city, town

Denver

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84 E

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

state Colorado

80206

date entered 4/10/85

1. Nam	1 e 5DV339			
historic Mic	dwest Steel & Iron W	orks Company Comple	ex	
and or common	Same			
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	. 25 Larimer Stree	t		NA not for publication
city, town	Denver	NA vicinity of		
state	Colorado code	08 county	Denver	code 031
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition	Status occupied X_ unoccupied work in progress Accessible	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment	museum park private residence religious
site object 4. Owr	N/Ain process N/A being considered ner of Proper	yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	government industrial military	scientific transportationX_ other: undetermine
4. Owr	N/A in process N/A being considered	yes: unrestricted no	industrial military	transportation
4. Owr	N/Ain process N/Abeing considered er of Proper ice building: Midwes	yes: unrestricted no	industrial military	transportation
4. Owr	N/Ain process N/Abeing considered er of Proper ice building: Midwes	yes: unrestricted no ty st Building Partner:	industrial military	transportation
4. Owr	N/Ain process N/A being considered or of Proper ice building: Midwes 6900	yes: unrestrictedno ty st Building Partner: W. 44th Avenue NAvicinity of	industrialshipstate	transportation _X_other: undetermine
4. Owr	N/Abeing considered ner of Proper ice building: Midwes 6900 heat Ridge ation of Lega	yes: unrestrictedno ty st Building Partner: W. 44th Avenue NAvicinity of	ship state	transportation _X_other: undetermine
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4. Owr name Officity, town Will courthouse, reg street & number city, town city, town city, town city, town city, town city, town Rep	N/Abeing considered ner of Proper ice building: Midwes 6900 heat Ridge ation of Lega istry of deeds, etc. Denver resentation	yes: unrestrictedno 'ty st Building Partner: W. 44th Avenue NAvicinity of al Description enver City & County 400 Bannock Street in Existing S	ship————————————————————————————————————	transportationX_other: undetermineColorado (cont.)

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Midwest Steel and Iron Works Company, Denver, CO
Continuation sheet Item number

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Page

Owner of Property

4

4-2

Shop complex:

Jerry Stafford Acoustic Specialties 123 Rio Grande Blvd. Denver, CO 80223

7. Description

Condition excellent	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check one _X original site	
good fair	ruins unexposed	_X_ altered	moved date	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The following building descriptions are keyed to the complex site plan accompanying this form.

Office Building: 1906, 1930, 1955

The Midwest office building (A) is a two-story, brick structure built in three stages between 1906 and 1955. The original, Commercial Vernacular style office (AA) was constructed in 1906. The symmetrical structure is built in English bond brick supported by a brick foundation and terminating in a flat roof. The building's Larimer Street elevation is accented by a corbelled brick cornice which incorporates a simplified dentil design. Star tie plates mark the second story level of the building.

In 1930 a major addition (AB) was erected adjoining the east elevation of the original office. This addition is a two-story, brick structure measuring approximately seventy-two feet by thirty-five feet and was designed in the Art Deco style by Denver architect Roland L. Linder. The structure's design incorporates a hexagonal entry tower, shallow brick pilasters, spandrels with stylized chevrons and a crenelated roof-line. An ornamental iron griffin, once found over the canopied entrance, was removed in 1983 along with an ornamental iron sign reading "Office, Midwest Steel-Iron Works" which was found on the structure's roof.

The exterior of the building is faced in five-course, common bond brick including randomly spaced glazed headers. Fleur-de-lis tie plates mark the interior floor level of the second story. The addition's multi-light windows have been sheathed in plywood as have the windows of the 1906 building and the 1955 addition. The building's original windows are intact beneath this sheathing.

The structural system of the Art Deco addition employs an unusual "battleship deck" design which was first introduced in ship building to increase the lateral strength of ocean-going vessels. In this system, steel plates are connected by a light steel frame thus creating a continuous interior skin.

