

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

SECTION I

Name of Property

Historic Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

Other Names _____

Address of Property

address not for publication

Street Address 110TH COURT & FEDERAL BOULEVARD

City WESTMINSTER County ADAMS Zip 80234

Present Owner of Property

(for multiple ownership, list the names and addresses of each owner on one or more continuation sheets)

Name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET- Page 15, Section V

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Owner Consent for Nomination

(attach signed consent from each owner of property - see attached form)

Preparer of Nomination

Name RON SLADEK (for the City of Westminster) Date 25 JULY 2005

Organization TATANKA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATES, INC.

Address 612 S. COLLEGE AVENUE, SUITE 21, P.O. BOX 1909 Phone 970/ 221-1095

City FORT COLLINS State COLORADO Zip 80522

FOR OFFICIAL USE:

Site Number 5AM.1856

8/30/2005 Nomination Received

Senate # _____ House # _____

11/18/2005 Review Board Recommendation
 Approval Denial

12/16/2005 CHS Board State Register Listing
 Approved Denied

Certification of Listing: President, Colorado Historical Society

Date _____

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

SECTION II

Local Historic Designation

Has the property received local historic designation?

no

yes --- individually designated designated as part of a historic district

Date designated 11 JULY 2005

Designated by CITY OF WESTMINSTER (Name of municipality or county)

Use of Property

Historic WATER TOWER

Current NOT IN USE

Original Owner CHARLES W. SAVERY

Source of Information COLORADO MANUFACTURER AND CONSUMER, MAY 1930.

Year of Construction CIRCA 1925

Source of Information COLORADO MANUFACTURER AND CONSUMER, MAY 1930.

Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer UNKNOWN

Source of Information _____

Locational Status

Original location of structure(s)

Structure(s) moved to current location

Date of move _____

SECTION III

Description and Alterations

(describe the current and original appearance of the property and any alterations on one or more continuation sheets)

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

SECTION IV

Significance of Property

Nomination Criteria

- A** - property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history
- B** - property is connected with persons significant in history
- C** - property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan
- D** - property is of geographic importance
- E** - property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history

Areas of Significance

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology –
prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology –
historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/
Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/
Settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geography/
Community Identity | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/
Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community
Planning and
Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Social History |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |

Significance Statement

(explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Bibliography

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

SECTION V

Locational Information

Lot(s) N/A Block N/A Addition N/A

USGS Topographic Quad Map LAFAYETTE

Verbal Boundary Description of Nominated Property

(describe the boundaries of the nominated property on a continuation sheet)

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

SECTION VI

Photograph Log for Black and White Photographs

(prepare a photograph log on one or more continuation sheets)

SECTION VII

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO ACCOMPANY NOMINATION

Owner Consent Form

Black and White Photographs

Color Slides

Sketch Map(s)

Photocopy of USGS Map Section

Optional Materials

For Office Use Only

Property Type: building(s) district site structure object area

Architectural Style/Engineering Type: NO STYLE

Period of Significance: 1925

Level of Significance: Local State National

Acreage LESS THAN ONE ACRE

P.M. 6TH Township 2S Range 68W Section 8 Quarter Sections SW, SW, NW, NE

UTM Reference: Zone 13 Easting 497945 Northing 4416009 (NAD27)

Site Elevation: 5415 feet

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

DESCRIPTION and ALTERATIONS

Location and Setting

The Savery Savory Mushroom Farm Water Tower is located in the SW1/4, SW1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4 of Section 8, Township 2 South, Range 68 West in Adams County, Colorado. This corresponds to the Savory Farm subdivision's neighborhood park located on the east side of Federal Boulevard at 110th Court in the City of Westminster. At this location, essentially the southwest corner of the subdivision, is a small parcel of park land bordered by houses to the north, houses and 110th Court to the east, vacant land to the south, and Federal Boulevard to the west. Occupying the southwest corner of the park is the Water Tower, surrounded on all sides by the park itself, which is planted with grass and small shrubs. To the north of the tower are an expanse of grass and a playground; to the east is an open area planted with grass; to the west is a fence that separates the park from Federal Boulevard; and to the south is a split rail fence that marks the park's southern boundary. While the land upon which the tower rests is owned by the Savory Farm Homeowners Association, the structure itself is a resource owned by the City of Westminster, which maintains a legal easement for its maintenance.

Description of the Water Tower

The tower, approximately fifty feet in height, stands on four legs that are each bolted to a 2' x 2' concrete anchor pad surrounded by grass. The depth of each of these pads is not known, nor is it known how they are anchored into the ground below the surface. Each leg is composed of two sturdy angle irons that have been riveted together back-to-back. Some of the steel members are stamped with the name "Lackawanna," referring to the New York mills where they were manufactured. A distance of 15' separates the legs from one another along each side of the tower's base.

Cross-bracing the legs are solitary horizontal angle irons at two equidistant points along the structure's height. These are riveted to the legs at each end through the use of heavy metal attachment plates. Diagonal braces consist of 1" steel rods that are bolted on each end to shaped metal plates that are in turn riveted to the legs. A metal ladder is attached to the northwest leg. Although the lower section below the first horizontal cross brace is missing, the remainder of the ladder extends upward to the top of the water tank.

