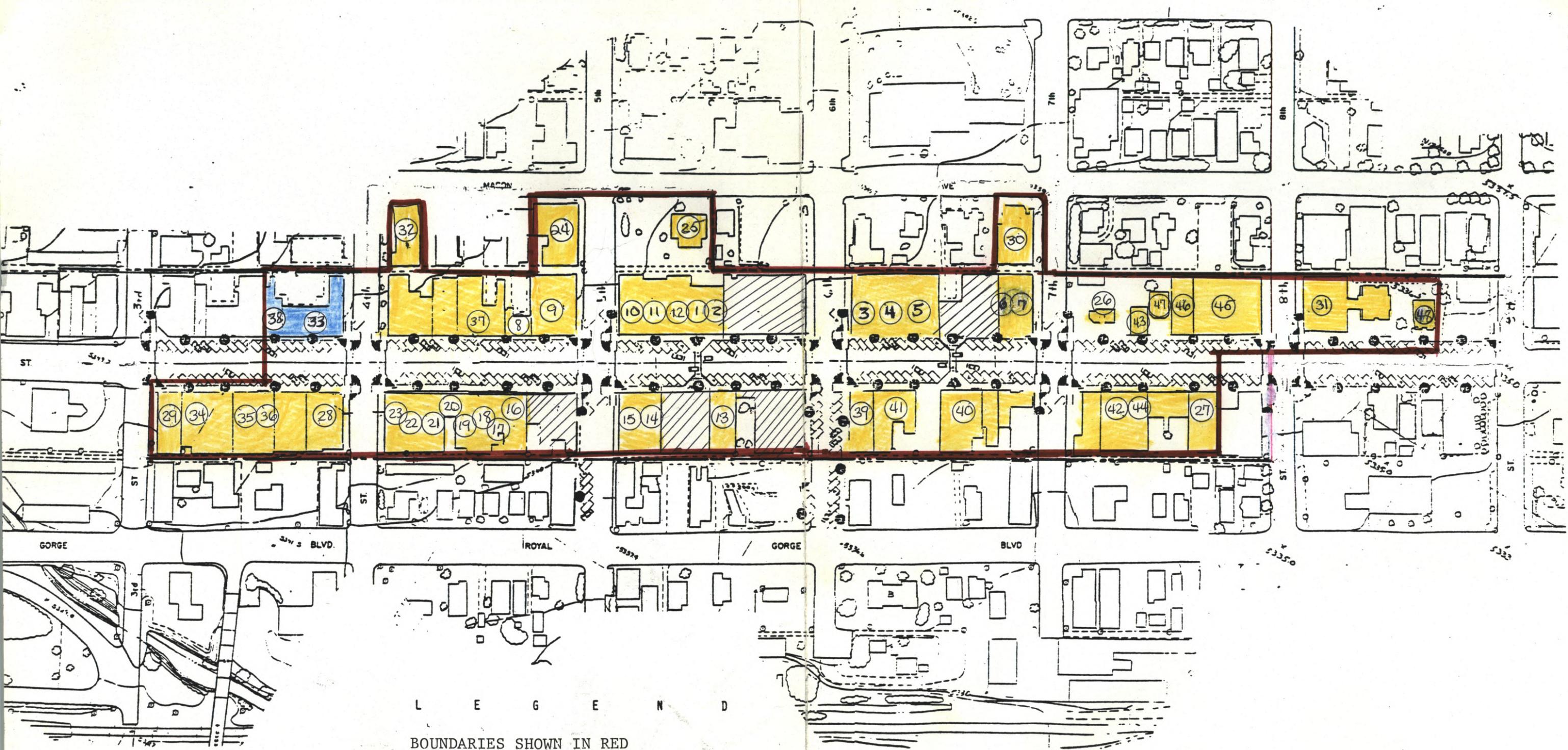
The NE anchor of the district is the United Methodist Church (#32) which sits on the NE corner of 8th and Main Street. (The opposite block is principally composed of contemporary buildings and is, thus, excluded.) The boundary extends westward along Main to include properties facing Main, following rear property lines, to Third Street. The building which sits on the NE corner of 3rd and Main (#34) is included as it is one of the oldest commercial buildings in the downtown and has a strong historical as well as architectural tie to the district.

The boundary extends along the east side of 4th Street to Mason to include an intact commercial block, oriented toward 4th. The boundary extends down 5th to Mason to include both sides of the street, as they are intact, of the same period and architectural style as the downtown. On the NE corner of Mason and 5th is the public library (#25), which contains the only green space in the downtown, has been oriented toward 5th Street, and is historically linked with the downtown. The boundary extends along the west side of 7th to include an intact block, with an anchor building, the Baptist Church (#31) on the NW corner of Mason and 7th. The church is oriented toward 7th.

The area lying east of 7th and north of the district is residential. Royal Gorge Boulevard, south of the district, is primarily commercial in character, but contains too large a number of contemporary buildings to relate to the historic character of the district. Mason Street is mixed commercial, residential, and in character does not relate to the downtown. West of 3rd, the area loses its historic character.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the NW corner of 9th and Main, the boundary extends N along the W side of 9th to the alley between Main and Mason; then W along the S side of the alley to the W side of 7th; then N along the W side of 7th to the S side of Mason; then around the property lines of the Baptist Church to the alley between Main and Mason; then W along the S side of the alley to the E property lines of the public library; then N along the property line to the S side of Mason; then W along the S side of Mason to the W property lines of the Maupin Building; then S along the property lines to the alley between Mason and Main; then W along the S side of the alley to the E property lines of the Elks Club; then N along the property lines to the S side of Mason; then W along Mason to 4th Street; then S along the E side of 4th to the alley between Main and Mason; then W along the S side of the alley to the W property line of 200 Main; then S to Main Street; then E along the N side of Main to 3rd; then S along the E side of 3rd to the alley between Main and Royal Gorge Blvd.; then E along the N side of the alley to 8th Street; then N along the W side of 8th to Main; then E along the N side of Main to 9th and point of beginning.



L E G E N D

BOUNDARIES SHOWN IN RED

- HISTORIC CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS
- INTRUSIONS
- NATIONAL REGISTER SITE (STRATHMORE HOTEL)