In 1955 a second, two-story, brick addition (AC) was appended to the west elevation of the Art Deco addition and to the north elevation of the 1906 office thus forming a nearly rectangular building block. The 1955 addition is constructed in cinder block faced in five-course, common bond brick and rises to a flat roof. The addition forms a rectangular mass measuring twenty-five feet by forty-three feet which lacks distinguishing stylistic features.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Midwest Steel and Iron Works Company, Denver, CO

Continuation sheet Item number

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Page

Description

7-2

Shop Complex: 1911, 1923, 1952, 1967, 1942, 1965

The original shop complex (Building B) is located to the north of the Midwest office and is oriented towards I-25. The core complex was constructed in four major stages between 1911 and 1967. The earliest shop building is a two-story, brick structure built in 1911. The building (BA) is supported by a concrete slab foundation and terminates in a flat roof with a stepped parapet fronting the east elevation. The building includes one-light-over-one-light sash windows enframed by wooden surrounds. The interior of the building is undivided and open to the roof system. One-ton swing cranes are located at intervals along the north and south ends of the structure. The building was last used by Midwest as a storage area for unfabricated steel shapes.

7

In 1923 a major addition was added to the south of the 1911 building. This addition (BB) is composed of twin brick units supported by a concrete slab foundation and terminating in twin gable roofs incorporating gabled clerestories. The addition includes multi-light, six-sash window units and east elevation loading doors.

The interior of the addition is an undivided space open to the exposed truss roof system. The southernmost addition unit includes the complex's original rivet forge and was used as the complex ornamental shop. The northern unit served as Midwest's rigging room where netting and safety equipment was stored between steel erection projects. The northern unit also includes a five-ton overhead crane secured to an eave level track running the length of the building.

Spanning the north elevation of the 1911 building are two cinder block additions (AC, AD) measuring thirteen feet deep. These additions were constructed in 1952 and 1967 and were used as a wholesale office for light steel sales.

Adjoining the shop building to the west is an open crane runway (C) measuring sixty-one feet by five hundred and twenty-two feet. This structure is open on the north elevation and is composed of steel I-beam framing sheathed in corrugated metal. The building is supported by a concrete slab foundation and terminates in a shallow gable roof. A massive ten-ton crane is supported by a track running the length of the building. This track is located at the clerestory level of the building. The crane runway was erected in 1942.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Midwest Steel and Iron Works Company, Denver, CO
Continuation sheet

Item number

For NPS use only received date entered

Page

Description

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7-3

Located to the west of the 1942 crane runway is a second crane runway (D) constructed in 1965. The 1965 runway measures forty feet by one-hundred-and-twenty-seven feet and is perpendicular to the larger structure. The design and construction of the smaller runway is identical to that of the 1942 building.

Also included on the Midwest site is a one-story, cinder block office building (E) which was constructed c.1955. This building is not historically related to the Midwest operation and is considered a non-contributing element.

As Midwest expanded over the years, the original shop machinery was gradually replaced with more efficient tools for fabrication. Unfortunately, the majority of the company's first machines were discarded in the process. Surviving in the shop complex (Building BB) is an original rivet forge dating circa 1925. Surviving at Midwest's 48th Street complex is a massive steel punch manufactured by the Scully Steel & Iron Company of Chicago (Patent No. 746716, 15 December 1903).

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settleme X industry invention	l landscape architecture law literature military music	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	Office: 1906, 1930 Shop: 1911, 1923	Builder/Architect Of	fice Addition (1930)	
	ignificance (in one paragr	aph) Ar	chitect: Roland Linde	r

Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company is significant as one of Denver's oldest and largest metal fabricators. Since the 1890s the company has produced structural and ornamental components for buildings and engineering structures throughout Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico. Midwest's Larimer Street site served as the company's headquarters between 1924 and 1983. The four-building complex includes an architecturally significant Art Deco style office building designed in 1930 by Denver architect Roland L. Linder. The significance of the site was recognized in June 1983 when the complex was determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company had its beginnings in 1893 when Paul Richter and James B. Jackson organized a metal fabricating concern specializing in building components.1 Incorporated as the Jackson-Richter Iron Works in 1905,2 the company first operated from a site on Champa Street in Denver. Expansion necessitated the company's relocation to larger facilities on 19th and Blake Streets in 1906.3