Rising from metal valve housing and connectors on the ground, and centered beneath the tower, is a 4" water pipe that extends upward and connects to the bottom center of the tank above. The tank itself is supported by two large I-beams that run on a north-south axis and are attached to the tops of the four legs. On top of these, running on an east-west axis, are eight smaller I-beams upon which the tank actually rests. The large metal water tank, approximately 12' in diameter and 14' in height, is constructed of heavy sheet metal that is riveted along the vertical and horizontal seams.

Typically these types of tanks had a roof that was conical or flat in shape, usually constructed of metal or wood. The Savery Farm Water Tower originally had a conical roof that was replaced by a flat one sometime between 1930 and 1948. Today the roof is entirely absent from the structure.

The exterior of the tank shows clear evidence of fading painted signs on the north and south faces, with two periods of painting present. The center of each of these signs contained a circular logo, the location of which is clearly evident, that featured mushrooms. Above the logo were the words "Savery Savory" and below the logo was the word "Mushrooms." The intent of the painted signs, especially

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

after the tank roof was made flat, was to provide passers-by with the impression that this was a giant can of mushrooms. In addition to marking the location of the farm, the water tank served for many years to advertise the enterprise's products. Although the tank is slightly deformed today from its original circular shape, possibly from the loss of the supporting roof, and exhibits signs of rust and fading, the lettering and logo remain obvious.

Circling the exterior perimeter of the water tank are old electrical wires with glass mounts for early neon tube lighting. Study of the placement of these mounts show that the neon followed the pattern of the painted letters and logo for nighttime advertising. A few short lengths of neon tube remain attached to the northeast arc of the tank. Also seen on the tank are a few bullet holes, and a rectangular piece of the bottom of the tank has been cut open with a torch but left in place.

Ten feet east of the tower's base is the wellhead that served the tower and mushroom farm. This consists of a 28" x 30" concrete pad, below which is the well itself. Lying horizontally on top of the concrete is an 8"x 15" x 36" wood beam. Mounted atop the wood beam is metal equipment that controlled the flow from the well and originally connected to piping that ran to the adjacent tower.

Historic Integrity of the Water Tower

The Savery Savory Mushroom Farm Water Tower appears to have undergone little in the way of alterations since it was constructed during the 1920s. The tower is largely intact, with the only evident piece missing being its original conical roof that was most likely constructed of wood. This roof is clearly seen in a circa 1925-1930 photograph of the site. By the 1940s the conical roof had been replaced by a flat one designed to make the tank look more like a can of mushrooms. Currently the roof is missing and the cylindrical tank itself has become somewhat warped, possibly due to the loss of the roof that helped to hold the walls in a circular position.

Although the painted advertisements on the north and south faces of the tank are faded, their lettering and locations are still clearly evident. Heavy steel braces have been added to the feet of the tower in recent years to ensure that it does not topple over due to the elements. These changes have done little to reduce the structure's overall historic integrity. In general, the tower is virtually intact and exhibits a high degree of historic integrity.

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The circa 1925 Water Tower is the only intact remnant of what was originally an extensive collection of buildings, structures, crop fields and other features that made up the Savery Savory Mushroom Farm, a corporate agricultural facility owned and operated by Colorado's "mushroom magnate," Charles William Savery, from 1923 through 1953. Although crumbled concrete foundations remain on the adjacent property to the south, which is under separate ownership, the tower is the only remaining intact physical element of the historic farm and canning plant to remind local residents and visitors of its historic presence. In recognition of this prominent vestige of the area's agricultural history and its role as a distinctive geographic landmark, this document seeks to nominate the Water Tower for designation on the State Register of Historic Properties.

Although the tower was originally erected for the purpose of providing water to the farm and canning operation, it derived its distinction over the following decades primarily as a geographic landmark. The Water Tower is therefore nominated under Criterion D for both marking the site of this important agricultural operation and providing the community with a sense of its heritage and identity. The Savery Mushroom Farm, the largest of its kind in the Rocky Mountain region, was involved in the growing and canning of mushrooms and other food products, marketing them throughout the country for three decades. Charles W. Savery, founder and owner of the Great Western Mushroom Company, pioneered commercial mushroom growing and marketing in Colorado. He expanded the company to plants in California and oversaw the growth of an agricultural enterprise that made its mark upon the history of Westminster, Adams County, and all of Colorado. Although the remainder of the buildings and structures on the Savery Farm property disappeared from the site years ago, the intact water tower has been its most prominent feature for eighty years. As with other structures of this type, the water tower impressed itself in the public memory as the Savery Farm's symbolic feature, underscoring its historic importance to the community as an important public landmark.

