


HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORD

NOT FOR FIELD USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Nominated
<input type="checkbox"/> Det. Not Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Rehab.
Date _____	

PROJECT NAME: Littleton Historic Buildings Survey 1997 (#97-01-082)		COUNTY: Arapahoe	CITY: Littleton	STATE ID NO.: 5AH234
		TEMPORARY NO.: 2077-17-4-00-026		
CURRENT BUILDING NAME: Melting Pot Restaurant		OWNER: DAVIS, LERUTH G 55.556%, ET AL % ROI DAVIS 6600 E EXPOSITION AVE DENVER CO 80224		
ADDRESS: 2707 W MAIN ST Littleton, CO 80120		TOWNSHIP 5S RANGE 68W SECTION 17 NE 1/4 SE 1/4		
HISTORIC NAME: Carnegie Library		U.S.G.S. QUAD NAME: Littleton, Colo. YEAR: 1965 (r. 1994) X 7.5' 15'		
DISTRICT NAME:		BLOCK: 1 LOT(S): M&B ADDITION: LITTLETON ORIG. TOWN YR. OF ADDITION: 1872		
FILM ROLL NO.: 97- 7 BY: Roger Whitacre	NEGATIVE NO.: 36	LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: Littleton Hist. Mus.	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ESTIMATE: ACTUAL: 1916-17 SOURCE: Lit. Independ., 7-22-38	
			USE: PRESENT: Restaurant	
			HISTORIC: Library	
			CONDITION: EXCELLENT X GOOD FAIR DETERIORATING	
			EXTENT OF ALTERATIONS: MINOR X MODERATE MAJOR DESCRIBE: Large addition obscuring original design on south and west. Interior remodeled.	
STYLE: Italian Renaissance Revival/Beaux Arts			STORIES: 1	ORIGINAL SITE X MOVED DATE(S) OF MOVE:
MATERIALS: Brick, Terra Cotta, Concrete			SQ. FOOTAGE: 8226	NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: One-story, rectangular, hipped roof brick library which stands at the western terminus of Main Street facing east toward the courthouse. Widely overhanging eaves shelters frieze with classical motif. Symmetrical facade with central arched entrance flanked by rectangular multi-light windows between columns supporting entablature and arched windows of size equal to entrance and with cast stone arched hood molds with keystones; brick panels beneath windows. Engaged Ionic columns at entrance and flanking windows. Entrance has deep reveal with paneled walls of cast stone and ornamented ceiling with suspended lantern; plaque above door inscribed "PUBLIC LIBRARY." Polychromatic terra cotta insets between arches. In front of building is stone memorial to "Pioneer of the Upper Platte Valley" (1929) and rose garden. To south is fountain and memorial tree.			INDIVIDUAL: YES X NO	
			CONTRIBUTING TO DISTRICT: YES NO	
			LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION: No	
			NAME: DATE:	
ADDITIONAL PAGES: YES X NO			ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS? YES X NO TYPE:	
			IF INVENTORIED, LIST ID NOS.:	

PLAN SHAPE: 	ARCHITECT: J.J.B. Benedict	STATE ID NO.: 5AH234	
	SOURCE: Taylor, Architecture of Benedict	ORIGINAL OWNER: City of Littleton	
	BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: Unknown	SOURCE: Littleton Independent, 7-22-38	
	SOURCE:	THEME(S): Rail Era: Rail Town Physical Form, 1870-1920	
CONSTRUCTION HISTORY (DESCRIPTION, NAMES, DATES, ETC., RELATING TO MAJOR ALTERATIONS TO ORIGINAL STRUCTURE):			
<div style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED      YES      X      NO</div>			
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (DISCUSS IMPORTANT PERSONS AND EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS STRUCTURE): The drive for a public library in Littleton began in the 1890s, with support from such groups as the Littleton volunteer firemen and the Woman's Club. In 1915, the citizens of Littleton voted to issue bonds to purchase land to construct a Carnegie Library. Much discussion ensued over the proper site for the library, with this location at the foot of Main Street finally purchased on 4 January 1916. The Carnegie Foundation provided an \$8,000 grant for construction of the building. Carnegie funded over 2,000 public libraries in towns throughout the United States. Littleton committed funds to hire a librarian and janitor for the building. In 1916, architect J.J.B. Benedict, who would four years later design the Town Hall, was selected to design the library after he agreed to reduce his fee. Apparently Benedict's original design was of a somewhat more elaborate and was rejected by the Carnegie Foundation as unsuitable. When the final design was approved, work began in September, and the cornerstone was laid on 14 November 1916. The building was completed in 1917 and served as the Littleton library until 1965, when the Edwin A. Bemis Library on S. Datura Street opened. The Littleton Woman's Club held its meetings in the basement of the library building. This building was remodeled in 1965-66, and housed the Littleton Police Department until 1977. Since then, a number of restaurants have operated in the building.			
<div style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED      YES      X      NO</div>			
SIGNIFICANCE (CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORIES AND BRIEFLY JUSTIFY BELOW):			
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION		HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT PERSONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR PATTERNS <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTES TO AN HISTORIC DISTRICT	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This building is representative of the work of architect J.J.B. Benedict; is associated with the cultural history of Littleton, having been erected in 1916-17 as the Carnegie Library; and possesses high artistic values in its design, which includes multiple columns, cast stone ornaments and terra cotta, a frieze with classical motif, and large arched windows. The building reflects the Italian Renaissance Revival/Beaux Arts style through its hipped roof, arched entrance and windows, columns, and symmetrical facade.			
<div style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED      YES      X      NO</div>			
REFERENCES (BE SPECIFIC): Arapahoe County Assessor records; Littleton City Directories, 1932, 1939, 1953-1965; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Littleton Historical Museum files, Photograph Collection, #1995; Houstoun Waring, Hous' Littleton (Lit. Independent, 1981), Ch. 20; Robert McQuarie and C.W. Buchholtz, "Littleton From Settlement To Centennial" (Littleton: Lit. Historical Museum), 59; Rocky Mountain News, 13 Nov. 1990; Denver Post, 18 Oct. 1965; Lit. Independent, 22 July 1938; Cary Taylor, "Architecture of J.B. Benedict," 1974, 11.			
<div style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED      YES      X      NO</div>			
SURVEYED BY: R.L. Simmons/T.H. Simmons		AFFILIATION: Front Range Research Associates, Inc.      DATE: October 1997	