In 1910 Albert G. Fish acquired control of the Jackson-Richter Iron Works from James B. Jackson, 4 thus establishing a family association with the company which continues to the present. (His grandson, Frederick G. Fish, became company president in 1959, a position he still holds today). Albert G. Fish brought to the Jackson-Richter Iron Works extensive experience in the metal fabricating field. Prior to migrating to Colorado in 1910, Fish had been associated with two major fabricators in his native St. Louis, the Koken Iron Works, a subsidiary of the American Bridge Company, and the Banner Iron Works. The Banner Iron Works, under the direction of Fish as president and general manager, was responsible for the fabrication of the structural system of the St. Louis Flat Iron Building, the first building in that city to employ a steel structural frame. 5

A year after acquiring control of the Jackson-Richter Iron Works, Albert G. Fish was elected president and general manager by the company's Board of Directors.6 Fish served in this position until his death in 1947. The Jackson-Richter Iron Works continued to prosper under Albert Fish's direction. By January 1914, the company again moved to larger facilities at 3221 Blake Street, 7 and in 1917 the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of the inventory and equipment of the Brown Iron Works Company.8

NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet and Iron Works Company, Denver, CO

For NPS use only received date entered

Page

Significance

8

8-2

As the advantages of structural steel systems were recognized and applied to the design of commercial and public buildings, an increased demand for structural steel fabrication and erection was created. The Jackson-Richter Iron Works capitalized on this demand by specializing in structural steel fabrication and erection. As a result, the fabrication of steel structural systems became the company's primary service.

World War I and the accompanying anti-German national climate prompted Jackson-Richter's Board of Directors to rename the company. In October 1919, the Iron Works officially adopted Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company as the concern's new trade name. 10

By 1922 the Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company had outgrown its Blake Street complex. In January 1923, the Larimer Street site of the Brown Iron Works Company was purchased by Midwest to accommodate the company's increased spatial requirements.

The former Brown Iron Works site on Larimer Street included an office building constructed in 1906 and a shop built in 1911. Midwest initiated a capital improvements campaign shortly after purchasing the property which included the expansion and refitting of the existing shop complex. Midwest moved the company's offices and fabricating operation to the Larimer Street complex in the fall of 1923.11

Major projects undertaken by Midwest in the Denver area during the 1920's included the fabrication and erection of the steel structural systems for the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company Office Building, the Continental Oil Building, East Denver High School, the Cathedral of Colorado Consistory, A&A Scottish Rite, the Denver Orpheum Theatre, St. Dominic's Church, and the Denver City and County Building. In addition, the company also supplied steel structural components for the Moffat Tunnel, James Peak, Colorado, and the Royal Gorge Suspension Bridge near Canon City.12

In 1926, Midwest expanded its facilities with the construction of a second plant in Pueblo, Colorado, specializing in light steel fabrication.

As the number of major building projects declined with the economic depression of the 1930's, Midwest concentrated its efforts on bridge fabrication. During this period the company was among the

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Midwest Steel and Iron Works Company, Denver CO

For NPS use only received date entered

Significance

8

8-3

Page

three most prolific bridge fabricators operating in Colorado. 13
Approximately thirty structures (principally short span pony and deck trusses) remain on the Colorado county road system which can be credited to Midwest. 14

During the Second World War Midwest was awarded construction contracts for a number of regional military installations. During the war years projects were completed for Fort Francis E. Warren (Wyoming), Fort Logan (Denver), Lowry Air Force Base (Denver), Buckley Field (Denver), and Camp Carson (Colorado Springs). In addition, Midwest was among several Denver steel fabricators engaged in the first dry land ship building project for the United States Navy. In recognition of Midwest's participation in this program, the U.S. Navy awarded the company the Navy "E" for Excellence on January 23, 1944.15

In 1950, under new president Burton W. Melcher, a third Midwest plant was established on 48th Street in Denver. The 48th Street plant specialized in the fabrication of large steel systems for which the company was becoming increasingly well known.16

Although a series of additions were made to the Larimer Street complex between 1952 and 1967, the physical capabilities of the site imposed restrictions on the range of products manufactured there. The successive additions to the industrial buildings had resulted in an inflexible and inefficient design. As a result, Midwest's fabricating operation was gradually moved to the more adaptable 48th Street site.