While a small number of water towers dating from the 1900s have been documented in Colorado, few are listed in the National or State Registers. Those documented are limited to the Town of Otis municipal water tower (1918), Town of Nunn municipal water tower (1921), elevated water tanks at the Denver Federal Center (1941), the municipal tower in Alamosa (1911), and water tanks related to rail lines. Of these, only the Otis Water Tower, the Nunn Water Tower, and Santa Fe Railway Water Tank near Sedalia have been listed in the State or National Registers. The Otis, Nunn, and Alamosa water tanks were erected during the early 1900s for municipal supply and those at the Federal Center for government use. The use of water tanks to supply locomotives is well-documented. Unusual among these, the Savery Farm Water Tower was erected for privately-owned agricultural irrigation and food product processing. In addition, the water tank at the top of the tower served as an advertisement for the products grown and sold by the Savery Farm. Over time, with its mushroom can design and prominent location along Federal Boulevard, the Savery Farm Tower became a familiar geographic landmark recognized by residents of Westminster and western Adams County. The tower served as an important community landmark throughout its active use and remains so today.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Charles William Savery was born on 15 November 1878 in Parkersville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, the third of six children born to Stephen Webb Savery and his wife, Susanna (Susan) Forsythe. Long citizens of the United States, the family could trace its lineage back to ancestors who moved from

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

England to Chester County in the early 1700s. Charles Savery attended public schools in Westchester, Pennsylvania and little else is known about his childhood. As a young adult he worked in the lumberyard business, owning a facility in Philadelphia from 1900 through 1908. On 16 June 1904, Savery married Denver resident Frances Darlington and together the couple had two sons, Robert and Stuart, and a daughter, Jean. When the lumberyard operation failed, he was forced to repay heavy debts in Philadelphia. With that achieved, the family headed west in 1909 and settled in Denver, where they arrived with less than \$600 to begin a new life in the Rocky Mountain region.

The following year Savery turned to the securities business when he opened a mining stockbrokerage office in Denver. Initially, he and a partner operated the business under the name Savery-Petrikina Securities Company, with offices strategically located in the Mining Exchange Building. The Petrikina side of the business appears to have been William Petrikina, who after 1917 became president and chairman of the board of the Great Western Sugar Company. Savery remained partners with Petrikina through 1917 and the two may have parted ways as the latter was elevated to his new position as one of the most prominent sugar industry executives in the country.

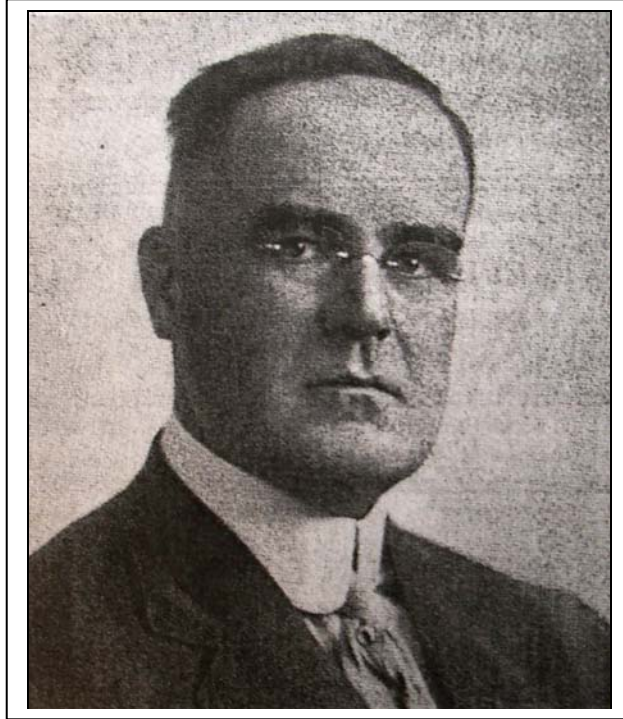
During this time, Savery invested in a molybdenum mine in Questa, New Mexico and sold his interest for enough money that he was able to retire. However, retirement didn't suit him well and he returned to the securities business. In 1918, the brokerage's name changed to C.W. Savery Securities Co., with offices in the Denham Building. Savery continued working in the business through 1920, although he appears to have dabbled in mining investments on a part-time basis well into the 1930s. At the same time, he invested in an 80-acre irrigated farm located over seven miles north of the city in unincorporated Adams County. Savery purchased the property in 1918 for \$18,000 from Jacob and Nettie Milstein, Russian-Jewish farmers who had migrated to the Denver area from the failed Cotopaxi colony in southern Colorado.

In the early 1920s, Savery embarked on the third and final phase of his career when he entered the mushroom growing and canning business. His interest in mushrooms did not emerge from a vacuum. Rather, it was based in the fact that the center of the mushroom business in the United States was Charles Savery's boyhood home of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Introduced to the United States from France in 1902, mushrooms quickly became a popular delicacy, with 80% of the nation's crop produced in Pennsylvania. Savery reportedly had a cousin, Ed Jacobs, engaged in the business there who introduced him to the growing of mushrooms.

In 1922, Savery and partner L.A. Hughes began limited mushroom production in a building under Denver's 20th Street viaduct. The facility, however, was soon ordered closed by Chief of Police William Candlish, who told the men that he had received complaints about the unpleasant odors produced by the large amounts of horse manure used in the growing process. Savery, though, recalled in later years that the chief had it in for him after the official was caught cheating in a poker game.

Rather than move on to some other occupation, Charles Savery decided to invest in his own mushroom operation, which he would establish on his farm in Adams County near the towns of Westminster and Broomfield. He was told by horticultural experts at the Colorado Agricultural College in Fort Collins that Colorado's dry environment would cause the enterprise to fail, and in fact Savery did experience such failure during his first three years of operation. Convinced that he could find some way to make a success of growing mushrooms in the state, Charles and his son Robert, who had just graduated from high school, traveled back east and spent eight weeks in Chester County, Pennsylvania learning everything they could about the mushroom business.

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER



Charles William Savery, circa 1930.

Upon returning to Colorado, Savery built a small mushroom house at the farm to test growing techniques, finding the process successful. One major hurdle was the need to create a cool, humid environment, which he solved by rigging strips of canvas in the darkened growing rooms. The canvas was dampened by troughs of water, and an electric fan then blew air over the material to both lower the temperature and create a moist environment. As the plant later expanded, this simple system was enlarged and improved through the installation of automatic water sprayers, centrifugal pumps, and five large fans that pushed damp air through all of the mushroom buildings.

Providing the enterprise with the capital it needed to become the primary supplier of mushrooms in the Rocky Mountain region, Savery immediately launched the ambitious process of constructing \$100,000 worth of infrastructure and buildings on the site. By 1930, the “scientific” operation had expanded to the size of a company town, including 32 mushroom buildings known as “caves” (each 200’ in length and 25’ tall), along with a water tower, fifteen residences for employees, a general store, a schoolhouse, a boarding house, a four-acre baseball field, and a tennis court. An additional 25 adobe buildings were added to house laborers. Eighty-four men, women and children lived on the site, including thirty female laborers who drew an annual payroll of \$32,000. Most of these laborers were Mexican immigrants, and both adults and children were employed in the mushroom growing operation, canning plant, and the adjacent asparagus fields. Those who lived on the farm paid \$4.00 each month for accommodations and a garage, with the amount automatically deducted from their monthly pay.

Through family connections back east Savery arranged to purchase regular shipments of “spawn,” immature mushroom roots that arrived in milk bottles from Pennsylvania. The contents of each bottle

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

were separated into forty spawn segments, each of which was planted in one square foot of growing beds made from composted horse manure. Prior to this planting, the composted manure took four weeks to prepare, during which time large piles of the material had to be turned over every three days.



Mushroom Growing Buildings at the Savery Farm, circa 1930.

The mushrooms were grown in the long insulated concrete and cinder block buildings with wooden roofs, inside of which were beds that rose to eight tiers in height. Because the product had to be grown in the dark, laborers entered the buildings wearing carbide lamps on their hats, working in the damp corridors as if they were inside the depths of a mine. After being placed in the growing beds, the 6" of sterilized manure took another fifteen days to be cooled to the necessary temperature of 56 degrees. This required that the buildings be heated in the winter months and cooled during the summer. The manure's pH balance was also regularly tested to ensure that environmental conditions were just right for healthy mushroom growth. The spawn was then planted and began to develop under the surface of the compost. When the surface began to turn grey, indicating that the mushrooms were beginning to mature, an additional 1" layer of prepared soil was placed upon the beds. From this point, the mushrooms took another ten to thirteen weeks to mature and be ready for harvesting.

The lengthy process of commercial mushroom production, combined with the high demand for the product, resulted in the need for numerous growing beds, a sizable work force, and a reliable source of water. Rather than being grown outdoors, commercial mushroom production required that it take place inside the numerous dark, damp buildings constructed at the Savery Farm for this purpose. Each bed was carefully prepared and planted at a different time to ensure that mushrooms would be maturing and available for distribution throughout the year.

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER



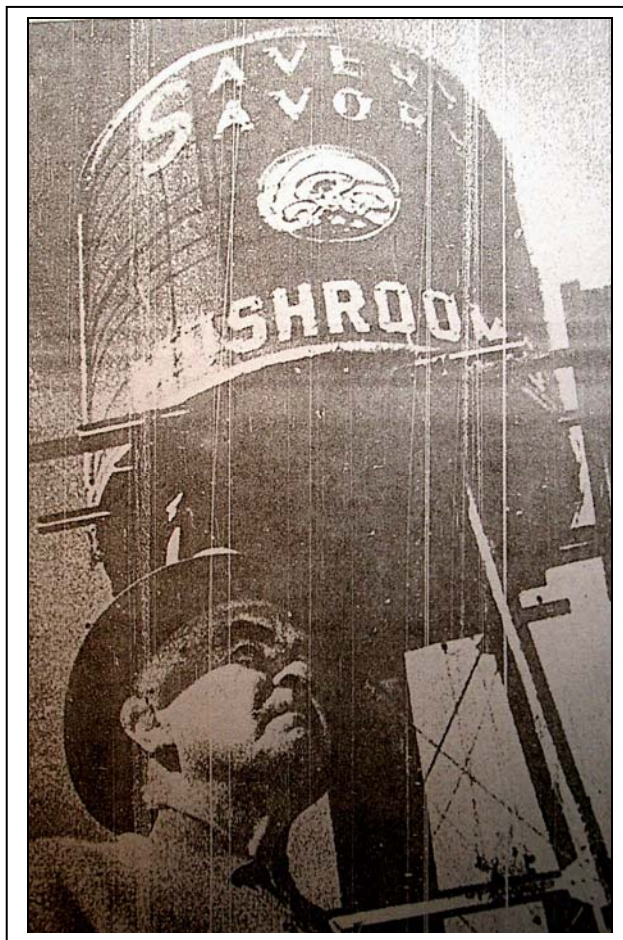
**Mushroom Buildings at the Savery Farm, with the Water Tower in the Distance.
Circa 1930.**