By the early 1980's the Larimer Street complex was confined to the fabrication of the company's smallest projects. The company offices were still housed on the complex. In the fall of 1983, Midwest consolidated its operation at the 48th Street complex to include the operations formerly conducted on Larimer Street.

Physically, the Midwest complex remains essentially intact, illustrating its change and expansion over the years. Most outstanding architecturally is Midwest's two-story brick office addition built in 1931. In contrast to the Commercial Vernacular design of the 1906 office, the 1931 addition was designed in the then-popular Art Deco style by Denver architect Roland L. Linder, 17 utilizing an unusual "battleship deck" structural system.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Midwest Steel and Iron Works Company, Denver, CO Continuation sheet

For NPS use only received date entered

Page

Significance

8

8-4

Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company, which evolved over nearly a century from a small, local metal components manufacturer to a structural steel firm of major significance, ranks as a notable leader in Colorado's steel fabricating industry. For this reason, as well as for its architectural significance, the site is worthy of listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Midwest Steel and Iron Works Company, Denver, CO

Continuation sheet Item number

For NPS use only received date entered

Page

Significance 8 8-5

Footnotes:

- l "Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company Achieves Wide Reputation Through the Rocky Mountain Region", Colorado Manufacturer and Consumer, (Denver, 1928), p.13.
- ² Bert Fish, "The History of The Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company, 1894-1969", unpub., p.1.
 - 3 Fish, p.1.
 - 4 Fish, p.2
 - 5 Fish, p.2
- 6 Herman J. Lumpp, Minutes of a Directors Meeting of the Jackson-Richter Iron Works, 3 November 1909; quoted in Fish, p.2.
 - 7 Fish, p.3.
 - 8 Fish, p.4.
- William Le Baron Jenney was responsible for the first use of steel beams in a commercial structure (Home Insurance Building, Chicago, 1884-1885). Cast iron columns and wrought iron beams and joists were employed prior to 1884, although steel structural members had been used by bridge engineers since c.1870.
 - 10 Fish, p.4.
 - 11 Fish, p.4.
- 12 Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company, General Catalog, (1932) no pagination.
- 13 The three most prolific bridge fabricators working in Colorado during the 1930's were Midwest, Minneapolis Moline, and the Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Company.
- 14 Field work for the Colorado Historic Bridge Inventory was conducted 6/83 to 12/83.
 - 15 Fish, pp.7-8.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Midwest Steel and Iron Works Company, Denver CO Continuation sheet For NPS use only received date entered

Significance

8

8-6

Page

16 Fish, p.9.

17 Roland L. Linder was licensed to practice architecture in Colorado in 1921. Among the projects Linder completed during his career were the designs for the Denver Coliseum, Rose Medical Center, Mercy Hospital, and St. Luke's Hospital.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Midwest Steel and Iron Works Company, Denver, CO
Continuation sheet

Item number

For NPS use only received date entered

Bibliographical references

9

9-2

Page

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. Interview, 23 February 1984.

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Hafen, LeRoy R. Colorado and Its People: A Narrative and Topical History of the Centennial State. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1948. Vol.1, p.618. Vol.2, pp.598-600.

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"Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company Archives Wide Reputation Through the Rocky Mountain Region:. Colorado Manufacturer and Consumer. 1928 p.13.

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Noel, Thomas J. <u>Denver's Larimer Street: Main Street, Skid Row</u> and Urban Renaissance. Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1981.

Rocky Mountain News. 2 August 1931, Sec.1, p.4.

Rocky Mountain News. 12 November 1977, p.22.