With Colorado's dry environment, one of the key elements in growing mushrooms, establishing a canning plant, and supporting the labor required for the process, was the location of a good water source. While irrigation ditches ran through the area, they did not provide a reliable year-round source of water. Drilling on the site, however, found that it was underlain by an excellent artesian aquifer with high-quality water. The water was pumped from the ground into an elevated tank along Federal Boulevard, strategically located at a high spot on the property. From there it was distributed through gravity to the numerous mushroom growing and canning buildings, along with providing domestic supply for the residences on the property. In addition, the tower supplied water for fire-fighting purposes at the farm.

Presenting a wonderful advertising opportunity, Savery eventually had the water tank at the top of the tower painted to look like one of his mushroom cans. With its green background, the tank displayed a circular central logo of mushrooms with the words "Savery Savory Mushrooms" painted in yellow above and below. At some point during the 1930s or 1940s, the conical roof on the tank was replaced with a flat one and the lettering and logo on the tank were enhanced with the addition of shaped neon lighting that lit up the sign at night, providing area travelers and residents with a prominent 24-hour landmark.

Charles Savery moved from Denver to the farm in the 1920s, where he lived throughout the years it was in operation in a fine residence he constructed there. He also opened a new Denver office for his agricultural enterprise at 421 18th Avenue in 1927 and the following year began to advertise his firm under the name Great Western Mushroom Company. Savery served as president and general manager of the company, and the secretary-treasurer of the firm during the late 1920s was Myron Herrick. In 1930, Savery was approached by Chef Oscar of the Waldorf Hotel in New York with a request that he move east to operate the hotel's mushroom plant. Although he turned down the offer, Savery did visit the facility in New York, where he provided advice that turned the hotel's mushroom growing venture into a success.

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER



Charles Savery standing beneath the Water Tower, 1948.

By 1930, the Great Western Mushroom Company had opened branch plants in Los Angeles and San Francisco and five years later reported another branch in Missouri. The \$70,000 facility in southern California was managed by Savery's son Robert and the one in San Francisco, which cost the firm \$95,000 to construct, was run by his other son Stuart. Mushrooms from these three facilities were shipped all over the United States, some of them fresh and others in green cans with yellow lettering declaring their contents as "Savery Savory Mushrooms."

By the mid-1930s, the company was producing 10,000 pounds of mushrooms each day between its three plants in Westminster, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Residents of Denver alone consumed more than three hundred pounds of the product daily. Before long they were purchasing 500 pounds of fresh mushrooms each day, some of them sold at the Red & White Market located at the farm. This small grocery store sold to Savery employees as well as area farmers, who typically bought on credit. The remainder of the crop was canned and transported to Denver by truck for delivery throughout the nation. With the firm's success generating revenues that in 1930 had reached \$90,000 annually, Savery moved his offices to the Midland Savings Bank Building in downtown Denver, where they remained from about 1937 to 1943. Experiencing excellent sales into the 1940s, the Adams County farm grew to include 39 mushroom buildings and by the middle of the decade was grossing revenues of more than \$1,200 each day. Savery also established his own spawn plant and laboratory so he would

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

no longer have to rely upon shipments from Pennsylvania.