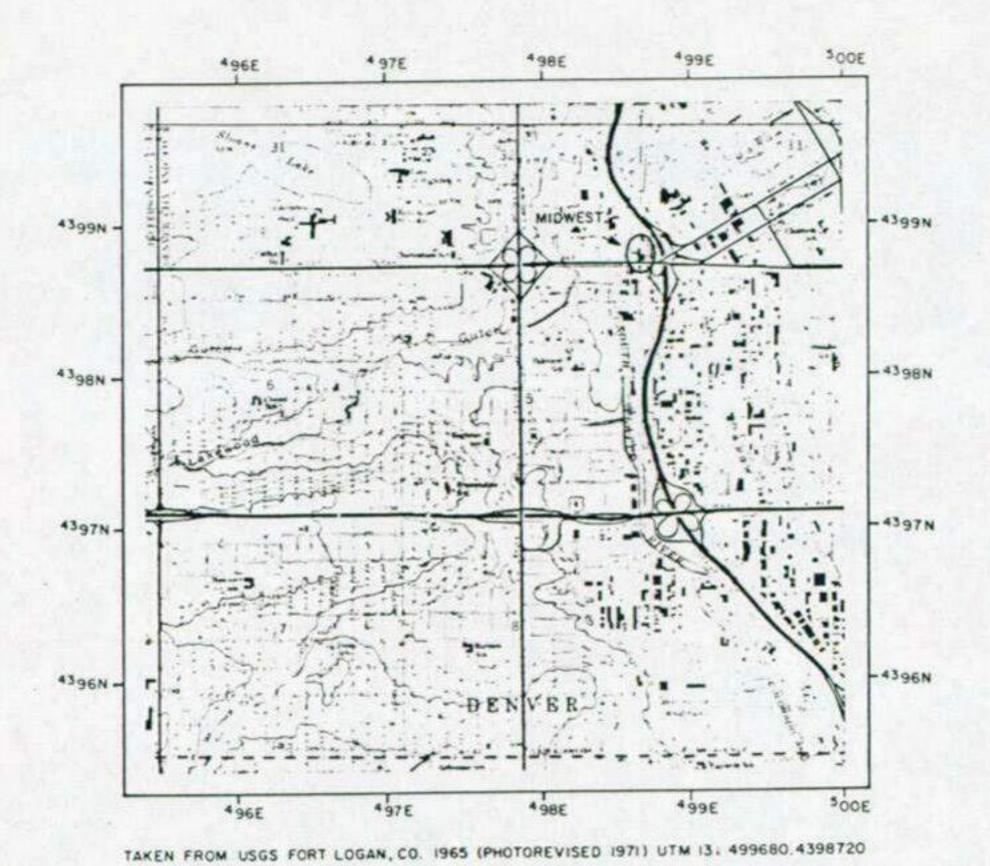
W.P.A. Writers Project. <u>Interview: Harry L. Walsh, Design Engineer</u>
E. Burkhardt & Sons Steel & Iron Works Company. 19 March 1941
Unpub.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheets for footnote and bibliographical references.

10. Geograp	hical Data		
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		н	
Verbal boundary descript	ion and justification		
	y boundaries which		ildings and structures. (Property
List all states and counti	es for properties over	lapping state or co	unty boundaries N/A
state NA	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
or garnization	o Dept. of Highway Arkansas Avenue		lephone 757-9440
city or town Denver		st	ate Colorado
12. State Hi	storic Pres	ervation (Officer Certification
The evaluated significance o	f this property within the	state is:	
As the designated State Hist	oric Preservation Officer	the National Register	and certify that it has been evaluated vice.
State Historic Preservation (Officer signature	Janale	1 Juaio
title State Historic	Preservation Offi		date 8-14-84
For NPS use only I hereby certify that the	s property is included in	the National Register	
		- San	date
Keeper of the National F	Register		
Attest:			date
Chief of Registration			

WORKS COMPANY STEEL AND MIDWEST



FEET

METERS

LOCATION MAP

SCALE 1-24,000

MIDWEST STEEL AND IRON WORKS COMPANY IS ONE OF DENVER'S OLDEST AND LARGEST METAL FABRICATORS. SINCE THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY, MIDWEST HAS PRODUCED STRUCTURAL AND ORNAMENTAL COMPONENTS FOR BUILDINGS AND ENGINEERING STRUCTURES THROUGHOUT COLORADO, WYOMING AND NEW MEXICO. MIDWEST'S LARIMER STREET SITE SERVED AS THE COMPANY'S HEADQUARTERS BETWEEN 1924 AND 1983. THE FOUR-BUILDING INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX INCLUDES AN ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT ART DECO STYLE OFFICE ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT ART DECO STYLE OFFICE BUILDING DESIGNED IN 1930 BY DENVER ARCHITECT ROLAND L LINDER. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE WAS RECOGNIZED

IN 1983 WHEN THE COMPLEX WAS DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

BUILDING KEY BUILDING A-OFFICE (1931) (1923) (1967)(1965) BUILDING E-NON-CONTRIBUTING COLFAX VIADUCT OFFICE BUILDING CIRCA (1955) LOWER COLFAX AVENUE FEET 1" : 100" METERS 1 480

DOCUMENTATION OF THE COMPLEX WAS NECESSITATED BY
THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT FCU 040-4(6),
COLFAX VIADUCT FINAL PHASE, WHICH WILL ADVERSELY
AFFECT THE HISTORIC SITE. THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION IS THE LEAD AGENCY IN CHARGE OF THE
PROPOSED UNDERTAKING. THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHWAYS IS THE IMPLEMENTING STATE AGENCY
DESPONSIBLE FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT RECORDATION RESPONSIBLE FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. RECORDATION WAS COMPLETED BY KATHRYN M. KURANDA, HISTORIAN FOR HOWARD NEEDLES TAMMEN AND BERGEND OFF; AND COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS STAFF INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHER, DAVID GROVER; AND DRAFTSPERSON,

Midwest Steel and Iron Works Company Denver County, Colorado

Historic Americal Engineering Record by Douglas Lang 1984 Scale: 1"=100'

Nominated area shown by red line.

Map 1

STEEL MIDWEST

FORT LOGAN QUADRANGLE

MISSOURI, Cape Girardeau County, Jackson, Bennett-Tobler-Pace-Oliver House, 224 E. Adams (04/18/85)
MISSOURI, Jackson County, Kansas City, Howe, Frank M., Residence, 1707 Jefferson St. (04/18/85)

NEW JERSEY, Morris County, Mendham Borough, Mendham Historic District, Roughly bounded by Halstead St. and Country Lane on W. and E. Main Sts., Mountain Ave. and Hilltop Rd., Prospect and New Sts. (04/18/85)

NEW YORK, Niagara County, North Tonawanda, Allan Herschell Carousel Factory, 180 Thompson St. (04/18/85)

OHIO, Hardin County, Kenton, North Main-North Detroit Street Historic District, Roughly Main St. bounded by Marie, Cherry, Carroll and Detroit Sts. (04/18/85)
OHIO, Miami County, Casstown vicinity, Plainview Farm, 535-545 Weddle Rd. (04/18/85)

TEXAS, Tarrant County, Fort Worth, U.S. Post Office (Fort Worth Main), Lancaster and Jennings Ave. (04/15/85)

VERMONT, Bennington County, Dorset, Dorset Village Historic District, Roughly bounded by Main and Church Sts. and Dorset Hollow Rd. (04/18/85)

The following properties were also entered in the National Register but were excluded from a previous notice:

COLORADO, Denver County, Denver, Midwest Steel and Iron Works Company Complex, 25 Larimer St. (04/10/85)

KENTUCKY, Shelby County, Shelbyville, Shelby County Courthouse and Main Street Commercial District (Boundary Increase) (Shelbyville MRA), 6th St. from Washington to Main St. (04/12/85)

OKLAHOMA, Marshall County, Madill, Worth Hotel, 203 E. Main St. (04/12/85)

Multiple Resource Areas are identified by MRA
Thematic Resources are identified by TR
NHL designates a National Historic Landmark





Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company

275 Larimer Street, Denver

Denver County, Colorado

Date of photo: February 1984

Taken by: David Grover, Colorado Dept. of

Highways Negatives: (Colorado Dept. of

Orientation: Office Building. Southeast side

of Building AA and southeast side and front

(east) of Addition AB.

Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company

275 Larimer Street, Denver

Denver County, Colorado

Date of photo: February 1984

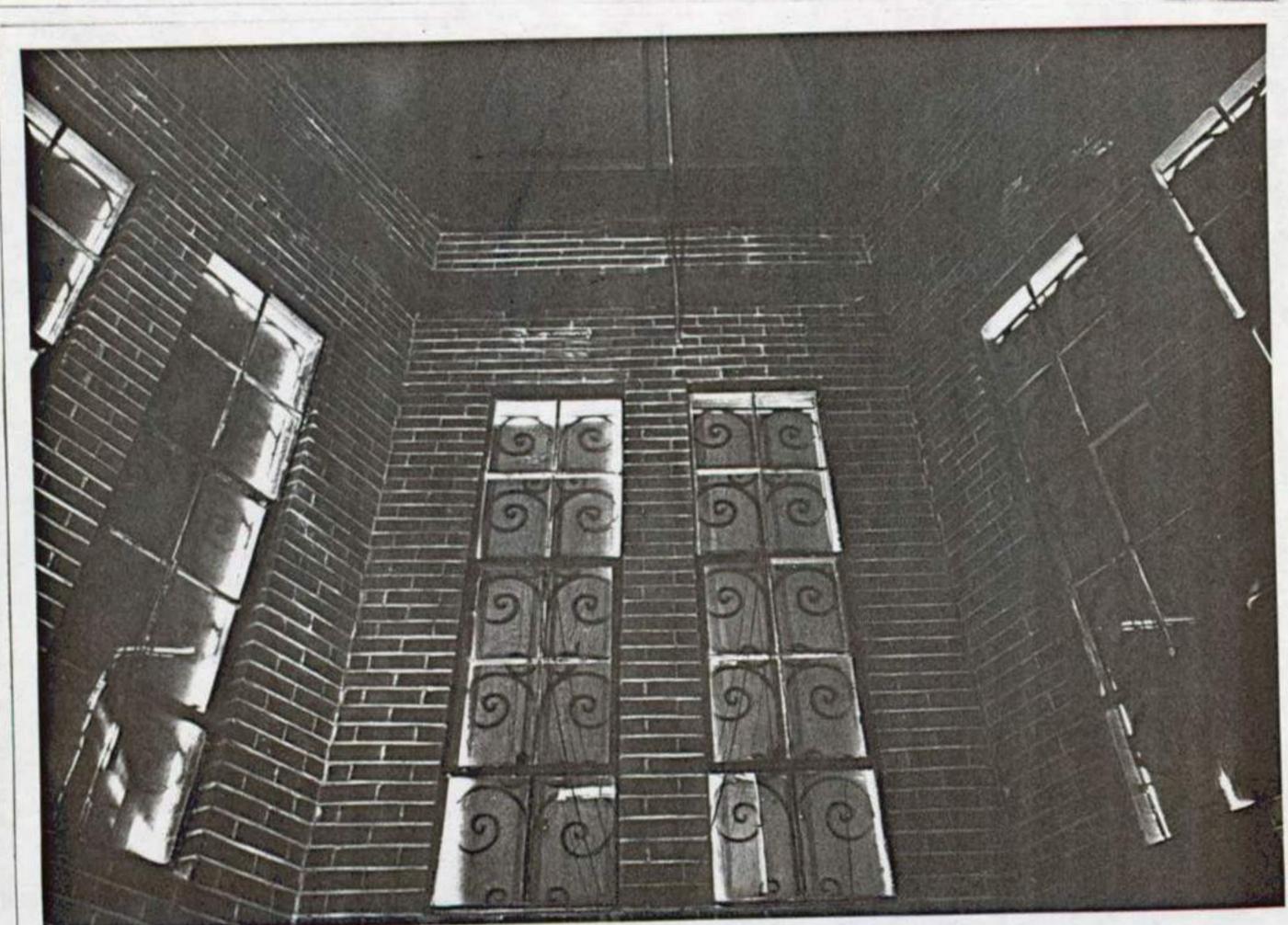
Taken by: David Grover, Colorado Dept. of

Highways Negative CDH

Orientation: Shop. Front (east) of Addition

BB.





Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company

275 Larmer Street, Denver

Denver County, Colorado

Date of photo: February 1984

Taken by: David Grover, Colorado Dept. of

Highways Negative : Highways Orbi

Orientation: Shop. Front (east) of Building

BA and Addition BD.

Midwest Steel & Iron Works Company

275 Larimer Street, Denver

Denver County, Colorado

Date of photo: February 1984

Taken by: David Grover, Colorado Dept. of

Highways Negatives: Highway Dept.

Orientation: Office Building. Interior detail

of entry tower, Addition AB.