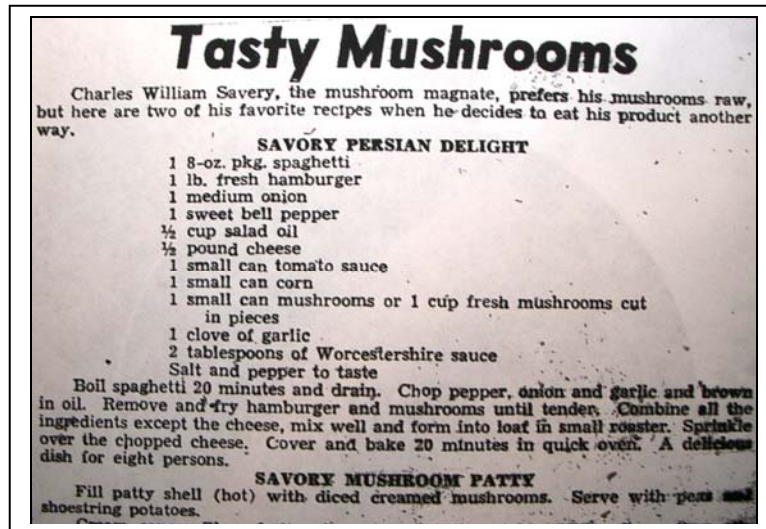


**Mexican immigrant mushroom pickers, in this photo all of them girls.
Circa 1930.**

Other Denver entrepreneurs noted Savery's success and tried to start mushroom businesses of their own. As they each failed, Charles Savery bought these firms, including one at West 6th Avenue and Umatilla Street and another at West 7th Avenue and Utica Street. Seven of the mushroom growing buildings at the North Federal Boulevard farm were reportedly erected by one of these hopeful entrepreneurs, who had arrived from Kansas with the dream of starting his own mushroom empire. Savery encouraged the competitor to build on land next door to his farm so that when the operation failed he could simply incorporate it into his own operation. This in fact happened, further increasing Savery's growing capacity and revenue. After 1943 he moved the corporate offices to the facility at 600 Umatilla Street in the industrial area southwest of downtown, where it remained for the following decade.

Always seeking new business opportunities, Charles Savery took some of his mushroom-based wealth and expanded into other areas together with partners. Among his additional investments and business pursuits were enterprises engaged in producing honey, pickles, and candied fruits. His more innovative, mouth-watering canned luxury foods included stuffed oranges in liquor sauce, spiced watermelon hearts soaked in honey and brandy, dates stuffed with walnuts and soaked in honey and brandy, and a reported eighty-six additional items. In addition to marketing both raw and canned mushrooms, the Savery empire also produced canned mushroom sauce and soup. Over the years he experimented with possible medicinal uses for mushrooms in a laboratory built on the site. By the late 1940s, Savery was marketing tablets made from mushroom stems believed to treat arthritis and other ailments. He also reportedly owned two hog ranches and was instrumental in establishing the 50-50 Food Growers Association and the Apex Refining Company.

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER



Two Savery recipes printed in the *Rocky Mountain News*.
21 July 1946.

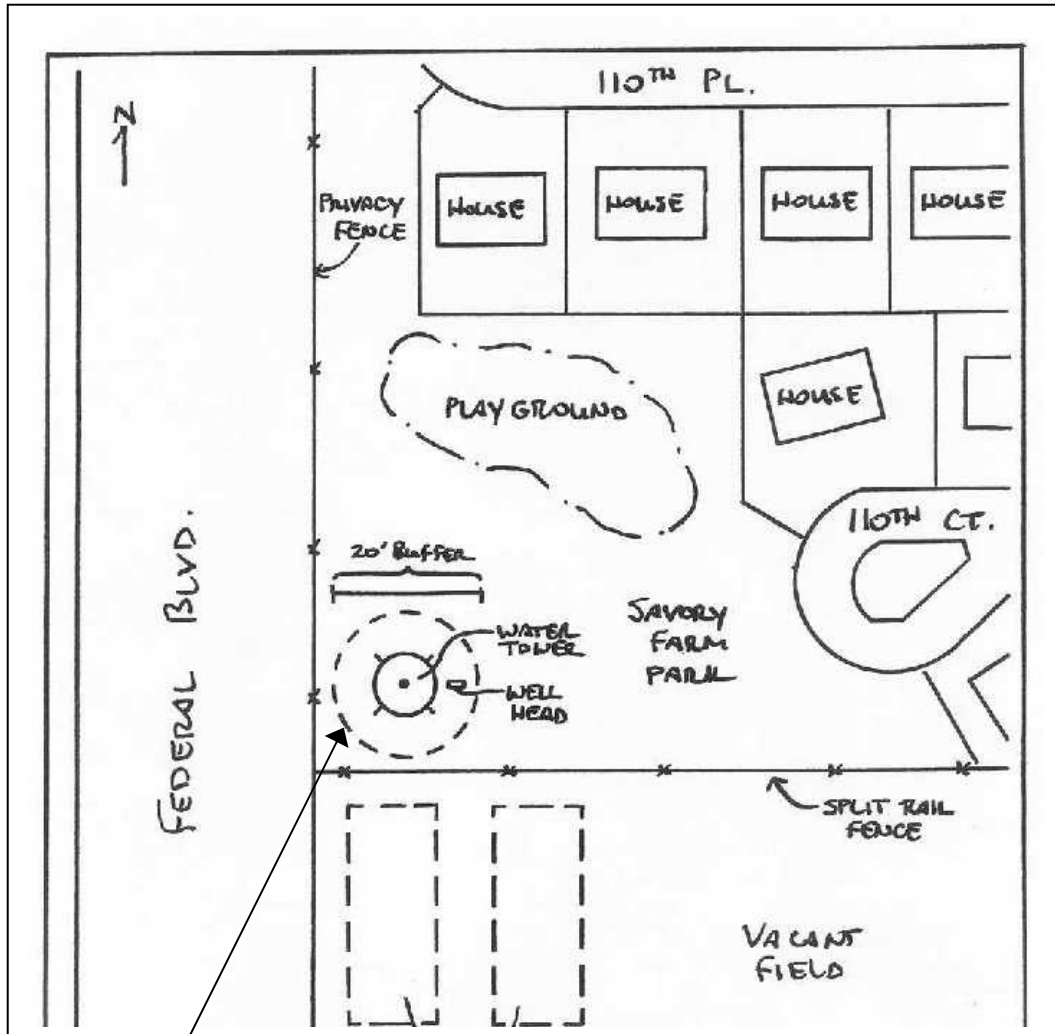
Charles Savery continued to operate his Savery Savory Mushroom facility through boom years as well as years of failure caused by intense summer heat and other disasters. As the only mushroom facility reported to be found between Kansas City and the Pacific Coast, Savery indeed controlled the market in a large swath of the country. In September 1946, the plant was hit by a large fire that raged through six buildings, causing an estimated \$25,000 in damage and destroying around 1/6 of the mushroom crop under production. Then in December 1949, the sprawling facility on North Federal Boulevard suffered from another fire that caused an estimated \$50,000 in damage and completely destroyed one of the main mushroom-growing buildings.

Charles Savery rebuilt each time, ensuring that the company would rebound from each setback. Finally reaching the end of his career, he retired in 1953 in his mid-seventies and the plant was closed. Following the death of his wife Frances in 1956, Savery moved into a Longmont nursing home. He died there in May 1960 at the age of 81 and was buried at Fairmount Cemetery in Denver.

With Charles Savery's retirement, the Savery Savory Mushroom Company ceased to operate and the property passed into the hands of owners who were uninterested in operating the mushroom empire. The buildings and other features of the plant began to deteriorate. Over the following decades, almost all were either torn down or collapsed. Today all that is left of the highly successful enterprise are crumbling concrete foundations and the water tower, the only standing remnant of this important part of Colorado's history.

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

Water Tower Site Plan

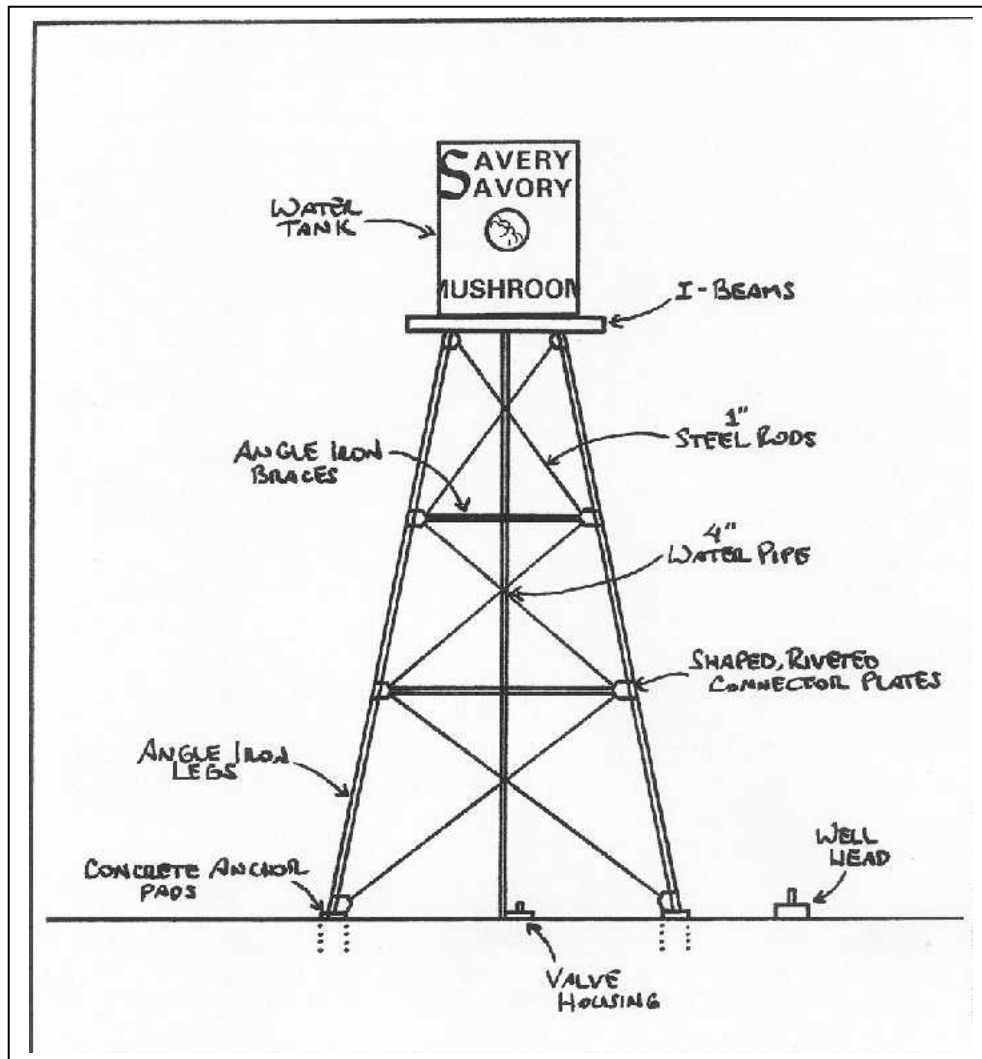


Boundary

Not To Scale

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

Water Tower Diagram



Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Colorado State Business Directories, 1914-1950. Located in the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection and the Stephen Hart Library of the Colorado Historical Society.

"Cotopaxi Colorado: Russian Jewish Colony." www.cotopaxi.250x.com/Part3The_Events.htm and www.trader12.home.mindspring.com/peopleandplaces.htm

"C.W. Savery." (obituary) *Denver Post*. 13 May 1960, p. 49.

"Family Tree of the Descendants of Hannah Pusey (1752-1807) and Amos Harvey (1749-1825)." www.gunboatempire.com/genealogy/Puseys04i0.htm

"\$50,000 Fire Razes Mushroom Plant Unit." *Rocky Mountain News*. 5 December 1949, p. 15.

"Fungus Farmer." *Denver Post, Rocky Mountain Empire Magazine*. 16 May 1948, p. 4.

Gustafson, Leona. "The Forgotten Past of Adams County, Vol. 1, 2001." www.rootsweb.com/~coadams/forgottenpast-1/savery.htm

"Historic Water Towers." www.ohiobarns.com/othersites/watertowers.html

Interview with Ron Oglesby. Conducted by Ron Sladek by telephone on 14 April 2005. Mr. Oglesby, whose parents operated the Red & White Market at the Savery Farm, resided there from 1937 through 1954.

"Midas of the Mushrooms." *Rocky Mountain News*. 21 July 1946, p. 25.

"Mushroom Grower Put in Health Business." *Denver Post*. 5 December 1951, p. 16.

"Mushroom Plant Hit by Fire; Loss \$10,000." *Denver Post*. 5 December 1949, p. 20.

"One of Colorado's Unique Industries – The Growing of Mushrooms." *Colorado Manufacturer and Consumer*. May 1930, p. 21.

"Photograph of the Mushroom Farm in Broomfield, Colorado." Interior View of a Mushroom Bed, 1931. Call #X-7224. Located in the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection.

"Photograph of the Savery Co., Broomfield." View of Mushroom Growing Buildings between 1920 and 1930. Call #X-7225. Located in the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection.

"Photograph of the Savery Co., Broomfield." View of Workers Making Compost for Growing Mushrooms between 1920 and 1930. Call #X-7226. Located in the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection.

"Photograph of the Savery Co., Broomfield." View of Workers Making Compost for Growing Mushrooms between 1920 and 1930. Call #X-7227. Located in the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection.

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

"Prospectus of Colorado Silver Mines, Inc., 1936-1938." Located in the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection.

"Raising Fine Mushrooms No Easy, Over-Night Task." *Rocky Mountain News*. 16 September 1945, p. 16.

"Savery, Charles William." *Who's Who in Colorado*. Boulder: The Colorado Press Association, Inc., 1938, p. 12.

"Selling U.S. Mushrooms Nets Denverite Fortune." *Rocky Mountain News*. 7 July 1935, p. 7.

"They Said It Couldn't Be Done." *Historically Speaking*. Westminster Historical Society, October 1999.

"\$25,000 Fire Sweeps Plant Near Denver." *Rocky Mountain News*. 24 September 1946, p. 1.

Willit's Farm Map. Denver: W.C. Willits, 1899. Located in the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection.

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Savery Savory Mushroom Farm Water Tower is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, Township 2 South, Range 68 West. This corresponds to the southwest corner of the Savory Farm subdivision's neighborhood park located on the east side of Federal Boulevard at 110th Court.

The boundaries of the nominated property are limited to a twenty foot radius around the base of the tower, with the center point of this circle being the vertical water pipe that is centered below the tank. These boundaries include the tower itself, the adjacent wellhead to the east, and a small buffer zone around these features. The remainder of the surrounding neighborhood park is not historic and, while providing a good setting for the tower, does not contribute to its historic integrity.

PROPERTY OWNERS

Tower owned by:

City of Westminster
4800 W. 92nd Avenue
Westminster, Colorado 80031
303/ 430-2000

Contact: Vicky Bunsen
303/ 430-2400, ext 2111

Land owned by:

Savory Farm Homeowners Association
c/o Homeowner's Concerns LLC
1527 E. 131st Place
Thornton, Colorado 80241

Contact: Bill McAleb, President
303/ 450-0910

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-11 except as noted:

Name of Property: SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER
Location: ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO
Photographer: RON SLADEK
Date of Photographs: 16 APRIL 2005
Negatives: WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

Photo No. Photographic Information

1. View of the Savery Farm Water Tower from across Federal Boulevard to the northwest. View to the southeast.
2. View of the tower from the southwest. View to the northeast.
3. View looking up at the tower from the surrounding grounds. View to the northwest.
4. View looking up from the base of the tower.
5. Close-up of the water tank at the top of the tower. South elevation.
6. View of the base of the tower. View to the north.
7. Close-up of one of the feet at the base of the tower.
8. View of the vertical water pipe and valve at the base of the tower.
9. Close-up of the valve at the base of the tower.
10. Close-up of the Lackawanna mill stamp on one of the tower legs.
11. View of the well equipment adjacent to the tower. View to the southeast.

Property Name SAVERY SAVORY MUSHROOM FARM WATER TOWER

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Lafayette Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

Water
Tower

